



# Ethics in Practice

Building Bridges Between Campus and Community

## Farewell Deni Elliott, Welcome Mark Hanson

### STAFF:

#### Practical Ethics Center

**Deni Elliott, Director**  
**Mark Hanson, Associate Director**  
**Colleen Hunter, Program Coordinator**  
**Dean Ritz, Research Assistant**  
**Loren Meyer, Ethics Bowl**  
**Justin Whitaker, APPE Bookroom**

#### Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care

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**The staff at the PEC wish Deni all the best as she embarks on this new exciting phase of her career. She leaves for sunny Florida in December. We'll miss you, Deni!**

Deni Elliott has been named Poynter-Jamison Professor of Journalism Ethics and Press Policy at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg. "We consider ourselves to be very fortunate to have recruited Dr. Deni Elliott, an internationally prominent scholar of ethics, to join our faculty," said Gary Olson, interim associate vice president for Academic Affairs. "Dr. Elliott will significantly enrich our ethics program. Our students and future journalists will profit from her vast experience and expertise."

Deni Elliott has served on UM's faculty since fall 1992. She founded and directed the Practical Ethics Center beginning in 1996. President Dennison states, "I regret the departure of Professor Deni Elliott, and appreciate all that she has done during the years she served the University. Ethics has always been a major concern on this campus and will continue with high priority. The University statement of strategic directions does include the Chair in Ethics as part of the future agenda. The Practical Ethics Center has promoted important curricular developments and hosted major projects of note. The annual conferences and speakers dealing with ethics have enriched the campus dialogue. We will miss

Professor Elliott's leadership."

Mark Hanson has been appointed Interim Director of the PEC from January 1 through June 30, 2003. A national search will be held for a permanent director to begin in Fall 2004. Provost Muir states "I am very pleased that Mark Hanson is willing to take on the leadership of the center during this interim period."

Mark Hanson, currently associate director of the PEC, holds a doctorate in religious ethics from the University of Virginia and is a graduate of Saint Olaf College (BA), and Yale Divinity School (MAR). From November 1999 to September 2002, he was executive director of the Life's End Institute: Missoula Demonstration Project, an independent, nonprofit institution devoted to improving the quality of life's end through research and community engagement. Prior to moving to Montana, Dr. Hanson was Associate for Ethics & Society at The Hastings Center, a bioethics research institute in Garrison, New York, where he directed the Center's research program on Values and Biotechnology. Dr. Hanson continues to conduct research and write in various areas of bioethics, as well as other issues related to ethics and society.

## From the Director, Deni Elliott

It's not often that changing jobs feels like a win-win situation for everyone. This is one of those rare instances. I will leave The University of Montana at the end of fall term to accept the Poynter-Jamison Chair in Journalism Ethics and Press Policy at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg. Mark Hanson will become Interim Director of the Practical Ethics Center, and both Provost Muir and President Dennison have made their commitment to the Center clear—an endowed chair in ethics is included in the current strategic plan with an anticipated completion date of 2008. The continuation of this vibrant, nationally important Center and the internationally-respected graduate programs in teaching ethics are the legacy I believe I am leaving The University of Montana.

These hallmarks as well as a host of other successes I have enjoyed in eleven years at The University of Montana are the result of collaboration with colleagues who brought talents, skills and wisdom that I lacked.

Thanks first to Ira Byock and Jeanne Twohig who brought The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's national program office *Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care* and its associated projects to the Practical Ethics Center. This provided the impetus for us to move from two rooms in the Liberal Arts building to our wonderful home at 1000 East Beckwith, and it also provided the financial stability for the Practical Ethics Center to become operational.

—Column continues on page four

### Ethically Speaking, the PEC's radio show

KUFM (89.1), Thurs., 7:32 p.m.  
KBGA (89.9), Wed., 5:10 p.m.

Comment on ethical questions for  
upcoming broadcasts by visiting  
[http://www.umt.edu/ethics/  
programs/estopics.htm](http://www.umt.edu/ethics/programs/estopics.htm).

Download and listen to our  
archived radio shows by visiting  
[http://www.umt.edu/ethics/  
programs/esarchive.htm](http://www.umt.edu/ethics/programs/esarchive.htm).

### Ethics Bowl Dates

National Bowl: Feb. 26, 2004,  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Regional Bowl: April 24, 2004  
Missoula, Montana

### Summer 2004

#### Ethics Short Courses

- **Theory & Skills of Ethics Teaching, June 7-15**
- **Making Babies, Making Choices: Ethics and Reproduction, June 21-26**
- **The Good, the Bad and the Indulgent: Film and the Construction of Virtue, June 21-27**
- **Ethics, Fire, and Wilderness: Ethical Issues in Ecological Restoration, June 28-July 2**
- **Ethics in Business Leadership, dates TBA**
- **Classical and Feminist Foundations of Moral Philosophy, August 9-20**
- **Research Ethics Online**

For more information (including registration forms, prices, class times and locations, course syllabi, faculty information, and more), visit [http://www.umt.edu/ethics/courses/summer\\_courses.htm](http://www.umt.edu/ethics/courses/summer_courses.htm).

## Albert Pierce, Naval Academy, to Speak at UM

Dr. Pierce was appointed as the first director of the Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland in the summer of 1998. For the previous thirteen years, he was Professor of Military Strategy at the National War College in Washington, D.C., teaching courses in military strategy, the use of military force, civil-military relations, ethics, national security policy, and national security policymaking. He has also been a defense correspondent for NBC News, and Deputy Director of the Strategic Concepts Development Center, an in-house think tank established by Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger. Earlier, he served as Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, writing speeches and Congressional testimony, as well as with the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Dr. Pierce has also served as Visiting Professorial Lecturer at the George Washington University, Visiting Lecturer at the University of Virginia, and adjunct professor at UCLA's Washington program. The following events are free and open to the public:

- PEC Presents, "**Military Strategy and Ethics of International Conflict**," December 1, 12:10-1:00 p.m., Gallagher Business Building, Room L13.
- Community-University Ethics Forum, "**War in the 21st Century: How We Can Deal with Those Ready to Die for a Cause**," December 1, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Gallagher Business Building, Room 106.

## Ethics Bowl Update, contributed by Loren Meyer

On February 27, 2003, the UM national ethics bowl team traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina, for the ninth annual intercollegiate ethics bowl. The Practical Ethics Center would like to thank the Associated Students of UM, the President's Office, Todd Mowbray of Quarter Moon Books, and Poteet Construction and its owner, Deb Poteet, for their financial support. Because of this support, the three students on the UM team (Angie Esposito, Ali Tabibnejad, and Justin Whitaker) were able to join other bright students from around the country in debating the morally best answers to a host of tough ethical dilemmas, ranging from the International Criminal Court to the extermination of prairie dogs. A total of forty

teams participated, including the winning U.S. Naval Academy team coached by UM alumnus John Truslow.

We wrote in our summer newsletter about our success in organizing the first annual regional ethics bowl last spring. As we prepare for the second annual regional ethics bowl on April 24, 2004, and the tenth annual intercollegiate ethics bowl on February 26, 2004, we'd like to thank Quarter Moon Books for their continued support in providing a meeting place. Thanks also to everyone who's volunteered as a judge, a moderator, a case writer, or a coach. If you are interested in volunteering or participating as a team member in the regional or national ethics bowls in spring 2004, contact Loren Meyer at the PEC (243-5744).

## Ongoing RCR Grant Projects funded by ORI

Last year, the Practical Ethics Center was awarded a grant from the Office of Research Integrity, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to complete, pilot test, and refine an online responsible conduct of research (RCR) course. The course introduces participants to the common ethical issues that arise in the process of scientific, behavioral, or social science research, and is designed for graduate students, investigators, and professionals familiar with ethics issues related to gathering data. This completely online course allows participants to learn at their own pace at any time. For more information, visit our website at [http://www.umt.edu/ethics/courses/online\\_courses.htm](http://www.umt.edu/ethics/courses/online_courses.htm).

This year, we continue our collaboration with ORI, having received another \$25,000 grant to develop and pilot test a comprehensive assessment tool for the responsible conduct of research.

Using this online tool, institutional officers, investigators, students, accrediting agencies, and peer reviewers will be able to assess the state of RCR on campuses and in research facilities. The tool will be made available free of charge through ORI and UM websites. This self-assessment, instructional tool is intended to:

- Help institutional officers identify areas of concern and prioritize the development of RCR-related programs;
- Serve as an instructional aid to students, investigators, and others regarding the kinds of activities that constitute compliance, conventional norms, and ideal standards;
- Serve as a guide to literature that defines, explains, and justifies minimal, conventional and ideal standards for RCR.

## Alumni Corner, contributed by Jeffrey Stephenson

Since graduating from the MA-T program in the summer of 1999, I was a matriculant in the doctoral program in philosophy at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where I studied epistemology, ethics, metaethics and professional ethics. I also taught philosophy and ethics courses at New York University, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and City College. I'm ABD at present, and working on my dissertation. The tentative dissertation title is "Mischievous as a Virtue," in which I in part analyze mischievous behavior from the moral point of view.

I am also presently employed as the Human Protections Administrator at the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, under the Chair of the Human Use Committee (the IRB for USAMRIID) Col. Arthur Anderson, M.D. Under directive from the Department of Defense, USAMRIID is responsible for creating and testing in clinical trials vaccines for military personnel engaged in conflicts. Each clinical trial protocol must be reviewed by the HUC in order to ensure the safety of subjects is protected and the rights of subjects are observed. It is my job to ensure protocols are meeting ethics standards as established in federal law (specifically 45 CFR 46).

The most important skill I learned at the MA-T program under Deni was the art of facilitation. There simply is no better way to get a group of individuals, each with his/her unique vantage from which to view an ethical issue, to come to a rational agreement on an ethical issue, than by having a facilitator walk through the steps of ethical analysis with the group.

Advice for current MA-T students: Trust your intuitions, *but then explore these intuitions for rational moral justification and content*. Self-awareness is the foundation of a philosophically and morally praiseworthy life, which serves as the most immediate inspiration for others to follow suit.

I had many memorable moments in the program, from heated classroom debates to quiet evenings sipping beer with my PEC friends. Indeed, I enjoyed my time in Missoula so much, that I am going to return to Missoula permanently when I am able to do so. But my favorite moments at the PEC were the times I managed to make Deni laugh.

And on May 17, 2003 I married Wendy Terese Grace, who I met at the PEC. Life is strange.

## Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care

*Promoting Excellence* Director, Ira Byock, M.D., has accepted the position of Director of Palliative Medicine at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and a senior faculty appointment at Dartmouth Medical School. Byock will re-locate to New Hampshire to join the Dartmouth palliative care team in December, but will continue as the Director of the *Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care* national program office. The *Promoting Excellence* office will remain in Missoula, Montana, and will be focusing on its new Promoting Palliative Excellence in Intensive Care grant initiative and continuing dissemination work of earlier grantees and the peer workgroups.

The August issue of the *Journal of Palliative Medicine (JPM)* continued a special series of articles describing exciting results of the 22 innovative projects funded by *Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care*. Previous articles in this series were published in the April and June issues of *JPM*. Learn more about these articles, including reprint requests, by visiting <http://www.promotingexcellence.org/jpm/>.

Three *Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care* grantees were among 10 innovative programs

across the nation honored with the 2003 Circle of Life Award. The University of California Davis Health System, West Coast Center for Palliative Education and Research program is one of three winners of the annual Circle of Life Awards: Celebrating Innovation in End-of-Life Care. The American Hospital Association, in conjunction with the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, the American Medical Association and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, sponsors these awards. Two *Promoting Excellence* grantees were among 7 additional programs receiving Citations of Honor: the Renal Palliative Care Initiative of Baystate Health System in Springfield, MA and SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis.

This year's selections bring to five the number of *Promoting Excellence* grantees honored with this award. Project Safe Conduct, a collaborative venture between Hospice of the Western Reserve and the Ireland Cancer Center at Case Western Reserve University and University Hospitals of Cleveland, was one of four 2002 Circle of Life Award winners. In 2001, the Balm of Gilead Center, Cooper Green Hospital and Birmingham Area Hospice in Birmingham, AL received a Citation of Honor.

### Alumni Corner

Graduates of the MA in Philosophy, Teaching Ethics Option, and the certification program Advanced Graduate Studies in Teaching Ethics are invited to submit updates on their activities for inclusion in future newsletters. Send information to Colleen Hunter, editor, [huntercs@mso.umt.edu](mailto:huntercs@mso.umt.edu). **We'll be delighted to hear from you!**

### Ethical Book Sale

Nearly 70 current titles for sale:

New \$5

Used \$2

Journals \$1

Stop by to browse at 1000 East Beckwith.

For more information on Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care, visit <http://www.promotingexcellence.org>. This outstanding website showcases innovative models and approaches for palliative and end-of-life care.



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**From the Director (continued from page one)**

Thanks to the Practical Ethics Center advisory board members over the years, especially to Sue Talbot, who mentored me in how to work with and learn from Board members. I leave with an appreciation of the important Director-Board relationship that I would not have developed without her.

Thanks to program coordinator Colleen Hunter and her predecessor, Patrick McCormick, for turning so many ideas into actual events, programs and projects, and for doing that in a fiscally responsible way.

Thanks to research assistants Dean Ritz, Loren Meyer and Justin Whitaker, along with Mike Monahan, Heidi Nunn, John Truslow and Jeffrey Stephenson, for shepherding projects with passion and care.

Thanks to program coordinators, research assistants and other staff members for being eager to add to, revise and reject my goals, plans and directions where appropriate.

Thanks to Rita Sommers-Flanagan and Mark Hanson for their willingness to keep all of the balls in the air so that I could take a few needed leaves of absence.

And, finally, thanks to Albert and Nancy Borgmann for believing in what I had to offer The University of Montana all of the times that I lost my vision of what might be.

I leave The University of Montana with gifts that I never anticipated receiving and that will guide my heart, mind and gut for years to come.

**Deni Elliott, Director**

**Practical Ethics Center  
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**John Truslow**, Assistant Director, Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics, United States Naval Academy (alumni member)