



Ethics in Practice

STAFF:

Practical Ethics Center

Mark Hanson, Interim Director
Colleen Hunter, Admin. Associate
Michael Lukas, Research Assistant
Heather Brannan, Work Study Student

Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care

Ira Byock, Director
Jeanne Twohig, Deputy Director
Karyn Collins, Communications Officer
Colleen Hunter, Fiscal Officer
Francis Coover, Program Coordinator
Sally Brown, Program Coordinator
John Webb, Web Content Manager
Madison Ruetten, Work Study Student

From the Director

Whether you are happy or troubled by the outcomes of the recent election, you may have been struck by the post-election discussion of the role of “moral values” in how people voted. Moral values, in this case, most often refer to certain concerns that are keystone issues for a segment of society—such as sanctity of life, family, and individual rights. But moral values are also reflected in most all the choices we make, whether we acknowledge that fact or not. Values of social justice are reflected in tax burden distribution and health care coverage, for example. Notions of peace, freedom, and community are reflected in foreign policy choices.

The good news is that perhaps we can now have a more open discussion about the moral values that shape our society and our individual lives. The bad news is that American society is highly polarized by divisive politics and uncivil public discourse.

The Practical Ethics Center is committed to promoting education and a more constructive conversation about moral values. Our programs are designed to reach the university and broader community in a variety of ways—addressing issues that face us daily in personal and professional life.

(continued on page 4)

Environmental Ethics Interest Group

An environmental ethics interest group has been established by the Practical Ethics Center to encourage interdisciplinary, collaborative work and to develop areas for future programming and research. The initial October meeting involved an enthusiastic group of faculty and graduate students from the College of Forestry and Conservation, the Environmental Studies Program, the Philosophy Department, and the Wilderness Institute.

Discussions focused on individual areas of interest, pressing topics for Montana and the region, and programming ideas. The group is interested in meeting regularly to continue a dialog on both the practical and the philosophical aspects of environmental issues. Participants enjoyed the collaboration from opposite ends of campus and look forward to bringing together the viewpoints of scientists/managers with philosophers/ethicists.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Mark Hanson at mark.hanson@mso.umt.edu or 243-6632.

Ethics & Public Participation Grant

Mark Hanson is collaborating with Peter Landres, research ecologist at Missoula’s Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, on a grant proposal entitled “Bringing Ethics to Public Participation in Environmental Decisionmaking.” This project would develop, implement, and evaluate an ethical framework for environmental decisionmaking, particularly for highly controversial issues such as managing fire and fuels in wilderness. The premise is that a decision-making process built on ethical principles will result in more mutually agreeable processes and outcomes.

Although a wide variety of literature about collaborative decisionmaking is available, a concise and workable model that incorporates empirical evidence of what works with ethical principles to guide decisionmaking is lacking. Both wilderness managers and policymakers could benefit from these research efforts to bring a new framework rooted in ethical values together with new decisionmaking tools for guiding public engagement in environmental debates.

PEC Presents**Ethics Seminar Series
Autumn 2004****Sept. 20: Mark Hanson**The Ethics and Politics of
Stem Cell Research**Oct. 4: Ginny Merriam**Daily Ethics: The Challenges of
Newspaper Journalism**Oct. 18: James Burchfield**Upper Missouri River Breaks
National Monument: A Case Study
in Environmental Decisionmaking**Nov. 1: Thomas Gallagher**
Privacy and the Responsibilities of
the Information Technology
Professional**Nov. 15: Michael Kustudia**Sustainability and the
Ethics of Choice**Dec. 6: Ann Cook**Ethics and Errors in
Rural Health Care**12:10 to 1:00 pm****Gallagher Business Building
Room 201****Watch PEC Presents on MCAT
(Missoula Community Access
TV). Check your local listings
(Bresnan Channel 7 or 8, or
Cable Montana 13).****PEC Presents**

The PEC's on-campus seminar series continues to address a variety of practical ethics issues (see schedule at left). The series kicked off with Mark Hanson's talk on stem cell research, which was held at the College of Technology. Attendance was a record-breaking 78! The series continues through the rest of the semester on the main campus of The University of Montana (GBB 201).

National Ethics Bowl

The PEC looks to field another team in the Eleventh National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, which will be held in conjunction with the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics in San Antonio, Texas on February 24, 2005. Interested students should contact Mark Hanson at mark.hanson@mso.umt.edu or 243-6632. There will be a course offered for credit to prepare team members for the competition. UM teams have had great success, placing 1st in 1997, 4th in 1998, and 3rd in 2004.

Regional Ethics Bowl

We will hold our Third Annual Northwest Regional Ethics Bowl on April 16, 2004 in the Gallagher Business Building. Information about registration has been sent to schools throughout the inland northwest as well as to all UM professors teaching courses with "E" (ethics) designation. Last

PEC Programs

year's regional ethics bowl included 14 teams from 5 schools: The University of Montana, Whitworth College, Eastern Washington University, Washington State University, and the University of Washington. Contact us for more information.

University-Community Forum

Plans are underway for another in our series of university-community forums on contemporary ethical issues. Watch for details in our spring newsletter or check our web site for further information.

KUFM Commentaries

Every four weeks, Mark Hanson's radio commentaries are broadcast on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. (next one is Nov. 17). You can download transcripts of these thought-provoking essays on ethical issues from our web site at www.umt.edu/ethics.

Summer Short Courses in Ethics

We are planning intensive courses lasting six to eight days for summer 2005. We will offer two courses in environmental ethics, a course on ethics and contemporary controversies, and a film course, as well as graduate courses in teaching ethics and business ethics (tentative).

**Visit www.umt.edu/ethics
for updates on our programs!**

Ethics Pledge Project Continues at PEC**Ethically Speaking****Tune in to our radio show:***KUFM (89.1), Thurs., 7:32 pm**KBGA (89.9), Wed., 5:10 pm*

Download and listen to our
archived radio shows,
or comment on ethical
questions for upcoming
broadcasts by visiting:

www.ethicallyspeaking.org

Last year a group of students formed a student leadership team for the Raise Your Voice Campaign. Raise Your Voice is a national initiative that strives to increase involvement among students in public life. The student leadership team designed a set of UM Ethics Pledges for new students, graduating students, and faculty.

The mission of the UM Ethics Pledge Committee is the integration of students, faculty, and staff in the pursuit of ethical awareness, education, and accountability. Through ethical training provided at UM and the voluntary, non-binding pledges administered to students, faculty, and staff, the pledge system strives to provide individuals

with the opportunity to acknowledge the need for their own purpose, responsibility, and accountability within the University culture, the outlying community, and in their future workplaces. Through this collaboration, UM provides an opportunity for individuals to evaluate ethical standards on a personal, national, and international level.

President Dennison has funded this initiative for another year through the Excellence Fund, and the Practical Ethics Center is providing office space for the continuation of this project. For more information, contact Jacole Douglas or Eben Reckord at pledge_um@yahoo.com, or leave a message at 243-6640.

Current and Pending Grant Projects

The Practical Ethics Center is dependent on its grant projects as a source of income and activity. Current grant projects include:

Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care

See full story below.

Office of Research Integrity (ORI)

We are working on our second ORI grant, "Development and Pilot Testing of an Assessment Tool for Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)." The project examines nine RCR instructional areas: human subjects research, animal research, conflict of interest, collaborative science, peer review, mentor/trainee relationships, data management, publication practices, and research misconduct. Descriptions of each area include categorization into minimal compliance, conventional expectations, and ideal standards. The assessment tool will be made available electronically, through ORI and UM websites, to institutional officers, principal investigators, students and others. In this way, organizations will have a process for assessing and guidance for developing a research

environment that encourages moral excellence in research. This project follows a previous successful grant, "Completion, Pilot Testing and Refinement of a 'Learn Anytime, Anywhere' Online RCR Course." This six-unit, one-credit course is currently available to the public (see sidebar at right).

Pending grant projects include:

Ethically Speaking

The Montana Committee for the Humanities recently invited the PEC to submit a media grant to continue development of our successful radio program (see sidebar at far lower left).

Ethics & Technology

We continue to seek funding for a project that focuses on creating a set of criteria (a normative conceptual scheme) for the ethical analysis of technology in society. Technology's rapid advancement raises new ethical problems and challenges how we resolve them.

Ethics & Public Participation

See full story on page one.

Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care

Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care is the largest grant project at the Practical Ethics Center. It began in March 1997 and is projected to end in June 2006. *Promoting Excellence* is a National Program Office (NPO) of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) dedicated to fostering institutional change that improves palliative care for patients and their families.

The NPO oversees a \$15 million initiative from RWJF to award grants to innovative programs in end-of-life care. The original 22 grantees are largely finished with their work, as are eight workgroups and nine special opportunity grant projects. Currently the NPO is supporting the work of four new grantees in the area of palliative care in intensive care settings. Those grantees include Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, Penn.; Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston; University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark; and University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle.

The NPO has a track record of creating close alliances with its grantees, working in partnership toward the goal of achieving viable, sustainable models for other institu-

tions to emulate. The goal of current grantees is to advance the integration of palliative care in critical care settings by creating comprehensive, sustainable, nationally significant demonstration projects that achieve the highest standard of quality care.

Promoting Excellence grantees and workgroups are innovators, designing new concepts and models of delivering palliative care and developing an enormous range of clinical, educational, programmatic, and evaluation tools and products. The NPO has created a system for collecting, cataloguing, posting, and referencing these resources on their web site, www.promotingexcellence.org. In doing so, the NPO has built a "Palliative Care Warehouse," a library of resources including bibliographies, monographs, articles, recommendations, and hundreds of tools and products designed for clinical, educational, evaluation, and organizational aspects of palliative care. This exceptional resource is fast gaining wide recognition within the palliative care field and directly furthers the NPO's important work by disseminating findings and products to the palliative field at large.

Research Ethics Online

This asynchronous online course introduces graduate students, principal investigators, professionals, and others to the common ethical issues that arise in the process of scientific, behavioral, or social science research. Unit topics include ethical issues in research, interpersonal responsibility, institutional responsibility, professional responsibility, animals in research, and human participation in research.

www.umt.edu/ethics/courses/online_courses.htm

Ethics Books on Sale!

50% off the cover price

- Ethics & Society
- Ethics & Science/Reproduction
- Ethics & Research/Technology
- Ethics & Psychology
- Ethics & Politics/Law
- Ethics & Philosophy
- Ethics & Environment
- Ethics & Business

Browse at 1000 East Beckwith

For more information on Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care, visit www.promotingexcellence.org. This outstanding web site showcases innovative models and approaches for palliative and end-of-life care.



**PRACTICAL ETHICS CENTER
THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA**

1000 East Beckwith (MET002)
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812-2808

Phone: 406-243-5744
Fax: 406-243-6633
Email: ethics@selway.umt.edu

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From the Director (continued from page 1)

As we move forward, the PEC will be focusing more of its attention on an issue that did not receive much attention during the campaign season but which is vital to us all: the environment. The field of ethics has expanded in recent decades to embrace the idea that the environment is also a proper subject of our moral attention. We all depend on a healthy environment, and we affect the environment in all we do. Especially here in western Montana, we are accustomed to wrestling with the difficult values trade-off involved when human pursuits impact the environment in significant ways.

Over the past few months, several of us at the University of Montana have been talking about what unique contributions an ethics center could make here. A task force of faculty members, as well as the PEC's own advisory board, have passed along perspectives to UM Provost Lois Muir in an effort to chart future directions. One thing we all agreed upon was the strength of the university in relation to environmental issues. Hence, we have begun to emphasize this topic to a greater extent in our programming and research, even as we continue to serve as a resource to the campus and broader communities in the breadth of their concerns about ethics and moral values.

The PEC will provide leadership in our ongoing public conversation about values, and in the ethics education of our next generation of leaders. Please stay in touch. Thank you for your support.

Mark Hanson, Interim Director

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Advisory Board**

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