

STAFF:

The Center for Ethics

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Colleen Hunter, Administrative Officer

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

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From the Director

The Center for Ethics (CFE) has undergone major changes over the last year. It has been given a new name and a new charge, and I have recently arrived as the new director. The name change may be a little difficult for some to get used to, as the old one had a nice acronym, PEC. However, over time I'm sure the new name will catch on. What is more important is that I have inherited from my predecessors, Deni Elliott and Mark Hanson, an ethics center with an excellent reputation around the country, and one that is expertly supervised by administrative officer, Colleen Hunter.

The center's new charge is of course a more substantive change than the name change. Moreover, the new mission statement is one of the reasons I am so enthusiastic about directing the Center. The key phrase in this statement is "to conduct responsible moral discourse." The simple idea behind this statement is that people ought to be capable of coming together to discuss difficult, complex ethical issues and to agree upon intelligent and moral resolutions. (continued on page 4)



New Director

On August 1, Dane Scott became Director of The Center for Ethics at The University of Montana. He holds a doctorate in philosophy from Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN), an M.A. in philosophical theology from the Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley, CA), and a B.S. in soil science from the University of California, Riverside. Prior to moving to Montana, Dane Scott was Associate Dean of the Honors College and director of the Humanities program at Western Carolina University.

Dane Scott specializes in bioethics, environmental ethics, and agricultural and food ethics, and is also interested in the philosophy of technology, American pragmatism, and the philosophy of religion. He has taught at Western Carolina University, Wake Forest University, and Vanderbilt University.

Dane Scott is joined in Missoula by his wife Leslie, their 12-year-old son Sam, and their 9-year-old daughter Katy. Leslie is a pediatrician, Sam is an aspiring cartoonist, and Katy is looking forward to making new friends. One of their dogs, Pogo, who at 6 months weighs 45 lbs, may end up being the world's largest Australian Shepard. They like to hike, mountain bike, ski and climb, so they are feeling right at home living in the Rattlesnake and hiking in the Bitterroots.

New Directions

Last spring, Provost Muir unveiled a new name and a new mission statement for The Center for Ethics (formerly the Practical Ethics Center). Synthesizing the ideas from an internal Ethics Task Force and the Center's external Advisory Board, the following new mission statement was adopted:

The Center for Ethics is charged with conducting responsible moral discourse concerning both societal ethics (e.g., the values that inform health, economic growth, education, and conservation policies) and the ethical practices of a wide range of professionals (e.g., public administrators, business managers, health workers, teachers). The Center's functions include ethics inquiry and education (to be achieved through courses, public lectures and conferences, professional development workshops, and a resource center) and funded research.

We are reevaluating our programs, keeping and redefining successful ones and looking for new ways to serve the campus, community, and region. Center goals include promoting ethics education at The University of Montana, promoting civil dialogue on ethical issues for the University and community, and conducting and supporting research on issues of local and national importance. Your ideas are welcome! You can contact us at ethics@mso.umt.edu or 243-5744.

Ethics at Noon

Autumn 2005

Ethics 2020: Envisioning the Promises and Perils of a Just and Sustainable Future**Oct. 3: Daniel Kemmis**Sustainability and Scale:
More Local, More Regional,
More Global--and Less National**Oct. 17: Terry Weidner**Sense and Sensitivity:
The Flawed Motives
Behind Our China Policy**Nov. 7: Mike Kadas**A Dialogue on
a Just and Sustainable Missoula**Nov. 21: Mehrdad Kia**Covering Islam:
Why Are We So Ignorant
About the Islamic World?**Dec. 5: Dane Scott**Can We Feed Everyone?
Technological Fixes, GMOs,
and the Future of Agriculture

12:10 to 1:00 pm

Gallagher Business Building
Room 201**Watch Ethics at Noon on
MCAT (Missoula Community
Access TV). Check your local
listings (Bresnan Channel 7
or 8, or Cable Montana 13).**

Center for Ethics Programs

Ethics at Noon

Our speaker series is consistently attracting a large audience this semester (see schedule at left). With a new name, Ethics at Noon, and a new theme, envisioning a just and sustainable future, this program still brings students and professionals from the campus and community together to discuss ethics as an integral part of our everyday lives.

Everyday Ethics on KUFM

Every four weeks, Dane Scott's radio essays are broadcast on KUFM on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. The next one is November 16. Transcripts can be downloaded from our web site at www.umt.edu/ethics.

Ethics, Education and Evolution

The debate over the teaching of evolution in public schools has recently intensified. The Center will be offering a course this summer that looks at this debate as an ethical issue. Those opposing the current approach to teaching evolution believe it promotes an atheistic, materialist world view that undermines their religious beliefs. Those defending the current approach believe that teaching intelligent design theory and its criticisms of evolutionary theory amount to state sponsorship of religion and undermine science education. In this debate, both sides are making normative claims about the way science ought to be taught. In the current polarized and highly charged political climate, there is little opportunity to gain ethical sensitivity and genuine understanding.

The Center is planning a two-week summer short course to survey and evaluate the various important positions in the debate over teaching evolution in order to promote understanding and dialogue. Depending on grant funding, the Center may also offer evening lectures and/or panel discussions on this controversial topic.

Summer Short Courses

We are planning to offer the following intensive courses for summer 2006: a course on ethics and contemporary controversies, a course in teaching ethics, the evolution course (see above), a business ethics course, and three courses in environmental ethics (see story on page three).

Online Courses

Using online course technology, the Center is developing an innovative summer short course model for two of our environmental ethics courses (see story on page three). Also, we intend to develop an online course on ethics, education and evolution in cooperation with Continuing Education.

We continue to offer Research Ethics Online (see sidebar at far right). This course was developed with a grant from the Office of Research Integrity and introduces participants to ethical problems that arise in biomedical or behavioral research.

Visit www.umt.edu/ethics for updates on our programs and summer plans!

Current and Pending Grant Projects

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

The Center for Ethics is dependent on its grant projects as sources of income and activities. Current grant projects include:

Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care

See story on page three.

Office of Research Integrity (ORI)

We are finishing our second ORI grant, "Development and Pilot Testing of an Assessment Tool for Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)." The assessment tool will be made available electronically, through the ORI website, to institutional officers, principal investigators, students and others. In this way, organizations will have a process for assessing and guidance for developing a research envi-

ronment 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 far right).

Ethically Speaking

The Center was recently awarded a Montana Committee for the Humanities media grant to continue development of our successful radio program (see sidebar at left).

Pending grant projects include:

Environmental Ethics Institute
Ethics, Education and Evolution

Environmental Ethics Institute

The following three courses form the core of our Environmental Ethics Institute, July 10-28, 2006. Dynamic instructors who are leading scholars in the field of environmental ethics are teaching these courses. Other activities during the Institute include evening lectures by visiting environmental experts and field trips led by university faculty in environmental studies and philosophy. We expect to attract people with an interest in the environment to our beautiful Missoula area, perhaps to combine a unique summer vacation with a stimulating educational opportunity. Participants can register for any portion of the Institute that fits their schedule and interests—one, two, or three courses; all or some of the evening lectures; and/or field trips.

Environmental Justice in Montana's Indian Country is a 4-day short course that introduces participants to the challenges faced by Montana tribes in protecting natural resources and the environment, as well as in exercising traditional hunting, fishing, and treaty rights, and in pursuing traditional spiritual practices. Robin Saha, Asst. Prof. of Environmental Studies at UM teaches this course and leads a field trip to the National Bison Range.

Foundations of Environmental Thought provides participants with a solid background in normative environmental thought and raises important philosophical questions regarding

the history of environmental issues in America, as well as America's influence in international environmental consciousness. Andrew Light, Assoc. Prof. of Philosophy/Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington teaches this course partly online and partly face-to-face.

How We Value Nature: Environmental Aesthetics introduces participants to this newly emerging discipline, originally concerned with the aesthetics of natural environment but now extending to include built environment, cultural landscape, and (non-art) artifacts that make up our environment. By examining case studies, participants critically reflect on historical and personal connections between environmental aesthetics and environmental ethics. Yuriko Saito, Prof. of Philosophy, Rhode Island School of Design, teaches this course partly online and partly face-to-face.

Course Format for each of the two courses taught by visiting faculty includes about 20 hours of asynchronous (no set times) online sessions over five weeks during which participants investigate the course readings, participate in discussion boards, and complete some assignments. Then, participants meet face-to-face in Missoula for about 25 hours, a more relaxed short course format, which leaves time to explore and enjoy the Missoula area.

Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care

Staff at the *Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care* national program office has spent the past several months shepherding its final four demonstration projects to the closure of their grants, helping them gather data, conduct program evaluations and determine ways to sustain and spread the ground-breaking work of their projects. These final four *Promoting Excellence* grantees, charged with integrating palliative care into critical care and ICU environments, are:

- University of Washington and Harborview Medical Center in Seattle;
- Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network in Allentown, Pennsylvania;
- Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University in Boston; and
- University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark.

The initiative supporting the four projects, "Promoting Palliative Excellence in Intensive

Care," was funded in March 2003 and is scheduled to end in the spring of 2006.

A national program office for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that has operated out of The Center for Ethics for the past eight years, *Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care* will close its doors in June 2006. However, the extensive work produced by the office itself and its grantees and workgroups will live on through its Web site. *Promoting Excellence* staff is working to update and archive the extensive Web site (see sidebar), which will continue to serve the field of palliative and end-of-life care as a valuable and comprehensive resource. The Web site offers palliative care tools, monographs, journal articles, bibliographies, audio/visual resources and information about *Promoting Excellence* demonstration projects and national workgroups – all sorted by topic – as well as links to related Web sites.

Karyn Collins
Director of Operations and Communications

Environmental Ethics Institute

July 10-28, 2006

Take 1 to 3 courses (with a discounted no credit option for pure enjoyment, or for grad or undergrad credit); and/or attend evening lectures; and/or go on field trips.

For updates, send your email address to ethics@mso.umt.edu, **For more information**, visit www.umt.edu/ethics.

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

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



FALL 2005 NEWSLETTER

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From the Director (continued from page 1)

Over the last three years I have been studying and writing about the public debate over agricultural biotechnology (GMOs). Just about everyone who has followed this debate has been struck by the poor quality of the discourse over this epoch-making technology with far reaching ethical implications. Unfortunately, the debate over biotechnology is not an isolated event. The kind of moral discourse taking place on so many ethical issues is often merely quarreling. As Mark Hanson noted in last autumn's newsletter, "American society is highly polarized by divisive politics and uncivil discourse." These realities provide a great opportunity for the Center to execute its charge and offer a public good: "conducting responsible moral discourse."

As the new director of The Center for Ethics I look forward to working with the campus community, the business community, and the many organizations and concerned citizens in Missoula to help promote responsible moral discourse. I have been very encouraged by the reception I have received and the willingness of so many people to take part in the Center's mission. Please take the time to look through the newsletter to become acquainted with some of the upcoming activities. Two new events in planning stages to watch for this summer are the Environmental Ethics Institute and the Institute on Ethical Issues in Teaching Evolution.

Many thanks to everyone for the warm reception, and I look forward to many years of working together.

Dane Scott, Director

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THE CENTER'S WORK!**

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