The Center for Ethics will host our third annual Northwest Regional Ethics Bowl on Saturday, April 16 in the Gallagher Business Building at The University of Montana. The event will involve up to 16 teams. Registrations have been received from Albertson College of Idaho, Oregon State University, Seattle University, The University of Montana, University of Washington, Washington State University, and Whitworth College.

Teams are given a set of 12 contemporary ethical dilemmas to research and analyze 7-8 weeks before the event. On April 16, teams meet in Missoula for a head-to-head competition to present case arguments to panels of judges from the university and community. Teams are evaluated on the strength of their ethical arguments and overall depth of research.

The Regional Ethics Bowl is a lively means for inspired ethical debate. The event is free and open to the public, with preliminary rounds from 8:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., semi-finals from 2:30-3:45 p.m., and finals from 4:00-5:15 p.m.

This year’s cases include journalistic responsibility and violent live TV broadcasts, decision making and friendship, Native rights to subsistence hunting, Ninemile wolf depredations, online matching service for organ donation, pigs as organ donors, pollution shares as business incentives, post-menopausal pregnancy, psychological operations and the media in Iraq, spy scholarships for graduate school, and tribal traditions in rejecting twins.

See page two for related story on our National Ethics Bowl Team...

Wilderness “Management”—Tensions & Paradoxes, May 23-29, CRN 51234/51251 examines the value questions wilderness managers and users address in building morally responsible relationships with designated wilderness and roadless areas. Topics include the historical idea of wilderness, the specific meanings of wilderness values such as “wildness” and “naturalness,” and the role of restoration in wilderness, as well as the language and mandates of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Wilderness managers and researchers will visit class to discuss wilderness values. This course includes day hikes in the Missoula area.

The Good, the Bad, and the Indulgent—Film and the Construction of Virtue, May 30-June 5, CRN 51250/51232 What do "American Beauty," "Fight Club," and Woody Allen's "Crimes and Misdemeanors" have in common? This intensive one-week class examines these and other films in light of a variety of theories that focus on the development of moral character.

Life & Death, Love & War—Ethics of Contemporary Controversies, June 6 - 11, CRN 51229/51230 examines major ethical issues confronting society today. These issues range from the very origins of life, to how we relate to each other through sexuality and marriage, to our power over ending life through war and capital punishment. Students will examine major ethical issues, develop their moral thinking and critical analysis skills, and learn about fundamental moral values in society. They will be asked to learn about how to arrive at moral judgments and develop their own positions.

Registration information and course descriptions continue on page 3...
National Ethics Bowl Team in San Antonio

The Eleventh National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl was held in conjunction with the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Annual Meeting on Thursday February 24, 2005 in San Antonio, Texas. This year’s competition featured forty teams from colleges and universities and explored a variety of subjects such as academic ethics, professional ethics, ethical issues in personal relationships, and social and political ethics.

UM’s team members and their fields of study were Robyn Barnes (History), Kristeen Black (Philosophy), Lynn McInerney (Political Science), and Patricia McConnell (Philosophy). Coaches were Michael Lukas (MA program, Philosophy) and Professor Mark Hanson (Interim Director, The Center for Ethics).

In the words of Kristeen Black, “[The Ethics Bowl] was one of the best things I have done in my college career. I would highly recommend this experience to all students, especially philosophy majors. I really enjoyed learning about ethics through handling the cases. Having the chance to see how ethics affects us all through these cases made a big difference in how I view the subject of ethics now. Being able to compete with other universities was great! I think we all had a fun debating the cases and watching the final rounds of the debates. Special thanks to Mark, Michael, and [The Center for Ethics] for allowing us this learning opportunity. Thanks also to others who sat in and offered assistance during our ‘mock bowl’ sessions. THANK YOU!”

Although our team did not place this year, the competition did provide an opportunity for students to learn skills in ethical analysis and clarity of presentation. Judges scored teams on four criteria: clarity and intelligibility, focus on ethically relevant factors, avoidance of ethical irrelevance, and deliberative thoughtfulness. This year, the team from the University of Washington won the National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl.

Community-University Evening Ethics Forums

JOURNALISM ETHICS is the topic of a talk by Gary Gilson, Executive Director of the Minnesota News Council. The Center for Ethics, the School of Journalism, and the Montana Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists are co-sponsoring this event, which will take place in the third-floor University Center Theater on Thursday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Gary Gilson began his career as a general assignment newspaper reporter at the Minneapolis Star for three years, then worked for twenty-five years as a broadcast journalist in New York, Los Angeles and the Twin Cities, in both public and commercial television. His work earned five Emmy Awards.

Gary is a graduate of Dartmouth College and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. He has taught at Columbia, Yale, Minnesota, Macalester, St. Thomas and Colorado College. He became executive director of the Minnesota News Council in 1992. The News Council is an independent, nonprofit agency that engages the public and the press in public conversations about standards of fairness. It helps the public hold news outlets accountable, and helps news outlets avoid lapses that produce unfair harm and complaints. Its mission is to promote fair, vigorous and trusted journalism.

The Center for Ethics and the Institute of Medicine and Humanities will co-sponsor a talk by Gregory Fowler, Ph.D. on “ETHICS & BIOTECHNOLOGY: Lessons from Franken-stein” on Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Broadway Building Conference Center at St. Patrick Hospital.

Gregory Fowler is Executive Director and Co-Founder of GeneForum, an Oregon based non-profit organization dedicated to “enhancing public understanding, promoting civic dis- couse and informing genetic policy through the measurement and monitoring of public values.” GeneForum represents the personal culmi nation of over a decade of engagement on issues at the nexus of science and society.

In his roles as Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Oregon Health and Science University, Adjunct Professor of University Studies at Portland State University, and a Chautauqua Scholar for the Oregon Council for the Humanities, Dr. Fowler lectures and writes on the subjects of science education, the societal implications of science and technology, and participatory democracy. He received his Ph.D. from Brown University.

Both events are free and open to the public.
Summer Ethics Seminars (continued from page 1)

Ethics, Fire, and Wilderness—Ethical Issues in Ecological Reconstruction, June 20-25, CRN 51228/51231 The emerging field of ecological restoration has provoked many philosophical and ethical discussions and debates about how human beings should live within and relate to the ecological systems and environments that contain us. This hands-on, experientially-focused seminar will be taught partly on campus and partly in the field in the Bitterroot Mountains and Valley.

Theory and Skills of Ethics Teaching, July 20-26, CRN 51221 is a workshop for graduate students, K-12 teachers, post-secondary instructors, and ethics officers. Topics include goals and outcomes for ethics teaching, classical theory, moral development theory, systematic moral analysis, and creating an ethical learning environment. Ethical issues include justice and liberty, blameworthiness and praiseworthiness, role-related-responsibilities, and mitigating moral mistakes.

Management Decision Making and Business Ethics, July 15-18, CRN 51222/51223 is a seminar about ethics in the context of a business environment that is complex, dynamic, and increasingly global in scope. The course focuses on identifying some of the most pressing, difficult, and recurrent problems that managers confront. Participants will hone their capacity to make judgments, identify and discuss a range of ethical issues that occur in business, and develop a way of thinking about ethics and business to effectively resolve problems within the framework of managerial decision-making. Other topics include the nature of the corporation, corporate priorities and obligations, and the unique moral challenges managers face. Instructor is Andrew Wicks, faculty member at the Darden School of Business, University of Virginia, and Co-Director of the Olsson Center for Business Ethics.

Registration Procedure

UM students can register via Cyberbear, using the CRNs listed above. Non-UM students can register by visiting our website at www.umt.edu/ethics/courses/summer_courses.htm. Registration forms, course descriptions, preliminary syllabi and faculty information, as well as travel information, are available online.

Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care

In collaboration with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care presented learning tracks at three consecutive NHPCO conferences. Faculty from Promoting Excellence demonstration projects and national workgroups presented sessions at each of the tracks that explored successful approaches to delivering palliative care and highlighted several replicable models of care. The NHPCO—Promoting Excellence partnership produced CD-ROMs of the three tracks that can be used in a variety of educational venues by clinicians and administrators (see NHPCO Marketplace at www.nhpc.org).

Promoting Excellence is pleased to announce the completion of a series of monographs, created by workgroups composed of clinicians and researchers in specific niches of medicine, to extend palliative care to challenging domains and special populations of patients: “Accounting for the Costs of Caring Through the End of Life,” “Completing the Continuum of Nephrology Care,” “Lifting the Veil of Huntington’s Disease,” “Completing the Continuum of ALS Care,” and “Integrating Palliative Care into the Continuum of HIV Care.” Additional monographs completed by Promoting Excellence include “Financial Implications of Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care,” “New End-of-Life Benefits Models in Blue Cross & Blue Shield Plans,” “Advanced Practice Nursing Pioneering Practices in Palliative Care,” and “Living and Dying Well with Cancer.”

As this grant project enters its final 18 months, the focus is on four new grantees in the area of palliative care in intensive care settings. However, the work of the original 22 grantees and eight workgroups continues to influence policy and create positive change in end-of-life care. The Journal of Palliative Medicine published a special series of articles describing the experiences and exciting results of our innovative projects. This series presented a broad range of contexts of care, discussed potential future directions of the featured programs, and reflected on the implications of the projects’ experiences for similar patient populations and settings elsewhere. Also, the series “Palliative Care by the Surgeon” in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons featured the Surgeons Palliative Care Workgroup recommendations to the field.
From the Director

I am pleased to share with you that the Practical Ethics Center has now been given a new name: The Center for Ethics at The University of Montana–Missoula. The mission statement is also revised: “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, and 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.” The transition to the new name will take place over time, as spring and summer programs have already been advertised under the old name.

These changes are the outcome of deliberations by the Provost’s office in consultation with a faculty task force and the PEC’s advisory board following the departure of the PEC’s founding director Deni Elliott to the University of South Florida-St. Petersburg. With a new name and revised mission, the stage is set to build on the Center’s strong reputation and forge ahead with quality programs. The Center will increasingly work across disciplines to address a variety of needs and issues of particular importance to our constituents, and to distinguish itself as a leader in ethics inquiry, education, and public dialogue. I invite you to consider attending one of our upcoming events or short-courses and continue to check our website for upcoming programs.

Mark Hanson, Interim Director