



Ethics in Practice

Building Bridges Between Campus and Community

New Website Completed in Spring 2003

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Thanks to the creative work of John Webb and Colleen Hunter, the Practical Ethics Center has a newly designed and updated website. The site is packed with information about the Center and graduate programs in ethics at The University of Montana: the Master of Philosophy with Teaching Ethics Option, the Advanced Graduate Studies in Teaching Ethics, and the new Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Ethics.

The website also highlights summer courses, online courses, and our new radio show (see related story on page 2). Because there are advanced Google search features and lots of links on the site, the Practical Ethics Center comes up quickly on other search engines, which should substantially increase the Center's visibility.

Other sections of the site show ways that the Practical Ethics Center can be a resource for the campus and community, including pages on our professional consulting services and other ethics programs.

Here is a site map to tweak your curiosity:

About Us

- Mission Statement, Faculty & Staff, Grant Projects

Courses

- Summer Courses, Online Courses

Programs

- Seminar Series, Evening of Ethics, Ethics Bowl, Radio Show

Graduate Study

- Master of Arts, Advanced Graduate Studies, Interdisciplinary Ph.D.

Resources

- Newsletter, Resource Center, Links

Consulting

Check us out at
www.umt.edu/ethics

Ethical Book Sale

Over 100 current titles
for sale:

New \$5

Used \$2

Journals \$1

Stop by to browse at
1000 East Beckwith.

First Annual Northwest Regional Ethics Bowl

The Practical Ethics Center hosted the first Northwest Regional Ethics Bowl on April 12, 2003 in the University Center at The University of Montana. The event attracted 14 teams from 5 participating universities: The University of Washington, Washington State University, Whitworth College, Montana State University, and The University of Montana.

This annual event gives undergraduates from schools around the Northwest an opportunity

to showcase their analytic moral reasoning skills. Modeled after the National Ethics Bowl competition, in which The University of Montana team placed in the top four two years in a row, the Northwest Regional Ethics Bowl expands on previous campus-wide ethics bowls.

Teams were given a set of 12 contemporary ethical dilemmas to research and analyze several weeks before the event; then they met in Missoula to present case arguments to panels

(story continues on page 2)

You can comment on ethical questions for upcoming broadcasts or listen to recent radio shows by visiting <http://www.umt.edu/ethics/programs/estopics.htm>.

You can even propose a topic for a new radio show by visiting <http://www.umt.edu/ethics/programs/topic.htm>.

Summer Ethics Courses

- **Engineering Life: Ethics & Biotechnology (June 9-14)**
- **Theory & Skills of Ethics Teaching (June 16-24)**
- **Trust, Betrayal, and Forgiveness (June 23-28)**
- **The Good, the Bad, and the Indulgent: Film and the Construction of Virtue (August 4-10)**
- **Classical and Feminist Foundations of Moral Philosophy (August 11-22)**
- **Research Ethics Online (asynchronous)**

For more information (including registration forms, prices, class times and locations, course syllabi, faculty information, and more), please visit our website at http://www.umt.edu/ethics/courses/summer_courses.htm.

Radio Show “Ethically Speaking” Unveiled

On February 20, 2003, the Practical Ethics Center’s new radio show “Ethically Speaking” hit the airwaves with its first broadcast. The show airs weekly at 7:32 p.m. Thursdays on KUFM (89.1 FM) and at 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays on KGBA (89.9 FM). The show’s producers are Deni Elliott, Dean Ritz, and Justin Whitaker.

The 3-minute program presents an ethical situation for consideration and listener response, and briefly highlights what philosophers have to say about the matter. You can visit our website to listen to archived broadcasts, comment on upcoming ethical dilemmas, or propose topics for

new shows (see sidebar at left).

So far, “Ethically Speaking” has considered the following topics: “must lie” situations, voting, Joe Millionaire, surveillance, bankruptcy to avoid environmental liability, human obligations to animals, conflict analogy, duty, legitimate authority of governments, (in)correct change at the Farmer’s Market, favoritism, product purchases and their country of origin, moral mistakes, false promises, and conditions of forgiveness.

Dial up the radio (or visit us online) to stimulate your intellect!

Ethics Bowl (continued from page 1)

of judges. Special thanks to the 35 judges and moderators from the campus, community, and nation who participated, including 8 alumni of UM’s graduate programs in ethics—Wendy Barger, Jeffrey Cable, Debra Gorman-Bader, Ivan Lorentzen, Michael Monahan, Peggy Shunick, Dan Sieckman, and John Truslow.

The cases for the competition were developed by The University of Montana’s national undergraduate ethics bowl team members—Justin Whitaker, Ali Tabibnejad, and Angie Esposito—with the assistance of Deni Elliott, Mark Hanson, Mike Monahan, and Loren Meyer. Topics included use of excessive force by police officers, legalizing marijuana, examining whaling rights of native peoples, considering obese children under child abuse and neglect laws, setting occu-

pancy standards for rental housing, looking at the increase in violent crimes committed by athletes, raising high school graduation requirements, raising university admission standards, and more.

Results of the Northwest Regional Ethics Bowl

- 1st: The Nerdinators - University of MT**
Jessica Reynolds, Amanda Lasky, Stephen Sanford, Jose Diaz; coached by Jen Kirby
- 2nd: The Sophists - University of MT**
Oliver Norlund, Sam Trammell, Kelly Kirwan, Mathew Schneider; coached by Jen Kirby
- 3rd: Almost Ethical - University of WA**
Nicki Weston, Jeff Hubbard, Claire Davis, Cliff Borjeson; coached by Noel Merino & Cathy Yu
- 4th: Deontological Devils - Whitworth College**
Miranda Zapor, Heather Blair, Jeannette Lantz, Will McCollough, Daniel Culbertson; coached by Michael Ingram

Research Ethics Online Course Developed

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 course. Development of the course began with seed money from The University of Montana’s Research & Development Office.

The course introduces participants to the common ethical issues that arise in the process of scientific, behavioral, or social science research. It is designed for graduate students,

investigators, and professionals familiar with ethics issues related to gathering data. Topics include a framework for considering research ethics issues, interpersonal responsibility, institutional responsibility, professional responsibility, animals in research, and human participation in research.

This completely online course allows participants to learn at their own pace at any time. For information on how to register, please visit our website at http://www.umt.edu/ethics/courses/online_courses.htm.

Fall Preview: PEC Presents & Evening of Ethics

This Fall, the Practical Ethics Center will continue to sponsor its biweekly seminar series, **PEC Presents**. We are in the process of lining up speakers and topics, and hope to offer more in-depth continuation of some of these ethical discussions in the evenings. Watch our website for more details!

PEC Presents this past year brought several speakers with intriguing topics to campus. Fall Semester included Sheriff Mike McMeekin with a coroner's case study in human cloning, Frank Allen on ethical troubles of journalists, Liz Rantz on health care in corrections medicine, Stephen Greymorning on research and tribal elders, and Molly Shepherd on legal ethics.

Spring Semester included David Heller on the implications and obligations of famine, Dan Spencer with a case study on geothermal energy, Rita Sommers-Flanagan on ethical concerns in mental health professions, Peter Landres on ethical dilemmas with fire in wilderness, Bill Farr on the effect of tourism and the Great Northern Railway on Blackfoot identity, and Heather Causey on the ethics of mystery shopping.

The Practical Ethics Center presented its third **Evening of Ethics** on November 3, 2002. Over 60 friends of the Center joined staff and graduate students for dramatic readings, skits, music, philosophical discussion, and tapas-style appetizers from the Steelhead Grill. Based on the highly successful philosophy nights created by Edward Spence, a lecturer at Charles Sturt University in Australia, our local Evening of Ethics is designed to engage community and university members in conceptually rich and enjoyable conversation about topics in classical and contemporary ethics. To date, Evening of Ethics have included:

- The Philosophy of Happiness (May 2001)
- Philosophical Thinking About Women Through the Ages (November 2001)
- The Philosophy of Humor and the Humor of Philosophy (November 2002)

Feel free to contact us with your ideas for PEC Presents and the Evening of Ethics, and watch our website for updates to these and other programs that are open to the public.

Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care

Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care, a national program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation housed at the Practical Ethics Center, is in its sixth year of providing funding and technical assistance to innovative institutions working to improve how Americans die. Promoting Excellence began by awarding over \$9 million in grants to 22 projects in diverse medical and geographic settings, ranging from inner-city hospitals to tertiary care cancer centers to prisons. These demonstration projects address the medical, psychological and spiritual needs of patients with advanced illness and their families; some focus on a particular patient population, such as children, the mentally ill, or those living with HIV/AIDS.

These grantees are completing their work and showing promising outcomes! They've created models of delivering palliative and end-of-life care that increase access and improve quality. These cutting edge models are replicable, and early data indicates positive trends in costs when palliative care is provided simultaneously with

cure-oriented care.

Promoting Excellence also recently awarded new three-year grants for projects that focus on the palliative care needs of patients in intensive care units. These innovative projects represent adult and pediatric ICUs, as well as surgical and trauma units in both academic medical centers and community-based hospitals.

As another mechanism to prompt change, Promoting Excellence established peer workgroups that bring together clinicians and researchers in specific niches of medicine. Workgroups conduct environmental scans of the prevalence of palliative care in their focus area, determine gaps and develop recommendations for future research and program development. Currently Promoting Excellence sponsors workgroups in surgery, critical care, renal disease, ALS, Huntington's Disease and HIV/AIDS. An additional workgroup, chaired by Steve Seninger, Ph. D. of The University of Montana, is exploring cost accounting methodologies for end-of-life care.

Fall PEC Presents Seminar Series Dates

September 15

October 6 & 20

November 3 & 17

December 1

Seminars are held during the noon hour, the first and third Mondays of the month. Visit our website in the Fall for place, topics, and speakers at <http://www.umt.edu/ethics/programs/seminar.htm>.

For more information on Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care, please 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

The Practical Ethics Center is like a pebble dropped into the middle of a pond. It is amazing to watch all of the ripples that fan out from its projects and programs. The Evening of Ethics and PEC Presents seminars engage local citizens, as well as faculty and students, in rich conversations in all areas of practical ethics. Our new weekly radio show, *Ethically Speaking*, provokes response from listeners who hear Montana Public Radio. The Regional Ethics Bowl reaches undergraduate team members and their graduate student and faculty coaches throughout the Pacific Northwest. Through publications from grant-supported and Center-supported work and through graduates of the M.A. in Philosophy, Teaching Ethics Option and the Advanced Graduate Studies program, the reach of the Center is felt in a wide variety of professions throughout the United States. The Summer Short Courses in Ethics attract international scholars producing PEC ripples in Asia, Europe and Australia.

I am grateful for the many participants in PEC programs and projects who create those ripples, but am most grateful to the staff of the PEC and the NPO as well as the members of the PEC Advisory Board who put in the energy and enthusiasm necessary to keep the Center thriving.

Deni Elliott, Director

PEC Advisory Board

- Doug Anderson**, Vice-President, Business Development, First Interstate Bank
- Mary Birch**, Professor Emerita, Department of Social Work, The University of Montana
- Albert Borgmann**, Professor, Department of Philosophy, The University of Montana
- Ira Byock**, MD, The Palliative Care Service
- Richard Dailey**, Professor, School of Business, The University of Montana
- Matt Gibson**, Publisher, Missoula Independent
- Lynn Gordon**, Spark Productions, Berkeley, CA
- Mark Hanson**, Research Associate, Practical Ethics Center, The University of Montana
- Mike Kadas**, Mayor, City of Missoula
- Dan Sieckman**, English, Sentinel High School (alumni member)
- Sue Talbot**, Community Volunteer
- John Truslow**, Assistant Director, Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics, United States Naval Academy (alumni member)