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Ethics.Institute@Dartmouth.edu

ETHICS UPDATE

Newsletter of the Ethics Institute at Dartmouth College
Winter 2009

Spring Conference- April 23, 2009 Phillips Family Funded Event



Admiral Walsh

The Phillips Family (Gerry '47, '47T, Stacey '80, and Andrew '12) is supporting a Spring Conference that will address the theme of "Conflict and Reconciliation" in a variety of venues throughout the day. The keynote address (4:30 pm) will be given by Admiral Patrick Walsh, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon. Admiral Walsh is a Naval Academy graduate and received his PhD from the Fletcher School at Tufts University. Details on the upcoming events will be posted on the Ethics Institute webpage.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The current fiscal crisis has provided grist for classroom discussion, but it has also deeply affected us as a nation. If we were blind to the excesses of a consumer driven society, we can no longer claim ignorance to that destructive trend. The choices made in the supermarket, in the mall, and in personal investing are ethical at the heart. Perhaps the silver lining to this crisis can be found in a renewed call for simplicity and authenticity.

The Ethics Institute staff and advisors are responding to the national crisis by offering a variety of programming choices that address issues ranging from reconciliation, to civic engagement. Today's students are not merely *interested* in these topics, they are demanding an integration of practical strategies for repairing societal ills. From Ethics Institute funded internships that provide students an opportunity to work with NGOs in emerging economies, to research grants that result in published articles, the work of the Ethics Institute strives to adhere to its mission of linking knowledge with integrity in every aspect of our work.

-Aine Donovan



Aine Donovan and Julia Hadlock, Executive Director of the Upper Valley United Way. The Ethics Institute helped in the United Way kick-off event. October 8, 2008

BOOK REVIEW

James L. Bernat, *Ethical Issues in Neurology*, 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2008. Reviewed by Ronald M. Green.

(This is an abbreviated version of a full review available at <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~ethics/publications/index.html>)

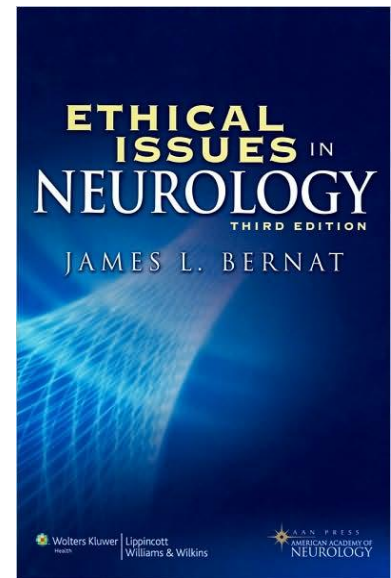
The title of *Ethical Issues in Neurology* somewhat understates this book's scope. For although one of the four parts of James Bernat's text provides outstanding coverage of major issues in neurological ethics, the book as a whole is really a comprehensive introduction to clinical bioethics. In chapter after chapter, Bernat provides insightful and informed discussions of many of the leading issues in the ethics of clinical care.

A glance at the table of contents illustrates the book's breadth. Chapters in the first part, "The Theory and Practice of Clinical Ethics," cover "ethical theory" and "ethical practice," "professional ethics and professionalism," "clinical ethics and the law," "the hospital ethics committee and the ethics consultant," and "resolving ethical dilemmas." Part Two, "Ethical Issues in Death and Dying" provides encyclopedic coverage of this central area of bioethical concern in chapters dealing respectively with "dying and palliative care," "refusal of life-sustaining treatment," "physician-assisted suicide and voluntary active euthanasia," and "medical futility."

The book's third part, "Ethical Issues in Neurological Syndromes," exhibits the grasp of neurological issues that has made Dartmouth's Bernat an international figure in his profession and a frequently cited authority in some of our most heated end-of-life disputes. The chapters here treat the ethical issues related to "brain death," "disorders of consciousness," "severe neurological disorders in neonates," "states of profound paralysis with intact cognition" (including discussions of "locked-in" syndrome—a terrifying condition marked by consciousness but an inability to communicate—and ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease), "dementia," "mental retardation," "neurogenetic testing and treatment," and "HIV and AIDS."

A final part, "Ethical Issues in Research" displays both the breadth and focus of the book as a whole. A chapter on "Clinical Research" has implications for research in fields well beyond neurology. A chapter on "Neuroethics" introduces us to the novel ethical issues raised by powerful new tools of brain imagining and brain manipulation.

Each of these chapters is thorough and informed. Extensive footnotes to leading articles serve as a reader's guide to the topic, and the coverage is often deeply insightful. Throughout, Bernat brings to each discussion his depth of experience from years of clinical experience and service as chair of Dartmouth Hitchcock's institutional ethics committee.



ETHICS BOWL 2009

The Dartmouth Ethics Society, an undergraduate association sponsored by the Ethics Institute, has once again qualified for the national competition after winning the regional trials. The group will travel to Cincinnati, Ohio on March 5th and compete against the winning teams from the other regional competitions.

The purpose of Ethics Bowl is to have undergraduate students work as a team to analyze a case, develop a position, and persuasively argue for that position. They are judged by a panel of academics, graduate students and business leaders. The Dartmouth Ethics Society has a long list of alums that are now in law school, graduate school, and working in jobs as diverse as organic farming and executive consulting. Ethics Bowl is an excellent preparation for moral decision-making in a complex world. One of the cases that the 2009 team will be presenting follows:

Omission on Application

Despite having quite a few years' experience, coursework toward a doctorate in psychology, and a very good work record, James Williams had been unemployed for several months. He felt he would like to switch away from psychology. He had developed an interest in customer service, having majored in business in his undergraduate work. He applied for a variety of jobs but received feedback that he was "overqualified" for most of them or that employers assumed he was just filling in between "real" jobs.

He was beginning to feel desperate when a very attractive position came open with Bell and Bell Market Research – an ideal entry into his desired field. He completed the application and submitted a resume characterizing his previous job titles, as 'counselor' instead of 'psychologist' and did not mention his doctoral work.

He worried at having to sign a disclaimer at the end of the application vowing, "The information provided on this employment application is true, correct and complete. If employed, any misstatement or omission of fact on this application may result in my dismissal."

TUCK STUDENTS WILL COMPETE IN BUSINESS ETHICS CASE COMPETITION

In the Fall term of Professor Aine Donovan's Business Ethics Class at Tuck a call for business ethics cases was issued. The cases were judged by four professors, and one winning case was selected to represent Tuck at the National Competition being held at Loyola Marymount College in Los Angeles. Caroline Newcombe, Manish Tangri, Dan Weinstein and Andrew Bunton (all second year Tuck students) will travel to Los Angeles on April 16th to present their case about a moral dilemma at the Eaton Corporation.

The Tuck Team will also present their case as part of the Phillips Conference at noon on April 23rd. The CEO of Eaton, Sandy Cutler T '75 will comment on the case. Location to be determined. Please check the website.

GRADUATE ETHICS PROGRAM

The seminars for the Graduate Ethics Program will be held at the Ethics Institute Conference/Library, Room 252, on the following dates:

Feb. 2nd 2 to 4 p.m.
Feb. 9th 2 to 4 p.m.
Feb. 16th 2 to 4 p.m.
Feb. 23rd 2 to 4 p.m.

For further information, please contact: Kerry Landers, 646-1743 or email:

kerry.landiers@dartmouth.edu

SAYLES LUNCHEON

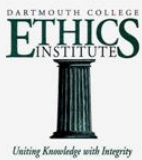
“Portrait of Holocaust Survivors:
The Search for Memory Through
Artistic Expression”

Professor Ana Marino will present
her Sayles Funded research at a
faculty luncheon on Monday, March
30th, noon at the Ethics Institute.
Please RSVP to:
Ethics.Institute@Dartmouth.EDU
by Wednesday, March 25th.

ETHICS QUOTES:

"Ethics is both the process and the product of deliberation about doing what is right." -Richard Crocker, College Chaplain and Virginia Rice Kelsey '61s Dean William Jewett Tucker Foundation

"The utility of moral and civil philosophy is to be estimated, not so much by the commodities we have by knowing these sciences, as by the calamities we receive by not knowing them." (Hobbes, De Corpore, I, 7) Bernie Gert, Professor of Philosophy



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