From the Director

The start of a new academic year always brings an energy to the Dartmouth campus, this year is no different. The class of 2018 has arrived and is confirming the tradition of intellectual curiosity, love of nature, and enthusiasm for establishing the roots of community among classmates. These shared experiences have served as motivation for much of my own research over the summer on exploration of moral meaning in community experience. With the assistance of a Teagle grant, I have formed a faculty working group who will spend the next academic year in discussion about this issue and we will host several scholars who have written on the subject. Our goal is not merely to think about these issues, but to act on them as well – creating the environment that facilitates moral character.

The unique quality of the Dartmouth experience is perhaps best summed up in one word: community. The bonds between students, faculty and staff have always been our strength, and they continue to be so today. The debate over the value of an education is not merely about job statistics or faculty publications, but it is also about helping to shape moral character. The four short years that young men and women spend in Hanover, NH is often formational in establishing life-long patterns of social responsibility and moral meaning. We are always seeking ways to expand and deepen that connection but one need only look out at the green on this beautifully sunlit afternoon to see kids returning from “trips” and eager to begin their journey as Dartmouth students. Convocation will be held next week and, as always, starts us off on the right foot.

These fall offerings will include all of the usual offerings: ethics bowl, bioethics bowl, business ethics bowl, mediation and conflict resolution, mock trial, graduate ethics, and co-sponsorship of a variety of campus events. Please see our website, for upcoming events. http://www.dartmouth.edu/~ethics/

Roger S. Aaron ’64 ’65

Ken Feinberg, Inaugural Distinguished Lecturer will speak on Wednesday, October 8th at 4:30 pm at the Hood Auditorium (located within the Hood Museum of Art).

Mr. Feinberg is one of the nation’s leading experts in mediation and alternative dispute resolution. He was appointed by President Obama to administer the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund, the BP oil spill, and the One Fund Boston Victim Relief Fund. Mr. Feinberg’s work as a lawyer has specialized on the question of determining what a life is worth.
The Aaron Distinguished Lecture will be a yearly event, hosted by the Ethics Institute. It was established by the family and friends of Roger Aaron, class of 1964 and Tuck 1965, to bring speakers to campus who exemplify the virtues necessary to work at the intersection of business, ethics and law. We are especially grateful to Bill Barnet '64, '65T who worked tirelessly in establishing this fund.

LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY
“HERBIFLOOR” Focus on climate change, food scarcity, and the ethics of the environment

The possibility of focusing attention of the ethical issues associated with everyday life choices was something that appealed to many Dartmouth undergraduates, and last spring they joined together to apply for a living/learning floor that has become the “Herbifloor”.

The two student advisors for the floor, Jennifer Davidson and Amanda Young, describe their intentions this way:

“Herbifloor is a community centered around thinking critically about what we eat, particularly when it is derived from animals and the, impact on the world around us. We plan to share plant-based meals together, discuss different topics pertaining to ethical eating, and conduct outreach to share what we discuss with the rest of campus. These topics include considering the ethical implications of eating animals, the environmental impact of the meat industry, the religious connections to the type of food people eat, the effects of being employed in the meat industry on workers, the ways in which people consider the ethics of what they eat in different cultures, and more.”

Professor Aine Donovan serves as the faculty advisor for the group. The aim of these targeted interest communities is to strengthen community bonds and dive deep into issues that are of special concern to the students involved. The momentum for these types of interest are gaining steam, today’s New York Times announced that the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (an $860 million philanthropic organization) is joining the divestment movement that began a couple years ago on college campuses. The pledge to sell assets tied to fossil fuel is a huge win for those concerned about climate change.
MARK WILLIAMS, Faculty Fellow for the 2014–2015 academic year

Professor Mark Williams, Film and Media Studies, was selected as part-time faculty fellow at the Ethics Institute. He will spend the next year working with the staff and students on several research projects. Professor Williams follows in the footsteps of many other talented fellows who have passed through the Ethics Institute: Sienna Craig (Anthropology), Russ Muirhead (Government), Ken Sharpe (Political Science), Anthony Alfieri (Law), Richard Donovan (Law and Public Policy), Rob Sprinkle (Medicine) and many, many more scholars who have provided a year or two of their time to the Ethics Institute. On November 6th and 7th, Professor Williams will be hosting an event to commemorate the work of Budd Schulberg, Dartmouth class of 1936. Budd Schulberg was a novelist, short story writer, journalist and screenwriter. He was awarded an Academy-award for his screenplay On the Waterfront. For more information, http://www.dartmouth.edu/~ethics/events/

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Meagan Bunnell ’13, ANTHROPOLOGY MAJOR, ETHICS MINOR

“As a student in the joint genetic counseling & medical humanities and bioethics degree at Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine, I have found myself often referring back to interests, papers, and projects that I initially explored as an ethics minor student at Dartmouth. Minoring in applied ethics exposed me to interesting topics and arguments, but most importantly, to methods of inquiry and problem solving that have served me well in academic pursuits both in and out of the classroom.

As an ethics graduate student, I have appreciated the chance to delve deeper into questions and issues raised during my coursework at Dartmouth. My ethics minor project “An Ethical Reformation of the United States Kidney Transplant System” pursued interests in a current topic that I have continued to explore as a graduate student through independent study with a professor who serves on the UN Transplant Committee. In beginning my master’s thesis, I found myself using many of the same methods and approaches that I utilized while writing my minor project. My thesis, while still in its early stages, is an exploration of the ethics and history behind the treatment of risk in medicine as compared with the treatment of actual, manifested illness. I look forward to continuing my involvement with the ethics community throughout my career and welcome any questions or contact about graduate programs in ethics.” (mbunnell18@gmail.com).

ALUMNI NEWS

Peter Verovcek ’06 and Ian Storey ’04 were both back on campus for Professor Amy Allen’s conference on Critical Theory. (Sept. 19-21, 2014) Peter and Ian have both pursued doctoral degrees in political theory and both teach at Harvard University.

Cate Birtley DeJulio ’06 is working as a lawyer in Chicago and a mom, with husband Nick (also 2006).

Gabrielle Emanuel ‘10 finished her Rhodes at Oxford and can now be heard on NPR as a reporter.

Emily Esfahani Smith ’09 is a regular contributor to the Wall Street Journal.

Matt Jorgensen ’12 is working at Bain Consulting, in the Boston office.

Mimi Rich ’12 is working in NYC and enjoying her puppy, Joanie.

Shengzhi Li ’12 is in his third year at Harvard Law School.

Please send your updates so that we can keep track of where you are and what you’re up to!
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