ETHICS UPDATE
Newsletter of the Ethics Institute at Dartmouth College
Spring 2010

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In keeping with the Dartmouth College commitment to sustainability, we encourage electronic mailing whenever possible. Please send us your email address to be included on our mailing list.

Spring 2010 Dorsett Fellow
Tracy Kidder
“Strength in What Remains”

Tracy Kidder, bestselling author and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his book The Soul of a New Machine, will be coming to Dartmouth College to speak about his latest book Strength in What Remains.

Strength tells the story of Deo, a young man who survives the horrors of civil war and genocide in Burundi and travels to the United States. He lives a homeless life in New York City’s Central Park before finding his way to Columbia University. From there he proceeds to medical school at Dartmouth College. With the help of his American friends and his own indomitable will, he returns to Burundi to make his dream of establishing his own clinic to help his people into a reality.

Tracy Kidder was born in New York City in 1945 and spent his childhood on Long Island. He earned his BA from Harvard University in 1967.


May 3rd, 2010 4:30pm
Cook Auditorium, Dartmouth College
Free and open to the public
Books for sale at event by the Dartmouth Bookstore
Book signing to follow
**From the Executive Director**  
**Aine Donovan**

As we conclude the eighth year of the Ethics Across the Curriculum Faculty seminar, it warrants noting that the program has touched a good portion of the Dartmouth faculty. From arts and sciences, to engineering, to the medical and business schools, our 65 participants represent every corner of the community. The Dartmouth faculty have written journal articles, developed case studies, and created entire new courses from their work in the seminar. The program would not have the strength and support that it currently enjoys without Skip Battle’s (’63) generosity and continued enthusiasm.

In March I was invited to Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina to speak with the faculty about their own fledgling EATC program. During that visit, it occurred to me that EATC programs either succeed or fail on two important bases: the commitment of the university toward ethical awareness, and a strong tie between ethics and the mission of the university. I saw this at Furman, and it bodes well for a long-lived program at that university. We certainly have that commitment at Dartmouth but we need to continually remind ourselves that our mission is tied to a moral understanding of the knowledge that we impart. Without a value base to their curriculum, educators can fall prey to the relativism trend sweeping the nation. Moral psychology affirms the fact that today’s college students yearn for meaning in their lives. Too often they are faced with a value-neutral curriculum that offers little in the way of true moral growth.

The disturbing trends of youth violence, cruelty and apathy can be moderated by educators – teachers have long been a radical voice for social good. The simple act of asking our students to assess moral meaning to the knowledge they are so adept at accumulating will go far in the effort to cultivate the common good.

**Dartmouth College Visiting Scholar**  
**Patrik Kjærdsam Telléus**

Patrik Kjærdsam Telléus will be visiting Dartmouth College for May and part of June. While Telléus is here at Dartmouth he will be working on his dissertation titled, “Scientific Ethics and Stem Cell Research.” His project focuses on how ethics interacts with science. He breaks the interaction into three levels: (1) ethics as a method of debate over scientific issues, (2) ethics as a participant in science, for example, when ethics becomes an actively visible part of a particular scientific practice, such as stem cell research, and (3) ethics as a foundation and a condition for science. These three combine yield the discipline of scientific ethics.

Telléus was born in Sweden. He earned his BA in Film Studies from Gronthenburg University in Sweden in 1999, and his MA in Philosophy from Copenhagen University in Denmark in 2003. He is currently working as a Ph.D. Fellow and Lecturer at Aalborg University. He lives in Denmark with his wife and three children.
Sustainable Design:
FROM LEED TO LIVING BUILDINGS
April 16th-17th, 2010
Dartmouth College

Hosted by the Dartmouth College Sustainability Initiative and the Environmental Guild of the New Hampshire Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, this conference uses lectures, panels, and workshops to explore the following four themes:

- the global imperative for more sustainable design
- advances toward zero net energy design and retrofits
- lessons from biology and the importance of regenerative design
- the benefits and challenges of moving from LEED to living buildings

The Plenary speaker is Dayna Baumeister, PhD, co-founder of the Biomimicry Guild. Her talk, “The Lotus and the Peacock: Biomimicry as a Path to Sustainability” will take place on April 16th at 12:15pm in Alumni Hall.

The Keynote speaker is David Orr, PhD, Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics at Oberlin College and author of Design on the Edge. The Keynote Address will take place on April 16th at 7:30pm in Alumni Hall.

The conference is limited to 200 attendees due to space, and registration is required. For more information go to: http://www.sustainabledesignsymposium.com

The Ethics Institute is a proud co-sponsor of this event.

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ETHICS MINOR
LUNCH PRESENTATIONS

Please join us for lunch and support the graduating Ethics Minor students as they present their culminating projects.

May 25th, 2010 Noon-1:30pm
Ethics Institute Conference Room
Haldeman Center, 2nd Floor
RSVP required by Wed May 12th, 2010

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National Ethics Bowl

The National Ethics Bowl took place in Cincinnati, OH on March 4th. Dartmouth College’s second place finish at the Northeast Regional Ethics Bowl this past November guaranteed them a spot at Nationals. Dartmouth went up against colleges from across the country, all of whom had finished in the top bracket at their respective regional ethics bowl competitions. Dartmouth team members had spent weeks preparing for this day. The cases were sent out in January and since then the students have been researching their cases, constructing arguments, and honing their debate skills.

The Dartmouth team consisted of Chris Kendig ‘10, Jon Choi ‘11, Erich Hartfelder ‘12, Matt Jorgensen ‘12, Katie Gonzalez ‘12, and Mimi Rich ‘12, coached by Aine Donovan. Unfortunately Mimi was unable to attend Nationals, but the team did well despite being down one member. Dartmouth won its first two rounds, giving an articulate and insightful performance. Sadly, the third round did not go so well, and Dartmouth finished the morning with 2 wins and one loss. Dartmouth was unable to proceed to the quarter-finals, but finished with a 10th place standing out of the 32 schools that participated, an admirable success. The University of Alabama at Birmingham became the 2010 National Ethics Bowl Champions.

Officials reported that the ethical analyses presented by the students this year were the strongest ever seen. All the teams conducted themselves with respect and civility. This emphasizes the aim of the Ethics Bowl, which is not merely competition but to increase participants’ understanding of the complexity of ethical issues, to encourage camaraderie between students of different schools and backgrounds, and to help the students grow as individuals.
The “Yes Men” are a group of guys who practice what they call “identity correction” by pretending to be powerful people and spokespeople for prominent organizations. In this documentary, Yes Men Andy Bichlbaum and Mike Bonanno take on a wide assortment of causes. Initially their antics can be seen as adolescent pranks, but as the film wears on and the layers are peeled back we discover that Bichlbaum and Bonanno are very earnest activists, hell-bent on changing reality and exposing some of the world’s biggest criminals. And though their methods are extreme, their intentions are noble and for the most part, their film provides important commentary that is irrefutably relevant to our nation’s current economic situation.

The Yes Men Fix the World
Film & Discussion

Friday April 30th, 2010 7pm
Haldeman 041, Dartmouth College

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Dartmouth Ethics Society
On April 9th the Dartmouth Ethics Society played host to Bellows Falls (VT) middle school students. The event was held in Dartmouth 105 and capped a year-long relationship between Dartmouth undergraduates and the middle school students. The goal of the program was to help the students in identifying moral issues of public concern and then develop arguments for public discussion. The issues ranged from stem cell research to bullying in schools. The Dartmouth Ethics Society is composed of undergraduates who are interested in research, debate and social action. Many students participated throughout the year, but the students participating in the Friday event included Gurveen Chadha (13), Jon Choi (11), Meaghan Patrick (10), Sophie Green (10) and Elizabeth Gary (10).

Upcoming events:
Fall, 2010 Andrew Delbanco will be a guest lecturer at the Ethics Institute. He will be speaking about his latest book “College: What it Was, and Should Be”. Professor Delbanco is the author of numerous books and scholarly articles, including “The Death of Satan” and “Melville”.

Ethics Film Series
“The Yes Men Fix the World”
Film & Discussion

Friday April 30th, 2010 7pm
Haldeman 041, Dartmouth College

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