

Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility

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J. ERIK JONSSON ETHICS AWARD



Ronald G. Steinhart, a legendary businessman and exemplary public citizen, received the 2008-2009 J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award on February 4, 2009. Over 400 civic and corporate leaders were in attendance as attorney Mike Boone presented the award.

Ron Steinhart lives a life of sacrifice and service for the public good and for this, the Center is pleased to bestow the J. Erik Jonsson

Ethics Award. (See page 3 for more photographs.)

GENERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS AND THE PROFESSIONS

The 2008-2009 Annual Conference of the Professions was held February 17, 2009, in Storey Hall's Karcher Auditorium in the SMU Dedman School of Law. It was the 23rd in a series of unique conclaves at which representatives of law, medicine, and the clergy come together to address common ethical issues facing the professions and to discuss solutions. This year's topic was "Generational Expectations and the Professions."



The keynote speaker was Cynthia Pladzewicz, J.D., Ph.D., Chief Development Officer at Thompson & Knight, LLP. Dr. Pladzewicz serves as President of Dallas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and is a licensed clinical psychologist.

Two panels responded to Dr. Pladzewicz's remarks. The first was moderated by her and included Brad Butler, M.D.; Sylvia Cardona, J.D.; and Rev. Kathryn Ransdell, M.Div. The second panel, moderated by SMU professor William J. Bridge, J.D., included the panelists from the first panel plus William J. Bryan III, D.Min.; Ike Vanden Eykel, J.D.; and David Winter, M.D. Discussed were the changes in expectations of professionals now entering the job market, especially with regards to quality of life, as opposed to those of professionals who entered in previous decades.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Director (page 2)

Photos (page 3)

Co-Sponsored Events (page 4)

Maguire Public Scholars (page 4)

Maguire and Irby Family Public Service Interns (page 5)

ANCIENT AND MODERN ETHICS

BY GUEST COLUMNIST STEVE SVERDLIK, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The study of ethics is exciting these days. I'll explain.

Since antiquity, philosophers have taken an interest in certain fundamental questions about ethics or morality. They've debated about whether there is some objective standard of morality for all human beings; they've argued about how we would know such a standard; and they've tried to articulate what such a standard says. It's always been accepted that the moral principles that philosophers defend have to cohere with what we know about the world and human nature.

What is making contemporary ethics so interesting is how many brilliant scholars from other fields are contributing to the discussion of what the moral capacities and limitations of human nature are. I'll describe two 'hot' topics.

One centers on evolutionary biology. Most moral philosophers say that we have a 'duty of beneficence' to give some of our resources to others. Since the 1950's, though, a number of important biologists have argued that evolutionary theory shows that 'altruism' is not a characteristic that could survive in nature. This is because individual organisms that are altruistic, and give resources to others, would be 'suckers': the selfish individuals that do not help others would have more resources like food at their disposal, so they would reproduce in greater numbers. The altruists would have fewer offspring, and ultimately die out. These biologists claim that there is no real altruism in any part of nature, including human nature.

But other biologists say that altruism is possible. In supporting this claim they offer a radically different understanding of the process of evolution itself. These biologists say that natural selection not only operates at the level of individual organisms, but also at the level of groups within a single species. Some social groups of monkeys, say, could produce more offspring than other groups, so that features of the first group could, over time, become more widespread in the species. One social group could differ from another group precisely by containing a higher percentage of altruists. This has a surprising consequence: even if the altruistic individuals in the group have fewer offspring than the selfish individuals in it, the group may grow faster than other groups. Why? The benefits that the altruists provide to other group members, both altruistic and selfish, make the average amount of reproduction in this group higher than it is in a group with a smaller percentage of altruists. A high level of altruism could therefore

(continued on page 2)



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Professor Steve Sverdlik's guest column on the first page of this newsletter highlights an important aspect of the mission of the Maguire Center. Ethics is no longer the exclusive domain of philosophers. Perhaps, especially after the emergence during the Renaissance of the modern university, it never was. But with the advent of experimental philosophy and empirical ethics, and with the application of such research tools such as functional MRI's and gene sequencing to many of the basic problems in ethics, the field is opening up as never before.

All SMU students and faculty, regardless of their field of study, are both potential producers and potential consumers of ethical analysis. One needs no more proof of this than the Center's listing of ethics-related courses (<http://smu.edu/ethics-center/students/courses.asp>). Our website shows 125 courses from all of SMU's colleges and schools, and the list grows every year through the Center's grant awards to faculty for the development of a new ethics course (or the addition of a new ethics component in an existing course). I am happy to report that applications for course-development grants increased by 100 percent this year and hope to be able to report on another increase in this space next year.

Another example of the interdisciplinary reach of ethics at SMU is our summer public-service internship program. Applications this year tripled over the previous year, and they came in from every college and school.
continued on back page

ANCIENT AND MODERN ETHICS, *continued from page 1*
cause a social group to grow, even if altruism puts an individual organism at a relative disadvantage reproductively.

So a fascinating debate in biology has given moral philosophers a much deeper grasp of some of the issues surrounding our willingness to help others.

Another exciting topic involves the age-old concepts of virtue and vice. Here moral philosophers are learning a lot from social psychologists. Philosophers since Plato have tried to explain the nature of admirable character traits like courage and wisdom, as well as the corresponding vices such as cowardice and imprudence. Philosophers often assumed that these traits are fairly widespread. They've also assumed that the people who have a virtue like courage tend to manifest it whenever it is called for. Some psychologists (called 'situationists') argue that these assumptions are false. They appeal to the results of various experiments, including the ones performed by Stanley Milgram in the 1960's. Milgram's experiments suggest that even presumably virtuous people can be induced by surprisingly modest pressure into performing horrible acts. Most of the subjects in these exper-

iments eventually inflict what they believe are possibly lethal electric shocks on innocent 'students'. The situationists conclude that it is a mistake to think that ordinary people have stable character traits that will be manifested in a wide variety of situations. Instead, they say, subtle features of social situations mold our behavior. The situationists' conclusions have not been accepted by all moral philosophers, let alone all psychologists. But they have reoriented an ancient debate about the nature of moral virtue, and how achievable it really is.

There's more. Neuroscientists are monitoring the electrical activity in the brains of people thinking about moral dilemmas. Computer scientists are creating 'tournaments' for virtual moral agents, to see which sorts of characters 'win' in the long run. Primatologists are studying the sense of fairness guiding chimpanzees as they conduct their 'monkey business'. Plato couldn't have imagined any of this.

ETHICS BOWL TEAM (SEED)

The Society for Ethical Evaluation and Debate (SEED) is made up of motivated SMU undergraduate students who enjoy researching, reflecting upon, and debating ethical issues. The students who constituted this year's Regional Bowl team were Jon Haghayeghi, Amanda Hawkins, Jessica Ringeisen, Nick Brait, Charles Stillwell, Jr., and James Hall. To prepare for the competition, the team met once a week with team coordinator Ken Loyer to reflect upon the ethical considerations of the seven cases. The team debated cases involving medical outsourcing, high-occupancy vehicle and toll traffic lanes, Somali pirate attacks, an ultrasonic teen repellent, incarcerated mothers raising their children behind bars, the use of Nutraloaf as punishment, and Cherokee freedmen.

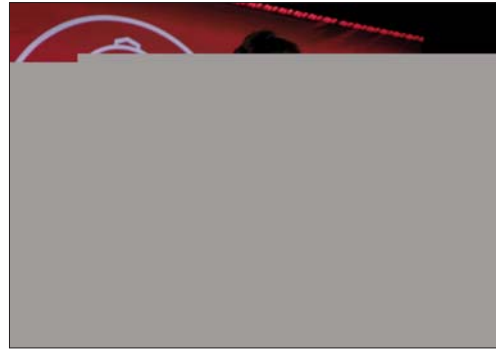
In the Regional Ethics Bowl in San Antonio, on November 10, 2007, at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, SMU competed against a dozen other teams. SMU finished with a record of two wins and one loss, but by virtue of a tiebreaker, was not among the top four teams that advanced to the National Ethics Bowl.

In April, the team competed in the Bioethics Bowl at Union College at Harvard University. The competition took place at the National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference, which all students competing in the Bioethics Bowl were able to attend at no extra cost. Six teams competed in the Bioethics Bowl. The SMU team finished with a record of one win and three losses. That record included a narrow defeat to Williams College and a respectable performance against the eventual champion, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. The Bioethics Bowl Team members consisted of Jon Haghayeghi, Amanda Hawkins, Jessica Ringeisen, Nick Brait, and Greg Mandel.

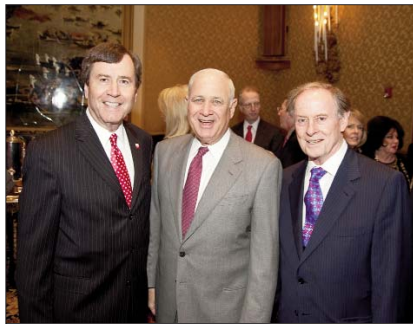
Photographs



(L to R) J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award winner Ron Steinhart and SMU Trustees chairman Carl Sewell.



Maguire Ethics Center Advisory Board member Nancy Halbreich welcomes guests to the J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award luncheon.



(L to R) SMU President R. Gerald Turner, J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award winner Ron Steinhart, and Cary M. Maguire.



(L to R) J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award winner Ron Steinhart, 2007-2008 J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award winner Mike Boone, Nancy Halbreich, and SMU President R. Gerald Turner.



(L to R) J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award winner Ron Steinhart, Mrs. Phyllis Steinhart, 2007-2008 J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award winner Mike Boone.



Panelists at the 2008-2009 Annual Conference of the Professions. (L to R) Tom Mayo (at podium), Cynthia Pladziewicz, Ike Vanden Eykel, Bill Bryan, Brad Butler, Sylvia Cardona, Bill Bridge (standing), David Winter, and Kathryn Ransdell.

MAGUIRE & IRBY FAMILY PUBLIC SERVICE INTERNS

The Summer 2009 interns (and their projects) were:

Danielle Czajka, a senior accounting major at the Cox School of Business, will work with Wings Ministry, a ministry dedicated to helping families of prisoners. She will help create a working budget for this non-profit organization and help prepare them for a full audit.

Nick Elledge, a sophomore in Dedman College majoring in Spanish, political science, and economics, will work with PEER Servants in Cusco, Peru, gathering data and interviewing clients for the receipt of microloans, and writing for a weekly microfinance blog.

Nureen Gulamani, a freshman in Dedman College who plans to major in advertising, will intern in Atlanta, GA, with the American Civil Liberties Union, interviewing clients, filing court cases, and arranging press releases.

Saira Husain, a freshman Dedman College student pursuing a double major in Biology and Anthropology, will intern at Children's' Museum for Peace and Human Rights (CMPHR) in Karachi, Pakistan. She will assist in providing material and activity for students, planning, helping in logistics, and report writing.

Serena Johnson, a grad student in the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, will intern at the Deaf Action Center in Dallas, and will be responsible for educating offices about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). She will be responsible for interpreting meetings and presentations into or from American Sign Language.

Jason Minter, a second year statistics Ph.D. student in Dedman College, will work with Youth First Texas (YFT), Dallas. He will undertake research and analysis, and assist with fund-raising, which will include finding sponsors, organizing volunteers, and managing the logistics of events. In addition he will be involved with counseling, mentoring, and tutoring.

Amy Richards, a second year Dedman School of Law student will intern at the Dallas County District Attorney's Office (Family Violence Division). Her daily responsibilities in the Protective Order Unit will include trial preparation, victim and witness contacts, and assisting in the family violence trainings.

Robert Robson, a first year graduate student in the Masters of Liberal Studies program, will intern for the immigration legal services department of the International Rescue Committee in Dallas, helping to provide low cost, professional, and personal legal advice and legal representation for displaced persons.

Max Taghizadeh, a Junior majoring in Biology/Pre-med in Dedman College, will work for PediPlace and provide detailed research in an organized format concerning the issue of child obesity, including medical ramifications and intervention strategies. He will also draft and implement a plan that addresses, informs, and treats childhood obesity for PediPlace's client population.

NEW MAGUIRE TEACHING FELLOWS



Dr. Patricia Davis, Director of Pastoral Leadership and Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Care and Leadership, Perkins School of Theology, and Dr. Renee McDonald, Co-Director

of the SMU Family Research Center and Associate Professor of Psychology, Dedman College, are the 2009-2010 Maguire Teaching Fellows. Dr. Davis' course is entitled *Ethical Dilemmas in Pastoral Leadership* and Dr. McDonald's course is *Ethics in Psychology*.

DESIGN TEAM

The Design Team is a student-run organization that encourages students to think about the ethical implications of their actions before making a decision. They choose topics they believe are relevant to the SMU community and then design a presentation that is customized to meet the needs of the particular class or group to whom they are presenting. This year, the Design Team gave two presentations to the campus community.

The team gave a presentation in the fall semester to a group of undergraduate students, and in this presentation dealt with perception, deception, and the power of image among college students. The team analyzed common stereotypes of college students, compared those stereotypes to life at SMU, and encouraged the audience to think more deeply about what determines who people are, rather than what the simplistic associations between image and social status, academic performance, or even ethnicity allow.

During the spring semester, the team gave a presentation on academic honesty that explored questions of motivation, definition, and moral character using the framework of virtue ethics.

Caught **RED** Handed



Students Caught Cheating
Hear their confession and why they did it at:
The Blurred Face of Cheating
honest@smu
April 14th at 8:00 p.m.
Hughes-Trigg Promenades A-B (Ground Level)

PUBLIC SCHOLAR ROBIN LOVIN

In his Maguire Public Scholar Lecture held September 24, 2008, in the Umphrey Lee Ballroom, Professor Robin Lovin gave a lecture entitled, "Politics in Religious Perspective: Temptation, Tool, or Task." In his lecture, he discussed whether American religion could develop a realistic appreciation of politics on its own terms, as a task that neither threatens damnation nor promises salvation, but demands continuous, faithful engagement.



Robin Lovin holds the Maguire Chair in Ethics for the university. Prior to accepting this position, he was dean of SMU's Perkins School of Theology. Dr. Lovin is an internationally-renowned scholar of Christian ethics, having served as past president of the Society of Christian Ethics, dean of Drew University Theological School, and professor of ethics at the University of Chicago. An ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, he has been active in the life and leadership of the Methodist Church for nearly thirty years.

PUBLIC SCHOLAR MARK MCPHAIL

Professor Mark McPhail was the Maguire Center's Spring 2009 Public Scholar. He presented his address, "Confessions of an Expert Witness: Rhetoric, Politics, and Ethics at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda" in the Umphrey Lee Ballroom on April 7, 2009. In March of 2008, Professor Mark Lawrence McPhail appeared as an expert witness before the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (UNICTR). This presentation integrates personal reflections with critical inquiry to explore the complex and sometimes contradictory ethical issues that influence our understanding of the tragedy that took place in Rwanda in 1994, its political and moral legacies, and the implications it holds for international justice and reconciliation in the 21st century.

Mark McPhail, Chair of the Division of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs (CCPA), came to SMU in 2007 from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Dr. McPhail received his Ph.D. in rhetoric and public address from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He is the author of two books, *Zen in the Art of Rhetoric: An Inquiry in Coherence*, and *The Rhetoric of Racism Revisited: Reparations or Separation?*



CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

Regional Bioethics

The Maguire Center for Ethics co-sponsored the fall and spring semi-annual meetings of the North Texas Bioethics Network. The dinner topic on December 4, 2008 was obtaining informed consent in human research studies. Fred Grinnell, UT Southwestern, led the discussion. The dinner speaker on May 19 was Simon Lee, Ph.D., medical anthropologist, who led a lively discussion on "Quality of Care and Clinical Trial Recruitment: System Ethics and Disparities in Access."

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial

The Maguire Center, along with the State Bar of Texas, Dallas World Affairs Council, Dallas Public Library, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Winstead PC, and WRR Classical 101.1 FM, cosponsored a lecture by James M. McPherson on Feb. 12, 2009, the 200th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's birth. Mr. McPherson is a presidential historian and author of *Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief*.

Investigational Drugs

With the student Health Law Association at SMU Dedman School of Law, the Center co-sponsored "Access to Investigational Drugs," with guest speaker Ms. Shelley Carlin, J.D., M.P.H. The lecture and discussion took place on February 25, 2009 at the law school. Ms. Carlin is a health care attorney with Rogaliner Law Offices, P.C., who specializes in biomedical research law and regulation, with a particular emphasis on human subjects protection and Medicare coverage for clinical trials.

Richard Molpus lecture

The Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility co-sponsored, with the SMU Corporate Communications and Public Affairs department, a lecture on March 16, 2009, entitled "Corporate Responsibility, Racial Redemption, and the Legacies and Lessons of Freedom Summer." It featured Richard Molpus, CEO of Molpus Woodlands Group, Jackson, Mississippi, and long-time supporter of civil right activities and legislation across the South.

Saving a Garden

On March 25, Mr. Ajmal Maiwandi, Deputy Programme Manager of the His Highness Prince Aga Khan Shia Imani Ismaili Council for Northern Texas gave an address entitled, "Saving a Garden in the Midst of War." An expert in the fields of cultural conservation and rehabilitation in post-conflict Afghanistan, Mr. Maiwandi focused on the Bagh-e-Babur and Timur Shah Mausoleum sites as well as urban rehabilitation projects underway in the historic city of Herat. This event was co-sponsored with the SMU-in-Taos Program and the Department of Anthropology.

DALLAS BUSINESSES RECOGNIZED FOR ETHICS

The Dallas Chapter of the Society of Financial Service Professionals held its Eighth Annual Greater Dallas Business Ethics Award Luncheon on May 13, 2009. The award recognizes companies in the Metroplex with a strong and proven commitment to ethical business practices in their everyday operations, management philosophies and in response to crises or challenge.

Awards were presented to the following companies: Balfour Beatty Construction, and Sleep Experts. Previous Dallas award winners EDS, Trammell Crow Company, The Staubach Company, and TDIndustries have been selected for the prestigious American Business Ethics Award.

The Greater Dallas Business Ethics Awards are presented by The Dallas Chapter of the Society of Financial Services Professionals, the Financial Planning Association of Dallas/Fort Worth, the Edwin L. Cox School of Business, the North Texas Ethics and Character Association, and the Maguire Center for Ethics.

FROM THE DIRECTOR, *continued from page 2*

One of the more remarkable aspects of this year's batch of applications for internship funds was the number submitted by graduate students. In each case, the students proposed a public-service activity that offered a direct correlation between the student's area of study and the needs of a nonprofit entity. The Center was able to make awards to graduate students in the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development (deaf education), Cox School of Business (accounting), Dedman College (statistics), Dedman School of Law (family violence), and the Master of Liberal Studies (immigration assistance for displaced persons).

In the coming years, the Maguire Center will work to consolidate this interdisciplinary work in ethics and public responsibility and hopes to be able to dedicate even more resources to its support.

