Ethics at Indiana

The Newsletter of the Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions at Indiana University, Bloomington

Fall 2015
Future of Professional Ethics Update

In Fall 2015, The Poynter Center organized the first two workshops in the Future of Professionalism series, made possible by the Ostrom Grants Program and twelve unit sponsors.

Professions and Service to All: Challenges, Problems, and Solutions, with keynote speaker Steven Salbu, Cecil B. Day Chair, Professor of Law and Ethics at Georgia Institute of Technology. Hosted by Professor Tim Fort and the Department of Business Law & Ethics in the Kelley School of Business.

Committed Professionals: Handling Obstacles to Ethics in Public Health, with keynote speaker Lisa M. Lee, Chair of the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues. Hosted by Dean Michael Reece and the School of Public Health.

Thanks to all our partners!
We look forward to continuing the series in Spring 2016!

Questions from our Fall Seminars

Mountain-top removal mining causes public health harms comparable to smoking. Is this an ethical crisis?

Why are discussions around steroid use for young men versus women discussed with different moral lenses?

Why does steroidal contraceptive for women remain so poorly researched and frequently misunderstood?

Join the Conversation!

#FutureEthics on Twitter
fpe.indiana.edu/wordpress/blog

Why Do We Care About What Who Wants?

Can You Change a Moral Compass?

Finding Meaning in Work (If You Can Get It)

Reflections on these and other topics, workshop reviews and responses, and more!
National Security Ethics

The Poynter Center has teamed up with the Center for Advanced Cybersecurity Research to foster a new faculty working group on ethics issues in national security — members share research and seek collaborative opportunities on topics from the ethics of whistleblowing to spying to anonymization. The group’s temporary web address is junationalsecurityethics.weebly.com.

Leonard Wong on Ethics Inside and Outside the Military

On Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2015, the National Security Ethics Group brought Leonard Wong to campus. Leonard Wong is a researcher at the U.S. Army War College whose work focuses on the human and organizational dimensions of the military. He is a retired Army officer whose has taught leadership at West Point and served as an analyst for the Chief of Staff of the Army. Dr. Wong’s research has led him to Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Bosnia, Vietnam, and other nations. He has testified before Congress and his work has been highlighted in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The New Yorker, CNN, NPR, PBS, and 60 Minutes. Dr. Wong is a professional engineer and holds a B.S. from the U.S. Military Academy and an M.S. and Ph.D. from Texas Tech University.

Dr. Wong met with Hutton Honors students for a conversation about Ethics, Leadership, and National Security, followed by a workshop with IU faculty and the leaders of IU’s ROTC training program to talk about his recent report, Lying to Ourselves: Dishonesty in the Army Profession. Wong’s research shows that untruthfulness is surprisingly common in the U.S. military, an enormous identity conflict for an organization whose members pride themselves on integrity. Unfortunately this sense of integrity prevents the profession from addressing—or even acknowledging—the duplicity and deceit throughout the formation. This report is available free through the Army War College and was recently presented to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Finally, Wong offered a public lecture on Societal Trust in the Military. His talk addressed the key points that shape the Army’s relationship to the public, and was attended by students, faculty, and members of the public.
Ethics Bowl

IU qualified for the national championship with a fourth-place showing at the Central States Regional Ethics Bowl, hosted by Marian University in Indianapolis on Saturday, November 21. With this national championship appearance, IU hopes to improve upon their performance in last year’s competition, where they finished as national semifinalists.

IU sent two teams to the regional Ethics Bowl; the top five universities advanced to the national championship. Each team competed in a series of three matches against other universities. IU’s teams finished with records of 3–0 and 2–1; the undefeated IU team ranked fourth in total points. Returning team members are Ali Henke and Nikhil Nandu (team captains), joined by freshmen Seth Carter, Reyan Coskun, Hannah Eli, Jessica Gingles, Daniel Hao, Alex Johnson, and Roger Morris.

Coach Joe Bartzel, associate instructor and PhD student in religious studies, said, “I’m incredibly proud of this team. Competition at Central States is notoriously tough every year, so for a team of so many newcomers to put on as strong a showing as they did is a testament to the talent we have on this team.” When asked about the upcoming national championship, Bartzel responded, “The practice season is shorter, and the deeper we get into the competition, the level of competition we’ll be facing is only going to get higher. It definitely doesn’t get any easier from here on out.” Still, he expressed confidence in his young team: “These students showed a lot of poise at regionals, and I expect that their hard work and positive attitude will carry them a long way at nationals, too.”

WONDER SEMINAR

Interim Director David Smith was awarded a small grant by the Consortium for the Study of Religion, Ethics, and Public Life to hold a series of invitational seminars on the topic of “Wonder, Birth, and Seriously Ill Children,” in support of a book manuscript now in progress. The first session convened November 4th with guest speaker Tom Murray of the Hasting Center.

Questions from our Fall Seminars

Should scholars cite themselves?

Does Mechanical Turk change the ethical relationship between researchers and paid research participants?

How would contemporary philosophy be different if a now-obscure scholar had not promoted Aristotle to his students?

Where do we look for the tools to build ethical regulations for online pharmaceutical sales?
Other Collaborations

**Media School:** Poynter Program Manager Emma Young participated in class sessions of C212: Screening Race and Ethnicity. Visiting film-makers Meg Mortiz and Jeff Browne screened their film *Taking the Lede*, which addresses the ethical roles of high school journalists, as well as Mortiz’s earlier film on coverage of the Columbine school shooting; their visit included a reception at Poynter.

Ethics Bowl Coach Joe Bartzel gave a lightning talk as part of the Department of American Studies Pop-up Teach-in getting ready for Ta-Nehisi Coates’ campus visit. Ethics Bowl Team members tested their skills at Monroe County United Ministries Building Bridges Civility Symposium.

The [IU Bioethics Society](https://www.indiana.edu/~bioethics), a student group, organized a public panel on “Fetal Tissue Research: Medical, Legal, and Ethical Considerations.” Poynter hosted the panel, which drew a large attendance, as well as other Bioethics Society meetings.

The Center was also a co-sponsor on the [Cultural Studies Program’s](https://www.indiana.edu/~culturalstudies) Child Matter Conference and the [Black Film Center Archive’s](https://www.indiana.edu/~bfc/galleries/birth_of_a_nation/) Birth of a Nation Centennial Symposium.

The [Association for Practical and Professional Ethics](https://www.aape.org), housed in the Center, co-organized with the IU Opera a slate of public educational programs to accompany the opera *Dead Man Walking*.

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On November 9th, the Center was proud to welcome two distinguished alumni as part of the College Luminaries Program. Libby Baney, pictured right, was a member of IU’s first Ethics Bowl National Championship team before attaining her BA in 2004, and currently works in health law and policy. Eric Deggans, pictured left, is an influential TV critic, journalist, author, and speaker. He is a graduate of Ernie Pyle School of Journalism, now a part of Poynter’s new home, the Media School.
Currently taking applications:

Jesse Fine Fellowship for Course Development
A financial award to support the creation or substantive revision of courses that address ethics in the home discipline of the instructor.

Look under “Scholarly Activity” on our website for more details & profiles of previous Fellows.

Poynter Center Fellowship
A visiting, non-stipendiary Fellowship for faculty in any discipline who are working on a project with significant ethics components.

Look under “Scholarly Activity” on our website for more details & profiles of previous Fellows.

Undergraduate Research Support
An opportunity for undergraduate students to design a mini-grant proposal for faculty-sponsored research with an ethics component.

Look under “Student Programs” on our website for more details & profiles of previous honorees.

Questions from our Fall Seminars

What are the roles of governments, employers, and employees in the face of an aging workforce?

How can journalists improve their judgment in choosing when to discuss or not discuss race?

What is the role of a small-town mayor in promoting a livable city?
David Smith has presided over many triumphs for Poynter. As we contemplate the bittersweet fate of releasing him to his third attempt at “retirement” we asked for a few choice memories...

"As I think back over 22 years as Poynter Center Director there are too many happy memories to count; so many good times with colleagues. Better with age, however, are some noteworthy gaffes, including but not limited to:

... Asking a friend in a professional school to recommend someone for one of our seminars, then inviting someone with that name - BUT THE WRONG PERSON SO NAMED. The invitee ended up attending several sessions of the ongoing seminar! ...

... Setting up a meeting with a state legislator, having to cancel the meeting but failing to tell the legislator of the cancelation...

... Inviting a high visibility speaker from the East Coast, but for the wrong date. The speaker was present for the “right” date via a video presentation...

... Inviting another high visibility scholar and mentor, an observant Jew, for the Patten lectures, then serving a luncheon with a julienne salad topped with ham and cheese...

I could go on ... but discretion forbids. It has been a great run from beginning to end. The future will be different and probably better. I will treasure the memories, friendships, and all I have learned for the rest of my life."
Looking Ahead…

In Spring 2016, David Smith will serve his final semester as Interim Director. We look forward to announcing new directions later this year!

Poynter Center Advisory Committee

- Jeffrey Alberts, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences
- Charlene Brown, Hutton Honors College and Wells Scholars Program
- Daniel Conkle, Maurer School of Law
- Josh Perry, Kelley School of Business
- Sandra Shapshay, Department of Philosophy
- Lisa Sideris, Department of Religious Studies
- Rob Stone, IU Health Bloomington Hospital

Keep in Touch

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