

The Poynter Center

for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions *Newsletter*

Indiana University Bloomington

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Ethics Bowl Team

The 2005-06 IU Ethics Bowl Team participated in the annual intercollegiate competition on March 2 in Jacksonville, Florida. The team included Amy Payne, a junior in Psychology; Megan Robb, a sophomore in English, Philosophy, and India Studies; Neil Shah, a freshman in Mathematics, Finance, and Accounting; Laura Williams, a senior in Journalism and Political Science; and Emma Young, a sophomore in Classical Studies and Religious Studies. The coach was Mark Wilson, a doctoral candidate in Religious Studies. Mark coached the 2003 and 2004 teams. The faculty advisor was Richard Miller, director of the Poynter Center and professor of Religious Studies. The team competed in three matches in the morning, winning two of the three rounds.



Megan Robb, Laura Williams, Amy Payne, Emma Young, Neil Shah before a match in Jacksonville.

Matthew Vandivier Sims Memorial Lecture – Ronald Green

Professor Ronald Green shared some of his Guggenheim Fellow research with those who attended the annual Matthew Vandivier Sims Memorial Lecture. His topic was “Babies by Design? The Ethics of Gene Enhancement.” Green joined Dartmouth’s Religion Department in 1969, and he directs

the Ethics Institute. He helped create and directed the Office of Genome Ethics at the National Human Genome Research Institute of the National Institutes of Health in 1996 and 1997.

Green’s most recent publication is *The Human Embryo Research Debates: Bioethics in the Vortex of Controversy*, in which Green addresses some of the issues in human embryo research. In addition to authoring many scholarly articles in biomedical ethics, ethical theory and comparative religious ethics, business ethics, organizational ethics and economic justice, Green has co-produced two hour-long documentary videos on parents and neonatal care.

The lecture honors Matthew Vandivier Sims, who died in infancy. His parents, Damon and Suzette Sims, along with friends, created the lecture to emphasize the importance of good communication among family, medical practitioners, and researchers in the area of neonatal care and caring for newborn children.



Ron Green had lunch and a discussion with students in the Wells Scholars Program and Hutton Honors College.

Nature in the Scientific and Moral Imagination – Paul Lauritzen

In conjunction with the Poynter Center Fellows' study of "Nature in the Scientific and Moral Imagination," the Poynter Center hosted Paul Lauritzen from John Carroll University on March 30. Lauritzen's topic was "Piercing the Veil of the Familiar: 'Nature,' the new Grotesque, and the Bioethical Imagination." Professor Lauritzen uses art to think about the implications of changing nature in fundamental ways. He focused his discussion of art and science on stem cell research and the beginning of human life. The quote in the presentation title is from Robert Penn Warren: "The grotesque is one of the most obvious forms art may take to pierce the veil of familiarity, to stab us up from the drowse of the accustomed, to make us aware of the perilous paradoxicality of life."

Lauritzen is professor and chairperson in the department of Religious Studies at John Carroll University, where he also directs the program in applied ethics. He edited *Cloning and the Future of Human Embryo Research* and *Medicine and the Ethics of Care* (with Diana Fritz Cates). Other books include *Pursuing Parenthood: Ethical Issues in Assisted Reproduction* and *Religious Belief and Emotional Transformation—A Light in the Heart*. Lauritzen is co-editor of the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*.



Paul Lauritzen answers a question as Aaron Stalnaker, a Poynter Center Fellow, listens.

William Sullivan on Professionalism

William Sullivan, from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, spoke February 2 on "Professionalism Across the Professions: The Public Role of Professional Education," at a lecture sponsored by the Poynter Center, the IU Center on Philanthropy, and the American Democracy Project.

In his talk Sullivan offered a general theory of professionalism, including the strains on the professions and the importance of professional schools. He proposed a way of understanding professional education through three "apprenticeships" of knowledge, practical capacity, and professional responsibility and ethics. He also spoke of current efforts to strengthen professional training.



Dan Conkle from IU School of Law, Bill Sullivan, and Ken Pimple from the Poynter Center discuss Sullivan's study on professionalism.

Sullivan is a senior scholar at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. He is the co-director of the Foundation's project on the Preparation for the Professions, a multi-year project comparing professional education for the law, engineering, clergy, nursing, and medicine.

Sullivan has done research in the areas of political and social theory, the philosophy of the social sciences, ethics, the study of American society and values, the

professions, and education. He co-authored *Habits of the Heart* and *The Good Society*.

Race and the Academy

Increasingly we are alert to differences that pervade society and culture. At the end of January, the Poynter Center, with support from Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Support and Diversity, and Office of the Dean of Faculties and Academic Affairs, hosted a forum for the IU Bloomington faculty, staff, and students, on the topic of “Race and the Academy.” The three faculty panelists addressed questions surrounding race and its role in their research and intellectual work. They identified opportunities and challenges that arise for scholars who study race relations historically, politically, and culturally.

Richard B. Miller, director of the Poynter Center and professor of Religious Studies, moderated the panel. The three faculty panelists were:

Yvette Alex-Assensoh is an associate professor and director of graduate studies and admissions in Political Science. She is the author/co-author of three books and one edited volume, all of which deal with aspects of racial politics in America or Africa.

John Nieto-Phillips is associate professor of History and Latino Studies. He is the author of *The Language of Blood: The Making of Spanish-American Identity in New Mexico, 1880s-1930s* (2004), and is currently comparing the “Americanization” of schoolchildren in New Mexico and Puerto Rico from the 1890s through the 1940s. His research examines how Latinos have sought to gain entry to the United States’ white body politic, and the role that race, language and education have played in that endeavor.

Ranu Samantrai is an associate professor in the department of English. She works especially on the literature and culture of Black and Asian Britishers. She focuses

on “new Britain”: the post-imperial Britain that has been transformed by immigration from the former colonies. Professor Samantrai works at the intersection of race and gender studies to consider questions of national pluralism, cultural conflict, integration, and the relationship between democracy and dissent. She is the author of *AlterNatives: Black Feminism in Post-imperial Britain*, (Stanford 2002) and numerous articles.



Panelists John Nieto-Phillips, Yvette Alex-Assensoh, and Ranu Samantrai listen to a question from the audience. *Photo courtesy of the Indiana Daily Student.*

Martin Marty on Campus

Martin Marty, the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Religious History at the University of Chicago, visited Indiana University Bloomington in late February as the guest of the Institute for Advanced Studies. He met with Poynter Center staff and friends to talk about the connections between religion and politics in the United States and around the world. Professor Marty was the first director of the Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion and taught in the divinity school for 35 years. He is a prolific author, including *Righteous Empire*, and the three-volume *Modern American Religion*.

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Poynter Center Newsletter

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Teaching Research Ethics May 10-13

The Poynter Center will host the thirteenth annual TRE workshop May 10-13 at Indiana University Bloomington. Details are available on the web site: <http://poynter.indiana.edu/tre/>

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Spring Healthcare Ethics Seminars

The Healthcare Ethics seminars this spring have been wide-ranging in topic. In January Jennifer Girod led a discussion about "Disclosing a Patient's Genetic Information to Relatives: Ethical Issues Arising from Recent Legal Cases." Girod, who is a former Poynter Center associate, a nurse, and a Ph.D. from the department of Religious Studies, is now a student at the IU School of Law in Indianapolis.

In March Rebecca A. Ballard and Jason T. Eberl spoke on "The Creation and Use of Animal-Human Chimeric Embryos: Metaphysical and Moral Ambiguities." Ballard is a J.D./M.A. candidate at IUPUI, specializing in health law and bioethics. She is a research assistant at the IU Center for Bioethics. Eberl is assistant professor of Philosophy at IUPUI and affiliate faculty member of the IU Center for Bioethics.

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