The Center has just come off of its most successful and productive year since beginning seven years ago. We have grown to eight faculty representing multiple disciplines, added several new research and service projects, and generated a large number of presentations and scholarly works. Perhaps most importantly, we further extended our clinical service reach by offering ethics consultation through innovative means of teleethics and reaching out to an increasing number of acute and long term care facilities in every region of the state. We have also partnered with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services by providing a working presence on its Altered Standards of Care Committee and hosting a statewide on-site Ethics Consortium of ethics experts, as well as an Ethics Summit via video-conferencing, both of which addressed the ethical concerns of how healthcare systems respond to mass casualty and pandemic. Both were immensely successful and have generated an ongoing dialogue on this important global concern. Educationally, we continue to provide innovative curriculum and learning experiences for all of the health professions schools, available to both graduate and undergraduate students. We are very excited to announce that at long last we will be offering an online certificate program in health ethics that will be available next term. This is the first step in our attempt to provide innovative access for learners on our own campus, around the state, and elsewhere who are wanting formal ethics learning and training without having to leave their home or community. Our consult service remains robust, our ethics committee is full and active, and our faculty continues its work in addressing the ethical concerns related to health literacy, disparity, research, end of life care, treatment of vulnerable populations, health care access, and health information technologies.

Yes, it has been a good year, with several new faces, new and exciting projects, and many innovations that have strengthened what we do as an academic Center and expanded the educational and clinical services we provide. Change for us has been inevitable and ongoing but it has always been good because it challenges us to grow and become stronger in every aspect of what we do. As many of you know, Travis Dixon has recently taken over as administrator for the Center and his able leadership is already proving itself. Nicole Huddleston, our bright and energetic intern for the summer, will be staying with us as part time support staff so she can continue with many of the projects in which she has been involved.

Our new Graduate Research Assistant is Leslie Moss.
Faculty and Staff News

Dr. William Bondeson in the Faculty Spotlight

Bill Bondeson is Curators’ Distinguished Teaching Professor of Philosophy and Family and Community Medicine at the University of Missouri-Columbia where he has taught for the past forty years. He is also Adjunct Clinical Professor of Nursing, Adjunct Professor of Health Management and Informatics, and a member of the Center for Health Ethics. He recently was appointed the Director of the Center for the Arts and Humanities.

Bill received his undergraduate degree from Augustana College, a Master’s in Greek from the University of Illinois, and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Chicago.

He has chaired the Philosophy Department, directed the Honors College, founded the College of General Studies, been Assistant to the Chancellor, directed the University Concert Series for twenty years and founded the Program in Health Care and Human Values. He was the founding President of Museum Associates, the founding President of the Friends of Music and the founding President of Missouri Citizens for the Arts. He co-chairs the University Hospital’s Clinical Ethics Committee, and has served on the Ethics Committees of the Columbia V.A. Hospital and the Lenoir Home.

He has won numerous awards for his teaching including the Amoco Award, the Shutz Award and Leadershipship, the Distinguished Faculty Award, the Thomas Jefferson Distinguished Scholar Award, the UM President’s Award for Outstanding Teaching, and the Kemper Award. He has also won the Missouri Arts Council Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts and was elected into membership in the Academy of Missouri Squires.

He has published five books in the Reidel Philosophy and Medicine Series and numerous articles on health care, ancient philosophy, higher education, and teaching. He has served as a consultant to the Missouri Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, and is a Missouri Humanities Council American Mirror Lecturer.

Bill loves to cook, collects fine wine, contemporary prints, and Chinese art and furniture, he plays the piano, and plays golf with more enthusiasm than skill. His passions are the arts, medical ethics, and teaching. He has one son, Adam, and finally married his significant other of many years and his greatest passion, Linda Butterfield Cupp.

Letter from the Director, Cont’d

I am happy to announce that Dr. Lea Brandt, assistant clinical professor in the School of Health Professions, will be increasing her time and effort with the Center to become one of our Associate Directors. She will be joining Dr. Sarah Breier, assistant professor in the School of Nursing, who has ably served as Associate Director for over a year. Together they will assist me in leading the Center’s academic and clinical efforts, including the Clinical Ethics Committee, the ethics consult service, our many conferences, and the continued effort to expand our research and educational programs. Dr. Win Phillips is the program director for our Health Ethics Certificate Program, and will direct the ethics research fellowship that we hope to have in place within a year or two. Likewise, Win will lead our efforts in expanding online services, including further expansion and development of our web site. I want to also thank my other amazing colleagues for stepping up at this particular time: Ana Fernandez, Dr. Bill Bondeson, Don Reynolds, Dr. Clay Anderson, and Dr. Cheryl Rathert, whose ongoing efforts will continue to be instrumental in our success from this point forward. I have no doubt that my new position will open doors to new opportunities for collaboration for both the Center and the Department of Internal Medicine, strengthening both, and further enhancing the service that both provide to the State of Missouri.

I want to thank you for your words of support and encouragement as I assume my new role and I thank all of you for continuing to support and believe in what we are doing collectively in the Center. I look forward to seeing you at our 5th Annual Health Ethics Conference, which this year will address ethical concerns in the allocation of scarce resources and health care access, including pandemic. It will be at the Hilton Garden Inn October 8-10, 2009, with the Pellegrino Lecture at 6:00 PM that Thursday evening at the Alumni Center; note that we have moved the Pellegrino Lecture up an hour so you can get to the Nebraska game kickoff. We have many well known state and national experts coming in as attendees and speakers for the conference this year, including our own Dr. Edmund Pellegrino. Ed will be giving a response to the lecture on Thursday evening and again discussing a case for Medicine Grand Rounds at noon on Thursday. This year will be another exciting and informative conference— you won’t want to miss a moment of it! Take care, everyone, and have a wonderful Fall!
Leslie Moss joins MU Center for Health Ethics Team

Originally from Ballwin, MO, Leslie Moss has just begun her first year as a graduate student in Health Management and Informatics. Leslie did her undergraduate at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO where she received her bachelors in Health Sciences. Her areas of interests are substance abuse, smoking cessation, and health education, all of which fit very nicely with many of our projects. We are looking forward to the potential that Leslie brings to the MU Center for Health Ethics and her future contributions in research.

Travis Dixon fills the role of CHE administrator

Travis Dixon assumed the duties of MU Center for Health Ethics Administrator in late July. Travis was very familiar with Center activities, as he served in administrative support for the previous year. Travis says he is looking forward to this wonderful professional opportunity and looks forward to helping CHE grow and develop into a nationally recognized ethics institution.

Nicole Huddleston, who has served in the past as a graduate research assistant and administrative intern for the Center for Health Ethics has stepped into the role of administrative support.

The Flu Down Under by Sarah Breier

Whilst recently visiting family in my hometown of Launceston, Tasmania, I witnessed how the state’s department of health and human services managed not only the sudden onset of the H1N1 virus aka swine flu, but also how the community responded to the official pandemic. As of last week, the island continent of Australia had 35,775 confirmed cases of H1N1 Influenza and 162 confirmed deaths due to the disease. Fortunately, do to some pretty impressive pandemic preparedness; the outcome of the first wave of H1N1 did not have quite the impact that some forecasters had predicted. As of the end of April, thermal imaging was applied to passenger arrivals at Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth international airports. Customs officers checked airplane cabins prior to disembarkation of passengers looking for people with flu symptoms. All states and territories have ordered students returning from countries where flu was widespread not to return to school for a week after entering Australia. Commonwealth Serum Laboratories Limited started to produce a vaccine to immunize against swine flu, and received orders from the Australian Government for ten million doses. Inoculations were ready by the end of July. Shortly thereafter, ‘flu clinics’ were set up around the country – one of them being located at the Launceston General Hospital in my hometown, which served as an exemplar for the rest of the country. The ‘outside’ demountable clinic was promptly set up to reduce growing pressure on the city’s emergency departments and doctors’ offices. The advantage of the demountable clinic positioned at the front of the hospital was there were markedly separate to the hospital building. Three other demountable clinics were set up around the state and remained operational until last week, yet remain on standby as health authorities continue to monitor the demand for specialized services. It was interesting to observe the various precautions and levels of awareness during my stay. Hand sanitizer and face masks were everywhere – at ATMs, supermarket check outs, gas pumps, movie theatres, and on local public transport. The Australian airports I traveled through were laden with notices in dozens of languages, as well gratuitous sanitizer and masks galore. Upon returning to the United States it concerned me as to the absence of the same simple measures that were seemingly few and far between.
Pandemic Ethics Summit a Huge Success

On August 10th the MU Center for Health Ethics, in conjunction with a project sponsored by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, held a state-wide video conference. The main topics of discussion at the conference were ethical issues that might arise during a pandemic or mass casualty event. Over 300 individuals registered for this event with less than two weeks of open registration, many of whom were emergency preparedness planners, public health officials, healthcare providers, and hospital administrators. The recent presence of H1N1 has encouraged healthcare professionals and institutions to pay close attention to their planning processes — implementation of which is an area where ethics are often a concern. Presentations were provided by Drs. Lea Brandt and David Fleming of the MU Center for Health Ethics and Dr. Griffen Trotter of St. Louis University’s Department of Healthcare Ethics. The presentations generated productive and intelligent conversations, many of which are still ongoing on a regional level. The presentations from this conference, as well as a full length video of the event are accessible from our website, www.ethics.missouri.edu.

Ethics Consortium has initial meeting

In late July, the MU Center for Health Ethics hosted a groundbreaking meeting for ethics professionals around the state of Missouri. Represented at this meeting were professionals from the ethics centers at MU, St. Louis University, Washington University, the Center for Practical Bioethics, Children’s Mercy hospital, St. Johns Hospital—Springfield, and the Catholic Health Association. A nice dinner was hosted by CHE at the Alumni Center on campus to allow some time to become more familiar with one another. The next day included a full day meeting where topics of discussion included the development of a state-wide ethics panel, improved collaborative relationships, and an ethics document that will be inserted into the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services’ protocol for Altered Standards of Care. Additional work has been done through e-mail and the Center is looking forward to additional Ethics Consortium meetings in the near future.

The MU Center for Health Ethics is excited about our upcoming annual Health Ethics Conference to be held at the Reynolds Alumni Center and the Hilton Garden Inn. The focus of our conference this year is health care access and involves many distinguished professionals from around the nation, including Dr. Edmund D. Pellegrino.

The Conference begins on Thursday, October 8th with a presentation by Dr. Dan Winship entitled “Where Would Medical Ethics Be Without Edmund D. Pellegrino?” Other topics that will be covered during the event are: healthcare reform, universal access in other countries, disparities in end of life care and altered standards of care.

To register for the conference, please contact the CME office at 573-882-5661 carrk@health.missouri.edu. Registration fees for MU faculty and staff are discounted to $75.

Click here for more information or to register.
Center for Health Ethics Faculty Recent Publications:


Yoo, Illhoi, and **Win Phillips**, “Ontology Applications in Text Mining,” chapter to be in informatics textbook in press


Hicks, Lanis and **David A. Fleming**. Feasibility and Effectiveness of Remote Monitoring to Improve Health Outcomes to a Rural Area. Telemecine Journal and eHealth. 2009;15(7)1-80

Center for Health Ethics Faculty Recent and Upcoming Presentations:

**Lea Brandt:** *Ethical Dilemmas in Long Term Care*, Caring for the Frail Elderly 19th Annual Conference, Columbia, MO

**Lea Brandt:** *Occupational Therapy Assistant Programming in the State of Missouri: Meeting Community Needs*. GOTECH Conference, St. Louis, MO

**Lea Brandt:** *Keynote Speaker: The Ethics of Pandemic Influenza Planning and Response*, Third Annual Meeting of the Midwest Ethics Society, Columbia, MO

**Lea Brandt:** *Ethics Debate Panel*, Health Professionals for Quality Care Conference, University of Missouri-Columbia.

**Sarah Breier:** *Limitations of Treatment*, Northeast Missouri Medical Society, Hannibal, MO, June 2009

**Don Reynolds:** *Ethics of Pandemic Influenza Planning*. Missouri Hospital Association Statewide Healthcare Disaster Planning Meeting.

**Don Reynolds:** 11 presentations to ltc staff, ltc consultants, ltc ombudsmen & ltc surveyors ) Title: Considerations Regarding the Needs of Long-Term Care Residents for Intimate Relationships and Sexual Activity

**David Fleming:** “Altered Standards of Care”, Telehealth Training Presentation to the Missouri Telehealth Network. June 23, 2009


Center for Health Ethics Faculty Awards:

2009 Evergreen Award for member outreach, as Governor, Missouri Chapter of the American College of Physicians

2009 Dr. Sarah Breier appointed as faculty fellow of the MU Difficult Dialogue program
### Calendar of Events

#### September 2009

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Our Mission:
To improve the health of the public through the development of patient-centered programs related to ethics and professionalism in education, research, clinical service, and organizational performance.

Goals:
I. Promote patient-centered health care by providing leadership for clinical ethics.
II. Establish and promote initiatives in health ethics and professionalism.
III. Develop innovative programs to enhance relationships between patients and health care professionals.
IV. Promote ethical behavior of organizations by encouraging principles of organizational ethics.
V. Collaborate with faculty and other key individuals in developing research.

The modern challenges of healthcare require an increasing awareness of the ethical and moral issues that encompass not only the welfare of the patients but also the functioning of health care organizations, and the role of research in society. Health care ethics has also evolved as a crucial component in academic medicine given the related challenges of medical education, training and research. The MU Center for Health Ethics seeks to address these difficult issues through dialogue across multiple related disciplines, as well as in the broader academic and public community.

Until Next Quarter: Death Squads and Healthcare Reform

If you want to spark an interesting, lively discussion at the dinner table, begin talking about healthcare reform. With President Obama’s push for reform of our healthcare industries, additional scrutiny has been placed on specific issues, one of which is the now famous ‘death squads.’

The debate started with language in the healthcare bill that would allow for Medicare to pay physicians for consultations related to end-of-life care decisions, such as living wills and healthcare proxies. The message that some people heard, however, is that these physicians would have the ability to decide, without patient or family influence, the value that is placed on one’s life and make care decisions they unilaterally deem appropriate. The fire spread to stories of ‘pulling the plug on grandma’ and other highly sensitized remarks.

The truth is that end of life decisions and palliative care are provided every day in this country, whether by physicians, other care providers, or family members. The bill was attempting to extend this service to populations who often do not receive professional help with these difficult decisions. Recently, a senate committee scrapped this part of the bill because the language could easily “be misinterpreted or implemented incorrectly.”

None-the-less, attention has been awarded to the often neglected topic of end-of-life care. Although some of this attention was in a negative light, it has also piqued the interest of individuals who have not yet planned for these situations and are seeking help making related decisions. Anticipation of further discussions not only on the topic of palliative care, but also the many other facets of healthcare reform is ever present in many Americans and is sure to give our news something to report about!