Greetings, BHS students! I think we can now officially say that Spring is here, and so are finals and graduation. I hope that all of you are wrapping up the semester successfully, and to those of you who are graduating in May, congratulations! In this newsletter you will find important information on summer course availability, Fall course offerings, and advising services. Also, this number features a guest editorial by Jordan Krieger, president of the Undergraduate Bioethics Society at MSU. Enjoy!

This month at the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences:

Neuroethics Faculty Position job talks

During the past couple of months, the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences (CEHLS) has been actively recruiting for a new faculty position in the area of neuroethics. The two candidates who are applying to this position will be visiting MSU for interviews, and during their visit they will be delivering talks on their works in progress. On Tuesday April 22, Dr. Keisha Ray, currently a lecturer in the department of philosophy at University of the Incarnate Word and at San Antonio College, will present “Does Fair Distribution of Neurocognitive Enhancing Drugs Include Normally Functioning Individuals?” Dr. Ray’s talk will be held from 3-4 p.m., in Room E4, East Fee Hall. In May, Dr. Veljko Dubljevic, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Neuroethics Research Unit at Institut de recherches cliniques de
Montreal (IRCM) will be visiting us and offering his talk on “Ethical and Policy Issues in Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS)”. Dr. Dubljevic’s talk will be held on Thursday, May 1st, 3-4 p.m., in C102 East Fee Hall (The Patenge Room).

Flyers for both of these talks are available on the CEHLS website: http://www.bioethics.msu.edu/

Brownbag Speaker Series

Our last Brownbag Seminar speaker of the semester is Dr. Christian J. Vercler, Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Michigan, who will offer a talk on the controversial topic of the ethics of plastic surgery. Please join us on Wednesday, April 23rd, 12-1 p.m. in C102 East Fee Hall (The Patenge Room). Also, remember that you can listen to this talk online as a webinar, detailed instructions available at: http://bioethics.msu.edu/archived-recordings.

Guest Editorial

The Undergraduate Bioethics Society: a new space for thinking about current issues in bioethics

By: Jordan Krieger, President
Undergraduate Bioethics Society, Michigan State University

We are in the era of medicine and health care. Currently, changes are being made to the United States health care system through the Affordable Care Act; research is constantly improving the medical technologies available to health care professionals, and people are facing a whole new set of chronic diseases. With the changes and advancements in the medical field also comes an expanse of ethical and moral questions that must be asked.

The Undergraduate Bioethics Society (UBS) is a student organization committed to increasing awareness of, and cultivating student interest in ethical issues in medicine, healthcare, biotechnology, and biomedical research. The organization will hold bi-weekly meetings on Tuesday nights; from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Locations will be announced as meeting dates approach. These gatherings will not be mandatory, but will be great fun so be sure to join us! Meetings will feature various faculty and professional speakers followed by a student based discussion, as well as service projects, fundraising, field trips, and student debates centered on previously determined topics.

Already, members of UBS have had an opportunity to explore different ethical issues in health care by attending the National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference (NUBC) at
Loyola University in Chicago, April 4-6 of this year. While listening to various speakers and the “bioethics bowl” (NUBC’s version of a debate competition), students were able to listen to and explore various topics of interest to them within the health care field, all while exploring the wonder that is Downtown Chicago! Aside from the keynote speaker T.R. Reid, the presentations were all done by students our age about topics such as end-of-life decision making, prisoner organ donation, electronic records, surrogacy and other various controversial areas. Reid talked about various health care systems around the world, and elaborated by making recommendations for our very own system here in the United States. Since NUBC is an annual event, with enough preparation, the organization hopes to continue sending individuals to the conference to listen, present and, if they are up to it, compete in the bioethics bowl. The location for the 2015 will be Florida State University, we will have more updates as plans for the conference move forward.

If you are interested in being a part of UBS, or if you have any questions, we encourage you to email us at ubs@msu.edu to be added to the mailing list and become notified when we have upcoming events. There will be a membership fee of $20 but that includes an awesome UBS t-shirt as well as food and refreshments at most meetings.

Members of the UBS e-board will have a booth set up at Sparticipation in the Fall and we invite you to approach us with any questions or recommendations you may have for our organization. We are a society of the students, for the students, and your input matters to us. In the meantime remember; when it comes to bioethics, there are no easy answers!

BHS updates

Thinking about summer courses? Here are some updates that might interest you:

**PSY 320** (Health Psychology), is being offered this summer, but will not be offered in Fall 2014 or Spring 2015. Currently, there are two online sections, as well as one on campus section, all of which have open seats. If you want to take this course, now is your chance! Remember that PSY 101 is a pre-requisite for this course.

**HST 425** (American and European Healthcare Since 1800) is also being offered this summer, online only, and will not be offered in Fall 2014 or Spring 2015- except for a small section available to students in the Social Science Scholars program in Fall 2014. The online summer section has at least 100 open seats at this point, if you are planning on using this course to fulfill BHS requirements, take advantage of this opportunity!

**EPI 390** (Disease in Society): this “B” category course has two very large online sections available this summer.

**SOC 451** (Dynamics of Population): also a “B” category course, one 75-student online section is currently open, seats are still available.

For a full list of BHS courses available this summer, make sure to check the updated [schedule](#) on our website.
Summer advising: remember that there is no BHS advising during the summer. The last day of Spring advising is Friday, May 16. If you need to see the BHS advisor, please make an appointment now. Advising services will resume on August 20.