Dear BHS students,

As we head into finals week, we would like to congratulate all of you on your academic efforts this semester, especially those who are graduating! We hope that you enjoy a peaceful and relaxing winter break.
This month at the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences

The Brownbag Speaker Series

We will wrap up the Fall Brownbag Series with a talk by Dr. Alexander Smith, Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Dr. Smith’s talk, “How long do I have, Doc?” Ethical Issues in Prognostication for Older Adults, will focus on the importance of prognosis in palliative care and geriatrics. If you are interested in these topics, you should definitely join us for this talk, but also consider following Dr. Smith's blog GeriPal, on geriatric and palliative care. In addition to the blog, Dr. Smith created ePrognosis, a website and app for estimating prognoses for older adults.

Dr. Smith's talk will take place on Thursday, December 11, 12-1 pm in E4 Fee Hall (next to the Medical Bookstore).

Remember that if you are unable to attend the lectures in person, you can access them virtually in real time through our webinar platform. You can also listen to a recording of this and all previous BB Series talks by going to our Webinar Archives.

Bioethics in the News
Designing Children: Patents and the Market are not Sufficient Regulation

In our most recent blog post, Dr. Jennifer Carter-Johnson addresses social and ethical issues in the use of Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD). PGD involves the testing of embryos for defective genes linked to serious diseases such as Tay-Sachs, cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, hemophilia, and Huntington's. Would-be parents who are known or potential carriers of these genes can opt to conceive through in vitro fertilization, and submit several embryos for testing to one of the few private PGD labs in the United States. While this procedure can bring great relief to parents who are carriers of defective genes, it also raises important ethical issues, including the extent to which parents and private laboratories can select for and modify any number of genetic traits. Read the full blog post here.
BHS updates

Ask the advisor: answers to your questions about the BHS program

Q: I am trying to enroll in a BHS class but it is full. Can you help me get an override?

A: We have no power to grant overrides for particular courses; overrides are granted exclusively by course instructors and departments. However, we can provide you with a form stating that you are a BHS student and that this course helps fulfill your BHS requirements. You should then email the instructor and attach the form in support of your request. Here are some important points to keep in mind when requesting an override:

- You must have met any prerequisites for the course.
- Instructors usually prefer overrides to be requested in the term of the course or slightly before the term begins.
- Instructors often give priority to graduating seniors.
- Before you decide to request an override, make sure you use the Open Seat Notification Alert Function in Schedule of Courses/Course Builder. If you are still unable to secure a space in the desired course, proceed with the override request.

Course updates: recently approved substitutions

If you took, or are currently taking any of these courses and would like to have them counted as a "B" category requirement for BHS, please contact the advisor. The substitution is approved only for the specified sections.

PHL 442 "Ethics and Animals". Fall 2009 and thereafter.
PSY 209 "Brain and Behavior". Sections 002H and 003H, Fall 2014 only.
Bioethics Community

Already dreaming of warmer days? Take a look at this paid summer internship opportunity!

The Reproductive Rights Activist Service Corps (RRASC) is a 10-week paid summer internship program sponsored by the Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program at Hampshire College. Undergraduate students intern at reproductive rights and social justice organizations around the country. Organizations work on a wide array of issues from reproductive health, economic justice, immigrant rights, rights of indigenous peoples, LGBTQ rights, human rights, intimate partner abuse, and mass incarceration.


Locations include: New York, NY, Boston, MA, Washington, DC, Atlanta, GA, New Orleans, LA, Montgomery, AL, San Francisco/Oakland, CA, Los Angeles, CA, Denver, CO, Chicago, IL, Santa Fe, NM, Lake Andes, SD, Olympia, WA, Amherst, MA, Burlington, VT

Internship stipend is $3300.

Eligibility requirements

- Must currently be an undergraduate student at a US college/university
- Must not be graduating in Spring/Summer 2015
- Must be able to attend the CLPP Conference in Amherst, MA, April 10-12, 2015 (CLPP will cover all travel costs for students who live outside of Western Massachusetts)

More information and an application are available at: http://clpp.hampshire.edu/internship

Application deadline: January 15, 2015.
Around Campus

After Ferguson: Townhall Meeting

The Department of Residence Education and Housing Services (REHS), and the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives in conjunction with faculty from Teacher Education will host a town hall on Ferguson that breaks the silence to discuss the relevance of recent events to the MSU community.

There are two specific aims of the meeting:

a) Allow campus stakeholders the space to talk out how they are feeling right now in this moment and how they feel Ferguson has impacted/changed them
b) Discuss what the campus needs to do in the weeks to follow in response to this set of events.

Chezare Warren, assistant professor in teacher education has agreed to play the role of recorder and facilitate future dialogue in terms of action plans. It is important to have the various expertise and experiences of a wide range of Spartans in the room to help our community make sense of these events.

Date: Thursday, December 4, 2014
Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm (Doors open at 6:30pm)
Location: Brody Hall, Auditorium - 241 W Brody Rd East Lansing, MI 48825

Do you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter? Please share this link with them!