Welcome back!

On behalf of the Bioethics, Humanities, and Society program, I would like to welcome you to the new academic year, wishing you great success in your scholarly and personal activities this semester; a special welcome to those of you who are new to our program. As in previous semesters, our monthly newsletters will feature important updates regarding program requirements, course offerings, and opportunities to engage with other students and faculty who share your interests in bioethics and the medical humanities. We also welcome contributions from our students; if you would like to advertise a relevant event, or share some of
your bioethical musings with the BHS community, please contact Monica List at bhs@msu.edu.

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

Brownbag Speaker Series starts this Wednesday, September 17

The schedule for our Fall Brownbag Speaker Series is now finalized and available on the CEHLS website. The series kicks off this Wednesday, September 17, with a talk by Dr. James W. Dearing, who is Chair of the Department of Communications at MSU. Dr. Dearing’s talk will focus on the concept of Designing for Diffusion (D4D). Among other important questions, he will be addressing the topic of ethical boundaries in the use of D4D for health system innovations. 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 features post on the Ebola outbreak

In this blogpost, Dr. Ann Mongoven shares some of her insights on the ethical implications of international epidemic control. She proposes that beyond the imminent dangers of large-scale contagion and death, we must beware of the labeling and alienation of the sick, as individuals and as a group. Dr. Mongoven also analyzes the difficulties of allocating limited resources, especially in countries where basic healthcare infrastructures and systems are lacking to begin with. To read the full post, click here. We also encourage you to engage with the author by submitting comments!
BHS updates

Minor or Specialization?

If you have heard the rumors, they are true, we are becoming a Minor! But not just yet. The Bioethics, Humanities, and Society Specialization, and all other Specializations at MSU will change from Specialization to Minor starting Fall 2015. What does this mean for our students? BHS students will be largely unaffected by this change, as we are not making any changes to our requirements. The main change will be how the program appears on students’ transcripts once they graduate. If you graduate before Fall 2015, the program will be transcripted as a Specialization. If you graduate Fall 2015 and after, it will be transcripted as a Minor. However, please note that even if the program is listed as a Specialization on your transcript, we encourage you to refer to it as an “Interdisciplinary Minor” when applying to graduate school, professional programs, or jobs.

Changes to advising appointments

We no longer require students to make an advising appointment when adding the Specialization. The process is now completely online; for further details, please visit our website. If you have friends who are thinking about adding the Specialization, please share this important update with them. If you are graduating in Fall or Spring of this academic year and would like to make sure that your graduation requirements are complete, you do not need to make an appointment either, please contact the BHS advisor by email or phone.

For students wishing to discuss matters other than enrollment or graduation, we will continue to offer advising appointments. For appointment availability and instructions on how to make an appointment, click here.

New approved courses
We have updated our list of approved course substitutions. If you have completed or are planning on taking ANP 204 (Intro to Medical Anthropology), or EPI 495 (Epidemiology and Behavioral Health) and would like to have them counted as BHS requirements, please contact the BHS advisor. Please note that these and all other courses listed as substitutions are not automatically counted as requirements by Degree Navigator. Therefore, it is very important that you contact us in order to have them added to your list of courses.

**Bioethics Community**

**The Undergraduate Bioethics Society (UBS) continues to grow!**

The Undergraduate Bioethics Society was reestablished last year thanks to the efforts of its highly proactive executive board members, and the support of the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences. So far, they have been successful in sending a delegation to the 2014 National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference (NUBC), held at Loyola University Chicago this past April, and they are already making plans to attend NUBC in 2015. The UBS meets every month; times and locations are advertised on their [webpage](#). Want to learn more about UBS? Visit their table at [Sparticipation](#) this Sunday, September 14, from 5-8 p.m. at the Breslin Center, or send an email to [ubs@msu.edu](mailto:ubs@msu.edu).

**Around Campus**

**Study Abroad Fair**

If you are considering participating in a study abroad program, the [MSU Study Abroad Fair](#) is a great place to learn about more than 300 programs offered at
MSU. The fair will be held at the Breslin Center on September 25, from 12-6 p.m. Did you know that some of these programs can be counted toward BHS Specialization requirements? For a full list of study abroad programs pre-approved for BHS credit, see the Study Abroad section of our website.

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