Bioethics, Humanities, and Society
October 2013 Newsletter

It's hard to believe that a month has already gone by since the start of the Fall Semester. As we say goodbye to warmer days, it's time to look forward to December graduations, Spring coursework, and why not, Summer Study Abroad!

**Graduation:**

To those of you graduating in December, congratulations! It is not necessary to make an appointment with the BHS advisor for graduation purposes; however, we do appreciate it if you send us an email if you are expecting to graduate this Fall. You may contact Monica List, BHS advisor, at bhs@msu.edu

**New approved BHS courses for Spring!**

If you are still looking for courses to complete your BHS requirements, take a look at these interesting options, both offered in Spring 2014.

**IAH 231B, section 740, Spring 2014. Ethics and Empathy in Medicine and the Humanities**

This 4 credit, hybrid course has been selected to be part of a "Global IAH Pilot Program", which emphasizes themes of global significance. The goal of the course is to cultivate a culturally informed ethical understanding of and empathic responses to human health issues through engagement with literature, film and art.

This course will enable you to:

1. Analyze linguistic and visual elements of creative artifacts in ways that offer insight into the particular human health situations they represent.
2. Assess the relevance of cultural and historical contexts in interpreting representations of particular human health situations.

3. Identify the values that inform the worlds represented by creative artifacts as well as those that inform students’ own responses to the artifacts, and be able to identify larger ethical and cultural contexts for those values.

4. Appreciate the range of emotional responses to human health situations expressed within the literary and artistic representations studied, and also the range of emotional responses to such situations expressed by class members.

5. Apply the emotional, cultural and ethical understanding garnered through study of artistic representations to real world experiences involving health issues.

This course is taught by Dr. Jan Stryz, and will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 to 3:50. The course counts as one B category requirement for the BHS specialization.

**HM 491, section 731, Spring 2014. Bioethics, Humanities, and Society E-portfolio course: Ethical issues in the medical management of intersex children**

This one credit online course will focus on the ethical questions that arise when surgery is used to modify children’s physical appearance, specifically, surgical alteration of children born with atypical or ambiguous genitalia, often referred to as intersex.

As students identify and reflect on the skills and knowledge that they use in their work throughout the course, they will build an e-portfolio portraying these competencies, illustrating them with examples of their work from the course, as well as relevant work they have completed in the past. Beyond the purposes of the course, we hope that the e-portfolio will serve as resource for students as they look towards future employment opportunities and graduate education in healthcare related fields.

This fully online course is taught by Monica List, Undergraduate Adviser for the BHS Specialization, and it counts as one B category requirement. For more information, contact Monica at: bhs@msu.edu

**It's not too early to think about summer!**

Don’t just long for warmer days, plan for them! Here are two study abroad opportunities that can help you make the most of your summer, while helping you fulfill the requirements for the BHS Specialization:
Medical Ethics and Health Policy in London

Dr. Leonard Fleck, faculty member at the Center for Ethics and Humanities and the Life Sciences has led this successful study abroad program since 2005. This course will take you to the heart of London, where you will live in a "flat" at Regents College, listen to local experts talk about British healthcare and health policy, and tour hospitals and museums. Dr. Fleck will lead you through an in-depth comparative analysis of the U.K and U.S healthcare systems, focusing on the ethical questions of resource allocation, medical decision-making, and reproductive health. But, it's not all work and no play; you will also have time off to see the sights in London, and why not, Paris, Amsterdam, Dublin!

Interested in learning more? Dr. Fleck will host info-sessions on Monday, October 21, and Wednesday, October 23 from 7-8 p.m. in C104, Holmes Hall. Or, contact Dr. Fleck at: fleck@msu.edu

Development, Health, and Environment in Costa Rica

Enjoy the beautiful beaches, exuberant rainforests, and awe-inspiring volcanoes of Costa Rica while working on your BHS requirements! This program is an in-depth study of the challenges associated with development, health and environment, as played out in the Central American country of Costa Rica. We explore how economic and social development, agriculture, environment and health interact in the particular political and cultural context of Costa Rica, both historically and today. Plus, if you are looking to add another language to your skill-set, this is an ideal opportunity: you will receive 60 hours of Spanish lessons according to your skill level, from local, certified instructors. Additionally, you will live with a Spanish-speaking Costa Rican family within walking distance of our classrooms. Once you are more confident with your Spanish, take advantage of a long weekend off to explore Costa Rica on your own!

An info session for this program will be held on Tuesday, October 8, from 5-6 p.m., in 530 South Kedzie Hall. For more information, contact Dr. Fred Gifford at: gifford@msu.edu

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

Brownbag Speaker Series:

Feel free to bring your PB&J as you join us for the inaugural session of our Fall Brownbag Series on October 16! Dr. Mark Largent, Associate Dean, Lyman Briggs College and Associate Professor, James Madison College will present "Reye's Syndrome: A Medical Mystery and a Modern Dilemma." The lecture will take place in C102 East Fee Hall, from Noon- 1p.m. Beverages and light snacks will be provided.
you can't come in person, join us online by following these instructions.

Bioethics in the News Blog:

Join our monthly, online discussions on the ethical challenges facing the practice of medicine and the health care system, prompted by blog posts from experts in the fields of bioethics, medical ethics, and the medical humanities. This month, Dr. Leonard Fleck shares with us "Should Women Pay More for Health Insurance?" Read more at: Bioethics in the News

Opportunities in Bioethics:

Wouldn't a publication look nice on your CV? If you are up for the challenge, the Rutgers University Bioethics Journal is looking for Global News Clips (up to one page in length), Opinion Editorials, and Research Papers (both up to 3000 words in length). The deadline is right around the corner, October 13. But, keep in mind that the editors encourage the submission of term papers, so if you have one ready, send it in! For complete author guidelines and more information, contact: RUBioethics.journ@gmail.com

Looking for an internship? You are in luck; The Presidential Commission for Bioethics is looking for interns! More information at: http://bioethics.gov/node/822