



from THE CENTER

Hiram College

Winter 2005

from The Center

is the newsletter of the Center for Literature, Medicine, and the Health Care Professions

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New Format for 2005 Summer Seminar

For the past thirteen years, the Center for Literature and Medicine has run an annual summer seminar at Hiram College on literary approaches to health care issues. The first five seminars, on Narrative Bioethics, were led by Warren Reich and Kathryn Montgomery. Subsequent seminar leaders have included such wonderful people as Howard Brody, Jack Coulehan, Cortney Davis, Eric Juengst, Hilde Lindemann, Tom Murray, Erik Parens, John Stone, Rosie Tong and many others. Characteristics of these summer seminars were the rural retreat setting of Hiram, the use of literature — especially drama—as a vehicle to explore issues in health care, and the close friendships made as the participants spent an intensive week together.

This July 14-17, 2005, we are trying out two new ventures. The annual summer seminar will be a larger symposium, *Human Enhancement*

Technologies: Through the Looking Glass of Drama, which will include four play presentations and several plenary sessions, as well as papers and panels given by attendees.

The venue for the symposium, this summer, will be the Cole Center at Cleveland State University. Details of the summer symposium appear on pages 3 & 4 of this newsletter.

At Hiram, on July 11-13, the three days before the symposium, Carol Donley will teach a workshop on Human Enhancement Technologies designed for high school and middle school teachers of science, health, and language arts as well as for counselors. Some graduate students will also be included. The workshop will prepare students for the symposium and will earn 3 credit hours. For further information on the workshop, call 330-569-6111 or email mais@hiram.edu.

NEH Challenge Grant Update

We have raised \$450,000 of the \$800,000 we need for the NEH Challenge Grant. We have only \$350,000 to go! Our deadline to make the match is July, 2006. Generous donations have come from many of you who have

participated in our NEH Institutes, Summer Seminars and other programs. Also foundations and individual friends have been very supportive. When we meet the goals of the challenge grant, we will have a one million

dollar endowment to support our future endeavors.

If you would like to make a tax deductible gift to the Center, please fill out the form inside.

This stencil pattern of sweet woodruff graces the walls of Mahan House, home to our Center. Sweet woodruff was considered a valuable medicine in the Middle Ages for heart, liver, and stomach upsets and for treating wounds. Its scent, like new-mown hay, makes it still valuable for potpourris, perfumes and balms.



Accept the NEH Challenge with us by making a tax-deductible gift to the Center

_____ I am enclosing my gift in the amount of \$ _____

_____ I pledge \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Hiram College or fill out credit card information:

Please bill my (circle one) Visa Mastercard Discover Other

Amount to be billed \$ _____

Name as it appears on my account: _____

My account number expiration date _____

Signature _____

Name _____ phone _____ Clip & Mail to: NEH Challenge/

Address _____
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Summary of Projects and Programs for 2004

Four interdisciplinary courses were taught in the Biomedical Humanities major in 2004: "Literature and Aging"; "What's Normal? II: Mental and Emotional Disorders"; "Poverty Medicine"; "Alternative Health Care Systems"; and the first course in the new Masters of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS).

The center sponsored and participated in the following special programs : Vonnegut's play, "Fortitude" at the Cleveland Health Museum followed by discussion with the audience about the ethical and social implications for biotechnology today; a program on medical, spiritual, and psychological uses of the labyrinth at Hiram, led by

Janeen Carrell-Brown; dessert and discussion with disability writer, Mary Swander; a public reading and celebration of Jeanne Bryner's "Tenderly Lift Me" and Jack Coulehan's "Chekhov's Doctors"; a reader's theater production of Caryl Churchill's "A Number," at Cleveland State University, and FACT-MD articles for a national website.



A Review of The 12th Summer Seminar 2004

The seminar, *Quartet: Four Variations on the Theme of Human Enhancement*, held at Hiram College in the summer of 2004, was a great success. In addition to tackling some complex issues from "better" babies to immortality research, participants in the seminar worked with playwright, Eric Coble, to hone his play based on E.M. Forster's story, "The Machine Stops." The

faculty participants were the following:

Anne Basting, University of Wisconsin; **Thomas Murray**, President of The Hastings Center; **Hilde Lindemann**, Michigan State University; **Erik Parens**, The Hastings Center; **Andrei Codrescu**, National Public Radio; and **Raymond Onders**; Case Western Reserve University.

The artists-in residence were **Jodi Maile**, from Near West Theater; **Eric Coble**, playwright; and **Sarah Morton**, playwright. **Carol Donley and Martin Kohn**, co-directors, Center for Literature, Medicine, and the Health Care Professions, Hiram College; and **Eric Juengst**; Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.



13th Annual Summer Seminar July 14-July 17, 2005



“Human Enhancement Technologies: Through the Looking Glass of Drama” is the title of this year’s summer seminar and symposium. The symposium will address through drama and dramatic readings, plenary addresses, papers and panels, the following issues:

- How far beyond good health should we go in our attempt to improve the human body and its functioning?
- What are the personal and social repercussions of our attempt to normalize the ways we look and act? self-fulfillment and our quest for authentic self-identity are the result of manufactured desire? What happens to the nature of competition when enhancement shortcuts are available for some but not for all?
- How much of our pursuit of self-fulfillment and our quest for authentic self-identity are the result of manufactured desire?
- What happens to the nature of competition when enhancement shortcuts are available for some but not for all?

The symposium will feature dramatic readings of four plays:



Caryl Churchill’s, *A Number*; Kurt Vonnegut Jr.’s, *Fortitude*; Eric Coble’s, *The Machine Stops*; and Sarah Morton’s *4 Minutes to Happy*.

The seminar will be co-sponsored by Cleveland State University and be held at the Cole Center at CSU, in Cleveland, Ohio. On line registration for the symposium at www.csuohio.edu/ce, link to “Registration Information and Policies.” For more information call 216-687-2144.

Speakers to date: **Carl Elliott, Eric Juengst, Maxwell Mehlman, Jennifer Fishman, Jeff Nisker, Roxanne Mykitiuk, Julian Savulescu, and Harvey Pekar**



Speakers for the Summer Seminar

Carl Elliott, M.D., Ph.D., is Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Center for Bioethics; Department of Pediatrics, University of Minnesota Medical School; Department of Philosophy, University of Minnesota. He came to Minnesota in 1997 after four years on the faculty of McGill University in Montreal. Prior to his appointment at McGill he held postdoctoral and visiting appointments at the University of Chicago Center for Clinical Medical Ethics, the Department of Medical Humanities at East Carolina University, the Bioethics Center at the University of Otago in New Zealand, and the University of Natal Medical

School (now the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine), the first medical school in South Africa for non-white students. He has written on the ethics of enhancement technologies, the philosophy of psychiatry, the later work of Ludwig Wittgenstein, and the novels of Walker Percy. He is currently the Principal Investigator for an NIH grant titled, “Ethnicity, Citizenship, Family: Identity after the Human Genome Project.” His book, *Better than Well: American Medicine Meets the American Dream*, was published in 2003.

Eric Juengst, PhD., is Associate Professor of Bioethics, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and Director of the CWRU Center for Genetic Research Ethics and Law (CGREAL). His research interests and publications have focused on the conceptual and ethical issues raised by new advances in human genetics and biotechnology. From 1990 to 1994, he was the first Chief of the Ethical, Legal and Social Implications Branch of the National Center for Human Genome Research at the U.S. National Institutes of Health, and in 2004 he was awarded a "Center of Excellence for Ethical, Legal and Social Implications Research"

grant to support interdisciplinary research on these issues through the CGREAL at Case. He currently serves on the Ethics Committee of the American Society for Human Gene Therapy, the National Ethics Committee for the March of Dimes, and the Bioethics Advisory Committee for NASA, and is on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, *Human Gene Therapy*, *Community Genetics*, and *Medical Humanities Review*. For the last two years he has served with Carol Donley and Martin Kohn at the Center as a director of the summer seminar.



Speakers continued

Maxwell J. Mehlman, J.D., Professor of Law and Director of the Law-Medicine Center, Case School of Law, and Professor of Bioethics, Case School of Medicine. Prior to joining the faculty at Case, he practiced law with Arnold & Porter in Washington, DC, where he specialized in federal regulation of medical technology. Professor Mehlman writes and lectures on a number of issues in health law and bioethics, including the just allocation of scarce resources; ethical, legal and social implications of new discoveries in human genetics; assuring the quality of medical care; and the role of the health professional under managed care. He is the author of numerous articles and also the recent book, *Wondergenes: Genetic Enhancement and the Future of Society*, Indiana University Press.

Jeff Nisker, MD, Ph.D., is a Professor of Obstetrics-Gynecology, Oncology, Coordinator of Medical Ethics and Humanities in the Schulich School of Medicine at the University of Western Ontario. His research interests center on the use of theatre as a public engagement tool for health-policy development, particularly regarding genetic and reproductive technologies. He has written many scientific articles and book chapters as well as six plays and many short stories. His plays have been performed throughout Canada, as well as the United States and South Africa. His national positions include: co-chair of Health Canada's Advisory Committee on Reproductive and Genetic Technology, National Council of Ethics in Human Research, and Canadian Institutes of Health Research Standing Committee on Ethics. He was chosen by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Peter Gzowski as one of the thirteen "Best Minds of Our Time."

Julian Savulescu, MB, Ph.D. is Uehiro Chair in Practical Ethics at the University of Oxford. He is the Founder and Director of the Oxford Centre for Practical Ethics. The Centre is devoted to research, education and stimulating open public discussion around the ethical issues which arise in every day life and which are related to the changes in society, particularly related to technological advancement. He is also Head of the Melbourne-Oxford Stem Cell Collaboration. He is editor of the *Journal of Medical Ethics*, co-authored a new textbook for medical students, and has published numerous journal articles. In addition, he has worked as Clinical Ethicist at the Oxford Radcliffe.

Jennifer Fishman, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Bioethics and Sociology, Department of Bioethics, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. She works in empirical bioethics research for the study of new medical technologies. Her dissertation was based on a sociological analysis of the emergence of "sexual dysfunction" in the Viagra and post Viagra age of biomedical, biotechnological, and pharmaceutical research. Her current work investigates new technologies, including anti-aging therapies and genomic medicine, as they continue to expand into more aspects of people's lives. Her most recent publication is, "Manufacturing Desire: The Commodification of Female Sexual Dysfunction," which appeared in *Social Studies of Science*, in 2004.

Roxanne Mykitiuk L.L.B., L.L.M., is a member of the Alberta Bar, is an Associate Professor of Law at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, where she teaches Bioethics, Law and New Health Care Technologies, Disability and the Law, and Family Law. Since 2003, she has been an Associate Member of the Centre for Intellectual Property Policy at McGill University and a Research Associate of the Health Law Institute at the University of Alberta. She is the author or co-author of a number of articles, reports and book chapters investigate legal, ethical and social implications of new reproductive technologies and genetics; and of the legal regulation and construction of disability, normalcy and health. She is the co-editor with Margrit Shildrick, of *Ethics of the Body: Rethinking the Conventions* (MIT Press, forthcoming spring 2005)

Harvey Pekar, author of the autobiographical comic book series "*American Splendor*," has elevated day-to-day existence into art. The feature film, *American Splendor* about Pekar's life has won major prizes at the Sundance International Film Festival and the Cannes Film Festival. He has appeared on the David Letterman show eight times over the years; won the American Book Award for *American Splendor*, and is an award winning contributor with WKSU radio (NPR) in Kent, Ohio.



Hopewell and Hiram College



The Center is excited about a new collaboration with Hopewell. Hopewell is a therapeutic farm community in Mesopotamia, Ohio that offers a residential treatment program for adults with serious mental illness, especially major depression, bipolar and schizophrenia disorders. Patients live and work on the farm and in the community of Hopewell, learning living and interpersonal skills, while being treated with kindness and as individuals.

Hiram and Hopewell will both

benefit from the collaboration in many ways. Students will volunteer or intern at Hopewell. Students could spend 120 hours or more on each of two internships; one a clinical internship with a health care professional and the other, a research internship assisting in health care research.

Hiram will provide Hopewell staff with assessment and evaluation services as well as college resources such as participation in our summer seminars, invitation to special events with visiting

scholars on campus and use of library resources. The Center for Literature and Medicine specializes in using literature to raise humanities issues in health care settings. Thus, we would bring programs in storytelling, theater, writing and poetry to Hopewell. Hiram also has considerable experience in using the natural environment as a field station/learning tool, and will share that expertise with Hopewell.

“Through a generous gift from Thomas Andrews, MD the Library at the Center is growing.”

The New Book Collection

Through a gift, in the memory of Mae L. Ertle, given to the Center by Thomas Andrews, the following books have been purchased.

Davis, Cortney. *I Knew a Woman: The Experience of the Female Body.*

Dittrich, Lisa (ed.) *Ten Years of Medicine and the Arts: 100 Selections from Academic Medicine*

Elliott, Carl. *Better Than Well: American Medicine Meets the American Dream*

Kass, MD, Leon R. *Toward a More Natural Science: Biology and Human Affairs*

Hall, Stephen. *Merchants of Immortality: Changing the Dream of Human Life Extension*

Mehlman, Maxwell R. *Wundergenes: Genetic Enhancement and the Future of Society*

Metzl, Jonathan Michel. *Prozac on the Couch: Prescribing Gender in an Era of Wonder Drugs*

Parens, Erik. (ed.) *Enhancing Human Traits: Ethical and Social Implications*

Post, Stephen G. and Binstock, Robert H., (eds.) *Fountain of Youth: Cultural, Scientific, and Ethical Perspectives on a Biomedical Goal*



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