

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Time for Reflection and Moving Forward

When the Center for Health Policy and Ethics decided to produce a report to mark the 20th anniversary of the Center, faculty and staff searched for just the right metaphor to describe why we are together, who we are and what we do. We settled on a metaphor already strongly established at Creighton University, "Anchored in Ethics," to which we added, "Reflecting Jesuit Values." According to Lakoff and Johnson, metaphors are more than just a characteristic of language.¹ Metaphors not only influence how we think but what we experience and how we act as well. The "anchor" metaphor was rich enough to describe the history and development of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics, one of the only centers of its kind in the nation that focus on the practice of ethics and policy issues.

Moreover, metaphors highlight certain aspects of an idea, concept or image and hide others. The anchor metaphor highlights security or safety in that an anchor does not allow a boat to drift. So our work in ethics and health policy does not drift far from the Jesuit values that anchor us to what is important. We are secure in the Jesuit teachings and Catholic tradition of Creighton, which is committed to teaching, scholarship and service to others, promotion of justice and the betterment of society.

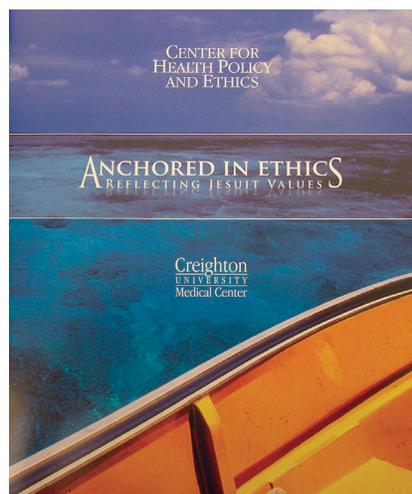
The anchor metaphor encourages us to reflect on our past leadership noting the impact and guidance of the first two directors, Charles Dougherty, PhD, now president of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Ruth Purtilo, PhD, now chair of the Ethics Initiative at the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions in Boston.

An anchor is also a symbol of hope in the Christian tradition². The work of the Center is "hope-full" in three major areas: 1) contributing to the formation of ethically committed health professionals; 2) advancing an ethic of service, justice and compassion for others; and 3) fostering intellectual exchange in solidarity with the human community.

As the Center seeks a new director, we have the opportunity to pull up

anchor and move forward under new leadership. We could not safely embark on this new phase of the Center's life without due preparation for the voyage. Our past leadership has provided us with excellent direction and vision in a sea of uncertainty in health care. We are secure in the values that anchor us to the mission of Creighton University. In the interim, the Center will continue to work on projects that clearly reflect Jesuit values such as interdisciplinary scholarship, dialogue with those closest to the implementation of health policy and the delivery of health care and collaboration with the health sciences schools to shape the ethical practices and decision-making of future health professionals.

If you have not received a copy of the *20th Anniversary Report* and would like one, please contact Chris Karasek at ckarasek@creighton.edu or 402-280-2017.



CHPE 20th Anniversary Report

¹ Lakoff, G. and Johnson, M. 1980. *Metaphors We Live By*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL.

² Ferguson, George. *Signs and Symbols in Christian Art*. Oxford University Press, New York, 1961, p. 169.

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It's Hard to Say Goodbye

In October, Ruth B. Purtilo, PhD, departed CUMC's Center for Health Policy and Ethics. During her ten year tenure, Ruth made many substantial contributions to the Center, to Creighton University, to the School of Medicine, to Omaha and to Nebraska.

Ruth led the Center in its efforts to keep the ethical and humane aspects of medicine and health care in the forefront of the public policy debate. She has been a tireless advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves, campaigning for equality in health care distribution to marginalized populations, both urban and rural, in the U.S., and internationally.

Ruth combined her passion for ethical issues in chronic illness, long-term care challenges and end-of-life care when, in 2001, she led an international dialogue addressing major ethical and scientific concerns about the diagnosis and prognosis of Alzheimer disease. These dialogues resulted in the book, *Ethical Foundations of Palliative Care for Alzheimer Disease*, to which several Creighton faculty members made contributions.

Ruth's new position at MGH Institute of Health Professions, an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital, is a natural extension of her interest in persons with disabilities. She will develop an ethics fellowship and scholarship program as a part of a center that highlights caregiver ethical concerns and will integrate it with clinical, research and academic programs within the Partners HealthCare System.

With Ruth's leadership, the Center fulfilled its goals to ensure that ethical ramifications are considered by health care public policy makers through numerous roundtable discussions, clinical ethics series, lectures and special events. Ruth Purtilo has set

the stage to ensure patient's rights are not forgotten in the rush to reform the health care delivery system.

I am pleased that Ruth will continue her formal affiliation with Creighton University and the Center. She has been appointed Clinical Professor of Health Policy and Ethics in the School



Cam Enarson, Amy Haddad and Ruth Purtilo at a Roundtable.

of Medicine. This appointment will facilitate her ongoing collaboration with the Center for Health Policy and Ethics.

Ruth leaves CHPE in the capable hands of Amy Haddad, PhD, interim director and professor in the Center for Health Policy and Ethics, and professor in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. Amy has been with Creighton for 20 years, most recently serving as associate director of the Center .

As we wish Ruth well in her new endeavors, we remain committed to the Center's mission dedicated to the study and teaching of ethical dimensions of health care and health policy consistent with Creighton University's Catholic and Jesuit values.

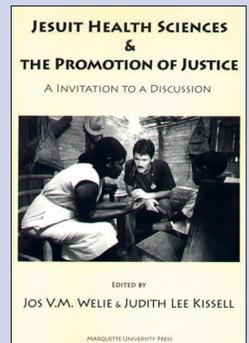
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New CHPE Book on Justice and Jesuit Health Sciences Presented to Superior-General Father Kolvenbach SJ

"As I witnessed health care in Haiti, it became apparent that poverty was inextricably linked to the unnecessary suffering of so many Haitians from preventable and treatable diseases such as tuberculosis, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS and many others." Rachel Bognet is presently a medical student, but these are her words as a senior undergraduate student at Scranton University, one of the 28 Jesuit universities and colleges in the US. A relatively new hallmark of Jesuit higher education is its focus on justice. As Father Kolvenbach, superior general of the Society of Jesus, emphasized in his 2000 address at Santa Clara University, Jesuit universities are to form "men and women for others," concerned about and able to effectively participate in the struggle against social injustice. "Jesuit universities have stronger and different reasons than many other academic and research institutions for addressing the actual world as it unjustly exists and for helping to reshape it in the light of the Gospel."

This is a formidable challenge in its own right. But it is ever the more formidable for Jesuit medical centers

because the literature on Jesuit health sciences education is very sparse. Nevertheless, Creighton University Medical Center has developed several unique educational programs on justice education. Notable examples are the Institute for Latin American Concern, which offers many



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Deciphering the AIDS Epidemic: A Report on the 15th Annual Women and Health Lecture

According to a UN report issued in July 2004, a record number of 4.8 million new infections of HIV were documented for the last year. Only one in five persons has access to prevention programs. Half of all newly infected people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four were female, and among all people with HIV/AIDS, half are



women. Moreover, women are increasingly vulnerable given their status in many geographic areas and within different cultures. Exploring the meaning of the epidemic for us in Omaha seemed a timely decision.

Dr. Marion Field Fass, professor of biology at Beloit College in Wisconsin, made the Women and Health presentation. She was a participant in the Global Partners Project in 2002, a collaborative effort between the Association of American Colleges and Universities and African Women in Science and Engineering. Through extended visits to Kenya and Tanzania, Dr. Fass worked with university teams to develop curricula

for undergraduate courses on HIV/AIDS, plan activities to involve students in HIV/AIDS activities on campus and develop community outreach programs implemented by university staff and students.

"The interrelationship among many factors affects a disease epidemic," claimed Dr. Fass. Her analysis of the AIDS epidemic began with her premise that knowledge of biology and public health were insufficient to understand this epidemic. Information from economics, public policy, sociology and anthropology all contribute to deciphering this problem, for many factors increase the likelihood that one might contract the virus.

Vulnerability to HIV is an especially important issue for women. Her work in Africa convinced Dr. Fass of two major points: all people but especially women need to have access to information about this disease and its prevention, and women must have the ability, and often financial independence, to make decisions that are in their best interests. Although the statistics can be depressing, Dr. Fass concluding on a more positive note, suggested numerous actions members of the audience could take.

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Congratulations

Not only has **Gary Westerman, DDS** CHPE Associate, been inducted as a Fellow in the International College of Dentists, he will also receive the 2004 Milagro Award. This award is given to honor outstanding contributors in "making a world of difference in the lives of our patients," by Omaha's OneWorld Community Health Center. Congratulations, Gary!

Heartland Delta IV Conference

The visit of Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, superior general of the Society of Jesus, highlighted Creighton's Jesuit-lay partnership with its opportunities and challenges. The Heartland Delta IV Conference gathered some 500 members of twelve Jesuit colleges and universities with this same goal of networking around common interests and of clarifying the sense of lay formation in Jesuit institutions.

Jack DeGioia, president of Georgetown University, shared his personal journey as a lay person trying more fully to incorporate Ignatian values in his life. He described the challenges of integrating his spiritual and professional growth with a "straining of vocabulary" to articulate what this meant to him as a lay person.

Father Greg Boyle, working with at-risk, gang-impacted young men and women, emphasized that "kinship" should be our way of life and that judgment can't co-exist with compassion. His phrase, "God is in the mess," urged us to vision as God does - seeing the circle with no one standing outside — not merely standing for the right causes, but also standing in the right place.

My hope is that Heartland Delta IV will have lasting effects among its attendees and that continuing dialogue, kinship and the call to be women and men *for and with* others will allow us to touch the hearts of those we meet at Creighton, in the community and across the Heartland Delta region.

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CHPE Bids Farewell to Director Ruth Purtilo



How Well Do You Know Ruth Purtilo?

It only takes one meeting with Ruth to know and understand that respect for the talents and contributions of the group — the entire group — is central to her work. She frets over every last detail of “good manners” as well as the critical elements that are necessary for moving a project forward. When I reflect on what I have learned from and with Ruth, I believe it centers on “learning” and the power of the learning community present in CHPE. Jerome Bruner proposed the following characteristics of communities of learners: generative content; active learning; reflective thinking and practice; collaboration; passion and community. Ruth’s leadership has facilitated the development of a strong learning community at CHPE consistent with these characteristics. She may be leaving Creighton, but the learning and collaboration will continue.

*Gail Jensen
Associate Dean
Pharmacy and Health Professions*

I have fond memories of working with Dr. Purtilo for the past 14 years. Many ethical issues occur within our specialty of obstetrics and gynecology. In the clerkship, we would present a clinical ethics case, and our students would work through it. In that particular case, we engaged in role playing as husband and wife. I learned a great deal from doing this exercise with Dr. Purtilo! It was interesting to see how each clerkship was different and how the feelings among the students varied widely. It truly was a very, very positive experience for me, and I will miss that as Ruth moves on to her new position in Boston. She was also very helpful to me personally in helping me work through medical ethical issues that sometimes occur in obstetrics and gynecology. I wish Ruth all the best in her future endeavors.

*Alfred Fleming, MD
Chair, Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynecology*

- An avid gardener, Ruth’s desk almost always has a beautiful bouquet of fresh cut flowers from her own garden.
- Known for losing her eye glasses, she often carries two pairs. Once her glasses lay on the table of our Resource Room for over a week; after several announcements about these “lost glasses” someone else recognized them as Ruth’s.
- Ruth and her husband, Vard Johnson, have a French poodle named Cassie who has “guarded” CHPE during many working-weekends.
- When Ruth was at the U of Minn getting her undergraduate degree she discovered a new thumb muscle in the hand of a raccoon.

We at Creighton will miss the person and special gifts of Dr. Ruth Purtilo very much. Ruth’s sense of service to the Creighton community was expressed in words and deeds – especially in her work with women’s groups in the Metro-Omaha area.

But Ruth’s sense of service and focus went far beyond Omaha. She schooled herself – as a true professional – with resources and ideas from the United States as well as Europe and Africa. Ruth could look at issues from different perspectives and bring her unique vision, common sense and wisdom to challenging situations.

Ruth is a woman who loves a challenge and this is what she seeks: the next challenge. But knowing Ruth, the next challenge is only a “next.” She will have many more. Best success, Ruth, in the challenges that lie before you. Thanks for spending 11 years with us. We will miss you!

*Pat Callone, MA, MRE
Vice President for Institutional Relations*

I met Ruth at a bar. She was impressed that I had developed a taste for green chartreuse. Good conversation followed — Ruth loves good conversation.

Deeply committed to Creighton’s Jesuit mission, Ruth invited me to give presentations on God and suffering at the Center’s workshops — and I believe she actually read my book, *Finding God in Troubled Times*.

Ruth soon designated me the Center’s “chaplain,” an honor involving a solemn obligation to give a blessing at the Center’s annual Christmas lunch and gift exchange.

Over the years I grew to admire Ruth’s unique blend of humanness and professionalism — this lady remains at the top of her field.

We shall miss Ruth much. I remain comforted knowing she will continue to make our world a better place in her new position.

God be with you, Ruth! You remain in our hearts and prayers.

*Richard J. Hauser, SJ
Rector of the Jesuit Community at Creighton University
“Chaplain” for Center of Health Policy and Ethics*

Book Presented to Kolvenbach SJ

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health sciences students a wonderful opportunity to help relieve the needs of patients in the Dominican Republic, the country neighboring Haiti on the island of Hispaniola. Another example is a course for second year medical students about the "Socially Marginalized Patient." This course was developed under the direction of, and first taught by, Dr. Ruth Purtilo, the immediate past Director of CUMC's Center for Health Policy and Ethics.

More information about these two programs, the Haiti program described by Rachel Bognet, and a variety of similar projects at different Jesuit universities in the US and abroad, can be found in a new book, entitled *Jesuit Health Sciences and the Promotion of Justice: An Invitation to a Discussion*, edited by CHPE members Jos Welie and Judith Lee Kissell and published by Marquette University Press. The projects described are inspiring, the accompanying articles thought-provoking, the photographs moving. The book is an important step in the direction of educating men and women caregivers for others.

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Taking Applications

Creighton University is seeking nominations and applications for the position of Director of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics (CHPE).

Candidate applications should be sent with a letter addressing qualifications, a curriculum vitae and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three individuals who have agreed to provide letters of reference to: *Dr. Gary H. Westerman, Chair of Search Committee, Creighton University Medical Center, School of Dentistry, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178.* Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Creighton University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer.

Creighton University Center for Health Policy and Ethics is seeking applications for a Senior Visiting Fellow during 2004-2005. Duration of the fellowship is three to six months. Applicants should have national and international recognition and a sustained record of contribution in bioethics or related fields. Special consideration is given to applicants whose areas of research and other scholarly activity complement the on-going work of the Center. Fellows are expected to be in residence for the duration of their stay and to engage in selected service or teaching activities compatible with their interests and the

Center's needs. Stipend available. For further information contact: *Amy Haddad, PhD, Creighton University, Center for Health Policy & Ethics, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178.* Phone: 402-280-2164, email: ahaddad@creighton.edu.

New Face

CHPE is pleased to announce **Kate Tworek** as the newest member of the Center in the role of faculty administrative assistant. Kate comes to the Center with a wealth of administrative, technical and corporate training experience. She taught computer programming at Metropolitan Community College for over ten years and was nominated for Metro's Teaching Excellence Award. Kate is married with three college aged sons, and in her spare time, enjoys cooking and reading.



FOCUS

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