

# Center for Health Policy & Ethics **FOCUS**

Creighton  
UNIVERSITY  
Medical Center

## Center for Health Policy & Ethics Newsletter - Omaha, Nebraska

### Fall 2007

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#### FALL EVENTS

##### Women & Health Lecture

*Comfort: A Journey Through Grief*  
November 13 (7:00 pm)  
Ann Hood, Author  
Registration Required: click [here](#) to register

##### Roundtables

*Re-imagining Pedagogy: Creating Collaborative Communities in Research and Teaching*  
October 31 (3:30 - 4:30 pm)  
Nina Ha, PhD, English

*How Community Culture Impacts Collaboration*  
November 20 (3:30 - 4:30 pm)  
Patrick McNamara, PhD, Law

*Should Hospital Ethics Committees Examine the Organization?*  
December 5 (3:30 - 4:30 pm)  
John Stone, MD, PhD, CHPE

##### Clinical Ethics Series

*Eliminating Health Care Inequalities 2007: What Should Doctors Do?*  
November 28 (12 - 1:00 pm)  
John Stone, MD, PhD, CHPE

FOCUS Editor, Amy Haddad, PhD; Associate Editor, Richard L. O'Brien, MD; Design & Layout, Chris Jorgensen, MS

## A Crescendo of Autumn Activity at CHPE

by Amy Haddad, PhD

A semester in the life of CHPE fairly hums with activity. This fall is no exception. Within the Creighton community and throughout Omaha, the state of Nebraska and well-beyond its borders, the Center is involved in providing education and leadership in the always interesting and often contentious areas of health policy and ethics. Many of our activities are long-standing such as our Roundtable discussions and the Women and Health Lecture. Some programs are new this fall. All of the Center's efforts, though, have in common at their core a commitment to interdisciplinary perspective and focus on the marginalized in our society.

CHPE Roundtable discussions have been held for many years at the Center. This semester alone, we will have brief presentations followed by the opportunity for dialogue on the following topics: ethical issues in blood conservation, the reputation of a profession, feminist ethics and the dilemmas of doula care, re-imagining pedagogy, how community culture impacts collaboration, the focus of hospital ethics committees, and pain management. The purposes of the Roundtables are to foster intellectual exchange in the Omaha and Creighton community, facilitate interdisciplinary communication and collaboration, give participants opportunities to explore new ideas and to learn about the scholarly interests of other participants. Additionally, the Roundtables are the genesis for the further growth or development of projects. For example, in January 2006, Dr. Julia Fleming, Associate Professor in the Department of Theology was invited to present on the Catholic tradition regarding the obligation to preserve life. Following the roundtable, Dr. Fleming developed her presentation into a manuscript titled, *When "Meats are Like Medicines": Vitoria and Lessius on the Role of Food in the Duty to Preserve Life* that is forthcoming in the journal *Theological Studies*.

The beginning of the fall semester also brings with it the return of all of the health science students to Creighton. This fall, most of the Center faculty is involved in teaching in the first year School of Medicine course, IDC 135 Ethics and Legal Topics in Clinical Medicine, as small group facilitators and lecturers. The design of the small group sessions is one developed several years ago by Dr. Jos Welie that uses a series of deconstructed cases from actual clinical records for the students to analyze in their role as "members" of an ethics committee. A more comprehensive description of this rich, innovative teaching method is described in *"Doctor, I Really Need Whiter Teeth!" A Report on the Use of Deconstructed Cases in Dental Ethics Education* published in *Medicine, Healthcare and Philosophy*. Dr. Christy Rentmeester is the Small Group Sessions Director for IDC 135 and has worked with colleagues and course directors Gene Barone, M.D. and Don Frey, M.D., CHPE Faculty Associate, to update all of the clinical content in the seven cases for this semester's small groups. To date, the small group discussions have been lively and the students have commented on how much they enjoy this method of learning about the application of ethical principles and theories to practice.

The Center is involved in sponsoring community events that focus on the education of the public. This fall there are three such events: Community Forum on Stem Cell Research, the annual Women and Health Lecture, and the first Film Program on Healthcare Ethics, Justice and Culture that will



Amy M. Haddad, PhD, Director of the Center for Health Policy & Ethics

feature the Nebraska premiere of the documentary *Hold Your Breath*, on October 25, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in Hixson-Lied Science Building Room G4. This new program has the potential to be an annual event for the Center and fits perfectly with the interdisciplinary focus of the Center's work and a long-standing interest in non-traditional approaches to ethics such as care-based and narrative. One form of narrative is film, which generates an understanding of ethics that takes us beyond ourselves and experiences. You can read more about each of these events in this issue of *Focus*.

Center faculty are often called upon to deliver presentations at professional conferences and seminars. For example, Dr. Jos Welie recently presented a paper, *Should We Become Professionalists? Bioethics and the Professionalism Movement in Medicine*, at the Annual Conference of European Centers of Medical Ethics in Zurich, Switzerland. Closer to home, Dr. John Stone facilitated a workshop in Hastings, Nebraska at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital on *Ethics in Healthcare: Ethics Committees*. In addition to the presentation of scholarly papers, Center faculty continue to be particularly productive in the area of scholarly publications. Dr. Winifred Ellenchild Pinch and I are editing the final drafts of the contributions for the book, *Nursing and Health Care Ethics: A Legacy and a Vision*, that will be published in the spring of 2008 by the American Nurses Association. Dr. Jos Welie and our senior visiting fellow, Dr. Wolter Brands, are completing their manuscript for the book, *Professional Ethics and Law for Oral Healthcare Providers: A Guide to Ethical Analysis and Decision-Making for Dentists, Hygienists, and Policy Makers* (working title). Finally, Center faculty members also serve as leaders of community and national organizations. Dr. Helen Stanton Chapple presently serves as President of the Association of Death Education and Counseling whose national meeting will be held in Montreal on April 30 – May 3, 2008. Dr. Richard O'Brien has been asked to serve as chair of the Adolescent Behavioral Health Task Force for Building Bright Futures in Omaha. These examples of the breadth and quality of the work accomplished by the Center are just that-examples. I encourage you to peruse the CHPE website <http://chpe.creighton.edu> for more in-depth information about the work of the Center faculty, faculty associates and affiliates. Finally, none of this work could be accomplished without the able assistance of an outstanding group of staff members. We are most fortunate to have such wonderful support.

**18th Annual Women and Health Lecture featuring ANN HOOD**  
**7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 13, 2007**  
**Witherspoon Concert Hall**  
**Joslyn Art Museum**

by Marybeth Goddard

The 18th Annual Women and Health Lecture, an annual community service program sponsored by the Center for Health Policy and Ethics, will feature best-selling author Ann Hood. The lecture will be held Tuesday, November 13, 2007, 7:00 p.m., in the Witherspoon Concert Hall at Joslyn Art Museum. The title of Ms. Hood's lecture is "Comfort: A Journey through Grief," and will focus on grief, healing, and comfort as depicted in her best-selling novel, *The Knitting Circle* and in her real life.

Ms. Hood states:

"This novel is very special to me. A few years ago I was afraid I would never be able to write again. For my entire life, reading and writing were ways to work out what I felt, what I worried about, what I feared, what I hoped for. Then on April 18, 2002, my five year old daughter Grace died suddenly from a virulent form of strep. As an added insult, when I lost Grace I also lost my ability to use words. I couldn't read and I couldn't write. Letters didn't come together to make words; sentences did not make sense. I couldn't concentrate. I couldn't focus... Once I began to write again, a novel about women in a knitting circle began to take shape... The women in this fictitious knitting circle became as real to me as those strangers I sat knitting with after I lost Grace. Each of their stories is told in their own voice and each story moves Mary (the main character in the novel) along in her grieving process."

Ann Hood is the author of seven novels including *Somewhere off the Coast of Maine*. Additionally, she is the author of a collection of short stories entitled, *An Ornithologist's Guide to Life*, and a memoir, *Do Not Go Gentle: My Search for Miracles in a Cynical Time*. Ms. Hood is the recipient of two Pushcart Prizes, a Best American Spiritual Writing Award, and the Paul Bowles Prize for Short Fiction.

The Center requests that lecture attendees bring yarn to the lecture to donate to Project Linus, a non-profit group that makes blankets for children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. To find out more about Project Linus: <http://www.projectlinus.org/index.shtml>.

The lecture is free and open to the public however; registration is required via <http://chpe.creighton.edu/register3.htm>. For more information concerning the lecture, please contact Marybeth Goddard at 280-2021.



*Author and 18th Annual Women and Health Lecturer, Ann Hood*

## **Building Bright Futures**

*by Richard O'Brien, MD*

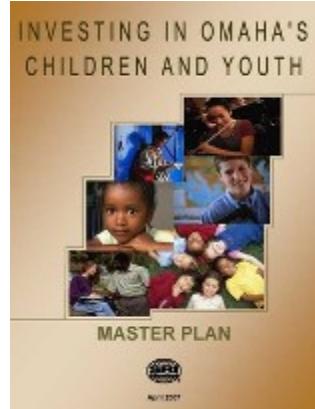
A number of Omaha philanthropists have initiated a community-wide effort to improve life opportunities for young people in Omaha. Promising to provide scholarships for all low income high school graduates in the metropolitan area, they also recognized that there are serious barriers to academic achievement, high school graduation, and admission to post-secondary education. These community benefactors have established a new organization, Building Bright Futures, to develop means of diminishing those barriers and assuring that young people have the opportunity to develop meaningful, productive and satisfying careers.

Led by Richard "Dick" Holland, Michael Yanney, Susie Buffett, Jerry and Cookie Hoberman, Mayor Mike Fahey, Mary Ann "Andy" Holland, Diane Lozier, Wallace and Barbara Weitz, and Executive Director John Cavanaugh, they first commissioned SRI International to study problems confronting Omaha's children and youth. Based on the findings, SRI developed a master plan entitled *Investing in Omaha's Children and Youth*. This plan called for the development of five task forces comprised of community volunteers to develop specific proposals to enhance school readiness of young children, provide academic support and career awareness, provide after school mentoring and tutoring, reduce truancy and assure reentry into the educational system of kids in trouble, and to devise effective approaches to behavioral health problems that impede academic progress.

A large number of volunteers to assist these efforts quickly emerged, including community activists, teachers and school officials, university and college presidents and other faculty and staff, leaders of community service agencies, and those with particular commitments to youth. A number of Creighton faculty and staff members volunteered. Joyce Bunger of the President's office and School of Nursing was asked by Father Schlegel to catalog and coordinate the activities of Creighton participants across the university to assure that Creighton's resources could be of maximum benefit to this effort. Dr. Richard O'Brien of the Center for Health Policy & Ethics was appointed by the board of Building Bright Futures to co-chair the Behavioral Health Task Force. Other Creighton participants from several schools and administrative areas are participants in the Early Childhood, After School Mentoring and Tutoring, Academic Success and Career Awareness, and Recovering Lost Youth and Truancy task forces.

The task forces are charged to produce plans addressing the needs of their areas of responsibility, estimates of program costs, propose possible funding sources, and means of assessing outcomes. The ultimate outcome by which success will be measured is a significant increase in the numbers of Omaha youth graduating from high school, entering and graduating from college, and building productive and satisfying careers.

The founders of Building Bright Futures have made substantial commitments of their own funds to support the planning efforts and funding of scholarships. They are also aware that these activities, spanning life from prenatal existence to college graduation, are long term, even multigenerational, efforts.



*Investing In Omaha's Children & Youth:  
The SRI Master Plan Study,  
commissioned by Building Bright Futures.*

## **Center for Health Policy & Ethics Inaugurates the Annual Film Program on Healthcare Ethics, Justice and Culture**

by Christy Rentmeester, PhD

The Center for Health Policy & Ethics is hosting the Omaha premier of the documentary film, *Hold Your Breath*, on Thursday 25 October from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. The 58-minute film will be shown in the G4 Auditorium of the Hixson-Lied Building. The film follows the cancer care of Mohammad Kochi, a native Afghani who came to the US after 1979. This free public screening is offered in partnership with Nebraska Educational Television (NET). Following the film, audience members will have an opportunity to ask questions of experts.

Advance practice nurses Barbara Clinkenbeard from Creighton University Medical Center's Cancer Counseling Program and Margreet Fledderus from Stanford University Medical Center, physician Jeffrey Knajdl from Creighton University Medical Center's Cancer Counseling Program, and Creighton pharmacy faculty member Naser Alsharif will serve on the panel of experts.

Center for Health Policy & Ethics faculty member Christy Rentmeester will field questions from the audience and facilitate discussion.

*Hold Your Breath* is directed by physician and filmmaker-in-residence at the Stanford University Center for Biomedical Ethics, Maren Grainger-Monsen. Her work typically addresses interesting, important, ethically complex, and emotional issues in contemporary healthcare. Other films by Maren Grainger-Monsen (*The Vanishing Line*, *Worlds Apart*, *Where the Highway Ends*) have been nationally broadcast on PBS.

A colleague of the director, Margreet Fledderus, appears in the film, and we're delighted to have her as a panelist at the Omaha premier. She complements her experiences as an oncology nurse with her travels as a professional speaker. She is regularly invited to share her expertise about how professional caregivers can improve their relationships with patients who come from cultural, religious, and language backgrounds different from their own.

Resources about multicultural healthcare are available to members of the public and healthcare professionals at our website (<http://chpe.creighton.edu/chpe/holdyourbreath.htm>). For more information about this event, please check our website or contact Marybeth Goddard (mgoddard@creighton.edu, 402.280.2021.)



Mohammad Kochi, whose cancer care is documented in the film, *Hold Your Breath*

## Community Forum on Stem Cell Research

by Amy Haddad, PhD

A major focus of CHPE is to: Foster intellectual exchange in solidarity with the human community. This particular focus guides the direction of CHPE's work and results in various service events on pressing issues in ethics and health policy. An excellent example of such an event was a Community Forum on Stem Cell Research, held on September 27, 2007. The Forum provided the opportunity for the exchange of ideas between experts in molecular genetics, bioethics and theological ethics with members of the community.

The area of stem cell research is full of problems and promises. The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities recently stated in its White Paper on the subject, "The debate over embryonic stem cell research has involved researchers and advocates for people with debilitating conditions on one side, and conservative groups and opponents of abortion on the other." However, the moral life is rarely as simple as "yes-no" or "all-or-nothing." For this reason, CHPE invited two distinguished individuals, Kevin FitzGerald, SJ, PhD, and Ron Hamel, PhD, to present the nuances of the issues involved in stem cell research with a specific focus on what this means for Catholic academic medical centers and health care.

Kevin FitzGerald, SJ, PhD is the Dr. David Lauer Chair in Catholic Health Care Ethics and a Research Associate Professor in the Division of Biochemistry and Pharmacology in the Department of Oncology at Georgetown University. Father FitzGerald has given presentations nationally and internationally and has often been interviewed by the news media on topics such as human genetic engineering, cloning, stem cell research, and the Human Genome Project. Ron Hamel, PhD is the Senior Director of Ethics for the Catholic Health Association of the United States.

Father FitzGerald's presentation was titled, "Stem Cell Research: a Catholic Response," which was followed by Dr. Hamel's presentation, "The Lure of Embryonic Stem Cells: What Should Catholic Health Care Do?" Approximately 180 people attended on-site at Creighton University. Additionally, several hospitals across the state participated in the forum via the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth System. Following the formal presentations, participants asked a range of questions and engaged in a lively discussion with both speakers. For those who were unable to attend the community forum, selected articles and background information will be maintained on the CHPE website at  
[http://chpe.creighton.edu/chpe/oe\\_stemcells\\_0708.htm](http://chpe.creighton.edu/chpe/oe_stemcells_0708.htm)



Kevin FitzGerald, SJ, PhD



Ron Hamel, PhD

## **Director of Neiswanger Institute Offers Lecture on Professionalism**

*by Christy Rentmeester, PhD*

On 20 February 2007, the Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and the Center for Health Policy & Ethics and hosted Mark G. Kuczewski, PhD The Fr. Michael I. English, S.J. Professor of Medical Ethics and Director of the Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics & Health Policy offered a lecture on professionalism, as part of the Creighton University Medical Center's School of Medicine Distinguished Lecture Series. Professor Kuczewski is well-known among bioethicists and medical education program directors for his reinvigoration of the literature on professionalism. He defines medical professionalism as "the norms that guide the relationships in which physicians engage in the care of patients" and considers problematic the tendency to reduce professionalism to etiquette, communication, sensitivity, and the elimination of poor behavior among physicians.

Professor Kuczewski's lecture, like his writing, emphasized the importance of physicians' roles in social justice and as members of multi-disciplinary healthcare teams, and the necessity for medical educators to cultivate physicians' capacities to negotiate compassionately cultural pluralism and to respond to patients with care in ethically complex cases. Professor Kuczewski drew upon examples of shortcomings in medical and graduate medical education that facilitate the affective development of physicians-in-training. New physicians are, for example, often ill-prepared to break bad news to patients and their loved ones in ways that minimize harm. Additionally, training physicians to manage patients' pain properly and competently is still woefully neglected in many curricula. Professor Kuczewski cited specific tools medical educators might use to evaluate more effectively the successes and drawbacks of professional development dimensions of their own curricula, and suggested Performance Evaluation on standardized patients, Critical Incident Reporting, Leadership Training, and forums for formally guided reflection as some of the most promising techniques. He also fielded questions during a lively discussion among lecture attendees.



*Distinguished Lecturer Mark G. Kuczewski, PhD*



*J. Chris Bradberry, PharmD, Dean of the School of Pharmacy; Mark G. Kuczewski, PhD; and Amy Haddad, PhD, Director of CHPPE*

## An Interview with CHPE Senior Visiting Fellow, Wolter Brands, DDS, JD, PhD

by Jos Welie, PhD

Dr. Wolter Brands is the 2007 Senior Visiting Fellow at the Center for Health Policy & Ethics. Dr. Brands is from The Netherlands, where he studied both dentistry and law. This makes him the second Dutch Senior Visiting Fellow (following Dr. Henk ten Have in 2001), the second lawyer (following Dr. Blasszauer from Hungary in 1999), and the second dentist (following Dr. Jim Rule in 2003). Dr. Brands divides his time among three professional roles. He practices general dentistry, serves as a judge in medical malpractice cases, and he is an Associate Professor at the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dentistry at the Radboud University Medical Center in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on legal aspects of the duty to treat, and continues to write in both Dutch and English language journals and books on legal and ethical aspects of medical and dental care. He is spending three months at CHPE to work with Dr. Jos Welie on a new textbook on ethical and legal aspects of dental practice. We asked him to respond to the following four questions.

(1) What made you decide to study dentistry as opposed to, say, medicine or pharmacy?

*When I graduated from high school I wanted to treat patients but I did not want them to die when I made a mistake. A dentist has to be very competent to work with his hands. In the third year of study, every dental student who was not skilled enough to work with his hands could switch to medical studies. Apparently, I was sufficiently skilled that I could proceed with my dental training. After the third year, I wanted to become an oral surgeon, so I studied both dentistry and medicine for a short time. But combining two studies was a bit too much for me, and I discontinued my medical studies.*

(2) You then embarked on the study of law and now practice law as well? In what way do these two disciplines differ and how do they complement one another?

*The dental profession is very much focused on practical skills, whereas the legal profession is based on logic, fairness and knowledge of rules. In daily dental practice, these disciplines complement each other, for a patient is not a molar with a cavity, but a human being with certain rights. Nowadays you cannot practice dentistry without a basic knowledge of health law.*

(3) You have now been two months at CHPE? Can you comment on differences, if any, between Dutch and American academic life?

*I think there is very little difference. The medical students I encountered in the small groups were very involved as are my Dutch dental students. I was at the meeting of the American Dental Students Association and I was quite impressed by their professionalism. The Creighton law students were very enthusiastic.*

(4) Given your experience as a judge with medical malpractice cases, what is the most important lesson you have for dentists and other health care practitioners?



Dr. Wolter Brands and Dr. Jos Welie work on their forthcoming book on professional ethics and law for oral healthcare providers at the Atlanta International Airport.

*Health law is not meant for lawyers, but for patients and their care givers.*

## **There Is More to Dentistry than Drilling and Filling**

*by Wolter Brands, DDS, JD, PhD  
CHPE Senior Visiting Fellow*

When Dr. Welie asked me to be the co-author of a book about dental law and ethics, I was a little bit surprised. As a lawyer, I am supposed to know something about the law of my own country, The Netherlands. But I wondered what a Dutch lawyer could offer about the law in English-speaking countries; the law differs from country to country and even from state to state and province to province.

I started my research by collecting dental cases. By now I have collected several thousand cases in which decisions had been made. There is a strong similarity between cases in the different jurisdictions.

There is also similarity between the attitudes of Dutch dentists and American dentists towards dental ethics and law.

Dutch dentists, much more so than Dutch physicians, tend to be focused on the technical aspects of their profession. This seems to be an international trend: the most highly rated international dental research papers are always about the technical aspects of dentistry. However, because many ethical rules are embedded in legislation and other legally binding rules, Dutch dentists have become aware that practicing good dentistry is more than just making a nice filling or a well-fitting crown. Good dentists have to know something about dental ethics. To practice dentistry without having to worry about legal problems, it is not sufficient to know the latest techniques. For reasons of risk management, dentists need to know the legal rules governing dentistry.

Dentists should be compelled to adjust their focus by another international trend. A decade ago, dentists were judged by dentists. A dentist accused of poor or unethical practice focused on technical aspects of dentistry, and those who judged him did the same. Now, there is a trend to admit more lay members, and even lawyers, on dental boards.

These “incursions” of law into dental practice may explain the increasing number of cases in which dentists are found guilty of violating a patient’s rights.

The differences and similarities that exist between European and American legal approaches to dentistry pose an exciting challenge as Dr. Welie and I work on our new international dental ethics and law textbook. CHPE offers ideal conditions for us to craft this book. I am impressed by the friendliness of my co-workers here in the Center and by the facilities offered. I am honored to be here and will do my best to live up to the expectations.



*Wolter Brands, DDS, JD, PhD*

## **Our Associates and Affiliates: A Profile of Dr. Gail Jensen**

Dr. Gail Jensen is a Faculty Associate with the Center, Dean of the Graduate School, Associate Vice President in Academic Affairs and a Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy where she teaches ethics in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program as well as an online ethics course for practicing physical therapists. She is the current chair of the ethics committee for the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association. Dr. Jensen was recently appointed to a 15 member task force for the American Physical Therapy Association charged with revising the core ethics documents for the profession of physical therapy.

Her research interests span the areas of clinical reasoning, development of expertise, and assessment of student learning in the teaching of ethics. Jensen and her colleagues published the second edition of their book, *Expertise in Physical Therapy Practice*, in early 2007. Their grounded theory research on expertise in physical therapy has been well received in the profession by clinicians and educators. The model focuses on four dimensions (knowledge, clinical reasoning, movement and virtue). One of the most discussed dimensions of this grounded theory has been the dimension of virtue. Experts were confident yet humble and highly motivated learners in maintaining clinical competence. They were consistently nonjudgmental of their patients and took responsibility for advocating for their patients as a moral agent. The model of expertise continues to be used and further refined by other qualitative researchers.

This past June, Dr. Jensen was invited to speak and conduct a workshop on qualitative research at an International Qualitative Health Research Conference at Ewha University in Seoul, Korea. She was appointed to the Editorial Board of the journal, Qualitative Health Research, in September 2007. On the local level, Dr. Jensen will also be joining the research committee of the Omaha Women's Fund this fall.

Creighton's Center for Health Policy and Ethics hosted the first interdisciplinary institute for occupational therapy and physical therapy ethics educators in 2003. This institute was funded in part by a Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) grant for interdisciplinary education, CHPE and the Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. This institute not only stimulated rich exchange and dialogue among ethics educators but led to both national and international presentations across the disciplines and a book. The book, *Educating for Moral Action: A Sourcebook for Rehabilitation Ethics*, was published in 2005 by FA Davis Publishers and includes contributions from all participants. *Educating for Moral Action* won the 2006 Alpha Sigma Nu Book Award in the category for the Health Sciences. Plans are underway for a second interdisciplinary ethics institute for occupational therapy and physical therapy entitled "Revitalizing Ethics in Rehabilitation: An Interprofessional Summit to Chart Rehabilitation Ethics." Dr. Jensen is a core member of the planning committee for this second interdisciplinary institute for OT and PT ethics educators that will be held at Ithaca College-Rochester Center, Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School in New York in 2008.



*Gail Jensen, PhD, PT, FAPTA*

## Welcome Helen Stanton Chapple, PhD!

by Marybeth Goddard

The Center and the Creighton University School of Nursing are pleased to welcome Helen Stanton Chapple, RN, PhD, as Resident Faculty with a dual appointment as Assistant Professor of Ethics in the Center for Health Policy & Ethics and the School of Nursing.

Dr. Chapple comes to Creighton from the University of Virginia where, in May of 2007, she obtained her PhD in Medical Anthropology. Dr. Chapple's dissertation is entitled, "Dying to be Rescued: American Hospitals, Clinicians, and Death." The dissertation explores how our health care system strives to save critically-ill patients, but once a patient is deemed to be dying, with the exception of palliative care, a different and arguably lower standard of care emerges for the dying patient. She received a Masters degree in Clinical Ethics in 1994 from the University of Virginia. Prior to becoming a nurse, Dr. Chapple worked as a stock broker, finding a new direction after being a hospice volunteer. Dr. Chapple's bedside experience spans oncology, research, hospice, cardiac and neuroscience critical care. Currently, Dr. Chapple serves as President of the Association for Death Education and Counseling.

As Resident Faculty, Dr. Chapple's major responsibilities include teaching ethics in Creighton's undergraduate nursing program, providing guest lectures in the other Creighton health science programs, and scholarship in health policy and ethics.

Dr. Chapple and her husband Jim enjoy exploring Omaha and cherish the time they spend with Morgan and Wendy, their Cardigan Welsh Corgis.

To learn more about Dr. Chapple, please visit:

<http://chpe.creighton.edu/chpe/chapple.htm>



Helen Stanton Chapple, RN, PhD