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## **Director's Report - Transitions and Opportunities**

**by Amy Haddad, PhD**

Change appears to be the norm today at institutions of higher education. Creighton is no different in this regard from other universities as we face challenges such as the shrinking pool of traditional students, new learning technologies, demand for new degree programs and continuing education for non-traditional students, and a sea-change in health care financing and delivery. These challenges require new ways of thinking, responding and operating. One recent major change at the Center for Health Policy and Ethics is in regard to the Master of Public Health (MPH) program that had its home and initial development at the Center. In 2010, Dr. Donald Frey, Vice President of Health Sciences, charged the Center for Health Policy and Ethics to begin the process to build a proposal for a fully online MPH program that would aim for accreditation by the Council of Education in Public Health. A program proposal for the MPH was completed, approval was obtained by the Graduate Board, and recruitment of four new faculty members including a program director was initiated and secured. Marketing and recruitment of the first class of MPH students was ongoing during this time as well, and the first class began in January 2013. Concurrently, changes were being made in the School of Medicine in response to the rapidly expanding need for highly skilled professionals in the fields of health promotion, prevention and public health. The School of Medicine's Department of Preventive Medicine was expanded to become the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health chaired by Dr. Henry Lynch. The MPH program and faculty moved from the Center to the expanded Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health in September to take its place as a cornerstone of the Department's mission. Although the MPH program and faculty moved from CHPE, there will still be collaboration between the two graduate programs. Students in the MPH program must choose an area of concentration from either a public health administration concentration or health policy and ethics concentration. MPH students who choose the health policy and ethics concentration will take three courses in the [Master of Science in Health Care Ethics](#) (MSHCE) program. In addition, the faculty at the Center and the MPH faculty will continue to collaborate on scholarly research and writing projects.



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

The movement of the MPH program and faculty has also opened up intriguing possibilities to strengthen the core mission of the Center with new programs and collaborative initiatives that take full advantage of the diversity of disciplines and talent at Creighton. It is an opportune time to focus on ethics and policy issues as well as the humanities in the rapidly shifting healthcare landscape. At this point in time, we are exploring options regarding programs and partners. The present planning and resulting decisions will have a significant impact on the next decade in the life of the Center. However, we will not stand idle while we plan for the future. A brief overview of two new projects that impact our students, health professionals and members of the community are examples of this ongoing work.

The first project involves efforts with Creighton Health Sciences Continuing Education to obtain approval for continuing education credit for physicians, nurses, and pharmacists enrolled in two of the MSHCE courses - MHE 601 Health Policy and MHE 602 Research Ethics. Health professionals enrolled in the two courses can also register for continuing education credits that the student receives when the course is successfully completed.

The second initiative is a partnership with the Ethics Center at Alegent Creighton Health on a new podcast series on ethical issues in the outpatient setting. The ethical issues that occur in the outpatient setting may not be as dramatic and urgent as those in the hospital, but they still require thoughtful consideration and support for resolution. The podcasts will be one way to reach a far-flung audience of health professionals who work in outpatient settings and patients as well. We anticipate the launch of the podcast series in late 2013.

## Personnel News

by Marybeth E. Goddard, MOL, BSBA

### Welcome, Geri!

On October 21st, Geri began her duties as CHPE's Senior Administrative Assistant III. Geri came to CHPE from Creighton's Research and Compliance area where she served in a similar role for approximately 5 years. Geri's responsibilities in her new position include providing administrative support to the Center director and coordinating monthly Center Roundtables and twice-yearly Center Distinguished Lectures.

### Congratulations, Amy Haddad, President-Elect for ASBH!

Read the complete story at Creighton University's News Center: [National Bioethics Group Names Creighton's Haddad President-Elect](#)

## European Health Policy and Health Science Education Presentations and Teaching

by Beth Furlong, PhD, JD, RN

During September Dr. Furlong presented at a global conference in Ireland and taught at two universities in Hungary. At the 3rd International Public Health Nurses Conference held in Galway, Ireland on the campus of the National University of Ireland, Dr. Furlong enacted a one-woman drama of Miss Lavinia Dock, public health nurse, nurse leader/historian/writer, social activist, labor organizer—and, suffragist. Through drama, she educated public health nurses worldwide of the kinds of health policy changes Miss Dock made in the early 1900s to further the health status of populations of people who were vulnerable. Miss Dock was one of a few nurses who were visible in their suffrage activity to facilitate white women obtaining the vote in 1920.

As a former Fulbright Teaching Fellow in Budapest and Nyiregyhaza, Hungary in spring 2006, Dr. Furlong continued to collaborate this September with colleagues she worked with during that initial semester. After collaborating with them in 2008 on a return visit, this year she taught at each of the respective universities where she had previously taught. She taught on Health Policy and Health Professionals at Semmelweis University in Budapest and on Health Science Education at the University of Debrecen in Nyiregyhaza. (Dr. Katalin Papp at the University of Nyiregyhaza and Dr. Zoltan Balough of Semmelweis University, colleagues since 2006, are pictured. They are leaders in Hungary in both nursing education and nurses and health policy. Further, they collaborate with other European nurse leaders and educators in a variety of ways to strengthen Hungarian nurse education and health policy.) While in Budapest, she had the opportunity to attend a one-day workshop, the empNURS Seminar, which reported on the final outcomes of furthering nursing education in eight European countries. She received a Certificate of Appreciation from the University of Debrecen for her teaching contributions in 2006, 2008, and 2013.



Beth Furlong as Lavinia Dock



Dr. Katalin Papp, Dr. Furlong, Dr. Zoltan Balough

## ***CHPE Director Presents at the Galileo's Legacy Conference***

***by Amy Haddad***

CHPE Director Dr. Amy Haddad presented at the 8th Galileo's Legacy Conference at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Missouri in early September. The Galileo's Legacy Conference was initiated in 2005-6 as a joint project of two academic departments, Biology and Philosophy and Religion. The theme of the 2013 conference was "The Art and Science of Health Care." The conference brings together experts from the sciences and humanities. The speakers at the 2013 conference addressed the balance between knowledge gained through personal experience and that which has been verified through clinical and scientific studies.

The original conference which was scheduled in February included Shannon Wooden, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of English at Missouri State University; David Gorski, M.D., Ph.D., a surgical oncologist; and Dr. Haddad. Due to a snow storm, the conference presentations were re-scheduled. Dr. Haddad's presentation was moved to the fall. Dr. Haddad's presentation was titled, "The Confluence of Health Care Technology and Bedside Decisions: The Case of Extracorporeal Life Support." The presentation addressed the pressure to do everything technically possible in contemporary health care particularly when the patient is a child. One technological development, extracorporeal life support (ECLS), was used to highlight how such treatments rapidly move from the experimental stage to the standard of care and from narrowly defined patient populations to broader, more controversial populations and diagnoses. The latter part of the presentation drew attention to a clinical case involving a terminally ill child to motivate clearer understanding of the ethical and personal costs associated with clinical innovations like ECLS. Foundational substantive and procedural ethics questions were posed to the participants. The overall purpose of the conference is to provide the institution and the wider community access to research at the intersection of the sciences, humanities and public policy. Over 150 people were in attendance ranging from students to faculty and members of the community.

## ***ASBH Annual Networking Luncheon is a "Splash" for MSHCE Alum***

***by Sarah Lux, MS***

In October, the Center for Health Policy and Ethics hosted a networking luncheon for MSHCE students, alumni, and guests during the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) annual meeting in Atlanta, GA. Luncheon attendees had a chance to experience downtown Atlanta dining at The Big Kahuna, a popular restaurant that serves Southern California surf inspired Baja-style Mexican cuisine. The annual event provides an opportunity for students, alumni, and guests to network, as well as to meet with faculty from the Health Care Ethics graduate program at Creighton University.



**MSHCE faculty, alumni, and guests meet for lunch during the 2013 ASBH Annual Meeting.**



**MSHCE alumni dine with faculty at The Big Kahuna during the 2013 Networking Luncheon.**



**CHPE faculty, alumni, and guests participate in engaging discussion over lunch.**



## **Cooperation between Creighton and the University of Namur, Belgium**

**by Jos V.M. Welie**

Some 250 years ago, the Jesuits were nicknamed the “Schoolmasters of Europe,” and with good reason. By the end of the 18th century, they were running some 750 colleges and universities. In fact, they might as well have been called the “Schoolmasters of the World” because many of these institutions were located outside of Europe, specifically in Latin America and Asia. But in 1773, Pope Clement XIV suppressed the Society of Jesus, and as a result, virtually all of these institutions became diocesan or public institutions, or they were simply closed. In 1814, Pope Pius VII restored the Society, and slowly new institutions of higher education began to emerge. Now, two centuries later, the number of such institutions is nearing 200 again, with 28 in the US, 31 in Latin America and many more still in Asia. But in Europe, the Jesuit education network never quite rebounded. Although there are many Jesuits institutes of higher education that are part of larger, often secular national universities, there are few full-fledged universities. One of those exceptions is the University of Namur, located in the French speaking part of Belgium. Founded in 1831, it is the only Jesuit university in Europe to offer degrees in medicine, pharmacy and the biomedical sciences. In addition, it has schools of arts; sciences; informatics & computer sciences; economics, social sciences & management; and law.



**Presidents Yves Poulet and Fr. Timothy Lannon sign the agreement between The University of Namur and Creighton University.**

Contacts between the Jesuit University of Namur (UN) and Creighton go back to at least 2004 when the then dean emeritus of the UN School of Medicine, Fr. André Piront, contributed a chapter to the book entitled “Jesuit Health Sciences and the Promotion of Justice,” co-edited by CHPE faculty members Judith Kissell and Jos Welie. In the spring of 2012, UN president Yves Poulet proposed the possibility of sustained cooperation at an institutional level. Encouraged by Fr. Timothy Lannon, SJ, Creighton’s president, two committees went to work to develop a cooperative agreement between the two institutions. The CU Committee consisted of Ed Morse (Law), Sharon Ishii-Jordan (Arts & Sciences), Maria Krane (International Programs), and Jos Welie (CHPE, and Chair of the Committee).

During the subsequent year, both committees worked on an agreement, exchanging multiple drafts. Jos Welie paid two visits to UN to meet with the UN committee members as well as with other UN faculty members and administrators. In turn, a UN delegation visited Omaha from July 31 to August 5, 2013 to meet CU administrators and faculty members. During the latter visit, a cooperative agreement was signed between both universities to facilitate the development of cooperative projects in education, scholarship and service.

Much like Creighton has its Center for Health Policy and Ethics, UN has an Interdisciplinary Center for Law, Ethics and Health Sciences. Its Director is Professor Laurent Ravez, a philosopher and bioethicist by training. The three other faculty members are Albert Fox (internal medicine specialist), Saphia Mokrane (physician and medical anthropologist) and Claire Rommelaere (lawyer and health care ethicist). Besides teaching courses in the medical school, the Center offers a certificate in health care ethics in cooperation with faculty members from two other French speaking Belgian universities. The Center is also supervising three doctoral dissertations in health care ethics, covering relational autonomy, stigmatization of AIDS patients in Kinshasa, and the ethics of public health in Madagascar.

With the cooperative agreement between UN and Creighton now in effect, CHPE intends to intensify the communications with our UN colleagues to examine the possibilities of cooperative activities for CU’s health sciences students, CHPE’s own graduate students, as well as cooperative faculty projects.

## **Art and Clinical Moral Perception**

**by Christy A. Rentmeester, Ph.D.**

Observation, representation, and interpretation of visual and narrative information are skills that situate clinicians to be morally responsive and to respond with care to the needs and vulnerabilities of their patients. Medical students in the Health Policy and Ethics elective Art, Medicine, and Clinical Moral Perception seek to cultivate these skills by exploring art, narrative, and related interdisciplinary healthcare ethics and humanities topics at Omaha's beautiful Joslyn Art Museum. With guidance from the art museum staff and me, students compile a journal and write an article. A purpose of this course is to offer students opportunities to experience art, reflect on their futures as physicians, resonate with the humanities and visual art in this phase of their professional development, internalize the humanistic impulses of artists whose work is represented in the museum, critically appraise their own patterns of perception, and relate their own sensitivities to their relationships with patients, patients' loved ones, and colleagues.

In one assignment, students describe a person (patient, patient's loved one, colleague, for example) or situation from their medical education experience that they wish they could have photographed, sketched, painted, or sculpted. Sometimes, they draw this person or situation. Other times, students offer a narrative summary and suggest three most compelling features of the person or situation they'd like to be able to convey visually to someone else.

In another assignment, students consider a case from their medical education experience in which they feel something was "missed" that influenced a patient's care, how a family member was treated, or how a colleague was treated. Students consider what was missed: *Was it a clinical detail, a misjudgment of emotional significance, or a lack of moral responsiveness to a nonclinical factor of importance, or something else?* Students consider why the detail was missed: *Was it human error, a system error, a failure to communicate clearly, a failure to communicate openly, or something else?* Students then address how they see this "missing" related to clinical moral perception.

Students also make some notes on what they think are the most important features of a *therapeutic space*. They take photographs of a healthcare environment that they think expresses color and design that makes a space therapeutic (or not). Students include these images with a narrative description of the space, a list of important features of its design, an explanation of what they think maximizes the therapeutic nature of a space, and the roles physicians play in making spaces therapeutic.

Students reflect on how their habits of perception have changed since beginning medical school and consider both merits and drawbacks of those changes. For example, students select an art object they don't like. They write about their aesthetic responses to this object and consider *How are my aesthetic responses to this object similar to and different from my ethical responses to patients I don't like? What are some of the most important reflections on my clinical moral perception that emerge from this?*



**Free and open to everyone, the beautiful Joslyn Art Museum is just a hop, skip, and a short jump from Creighton University.**

**23rd Women and Health Lecture features United States Poet Laureate  
by Marybeth E. Goddard, MOL, BSBA**

**Mission**

*The Women and Health Lecture of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics  
hosts nationally recognized speakers to engage the community  
on topics that challenge, transform, and inspire.*

The 23rd Women and Health Lecture, featuring United States Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winning author Natasha Trethewey, was held Thursday, September 12, 2013 in the Witherspoon Concert Hall at Joslyn Art Museum.

Professor Trethewey is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Beinecke Library at Yale and the Bunting Fellowship Program of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard. She is presently at Emory University, where she is the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of English and Creative Writing.

Professor Trethewey's poetry strives to view individual moments through a broader context. She states, "This focus on 'historical imagination' is a way to move beyond immediate experience in order to discover the larger implications of our lives within the continuum of history." In her Pulitzer Prize winning *Native Guard*, Professor Trethewey traces the link between her family and the Civil Rights Movement in her home state of Mississippi.



**Professor Trethewey**

Professor Trethewey concluded her lecture by taking questions from the audience. Professor Trethewey was available afterwards for a book signing.

Professor Trethewey's stature among former Women and Health Lecturers is unique—she is the only poet. Professor Trethewey more than met the mission of the Women and Health Lecture to challenge, to transform, and to inspire. Testaments from the audience included:

"Natasha is a glowing voice and we were able to bask a bit."

"One can make beauty out of the ugly if one has fierce intelligence."

"Set off a part of my brain that has been asleep."

It was truly a night to remember and would not have been possible without the generous support of Patrons and Friends, Alegent-Creighton Health, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, The Bookworm, Creighton University's College of Nursing, Women in Science and Medicine, and Committee on the Status of Women, Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha Public Library, and Physicians Mutual. In addition, this year's lecture was funded with the support of the Nebraska Arts Council, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and Humanities Nebraska.

***It's All About the Conversation at the Nebraska State Fair***  
**by Helen Chapple**

It's All About the Conversation is a statewide, multidisciplinary coalition that is interested in promoting advance care planning and improving end of life experiences for people in Nebraska. The Center for Health Policy and Ethics serves as the home base for the group. We hoped that the 2013 Nebraska State Fair would give us a chance to do research about dying in Nebraska and also promote our efforts to people from all over the state.

Here's what happened. On Wednesday August 28, 2013 at 7:00 AM Jackie Font and I arrived to set up our booth, "It's All About the Conversation", for Older Nebraskans Day at the 2013 State Fair in Grand Island. State Fair volunteers in their yellow shirts eagerly descended on our car to help us unload. We found that in the special exhibit space reserved for this day, we had a prime corner location. We stocked our booth with candy and small prizes, like post-it notepads and foam doctor dolls donated by Nebraska Health Information Initiative and little charging shelves for cell phones from Blue Cross Blue Shield. Other organizations donating prizes were Aseracare, Methodist, and the Department of Health and Health Services. We decorated our booth with pictures and signs evoking our website, ItsAllAbouttheConversation.org

In this, our first time at the State Fair, we wanted to do two things: 1) to elicit narratives about how dying and death occur in the state, and 2) to distribute information to encourage people to talk about advance care planning and end-of-life issues. We had no idea what to expect in the way of attendance. To our surprise and delight, we learned that people are bussed in from all over the state for Older Nebraskans Day, and a Mel Tillis concert provided part of the draw. The crowds were heavy enough that we made a second run to restock our candy only an hour and a half after the exhibit opened!

One of the most prominent features of our display was our giant foam board map of Nebraska. People were surprised and pleased when their town got a pin because they visited our booth. One person took a picture of the pin marking her town! By the end of the day eastern and central Nebraska was covered with pins, and the panhandle sported a few as well. It was an effective way to interact with people and find out how they access their health care.

Due to the high number of booth visitors it was difficult to get actual stories about people's experiences with end of life, but we did record a few interesting comments. We were able to hand out more than 100 brochures, spreading the word about having "the conversation," and we are making plans for an even better event in 2014.



**The Midway**



**Helen and Jackie are ready to welcome visitors to the booth**



**Helen helps a visitor put a pin in the map.**

**FOCUS Editor: Amy Haddad, PhD; Associate Editor: Kate Tworek, BA**

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