



## Fall 2014

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## **Director's Report - Campus and Community Partnerships Expand Reach and Ensure Success**

**by Amy Haddad, PhD**

An unwritten aim/purpose of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics is to be a "convening" place for the expression of provocative and challenging views in a respectful and civil environment. Over the years, the "place" for such discourse has often been literal in that events have taken place in the Center conference room. A good example of this kind of activity is the monthly Roundtables, where faculty and guests present works in progress. Additionally, CHPE collaborates with partners both within Creighton University and with entities outside of the University to convene as broad an audience as possible and to expand the perspectives presented.

An annual event that clearly reflects the need for diverse partners is the Women and Health Lecture now in its 24th year. The Women and Health Lecture would not be possible without the support of many patrons and private donors. In addition, Humanities Nebraska has been a faithful supporter of the lecture for several years. Humanities Nebraska is a state-wide entity, whose aims match well with that of CHPE particularly for this lecture that features speakers who are humanities experts.

Partners are not only helpful in providing funding but in spreading the word and giving us insights into what people are reading and what new books and authors would fit well with the focus of the lecture. Gary Wasdin, Executive Director of the Omaha Public Libraries, serves as a member of the Women and Health Advisory Board and provides an excellent perspective in this regard.

We also seek out a partner in the arts at Creighton to provide some sort of visual arts experience to add to the Women and Health Lecture. In years past, we have worked with Creighton faculty member Amy Nelson and her students in the Fine Arts department, the Kent Bellows Studio and Center for Visual Arts and its students, and this year with Creighton faculty member Bethany (Betni) Kalk in the Journalism, Media and Computing department and her students. The art installation (shown in the photo below) for the 2014 Women and Health Lecture reflected the unusual ability of a character in one of the speaker's novels to "taste words."



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



**photo by Maren Haddad**

Other partners support our work in less obvious ways, such as Physicians Mutual who year after year provide overflow parking at their headquarters adjacent to the Joslyn Art Museum where the Women and Health Lecture is held. Additionally, CHPE reaches out to KIOS to record the Women and Health Lecture for later broadcast which allows the event to reach an even wider audience. All of this takes considerable coordination on the part of the staff, particularly Marybeth Goddard, who bring all of the partners and pieces together. For more about the 2014 Women and Health lecture, see the article, "24th Women and Health Lecture features best-selling author Monique Truong", also in this pdf.

CHPE also participated in sponsoring and marketing two documentary film events this fall with campus and community partners. The first of the films that was presented is "Sober Indian - Dangerous Indian" which was held on October 9th in collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Creighton Native American Student Association. CHPE supported this event by spreading the word through our Roundtable list serve and our website. The second film, "Mondays at Racine," is part of the "Ethics on the Big Screen" series coordinated by CHI Health Ethics Center and the Interprofessional Bioethics Education Committee (IBEC). CHPE assisted with this event in several ways. First, CHPE serves through membership on IBEC. Presently, Marybeth Goddard serves in this role. Additionally, the overall chair is CHPE Faculty Associate, Leslie Kuhnel, MSHCE, which represents another connection to CHPE. The film was shown October 13th at the Harper Center on the Creighton campus. Again, CHPE assisted with coordinating arrangements at the Harper Center and marketing to CHPE attendees from past similar events.

A final example of a collaboration that was initiated by a community organization is the community lecture featuring Dr. Michael Grodin on October 23rd. The Institute for Holocaust Education contacted CHPE to explore the possibility of working together to promote the lecture. Additionally, we sought the involvement and support of the Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick Chair in Jewish Civilization and the present chairholder, Dr. Leonard Greenspoon, to extend the reach of the event to students in the College of Arts and Sciences. The title of Dr. Grodin's lecture, "Jewish Medical Resistance in the Ghettos and Camps during the Holocaust" will be of interest to health professional students as well so CHPE is reaching out to them through the courses that CHPE faculty teach in the health science schools. Once again, CHPE assisted with arrangements at the Harper Center as well as marketing efforts in the community.

All of these examples of collaboration link back to one of the guiding purposes of CHPE, i.e., "Fostering intellectual exchange in solidarity with the human community."

### ***CHPE Faculty, Students and Alums Participate in the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting***

*by Amy Haddad, PhD*

The 16th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) was held in San Diego, California. The theme of the meeting was "Interprofessional and Inclusive Bioethics and Humanities?" Several members of the CHPE faculty were involved in the program. Dr. John Stone served as a facilitator of a discussion with Dr. Patricia Benner at the second plenary session of the meeting. The title of Dr. Benner's plenary session was, "Moral Sources for Collaborative, Practice-Based Ethics: A Transformation of Education and Practice." Dr. Helen Chapple and fellow Creighton faculty member Dr. Jacqueline Font of the Werner Institute presented a paper titled, "Dying as a Public Health Issue: Making Systems More Responsive." Dr. Amy Haddad served as moderator and commentator for a panel presentation with doctoral students, Mag Lukanus, Steven Simpkins, and Tracy Brazg, from the University of Washington's Interprofessional Education Program titled, "Ethics Case Studies as a Vector for Teaching Interprofessional Skills."



**Leslie Kuhnel (MSHCE'13), Albert Quiery (MSHCE'14), James Stewart (MSHCE'14), Amy Haddad**

The meeting also offers the opportunity for alums, current students and faculty to get together in person to catch up and talk about ideas to improve the Master of Science in Health Care Ethics program and to stay connected. Six alums of the program attended the luncheon meeting: Regine Calvart (2013), Krisa Gignon (2014), Leslie Kuhnel (2013), Jayne Madden (2014), Albert Quiery (2014), and James Stewart (2014). Current student Annette Greer also attended along with a colleague Dr. Hellen Ransom who also serves as a part-time instructor for the MSCHE program at Creighton. Another part-time instructor, Dr. Kevin Reid, from the Mayo Clinic also joined the group.

## **Ethics on the Big Screen Summer 2014**

**by Christy A. Rentmeester, PhD**

Ethics on the Big Screen is organized annually by the Alegent-Creighton Health Ethics Center staff as a Continuing Education (CE) event that focuses on ethics and health policy issues that are uniquely and poignantly illuminated in film. This year's program focused on themes of mental healthcare services delivery in the United States and structural barriers faced by individuals and families living with mental illnesses.

Alegent-Creighton Ethics Officer Leslie Kuhnel moderated the program. Audience members watched the documentary film *Out of the Shadow*, which offers a first-person account of helping a loved one navigate schizophrenia and the public mental health system. This was followed by discussion, questions, and responses from documentarian Susan Smiley, Creighton University professors Christy Rentmeester and Todd Salzman, licensed independent mental health practitioner Corey McGeary, and Ken Timmerman, a leader in the peer support movement to help people in the process of recovering from mental illnesses.

Dr. Rentmeester's talk focused on the history of mental health policy in the United States since 1950. Dr. Salzman offered reflections on Catholic social teaching that can inform our responses to improve conditions for people with mental illnesses. Mr. McGeary introduced audience members to innovations in mental health service delivery at Alegent-Creighton. Mr. Timmerman offered a personal and poignant account of his own experiences recovering from acute exacerbations of his illness and his work at Safe Harbor, a peer support network in Omaha.

The event was a collaboration among the Alegent-Creighton Health Ethics Center, the Alegent-Creighton Health Behavioral Health Services, the Creighton University Center for Health Policy and Ethics, the Creighton University Health Sciences Continuing Education Office, and the Creighton University Department of Psychiatry.



**Moderator, Leslie Kuhnel**



**Educator and film-maker Susan Smiley, EdM**

## ***"It's All About the Conversation": State Fair 2014 and Other Activities***

***by Helen Stanton Chapple, PhD***

August 27 was our second exhibition for Older Nebraskans Day at the Nebraska State Fair. Our booth experience last year was very instructive--this year we brought much more candy! Once again the attendance and foot traffic were high. Because the Fair asked us to tally our visitors every two hours, we know that about 495 people visited the booth over the course of the day. Our setup was similar to last year. We had the large foam board map of Nebraska and pins to mark our visitors' hometowns, and again this was a big hit. We explained what we do and offered our brochure. Reactions were very mixed, as you might imagine. Some were enthusiastic - "this is really a good idea." Some people listened attentively and nodded, looking as if they had never heard of the idea of advance care planning before that very moment. Some said, "Oh, I've done that already," and walked on. Others overheard our conversations and kept their distance. And still others took several copies to give away, saying "my daughter needs to see this."

Meanwhile our group "It's All about the Conversation," housed at the Center for Health Policy and Ethics, has been busy with research into Nebraska's long term care facilities. We are interested in the Out of Hospital Do Not Resuscitate (OOH DNR) forms that these 340 institutions across the state decide to use. Unlike its six surrounding states, Nebraska does not have a statewide template for this purpose. When new residents enter long term care facilities, staff records their preferences regarding resuscitation on their own internal forms. This variation from one facility to another invites inconsistent care and misunderstandings. Frail older residents may be especially vulnerable in times of emergency when they are unable to speak for themselves.

Two solutions to this problem have presented themselves in 2014. Legislation was introduced in Nebraska's Unicameral earlier this year to study the use of Physician's Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) in Nebraska, a form that many states have adopted as an OOH DNR form. Our group appreciates what the POLST has to offer, but we have not embraced it as THE template to solve the problem in Nebraska. Another alternative is a county-wide OOH DNR form that the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) of Lancaster County has begun using across their jurisdiction. This form is the first step toward standardization for OOH DNR in the state. In March of 2014, we approached the state EMS Board to enlist their support for a statewide standardized form for OOH DNR. They agreed to write a letter of support to the Health and Human Services Committee.

Both the Lancaster OOH DNR and the POLST initiatives are coming together in a hearing late in October before the Health and Human Services Committee. At that time the Committee will hear testimony regarding OOH DNR forms and POLST, and they will decide what next steps to take in this regard. Our group, It's All about the Conversation, will testify at this hearing, and we hope to get a better idea of the statewide sentiments regarding these issues. Meanwhile, we invite you to visit our website for more information about the State Fair and the group's activities.

***"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.***



**booth with map and Helen**



**prize-winning quilt about NE**



**cattle show**

## **International Bioethics Education and the Online Graduate Program**

**by John Stone, MD, PhD, and Amy Haddad, PhD**

In June 2014, we had the opportunity to present and discuss issues in online bioethics education with international colleagues. The occasion was the Fourth Cambridge Consortium for Bioethics Education, sponsored by Cambridge University Press at Columbia University Global Centers-Europe in Reid Hall, Paris, France, June 23-25, 2014. In these meetings, faculty participants discuss strategies, needs, and challenges in education of health professional and graduate students.

The meeting is informative in part because participants include faculty from many countries. Diverse perspectives and approaches enriched the commentary on topics that included how to integrate bioethics and humanities into medical education, using poetry to enhance clinicians' insight, the potential role of cinema, cultivating practical wisdom in clinical medicine, evaluation, and a teaching model for engaging patients and physicians in discussions about end-of-life and advanced care options.

Regarding online bioethics education, Dr. Amy Haddad talked about "Designing for Enduring Understanding in a Clinical Bioethics Online Course." She discussed the foundational work by Wiggins and McTighe (2001) who propose four filters to determine when material in a course or program of study is worthy of understanding. The material should: 1) be enduring or have value beyond the classroom; 2) be at the heart of the discipline; 3) require uncoverage; and 4) offer potential for engagement. She noted that material worthy of understanding in clinical ethics includes the ability to discern ethical concepts from other factors, organize relevant facts, and propose and consider morally justifiable alternatives. She presented a model for teaching clinical ethics online that utilizes a complex ethics case that can be explored from multiple dimensions at different times throughout a course. Some of the dimensions presented were application of ethical decision-making models, policy analysis, and narrative, sociocultural, and educational approaches. When students view a single case from these multiple perspectives, she argued, their ethical analyses are much richer. Also, she used some helpful presentation technology, Prezi, to move among the various components of the course.

Dr. John Stone considered "Graduate Bioethics Discussion Forums Online: Enhancing the Seminar Format." He addressed how to develop a community of learners in a mutually respectful space, the nuts and bolts of online forums, how iterative discussions over several days deepen and broaden inquiry, issues in giving constructive feedback, and methods for instructor-student communication and mentoring.

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**Amy M. Haddad and John Stone**



**Christine Mitchell, RN, MS, MTS Executive Director, Center for Bioethics, Harvard University, and Amy Haddad, CHPE**

**International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples  
Conference: Summary and Reflections**

**Luis Marcos**

The 2014 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples Conference was organized by leaders of the Omaha, Ponca, Pawnee, Winnebago, Pure'pecha, Lakota, Dakota, Nakota and Maya Nations. Conference sponsors included Creighton University's Office of Multicultural Affairs, Creighton Center for Health Policy and Ethics, the Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Development, Justice for Our Neighbors Nebraska, the Voiceless Speak Fund of the Guatemala Human Rights Commission, the History Explorers Club of the Mexican American Historical Society and Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim: Reinforcing our Roots, Living our Maya Heritage.

The main objective of the 2014 conference was to 1) look at the legacy of genocide and/or ethnocide experienced by First Nations and 2) form alliances for justice and authentic peace in the western hemisphere. One example used at the conference to illustrate atrocities endured by First Nations through the continent is the Genocide against the Maya Nation in Guatemala. In its final report, the United Nations described such genocide as follows:

In the majority of massacres there is evidence of multiple acts of savagery, which preceded, accompanied or occurred after the death of the victims. Acts such as the killing of defenceless children, often by beating them against walls or throwing them alive into pits where the corpses of adults were later thrown; the amputation of limbs; the impaling of victims; the killing of persons by covering them in petrol and burning them alive; the extraction, in the presence of others, of the viscera of victims who were still alive; the confinement of people who had been mortally tortured, in agony for days; the opening of the wombs of pregnant women, and other similarly atrocious acts...<sup>1</sup>

Such acts of savagery in modern times by contemporary states have their roots in centuries-old dehumanizing documents, including papal bull *Inter Caetera* issued in the early 1490s. Such papal bull was used to justify the expropriation of lands at any cost, including genocide. The dehumanizing language contained in *Inter Caetera* is institutionalized in what is now known as International Law which strips Aboriginal Nations of their pre-existing, inherent and inalienable right to their sovereignty as First Nations.

One of the highlights of the conference was the Cedar Ceremony performed by Dr. Rudi Mitchell to welcome the Maya Nation to the territory of the Omaha Nation. Dr. Mitchell, elder of the Omaha Nation and Professor Emeritus of Native American Studies at Creighton University, is great-great grandson of Chief Big Elk who was the last Chief of the Omaha Nation before the establishment of the State on the Nation's territory. Ramirez Juan Domingo and Josefa Pedro Diego Sebastian de Juan of Huehuetenango, Guatemala-Q'anjob'al Maya Ancestral Authority expressed gratefulness to the Omaha Nation for welcoming their people to the Omaha territory. Furthermore, Rigoberto Mateo Juarez, Spokesperson for the Gobierno Plurinacional de las Naciones Q'anjob'al, Chuj, Popti y Akateco, identified five cycles of violence against the Maya Nation including the current criminalization of the Maya Nation's request to re-instate its status as a Sovereign Nation in Guatemala. Furthermore, Mr. Mateo Juarez encouraged the establishment of working relationships between the Maya Nation and Native Nations in North America. Jim Miller -Dakota-Sioux Indian Spiritual Leader and founder of the Dakota 38 + 2 Annual Horseback Ride, Frank LaMere- Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, long-time activist and highest ranking Native American in the Democratic National Committee, and Professor Sheila Rocha of the Pure'pecha Nation reflected on the genocide against the Native Nations in North America and joined Dr. Mitchell in welcoming the Maya as a Native American Nation in Nebraska.

Article 36 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN-DRIPS) states: 1) Indigenous peoples, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other peoples across borders. 2) States, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, shall take effective measures to facilitate the exercise and ensure the implementation of this right. In light of Article 36 of the UN-DRIPS, the 2014 conference marks the beginning of a new era of cooperation among First Nations in the Western Hemisphere.

Readers are invited to contact Luis or John for further information.

**Luis Marcos**

**Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim (CMPI) –Director of Operation**

**Interim Ambassador to Native American Nations in the United States Inter-Tribal Government of the Q'anjob'al, Popti, Chuj and Akateco Maya Nation -Gobierno Plurinacional de las Naciones Q'anjobal, Chuj, Akateco y Popti Maya.**

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**<http://www.creighton.edu/health/cphhe/>**

We re-affirm our pre-existent, inherent and inalienable right to self-determination spelled out in national and international treaties/legislation including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN-DRIPS) and the International Labor Organization's Convention 169 (ILO 169) to name a few. It is our firm belief that authentic peace will reign when First Nations can freely exercise their sovereignty and Nation-State relationships are based on principles of justice and equality in terms of rights and responsibilities.



**Native American leaders and guests inaugurate the Maya Human Rights Project at 2014 pre-conference gathering.**



**Cedar Ceremony was performed by Dr. Rudi Mitchell, Elder of the Omaha Nation.**

### ***John Stone***

I appreciated the invitation to attend and the financial support for the conference by the Center for Health Policy and Ethics. A handful of other Whites from the United States also attended. Most participants were members of the Omaha Maya Community, Guatemala Maya representatives, and Native Americans. I have had the good fortune, as Luis would say, to walk with the Omaha Maya Community for some years in several health-related initiatives and other activities. This Conference was another step along that path. I'm still absorbing the meaning. I was also present to assist with a research study that I will briefly summarize. But first some reflections.

White Americans commonly grow up very disconnected from, and ignorant of, African Americans and Native Americans, as well as other indigenous peoples. The disconnection is emotional, spiritual, and physical-both from present day individuals and the history of these of our peoples. I write "these of our peoples" to emphasize both that the "we" are all part of the global community and that we White Americans are acculturated to feel otherwise. A crucial part of that disconnection is our White collective (with exceptions) lack of a sense of continuity with the historical atrocities that our forebears have committed and that continue to privilege us today. (Since this isn't a scholarly account, I'm avoiding citing literature. But there is very great evidence to support these summary points.) Such disconnecting acculturation certainly characterizes this older White American, although less so after many years of working closely with African American colleagues and more recently with the Omaha Maya Community. But it's a continuous journey of broadening perspective and growing sense of my own embeddedness in this history and its continued manifestations.

Now add this conference and the significant testimony, stories, and education by Native American leaders. In light of the narratives and the documentary film, I believe I've moved a bit closer spiritually and emotionally to our Native American peoples' experiences and them per se. It's a small step, but movement nevertheless. Of course, my journey isn't important in itself. But perhaps it can lead toward future mutual efforts that could be helpful, particularly regarding health inequalities.

This International Day also included a new research project. In response to the Maya Community's and Luis Marcos's focus on legal difficulties of undocumented Maya Community members, collaborative research is underway with Creighton University Law School Professor David Weber to gather accounts of genocidal and traumatic experiences of Maya Community members. This investigation is judged "Exempt" by the Creighton University Institutional Review Board and includes the assistance of Creighton University medical and law students. The Informed Consent materials for the study include the following for potential participants:

"Purpose: Without identifying participants, the purpose of these small group discussions is to obtain anonymous (no personal identification) evidence that Maya Community members from Guatemala have experienced traumas that would support through the legal system an application for refugee status or relief as an internally displaced individual. If successful, these applications could lead to their release from legal detainment (incarceration, jail, or prison)."



During the conference, some initial testimony was obtained. The investigation will continue with interviews in the community.

<sup>1</sup>Tomuschat, C., Lux de Cotí, O., & Tojo, A.B. (1999) Guatemala Memory of Silence Tz'inil Na'tab'al. Report of the Commission for Historical Clarification: Conclusions and Recommendations. Truth Commission: Guatemala. United States Institute of Peace. [http://www.aaas.org/sites/default/files/migrate/uploads/mos\\_en.pdf](http://www.aaas.org/sites/default/files/migrate/uploads/mos_en.pdf). (For background information see <http://www.usip.org/publications/truth-commission-guatemala>.)

### ***Of Bridges, Lycea and Communication*** ***by Jos Welie, PhD***

Creighton University's new Strategic Plan calls for all colleges, schools and other academic units to build more bridges and thus capitalize on the great disciplinary diversity of expertise and experience at our university. A good example of such interdisciplinary bridge building was a recent cooperative venture between Creighton's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and our Center for Health Policy and Ethics. The collaboration was spearheaded by Dr. James Smith, Chair of the Department of Ob&Gyn and a trained health care ethicist as well. On August 1, 2014, Creighton hosted a day-long continuing education session entitled "Mid-Summer Lyceum 2014," which was devoted to the topic of "Communication, Frustration and Trust: Ethical & Clinical Dimensions of the Professional-Patient Relationship." As Dr. Smith explained in his words of welcome to the gathered participants, the name of the program was an explicit reference to both the ancient Greek school where Aristotle taught young students and the 19th century American Lyceum movement that was aimed at providing an accessible approach to adult education on contemporary issues in the sciences, arts and humanities. Consistent with this explicitly interdisciplinary approach, the program combined thoroughly researched lectures with presentations of artistic renderings throughout the ages of the relationship between care givers and their patients. Critical discussions readily ensued, but even more inspiring were the readings of and subsequent reflections on five poems, selected by CHPE Director Dr. Amy Haddad. And the short fragments from the highly popular television show "Doc Martin" assured some lighter moments too.



**Jan Steen (1625/1626-1679): The doctor and his patient (Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)**

The program was divided in four sessions. Dr. Smith and Dr. Jos Welie, who is faculty member at CHPE, opened the day with an overview discussion of the importance of communication and the problems that arise when discussions go wrong. One specific example where good communication is absolutely essential is the prevention and management of iatrogenic errors. Dr. Heidi Edsill, a member of the Department of Ob&Gyn, and Dr. Linda Scheirton, a member of Creighton's Occupational Therapy Department and a CHPE Faculty Associate, led the discussion on this topic. The first session in the afternoon was led by CHPE faculty member Dr. Christy Rentmeester who was joined by Dr. Vidhya Selvaraj, member of both the Department of Ob&Gyn and Creighton's Department of Psychiatry. They engaged in an ethical analysis of the impact of frustration and mistrust on the therapeutic relationship. Finally, Leslie Kuhnel, Officer and Administrator of CHI Health Ethics Center as well as a CHPE Faculty Associate, revisited the importance of trust and then facilitated a discussion with Drs. Murray Casey and Oormila Kovilam, both from the Department of Ob&Gyn. Given the highly spirited discussions during this 2014 Lyceum and the positive feedback received from participants afterwards, it was clear to the organizers that the formula adopted was quite successful. Plans for another Lyceum to take place in the Fall of 2015 are already in the making.

## **24th Women and Health Lecture features best-selling author Monique Truong**

*by Marybeth E. Goddard, MS*

The 24th Women and Health Lecture, featuring best-selling author Monique Truong, was held October 1, 2014, in the Witherspoon Concert Hall at Joslyn Art Museum.

Ms. Truong, the author of two best-selling novels, Bitter in the Mouth and The Book of Salt, was a PEN/Robert Bingham Fellow, a Princeton University's Hodder Fellow, a Guggenheim Fellow, and the inaugural Visiting Writer at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. In 2015, she will be a U.S - Japan Creative Artist Fellow in Tokyo.

A Patron Reception preceded the lecture where over 200 attendees were mesmerized as Ms. Truong recounted her journey from a college student - newly diagnosed with Type I Diabetes - to a best-selling author. The title of Ms. Truong's lecture was "Writing with an Insulin Pen."

Throughout the lecture Ms. Truong exhibited a vulnerability that was genuinely refreshing. She spoke about the role food plays in her life-- how it tastes, how it is prepared, the rituals and routines that surround it, and the measures she must take with it to ensure her good health.

In conjunction with Ms. Truong's lecture, students from Creighton University's Journalism, Media, & Computer Science department, under the leadership of Professor Betni Kalk, created an art installation based on the words that are tasted by the main character in Ms. Truong's Bitter in the Mouth who experiences "synesthesia", a condition in which two or more of the senses entwine.

Ms. Truong concluded her lecture by taking questions from the audience and was available afterwards for a book signing.

Ms. Truong more than met the mission of the Women and Health Lecture to challenge, to transform, and to inspire. Testaments from the audience included:

*"...was a great integration of humanities and one aspect of the health care system...the speaker transmitted the importance of being vulnerable in one's writing"*

*"...a great introspection about the value of food for different people"*

*"...introduced me to a new way of thinking about food"*

It was a night to remember and would not have been possible without the support of generous Patrons and Friends, CHI Health, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, Creighton University's College of Nursing and Committee on the Status of Women, The Bookworm, Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha Public Library, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. In addition, this year's lecture was funded with the support of Humanities Nebraska <http://humanitiesnebraska.org/>

## **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.*



**CHPE Faculty Christy Rentmeester, PhD, Monique Truong, and CHPE Director, Amy Haddad, PhD, enjoy the Patron Reception**  
Photo credit: Jim Fackler



**Monique Truong speaks to a mesmerized audience**  
Photo credit: Jim Fackler

**Nursing Ethics for the 21st Century**  
**A Blueprint for Action**  
**Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and Berman Institute of Bioethics**  
**August 13-15, 2014**

The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and Berman Institute of Bioethics convened a National Nursing Ethics Summit in response to the increasingly complex and intense array of ethical issues that nurses confront in their daily practice. The Summit's 50 attendees are leaders in the fields of nursing ethics, education, and research, and representatives of the major nursing professional organizations, including the American Academy of Nursing, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, American Nurses Association, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Association of Nurse Executives, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, International Care Ethics Observatory, National Institute of Nursing Research, National League for Nursing, National Student Nurses' Association, Oncology Nursing Society, and Sigma Theta Tau International. The Hastings Center, The Center for Practical Bioethics and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing were also collaborating partners. Dr. Amy Haddad was invited to participate in the Summit and also to serve as co-facilitator of the nursing education working group at the Summit. She is pictured in the second row, center left with the participants at the Summit.

The goal of the “**Nursing Ethics for the 21st Century**” national summit was to identify the *strategic nursing ethics priorities* for the profession and *create a blueprint for the future* that key individuals and professional organizations will adopt and implement to build capacity within nursing; create and support ethically principled, healthy, sustainable work environments; and enhance patient and family outcomes.

The Summit agenda moved participants from general concerns about ethical challenges in nursing clinical practice, education, research, and policy to a specific blueprint for fostering and sustaining ethical practices throughout nurses' professional roles. The invited attendees shared a common vision that nurses must be ethically competent to fulfill their obligations to self and others, even as they advocate for the patients they serve, the profession, and the health of the nation. This social-ecological framework for understanding today's challenges and opportunities begins with the nurse, then extends to the care team, the health system, and the community.

***Timing of the Summit***

Patients today enter a health care system struggling to cope with unprecedented challenges, including: the increasing diversity and acuity of patients, rapid technological change, and pressures to reorganize care delivery and reduce costs. At the same time, the interplay between clinicians' well-being and resilience, the health of the environments where they practice, and care outcomes is increasingly recognized. Put simply, patients (and organizations) fare better when nurses are supported in their work environment and able to practice high-quality, ethical care.

At this time of rapid evolution, the need for action tempered with thoughtful dialog and analysis is urgent. Effective nursing engagement and leadership is needed, in order to assure that the solutions devised to solve our health care dilemmas sustain the values of the profession and nursing's place in the inter-professional dialog.

In 2015, the American Nurses Association will release its newly revised Code of Ethics, and the Summit discussions laid critical groundwork for the code's effective integration into the daily work of the nation's 2.8 million registered nurses.



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