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## 26<sup>th</sup> Women and Health Lecture Features Novelist and Journalist Geraldine Brooks

*Dr. Amy Haddad \**

Australian-born, Pulitzer Prize winning author, Geraldine Brooks, was the 26<sup>th</sup> Women and Health Lecture speaker on September 14, 2016. The lecture was held at the Joslyn Art Museum in the Witherspoon Concert Hall. An audience of over 800 people attended the lecture titled, "Hearing the Unheard: Recovering Women's Voices in Historical Fiction." Ms. Brooks is an author and journalist who grew up in the Western suburbs of Sydney, attending Bethlehem College Ashfield and the University of Sydney. She worked as a reporter for *The Sydney Morning Herald* for three years as a feature writer with a special interest in environmental issues.



In 1982 she won the Greg Shackleton Australian News Correspondents scholarship to the journalism master's program at Columbia University in New York City. Later she worked for *The Wall Street Journal*, where she covered crises in the Middle East, Africa, and the Balkans. In 1990, with her husband Tony Horwitz, she won the Overseas Press Club Award for best coverage of the Gulf War. The following year they received a citation for excellence for their series, "War and Peace." In 2006, she was a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies at Harvard University.

She was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in fiction in 2006 for her novel *March*. Her novels, *Caleb's Crossing*, *People of the Book*, and *The Secret Chord*, were New York Times best sellers. Her first novel, *Year of Wonders*, is an international bestseller, translated into more than 25 languages. She is also the author of the nonfiction works *Nine Parts of Desire*, *Foreign Correspondence* and *The Idea of Home*. She spoke about her transition from journalism to fiction and her abiding interest in giving voice to people who are often voiceless.

Since 1989, Creighton's Center for Health Policy and Ethics has sponsored the Women and Health Lecture as a means of highlighting issues in women's health through the humanities. The Women and Health Lecture has featured speakers from literature, creative nonfiction, journalism and poetry in addition to basic scientists, sociologists, politicians, activists, and educators. Attendees shared the following reactions to the lecture: "So grateful for this series of lectures where we can hear the voices of favorite authors" and "Her spoken words are as eloquent as her written words. Her serious intent is tempered by delightful nuggets of humor." The Lecture was supported this year in part by a grant from Humanities Nebraska.

\* Amy Haddad, PhD, RN, is the Director, Center for Health Policy and Ethics, holder of the Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Endowed Chair in Health Sciences, and Professor of Pharmacy Sciences in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

## CHPE Director and MSHCE Graduate Featured in “Ethics on the Big Screen” Program

CHPE Director Amy Haddad was a featured panelist for the Summer 2016 “The Hungry Heart: The Lived Experience of Prescription Medication Addiction” program hosted by CHI Health in Omaha, Nebraska. This program was part of the “Ethics on the Big Screen” healthcare professional education series developed by Leslie Kuhnel, director of CHI Health’s Ethics Services department and a 2013 graduate of Creighton’s Master of Science in Health Care Ethics. Three times a year CHI Health brings together health professionals to explore the lived experience of members of the community through documentaries, panel discussions and first-person perspectives.

The “Ethics on the Big Screen” series has explored topics such as human trafficking, breast cancer treatment decisions, living with mental illness, end-of-life care planning, and coping with early onset dementia, just to name some of the most recent topics. “These events have built quite a following, and participants report frequently to us how moved they are by the stories they hear through the films and from the panel members,” Kuhnel said.



Dr. Haddad presented on the ethical dimensions of prescription medication addiction, and was part of a panel including a psychiatrist, an addictions counselor, a pharmacy researcher, and a survivor of prescription medication addictions. The events are hosted by CHI Health and Creighton University and are broadcast to other CHI Health hospitals across Nebraska and Southwest, Iowa.

The next “Ethics on the Big Screen” showing will take place on March 29, 2017. For more information, please contact Leslie Kuhnel at [leslie.kuhnel@alegent.org](mailto:leslie.kuhnel@alegent.org).

## 2016 American Society for Bioethics & Humanities Conference

With nearly 1800 members, the American Society for Bioethics & Humanities (ASBH) is the largest professional organization in the field of health care ethics in the world. Its purpose is to promote the exchange of ideas and foster multi-disciplinary, inter-disciplinary, and inter-professional scholarship, research, teaching, policy development, professional development, and collegiality among people engaged in all of the endeavors related to clinical and academic bioethics and the health-related humanities. The Society was founded in January 1998 through the consolidation of three existing associations in the field: the Society for Health and Human Values (SHHV), the Society for Bioethics Consultation (SBC), and the American Association of Bioethics (AAB).



The 2016 Annual Meeting of the ASBH was held in October in Washington, D.C., with CHPE Director Dr. Amy Haddad serving as current ASBH President.

Each year, the Center for Health Policy and Ethics hosts a networking luncheon in conjunction with the conference. This annual event is open to students, alumni, and faculty of Creighton University's Health Care Ethics graduate program and is a popular social event for those who are attending the conference.





**Attendees at the 2016 ASBH meeting of Creighton faculty, alumni and current students.**  
*Pictured (left to right):* Leslie Kuhnel, Brigid Herrick, Mary Beth Jones, Frank Placencia, Kristin Gigon, Richard Allman, Helen Chapple, Paula Young, Robin Sauve, Hellen Ransom, Karen Nissen-Boryczka, John Stone, Christine Wilson, and Jan VanRiper

## Haddix Grant Recipients Present Snapshot of Projects at Reception

Dr. Amy Haddad presented a brief overview of the interprofessional study she is conducting as principal investigator that is funded by the George F. Haddix President's Faculty Research Fund at a reception with other grant recipients on November 9, 2016. The purpose of the study is to:

*Identify and test best practices to teach health professions students how to engage in ethical, interprofessional decision-making.*

Other investigators on the project are Dr. Joy Doll (OT), Dr. Ann Ryan Haddad (Pharm), Dr. Anna Maio (SOM), Dr. Kim McFarland (SOD), Dr. Michael Miller (EMS), Dr. Katie Packard (Pharm), Dr. Karen Paschal (PT), and Dr. Meghan Pothoff (CON).



Dr. Haddad (far left) pictured with other 2016-17 Haddix Grant recipients. Joined by Creighton President Fr. Daniel Hendrickson, SJ, (far right)

The study seeks to understand the learning experiences of health professions students regarding interdisciplinary ethics education that includes:

- Exploration of personal and professional values;
- Communication of values to other health professions; and
- Participation in team-based decisions.

The investigators also want to hear about preferences and ideas for teaching and learning strategies that would best engage students and meet interprofessional values/ethics core competencies. The study includes six focus groups each with one student representative from the seven health science programs at Creighton for a total of 42 students. Three follow-up sessions will be conducted in the spring of 2017 to develop the most promising teaching and learning strategies into scholarly projects to test best practices for interprofessional ethics education.



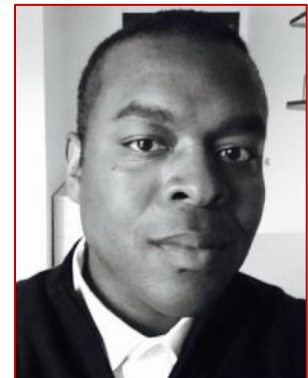
## Anthropological Angle

The American Anthropological Association held its 2017 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, 16-20 November. Two CHPE faculty members attended and presented.



**Helen S. Chapple PhD, RN, MSN, Associate Professor at CHPE**, was part of a panel entitled “Contesting Evidence Based Medicine: Knowledge Frameworks for Understanding and Discussion End of Life Care.” Her presentation examined the question “What Qualifies as an End of Life Decision? The Varied Contexts of DNR.” In this presentation she provided examples of out-of-hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate orders used in three long term care facilities in Nebraska. The moderator of the 5-person panel was Barbara Koenig from the University of California, San Francisco.

**Mark Robinson, PhD, Assistant Professor at CHPE**, gave a lecture entitled “The Uneasy Economics of Bioethics.” In it, he called on scholars studying ethical issues in health and medicine to be attentive to the role of market forces as they shape modern healthcare. He argued that financialization of healthcare -- from the conglomeration of healthcare management companies to the effects of corporate restructuring upon pharmaceutical innovation -- has had unparalleled effects on the shape of modern healthcare, from the design of biotechnologies and emergence of diagnostic categories to the problem of access to experimental treatments. A more detailed summary of his presentation can be found [here](#).



## International Engagements

### Europe

Together with Dr. Alex Rödlach (CU Department of Social and Cultural Studies), CHPE faculty member Dr. Jos Welie led a group of 15 Creighton graduate, professional and undergraduate students to Europe for the first offering of a new international and interdisciplinary course on dying and death (IDS590). Two current graduate students in Creighton’s MS in Health Care Ethics (one of whom is also an OTD student) participated, as well as two alumnae. The Creighton group was joined by two faculty members and three students from our host, the Sankt Augustin School of Theology, located just outside of Bonn, Germany, as well as several local guest lecturers. Dr. Linda Scheirton from CU’s Occupational Therapy Department also gave a guest lecture. Highlights of the course included a visit to the Nazi euthanasia museum and memorial site in Hadamar (Germany), the shrine of the Three Magi in Cologne cathedral (Germany), a mini-symposium about care for dying persons with developmental disabilities at the Maasveld Care Center in Maastricht (Netherlands), the reproduction of the Roman Catacombs in the limestone caves in Valkenburg (NL), and the American War Cemetery Margraten (NL).



**Hadamar: Gas chamber in Nazi euthanasia clinic**



**Sankt Augustin University: Relaxing after a day of hard work**



**Brief stop at a Dutch wind mill**

## Middle East

Dr. Naser Alsharif, PharmD, PhD, Professor in Creighton's School of Pharmacy and Health Professions (SPAHP) and Faculty Associate in the Center for Health Policy and Ethics, has accepted an administrative position in the School as Coordinator of International Programs-Middle East, effective November 1, 2016. Dr. Alsharif will focus his efforts in the Middle East, India and other countries in the region. He will be developing strategies for SPAHP across all of the School's professional programs in regard to the School's relationship with similar programs in these geographic areas.

Dr. Alsharif will be working closely with Dr. Keli Mu (Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy) and other department chairs in developing strategic initiatives focusing on student and faculty exchanges and research opportunities and the potential of growth in our academic programs. Dr. Alsharif has a long-standing global outreach and has served as visiting professor and curriculum and strategic planning consultant at a number of universities in several countries in the Middle East.



## Omaha Maya Community Health and Well-Being: 2016 Update & Reflections

*Luis Marcos and John Stone\**

In the Fall 2014 issue of *Focus* we wrote an essay entitled: “International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples Conference: Summary and Reflections” ([link](#)). As Luis explained: “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.”

Among measures to restore the rights of local indigenous peoples and enhance their well-being, Luis highlighted collaborative efforts between Omaha-area Maya and Native Americans, who are among “First Nations.”

In his final 2014 remarks, Luis Marcos, now Ambassador to the Omaha Nation, re-affirmed the First Nations’ “inherent and inalienable rights to self-determination.”



Since then, a diplomatic relationship between the Q’anjob’al Maya and the Omaha Nation has been established. Luis Marcos is now Ambassador to the Omaha Nation and Dr. Rudi Mitchell is Ambassador to the Q’anjob’al Maya Government.

### **Luis Marcos: 2016**

This historic government to government relationship is rooted in the Inherent Sovereignty of all Peoples, including the Q’anjob’al Maya and the Omaha Nation, as well as based in their respective traditions. Conducted according to the 1905 Volume II of the Ethnology Report of the Omaha Nation, through “The Wa’ Wa<sup>n</sup> Ceremony”:

A council was...held between the Omaha, ...the Ponca, the Cheyenne, the Arikara,... to bring about friendly relations. ... It was...a ceremonial tie that should be regarded as a nature as inviolable as that between father and son.

According to Maya World View and Spirituality, our mission is to co-exist in harmony and equilibrium

with humanity, Mother Earth, and the Universe, as we are neither superior nor inferior to any form of life; but more exactly, we are an element of life.

International legislation that supports the bilateral relationship between the Omaha and Q'anjob'al Maya includes common articles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Social, Cultural and Economic Rights; and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIPS); particularly articles 1, 3, 4, 5, and 36.

The Q'anjob'al Maya People in Omaha have chosen their Inherent Sovereignty as the Platform where they will address their development in mutual cooperation with religious, governmental, and non-governmental institutions in Omaha charged with the welfare of our common humanity.

#### **John Stone: 2014**

In the 2014 remarks, John commented that: "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." John continued that: "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."

#### **John Stone: 2016**

I wrote above about "disconnection" and White privilege. In a recent monograph, philosopher Naomi Zack (2015) skewers academic White privilege studies. She argues that recognition by Whites of their privilege omits any need to act, to do anything about inequities. In contrast is work of Creighton

University medical students in the Maya Community Health Collaborative (MCHC). The students in partnership with Maya community members are working with Maya youth as mentors, providing health education, and planning for the second annual health fair with the assistance of Omaha's OneWorld Community Health Center. The MCHC students are thus building on their educational privilege to provide collaborative service and leadership. Concurrently, students learn from Maya community members.

I'm also pleased to report that professor Carmelita Ixcol, PhD, of Guatemala is visiting and doing crucial work in advancing the Maya Health Needs Survey. This investigation interviews Maya community members. The hope is to leverage study results for grants and projects to advance community health. The project has been on hold for some time because community research personnel have been addressing more pressing problems. Luis Marcos and Juana Marcos are key Maya Community personnel in the research that is approved by the Creighton University Institutional Review Board. I serve as the Principal Investigator.

Overall, we are hopeful that these measures are advancing and will promote well-being of the Omaha Maya community while building its capacity for further endeavors. The rest of us benefit in the process.

## Reference

Zack, N. (2015) *White privilege and black rights: The injustice of U.S. police racial profiling and homicide*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

### \* Author info

Luis Marcos is 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. Tel: (402) 630-8106. [lmarcos@pixanixim.org](mailto:lmarcos@pixanixim.org), [www.pixanixim.org](http://www.pixanixim.org).

John R. Stone, MD, PhD, is Professor, Creighton University Center for Health Policy and Ethics, <http://www.creighton.edu/chpe/people/facultystaff/johnstone/>. He is also Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director, Center for Promoting Health and Health Equality, <http://www.creighton.edu/health/cphhe/>.

## Moral Courage Policy Development in a Pediatric Hospital

*Heather Fitzgerald\**



Increasingly, moral courage is offered up by health care scholars as an antidote to moral distress. However, demonstrating moral courage, whether by speaking up, moving to action, or aiming for solution, despite perceived risk, is a competency not often found in core curricula for health care professionals. Preventable harm education may be one arena where moral courage skills to speak up, in this context for patient safety, is remediated. Recent hospital-wide preventable harm training at Children's Hospital Colorado illuminated that teaching moral courage skills was necessary, but not sufficient, to embed moral courage in our culture. The seeds of a moral courage policy were planted.

The specific antecedents to moral courage policy development came from two sources. The first, as described, became clear during preventable harm/patient safety trainings. In multiple sessions, staff provided feedback that some of the techniques to speak up and escalate concerns for patient well-being would very likely be viewed by clinical leadership as insubordination. Staff clearly needed the boost of an institutional statement of support to speak up, despite perceived risks.

Additional indications for the need of a policy were a few occasions when attending physicians declined requests for ethics consultation. This is not consistent with institutional policy, and contributed to increased moral distress in the cases in question. Ethics consultation did ultimately take place, but these situations contributed to staff concerns that advocacy for ethics involvement might negatively impact relationships within the clinical team. Once addressed with the respective interdisciplinary teams, these concerns seemed assuaged. It was clear, though, that an organizational statement that colleagues respectfully and collaboratively raise ethical or safety concerns, regardless of perceived risks, was needed.

Policy development was an inclusive, iterative process. Children's Hospital Colorado has a network of unit-based ethics liaisons, a subcommittee of the hospital's Ethics Committee. These interdisciplinary colleagues meet monthly for ethics education, literature review, case analysis, and discussion to deepen their confidence and competence to serve as recognizable ethics resources to support needs amidst ethical complexity in their respective settings. This team completed a literature review and developed the first draft of the policy for consideration by the hospital's Ethics Committee, the Chief Quality Officer and Chief Medical Officer. Following incorporation of input from those colleagues, the Chief Medical Officer encouraged taking the refined draft "on the road" for review and input from physician and

administrative leaders throughout the organization. The ethics liaisons incorporated the minor edits proposed during those meetings and returned to the Chief Medical Officer for confirmation the policy was ready for review by the Policy and Procedure Committee. The Chief Medical Officer made one additional recommendation, which was to take the policy draft to the Medical Board for discussion and review. The last refinement recommended by the Medical Board, an important improvement, was to balance the statement of support that every staff member demonstrate moral courage to benefit patients with an equal statement of expectation that those to whom these issues are raised demonstrate moral responsibility by receiving and responding to concerns in the same spirit of collaboration and respect.

The policy includes a taxonomy of circumstances in which one might need to demonstrate moral courage and resources to support the process, as well as links to all health care profession codes of ethics and related hospital policies. There are certainly compelling arguments both for and against a policy of this kind. Thus far, reports of mitigated moral distress, improved communication and more effective teamwork from the clinical settings in which this policy has been used are encouraging that this was the right thing to do. Studies to test this theory are in the works!

*\* Heather Fitzgerald, MS, RN is a 2012 graduate of Creighton's Master of Science in Health Care Ethics program, and a Clinical Nurse Ethicist and Co-chair of the Children's Hospital Colorado Ethics Committee.*



## December 2016 Graduates visit Creighton campus to participate in the Graduate School Hooding Ceremony

The Center for Health Policy & Ethics is proud to announce its 2016 graduates in the Master of Science in Health Care Ethics program:

- **May 2016 Graduates:** Ralph E. Molyneux (Crestview, FL) and Carol Szczepaniak (Omaha, NE)
- **August 2016:** Gilbert Barr-Dixon (Fresno, CA); Cynthia Hall (Tallahassee, FL); Cheryl Meyers (Salem, OR); Stephen Parks (Brandon, FL); Justin Schramm (Omaha, NE); Laura Shinkunas (Iowa City, IA)
- **December 2016:** Jillian Galloway (Hopewell Junction, NY); Melissa Maynes (San Diego, CA); Dave McCowan (Trenton, OH); Christian Montana (Anchorage, AK); Karen Nissen-Boryczka (Middleton, WI); Jordan Pritts (Rockwood, PA); Corisa Rakestraw (Benton, AR); Sara Sanders (Omaha, NE)

We would also like to recognize those who completed their Graduate Certificate in Health Care Ethics:

- **May 2016:** Jennifer K. Burke (Malvern, PA); Karen Davin (Houston, TX); Kristin A Furfari (Denver, CO); Candace L. Kendall (Carenage, Trinidad/Tobago); Elizabeth M. Louie (Parkland, FL); Leonard J. Weireter (Norfolk, VA); and Christine J. Wilson (Los Angeles, CA)
- **August 2016:** Fadi Assaf (Saint Louis, MO); Thomas Holt (Coos Bay, OR); Jane Lassetter (Provo, UT); Michele Martinho (New York City, NY); and Thomas Overby (Moorpark, CA)
- **December 2016:** Virginia Barber (Greensboro, NC); Ariana Munger (Omaha, NE); Michael Plumer (Kapaa, HI)

Congratulations to everyone on your accomplishments!



Dec. 2016 graduates participating in the on-campus hooding ceremony:  
Corisa Rakestraw, Karen Nissen-Boryczka, and Sara Sanders  
CHPE faculty members Dr. Jos Welie and Dr. Helen Chapple