

# Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility

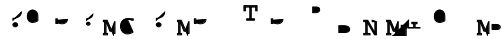
Southern Methodist University

Volume 13, Annual Newsletter, 2007- 2008



Michael M. Boone, a legendary attorney and exemplary public citizen, received the 2007-2008 J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award on February 12, 2008. Over 300 civic and corporate leaders were in attendance as SMU Trustee Fred Hegi Jr. presented the award.

Mike Boone lives a life of sacrifice and service for the public good, and for this, the Center is pleased to bestow the J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award. (See page 3 for more photographs.)



The Center's 2007-2008 conference entitled *The Future of the Past: Ethical Implications of Collecting Antiquities in the 21st Century*, held October 18-19, 2007, explored some of the ethical challenges in the controversial world of antiquities.

*Who are the legitimate stakeholders in this controversial realm?*

*Are institutional collectors the most appropriate stewards of culturally significant resources and objects?*

*Do purchases of culturally significant resources and objects by private collectors have a different effect on supply-demand in these materials than do purchases by institutional collectors?*

*What are the primary forces that encourage the looting and destruction of archaeological and historical sites?*

*Do these differ by region?*

*Do culturally significant resources and objects themselves have "rights" that should be protected (such as a right of preservation, prevention of modification and destruction, possession and control by a culturally associated group)?*

*How appropriate are current policy initiatives addressing the control and possession of culturally significant resources and objects?*

These were only a few of the many issues addressed at our conference. For professionals in the fields of art, art history, museum curatorship, law, collecting, anthropology, and archaeology, this conference presented an opportunity to bring together many differing viewpoints.

The keynote speaker was Donny George Youkhanna, Ph.D., former Director General of the Iraqi Museums from 2003 to 2006. He was central to recovery of some of humanity's most important antiquities following the 2003 looting of the Baghdad Museum.



The 2007-2008 Annual Conference of the Professions was held February 11, 2008, at Highland Park United Methodist Church's Great Hall. It was the 22nd in a series of unique conclaves at which representatives of law, medicine, and the clergy come together to address common ethical issues facing the professions and to discuss solutions. This year's topic was "Faith in the Professions: What in God's Name Am I Doing?"



The keynote speaker was Daniel W. Foster, M.D., the John Denis McGarry, Ph.D. Distinguished Chair in Diabetes and Metabolic Research in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. Dr. Foster serves as a member of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the Association of American Physicians, and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. He recently served as President of the Association of Professors of Medicine.

A panel responded to Dr. Foster's remarks. It was moderated by William J. Bridge, J.D., Dedman School of Law, and included Dr. Foster; Ellen Pryor, J.D., Dedman School of Law; and Linda Wilkerson, M.Div., Director of Pastoral Care for Parkland Health and Hospital System.





The past year's conference on *The Future of the Past: Ethical implications of Collecting Antiquities in the 21st Century* (discussed elsewhere in this newsletter) offered a powerful reminder of the extent to which ethical dilemmas can be shaped by history, geography, politics, and economics. Where some see current collecting (and curating and archiving) practices as nothing less than an assault on national history and identity, others see a market for antiquities that drives moral claims to the margins of the debate and settles all such questions at auction with the issuance of "good title." In between these admittedly caricatured positions are a dozen other arguments for and against the current state of affairs, equally shaped by the same cultural forces.

There are many lessons here for an ethics center such as ours, dedicated as it is to encouraging students across the campus to "do ethics."

First, it is humbling to see the extent to which enormous forces that can be described as "social" only in the broadest sense of that word don't simply inform ethical discourse but also lead participants in the discussion to perceive the existence (or non-existence) of an ethical problem in the first instance. This is a common but often overlooked phenomenon. In the presidential election, is there an ethical problem in misrepresenting your opponent's positions or in pledging to accept public funding and then reversing that pledge, or do the ends justify the means when it comes to the White House? In sports, does the use of performance-enhancing drugs represent an unethical attempt to gain unfair advantage over one's competitors, or is the practice nothing more than the most recent example of technological training aids? The question in each case is not "how should the ethics debate be resolved," but rather "is there an ethical problem here at all?"

Equally fundamentally, the antiquities conference offered a splendid example of the extent to which ethics - at least applied ethics - depends upon other disciplines to make sense of a problem. The dilemma addressed at the conference simply could not be understood without the contributions of art historians, anthropologists, historians, museum-based scholars, and political scientists. Ethics turns out to be embedded in, and highly dependent upon, other disciplines to do its work.

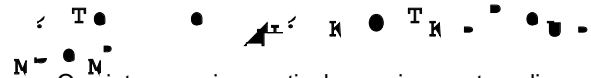
Thus, the antiquities conference underlined an important lesson for the Maguire Center, which strives to create a working relationship with faculty and students in all of the University's colleges and schools. Our work with these schools is a two-way street. It is certainly true that we aim to reinforce ethics scholarship and teaching in all these places, to make ethics more prominent and accessible to all. But the participants in this process - including the Maguire Center itself - gain at least as much from what the various disciplines bring to the subject of ethics as the other way around.



The Society for Ethical Evaluation and Debate (SEED) is made up of motivated SMU undergraduate students who enjoy researching, reflecting upon, and debating ethical issues. The students who constituted this year's Regional Bowl team were Hayley Collins,







Our interns gain practical experience struggling with social problems well beyond their capacity to solve in total, but within their capacity to contribute productively. This year's interns (and their projects) are:

**Nicholas Elledge** worked at the Rancho 3M Christian Orphanage in Guadalupe, Mexico. He lived and worked at the orphanage, providing a consistent and positive role model for the seventy children who live there. In addition to his duties with facility maintenance, he participated in activities with the children such as interacting with them and playing games. Nick has finished his freshman year in Dedman College.

**Gilberto Lopez** worked in the Nuevo Leon region of Mexico with a project entitled "Carranza-Casillas Sustainable Mountain Development Initiative." He helped build infrastructure in a mountain community of peasants, to teach primary enrichment and adult literacy classes, and research economic development and planning. Gilberto will begin his second year as a graduate student in Anthropology at Dedman College in 2008-09.

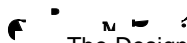
**Cody Meador** worked at the Stewpot in downtown Dallas. She was the Stewpot representative and "watch dog" to the City of Dallas, attending various committee and city council meetings. She planned to engage in political discussion with members of the homeless community and serve as an advocate for them. Cody will be a junior majoring in Political Science in 2008-09.

**Kristin Mendelow** worked as a Summer Clinic Fellow in the WilmerHale Legal Service Clinic at Harvard University. She interviewed low- and moderate income clients seeking legal services, counseling and advising clients, preparing motions for courts and assisting in trial preparation. Kristin is a second-year student in the Dedman School of Law.

**Jennifer Tashman** worked in Houston at Texas Defender's Service, a nonprofit law group that represents convicts who are on death row in Texas under questionable circumstances, particularly those who are mentally unstable or have histories of abuse and neglect. She researched legal cases, obtained court records, and wrote reports based on her investigations. Jennifer is a senior majoring in Corporate Communications and Public Affairs.

**Lindsay Wilson** worked in Dallas with Our Friends' Place, a safe haven for abused and neglected girls and young women. Specifically, she coordinated case management requirements for residents and their families of the Stemmons Group Home. In addition, she was involved with diagnostic assessments, review of treatment plans, and implementation of services. Lindsay is a second-year graduate student in the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development.

**June Yi** worked in Irving, Texas, with the Korean Central United Methodist Church assisting with ministries and social service, especially for the senior citizens. She provided vital translation services (verbal and written) to the senior citizens, and plans to set up a web site and network for volunteers. June is a second-year graduate student at Perkins School of Theology.



The Design Team is a student-run organization that encourages students to think about the ethical implications of their actions before making a decision. They choose topics they believe are relevant to the SMU community and then design a presentation that is customized to meet the needs of the particular class or group to whom they are presenting. This year, the Design Team focused on the issue of voting as a civic duty.

The team gave a presentation in the fall semester to a group of undergraduate students, and in this presentation special emphasis was placed on voting trends among young adults. During the spring semester, the team organized a campus-wide mock presidential election in which over 500 students, faculty, and staff voted. This turnout exceeded the team's expectations by a significant margin. Local media covered the event, with two television stations, *SMU Magazine*, and SMU's of undergraduate student they

