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From the directors.

As Spring seems to be arriving late, so too is our Winter newsletter! We hope everyone has stayed warm during this particularly cold winter!

Our students and faculty were busy these past months – publishing, lecturing, and moving forward with some great community engagement projects. In this Winter issue of our newsletter you’ll find details of these and other programs.

Please share with any interested colleagues, and as always, we invite anyone interested in becoming involved with the Center to email us at CBUHP@temple.edu.

Best!
Community Engagement Update

The MA Urban Bioethics core curriculum includes a year-long community engagement course. In this hands-on, community-based course, students take a holistic look at a community, analyzing both its strengths and challenges. Students are working in multidisciplinary teams and with a faculty advisor and community representative in three different ‘neighborhoods’ within the city of Philadelphia.

Norris Square:
The Norris Square group, Liz Sodomin, Andrew Coulter, Ashley DePadua, and Ali Green, has created initiatives based on the community’s identification of healthcare issues from focus group interviews. One initiative was the creation of an asthma workshop series, incorporating an interactive power point presentation, asthma literature and information leaflets from the CDC for parents in both English and Spanish, and bilingual materials for children such as coloring books with ‘asthma themes’ which were also bilingual. The presentations have been highly interactive and very well received.

Zion Cares:
Zion Cares is a ‘come as you are’ outreach ministry run by the Zion Baptist Church. The ministry includes food banks and Sunday services. Sunday services are informal, testimony based, and include a hot meal and clothing donations. The group, Diana Huang, Jared Cohen, Valerie Vassor, Brooke Heyman, Angela Silverman, and Sarab Sodhi, has begun conducting focus groups during the afternoon meal about the creation of a resource center within Zion Cares – what information is most needed by the members and what format should that information be presented in. The group is also currently writing the IRB for a photovoice project. Photovoice is a form of participatory photography, usually with the goal of social change. Participants are empowered by showing and telling their stories, and in this case, future health care providers can learn about an underserved population.
Community Engagement Update, con’t.

**Scattergood:**
The Scattergood engagement project centers around currently underused ‘green space’ surrounding the Friends Hospital in the lower Northeast. This group, June Park, Adys Mendizabal, Seneca Harberger, and Ashley Siever, have been studying how the use of green space in an urban environment can improve overall health/mental health of the youth in an urban community. They have completed community mapping as well as windshield mapping of the area surrounding the green space, and have developed a strategic plan regarding how to proceed with the development of an Urban Garden. Approval to move forward with focus groups has been granted, and the project is now moving forward quite rapidly!

Norris Square Urban Garden
The second initiative is the creation of an urban garden at Norris Square. A collaborative effort has been created between TUSM/CBUHP, Philadelphia Urban Creators (PUC), and Dr. Barbara Schneider, a family practice physician who lives in Norris Square, has a home-based medical practice, and is a community advocate. The short-term goal is to teach community members how to grow backyard gardens and table-top micro-greens. Nutrition and healthy eating themes will be incorporated into the Head Start Program curriculum, as children will grow wheatgrass in the classrooms. Wheatgrass grows quickly (~2 weeks) and the Norris Square Community Engagement group, together with Dr. Schneider, will have ‘Smoothie Sessions’ creating healthy smoothies for the children in Head Start, with fruit and their ‘home grown’ wheatgrass. The long term goal is the creation of an urban garden in two nearby lots. The stakeholders are currently investigating funding opportunities to help facilitate that venture.
The MA Urban Bioethics program continues to grow, and we look forward to having a central location for offices, student lounge, and classroom space this coming summer. Our students are also now sporting their ‘Temple Bioethics’ pins on their white coats, key lanyards, and backpacks. It’s nice to have the program represented in this way. And finally, a public thank you to current MAUB student Daniel Velasco, DPT 2013, for his excellent guest lecture in the Physical Therapy Bioethics elective course this past Fall.

For more information on the MA program, please see

temple.edu/centers/cbuhp/about/bioethics

Lecturers Needed!

If you are interested in trying out a new lecture topic or to add to your teaching experience, the CBUHP courses and the lunch and learn lecture series always need speakers.

For more information, please contact Dr. Nora Jones, Director of Education for the CBUHP, at nora.jones@temple.edu
Ms. Cara Smith submitted this essay as one of her Fall Urban Bioethics Seminar course assignments. In addition to learning about different bioethics content areas, a focus of the course is to practice writing in different styles and for different audiences. This assignment was to write a newspaper editorial/letter to the editor-style piece. Here is Cara’s submission:

**Justification through Disassociation**

People often create a concrete dichotomy between “developed” and “developing” countries in their minds. In this construct the United States, highly resourced and stable, is positioned as “developed.” No doubt there is a definite contrast between the life of the average American and many of those suffering in lower socio-economic status countries. Although the wealth in the United States is vast, it takes less than one day as in the heart of North Philadelphia to see that many Americans live in a reality one could easily categorize as “third world.” Housing is unstable, unemployment rates are almost four times as high as the national average, violent crime rates are one of the highest in the nation, malnutrition rates are second highest, and close to half of our population lives in poverty.

Putting aside my alarm in regards to the obvious physical and mental consequences of childhood malnutrition, I never cease to be surprised by the seemingly indifferent, wealthier population surrounding impoverished communities within North Philadelphia. Possibly the most disturbing realization, if not also the most obvious and understandable one, is that people react in outrage and create change when they empathize and connect with those that are suffering. Knowing this, I can’t help but explore the idea that many people don’t relate to North Philadelphians because this population is somewhat separate in its “needing” existence. The ability to witness starving families with an air of acceptance happens with the simultaneous acceptance, whether subconsciously or consciously, of these North Philadelphians as “other” than us. I don’t think this is necessarily out of cruelty or lack of compassion, although certainly for some this is the case, but instead is a form of preservation that allows us to continue our lives without being overwhelmed by the horror that starving children live less than fifteen minutes away from our own reality.

In many ways the patient population at Temple Hospital has been demoted to second-class citizen status, served by health care providers who are not ignorant of the discrepancy of power that exists between them—a reality that is not unusual in a patient-physician relationship. It is an insidious and unspoken reality that medical students are allowed more freedom to practice new skills on lower income patients. I’ve seen that the opportunities for me to train directly with patients are more extensive than those allowed to medical students at hospitals only twenty minutes away. Faced with what I consider a somewhat glaring breach in bioethics, I often reflect upon human nature as a whole that has fallen again and again into a sort of “justification through disassociation” paradigm.
It is possible to trace a common thread of imposed moral superiority in every major bioethics breach in recent history. Entire populations have been relegated to an inferior moral status to allow for the justification of human rights violations. Some of the most perplexing cases are those that have healthcare providers conducting inhumane care or research on their patients. How could a profession in which the core tenet is alleviating suffering be at the center of so many ethical violations? One reason is that there is often an inherent conflict between the two driving missions of healthcare - patient beneficence and scientific progress. The vast majority of bioethical breaches in scientific research have resulted from scientific progress taking precedence over patient beneficence – with mass atrocities being excused under the mask of utilitarianism.

The concept of moral superiority that lead to violations of human rights is not a thing of the past, although it may be more subtly expressed today. Most importantly, we need to start realizing that allowing the sort of poverty, violence, and illness happening in neighborhoods such as North Philadelphia is unethical. Poverty and violence happening in our cities are inherently unethical in that most of the city inhabitants accept this reality as that of a certain population. We are quick to disparage bystanders of the past without realizing that we are committing the same sin today of not defending our neighbors.

Cara Smith, MD/MAUB candidate, class of 2017

**CBUHP is moving!**

Soon the CBUHP will be moving into our new offices in a renovated suite in Kresge Hall. We’ll be sharing the space with the Department of Clinical Sciences and other like-minded centers and departments.
Goal: “To engage Philadelphia in a dialogue about young people being shuttled from school into the criminal justice system by supporting a two-year residency of actress and playwright Anna Deavere Smith.”

http://www.knightfoundation.org/grants/20122498/

“To create a conversation around important issues of youth in the criminal justice system, challenge funding will support the two-year residency of actress and playwright Anna Deavere Smith as she creates a new work. The piece, called “The Pipeline Project,” will address the problem of the increasing number of youngsters being shuttled from school into the criminal justice system. During her 2013-15 residency at the company, Smith, a MacArthur Award-winning playwright, actor and educator, will conduct in-depth interviews with advocates, teachers, parents and law enforcement officers involved in the school-to-prison pipeline in order to investigate how Philadelphia is faring in its most vulnerable communities. The project will have a staged reading to bring members of the community together to find new ways of mobilizing around the issue followed by a workshop and full production in the company’s 2014-15 season.”
Center for Bioethics, Urban Health and Policy Linkedin Group

If you are on Linkedin, please consider joining

![Center for Bioethics, Urban Health, and Policy Linkedin Group](image)

CBUHP Facebook page

If you are on Facebook, ‘like’ the CBUHP Facebook page to keep up with stories about health, health care, and health inequities in our city of brotherly love, as well as hear about public events of interest to our community.

[www.facebook.com/CBUHP](http://www.facebook.com/CBUHP)

Please like it and encourage your friends and TU colleagues to like it as well!

AND,

Even more importantly, post stories that you find that relate to the themes of bioethics, urban health and policy, broadly defined, and comment on stories that are posted. Our goal is to make this a vibrant active page with academic and community participation.

![CBUHP Facebook](image)
CBUHP in the News:
Winter 2014: **Nora Jones, PhD**, was interviewed for a story in ‘TEMPLE’ University Magazine. In a feature on Temple researchers and developments in stem cell therapy, Dr. Jones added historical context to the stem cell debate and discussed the social justice questions of community involvement in stem cell research.


January 2014: **Frank McClellan**, JD, and **Nora Jones, PhD**, were guests on the afternoon drive radio show, The Nick Tallaferro Show, on 900 AM the WURD. Frank and Nora talked with Nick and his callers about the Jahi McMath case, brain death, and care at the end of life.

Temple Firsts...

1901 – Dr. Conwell founds Temple University School of Medicine – the first co-educational medical college in Pennsylvania.

1906 – Temple Medical College is the first in Pennsylvania to award the MD degree to a woman.

1912 – Temple awards the first MD degree to an African American woman, Agnes Berry Montier. Dr. Montier practiced general medicine in Philadelphia until her death in 1961.

On January 18, 1892 a three-story house at 3403 North Broad Street was purchased and re-named Samaritan Hospital. Dr. Russell Conwell was appointed president of the 20-bed hospital, which was designed to provide free care for those unable to afford payment, regardless of race, nationality or creed.
The CBUHP is thrilled to be a co-sponsor of State Senator Vincent Hughes’ ‘Breaking the Silence on Mental Wellness’ conference, being held at TUSM on April 4 and 5. For more information, see http://www.senatorhughes.com/bts/

5/5/14 Spring Semester ENDS

5/19/14 Summer Semester BEGINS

The CBUHP is offering UBTH 5031: The Values, Ethics, and Economics of Health Care Delivery in Urban Communities (online) (2 credits)

This course focuses on the values, organization, funding, and logistics of community based health care delivery. Students will be introduced to the various agencies involved in urban health care delivery – FQHC, HRSA, NIH, and others. In addition, an introduction to grant writing in the area of urban bioethics and health delivery in urban communities will be provided.

To submit an event announcement or other contribution to upcoming CBUHP newsletters, please email:

CBUHP@temple.edu