

f o c u s

FALL 2006

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IMPROVISING ORDER OUT OF CHAOS

Washington and Lee University Comes to the Rescue of the Murphy Institute's Center for Ethics

EXPERTS ON NATURAL DISASTERS tell us that while catastrophic events such as hurricanes and earthquakes disrupt order, they at the same time provide wonderful opportunities to fulfill the human need to make ourselves useful by helping those whose lives have been turned upside down. This sounds like a

bromide until you suddenly find yourself to be a concrete example of what they have in mind.

During the fall of 2005, Hurricane Katrina turned every aspect of life in New Orleans upside down, flooding the city in the first weeks of September and forcing the evacuation of its almost one-and-a-half million residents. But unexpected help from others did permit some individuals and institutions to right themselves with remarkable speed. The Center for Ethics can count itself among this lucky group. What follows is the story of how Washington and Lee University helped the Center improvise order out of chaos.



Washington and Lee University

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Letter from the director



2005–2006 IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN an annual report on a year that began with the most costly natural disaster in the nation's history. Two weeks after Hurricane Katrina flooded New Orleans in late August of 2005 and forced the evacuation of almost all its residents, it appeared that most of the city would be lost and that the Center for Ethics would be among the casualties. As I am writing this, on a hot summer morning in early Summer of 2006, much of the city has recovered or is being rebuilt. The Center for Ethics is preparing to welcome its next round of Faculty and

Graduate Fellows. And I look back in amazement on a year during which—in a different and distant setting—the Center managed to accomplish all the work it had planned to take place in New Orleans before Katrina turned everything on its head.

The beginning of the story of how the Center found a temporary home at Washington and Lee University is told in vivid detail in the lead story of this volume of *Focus*. Some highlights of the rest of the story are worth underlining here:

- First and foremost would be the extraordinarily generous support for the Center's Faculty Fellows provided day-in and day-out by Greg Cooper, Program Director of Society and the Professions Program in Ethics at Washington and Lee University, and Adrienne Bodie, his administrative assistant. In September, their assistance began with making new housing arrangements, finding new office space, and providing visiting faculty status for the Center's four displaced Faculty Fellows. In the months that followed, they also helped to reschedule and host the entire slate of Faculty Seminar presentations (See p.12) originally scheduled for the Tulane campus.
- Six members of the Washington and Lee faculty also deserve special thanks: Melina Bell, Paul Gregory, James Mahon, and Lad Sessions (Philosophy); Robert Strong (Politics); and Ken White (Sociology). All were regular participants in—and in some cases contributors to—the Center's relocated Faculty Seminar series.
- Perhaps the most noteworthy of many noteworthy events that took place during the Center's extended stay at Washington and Lee took place over the course of two days—the late afternoon of April 28 and the morning of April 29, 2006—when the Center joined with the Society and the Professions Program in Ethics to host a two-day symposium on the question “Can the University Teach Ethics?” This symposium—originally scheduled to take place on the Tulane campus in November 2005—marked the formal end of the Center's year-long alliance with Washington and Lee. That its participants (See p.14) included the directors of some of the most distinguished ethics centers in North America provided eloquent final testimony to the importance of our unexpected alliance.

Continued on page 4 >>>

profiles of faculty fellows

Richard Dagger

THEY DON'T HAVE hurricanes in Arizona. So **RICHARD DAGGER** learned how to evacuate the hard way. He and his wife, Barbara, arrived in New Orleans for his Faculty Fellowship at the Center for Ethics two weeks before Katrina hit the city. After watching ominous news reports, the Daggers decided to evacuate at sunrise on Sunday, August 29, the day before the storm. Six hours later and unable to find a hotel room, they relied on the kindness of old friends in Memphis. "They put us up for three weeks," Dagger recalls. "We hadn't seen them in years and they were extremely good to us."

By September 19, the Daggers and two of the Center's Faculty Fellows had resettled at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. "It worked out just fine," he says. "Everyone at Washington and Lee was extremely accommodating."

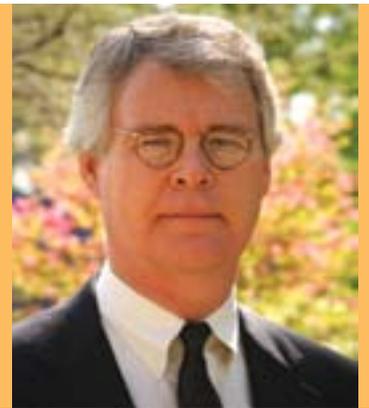
It was in this new venue that Dagger, Professor of Political Science at Arizona State University, resumed work on his new book, "Political Obligation and the Problems of Punishment." The book explores two different kinds of philosophical problems at once: the political obligation to obey laws and appropriate punishment for failing to obey laws.

Dagger's view is that moral obligation to obey the law is rooted in the notion of fair play. "If we can reasonably think of our legal system as a fair and cooperative activity, then those of us who receive its benefits have an obligation to do our share by bearing the burdens of the legal system by complying."

Dagger cites the example of traffic laws. Drivers may not like obeying speed limits, but they recognize such limits are necessary if people are to enjoy the benefits of driving. "If I want other people to obey the speed limit,

then I should obey the speed limit myself," he explains. "It's the idea of fair play. Others are making it possible through their cooperation for me to receive benefits. So I owe it to them to do the same."

"...we can reasonably think of our legal system as a fair and cooperative activity..."



Then comes the more difficult question: punishment. Conventional thinking says that if you harm others you ought to be punished. But Dagger has a more complicated take on the subject. "Some contemporary philosophers hold that when you punish people you are inflicting harm for harm, and two wrongs don't make a right," he notes.

So how do we justify punishment in our society? Dagger looks to the same principle of fair play. "People who break the law are not playing fair and threaten the whole legal system," he says. "In order to make the legal system secure and protect the rule of law, we need to punish the lawbreakers. Fair play justifies this."

FELLOWS 2002–2003

VISITING PROFESSORS

CHANDRAN KUKATHAS
University of Utah

DENIS C. MUELLER
University of Vienna

GRADUATE FELLOWS

MATHEW OBERRIEDER
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Philosophy)

MICHAEL REDMAN
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (History)

ELIZABETH UMPHRESS
A.B. Freeman School of Business

FELLOWS 2003–2004

FACULTY FELLOWS

ULRIKE HEUER
University of Leeds

GUIDO PINCIONE
Universidad Torcuato Di Tella

LEIF WENAR
University of Sheffield

FACULTY AFFILIATE

JENNIFER MERCHANT
Université de Paris II

GRADUATE FELLOWS

BENJAMIN CROWE
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Philosophy)

JULINNA OXLEY
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Philosophy)

KRISTEN SMITH-CROWE
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Psychology)

CHRISTY SUMICH
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (History)

FELLOWS 2004–2005

FACULTY FELLOWS

ERICA BENNER
Central European University

ERIC CAVELLERO
Southern Connecticut University

JULIAN LAMONT
University of Queensland

ROBERT TALISSE
Vanderbilt University

GRADUATE FELLOWS

HANS GRUENIG
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Philosophy)

WILLIAM GLOD
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Philosophy)

REBECCA LIVINGSTONE
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (History)

Letter from the Director (cont'd from page 2) >>>

Looking ahead to 2006–2007, the class of the Center's Faculty Fellows promises to be every bit as interesting as the displaced class of 2005–2006. Next year's fellows will be Jill Locke (Gustavus Adolphus College); David Weinstein (Wake Forest University); and Karl Widerquist (Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford). Their projects will include a study of the role shame plays in democratic life and the development of a theory of justice as voluntary agreement. The Center's year-long Faculty Seminar Series will also resume in full force in its usual location.

I'm also happy to report that, in fall 2006, three of the Center's former Graduate Fellows will have joined the ranks of the employed. Jonny Anomaly (2005–2006) will be Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy, Ithaca College; Jill Bradley (2005–2006) has a tenure-track appointment as Assistant Professor at Fresno State Business School; and Julinna Oxley (2004–2005) also has a tenure-track appointment as Assistant Professor at Carolina Coastal College.

It would be misleading to say that life inside the Center for Ethics has returned to normal. But I believe we are getting there.



Richard F. Teichgraeber III, Director

June 15, 2006

Alison Denham

BE GRATEFUL for scheduling conflicts. **ALISON DENHAM'S** flight from London to New Orleans was initially scheduled to arrive the day before Katrina struck. She found that she needed to stop over in Paris for an appointment, however, and changed her flight at the last moment.

That stopover turned out to be much longer than expected. Denham and her four-year-old son remained in Paris for several weeks while new arrangements to house the Center's Faculty Fellows at Washington and Lee were put in place.

"It was just brilliant," she says of the new arrangements. "Lexington, Virginia proved to be a very suitable place for me to pursue my research project and to work without disruption. It was also easy to manage day-to-day life here, and the facilities at Washington and Lee University are excellent. My little boy loved it there, too."



"The connection between psychopathic disorder and chronic criminality means that a tiny percentage of the general population is placing a huge burden on our public resources."

Denham, who holds a D.Phil. from Oxford University, has a philosophical interest in psychopathic personality disorder. While this disorder is estimated to affect only 1–2% of the male population in the United States, studies indicate that it may account for up to 80% of all violent, chronic offenders in the U.S. penal system. "The connection between psychopathic disorder and chronic criminality means that a tiny percentage of the general population is placing a huge burden on our public resources," Denham explains.

The personality profile of the psychopath raises some interesting questions for moral philosophy. Unlike psychotic or schizophrenic subjects, the psychopath doesn't suffer from disordered thoughts such as hallucinations and delusions. "He appears to be as in touch with the ordinary world as you or I. He also appears to understand the nature of morality—the difference between right and wrong—as well as anyone else," she explains. "Moral expectations just don't move him as they do ordinary people."

The traditional view is that the psychopath suffers from a purely emotional or motivational defect that interferes with his feelings and his ability to respond to other people's needs. Most researchers who endorse this view believe that psychopathy is caused by some specific, malfunctioning neurological mechanism that normally inhibits violence and promotes concern for others.

Continued on page 6 >>>

FELLOWS 2005–2006

FACULTY FELLOWS

RICHARD DAGGER
Arizona State University

ALISON DENHAM
St. Anne's College, Oxford University

ELAINE STERNBERG
University of Leeds

JONATHAN QUONG
University of Manchester

GRADUATE FELLOWS

JONNY ANOMALY
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Philosophy)

JILL BRADLEY
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Psychology)

SUZANNE CHAN-SERAFIN
A.B. Freeman School of Business

ANDREA HOUCARD
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Philosophy)

FELLOWS 2006–2007

FACULTY FELLOWS

JILL LOCKE
Gustavus Adolphus College

KARL WIDERQUIST
Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University

DAVID WEINSTEIN
Wake Forest University

GRADUATE FELLOWS

SHANE COURTLAND
School of Liberal Arts (Philosophy)

(SOPHY) QUIN WANG
School of Liberal Arts (Philosophy)

CATHERINE WILKINS
School of Liberal Arts (History)

>>> *Faculty Fellows (cont'd from page 5)*

Denham doesn't buy it.

"I'm working on an alternative hypothesis that looks at impairments in the psychopath's thoughts as well as his feelings, and which is more sensitive to the developmental history of psychopathy. My theory takes into account evidence we have about the formative years of children who subsequently develop psychopathic disorders."

Denham acknowledges that genetic factors can create the opportunity for psychopathy to appear in a subject's late teens or early adulthood. But she insists that genes alone do not make this development necessary. "The theory I'm exploring is that inherited psychopathic propensities are realized as psychopathic disorder only when a child has been subjected to excessive burdens of sorrow, distress, or anxiety in his very early years."

The stresses that children face in our society are increasing, according to Denham. Fatherlessness, Attention Deficit Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, inconsistent discipline, and maternal separation at a very early stage of development are all issues of concern. She believes that the growing number of fatherless homes and homes in which mothers must work through a child's infancy and pre-school years both may lead to an increase in the incidence of psychopathy.

Jonathan Quong

SHOULD GOVERNMENTS make laws intended to improve the lives of its citizens? Or is that just meddling? **JONATHAN QUONG** believes less is more when it comes to the law-making role of governments.

“The role of the state is not to improve people’s lives,” he argues. “Its role is to create a framework of fair rules to give individuals rights, powers, and resources, which they can use as they see fit.”

Quong, on leave from the University of Manchester during 2005–2006, is a theorist of political liberalism, a doctrine that holds that laws and policies should be enacted only when they can be the subject of reasonable agreement among all citizens. “Political liberalism treats each individual with a special kind of respect because it aims to justify the laws that bind us,” Quong explains.

Contrast that with liberal perfectionism, which creates laws and policies to improve the lives of its citizens with the goal of attaining a “good life.” Quong finds that approach paternalistic. “It’s treating citizens like children incapable of making decisions about leading their lives,” he argues.

As an example, Quong cites state funding of activities like the arts or opera. “I don’t think the state should be funding activities on the grounds that these activities are good for us,” he argues. “The state should leave us free to determine for ourselves what activities we believe are most valuable.”

The core idea of political liberalism is that, in a modern liberal democracy, reasonable people will disagree about many important things. Precisely because we disagree about such things and we want our laws to be justifiable, the political liberal also believes we must abstain from making laws based on controversial reasons. Instead, the political liberal tries to derive laws and policies from common ground.

Take, for example, laws regarding homosexuality and gay marriage. Political liberals argue against resolving such issues on religious grounds. “Since many reasonable citizens don’t accept religious arguments, the state should not rely on them when formulating its policies,” Quong says.

Quong expects his forthcoming book, “Liberalism, Legitimacy and Justice,” to be one of only a few to defend political liberalism with a critical view. “It’s valuable work because there are right and wrong answers about the legitimacy of states and legitimacy of policies that states pursue. If we can get clearer ideas on legitimacy, it’s a philosophical achievement.”



“Political liberalism treats each individual with a special kind of respect because it aims to justify the laws that bind us.”

Faculty Fellowships 2007–08

The Center for Ethics and Public Affairs at the Murphy Institute at Tulane University announces residential faculty fellowships for the 2007–2008 academic year. These fellowships, made possible by funds from the Tulane Murphy Foundation, are available to support outstanding faculty whose teaching and research focus on ethics, political philosophy, or questions of moral choice in areas such as, but not restricted to, architecture, business, government, law, medicine and environmental policy. While fellows will participate in conferences and seminars organized by the center, they will be expected to devote most of their time to conducting their own research. Stipends will vary in accordance with individual circumstance. Center faculty Fellowships are open to all, regardless of citizenship.

Further information about the fellowships and applications may be obtained online at www.murphy.tulane.edu/center or may be requested by contacting:

The Center for Ethics and Public Affairs
The Murphy Institute
Tulane University
New Orleans LA 70118
504.862.3236 tel
504.862.8360 fax
cepa@tulane.edu

Applications must be received
by December 1, 2006.

Elaine Sternberg

BEFORE HURRICANE KATRINA forced her to relocate to Washington and Lee, **ELAINE STERNBERG** had planned to use her time as a Faculty Fellow to study the relationship between social ontology and social responsibility. “Social ontology,” she explains, posits that political and social systems “have a reality that is separate from and not reducible to that of their members. It’s a doctrine usually associated—by both its advocates and its opponents—with views that are collectivist.” And “it implicitly underlies many conventional demands for ‘social responsibility.’”

Sternberg holds, however, that even if political and social systems have a reality of their own, that fact does not justify coercion of individual members of those systems. “Despite what is claimed by special interest groups, obligation to a system does not arise simply from physical presence within it.”

Katrina forced Sternberg to flee New Orleans, but she did not have to abandon her original project. In addition to housing the Center’s Faculty Fellows, Washington and Lee also hosted the Center’s Faculty Seminar. Sternberg found the seminar particularly valuable because many of the papers presented there “highlighted the extent to which social ontology implicitly underlies not just conventional demands for social responsibility, but also communitarian political philosophy.”





Sternberg is a philosopher with a richly varied academic and professional background. She is principal of a consulting firm that specializes in business ethics and corporate governance. She has been a Fulbright Fellow, an investment banker, a lecturer at the London School of Economics, and a Research Fellow in Philosophy at the University of Leeds.

Before August 29, 2005, however, she had no experience of hurricanes. In the wake of Katrina, she says she was “fortunate to be rescued by friends” and “awed by the kindness of strangers.” Traveling with just her laptop and the clothes she was wearing, she spent three weeks in Memphis, New York, and New Jersey, before Washington and Lee offered the Center’s Faculty Fellows refuge in Lexington, Virginia.

Sternberg’s earlier work on business ethics and corporate governance also found a new audience in the Society and the Professions Program in Ethics at Washington and Lee. She was the keynote speaker of the program’s annual Business Ethics Institute on November 5, 2005.

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Politics, Philosophy & Economics



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Editors: Donald F. Gaus, University of Arizona, USA
Jonathan Riley, Murphy Institute, Tulane University, New Orleans, USA

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“In just a few years *Politics, Philosophy and Economics* has become the first place to look for papers at the intersection of these three fields and the first place to think about when considering these fields together.”

Alan Ruzenberg, R. Taylor Cole Professor of Philosophy, Duke University

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profiles of graduate fellows



JONNY ANOMALY

JONNY ANOMALY wants to take the traditional theory of rationality one step further. In his view, theories of rational behavior that focus only on outcomes ignore the equally important issues of one's prior commitments and principles. According to the economic theory of rationality, for example, one votes in an election only to bring about a favorable outcome. Anomaly thinks there are more complicated concerns at work here.

"Voting in large elections can be called rational only if it involves principle-based reasoning," argues Anomaly. This is because the expected costs of voting are often significantly higher than the expected benefits. Yet some voters are "committed to a principle that tells us it's fair for us to vote regardless of whether we're going to cast the decisive vote."

Anomaly completed his doctoral dissertation, "An Internalist Theory of Practical Reasons," under the direction of Professor Gerald Gaus. This fall he will be Visiting Professor of Philosophy at Ithaca College.



JILL BRADLEY

During the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, images of stranded evacuees at the New Orleans Convention Center sparked a national debate about race and poverty. They also became a test case for **JILL BRADLEY** as she explored ways in which people unwittingly express prejudices as they try to appear unprejudiced.

Bradley, who evacuated to Iowa during the fall semester of 2005, says her real-life experiences corroborated her research. Hundreds of miles away from New Orleans, people in Iowa asked Bradley why those at the New Orleans Convention Center didn't leave the city earlier. "They didn't understand the lack of resources," says Bradley. "My hypothesis is that most Americans no longer feel comfortable placing blame on race because they fear being labeled as racist. But they do feel comfortable finding fault with those on the bottom of the socio-economic ladder. The American Dream says you just need to work hard and there will be equal opportunity for all."

In her doctoral dissertation, "Rejection and Deflection: The Case of the 'Poor White Trash Stereotype,'" Bradley argues that stereotypes about African Americans mirror stereotypes about people who are poor. And because African Americans are more likely than white Americans to be poor, they are often in a position of double jeopardy.

Bradley returned to New Orleans in January 2006 to complete her dissertation under the direction of Professor Ronald Landis of the Department of Psychology. This fall she begins a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor at Fresno State Business School.



SUZANNE CHAN-SERAFIN

At what point does lying escalate into an organizational culture of fraud? According to **SUZANNE CHAN-SERAFIN**, there has been little serious research on this question. In her doctoral dissertation, “Weaving a Tangled Web of Lies for Your Organization: What Has Guilt and a Humanized Organization Got To Do With It?” Chan-Serafin examines the question of how lying operates over time in hopes of offering guidance on ways to inhibit fraudulent behavior in organizations.

Chan-Serafin first became interested in organizational ethics while working as an accountant after earning her B.A. from Smith College. Her thesis is: “Once some individuals tell their first lie, they will continue to lie to cover up that initial lie. Lying then passes on to a tipping point where it spreads and becomes routine throughout the organization.”

While there has been much research on ways to detect liars, Chan-Serafin believes that her work will fill a need for research on how the process of lying spreads within organizations. “To understand the process will allow us to think of ways to inhibit lying,” she says.



ANDREA HOUCARD

ANDREA HOUCARD’S dissertation gets at the heart of modern political debate. Are there really such things as universal or “natural” human rights? After all, what benefit is a “natural” right if it is not recognized in practice?

“Rights allow us to lead our lives as we choose,” says Houchard. “The right to religious freedom, for example, allows us to worship, or not to worship, as we like. The right to free speech also protects individual inquiry and artistic freedom. The catch is that part of what it is to have a right is an ability to exercise the right. So if society does not safeguard our rights, there are none. Rights are not natural. Rights are political.”

Houchard’s dissertation, “The Social Recognition of Rights: Social Conditions and the Foundations of Liberty,” examines the work of John Stuart Mill, T.H. Green, and John Rawls. She is completing it under the direction of Professor Gerald Gaus.



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lectures

NOVEMBER 5, 2005

BUSINESS ETHICS INSTITUTE KEYNOTE LECTURE

Realist Business Ethics

Washington and Lee University

ELAINE STERNBERG, University of Leeds
and Center Faculty Fellow

*Co-sponsored with the Society and the Professions
Program in Ethics, Washington and Lee University*



JAMES MAHON

seminars

washington and lee university

OCTOBER 24, 2005

RICHARD DAGGER, Arizona State
University and Center Faculty Fellow
***Neorepublicanism and the Civic
Economy***

NOVEMBER 4, 2005

JONATHAN QUONG, University of
Manchester and Center Faculty Fellow
***Contractarianism, Reciprocity, and
Egalitarian Justice***

NOVEMBER 28, 2005

ERIC MACK, ***Hayek on Justice and the
Order of Actions***

DECEMBER 2, 2005

LAD SESSIONS, Washington and Lee
University
The Concept of Personal Honor



ELAINE STERNBERG & LAD SESSIONS

JANUARY 13, 2006

JAMES MAHON, Washington and Lee University
Kant on Reticence and Deception

JANUARY 27, 2006

GEORGE KLOSKO, University of Virginia
Fairness Obligations and Moral Principles

FEBRUARY 24, 2006

FRED MILLER, Bowling Green State University
Aristotelian Statecraft and Modern Politics

MARCH 3, 2006

ALISON DENHAM, Oxford University and Center
Faculty Fellow
Psychopathy, Empathy, and Emotion

MARCH 9, 2006

SAMUEL FREEMAN, University of
Pennsylvania:
The Burdens of Public Justification

APRIL 21, 2006

PAUL HARRIS, Harvard University
*Truth in Testimony: How Children Learn
About Science and Religion*



ERIC MACK

workshops

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(left to right) DENNIS THOMPSON, EZEKIEL EMANUEL, GREG COOPER, MELISSA WILLIAMS, STEPHEN MACEDO, AND RICK TEICHGRAEBER

SYMPOSIUM

>>>2006

APRIL 28-29, 2006

CAN THE UNIVERSITY TEACH ETHICS? A SYMPOSIUM

Washington and Lee University

Keynote Speaker:

DENNIS THOMPSON, Director, Safra Foundation Center for Ethics, Harvard University and Alfred North Whitehead Professor of Political Philosophy, Harvard University

Commentators:

GREGORY COOPER, Director, Society and the Professions Program in Ethics and Associate Professor of Philosophy, Washington and Lee University

EZEKIEL EMANUEL, Chair, Department of Clinical Bioethics, National Institutes of Health

STEPHEN MACEDO, Director, University Center for Human Values and Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics, Princeton University

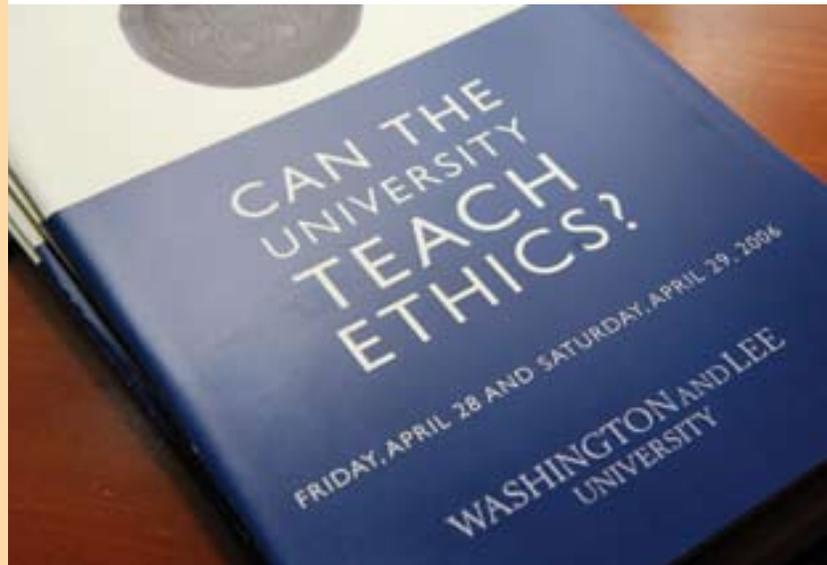
MELISSA WILLIAMS, Director, Centre for Ethics and Professor of Political Science, Toronto University

Co-sponsored with the Society and the Professions Program in Ethics, Washington and Lee University

CAN THE UNIVERSITY TEACH ETHICS?

SEVERAL DIRECTORS of distinguished ethics centers as well as scholars from a variety of academic disciplines and professions gathered on the campus of Washington and Lee University on April 28–29, 2006 for a symposium on “Can the University Teach Ethics?” On April 28, Dennis F. Thompson, Director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University, provided a public lecture that served as the focal point of discussion. The symposium proper took place Saturday morning, April 29, beginning with formal comments by Greg Cooper, Ezekiel Emanuel, Stephen Macedo, and Melissa Williams. Commentators were asked to select particular cases or issues from their own field of competence that could assist in exploring differences and identifying common ground among various viewpoints.

Originally planned for mid-November 2005, as a program in the Tulane University Presidential Symposium series, the “Can the University Teach Ethics?” symposium was cancelled in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina but then reconvened with considerable assistance from the Society and the Professions Program at Washington and Lee. Among the questions discussed were: Is “teaching ethics” an ideal the university somehow could more consciously pursue? Is it perhaps a task it should make a central preoccupation? What kind of moral instruction should the university pursue? Is the main object character-building, improved moral reasoning, engaged citizenship, civility, leadership, or respect for diversity?



DENNIS THOMPSON



>>> *Order Out of Chas (cont'd from page 1)*

FROM THE BIG EASY TO THE BLUE RIDGE

Last year freshman move-in day at Tulane University saw both the arrival and the departure of the first year students. Unpacking was interrupted by an evacuation order from the President of the university.

Hurricane Katrina left thousands of students from Gulf Coast colleges without a place to spend fall semester, and there has been much publicity on the efforts to accommodate them made by colleges across the country. Less attention has been paid to a group at least as affected by the disaster—the faculty.

In the days following Hurricane Katrina, Washington and Lee welcomed more than twenty students from affected colleges. It also welcomed the Center for Ethics and Public Affairs, a program of Tulane University's Murphy Institute.

Headed by Director Rick Teichgraeber, the Murphy Institute encompasses both an undergraduate program in political economy and a university-wide Center for Ethics and Public Affairs. A key component of the Center's work supporting research and teaching on ethics is funding an annual, competitive program of

visiting Faculty Fellows that adds to the teaching and scholarship on campus.

Four Fellows were chosen to spend the 2005–2006 academic year at Tulane in New Orleans. They instead spent it at Washington and Lee.

ESCAPING LIMBO

When the order to evacuate New Orleans came, some of the visiting Fellows had already arrived in the city and had begun to settle in. Others were en route. All four, three of whom are from the U.K., were officially on leave from their own institutions. All were obviously, suddenly, unable to spend their year as planned. They were, as says Jonathan Quong, visiting Fellow from the University of Manchester, “in limbo.”

The situation was resolved through a number of happy coincidences and a great deal of hard work. Teichgraeber's daughter, Erin, was about to begin her senior year at W&L when Katrina hit. The family's trip from their evacuation point in Houston to Lexington for the start of fall semester afforded Teichgraeber the chance to reconnect with a former colleague.

W&L Professor of Politics Bob Strong taught at Tulane and participated in Murphy Institute programs in the 1980's when the Institute was just taking off. He and Teichgraeber have kept in touch since then—the last few years meeting up over Parent's Weekend—and began exchanging emails in the wake of the hurricane. When Strong learned about Teichgraeber's need to settle the visiting Fellows and the Center programming in a new location, he immediately put him in touch with Greg Cooper, the director of W&L's Society and the Professions Program, as well as W&L University Provost Tom Williams.

Teichgraeber's primary concern was helping the Fellows get settled. Given all the hurdles Tulane will face in rebuilding its structures and enrollment, he noted it was important to him to keep the faculty side of the University visible. The Center was just entering its fourth year, he said, and “I didn't want it to just fall off the planet.”

He need not have worried.

When Williams received the call from Strong, he said, “it was very obvious what we should do.” The university offered to accommodate all four visiting Fellows and find office space on campus so that the program could continue basically as planned.

Williams is modest about the amount of effort these accommodations required. He stated that from the moment of making the offer, it was “breathtakingly easy.” He recounted, “I would start to say, ‘would you help,’ and before I could get that out people would say ‘yes.’”

That’s not to say there wasn’t plenty of extra—and often creative—legwork involved. Cooper recalled the first event he planned to officially welcome the Fellows. “We wanted to schedule a reception early on to introduce the Murphy Fellows to the W&L community. Morris House was secured at the last minute as a venue for the event. Predictably, however, there was no catering available. A trip by me to Kroger, together with the generous help of the Center Fellows and spouses—uncorking the wine and turning the produce into fruit and cheese plates—and we were in business. Guests of honor helping to cater their own event—just one example of the kind of ‘outside the box’ creativity that has been required to pull this off.”

Through more creative thinking, the building that formerly housed the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, which has been empty for over a year, was converted into office space. While some features in the space are not standard for academic offices—bunk beds for example—the rooms are bright and spacious and enjoy sweeping views of the front campus and historic colonnade.

Moving the program involved much more than creating invitations and space for the visiting Fellows. An important element of the Center’s program is a major seminar series which includes both internal and outside speakers. Amazingly, most of the speakers who were committed to give talks at Tulane adjusted their plans and instead presented at W&L.

Cooper called the influx of scholarship a

“tremendous boon” for the University and for this program in particular. “Society and the Professions focuses especially on the public policy side of the various areas of applied and professional ethics that it covers” he explained. “Tulane’s Murphy Institute, and in particular its Center for Ethics and Public Affairs, is very much cut from the same cloth. The Center has brought that particular brand of expertise in practical ethics to the W&L campus.”

The visiting Fellows also gave talks that enriched related interdepartmental coursework, and both Cooper and Teichgraeber speak optimistically about future collaborations, including exchange arrangements that may be possible once the Center has returned to New Orleans.

Continued on page 19 >>>

**BETA THETA PI HOUSE,
WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY**



FACULTY HONORS, ACTIVITIES, AND PUBLICATIONS



GRAHAM OWEN, Associate Professor of Architecture, ran the Tulane School of Architecture's displaced Master's Thesis program at Arizona State University in the Fall of 2005, co-coordinating the work of 64 Tulane students at 23 different schools of architecture across the country.

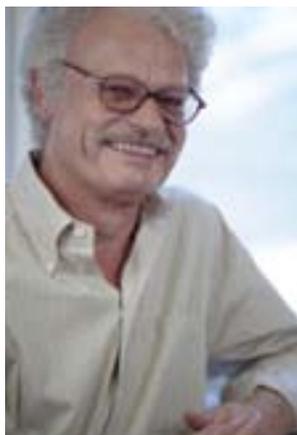
- < JONATHAN RILEY, Professor of Philosophy gave a keynote lecture on "Justice as Higher Pleasure" at the John Stuart Mill Bicentennial Conference, held at University College, London on April 5, 2006.



With Sean Esbjorn-Hargens, MICHAEL ZIMMERMAN, Professor of Philosophy, completed a new book on **Integral Ecology** (forthcoming from Integral Books) which offers a multidisciplinary, integrative approach to characterizing and solving environmental problems.

- < GERALD GAUS, Professor of Philosophy, spent the academic year as a Visiting Professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. His new book, **On Philosophy and Economics**, is forthcoming from Wadsworth Publishers.

ERIC MACK, Professor of Philosophy, completed a book-length manuscript on "Moral Individualism" which served as the subject of a workshop at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, on May 5-6, 2006 (see p.13).



2003-2004 Faculty Fellow GUIDO PINCIONE, Professor of Philosophy and Law, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, is co-author (with Fernando R. Tesón) of **Rational Choice and Democratic Deliberation** (University of Cambridge Press, 2006).

- < MARTYN THOMPSON, Associate Professor of Political Science, is President of the Michael Oakeshott Association.



“Like the hurricane itself, this opportunity came out of nowhere.”

Greg Cooper

>>> Improvising Order Out of Chaos (cont'd from page 17)

“SO MUCH THANKING GOING AROUND...”

Saying, “I owe W&L a tremendous debt of gratitude,” Teichgraeber emphasized how thankful he is to Williams, Cooper, and Strong for their work accommodating the program. Cooper, Strong, Williams, and other members of the campus community benefiting from the surplus of scholarship were equally thankful for the program’s presence and all the opportunities it afforded the university. Teichgraeber laughingly noted, “there was so much thanking going around! At a certain point we had to say ‘we’ve just got to stop this.’”

As for the Fellows who found themselves in an environment so vastly different from the one they had expected, they too were exceedingly gracious, and grateful.

Richard Dagger, a visiting Fellow from Arizona State University, described waking up at dawn on August 28 to leave New Orleans before the hurricane hit, thinking he would be returning in two or three days. But it quickly became clear this was not going to happen. With his fellowship in doubt and his home in Arizona rented for the year, Dagger feared his whole sabbatical leave would be lost. But then came the offer from W&L. He settled into a routine and reported that his scholarship came along “pretty much as I had hoped,” adding, “I was very happy to be there.”

Quong, the Fellow from Manchester, praised both Cooper and Teichgraeber for all their work in making the Center operational and said he enjoyed Lexington. Beta House was “a great place to get work done,” he noted, adding that Lexington did not have “quite so many distractions as we would have had in New Orleans!”

Elaine Sternberg, a Research Fellow in Philosophy at the University of Leeds who left London for New Orleans in the midst of last summer’s bombings, echoed those sentiments, praising the community for the warm welcome she and the others received.

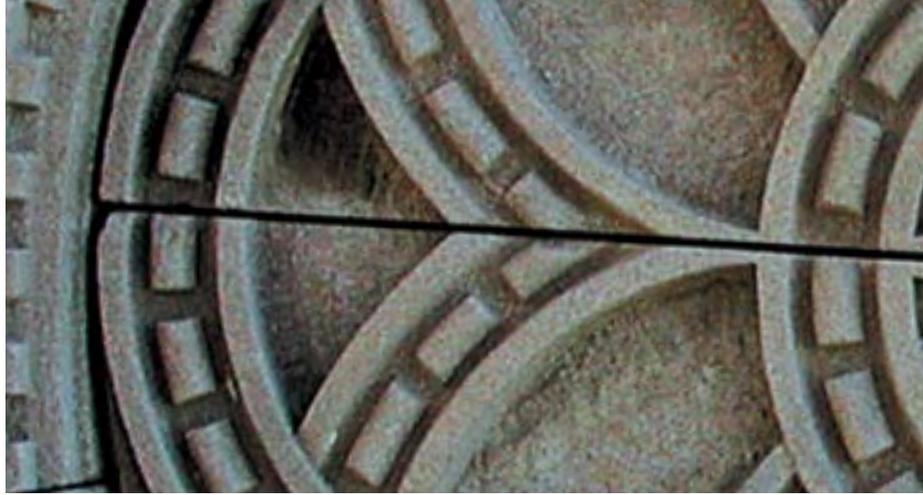
There were, of course, difficulties arising from the abrupt change of plans. Sternberg had not, for example, anticipated needing a car, and she had been looking forward to a warm winter in Louisiana. It was a challenge for all to find housing, and there was a noticeable dearth of Mexican food.

But there were plenty of pleasant surprises as well. Dagger enjoyed the foliage and the mountains, and Sternberg noted that there was “much more going on than I ever expected there to be in a place of this size.” She also remarked on the “very high degree of civility” that she experienced both on campus and in town.

SPARKS FROM DISASTER

Cooper aptly summarized the positive sparks from a monumental disaster. “Like the hurricane itself, this opportunity came out of nowhere. It is hard to imagine a place with more creative energy than New Orleans. Though scattered by Katrina, that irrepressible force has doubtless reappeared in many places. Washington and Lee had the good fortune of being one such place.” ■

An earlier version of this story, written by Jane Stewart, appeared on the Washington and Lee University News website on November 17, 2006.



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