

# EHPP Newsletter

News from the Ethics, History and Public Policy Major, Spring 2010



## **Message from Jay Aronson, EHPP Academic Advisor**

Hello and welcome to the Spring edition of the EHPP newsletter. As I promised in the Fall newsletter, this edition profiles a few Carnegie Mellon alumni who have majored in EHPP over the past decade. These interviews, which were conducted by current EHPP students, demonstrate the high quality of EHPP students and explain how the skills developed in the program are directly applicable in the real world. In future issues, we intend to continue this feature, which I hope will both give current students a sense of the value of the EHPP degree and also keep the alumni community connected to the program.

On this note, we are actively seeking to build a database of alumni who are interested in receiving updates from the EHPP program and also providing mentorship and other forms of support to current students. By the beginning of the 2010-2011 academic year, I hope to have a system in place to make it easy for anyone to donate money to support EHPP students who wish to pursue unpaid or not-very-well paid public policy internships, conduct independent and original research, and study abroad. I will include this information in the Fall 2010 newsletter.

For current students, I wanted to point your attention to the advertisement for the Ethics, History, and Public Policy Case Competition, which will focus on the legitimacy, legality, morality, and efficacy of special courts for individuals charged with drug-related crimes. *Continued on page 2.*

## CALENDAR

### **March 25-April 24**

Carnegie Mellon International Film Festival, "Faces of Globalization"

### **Wed., March 31, 11:30-2:30**

René Descartes's birthday celebration, *free cupcakes baked by EHPP SAC in front of Doberty*

### **Monday, April 5 at 4:45pm**

Career Center EHPP Seminar with Debra Ignelzi. *PH A19C*

### **March 31-April 12,**

EHPP Public Policy Case Competition

### **Friday, April 2 at 4:30pm**

Tour of Phipps Conservatory

### **Monday, April 5 at 4:30pm**

**Roberto Lenton**, Chair, The Inspection Panel, The World Bank, *McConomy Auditorium.*

### **Friday, April 16 at 4pm**

EHPP Alumni Panel, *BH 150*

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For more EHPP events, please see the website:

<http://www.hss.cmu.edu/philosophy/undergraduate-ethics.php>



**MESSAGE FROM JAY ARONSON, CONTINUED**

This is the third annual case competition, which was previously known as the “History and Policy Case Competition.” It was created in 2008 by a History and Policy student named Alex DiLeonardo, whose parents have generously agreed to fund this year’s competition in the hopes that it will become a permanent event at Carnegie Mellon. I urge you to participate in this event, not only because it is a fun and rewarding experience, but also because you will be awarded 3 units upon successfully completing all requirements of the competition.

With that introduction, I have decided to devote the remainder of my space in this issue to highlighting a few courses offered by the History and Philosophy Departments that may be of interest to you (including a course that I am offering here for the first time). The courses happen to be more heavily weighted in the History Department this semester, but as you know that isn’t always the case. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or the professor who is teaching the class you want to know more about.

**COURSES OF INTEREST, FALL 2010**

- 79-280 Experiencing Globalization (Roger Rouse)
- 79-289 Energy, Environment, Globalization in the Americas (John Soluri)
- 79-296 Perspectives on Social Protest (Karen Faulk)
- 79-306 Delinquency, Crime and Juvenile Justice, 1967 to the Present (Steve Schlossman)
- 79-318 The Global Civil Rights Movement (Nico Slate)
- 79-331 Body Politics: Women and Health in America (Lisa Tetrault)
- 79-334 Law, Ethics, and the Life Sciences (Jay Aronson)
- 79-338 Education and Social Reform (Steve Schlossman)
- 79-343 History of American Urban Life (Jared Day)
- 79-344 American Consumer Culture (Michelle Mock)
- 79-362 Law and Disorder in Early Modern Europe, 1400-1800 (Allyson Creasman)
- 79-386 Entrepreneurs in Africa, Past, Present and Future (Edda Fields-Black)
- 80-348 Health Development and Human Rights (Nicole Hassoun)

**Drug Courts: Theme of the Third Annual EHPP Case Competition**

Is incarceration the best alternative for a person who has been convicted of an offense involving drug possession? Or is treatment a better choice? Drug courts triage convicted offenders to drug treatment rather than jail or prison—yet treatment is not necessarily the best alternative for all drug offenders. How should we decide how offenders—and society—are best served by our court system?

Drug courts are the theme for the Third Annual Ethics, History, and Public Policy Case Competition. In this competition teams of students develop written analyses

of an important public policy problem. They then present their findings and engage in debate. The winning team wins a cash prize. All students on teams that submit an entry the judges deem acceptable earn three units of academic credit. The judges for this year’s competition will be recent History and Policy graduates Alexander DiLeonardo and Ross MacConnell and Caroline Acker, Associate Professor of History.

The competition begins with a kickoff event at 4:30 on Wednesday, March 31, in Room 4307 in the Gates Center. Teams of participants will be given a scenario involving a problem related to drug courts, along with full guidelines for the competition. Students can enter by emailing Caroline Acker at [acker@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:acker@andrew.cmu.edu) expressing their interest. Students can enter as teams of three or as individuals; those entering as individuals will be formed into teams. Questions can also be addressed to Acker.

**DRUG COURTS**  
**ETHICS, HISTORY, AND PUBLIC POLICY CASE COMPETITION**

Does treatment work better than prison for drug offenders?  
 Should certain kinds of users or certain kinds of crime  
 qualify offenders for treatment rather than prison?  
 Complete in the Third Annual Ethics, History, and  
 Public Policy Case Competition and develop your own  
 answers to these questions.

Come to our kickoff event  
**Wednesday, March 31**  
 at **4:30 PM** in **GHC 4307**.

Students submitting entries that the judges deem  
 acceptable will earn **3 units**

Register by Tuesday, March 30th, at 5:00 PM  
 (Pittsburgh time) by emailing [acker@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:acker@andrew.cmu.edu).  
 You may register individually to be placed on a team or as a  
 group of 3. Email [acker@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:acker@andrew.cmu.edu) with questions.

**PRISON OR TREATMENT?**

SPONSORED BY THE CENTER FOR HISTORY AND POLICY

Carnegie Mellon.



## EHPP ALUMNI PROFILES

ANDREW PETERS, '09

**What made you decide to be an EHPP major?** I actually knew I wanted to be in the EHPP major before I came to school. I knew that I wanted to major in public policy coming out of high school, but I'm not sure I knew what that meant at the time. When I visited CMU as a high school junior or senior, I saw that the university offered a policy major that combined history, which I enjoyed studying, with ethics and moral philosophy, which I knew practically nothing about. So I took some courses in applied ethics in freshman year to sort of test-drive the major and I loved it. I declared before my freshman year was out.

**What advice do you have for current EHPP majors?** I know I sometimes wondered whether EHPP would be enough, or whether I needed another major to make myself, I don't know, marketable? I think my advice is that if you love the courses, don't wonder whether you should be doing something more technical, unless you enjoy that sort of thing. Not only does the EHPP major have some of the most fascinating coursework, it also teaches you how to research, think, write, and craft an argument, which are skills that come in handy no matter what you do. Also, for EHPP majors I think it's important to remember that good things come to those who ask. When you have a major that is only offered in one place and often not easy to describe, sometimes you have invent opportunities for yourself. A couple of the jobs I had in college were actually created for me, not necessarily because I was the most qualified, but because I was there and I asked for them. And if I had not held those jobs, I wouldn't have the one I have now.

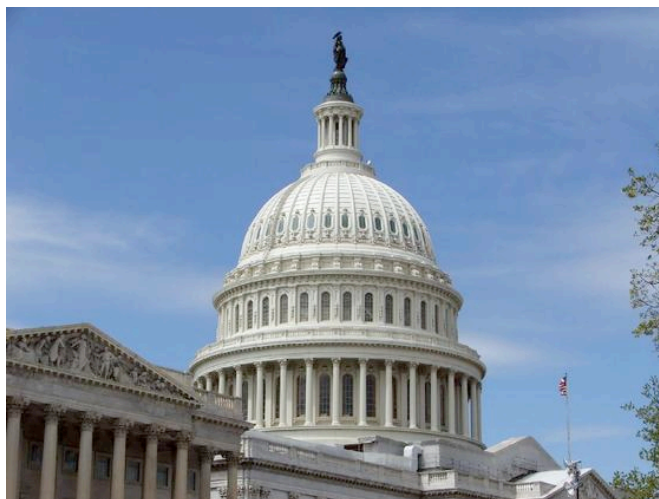
**Did you have any great internship experiences?** I interned for Sen. Kerry's press office in D.C., and a year later, I got an internship in Pittsburgh at the Heinz Endowments. At Kerry's office, I had sort of the standard Hill intern experience, which some people think is boring, but I thought was great. I got a better understanding of politics and policy, and how people actually communicate with each other and with the public. At Heinz, I got a great feel for the nonprofit world, which I am still a big part of. I think I started being a little more strategic in choosing courses after my internships – I had a better

idea of what I wanted to study, and what I could potentially do as a career.

**Do you have favorite classes or teachers at CMU?**

**Why did you like them so much?** I gladly risk sounding like a brown-noser to say my favorite professor in the EHPP major was Alex London. His classes on global justice and human rights were the most engaging, policy-relevant, and challenging that I took. On the first paper I turned in to Prof. London, I got the worst grade I had ever received in 14 years of schooling. But after that, he helped me think about how to write a convincing argument methodically and concisely. Learning how to do that, combined with my work at The Tartan and internships, was really how my current career began to take shape.

**How did being an EHPP major prepare you for the job you are doing now?** In my job, I don't ever recite arguments from moral philosophy or analyze historic texts, but I do have to research, write, participate in discussions, articulate my views – these are all things that I know how to do because of EHPP courses. Another big and sort of intangible thing was that EHPP forced me to be a self-starter: having to craft my own academic track, decide what I would concentrate on, choose my own research projects – these things helped me be an independent decision maker, which is a large part of my current job.







## **EHPP ALUMNI PROFILES**

EMILY EVANS, '05

**What made you decide to be an EHPP major?** Originally, I planned on majoring in economics. But after taking Principles of Econ with Professor Klepper - a class I very much enjoyed and did well in - I was worried that I wouldn't have sufficient opportunities to use and continue to develop my writing skills as an Economics major. The EHPP major allowed me to develop and maintain a wider variety of skill sets.

**What advice do you have for current EHPP majors?** Take advantage of the opportunity the major allows you to develop a broad and unique set of skills and tools, but try to find an area of particular interest to you so that you can have a context for integrating and applying these skills. (I minored in Health Care Policy and Management.)

**Did you do research at CMU? Did you study abroad? Have any great internship experiences?** Beginning my junior year and continuing through graduation, I did an independent study with Professor Alex London that focused on key issues in research ethics, and we published a paper in the Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics based on this work. Professor London also supervised my Honors Thesis which looked at the issue of personal responsibility for health and health care from the perspective of egalitarian moral theories. During my senior year, I worked with Professor Richard Scheines on an Institute of Medicine project (Food Marketing and the Diets of Children and Youth), which focused on issues of causal inference at the policy level. Professor Scheines arranged for another grad student and me to attend the committee's meeting in Woods Hole, MA, which was a very eye-opening experience and cemented my desire to work on public policy challenges. My experiences represented what I loved most about CMU - the opportunity to develop and integrate diverse skill sets to produce ethically and empirically sound responses to public policy issues. These were also unique opportunities - none of my grad school classmates had these experiences.

**What made you decide to pursue law school after CMU? Did you take a year off or go immediately?**

After graduating from CMU, I [immediately] entered the PhD program in philosophy at Georgetown University with the intention of pursuing an MPH. It was difficult to find a program outside of CMU that matched my interests in both conceptual and quantitative issues in public policy, so I ended up crafting my own. I took a year off after I finished my course work there to earn my MPH from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg school of Public Health. I'm currently in the dissertation stage of my program at Georgetown, and my research focuses on epistemic and ethical issues in environmental health research and policy. I also currently work as a research assistant for two projects at Hopkins that focus on methodological issues in clinical and public health research.





## **EHPP ALUMNI PROFILES**

ALAN EATON, EHPP '08, HEINZ ACCELERATED MASTERS IN PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT, '09

**What made you decide to be an EHPP major?** I was originally a Civil Engineering major. However, I liked the flexibility of EHPP and how all the classes you take in the EHPP major come together. I also really liked having the ability to take a wide variety of classes.

**How has EHPP led you to your current job?** Through the EHPP department, I learned about the Friedman Summer Internship Program, which is a program open to CMU undergraduate and graduate students from any college or school who want to spend the summer gaining firsthand policy experience in Washington, D.C. EHPP students are urged to take the initiative to go out and search for grants, scholarships, programs. My experience as an EHPP major led me to work on Capitol Hill and understand how closely intertwined history, policy and philosophy really are.

**What do you recommend to EHPP undergraduate students, particularly those who are getting ready to graduate?** Network, and definitely don't be afraid to reach out to Carnegie Mellon alumni. Everyone has been there and knows what you are going through. Finding jobs in the real world really depends on random tangential connections.

**Did you do research at CMU or study abroad?** I studied abroad in Australia on our campus there. I also participated in a SURG grant on finding sustainable foods in local Pittsburgh areas and integrating them into our dining services on campus.

**What was your biggest regret at CMU?** That I didn't switch to become an EHPP major sooner!



**ANDREW CARNEGIE SOCIETY**  
— Carnegie Mellon —

## **2 EHPP Majors Announced 2009-2010 H&SS Andrew Carnegie Society Scholars!**

Please join us in congratulating **Francesco Coco** and **Tokiea Fitzgerald**—both Ethics, History and Public Policy majors—for being named this year's H&SS Andrew Carnegie Society Scholars.

Andrew Carnegie Society's Scholars program was established in 1975 to recognize top students for accomplishments during their undergraduate years. Selected by their deans and department heads, these undergraduate seniors embody high standards of academic excellence combined with multi-dimensional characteristics such as volunteerism, involvement in student organizations, participation in sports or the arts and leadership. Each ACS Scholar is given a \$1,500 award to support their academic and personal growth. Because the ACS Scholars will become the leaders of tomorrow, the Society's goal is to empower them now by providing the opportunity to experience the joy of giving back to Carnegie Mellon. Since its inception in 1975, the program has recognized more than 726 undergraduate seniors. Congratulations again, Tokiea and Francesco!



### SURG

SURGs (Small Undergraduate Research Grants) are grants of upto \$500 for individuals and \$1000 to groups to explore ideas within a structure. Research in the humanities allows you a structured way to explore something about your discipline you would like to know more about with an advisor.

Past projects have included research into YouTube as a forum for literature-read-aloud for students with disabilities, a presentation about “green grandma’s” in Taiwan and a study of historical threats to the bill of rights. If you have an idea, but you

are not sure what to do with it, Stephanie Wallach would be delighted to jam with you about it. SURGs can cover printing costs, room-rental fees, cost of DVDs and more.

The application for students in the humanities requires:

- 1) an abstract,
- 2) a project narrative (the story of how you will get from idea to goal in a semester),
- 3) a description of your planned research process,
- 4) your biography,
- 5) planned outcomes of the project (what you hope to achieve)

- 6) supporting materials,
- 7) your proposed budget, and finally,
- 8) a letter of support from your proposed research advisor.

For more information undergraduate research, please check out:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/uro>  
 Or contact Stephanie Wallach at  
 phone: (412) 268-5702  
 email: [sw4s@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:sw4s@andrew.cmu.edu)

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### THE CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Career and Professional Development Center is in the basement of the University Center. For more info, check out:  
<http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/Career/>  
 phone: 412-268-2064  
 email: [career@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:career@andrew.cmu.edu)

If you are looking for an internship or a job, the Career and Professional Development Center is a great first stop. EHPP’s advisor is Ms **Debra Ignelzi**. For ideas about internship opportunities, check out the EHPP summer internship profiles on page 3. Contact the career center for an appointment so you can help you research internship tips, contact alumnae/i, or make a career plan.

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### Study Abroad Opportunities

Whether at CMU’s Qatar campus in Doha, at the Sorbonne in Paris or at University of Haifa in Israel, study abroad allows you to test your preconceptions and dig into your studies within an alternate culture. You can study abroad for a year, a semester, a summer or a week. **Chris Menand** can help you plan--start early!

If you are interested in studying for a semester at CMU’s Qatar campus, CMU sponsors IMPAQT, a group of student ambassadors who travel to CMU-Qatar over a spring break.

For more information on study abroad opportunities at CMU, please check out:  
 Or contact study abroad at  
 phone: (412) 268-5231  
 email: [goabroad@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:goabroad@andrew.cmu.edu)  
 If you are interested in applying to be in IMPAQT, please contact Student Activities:  
 phone: (412)-268-8704



REQUIRED COURSES (123 units)

Economics (1 of the following)  
 -73-100 Principles of Economics  
 -88-220 Policy Analysis I

History Core (39 units)  
 1) *Policy History* (9 units)  
 -79-300 History of Public Policy in the United States

2) *US History* (9 units – 1 of the following)  
 -79-240 Development of American Culture  
 -79-249 20th Century U.S.

3) *Non-U.S. History* (9 units – 1 of the following)  
 -79-207 Development of European Culture  
 -79-220 Development of Caribbean Culture  
 -79-222 Between Revolutions: The Development of Modern Latin America  
 -79-226 Introduction to African History I: From the Earliest Times to the Origins of the Slave Trade  
 -79-227 Introduction to African History II: 18th Century to Neo-Colonialism  
 -79-234 Religion and Politics in the Middle East  
 -79-261 Chinese Culture and Society  
 -79-265 Russian History: From the First to the Last Tsar  
 -79-266 Russian History: From Communism to Capitalism

4) *Historical Methods and Approaches* (12 units)  
 -79-360 Historical Evidence and Interpretation

For a list of Electives (3 courses – 27 units), please check out EHPP's website:

<http://www.hss.cmu.edu/philosophy/undergraduate-ethics.php>

Philosophy Core (36- units – no more than 18 units on the 100 level)

1) *Ethics* (9 units – 1 of the following)  
 -80-130 Introduction to Ethics  
 -80-230 Ethical Theory  
 2) *Political Philosophy* (9 units – 1 of the following)  
 -80-135 Introduction to Political Philosophy  
 -80-235 Political Philosophy  
 -80-336 Philosophy of Law

3) *Foundations of Social Science* (9 units – 1 of the following)  
 -80-221 Philosophy of Social Science  
 -80-321 Causation, Law, and Social Policy  
 -80-337 Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

4) *Applied Philosophy* (9 units – 1 of the following)  
 -80-136 Social Structure, Public Policy, & Ethical Dilemmas  
 -80-244 Environmental Ethics  
 -80-245 Medical Ethics  
 -80-348 Health, Development, & Human Rights  
 -80-430 Ethics and Medical Research  
 -80-447 Global Justice

Capstone Project Course (12 units)

Bachelor of Science Option  
 (2 from the following list, or a petition for equivalents):

-21-257 Models & Methods for Optimization  
 -36-203 Samplings, Surveys, & Society  
 -36-207 Probability & Statistics for Business  
 -36-208 Regression Analysis  
 -80-316 Probability, Causation, and AI  
 -80-222 Measurement & Methodology  
 -80-305 Rational Choice  
 -88-251 Empirical Research Methods

Contributors



**Advisor, Dr Jay Aronson** is a professor of Associate Professor of Science, Technology, and Society.

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**Advisor, Tracy E. London** is an advisor to the EHPP major, here to help

with academic audit, internships, and undergraduate research opportunities, to name a few things.

*email:*

[tlondon@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:tlondon@andrew.cmu.edu)

**Newsletter Editor, Emily Dillinger**, a Sophomore EHPP major from Great Falls, Virginia, and Amy Chi, a Sophomore EHPP major from the Los Angeles area.



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## **EHPP STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)**

A Big "THANK YOU" to the 2009-2010 EHPP SAC:

Adeola Adegboyega-Panox

Sterling Berliant

Amy Chi

Lydia Chiro

Jessica Dickinson-Goodman

Emily Dillinger

Anna Keller

Christina Leffard

Margaret Soderholm

Carl Spindler



**If you are interested in volunteering for the 2010-2011 EHPP SAC, please let Tracy know and she will add you to the list. The SAC organizes fun events and seminars, produces the newsletter, and provides feedback to the department on many issues. Please consider getting involved next year!**