



EHPP Newsletter

News from the Ethics, History and Public Policy Program



Message from Jay Aronson, EHPP Director

Hello, and welcome to the first newsletter of the Ethics, History, and Public Policy Program! As most of you reading this know, the EHPP major has undergone some significant changes over the past year. This issue will introduce those changes, both curricular and administrative, and also to let you know what resources are available to help EHPP majors identify and realize their academic, personal, and professional goals.

It is my hope that you will find the find this newsletter valuable enough to refer back to it until the next issue comes out in the Spring semester (which, by the way, will focus on what you can do with your B.A. or B.S. in Ethics, History, and Public Policy, and will include profiles of EHPP alumni who have been able to translate their education into meaningful and rewarding lives after Carnegie Mellon).

Continued on page 2



CALENDAR (SEPTEMBER)

September 14, 4:30pm
Thomas Pogge, Yale Univ.
"World Poverty: Explanations and Responsibilities"
Porter 100, Gregg Hall

September 14, 7:00pm
Carnegie Mellon's **G-20 Forum**, An expert preview of the Pittsburgh Summit
McConomy Auditorium

September 17, 4:30pm
Joel Berg, NYC Coalition Against Hunger
"Why We Have Hunger in America and How We Can End It"
Porter 100, Gregg Hall

September 29, 4:00pm
Alexander Lennon, *Washington Quarterly*
"Today's Interdependent World Order"
University of Pittsburgh

--
Please stay tuned for more information in the next issue about the EHPP calendar that is currently being developed... For now, you can consult the ULS calendar.

This newsletter was edited and arranged by Jessica Dickinson Goodman, a junior EHPP major from the Bay Area in Northern California.

*Director's Welcome Message, continued from page 1*

WHAT IS EHPP AND WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?

One of the challenges of taking over as the director of the Ethics, History, and Public Policy program has been explaining the major to people who have never heard of it before. In a nutshell, the EHPP major prepares students for leadership positions in law, public policy, ethics, and advocacy by providing them with a rigorous, interdisciplinary humanistic and social-scientific education. It also serves as an excellent spring board for graduate study in a wide variety of disciplines.

In many ways EHPP is a quintessentially Carnegie Mellon degree program that cannot be found at any other university in the country. To begin with, it is a highly interdisciplinary program that is jointly administered by the History Department and Philosophy Department. The program focuses equally on the historical understanding of how modern-day problems have evolved, and the importance of developing clear criteria for ethical decision-making.

Further, in addition to providing a solid liberal arts background, it encourages the development of a broad technical skill set that will benefit students in whatever career they ultimately choose to pursue. EHPP majors learn how to: analyze and construct arguments; evaluate evidentiary statements; persuade people to agree with their particular claims; conduct research under time and resource constraints; and craft policies that address real world problems in a way that is sensitive both to history and competing sets of values. I challenge any of you reading this newsletter to name a profession, vocation, or academic discipline in which these skills are irrelevant. If you do, I will buy you lunch with my own money!

CHANGES TO THE MAJOR

As many of you know, EHPP is not a new major per se—indeed it has existed since the early 1990s. That said, it has undergone significant changes over the past year that I wanted to let you know about. Most importantly, the History Department and the Philosophy Department have taken **equal ownership** over the major. In the past, EHPP was administered primarily by the Philosophy Department and the History Department ran a separate major called “History and Policy.” Essentially what we have done is combine the two

majors into one unified program. This means that the two departments can more efficiently support students with an interest in policy-related topics, and that students can be assured they are getting a truly holistic education.

The second important change is that we have **overhauled the core of the curriculum** to make it both more standardized and even more rigorous than it was before (see p. 6 of this newsletter for more details). This seeks to provide EHPP majors with a common knowledge-base and skill-set over the course of their academic careers.

Third, we have added a capstone **project course** to the major in which students have the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have gained over the course of their time in EHPP to a contemporary policy problem such as: how to mitigate the effects the economic crisis we are currently living through; how to effectively deal with climate change in a way that takes into account the needs of both wealthier and poorer countries; and how to fix the health care system in a way that is both morally just and economically sensible. The capstone course was a mainstay of the History and Policy major for nearly two decades, so we know it works well. Please let me know if you have any good topics in mind.

Finally, we are working hard to create a true sense of **community** among EHPP majors, both to foster a support system at Carnegie Mellon and also to build a social network that connects current students with program alumni. The end-goal is to enable current students to seek advice from those who came before them, provide opportunities for alumni to reinvest in the program in various ways, and also to connect job and internship seekers at Carnegie Mellon with organizations and agencies that know the value of the EHPP degree.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

This newsletter is one effort to produce that **shared sense of identity**, but in the end, the efforts will only succeed if you, the members of the community, see the value in building such a network and taking ownership of it. I look forward to getting to know all of you over the course of the next few years, and welcome your suggestions about how to improve the EHPP program.



INTRODUCING THE NEW ADVISORS

PROF. JAY D. ARONSON, DIRECTOR



I am Associate Professor of Science, Technology, and Society in the History Department. My research and teaching focus on the interactions of science, technology, law, and human rights in a variety of contexts. My first book, *Genetic Witness: Science, Law, and Controversy in the Making of DNA Profiling* (Rutgers University Press, 2007), examines the development of forensic DNA analysis in the American legal system. I am currently engaged in a long-term study of the ethical, political, and social dimensions of post-conflict and post-disaster DNA identification of the missing and disappeared. The main courses I teach are: History of Public Policy in the United States (79-300); Global Justice (79-298/80-447); Introduction to Science and Technology Studies (79-342); and Biology and Society in the 19th Century (79-333). I also occasionally a course devoted to the history of evolutionary thought at the graduate level. I received my Ph.D. in History of Science and

Technology from the University of Minnesota and was both a Pre- and Post-Doctoral Fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

As the director of the Ethics, History, and Public Policy major, I am primarily responsible for working with students to craft an education program that helps them meet their personal and professional goals. This task includes, but is not limited to: selecting courses; making sure all major requirements are met; helping majors identify research and extra-curricular activities; helping majors identify awards, honors, and contests for which they are eligible; ensuring that majors are able to study abroad at least one semester during their time at Carnegie Mellon (if they choose to do so); helping students overcome obstacles and challenges that limit peak academic performance; and encouraging majors to make use of the excellent career and internship resources we have here on campus. I look forward to working with all of you!

With warmest regards,

Jay

P.S. Please let me know what you think about the newsletter. Your comments (both positive and critical) and suggestions will be most appreciated. You can reach me by email at: aronson@andrew.cmu.edu

TRACY E. LONDON, ADVISOR

Welcome back, EHPP majors! I look forward to getting to know each of you as we work together on your journey to graduation (and hopefully when you're a Carnegie Mellon alum, too!). I welcome this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. My background is in counseling and I have a master's degree in student affairs; I have experience working in a boarding school, a private college, and a large, public university. I've worked in H&SS before, as an advisor in the Academic Advisory Center (2001 -2004), which was a great experience because I learned how much I enjoy working with Carnegie Mellon students. My latest job has been mother to my three children:

Joshua (almost 5), Alexandra, and Sophia (two-year-old twins). In my new role as advisor and administrator to the EHPP major I am here to help you with your academic audit, internships, undergraduate research opportunities, and host events on campus for you and alumni, to name a few things. I am expecting this list to grow and change as the year goes on. Please feel free to contact me with any issues or concerns that may arise; the best way to do this is through email (tlondon@andrew.cmu.edu). I am available for on-campus meetings on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings (I work from home which means we will have to arrange a

meeting in advance). I'm excited to work with you and for the start of a new school year.





EHPP: SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROFILES

FRANCESCO COCO, SENIOR EHPP MAJOR

This summer, I was fortunate enough to get an internship at the Los Angeles Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. While this unpaid internship definitely had its fair share of unpaid internship type of work--e.g., answering phones, dealing with frustrated constituents, redirecting faxes, and getting tuna sandwiches (no tomato, light mayo) for your boss--it has been eye opening.

On several occasions I was privy to high level meetings, feverishly jotting down notes on the discussions between the governor's top staff members and representatives of the biggest interest groups in the state of California. **I listened, first hand, to why education or health care or senior services should not have been put on the chopping block** as the Governor tried to figure out how to narrow a mammoth \$25 billion budget deficit.

I witnessed how interest groups and average citizens tried to effect policy reforms in government, and I learned which approaches actually influenced the people at the top. And **I saw how those people at**

the top dealt with the difficult ethical issues that come with making cuts in times of economic crisis.

I must admit that it was also pretty cool to gaze at the actual sword from the classic film *Conan the Barbarian* while using the office restroom.



ELIZABETH GENATOWSKI, JUNIOR EHPP MAJOR



I spent six weeks this summer in Washington DC in the Machon Kaplan Program, a college work-study program of the Religious Action Center, the social justice branch of the Union for Reform Judaism.

Through Machon Kaplan, I lived with 27 other like-minded individuals and took courses through Hebrew Union College, including "An Exploration of Contemporary Issues and Jewish Values Found in the Bill of Rights."

I also worked at the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), which serves as the representative voice of the organized American Jewish community. Working there, I

learned about healthcare reform, child hunger, the environment, predatory lending, and hate crimes. At the end of the summer, I had the opportunity to lobby my representatives on a topic of my choice.

The Machon Kaplan program also helped me explore DC: I spent July 4th on the National Mall, visited the Newseum and Spy Museum, took a nighttime trolley tour of the monuments, attended Congressional hearings, a final Supreme Court ruling, and Judge Sotomayor's hearings.

JESSICA DICKINSON GOODMAN, JUNIOR EHPP MAJOR

This summer, funded by a generous Friedman Fellowship from Carnegie Mellon, **I re-wrote the website for the World Organization for Human Rights USA**, a small, non-profit, impact litigation organization in Washington DC. I re-designed Human Rights USA's social media presence, and narrativized the lives of 20 of our clients (many of whom were seeking asylum from gender-based persecution, or torture). It was satisfying, if not always fun, work. On the weekends, I sold bikes.





OPPORTUNITIES FOR EHPP MAJORS

SURGS

SURGS (Small Undergraduate Research Grants) are grants of up to \$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.

Applications for SURGs for Spring 2010 are due October 21

For more information on undergraduate research, please check out:

<http://www.cmu.edu/uro>

Or contact Stephanie Wallach at phone: (412) 268-5702

email: sw4s@andrew.cmu.edu

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

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.

Do not wait until spring semester to start looking for summer internships! The deadline for federal summer internship applications is November 6.

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. **Emily Half** or **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 spring break. The deadline for applications to IMPAQT for 2010 is early October.

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

If you are interested in applying to be in IMPAQT, please contact Student Activities:

phone: (412)-268-8704



EHPP REQUIREMENTS

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

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)

For a full list of Electives (3 courses – 27 units) and for information on the B.S. option (2 additional courses -- 18 units), please check out EHPP's website: <http://www.hss.cmu.edu/philosophy/undergraduate-ethics.php>