

# EHPP NEWSLETTER

## *EHPP Abortion Case Competition Successful*



In this fall's Ethics, History, and Public Policy case competition, three teams assumed the roles of staffers to state legislators, each tasked with preparing their employers to vote on a new and controversial abortion law. With 10 days for each team to write 15 pages and prepare formal presentations on the law, the race was on.

The law, called a "fetal pain law" because its supporters believe fetuses begin to feel pain at 20 weeks, bans all abortions after 20 weeks. This removes about a month of decision-making time from the 1.4% of women who seek abortions after 20 weeks (stat from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). The judges were History and Policy graduates with professional experience in reproductive issues.

The teams addressed the "constitutional implications of having different laws in different states regarding abortion," "the implications for justice of having different laws in different states regarding abortion," and "[i]n what ways should science inform abortion policy." EHPP majors Christine Peters, Aimee Bedoy, and Jessica Dickinson Goodman all presented.

The judges said they were impressed by the creativity, research, and quality of the competitors' work, highlighting the civility and professionalism displayed between teams with opposing beliefs. They awarded first place to the team of Ismail Smith-Wade-El, Kendra Albert, and Jessica Dickinson Goodman.

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### *Update from Prof. Jay Aronson*

Recently Professor Aronson lead an effort which resulted in a significant grant to Carnegie Mellon from the National Institutes of Health to develop ethics and policy recommendations for post-conflict, post-disaster DNA ID practices. He says:

"People in the aftermath of conflict and disaster need basic things like food and shelter," Aronson said. "We want to find out from an ethical and policy standpoint what else we owe people who lose family members and how those factors ought to be prioritized. These have all been understudied problems until now." -Jay

### GET INVOLVED

Our major has a Student Advisory Committee (SAC), which is freely open to anyone in the major. We get together, plan events for the major, and generally are inspired by a dynamic and driven group of students.

Email Tracy London, one of our two talented advisors, at [tlondon@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:tlondon@andrew.cmu.edu) to get on the d-list. It has light traffic so come on by!

### CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE SAC

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*EHPP majors are a diverse and distinguished group. This edition of our Spring newsletter includes profiles of four EHPP majors who are studying abroad this year. From Amsterdam to Sevilla and DC!*

#### AMY CHI'S SPRING IN AMSTERDAM

Amsterdam. When you hear the name, what comes to mind? Tolerance? Liberalism? Yes, I would agree that the Dutch have enacted several progressive policies that would otherwise be considered controversial in countries like the United States.



I am currently enrolled in the University of Amsterdam's Pre-Law Certification Program. The three courses I am taking are: Public International Law, a Dutch and U.S. comparative law seminar, and Social Trends, Social Problems and Social Policies in the Netherlands. So far, I am enjoying all my classes, but am most energized about the social trends class, as you can tell by my spiel above.

I've completed my first week in Amsterdam, and it already feels like I've been living here a lot longer than seven days. I

learned to ride a bicycle in the

city. That was a whirlwind of an experience. I'm talking about cycling next to hundreds and hundreds of pedestrians, cars and other cyclists. Also note, this is coming from someone who lives in the car capital of the U.S.—southern California. Rarely will you ever see anyone biking in the streets. Ever. Amsterdam isn't designed in a grid format, so it was difficult navigating around. However, I am starting to get the hang of bicycling around the city and am slowly learning which routes are shorter and have less people walking. More than anything, I cannot wait until spring arrives, when the temperature becomes comfortable and when you can fully appreciate the clean energy and health benefits of biking.

One of my favorites places that I've been to so far is the Queen's Head, a local gay bar that hosts Drag Bingo every Tuesday night. The bartenders are incredibly friendly and Tina Tampax, the local drag queen and star host of the game, is an amazing individual. My friends and I had a rollicking good time talking to Tina, as we discussed politics and how she kept her body so fit. I'm definitely going to make Tuesday Nights at the Queen's Head a Tuesday night a regular. It's only been a week, but I'm growing fonder of this city every day.

#### JULIA HANBY'S SEMESTER ABROAD IN SEVILLA, SPAIN

So far, my experience in Sevilla, Spain has been incredible! I am taking classes through CIEE [a company which facilitates study abroad experiences] and at the Universidad de Sevilla, all of which will be able to count for required classes at CMU. I am living with a host family and taking all of my classes in Spanish, which is really helping me improve my Spanish proficiency! Most importantly, I am learning everything from a new perspective and having the opportunity to travel and learn through first-hand experience. Already, this time abroad has made an invaluable contribution to my experience as an EHPP and Global Studies student, and I look forward to what else I will learn until I leave Spain at the end of June.

## NANCY BROWN'S FALL IN DC

I spent the Fall semester living, studying, and interning in Washington DC through CMU's Washington Semester program. I really enjoyed participating in the Washington Semester Program. However, it really is dependent on a lot of other things. I lucked out and had really good internship. I interned in at the National Academy of Social Insurance, which is a think tank that researches policy issues surrounding Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and other similar programs. The people I met there were extremely nice and I was actually doing substantive work such as research for some of their projects (I was even on C-Span!) At the end of my internship, I compiled all of the weekly "what I did this week" emails I sent to my supervisor each week and the list was several pages long.

Excluding my internship, my most memorable experience was where I lived. I lived only a couple of blocks away from the Capitol Building and could see it from the roof. Living near the mall was really awesome because there was always something going on. There might be a rally at one end of the mall by the Lincoln Memorial and a Chinese festival on the other end of the mall. There are all of the Smithsonian museums and they are all free to enter (the Natural History Museum was my favorite).

Advice for future students: Washington D.C. is what you make of it. There are lots of different people there and a lot of different things to do, so take advantage of it, especially since a lot of them are free or inexpensive. There are a lots of internships too, some might be really good while others might only packing boxes because the office is moving to a new location (I know that from experience). Make the most of it.



#### FIRST EHPP PROJECT COURSE PRESENTS ON DRUG COURTS' CHALLENGES AND PROPOSE INNOVATIVE CHANGES

This past fall saw the first EHPP Project Course, "Drug Courts and the American Criminal Justice System." In it, a group of Juniors and Seniors worked together to understand the evolution of drug policy in the United States, and to come up with suggestions about how to modify the status-quo of the Drug Court in Pittsburgh. Taught by Professors Caroline Acker and Alex London, the class drew from conversations with judges, counselors, a district attorney, and a member of the Pennsylvania sentencing commission to formulate their recommendations. The class finished the semester with a presentation to a group of their stakeholders. If you haven't taken the project course yet, and want to learn more about it, check in with an EHPP senior or one of our advisors.

Photo of Sevilla by Werkmens (where EHPPer Julia Hanby is currently studying), licensed under Creative Commons.