



Adrian College

# Institute for Ethics Newsletter

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<http://ethics.adrian.edu>

Adrian College Institute for Ethics

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## NASW Code of Ethics and Illogical Criticisms

The first presentation of the Spring series on January 19, is *NASW Code of Ethics and Ideological Criticisms* presented by Associate Professor Susan Nichols.

Social workers utilize the NASW Code of Ethics to evaluate students applying to social work programs, educate and supervise social workers and as a basis for practice decisions. Yet Social Work ethics have been criticized by conservative Christians and politicians in recent years as being less inclusive than the profession claims. How has the profession responded to these external and internal pressures? Is there value in maintaining its Code of Ethics?

For additional information, you can find the NASW Code of Ethics at: <http://>



Susan Nichols, Social Work

[www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp](http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp). Additional codes of ethics in various disciplines were collected from faculty by the Institute and can be found at <http://www.adrian.edu/institutes/Ethics/codes.php>

## Getting Started: Basic Distinctions of Statements in Ethics

**The Institute for Ethics sponsored Adrian College students to attend the Upper Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl on December 3, 2011. Stay tuned for pictures and information**

- *Descriptive Statements (no moral judgments)*
- *Prescriptive Statements (value judgments)*
- *Ethical or Normative Statements (moral judgments)*
- *Ethics involves figuring out distinctions between moral right and wrong or good or bad actions*

## Institute Support to Speakers Campus-wide

As part of our mission to promote ethical discourse on campus, the Institute for Ethics can provide financial support up to \$200 for speakers invited by faculty to address classes or give public presentations on ethical issues related to the disciplines. Faculty interested in this opportunity should contact Fritz Detwiler, Institute Director, via email ([fdetwiler@adrian.edu](mailto:fdetwiler@adrian.edu) or [ethics@adrian.edu](mailto:ethics@adrian.edu)) or by phone (x5025). The presentation need not be

focused exclusively on ethics but should incorporate the topic into the presentation in a substantive way.

In addition, all supported presentations will be listed in the Institute for Ethics newsletters, on our Facebook page and on our web site. Look for the "Guest Speaker" image for listings of Institute sponsored and supported events.



### Brown Bag Schedule

Jan 19

NASW Code of Ethics and Ideological Criticisms  
Susan Nichols

Feb 16

Business and Foreign Bribery  
Professor Dave Coy

March 15

Ethics and International Study  
Dr. Robin Bott

April 12

Ethics and Social Media  
Janet Creque

**Time:** 12:05—12:45 Twenty minute presentation. Fifteen minute Q&A.

**Place:** Knight Auditorium, Valade Hall

### Brown Bags 2011 - 2012

The Brownbag series continues in February with Professor Dave Coy. He will present "*Business and Foreign Bribery*".

It is a great temptation for businesses to offer bribes in order to obtain access to markets outside of the USA. We will review one or two instances of bribery and through this discussion, learn about legal and regulatory prohibitions on such activities.

In March, Dr. Robin Bott will present "Ethically Abroad".

We will examine the ethical issues that study

abroad programs, study abroad faculty, and students studying abroad may face, particularly issues of responsibility, fairness, and value surrounding the abroad experience. Some of the discussion will focus on student departure from and re-entry into campus life at their home institution.

The series will conclude in April with Janet Creque, Adrian College Web Content Editor presenting "Ethics and Social Media."

Social Media is still a relatively new phenomenon that is growing and changing rapidly. Having an ethical approach, both professionally and personally, to using social media can lead to success. Learn about the key points that lay

the foundation of social media ethics.

We are looking for people who are able to do a presentation on the **ethical issues that confront various departments, major fields of study, and professions**. You are not expected to be an ethicist – that is the job of the Institute.

What we do ask of you is to present the issues with some examples so that we can generate good discussion on the issues and perhaps bring in a little bit of formal ethical analysis by the Institute Director or others specifically trained in ethics.

Every presenter receives an **honorarium of \$200**.

**Adrian College**  
**Institute for Ethics on**

**facebook**



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## Brown Bags 2011 - 2012 continued

The Director is happy, and indeed eager, to work with any of you to help develop such a presentation. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions or like to volunteer.

Brown Bag dates are offered Thursdays at Noon. We can fit people into the dates if you

are open so don't worry too much about which date unless you have a specific preference.

Thanks for thinking about this and, even more thanks to those of you who have already volunteered. Obviously, if we get more volunteers than the number of dates, we will not be able to use everybody this coming year.

We would like to have the list of the presenters finalized by **in April**. Please contact the Director if you are interested with your name and proposed topic of inquiry.

Please contact Fritz Detwiler [fdetwiler@adrian.edu](mailto:fdetwiler@adrian.edu).

## Musings on Ethics in the Disciplines

By Fritz Detwiler

Every profession today seems to be facing serious ethical issues. This year's brownbag series addresses those issues by having faculty from the various disciplines talk about the ethical issues facing their professions. These issues can be quite complex and often require serious examination and nuanced solutions. Should ethics in the professions feedback complicated? In some ways it depends on what the goal of ethics is in those professions. In some cases professional codes of conduct are treated as minimal standards for acceptable behavior and often reflect as much reliance on established law as they do on the promotion of ethical virtues.

During the winter break I had time to read *Research is Ceremony* by Shawn Wilson. In the book Wilson sets forth a

research model based on Native American ways of being and doing. Although I was engrossed in the overall argument and the insights Wilson provides for distinguishing the fundamental differences between research with in Native American paradigm and research within the Western academic framework, what spurred these musings was the simplicity of assessment described by Wilson. He identified three main criteria: authenticity, respect, and accountability.

The more I thought about these criteria the more I became intrigued by their potential for doing ethics at the personal as well as professional levels. Authenticity refers to the willingness of people to embody the values they espouse. In professional ethics this would mean a shift from codes to patterns of acting or, more precisely, ways

of being. Respect includes acting in ways that respect oneself, one's clients, and the profession itself, not because of a "duty" but out of a sense of the contribution each profession should make to the overall well-being of the society. Accountability means that people are willing to accept responsibility for what is they say and do and to understand the effects of their actions on themselves as well as others.

All three of these criteria emphasize quality of relationship that one has with others. But, they go beyond that to say that there are ideals in the professions which professionals should maximize to the best of their ability and with the utmost sense of responsibility to their professions. Professional ethics and therefore would become a process by which one becomes a true professional.

## What Students are Saying



Feedback from "*Ethical Issues in Sports*" Brown Bag presentation by Dr. Tina Claiborne on November 11, 2011. "Today's presentation was very helpful to

look at the scenario from many different views. I believe it gives Athletic trainers and non-athletic trainers a good perspective of ethical decisions that need to be made.."

## RIBBONS OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



*Even if you have turned in your abstracts, it is not too late to incorporate an ethical component into your presentation!*

The Institute for Ethics offers three prizes for the best ROE presentation incorporating ethical reflection:

**First Prize: \$100**

**Second Prize: \$50**

**Third Prize: \$25**

Students wishing to compete for the prize should notify the Institute at least one week before the presentation through e-mail at [ethics@adrian.edu](mailto:ethics@adrian.edu).

The institute director is available for consultation with students and/or their advisors to help them develop the presentation.

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### General Process:

- ◆ Become familiar with key terms in ethics: "fairness," "virtue," "duties," "rights," "justice," etc.
- ◆ Identify an ethical question or problem: What is the ethical issue?
- ◆ Take a stand: What *should* be done?
- ◆ Defend the stand: Why should it be done?
- ◆ Explore consequences: What difference would it make?