

Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility

Southern Methodist University

Volume 1, Spring 1996

From The Director

— William F. May, Ph.D.

A day-long feast of food, music, and ideas marked the inauguration of the Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility on February 23, 1996. First, came the ideas. The day began with a conference on *Ethical Issues in Managed Care*. We had hoped for 135 participants, but some 510 people registered for the conference. So much for the Maguire Center's ability to forecast the future.

Plenary speakers included national experts in the field of ethics and health care: John A. Sbarbaro, James F. Childress, Steven Miles, E. Haavi Morreim and Daniel Callahan. But, since the Maguire Center is determined not to act as though authors must always come from elsewhere, we also heard from several voices from the Metroplex: Ms. Sandy Lutz and Doctors John Sadler and Robert Fine. Thomas Mayo, Associate Professor of the SMU Law School and Adjunct Professor at U.T. Southwestern Medical School, who also spoke at the conference, will edit the volume on *Managed Care* to grow out of its deliberations.

President Gerald Turner hosted the evening banquet and, with 120 persons in attendance, paid tribute to Cary M. Maguire, whose generous gift of \$2,500,000 has enabled the University to establish the Center. President Turner remarked, "As we think about the larger well-being of our civilization and the flourishing of this region, we recognize that SMU cannot discharge its duties to its students and the community at large if it imparts knowledge without posing questions about its responsible uses. Through education, students acquire their power base in life as lawyers, physicians, accountants, engineers, business leaders, academicians, religious leaders, politicians, media specialists, artists, and community organizers. We believe that a university, however distinguished, is incomplete to the degree that it fails to attend to the moral education and public responsibilities of those whom it empowers. In establishing the Maguire Center, Cary Maguire helps the University complete this project. This splendid gift helps the University become what it ought to be."

Robert Dedman, Chair of the SMU Board of Trustees, also praised Cary Maguire's public spiritedness, citing both his past and continuing contributions to SMU: "We salute you, Cary, for the support you are giving to Southern Methodist University and to the Ethics Center that now bears your name. It will help the University carry out its educational mission, both within its walls

and beyond, as the University faces outward toward the moral quandaries and the ethical controversies that beset our common life."

— continued on page 2

Profile Cary M. Maguire

Cary M. Maguire has given \$2.5 million to Southern Methodist University to establish the Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility, bringing his total gifts to SMU to more than \$8 million. He previously gave \$2 million for expansion of the Edwin L. Cox School of Business, \$1 million for the Maguire Chair in Ethics, and \$1 million for the Maguire Chair in Oil and Gas Management. He also founded the Maguire Oil and Gas Institute in the Cox School. The Cary M. Maguire Building in the Cox School is named in his honor.

Mr. Maguire is Chair and President of Maguire Oil Company and Components Corporation of America, and Chair of Staco Inc., California. His national leadership positions include serving on the Executive Committee of Mid-Continental Oil and Gas Association and as a member of the Madison Council of the Library of Congress.

Mr. Maguire also is a trustee of St. Mark's School of Texas and the Hockaday School, where he founded the Maguire Learning Center.

"Cary Maguire's latest gift to SMU is another expression of his foresight in linking the strengths of education with the needs of society," says Robert H. Dedman, Chair of SMU's Board of Trustees. "As our world grows more complex, so do the ethical issues that arise, and education must play a leadership role. We're grateful that he is helping SMU take the lead."

Inside This Issue

- Faculty Advisory Committee
- Snapshots of the Inaugural
- On Claiming Too Much and Too Little for Applied Ethics
- Profile-William F. May
- Ethics-Related Events

Other early events and program activities:

• **The Appointment Of A Maguire Teaching Fellow.**

Associate Professor and former Chair of the Theater Department, Cecil O'Neal, will serve as the first Maguire Teaching Fellow, 1996-97. He is working on a new course on the "Artist as Citizen", a subject that has vexed thinkers, writers, and artists from Plato forward.

• **Commissioned Occasional Papers.** Associate Professor James Hopkins of the SMU History Department will deliver a public lecture, as the basis for an occasional paper to be published by the Center, on the subject of "The Public Intellectual". Professor Hopkins has noted that the academy no longer produces free ranging intellectuals, such as Reinhold Niebuhr and Arthur Schlesinger, who address public issues. Faculty members today orient almost exclusively to their disciplines or invest themselves solely in the maintenance of their institutions. They are intimidated by disciplinary boundaries. Thus, the society at large has lost some of the important contributions of the public intellectual to its life.

• **Faculty Advisory Committee.** The Committee has met twice in the course of the first year of the Maguire Center's operation. The Advisory Committee includes faculty members from SMU and U.T. Southwestern Medical School. Other academicians in the area will be added in due course. Various committee members have served as review panelists on proposals and suggested program activities for the Center. Professors Charles Curran, Richard Mason, and especially Tom Mayo have helped variously in the founding and development of the Center. They have given generously of their time, with the heaviest burden falling on Tom Mayo who helped plan in every detail the conference on "Ethical Issues in Managed Care".

• **Residual Funding from the Student Senate.** A \$5,000 grant from the Student Senate has permitted us to hire Mr. Martin McLee who will serve as a consultant/facilitator to the University's service learning program. Mr. McLee holds a Masters in Education and a law degree.

• **The Staff.** Huma Mody, SMU '96 has served us very capably as half-time Administrative Assistant and Renee Rivers brilliantly as half-time Associate Director. Ms. Rivers is a lawyer (University of Texas, Honors) who previously set up and served as Director of the Public Service Program at the SMU Law School.

• **Future Plans.**

- Annual appointment of a Maguire Teaching Fellow;
- Commissioning of public lectures and papers;
- Funding student research in ethics and public service;
- Selection of regional Council of Scholars and Leaders;
- Conferences and possible books on such topics as: Media Ethics; The Ethics of Philanthropy and Trusteeship; and Promise Making and Promise Keeping (that is, the Ethics of Contract and Other Promises)

Faculty Advisory Committee 1995-96

Maguire Center For Ethics and Public Responsibility

The Faculty Advisory Committee consists of selected senior faculty members from SMU and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. The committee assists the Center's director in setting priorities and carrying out the Maguire Center program.

Joseph L. Allen, Ph.D., *Perkins School of Theology*

Caroline Brettell, Ph.D., *Dept. of Anthropology*

William Bridge, J.D., *SMU School of Law*

John W. Burnside, M.D., *University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center at Dallas*

Charles E. Curran, Ph.D., *Scurlock University
Professor of Human Values*

Linda S. Eads, J.D., *SMU School of Law*

Kenneth M. Hamilton, Ph.D., *Dept. of History*

James K. Hopkins, Ph.D., *Dept. of History*

Lonnie Kliever, Ph.D., *Dept. of Religious Studies*

Robin Lovin, Ph.D., *Dean, Perkins School of Theology*

Richard O. Mason, Ph.D., *Carr P. Collins
Professor of Management Information Sciences*

Thomas Wm. Mayo, J.D., *SMU School of Law and
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at
Dallas*

Darwin Payne, Ph.D., *Center for Communication Arts*

John Z. Sadler, M.D., *University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center at Dallas*

Philip M. Seib, J.D., *Center for Communication Arts*

Professor William B. Taylor, Ph.D., *Edmund and Louise
Kahn Professor of History*

Theodore D. Walker, Ph.D., *Perkins School of Theology*

Hal Watson, Ph.D., *Department of Mechanical Engineering*

Snapshots Of The Inaugural



(L to R) John Z. Sadler, Robert L. Fine, James F. Childress, Cary M. Maguire, benefactor of Ethics Center, and William F. May, Director of the Ethics Center.



(L to R) William F. May, Ann Maguire, Daniel Callahan, Cary M. Maguire and President Gerald Turner.

Distinguished Speaker Profiles

Daniel Callahan-*Co-founder and President of The Hastings Center, Briarcliff Manor, NY.*

James F. Childress-*Erwin B. Kyle Professor of Religious Studies and Professor of Medical Education at the University of Virginia and Co-director of the Virginia Health Policy Center.*

Steven Miles-*Associate Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Medical School, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and in the Department of Geriatric Medicine, St. Paul Ramsey Medical Center, St. Paul.*

E. Haavi Morreim-*Professor in the College of Medicine, University of Tennessee, in the Department of Human Values and Ethics.*

John A. Sbarbaro-*Professor of Medicine and Preventive Medicine, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Medical Director, University Physicians Inc.*

Voices of the Metroplex

Sandy Lutz

Robert L. Fine, M.D.

John Z. Sadler, M.D.

Thomas Wm.. Mayo, J.D.



(L to R) John A. Sbarbaro with staff members from the St. Paul Medical Center.



(L to R) Sandy Lutz and Dr. Mark Clanton.



(L to R) Cary M. Maguire, Ann Maguire and Jan Hart.



(L to R) Robert Dedman, President of SMU Board of Trustees, Cary M. Maguire and former SMU *ad-interim* President Jim Kirby.



Luncheon "Table Talk" meeting on February 23rd, for the Conference on Ethical Issues in Managed Care.



William F. May with students Fred Dahr and Lena Sullesta. Sullesta is the outgoing president of Delta Gamma, which co-sponsored the keynote address.



(L to R) E. Haavi Morreim, Cary M. Maguire, William F. May and Thomas Wm. Mayo.

On Claiming Too Much And Too Little For Applied Ethics

— William F. May, Ph.D.

Students and professional schools have shown considerable interest in the topics of professional and applied ethics, or, more broadly, the humanities and the professions. This interest reflects a society in trouble. Ethics, it is hoped, will offer some measure of wisdom to practitioners in medicine, law, journalism, business, and public administration who have lately discovered that their success in solving technical problems has generated a special set called moral problems that their technical training does not prepare them to surmount.

Despite social interest and support for the enterprise, teachers who currently patrol the terrain of professional ethics face skepticism from their colleagues within the Academy. Faculty members in professional schools are willing to respond to external pressure and establish courses in professional responsibility, but many worry that such courses do not match in rigor the technical subjects of a professional education. They generally assign the work to an untenured colleague, whose academic career depends upon research in a more traditional field of study. Or they purchase the partial services of a teacher in philosophy or religious studies who has lately taken up an interest in the profession.

The language of disdain sometimes verges on the phallic. The soft insights of humanists do not compare with the hard data on which the professional depends for his or her competence and a livelihood. The well-intentioned theorist from the humanities seems far removed from the hard realities of professional practice.

Meanwhile, thoughtful traditionalists in the humanities have their own doubts about applied ethics. The current enthusiasm for the subject seems a little opportunistic and indecorous. Faculty members introduce courses in professional ethics for the sake of favorable body counts. Sometimes they mount research projects in the field in response to the sweet-talk of foundation money. Most seriously, they tend to lack intellectual credibility in the eyes of some colleagues in the fields of philosophy and theology, who find their work, in the nature of the case, secondary and derivative, compared with foundational research in the classical disciplines.

A response to this charge requires a look at the word “applied,” a term which may encourage a somewhat misleading view of the task of the teacher. The phrase, “applied ethics” suggests a sharp distinction between ethical theorists, who do the original research (more highly prized by tenure and promotion committees), and applied ethicists, who bring to bear abstract principles, generated elsewhere, on practical problems that the professionals face. One immediately thinks of the corresponding distinction between pure and applied research in the sciences or between fundamental and mission-oriented research directed to the development of specific technologies.

Applied ethics, so conceived, at once claims too much and too little for the field. It claims too much to the degree that it implies to the professional community that the humanities offer some kind of rescue and salvation to those overwhelmed by moral problems. People in this camp look to the humanities to infuse the society with values and to help it cope with its problems and destiny. Malcolm Muggeridge once called values the polite BBC term for religion. The applied ethicist in this view functions as a kind of professional’s professional, who, it is hoped, has access to a tradition and to a mode of reasoning that will eliminate the moral dilemmas that arise in professional life. With some such hope, professionals attend seminars on ethics and agencies support them. But, of course, moral problems often prove to be a peculiar class of problems — chronic rather than occasional. This leads thoughtful moralists to want to lower expectations.

Alternatively, applied ethics claims too little for itself — particularly within the Academy — insofar as it suggests that “applications” have a merely deductive, derivative, and dispensary relationship to theory. The truly serious moralist, from this perspective, does abstract, foundational work; the applied ethicist, at best, lives parasitically off this basic research and relates it to specific problems which, alas, he or she knows less well than the expert in the field. The ethicist’s competence is constantly at risk. He carries water from wells he has not dug to fight fires he cannot find. He does not appear to be an intellectually serious figure.

This condescending view of the applied ethicist overlooks a more heuristic possibility for the vocation. Wrestling with specific issues may help one see theoretical problems in a fresh way. Through the effort to reach some kind of clarity about “applications,” one may not merely package what is already known, but discover what is unknown, or barely known. To this degree, the applied ethicist is more than a taxonomist who classifies already established moral systems and applies them to specific issues. He or she works as a constructive moralist who offers fresh theoretical insights in the course of interpreting and criticizing a specific world of practice.

The word “theory,” unfortunately, sometimes suggests to the practical person a remote and abstract enterprise, blindly distant from the real world; and much of it is so. But classically understood, the theorist provides for a fresh envisioning of the world. So Plato understood it, and Machiavelli, as well, when, in his dedication of *The Prince*, he compared the political theorist to the landscape painter who views the world of the practitioner — the prince — from the distance of insight and perspective.

The very word, “theory,” in its Greek root, refers to vision. Appropriately, the word “theater” also derives from *theoria* because theater, like good theory, presents us with a world to see. Thus applied ethics has a theoretical component intimately related to insight and vision.

But ethical theory is a special type of vision, a corrective vision. It does not merely scan the world as it is or prepare leaders for the professions as they are.

— continued on page 5

Rather, it entails a knowledgeable re-visioning of the world that human practice presents. Through this cognitive illumination, the ethicist serves, in some limited way, the human capacity for resolution and decision. Ethical theory may not always eliminate moral quandaries, but it opens up a wider horizon in which they may be seen for what they are and thus become other than they were. To this degree, it creates a little clearing and space for men and women to act a little differently. It throws the accepted world in a new light, an unexpected perspective, it opens up new possibilities for action, so that behavior that previously seemed plausible and imperative now loosens its hold, its power to compel. In ethical reflection, the world, as it once appeared, gets stretched and rearranged; other modes of practice become more inviting; other social structures, more fitting. Theorizing in this mode does not attempt to bend the will or to infuse the appetites with values or to indoctrinate without illuminating, but it helps us to perform, not perfectly, but well.

Profile William F. May

William F. May is the Cary M. Maguire University Professor of Ethics, Southern Methodist University, where he received its teacher/scholar award, 1989. Before joining the SMU faculty, Professor May served as the Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr., Professor of Christian Ethics, Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University. A 1948 graduate of Princeton University, he received his B.D. (1952) and Ph.D. (1962) degrees from Yale University.

After the Schempp decision of the Supreme Court in 1963 made it clear that religion could be taught at public institutions, Professor May founded and chaired the Department of Religious Studies at Indiana University. Earlier he served as chair of the Religion Department at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts.

May is a former president of the American Academy of Religion and a Founding Fellow of The Hastings Center, where he co-chaired its research group on death and dying.

In addition to contributing chapters to dozens of volumes, May is the author of *A Catalogue of Sins* and *The Physician's Covenant: Images of the Healer in Medical Ethics*, and *The Patient's Ordeal*, which illuminates the ethics of the patient and the patient's family, not simply the ethics of the professional. Wm.B. Eerdmans will soon publish his latest book, *Testing the Medical Covenant: Active Euthanasia and Health Care Reform*.

Professor May has received post doctoral fellowships from the Danforth Foundation, the Lilly Endowment, Inc., and the Guggenheim Foundation, and has lectured widely in the United States and abroad. Indiana University honored him with its Distinguished Teaching Award in 1970 and the American Academy of Religion, its Outstanding Teaching Award in 1993.

In 1986, The Hastings Center Report, the leading journal in medical ethics, celebrated its 15th anniversary by asking six leaders in biomedical ethics to choose an article published since the inception of the journal that most influenced them personally. Two of the contributors chose essays published by

William May: "Attitudes Toward the Newly Dead, Some Implications for Organ Transplants" and "Code, Covenant, Contract, or Philanthropy; A Basis for Medical Ethics."

Professor May served on the subgroup on "Ethical Foundations" for the Clinton Task Force on National Health Care Reform, Spring, 1993. Since July 1995, he has served as Director of the newly established Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility at Southern Methodist University.

Professor May is married to Beverly May, an actress who has received an off-Broadway "Obie" Award, and has appeared in nine Broadway plays. The Mays have four grown children.

Maguire Center for Ethics Seeks to Foster Service Learning at SMU

— Martin McLee

As a Research Assistant with the Maguire Center I have had the privilege of beginning a critical investigation of the service learning experiences of SMU students, with a view to developing suitable proposals for future support by the Maguire Center. My initial tasks have involved gathering and assessing the experiences of SMU student volunteers in the greater Dallas Community, such as those involved in the ICE Program, Jeffries Street Learning Center and Exxon Community Summer Jobs Program. I will translate this research into a collection of SMU volunteer profiles. An additional component of this undertaking is evaluating the supervision given by host agencies, their perception of volunteer impact, and the on-campus programs that prepare SMU students for their varied forms of public service.

Through a deeper understanding of SMU's current community service, our coordination with the SMU Volunteer Center, and exploration of appropriate curricular companions, the Maguire Center hopes to contribute to the institutionalization of service learning at SMU.

Ethics-Related Events:

Charles E. Curran and William F. May: May 21, 1996 - Attending Clergy Association, Presbyterian Hospital, Plano, Texas.

Charles E. Curran:

- 5/23: Prince of Peace Church, Plano, Texas

Religion and Politics

- 6/1: National Ministries Conference, Boston, MA
Sexual Morality and Alienation from the Church
- 6/17 - 6/19:

Seminar with Industrial Areas Foundation
Community Organizers, Austin, The Church
and Social Change

William F. May:

- 5/31: St. Mark's School, Commencement Speaker
- 6/7: Keynote Speaker at the Retirement Banquet honoring Dr. Daniel Callahan
- 8/18 - 8/20:

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, Ministry as a
Profession and The Beleaguered Rulers: The Public
Obligation of the Professional"

— continued on back page

Godbey Lecture Series - Summer 1996:

For more information and admission fees, call 768-2532.

The Writer and the City - Jim Hopkins, History Dept.

Thursdays, June 6, 13, 20, 27

1:30 p.m. - Lectures, Alumni Center

June 6 - Stefan Zweig and Vienna

June 13 - Virginia Woolf and London

June 20 - Christopher Isherwood and Berlin

June 27 - Ernest Hemingway and Paris

Books Present, Books Past

Tuesdays, June 11, 18, 25, July 2

McCord Auditorium, Dallas Hall

7:30 p.m. - Lectures (refreshments following)

June 11 - *Land of Hope and Glory* by Marshall Terry-Historian and Essayist.

June 18 - "No Man is an Island": The Lives of Jack Donne/The Very Reverend John Donne by Michael Holahan of the English Dept.

June 25 - *The Manhattan Project: A Documentary Study of the Development and Military Use of the Atom-bomb* by R. Hal Williams of the History Dept.

July 2 - *Desegregating Schools in Dallas: Four Decades in the Federal Court* by Glenn Linden, History Dept.

Rituals and Passages: Four Contemporary Novels About Families in Transition - Vicki Hill, (Director of Learning Enhancement Center)

Tuesdays, July 2, 9, 16, 23

11:00 a.m. - Lectures, Alumni Center

12:00 noon - Luncheons with discussions

July 2 - Anna Quindlen, *Object Lessons*, 1991

July 9 - Dorothy West, *The Wedding*, 1995

July 16 - Lynne Sharon Schwartz, *Disturbances in the Field*, 1983

July 23 - Jo-Ann Mapson, *Blue Rodeo*, 1994

Cézanne and Post Impressionism - Randall Griffin, Art History

Thursdays, July 11, 18, 25

11:00 a.m. - Lectures, Alumni Center

12:00 noon - Luncheons with discussions

July 11 - "Cézanne's Early Period" will examine the artist's often wildly operatic early paintings, as well as his work as an Impressionist.

July 18 - "Cézanne's Mature Period" will highlight Cézanne's Post-Impressionistic style in the 1880s and 1890s.

July 25 - "Cézanne after 1900" will focus on Cézanne's late imagery, along with an analysis of the painter's legacy.

Tel.: 214-768-4255 FAX: 214-768-3391

Dallas, Texas 75275

PO Box 750316

Southern Methodist University

Public Responsibility

Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Dallas, TX
Permit No. 856