

HEARTBEAT

The Medical Humanities Program at Baylor University

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Welcome

DEAR FRIENDS AND FORMER STUDENTS:

Heading into Homecoming weekend, our thoughts turn to alumni of the Medical Humanities Program. As you know our innovative program remains one of the only places in the United States offering a bachelor’s degree in medical humanities. Because of this, connecting with our students—past, present, and future—is of the utmost importance to us as the program continues to expand and develop.

This is the first of what we hope will be a regular series of newsletters to keep you in touch with our program and with each other. In May of 2007, 7 students graduated with a major in medical humanities. In May of 2013, there were 41 graduates from the program. As you can see, we have enjoyed tremendous growth and an expanded awareness about the contribution the medical humanities can make to the education of medical professionals.

Here are a few excerpts from the stories that our students and alumni have shared with us in a recent survey asking for your recommendations and reflections:

“Basic biology and chemistry helped me pass the MCAT,

but my Medical Humanities courses help me with work every day when I connect with patients who are sick and suffering”

“I continue to put into practice all that I learned from medical humanities and because of the tools this major equipped me with every encounter with a patient or clinical experience is another learning experience. As a freshman in college I would choose medical humanities all over again”

“It has helped me in every way possible and continues to help me to date. Coming into medical school, I knew, thanks to Medical Humanities, that the training is very emotionally draining...My training in medical humanities has allowed me to remember the reason I chose this career.”

It thrills us to keep with your professional progress and we appreciate you letting us know where you are, what you're doing any thoughts that you have about the program. In this newsletter, you will

read about the addition of new faculty, the expansion of our course offerings and the addition of exciting new opportunities for students. We want to invite you to continue to be a part of the community we are creating here in the Medical Humanities Program.

Please accept our invitation to join us for an alumni reception during Homecoming, this Friday, October 18th at the new Living and Learning Center, from 5 to 8 pm.

We hope to see you at Homecoming or any time you are on campus!

**ALL THE BEST,
 DR. MARCUM,
 BARRON & HOY**

PS: Be sure to like us on Facebook to keep up with our faculty and staff, to stay informed about regional and national events in the medical humanities community, for great links to our favorite medical humanities resources, and to connect with your classmates and current students!

Medical Humanities Scholarship

During a special campus ceremony on February 21, 2013, Baylor University accepted a \$500,000 gift from the DeBakey Medical Foundation to expand the Michael E. DeBakey, Selma DeBakey and Lois DeBakey Endowed Scholarship in **Medical Humanities**. With this gift, the Foundation has invested \$1 million in the DeBakey Scholarship fund, which was established in 2009.

President of the DeBakey Foundation Dr. George P. Noon and DeBakey Medical Foundation trustee Gale Galloway presented the check to the university during the ceremony.



Pictured: Gale Galloway, Estela Rodriguez Alonso, Stephanie Allen, Tyler Jones, Elizabeth Miller and Elizabeth Puckett, Dr. George Noon and Dr. Lauren Barron

New Faculty

Bill Hoy



Dr. Bill Hoy is the newest faculty member in the Medical Humanities Program. Prior to coming to teach at Baylor in 2012, Dr. Hoy spent three decades counseling with dying and grieving people, as well as teaching colleagues how to more effectively work with those populations.

With an intense scholarly interest in death rituals, Dr. Hoy has explored the ways various people groups conduct funerals and how those ceremonies help or hinder the bereavement process. *Do Funerals*

Matter? The Purposes and Practices of Death Rituals in Global Perspective, his most recent book, is his “take” on what makes these ceremonies work for families and communities. The research included in this book reflects an exploration of the funeral ceremonies of more than 140 people groups in contemporary culture and throughout history.

Dr. Hoy’s clinical experience includes more than 15 years looking after the pastoral care and bereavement programs for two different southern California hospice programs. From 1996 until coming to Baylor, he directed the

counseling program for Pathways Volunteer Hospice in Long Beach, a multi-cultural urban community in south Los Angeles County.

“The pre-health Medical Humanities students with whom I am working are brilliant men and women who will make a profound difference in the world,” he says. Having completed his undergraduate education at a large state university (he is an alumni of Louisiana State University), Hoy understands the problems inherent in classes of 300 students. In addition to classroom teaching, Dr. Hoy loves the personal interaction with students afforded by Baylor’s low student to faculty ratio. He and

his wife recently hosted about 35 of his students in their home on two separate evenings.

Bill Hoy and his wife Debbie, a Baylor alumna herself, have two young adult children. Carolyn is finishing up a degree in English and Communications at Dallas Baptist University and their son Greg is a freshman University Scholar (pre-med) here at Baylor. The Hoys make their home on a 21-acre “spread” just outside of Crawford, about a half hour from the Baylor campus.

Medical Humanities Retreat

The 15th annual Medical Humanities Retreat has been scheduled for April 11-12, 2014. For those of you who have attended in the past, you know that the purpose of the retreat is to carve out time for reflection and contemplation on the sacred nature of a vocation in medicine. This retreat, first envisioned by Dr. Mike Attas, has always been the heart and soul of the medical humanities program.

Last year was the first year that the retreat was held on campus, in the beautiful setting of Truett Seminary. It was a great success with our largest retreat ever featuring Dr. Kay Toombs and Dr.

Jackson Griggs as our guest speakers, whose talks centered around “Cultivating Community: What it Means and Why it Matters in Modern Medicine”.



One of the most popular sessions is always the one in which we interview alumni---now medical

students and residents—who are able to tell our current students what medical training is REALLY like. Please let us know if you are interested in coming back to the Baylor campus for the retreat as an alumnus! We would love to have you on this panel!

So mark your calendars now. We’ll have more inspiring guest speakers, breakout sessions, and plenty of opportunities for conversations with students and the Medical Humanities faculty. Every year this event proves to be a personal and professional highlight of my year and we’d love to have you join us.

“The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease.”

Sir William Osler

Class Spotlight

As a growing program for pre-health students, the Medical Humanities curriculum is always evolving and expanding to better address the needs of students preparing for healthcare careers. Newest among the courses of instruction is MH 4396, Disability and Society. Developed and taught by Jason Whitt, PhD, the course reflects critically on the intersection of

human well-being, understandings of disability, the nature of suffering, and practical care of persons with disabilities.

“This is ultimately a course about anthropology,” Dr. Whitt says. “I want students to fully consider what it means to be human. Perhaps more importantly, I want students to come away from this course

understanding more fully what it means to compassionately serve people who live with profound disabilities.” Dr. Whitt is associate director for Baylor’s Institute for Faith and Learning. His research interests include political theology, ecclesiology, and theology of disability. Currently, his research focuses on Christian understandings of

disability and ecclesial practices shaping a theology of disability.

“I want students to fully consider what it’s like to be human”

Upcoming Events

Please join fellow alumni and friends
Of Baylor University Prehealth
And Medical Humanities at a

Homecoming Reception

Friday, October 18, 2013

5 – 8 p.m.

East Village Residential Community
Earle Hall Lawn
306 Bagby Avenue

Please join
Current Medical Humanities students and friends
Of Baylor University Medical Humanities for:

Dr. Pepper Hour

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

3 – 4 p.m.

In the Medical Humanities Program office
BSB D.108

Dr. Marcum: Faculty In Residence at New LLC

In addition to being the MH program director, Dr. Jim Marcum is now living in Hallie Earle Hall as the first Faculty in Residence (FIR) at the newly opened Science & Health Living-Learning Center. Dr. Marcum is enjoying his lovely new apartment in Earle Hall adjacent to a beautiful library and a suite of offices for other science and allied health faculty.

“I enjoy talking with students about their career goals and how best to achieve them and am working with several students on

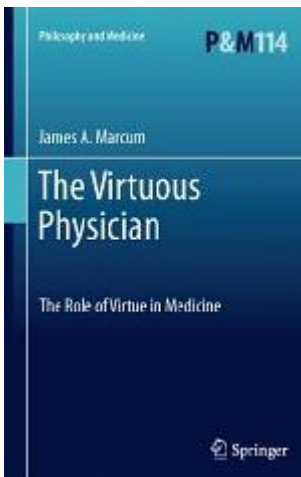
individual research topics. I’m also involved in assembling a team of students to compete in the upcoming International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition,” says Dr. Marcum.

The proximity that Dr. Marcum now has to pre-health and science students in the Living and Learning Center (LLC) provides many opportunities to engage in learning outside of the classroom in a “professionally focused community” and fosters collaboration between students and

faculty.

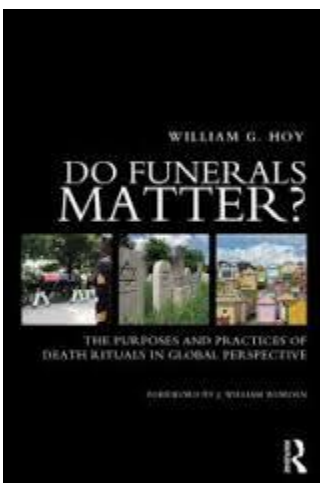
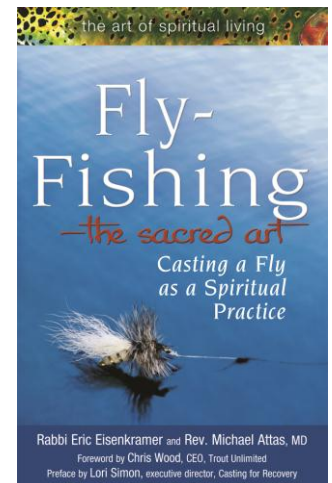
Informal activities combined with formal programming provide the academic background our students need as medical scholars and future leaders in science and healthcare professions. Working with residence hall directors and Campus Living and Learning staff, Dr. Marcum enjoys being a part of a learning community that fosters academic excellence, promotes faculty-student interaction, and enriches the student living experience.

Recent Publications



Dr. Marcum's most recent publication is *The Virtuous Physician: The Role of Virtue in Medicine*, which you can access at: <http://www.springer.com>. In this book, Dr. Marcum discusses the classical virtues as applied to physicians and discusses the specific virtues as they relate to medicine. He also reconstructs clinical case stories that illustrate the virtues associated with medical practice, discusses how the notion of the virtuous physician can address the quality-of-care and professionalism crises in modern medicine.

Dr. Mike Attas continues as a great friend and supporter of the Medical Humanities Program, allowing students to shadow him at the hospital and in his clinic and as a favored guest speaker for classes and student organizations. If you know Dr. Attas you know that in addition to being a practicing cardiologist and episcopal priest, he loves fly fishing! His new book is *Fly-Fishing, The Sacred Art*, available through amazon.com. In it "the fly line is more than a way to connect human beings to fish. Each cast of the fly line connects us to nature, to others and to the Divine Presence."



Do Funerals Matter? The Purposes and Practices of Death Rituals in Global Perspective (Routledge, 2013) is the newest book from the pen (or computer) of clinical faculty member, Bill Hoy. *Do Funerals Matter?* is a creative interweaving of sociological and anthropological views on funerals to examine why and how they work to shepherd families and communities through the early period of grief. Hoy posits that in spite of the oft-quoted "cultural diversity," there really is much similarity in how we care for and memorialize our dead from one cultural family to another and from one historical era to the next. Rather than just seeing the diversity among us, he suggests there are at least five *anchors* that bind us: the use of significant symbols, gathered community, ritual action, connection to heritage, and transition of the dead from one place to another.

