Paige Comstock Cunningham, JD
Executive Director

This annual report is a celebration of God's goodness, provision, and encouragement.

**IN GRATITUDE**, we are inspired by our vision that a distinctly Christian conception of bioethics is attended to by the academy and lived out by the church.

**IN HUMILITY**, we carry out our mission to be an authoritative, theologically and conceptually rigorous center anticipating, interpreting, and engaging the pressing bioethical issues of our day.

As someone who supports our mission, you have two ways to connect with our work in Christian bioethics through:

**THE CENTER FUND**

Underwrites our operating expenses, and makes sure that we have people, offices, and supplies. It is our most important funding.

**THE DIGNITY FUND**

Makes it possible to expand outreach through things like special events and initiatives, through your “above and beyond” gifts.

It is a pleasure to report to you successes made possible through both the Center Fund and the Dignity Fund in 2014.

I invite you to join in our celebration.

Paige Comstock Cunningham, JD
Executive Director

Michael J. Sleasman, PhD
Managing Director & Research Scholar

Jennifer McVey, MDiv
Event & Education Manager

Glory A. Diaz, MPM
Communication Manager & Executive Assistant

CBHD STAFF
It is easy to be blown away by the many stories of God’s faithfulness and incredible accomplishments that have occurred throughout the history of CBHD, as well as the many generous contributors who have been with us the whole way. What is even more exciting, though, is to look around and see the impact that is being made now and realize how many stories are still to be told.

The primary purpose of a donation is not to help us reach a fundraising goal, but rather to create opportunities for more stories to be told. A contribution is an investment that helps carry out the CBHD mission both locally and globally, both in the Church, as well as outside the Church. Take some time to read the rest of the report and see the impact that is being made. If you believe in the work that is being done here, help continue the story and join me in making an investment through this year’s Center and/or Dignity Fund.

Thank you.

BIOENGAGEMENT PARTNERS

The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity gratefully acknowledges the support of our BioEngagement Partners: individuals and institutions who have given $1,000 or more to the Center Fund during the 2014 calendar year.

Anonymous Individuals (2)
Anonymous Institutions (3)
Cornerstone EFC
Capper, David Paul
Casey, Samuel B.
Chang, Liming
Cunningham, Jay & Paige
Erickson, Dale & Sue Alice
Etienne, Peter & Marcia
Falkenheimer, Sharon Ann
Gianopulos, Harold & Mary
Hancock, Nathan & Liz
Hensley, Samuel & Elizabeth
Hollman, Jay & Charlotte
Hsieh, Theodore & Jeanette
Jeffries, Brentley & Coral
Karpeles, Michael & Kimberley
Khalil, Marcia & Adeeb
Kilner, John & Suzanne
Kilner, Peter & Deborah
Krueger, Michael & Lynne
Lau, James & Shirley
Liljestrand, Robert & Janet
Miller, Hersey E.
Neuhaus, Charles & Ruthanne
Nyberg, Neil & Becky
Radford, Amelia J.
Sampson, John & Nancy
Samuelson, Scott C.
Schwarz, Fred & Carol
Steiner, Shane C.
Strom, Priscilla Ruth
Thomson, James N.
Upcraft, Charles
Van Campen, Luann E.
Voet, Richard & Kathleen
Yates, Nick & Jacquelyn
Yeh, Stephen & Lois
Zimmerman, Richard & Elizabeth
The Center Fund is the foundation for ongoing operations. It sustains our identity as a Christian bioethics research center. Investment in the Center Fund is an investment in the vision and mission of CBHD, and a vote of confidence for our work in Christian bioethics.

Four full-time and several part-time staff contributed to successes in 2014, some of which are highlighted in this annual report.

EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP

The Center engages in the work of Christian bioethics, providing broadly accessible resources on both familiar and cutting-edge issues at the intersection of medicine, science, technology, and our common humanity. Whether it is speaking to a large crowd or mentoring a student, CBHD staff are committed to a deep respect for human dignity, and a robust understanding of human flourishing. Our desire is to help Christians live out what we believe about being made in the image of God.

STUDENTS

Through various opportunities extended by CBHD, students have an unparalleled opportunity to gain familiarity with academic bioethics, and interact with scholars from around the world. For some, this is the distinctive difference that separates them from the crowd and opens the door to grad school and doctoral programs.

- Counseling about research fellowships and career opportunities
- Supervision of graduate bioethics student capstone projects
- Supervision of interns (from undergrads to graduate students, both TIU and non-TIU students), field education, research assistants

- Michael Sleasman (Advanced) and Paige Cunningham (Intensive) taught bioethics courses, and Michael presented several lectures, in connection with summer Institute courses.
It is a hopeful sign that Christians want to learn more about the bioethical issues of our day. The transformative possibility of lifelong learning encourages and inspires us. One friend said, “Guess what? I used what you taught in the class on end-of-life care to work through a situation with my mother in an assisted living facility.”

- Michael Sleasman taught an adult education class on “Medicine, Technology, and Living the Faithful Christian Life” (College Church, Wheaton, IL).
- Jennifer McVey (along with Paige Cunningham) spoke at a TIU women’s event on “Perspectives on Childlessness: Viewing Life from the Journey of Others.”
- Paige taught a 6-week adult education class on “Thinking through Life’s Bioethics Questions as a Christian” (College Church).
- Paige served as the moderator for a Chicago Bar Association seminar on “End of Life: Ethical Concerns, Religious Perspectives, and Civil Law.”
- In a roundtable conversation on the future of evangelism, Paige focused on bioethics. The event at Trinity International University in honor of the inauguration of our president David S. Dockery, included D.A. Carson, Peter Cha, Timothy George, Bryan Loritts, Tom Nelson, and Ed Stetzer, moderator.
- Paige taught an adult education class on reproductive ethics, as part of a series at The Cornerstone Church (Arlington Heights, IL).
- The board of a non-profit organization invited Paige to guide them in thinking through policies about embryo donation and adoption.
- Research Assistant Joel Chopp and Research Analyst Heather Zeiger presented papers at professional conferences.
The summer conference is the Center’s premier educational event, drawing experts and participants from around the world. Here is what one participant had to say this past year:

We were mightily blessed by all the events of last week’s conference. We were blessed because CBHD has remained true to its Christian calling.

Moving from familiar ethical questions and older paradigms toward a bioethical landscape that is globally connected, scientifically comprehensive, and technologically saturated. Attendees heard multiple perspectives on the shifting landscape in contemporary, globally connected bioethics.

“...

We were blessed because so many very busy presenters graciously gave of their time. Thank you.

“..."
Center staff regularly field questions on this and many other ‘hot topics’ in bioethics. Throughout the year, we respond to hundreds of information and media requests. Some are urgent, and all are important. The following is a sample of the media requests that were filled.

**RADIO**
- Paige Cunningham was interviewed for a program on three-parent embryos (“Mornings on the Mall,” WMAL—Washington, DC).
- “Bring to Mind” invited Michael Sleasman back to feature him again for its 100th episode, on “Cultivation of the Mind, Part 3” (Moody Radio).
- “Karl and June Mornings” (Moody Radio) interviewed Paige on the first womb transplant baby, and later on the Australian twin boy with Down syndrome born to a Thai surrogate.
- Everyday Bioethics radio commentary on Moody (January—June). All 135 episodes are available at everydaybioethics.org/podcast.

**CREDIBLE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

*Where can I find accurate information about current successes in stem cell research?*

Center staff regularly field questions on this and many other ‘hot topics’ in bioethics. Throughout the year, we respond to hundreds of information and media requests. Some are urgent, and all are important. The following is a sample of the media requests that were filled.
INFO REQUESTS

- Article reprints — for republishing on another website or a print publication
- Advance Directives — for a doctoral dissertation
- Assistance in identifying faculty to teach medical ethics course
- Speaker and interview requests
- Advised woman about disposition of frozen embryos in a divorce case.

WEBSITES

- CBHD.ORG Our flagship site devoted to scholarship with a purpose provides a variety of print, audio, and video resources including articles, commentaries, and updates on the Center’s latest initiatives.
- BIOETHICS.COM CBHD-maintained newsblog: “your global information source for bioethics news and issues.”
- EVERYDAYBIOETHICS.ORG Accessible resources to help you understand tomorrow’s bioethical issues today.
- HERDIGNITY.NET The online presence of Her Dignity Network, the Center’s initiative in global women’s health.
- CHRISTIANBIOWIKI.ORG Online resource providing denominational statements on bioethical issues.

CBHD also partners with the following coalition websites:

- STEMCELLRESEARCH.ORG
- CLONINGINFORMATION.ORG
WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT

The Center has a strong online presence offering numerous resources. With growth comes engagement. Below we highlight some of the growth in engagement with our online resources over the 2014 calendar year.

CBHD.ORG
39.5%
increase in monthly sessions

CURRENT AVERAGE
153,165 MONTHLY SESSIONS

69.7%
INCREASE IN AVERAGE MONTHLY DOWNLOADS

@bioethicscenter
34.5%
Increase in Twitter following

@bioethicsdotcom
47.9%
Increase in Twitter following

FACEBOOK.COM/BIOETHICSCENTER
44.5%
Increase in Facebook page ‘likes’

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

facebook.com/bioethicscenter
@bioethicscenter

The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity
@bioethicsdotcom

youtube.com/bioethicscenter
linkd.in/thecbhd
The Dignity Fund leverages the Center’s good will, expertise, and networks and sustains outreach that is beyond the capacity of our operational budget. Originally launched with a generous multi-year grant from an anonymous donor, the Dignity Fund makes possible a variety of high-impact events and initiatives. As the Dignity Fund grows, these can flourish.

This past year, we saw results in several areas of influence:

**HER DIGNITY NETWORK**

**CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY**

- Dr. Jameela George, a 2009 Global Bioethics Education Initiative scholar, presented a webinar on “A Sustainable Model for Reducing Maternal Mortality: Evidence from the SHARE Project in Sub-Himalayan India.”

- Ending the 4-part series on maternal mortality with our highest-viewed webinar, Dr. Monique Chireau presented “Evidence-Based Best Practices to Address Maternal Mortality.”

**HEALTHCARE ETHICS COUNCIL**

**RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

- In our first webinar sponsored by the Healthcare Ethics Council, Dr. Ryan Nash expertly presented the hot topic of “Ebola Ethics: Bedside and Boardroom Considerations.”

**EBOLA ETHICS: BEDSIDE AND BOARDROOM CONSIDERATIONS**

*Thursday, December 4, 2014*

12:00PM - 12:45PM (CST)

**FREE Registration:**

[WWW.CBHD.ORG/HEC-WEBINAR](http://WWW.CBHD.ORG/HEC-WEBINAR)

**Speaker:** Ryan Nash, MD, MA, FACP, FAAHPM
INCREASING VISIBILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND AESTHETIC APPEAL

The REDESIGNED BIOETHICS.COM included an infrastructure upgrade. This well-trafficked news site attracts more users, who stay longer and view more pages.

We also REFRESHED CBHD.ORG, and introduced electronic membership management, and member-only access to premium content materials that currently include all archives of Dignitas, and will include access to audio and video archives within the next year.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

INVITING STUDENTS TO LIFELONG ENGAGEMENT

Facilitated roundtable discussions in theological bioethics with graduate students:

- Christology and Ethics, F. LeRon Shults and Brent Waters, eds. (Eerdmans, 2010)
- Self, World and Time, by Oliver O’Donovan (Eerdmans, 2013)

IN CLOSING...

Whether it is doing a short-notice interview on womb transplant babies, answering a question about IVF, inspiring students to integrate theological reflection in bioethics, refining the appeal and accessibility of online resources, or providing new learning for CBHD members and guests during our summer conference, we at the Center are committed to giving our best to the serious and rewarding tasks of generating careful scholarship and useful resources.

Regard for human dignity and our fellow image bearers merits no less.

Thank you for joining with us.
THE CENTER FOR BIOETHICS & HUMAN DIGNITY
IS A BIOETHICS RESEARCH CENTER AT TRINITY INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY.

The Center explores the nexus of biomedicine, biotechnology, and our common humanity. Within a Judeo-Christian Hippocratic framework, we anticipate, interpret, and engage the pressing bioethical issues of our day.