EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S WELCOME

We take great pleasure in sharing this annual report with you, showing how CBHD cultivates Christian bioethics through local, national, and global engagement. While most of our work takes place in our offices, its reach reverberates around the world.

Last year, I introduced the Center Fund and the Dignity Fund. Throughout this report, you’ll notice icons that connect with each source of funding. We appreciate those who are able to contribute to both.

Without your support, the voice of human dignity in the bioethics arena would be muffled. Your gifts of time, money, and encouragement are like soft applause that says, “Keep going!”

I’m grateful for each one of you. Thank you for linking with us!

Paige Comstock Cunningham, JD
Executive Director

Ways you can connect with our work in Christian bioethics:

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.

CBHD STAFF

Michael J. Sleasman, PhD
Managing Director & Research Scholar

Jennifer McVey, MA
Event & Education Manager

Hope Prinkey, MA
Communication Manager & Executive Assistant

Michelle Kirby, PhD
Bioethics & Public Policy Associate

Andrew Moore, ThM, MDiv
Intern

PART-TIME STAFF AND INTERNS

Lindsey Callaway
Office Assistant

Ben Parks, MA
Intern

Ryan Silbary
Event & Education Assistant

Heather Zeiger, MS, MA
Research Analyst

DEERFIELD, ILLINOIS

CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

- Michael Sleasman presented a white paper exploring ethical considerations of medical marijuana to the leaders of an evangelical denomination and met to discuss follow-up questions.
- Paige and Michael filed a letter on behalf of CBHD with the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical issues emphasizing the need to welcome religious values and perspectives in the public square.

INITIATIVES

- The Center convened a private, invitation-only consultation on the mechanism of levonorgestrel/Plan B (the “morning after pill”) and the potential effects it might have on a new embryo. Participants were deeply appreciative, and the discussions clarified the medical and biological points of concern.
- CBHD hosted the Center’s 4th Academy of Fellows (AOF) Consultation that explored academic and professional mentorship along with presentations of current research by fellows.

EQUIPPING & EDUCATION

- Michael and Paige taught and guest lectured in multiple courses leading up to the Center’s annual summer conference.
- Michael presented “Machine Morality: Consideration for the Robotic Revolution” for the Division of Science, Technology, and Health Department chapel at TIU.
- Theological Bioethics Roundtables provided an opportunity for graduate and doctoral students at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School to interact with CBHD research staff to discuss bioethics from a theological perspective.
- Center Staff oversaw interns, supervised field education for graduate students, and guided several student capstone projects.

No one else could have brought all these people together.
- Comments from the Plan B Consultation

Plan B Consultation

AOF Consultation

Theological Bioethics Roundtable
COMMUNITY AND CHURCH ENGAGEMENT

• Paige was the featured speaker at The Cornerstone Church (Glenview, IL) women’s retreat.
• Paige led several sessions at The Orchard (Arlington Heights, IL) and College Church (Wheaton, IL) on fetal tissue research ethics in light of the Planned Parenthood controversy.
• Paige participated in a panel discussion representing the bioethical perspective on “The Future of Marriage” with R.R. Reno, Daniel J. Olsen, and Mike McDuffee at New Covenant Church (Naperville, IL).

LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

22ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT

SCIENCE, RESEARCH, AND THE LIMITS OF BIOETHICS

A highlight of CBHD’s year, the annual summer conference is the Center’s premier event, gathering medical and legal professionals, ethicists and scholars, educators and students committed to engaging contemporary issues in bioethics from a Christian perspective.

Each year the Center is purposeful in choosing a theme for our conference relevant to current trends in academic bioethics, as well as pressing contemporary issues at the intersection of medicine, science, technology, and our common humanity.

Outstanding plenary speakers from across the spectrum of scientific and technological research, law, philosophy, and theology reminded attendees of the awe and wonder of God’s masterful creation encountered in scientific inquiry, yet with the need to continue to raise ethical considerations.

LOCAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

RADIO INTERVIEW TOPICS INCLUDED:

“Karl and June Mornings”
• The use of animals to grow human organs
• Euthanasia in Belgium
• Auditory brain implants
• Proposal for head transplants

“Let’s Talk with Mark Elfstrand”
• Neural drug implants
• Chinese report of gene editing of embryos
• Physician-assisted suicide law in California

“Chris Fabry Live”
• Two-dad embryos and IVF for same sex couples

“People have been stimulated to think seriously (and talk animatedly!) about subjects that are likely to concern us all down the road.”

- 2015 CBHD Conference Comment
Across the United States

UtaH
Paige Cunningham presented on the topic "Brave New World: Bioethics, Cloning, and GMO Humans" at the World Congress of Families IX in October. This was part of a panel session on "Choice and Consequences." •

Illinois
Michael Sleasman represented CBHD at the annual meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics in Chicago. •

Utah
Paige presented "Why the Ethics of Science, Medicine, and Technology Matter More to the Church than Bioethics" to faculty at Talbot School of Theology, and "Two-Dad" and Three Parent Embryos: Constructing Persons in the 21st Century, to students and faculty at Trinity Law School. •

Tennessee
Paige advised on a bill regarding mandatory reporting of egg donor and sperm donor information. •

California
Paige presented "Why the Ethics of Science, Medicine, and Technology Matter More to the Church than Bioethics" to faculty at Talbot School of Theology, and "Two-Dad" and Three Parent Embryos: Constructing Persons in the 21st Century, to students and faculty at Trinity Law School. •

Texas
Michael represented CBHD at the annual meeting of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. •

Louisiana
Paige co-presented a workshop on the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and prenatal genetic discrimination at the 2015 Christian Legal Society Conference. •

Massachusetts
For Life Matters TV, Paige answered questions about "What exactly is bioethics?" The episode aired 7 times in December. •

Ohio
Paige became a recurring guest on "Brian and Kathleen Mornings" (Moody Radio, Cleveland). •

Washington, D.C.
Congressional Briefing
- Jennifer McVey hosted a congressional briefing featuring Rosalind Picard who spoke on "Improving Emotional Connection in the Digital Age: Affective Computing and Assistive Technologies." •

Culture of Life Seminar
- Paige presented "Wish List Children," a lecture on genetic screening and unexpected prenatal diagnosis, at the Culture of Life Seminar at March for Life in January. •

Illinois
Michael Sleasman represented CBHD at the annual meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics in Chicago.

Georgia
Michael Cox presented a paper entitled, "Cases of Sex Sin: An Exploration of Deuteronomy 22 and 1 Corinthians 5" at the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) meeting in Atlanta. Michael Sleasman also represented CBHD at ETS and the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. •

"We need to ask of a new technology: Who benefits? Who is harmed? Who is in control, the technology or us?"
- Paige at Talbot in California
AROUND THE WORLD

INFO REQUESTS

- Staff handled 200+ information requests in 2015 (up from 2014) from elementary school students, college students, pastors and various professionals.
- Frequently requested topics included: stem cell research, human cloning, vaccination, surrogacy, reproductive technologies, contraception, end-of-life care planning, and fetal tissue research.

PUBLICATIONS

- *Dignitas*, the Center’s quarterly publication, featured essays on issues such as transitions in women’s health (Susan Haack, MD, MDiv, MA), organ donation and transplantation (Edward J. Grant, JD), an update on affective computing (Michelle Kirtley, PhD) and a vision for integrity-centered healthcare (Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD).
- Michael Sleasman contributed to the *Encyclopedia of Global Bioethics*, edited by Henk ten Have (Springer) with entries on nanotechnology and robots.
- Paige and Michael co-authored an article entitled, “What’s Wrong with Designer Genes?” on DesiringGod.org about CRISPR and gene editing of human embryos.
- Paige continued her quarterly “Biohazards” Column for Salvo magazine. This year she addressed head transplants, gene editing, human cloning, and scoreboard bioethics.
- Michael was quoted in Relevant magazine for an article on “The Science of Life.”

POLAND

Jennifer Castañeda, MD, PhD, was our 2015 Global Bioethics Education Initiative scholar. Originally from the Philippines, she resides in Poland, where she focuses her research on ethics in genetics, genetic counseling, and prenatal diagnostics.

INDIA

Through the generosity of an anonymous benefactor, Trinity Graduate School is providing the opportunity for five doctors from India to complete their MA Bioethics (MA/BE) at Trinity. CBHD hosted them for two weeks in Deerfield for courses and the summer conference, as the in-residence portion of their educational experience.

INDONESIA

Paige attended a conference in Indonesia addressing *Christian Responses to Global Health Issues*. She presented a paper for a breakout session on “Human Dignity and the ‘Child of Choice’: Technology, Human Procreation, and Christian Engagement.”

“...We need an international society of Christian bioethicists . . .”

- Bioethicist from East Asia at Indonesia Conference
CBHD is more than just an annual conference or a website that provides resources. Rather, CBHD actively engages, and helps move the dialogue forward on important issues surrounding care for human life. As you read through this report, we hope you saw the many practical and influential ways in which we carry out our mission. We also hope you know that it is your contributions which make all of this possible.

We will continue to find new ways to make an impact on the world of bioethics from a Christian perspective, and I ask you to continue to partner with us on this journey through your financial support.

THANK YOU

CBHD gratefully acknowledges the support of our BioEngagement Partners: individuals and institutions who have given $1,000 or more to the Center Fund during the 2015 calendar year.

Anonymous Individuals (2)
Anonymous Institutions (4)

Cornerstone EFC
Capper, David Paul
Chang, Liming
Cunningham, Jay & Paige
Erickson, Dale & Sue Alice
Etienne, Peter & Maci
Falkenheimer, Sharon Ann
Gianopulos, Harold & Mary
Haisch, Carl & Luella
Hancock, Nathan & Liz
Hensley, Samuel & Elizabeth
Hollman, Jay & Charlotte
Hsieh, Jeanette
Jeffries, Brentley & Coral
Karpeles, Michael & Kimberley
Khalil, Marcia & Adeb
Kilner, John & Suzanne
Kilner, Peter & Deborah
Krueger, Michael & Lynne
Lau, James & Shirley
Miller, Hersey

Neuhaus, Charles & Ruthanne
Radford, Amelia J.
Steiner, Shane C.
Strom, Priscilla Ruth
Tsang, Tat & Corina
Thomson, James N.
Upcraft, Charles
Van Campen, Luann E.
Voet, Richard & Kathleen
Yeh, Stephen & Lois

BIOENGAGEMENT PARTNERS

In honor of Colleen Buyers by Mrs. Janet Buyers
In honor of Paige Cunningham by Jameson Cunningham
In memory of Amy Kass by Dr. Leon Kass
In memory of Mr. Timothy Bell by Dr. William Graddy

GIFTS GIVEN . . .

At a time when so many so-called bioethicists promote secular values, CBHD continues to be a loud, clear voice upholding the dignity and infinite worth of human life endowed to all of us by our Creator.

- Chuck Upcraft, 2015 CBHD Donor

NOTE: Measurements taken from December 2014 to December 2015
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.