

# ethical connections

**INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL ETHICS**

## A Field Report from Latin America

by Paula Mirk  
Vice President, Education

The Education Department's first big step into Latin America surpassed expectations in more ways than I can count! An Ethical Fitness™ Seminar at Universidad Francisco Marroquin attracted 32 high-caliber, enthusiastic thinkers from the medical, legal, accounting, and psychology faculties of the university, as well as from the American School of Guatemala. Conducted in Spanish, the Seminar generated discussion of some of the very same issues that dominate our Seminars in other parts of the world: "The media is a bad influence on our children!"; "Justice and fairness are not the same thing!"; and even "I caught a student cheating on a test, but felt torn about what to do!" The discussion about core values included a lively and fascinating dialog about the difference between responsibility and freedom; participants felt

*continued on page 3*



## Students Work to Build Ethical Fitness™ in Local Community

**S**imon Gratz High School in North Philadelphia is a tough school in a tough neighborhood—an unlikely setting for a remarkable service-learning model.

Students, aged 15 to 18, in the high school's Youth-Driven Service Learning Center have been trained to teach the Institute's Ethical Fitness™ process to their peers throughout the city. Abby Kidder, Education Associate, notes, "The students are putting the Ethical Fitness process into action and being creative about it. They consider themselves professionals in this."

Run by the students themselves, the Learning Center was founded to build successful community partnerships through the North Philadelphia area's fifteen schools. These partnerships then provide additional

high school students with service-learning opportunities. As Learning Center director Jan Steinberg explains, "It's through these opportunities and appropriate training that the students can give strength to their communities."

Steinberg organized the Learning Center students for a three-day Ethical Fitness Seminar retreat this past September. As the retreat progressed, the students understood that identifying an array of shared values, then drawing on those values for a code of ethics would help a group work together harmoniously.

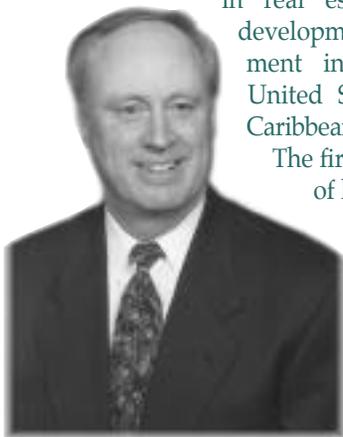
Having completed the Ethical Fitness training, the students will now share the process with their community partners—local agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals. As Jan Steinberg notes,

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# What's New?

## ■ New Institute Office Opens Its Doors in Canada

The Canadian office of the Institute opened in Toronto with Doug Bryden at the helm this past July. Bryden, a graduate of the University of Toronto, spent most of his professional career



in real estate, property development, and investment in Canada, the United States, and the Caribbean.

The first three months of his tenure were devoted to “housekeeping,” as Bryden refers to it. Now, up to speed and ready to go,

Bryden says he plans to focus first on two areas—“promoting the Ethical Fitness™ Seminars and character education in Canadian schools.” His first task will be adapting the Institute’s teaching materials for use in Canada. Finding a receptive audience for the Institute’s programs requires incorporating Canadian examples and Canadian references into all publications.

Bryden is committed to the philosophy and programs of the Institute. “I want to play a part in addressing the ethical issues in society today,” he says. “Hopefully, I can in some small way make a difference by promoting an understanding that the world community does share common values that allow us to converse with one another through a common language.” ■

## Students Work to Build Ethical Fitness . . . , continued from page 1

“We want our partners . . . to work together to meet authentic community needs and to positively impact our students and their communities. Teaching, implementing, and practicing Ethical Fitness is a way of unifying the diverse population of [the Center’s] community partners.” Or as Martina Hay, an 11th-grade Simon Gratz student, puts it: “We all took the code of ethics seriously because without respect, fairness, compassion, responsibility, tolerance, loyalty, honesty, and trust we couldn’t work together.

I think the training was good because a lot of us didn’t know how to ‘think before we do.’”

The training model used by the Learning Center has attracted attention in the Philadelphia area. Inspired by its success, the Philadelphia Rotary Club is considering plans to fund additional projects in other area school districts. ■

### Tidbits

#### Coast Guard Uses Ethical Fitness™

Retired Coast Guard officer Randy Riesberg reports that Coast Guard personnel have taken to the Ethical Fitness process like ducks to water. A certified Trainer, Riesberg noted that the process has been “awesome. It really made them think. . . . People are eating [Ethical Fitness] up big time.” Riesberg, who now lives in Arizona, is busy thinking of ways to implement the Ethical Fitness process in county government, in which he is now employed.

#### Train the Trainer’s Second Reunion

The second reunion of individuals trained to conduct the Ethical Fitness Seminar was held in Camden last November. Traveling from throughout the United States, more than thirty certified Trainers met with Institute staff to share tips and techniques for leading seminars, discuss new dilemmas and emerging issues, and build a support network for Trainers.

#### Environmental-Values Report Published

This fall, the Institute’s Education Department published a new report focused on college students’ views of

the environment. The report, “Reaching Out,” examines the attitudes of nonactivist students—those without a demonstrated interest in protecting the environment—to see why they have remained generally uninvolved and what factors could motivate them to change that pattern. The report, authored by William E. Loges and made possible by a grant from The Nathan Cummings Foundation, is available via the Institute’s Web site.



## A Field Report from Latin America, *continued from page 1*

that these two ideas meant very similar things.

Following the Seminar, we held a two-day Train the Trainer at the university. Participants included several doctors, a couple of psychologists, a couple of accountants, a librarian, a lawyer, and staff from the lower, middle, and upper schools of the American School.

From Guatemala I traveled to Mexico, where I was very kindly received by Institute board member Carlos Ramos Garcia and his wife Maga, and worked closely with Andrea Hernandez, who is a school teacher in Mexico City and who spent a month at the Institute this summer as an intern. A visit with an independent, values-based K-12 school named Colegio Baden Powell proved fruitful; the director and I made plans for me to return in March for two workshops—one for teachers and one for administrators.

I also visited with Carolina Bolivar at the Ludwig von Mises Cultural Institute. She was very impressed with our curricular materials and plans to attend a Seminar in the coming year. When I visited her, she was preparing a proposal for training Mexican police in ethics. I was able to offer some Institute concepts to integrate, and I have since put her in touch with one of our Trainers, who has a law-enforcement background. Given Carolina's strong working relationship with incoming Mexican president Vicente Fox and the upbeat, ethics-oriented nature of his platform, this seems like a particularly good time to be collaborating in Mexico.

The next day, Andrea and I visited several schools and foundations, and facilitated a seminar for her school staff. Marta Lopez, of the large educational organization "Gente Nueva" visited this seminar and afterwards

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# Staff Profile

## ■ Wayne Saucier

*Program Associate, Public Policy*

All the world seems south to a fellow from Fort Kent, Maine. Wayne Saucier, the new program associate in the Public Policy department, spent time exploring those latitudes—with a lengthy side trip to Alaska—before beginning work with the Institute in May.

As a student at the University of Maine at Fort Kent, a high point in Saucier's college career was a two-year detour to work for the Alaska Governor's Office and the state Senate minority leader. "I went to the University of Alaska for one year, on the National Student Exchange Program," explains Saucier. "Then I took some time off, and ended up running the Senate minority leader's reelection campaign and then worked on his legislative staff."

Saucier believes that his three years in Alaskan state politics helped prepare him for his work at the Institute. As program associate, Saucier spent the past fall working on the Institute's Project on Campaign Conduct, including a month on the road in Ohio.

"I enjoyed working with local civic groups and candidates," Saucier explains. The typical question he heard from political candidates asked to sign a code of conduct was, "I fully intend to act with integrity in my campaign. However, my opponent has been going negative from the start. What would I gain by signing a code?" The message Saucier tried to convey was that ethical campaign behavior is a topic that needs to be discussed and that by committing to a code of conduct, candidates would be helping to foster that discussion and raise awareness.

Saucier has great enthusiasm for ethics and politics. "I was in Philadelphia this fall speaking to some high school classes," he recalls. "The students just laughed at the words *ethics* and *politics* used together. It doesn't have to be that way." ■



## Ethics in Action: The Trilemma Option

**P**articipants in the Ethical Fitness™ Seminars sometimes bump up against an apparent brick wall: They discover that not all ethical dilemmas can be solved by following the three resolution principles.

Sometimes none of the three actions indicated by the resolution principles feels right. Rather than tossing out the entire process, you might want to consider seeking a third way out, the so-called "trilemma" option.

To find a third way out, you must give yourself some time to think. Perhaps the possible solution to your dilemma is a compromise. In a situation of truth versus loyalty, for example, could there be some action that maintains loyalty while still being compatible with the truth?

When you use time and patience to think through a situation, you are more likely to uncover an alternative

route. How many times have you gone to bed to "sleep on it" and awakened with the problem unraveled? Sometimes it's best to let the mind ponder the situation until it finds a third solution.

Ask yourself a few questions:

- Is there an action available that will honor both rights?
- Is there a more creative action to take? Or a fresh way to look at the options?
- If more people are involved in the decision or action, could they offer other, preferable options?

Not all dilemmas can be resolved via this route. At times, it will be inevitable that doing the proper thing, the ethical action, will require making a difficult decision. But when none of the resolution principles leads to a clear decision, it's important to ask, "Is there another way out of this?" ■

**A Field Report . . .**, *continued from page 3*

met with us about promoting the Institute through her organization. The meeting included an offer to return in March to deliver a speech at Gente Nueva's annual conference—to 2,000 high school students!

All in all, the trip was packed with wonderful opportunities and certainly indicates a strong possibility for moving forward in Latin America! ■

**Open Ethical Fitness™ Seminars**

- January 17, 2001, Toronto, Canada
- January 23–24, 2001, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.
- February 12–13, 2001, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.
- February 21, 2001, Toronto, Canada
- March 22, 2001, London, England
- May 7, 2001, Camden, Maine, U.S.A.
- May 23, 2001, Toronto, Canada
- June 20, 2001, Toronto, Canada
- June 25, 2001, Camden, Maine, U.S.A.
- July 4, 2001, London, England
- July 17, 2001, Camden, Maine, U.S.A.
- September 21, 2001, Camden, Maine, U.S.A.
- October 16, 2001, Camden, Maine, U.S.A.
- November 13, 2001, London, England

*For U.S. seminar information, call 800-729-2615 (toll free). For U.K. information, call 020-7486-1954. For Canada information, call 877-843-8315 (toll free).*

*Snapshots from the Institute...*



*Education's Paula Mirk (center) journeyed to British Columbia, Canada, last October, where Pearson College of the Pacific students Andre (Phillippines) and Paulina (Mexico) led her on a tour of one of the college's real-life laboratories—Race Rocks, which also features the oldest lighthouse on Canada's western coast.*

*Rushworth Kidder traveled to London last autumn for a conference entitled "So You Want to Change the World?" at St. George's House, Windsor Castle. The conference brought together leading thinkers from different sectors of British society with trustees and fellows of the Comino and Gordon Cook foundations, which support a project on "Values and Responsibility" spearheaded by U.K. Trust director, Sheila Bloom (left), and Sim Khera (right).*



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