

*Ethics and Education*  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual CRC-Sacramento State CPPE  
Fall Ethics Symposium  
November 16-17, 2010  
Cosumnes River College Recital Hall

**November 16, 2010**

10:30 -- 11:50 a.m.

**Education, Ethics -- Profit? Reflections on Privatization and Educational Integrity**

Dr. Elizabeth Minnich

Senior Scholar, Association of American Colleges & Universities

12 noon -- 1:20 p.m.

**The Politics of Ethics Education in Science and Engineering**

Dr. Mark Brown

Professor of Government, Sacramento State University

1:30 p.m. -- 2 p.m. Reception (open to all participants)

**November 17, 2010**

10:30 -- 11:50 a.m.

**STEM Education in Colleges and Universities: Trends, Problems and Ethical Issues**

Dr. George A. Bekey

Research Scholar in Residence and Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Engineering, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo

12 noon -- 1:20 p.m. **Reconceptualizing Disability and Providing Equal Access to Education**

Dr. Lois Weinberg

Professor of Special Education at California State University, Los Angeles  
Coordinator, CSULA/UCLA Joint Doctoral Program in Special Education

1:30 – 2 p.m. Reception (open to all participants)

## **Education, Ethics -- Profit? Reflections on Privatization and Educational Integrity**

Dr. Elizabeth Minnich

*Massive recent changes to the world of education make it challenging to find moral bearings for ourselves, our students, and the general public. Privatization for profit in education raises difficult questions about the balance of private and public goods. External rewards and controls seem to threaten the integrity, trust, and internal coherence education requires. Honesty, in multiple senses, seems imperiled when the rewards and punishments on offer in education concern ends, products and results, rather than means, processes and relations. I'll suggest that a clear sense of ethics internally appropriate to education is more relevant than ever as imposed external ends of standardization, accountability, and profitability are increasingly judged not only necessary, but right.*

Dr. Elizabeth Minnich (Senior Scholar, Association of American Colleges & Universities, Office of Diversity, Equity & Global Initiatives) is the author of *Transforming Knowledge* (2nd ed.), co-author of *The Fox in The Henhouse: How Privatization Threatens Democracy*, and has papers in sixteen anthologies as well as three textbooks. She has taught at Sarah Lawrence, Hollins, Barnard, the Union Institute's interdisciplinary doctoral program, and has held visiting appointments as Alexander Chair, Scripps College; Visiting Scholar, the Getty Institute; Whichard Visiting Distinguished Professor of Humanities & Women's Studies, East Carolina University. Dr. Minnich chairs the Committee on Public Philosophy for the American Philosophical Association.

## **The Politics of Ethics Education in Science and Engineering**

Dr. Mark B. Brown

*Today many educational programs in science and engineering include courses in professional ethics. Most focus on the obligations of individual scientists and engineers. Students analyze case studies in light of various ethical frameworks and codes of conduct, addressing topics such as research fraud, conflicts of interest, human subjects research, and whistle blowing. An emerging alternative approach focuses less on individual ethical dilemmas and more on the institutional contexts of science and engineering. The aim is to link ethics education to the broad societal outcomes of science and technology. Students address not only the ethical problems faced by individuals, but also the economic, legal, and social causes of such problems. This talk will compare these two approaches to ethics education in science and engineering, highlighting their respective strengths and weaknesses, points of complementarity and conflict, and the political stakes underlying the differences between them.*

Dr. Mark B. Brown is associate professor in the Department of Government at California State University, Sacramento. He was previously a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Science and Technology Studies, Bielefeld University. He studied at UC Santa Cruz and the University of Göttingen, and received a Ph.D. in Political Science from Rutgers University. He is the author of *Science in Democracy: Expertise, Institutions, and Representation* (MIT Press, 2009), as well as several book chapters and journal articles in political theory, bioethics, and science and technology studies. He teaches courses in modern and contemporary political thought, democratic theory, and the politics of science and technology.

## **STEM Education in Colleges and Universities: Trends, Problems and Ethical Issues**

Dr. George A. Bekey

*At the present time there is an increasing emphasis on education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects in US universities. This emphasis is driven by the evidence of very large numbers of engineering graduates in other countries, and by the decreased enrollments in these subjects in the United States. However, these efforts frequently result in larger numbers of specialized technical courses, with little attention to broader social issues and the ethical problems raised by technology. In this talk we plan to review some of the ethical dilemmas being faced by STEM graduates and suggest some possible changes to the curricula so as to place additional emphasis on ethics.*

Dr. George A. Bekey (Ph.D. Engineering, UCLA) is an Emeritus Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southern California (USC) and founder of its Robotics Research Laboratory. He has published over 240 papers and several books in robotics, biomedical engineering, computer simulation, control systems, and human-machine systems, including *Autonomous Robots- from Biological Inspiration to Implementation and Control* (MIT Press, 2005). Founding Editor of the two major international journals in robotics, he is currently co-editing a book on robot ethics. Dr. Bekey is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Officially retired from USC in 2002, he continues to serve the University part-time. A consultant and member of the advisory boards of several high technology companies, Dr. Bekey is also affiliated with California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo, where he is a Research Scholar in Residence and a Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Engineering.

## **Reconceptualizing Disability and Providing Equal Access to Education**

Dr. Lois Weinberg

*Disabilities can be thought of as residing within the person or as created by the physical environment and the attitudes of the society. This presentation will discuss the moral implications of these views and argue, using historical and contemporary examples, that our treatment of individuals with disabilities must incorporate a conception of disability as residing outside the person to eliminate inferior treatment and status. Given this perspective, individuals with disabilities must be provided accommodations in school not only to level the playing field but also to ensure that they are fully included in the life of the school and, in most cases, the typical classroom. Universal design for learning is posited as a way to reduce some of the barriers that currently exist in schools.*

Dr. Lois A. Weinberg, (Ph.D. Philosophy of Education, University of California, Los Angeles) is Professor of Special Education at California State University, Los Angeles where she coordinates the Cal State LA/UCLA Joint Doctoral Program in Special Education. Since 1998, Dr. Weinberg and colleagues have spearheaded Stuart Foundation funded initiatives in California to improve education outcomes for children in foster care. Her research interests are in special education law and policy, the philosophical underpinnings of special education practices, systems change, and the education of children in the foster care system. She made numerous presentations across the country on these topics. Her published work includes *The Systematic Mistreatment of Children in the Foster Care System: Through the Cracks* (Haworth, 2007).

