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YSEALI Recap

We are proud to have hosted the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) program for the second straight year! This cohort focused on civil and human rights in which they attended 5 courses. The Siegel Institute facilitated two of those courses focused on conflict resolution and ethical leadership.

Furthermore, our Executive Director, Dr. Linda Johnston, accompanied the YSEALI cohort on their trips to Selma, Alabama, Washington, D.C, Miami, Florida, and Charleston, South Carolina. Dr. Johnston will be following up with the YSEALI cohort in Singapore this May for a three-day conference where the scholars will present their research projects.
New Faculty Highlight

Dr. Jermaine McDonald earned his Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the Graduate Division of Religion at Emory University, specializing in Ethics and Society, in 2015. He will be teaching ILEC 8800: Foundations of Ethics. He is the co-founder and managing editor of Symposium Ethics, an online space for Christian ethicists from across traditions, methodologies, and areas of specialization to discuss their recent scholarship and matters of public concern. Dr. McDonald is currently working on a book exploring the way American society uses, misuses, and abuses Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy. He is a devoted husband and proud father to two adorable children.

TEDx Kennesaw State University

Crystal Money, the Program Specialist of the Siegel Institute, was honored to speak at the 2017 TEDx Kennesaw State University. Her talk title - “Southern Discomfort: Choosing Childfree” stems from being named the 2016 International Childfree Woman of the Year and her personal experiences with choosing to be childfree in the midst of a strong southern culture. You can view her talk by visiting: http://www.tedxkennesawstateuniversity.org/.

Alex Almodóvar, MPA Graduate

Our GRA for the past two and a half years, Alex Almodóvar, is officially graduating this May with his Master’s in Public Administration! He will soon be officially entering the workforce.

Alex will graduate with a 4.0 GPA and a concentration in Governmental Administration. It has been wonderful to see Alex grow and develop over the past two years with our Institute. He has participated in three Phenomenal Women’s Conferences and partaken in a SIERS cohort among many other things. He has been an exemplary brand ambassador, and we will surely miss him.

As a graduate student, Alex was involved in so many activities. He has been actively involved in various student organizations, has volunteered for numerous events and committees, participated in a study abroad, presented at various academic conferences, won a scholarship, was selected into various honors societies, worked as an intern, and is now working on being published.

Congratulations to Alex on graduating and to all of his accomplishments!
2017 Phenomenal Woman of the Year

The Siegel Institute is happy to announce that our 2017 Phenomenal Woman of the Year is Katerina Taylor!

The Phenomenal Woman Award is offered annually to a woman who exemplifies ethical leadership and commitment to her community. The selection committee evaluates candidates based on their achievements in their professions and for their community. The Phenomenal Woman of the Year serves as a role model for the metro-Atlanta area. Katerina Taylor epitomizes the legacy of the Phenomenal Woman of the Year Award.

SIERS at SEWSA

Four of our Siegel Institute Ethics Research Scholars (SIERS) had the pleasure of presenting at the 2017 Southeast Women’s Studies Association Conference held in Atlanta, Ga.

Their presentation topics were as follows:

- **Ebru Pinar** - “Framework for Ethical Decision Making: How Various Types of Unethical Clothing production Have Different Impacts on People”
- **Bethany Heidel-Wyman** - “Social Acceptability of Factors Contributing to Psychological Abuse”
- **Michelle Edward** - “Perception vs. Representation: The Impact of Stereotypes and Eurocentric Standards on Black Women”
- **Laura Morrow** - “Cosmetic Beauty: The Intrinsic and ExtrinsicMotivators”

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### Summer 2017 Course Schedule:

- ILEC 8800 - Foundations of Ethics* (3)
- ILEC 8850 - Ethical Leadership in a Global Context* (3)
- ILEC 8980 - Leading and Shaping an Ethical Culture* (3)
- ILEC 8940 - Directed Study in Leadership and Ethics (3-6)

*Online Course

### Fall 2017 Course Schedule:

- ILEC 8810 - Foundations of Leadership* (3)
- ILEC 8910 - Technology and Ethics* (3)
- ILEC 8920 - Sport and Ethics (3)
- ILEC 8950 - Human Rights: The Roles of Law and Ethics* (3)
- ILEC 8940 - Directed Study in Leadership and Ethics (3-6)
Advisory Board
Member Highlight:
Beth Hermes

1. Can you give us a little background information about yourself and what sparked your interest in writing?
I lived my first 15 years on Long Island, and was an avid reader from a very early age. When I realized that people wrote the books, and the magazines and newspapers I read whenever I found one, I began writing stories of my own. (I think I had my own “newspaper” by 2nd grade, written on the scrap paper my father brought home from work). We moved to Georgia when I was in high school, and our school had no student paper. Four of us coordinated with our history teacher to begin a paper called The Phoenix, for which I was a writer and editor. (A year or so ago, I ran into a current student of that school who said she was on the newspaper staff. The paper we started in 1982 is still alive and well!) I earned my BA in Journalism from Auburn University, where my professors instilled in me the importance of ethics in preserving the integrity of the Fourth Estate.

2. In what ways do you feel that ethics is important in writing/journalism?
Whether we write non-fiction or fiction (I do both), good writing requires a “pact” of sorts between the writer and the reader. In Journalism, we must always be aware that the reader needs information for a specific reason: to learn something important, to reinforce or refute a held belief, or to be inspired. An effective article is well-researched, cites sources (unless anonymity is required, which is rare), and keeps the writer’s opinion out of the story. In fiction, we create a world that is true within the context of the story. For me, ethics in storytelling is always about staying true to the story, its characters, and to the reader who has entrusted me to value her time.

3. In your opinion, how often do journalists encounter ethical dilemmas?
I believe almost every story presents ethical dilemmas, in that we have to decide whether we are including something because it is true and important, or because it will “sell.” We must always ask if the source is knowledgeable/credible, and if what she is sharing is fact or opinion. And if we are including certain details, are they relevant, or are they sensational; if it is the latter, what is the purpose for including those details in the story? Also, being “on deadline” is never an excuse to print a story whose truth is questionable.

4. What are some of the ethical challenges that you have faced throughout your writing career?
In one of my first investigative pieces, I was granted an interview with a city official, who later decided he didn’t want his name tied to the story. Because his position provided the credibility the story needed, my editor and I decided that using his name was important. As a freelance writer, I write articles for community magazines, which includes interviewing advertisers. The purpose of these articles is to educate, not to sell. I left a magazine after a sales-driven editor changed two pieces to reflect what the advertiser wanted to sell, but left my name on the by-line. In this case, I felt the editor’s lack of integrity was a threat to my reputation as a writer (and that editor’s lack of integrity ultimately led to the demise of the publication).

5. What are some of the benefits of ethical journalism, and what are your keys to becoming an ethical writer?
Advertising dollars should not affect what is – or is not – reported. If every Journalist reported the news, regardless of its affect on advertising dollars, Journalism would still be a respected field. Journalists and the Truth are not always popular, but that’s the risk of the business. But popularity and respect don’t always go hand-in-hand: an ethical Journalist will be respected for her commitment to the craft. Lives are stories, after all, and “truth will out.” Being an ethical writer requires an unfaltering commitment to telling the truth, as well as the understanding that a deadline is not an excuse to “skip” investigating a lead and sharing facts of the story. But the most important part is realizing that every story is ultimately about people – both those involved in the event being reported, and those reading about it. While sensationalism may grab the attention of readers, the Journalist (and her editors) must always place integrity first.