

The Kethical Dilemma

Spring 2011

KECK GRADUATE INSTITUTE
of Applied Life Sciences



Ethics Committee Semester Recap

2nd Annual KGI Ethics Debate

Ethical concerns are often overlooked issues when it comes to the fields of science and technology. For an institution like ours that focuses on the life sciences, ethical issues are even more prominent since the field is packed with controversial issues. To promote student awareness and exploration of ethical dilemmas, the ethics committee organized two ethical debates under the direction of Marc Pollack and Li Liang that were well attended and received by the participants and audience. David Sadava, professor of biology from Claremont McKenna, judged the rounds, providing excellent feedback.

The first topic of the debate was the controversial issue of “should clinical trial participants be compensated?” Wah Yan (MBS ’11) took the side of being pro-compensation, while Ryan LaRanger (MBS ’11) was against compensation. Both sides presented sound arguments with Wah sticking to pragmatic arguments about the requirements of any given clinical trial to procure participants as quickly as possible. Ryan argued in response that the ethical concerns involved in bringing desperate people into clinical trials that often cause harm to them outweighed the pragmatic benefits. The audience also raised thought provoking questions about how this would affect Phase I clinical trials and other ethical concerns. When one of the debaters attempted to question an audience member, Marc had to remind him that his debate wasn’t with the audience. In the end, the debate went to Wah Yan due to his compelling argument that cited pragmatic concerns with clinical trial compensation.

The second round debate topic focused on another hot button issue: “should organ sales in the U.S. be legalized?” Laura Wilson (PPC ’11 / MBS ’12) and Chris Warner (PhD) argued as a team on the proposition, while Tony Sanchez (PPM ’11) and Erik King (MBS ’12) took the opposition. Laura and Chris focused their arguments on the concerns with the number of available organs for patients in need, mentioning that similar organ sale programs have been successful in places like Iran. The opposition debate began with Tony stretching before going up to make his arguments, as any good debater should stretch before arguing about the sale of organs. They proceeded to argue that the virtues of organ sales were far outweighed by the harms that come from creating such a market and the ethical concerns regarding sale of human parts. Once again, the audience contributed substantial arguments to the debate. The debate ended with Laura and Chris coming out on top with their

arguments carrying more weight with the judge.

In the future, we hope to bring other similar events that would further enhance student understanding and improve preparedness for an ethical career in the industry.

“Kethical” Film Series

The “Kethical” Film Series aims to contribute to discussion of ethics on campus. By screening these films, we hope to initiate a dialogue that surpasses the film itself and fosters greater ethical awareness at KGI. The films have been chosen based on a number of different factors, however at the very core of each is an ethical theme that is applicable to the life science industry. In the future we hope to expand the program by inviting speakers relevant to each film to engage the students and provide a less abstract means of initiating ethical dialogue in our everyday lives. The kickoff event featured a screening of *The Constant Gardener* along with some pizza. This promising start bodes well for future plans including the documentary, *Life Running Out of Control*. Plans for next year include a screening of *Extraordinary Measures* with a surprise guest.

Rick Worthington

The Ethics Committee hosted Pomona’s Professor of Politics, Dr. Rick Worthington, on April 7 for a lunch discussion. Dr. Worthington discussed the role that citizens can and / or should play in shaping scientific policy. Dr. Worthington hopes to continue a relationship with KGI students by involving them in projects through Pomona’s Politics Department next year.

Amy Peikoff

Through support from a KGI Board of Trustees member, Judith A. Heyboer, the KGI Ethics Committee featured Dr. Amy Peikoff as this year’s keynote speaker. Amy Peikoff is a Visiting Fellow for the Study of Objectivism in Law and Philosophy at Chapman University School of Law in Orange, California. She teaches courses in Philosophy of Law, Legal Ethics, and Contracts. Dr. Peikoff discussed legal implications that developments in personalized medicine might have regarding our privacy in her talk, “Legal Protection for Privacy in the Biosciences.” Students had the opportunity to meet and socialize with Dr. Peikoff over wine and cheese after the fascinating discussion.

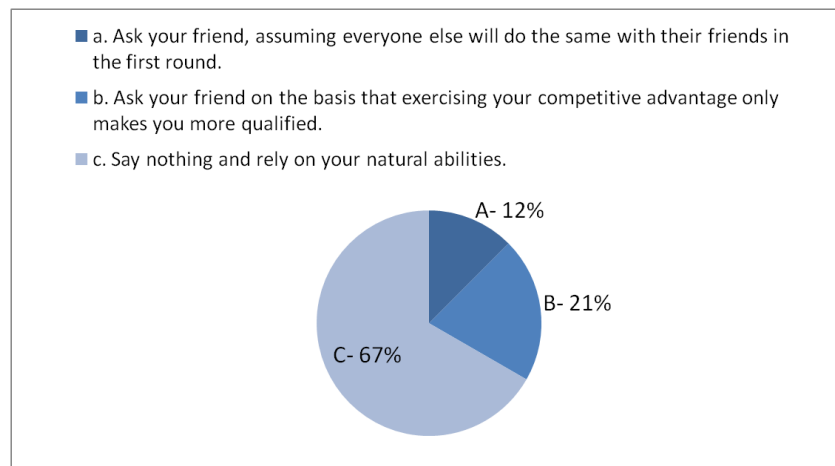
WHAT WOULD A PROFESSIONAL DO?

We polled KGI students on how they would respond in certain professional contexts. We then asked Professor of Bioscience Strategy, Professor Daniel T. Byrd, to share his inclinations if he were in our shoes.

By Professor Daniel T. Byrd and Megan Hill

Scenario 1

The company you want to work for is conducting two rounds of interviews with KGI students, one early and one late in the week. Your close friend participated in the first round, you are scheduled for the second, and you're also very interested in what the interview questions are because this company relies heavily on correct answers when hiring. You know your friend will tell you if you ask. What do you do?



Professor Byrd Says:

First, when in doubt, try to understand the spirit of the rules, not just the letter!

My first reaction would be to try and understand the company's intent. Based upon the scant information, my default assumption should be that the company is attempting to provide an equitable test of all candidates, regardless of whether they are interviewed early or late in the week. So it would not take me long to conclude that seeking some advantage that was unavailable to early round participants is in violation of the company's implied rules of the game.

Second, when in doubt, be conservative!

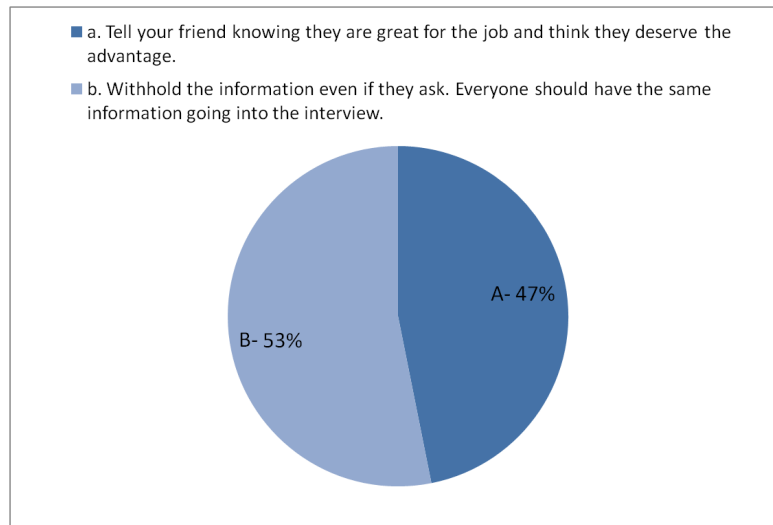
When one is in doubt about the rules, it is imprudent to interpret the rules in a way that is blatantly self-serving. I believe that selfish inclinations can cloud our judgment. So short-term, self-serving choices can often lead to longer-term regrets. It may be counterintuitive, but a conservative interpretation of the rules that goes AGAINST your self-interests can have better long-term "payoffs." Such decisions are beyond reproach, enhancing one's reputation and trustworthiness. These intangible assets can be much more valuable than getting the job!

Third and last, when in doubt, just ask!

The first two arguments above should settle the issue regarding what one should do. But if doubt remains, then transparency is the key. As the saying goes, there's no better disinfectant than sunlight! One could call the recruiting company and ask for clarification about the rules. If you would feel uncomfortable making such a call, then this is your conscience signaling that the contemplated action is questionable and that you should err on the side of not seeking advantage.

Scenario 2

What would you do if you were the friend who interviewed first and your friend asked you for the questions? Would you:



Professor Byrd Says:

The scenario describes the person that approaches me as a "friend." As a true friend, I would deal with this situation with a broader aim in mind. My aim would be to help my friend make wiser decisions in all future such cases. Consequently, I would take him or her through a thought process along the lines of what I have discussed above in order to challenge his / her thinking. The goal would be for my friend to come to the realization that his / her request was inappropriate, such that the request would be withdrawn. If necessary, I would ultimately refuse to grant my friend special advantage without some evidence that the company had approved such action. But I hope that outright refusal would be unnecessary. I would invite my friend to provide a similar service to me on those occasions when my own judgment became impaired. We all need such relationships to be our best. Yes, the wounds of a friend can be healing.

Thanks to the KGI students who took the time to respond to our survey!



Left to Right (top row): Chandana Thorat (MBS '12), Marc Pollack (MBS '11), Prof. Steven Casper (Advisor), Joe Head (MBS'12), Susan Alfs (MBS '12), Adam Calvert (MBS '11) Not pictured: Wendy Milling (MBS '12), Vinoudini Boj (MBS '12)

Left to Right (bottom row): Megan Hill (MBS '12), Li Liang (MBS '11), Sue Friedman (Advisor), Mimi Nguyen ('12), Michelle Pesce (MBS' 11), Annabelle Herrera (Advisor)

ETHICS EDUCATION AT KGI: PAST & PRESENT

By Chandana Thorat

As I was scouring the internet, I came across an article that described the implications of ethics in our lives. The article was drab and boring; however, one line that stood out was the statement by International Ethical Business Registry, a Canadian nonprofit organization that promotes ethics. It stated, "There has been a dramatic increase in the ethical expectation of businesses and professionals over the past 10 years," and went on to say that ethical individuals are being sought out by companies and clients (9). This made me wonder if I was prepared for the ethical implications while working in the corporate world. Would I be ready to make tough but thoughtful decisions in the life sciences industry? Did I have the ability to choose an ethical employer? Did my education at Keck Graduate Institute (KGI) empower me? This is how I found my answers.

At KGI, ethics has always been an integral part of the core values, weaved into its history and culture. Since the beginning, KGI has sought to empower its members with the moral courage to act on what they believe is just (1). How did KGI's founders know that a hybrid of business and science would not be complete without the support of ethics? A meeting with President Sheldon Schuster answered this question. "An important incident during KGI's early years made the founders cognizant of the importance of ethics for the KGI community. On April 18, 1996, a year before KGI was chartered, a group of local students called for a meeting accusing KGI of being an **unethical** institute. Despite the unfounded protests, KGI was established with a strong focus on ethics not only as part of its curriculum but also its culture" (2).

The next question that came to my mind was how did teaching ethics in a classroom help in the real world? This question was answered by Judy Heyboer, member of the KGI Board of Trustees and a donor for ethics activities at KGI.

She said that "As professionals working in the life science industry, students may come across choices that would be 'practical' versus 'ethical', presenting a dilemma. An early training in ethics would provide the framework or tools to approach such choices and make the appropriate decision instead of the convenient decision" (3). Over the years, KGI has constantly tried to inform its pupils about current ethical practices and empower them to follow the ethical path throughout their professional life (5).

My research of KGI's history demonstrated KGI's commitment to ethics is not confined to its pupils but is applicable to the entire community. In 2006, KGI hosted a free for the public symposium titled *'The Past, Present and Future of Drug Regulation: The FDA at the Crossroads, 100 Years and Counting.'* The symposium was conducted on the centennial anniversary of the Food and Drug Administration and highlighted its role in regulating the US drug supply. To commemorate the anniversary, KGI's 2005-2006 bioethics class, taught by Gary Cohen, focused entirely on drug regulations and the key ethical issues involved (6). That same year, Cohen hosted a Bioethics Symposium on human rights and biotechnology to facilitate learning as well as interact with leaders in the field at KGI. There were 12 speakers who presented their thoughts on the topics "Emerging Human Rights Framework" and "Corporations and its Obligations," to name a few, and answered questions from the students. The main objective was to introduce students to ethical issues that they will face in the future and provide students the ability to make thoughtful decisions (7).

KGI's ethics education efforts would not be possible without the vision of its founders and the support of its donors. Many organizations and donors have funded KGI's ethics activities. The Flora Thornton Foundation supported monthly bioethics lectures that concluded in the Bioethics Symposium (6).

The Joe and Vi Jacobs grant supports bioindustry ethics, bioethics, teaching and research at KGI (8). In fact, it was through this grant that Professor Larry Grill teaches as the Joe and Vi Jacobs Visiting Professor (8). Contributions from donors like Judith Heyboer, a KGI Trustee, have helped support recent ethics activities and lecture series at KGI. This continued support from industry professionals and organizations symbolizes the importance of ethics in the industry, which suggests its role it can play in our KGI education.

Continuing this endeavor is the student led Ethics Committee, which spearheads most of the ethics initiatives at KGI. The committee aims to engage the KGI community in ethics related activities through debates, guest lectures, ethics workshops and this periodical newsletter, the *Kethical Dilemma*. The committee also plays an active role in equipping students to handle academic challenges that arise in the classroom through promoting the KGI Honor Code. A long-term goal, however, is that awareness on ethics can also assist students to handle challenges that may occur in our professional lives in the bioscience industry.

I believe that KGI's dedication to inculcating ethics as a part of the curriculum as well as culture has definitely empowered me to make conscious decisions. As ethics means something different in various graduate programs such as medical school, business school, or law school, I'd like for the already existing initiatives surrounding ethics education and promotion at KGI to increase and be tailored for our unique future professions in the bioscience industry. Like the Symposiums that occurred in 2006, perhaps KGI faculty, administration, and curriculum can further develop ethics education in the form of workshops and events at KGI in tandem with the student Ethics Committee. It is my hope that this strong focus on value education and ethics remains a permanent tradition at KGI, lead by the future generations of KGI members.

1. *Commentary: Is There a Science Lesson in the Headlines?* Schuster, Sheldon M. 2008, *BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY EDUCATION*, pp. Vol. 34, No. 2, pp. 139 -140, 2006. 2. Interview. Sheldon Schuster, Ph.D. *President and Professor, Keck Graduate Institute*. April 2011. 3. Interview. Heyboer, Judith A. *Board of Trustees, Keck Graduate Institute*. April 3, 2011. 4. *Sciences, Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life*. <http://replay.waybackmachine.org/19980417225321/http://kgi.edu/>. [Online] 1998. 5. *Keck Graduate Institute to Celebrate 10th Year at Weekend Commencement*. <http://www.kgi.edu/News-and-Events/Anniversary-and-Commencement-Spotlighted-in-Claremont-Courier.html>. [Online] 2007. 6. *The FDA at the Crossroads: 100 Years and Counting*. <http://www.kgi.edu/News-and-Events/News-Bioethics-Symposium-2006.html>. [Online] 2006. 7. *Symposium Provides Bioethical Forum*. <http://www.kgi.edu/News-and-Events/Bioethics-Symposium-featured-in-Claremont-Courier.html>. [Online] 2007. 8. Fishman, Margie. "KGI | News and Events | Grill Named Jacobs Visiting Professor." *KGI: Keck Graduate Institute of Claremont, California*. 14 Dec. 2010. Web. 12 May 2011. <<http://www.kgi.edu/news-and-events/news-story-grill-named-jacobs-visiting-professor.html>>. 9. "Importance of Values And Ethics in Business." *Ethics Training Guide*. Web. 12 May 2011. <<http://www.ethicstrainingguide.com/2009/08/importance-of-values-and-ethics-in.html>>.

ALUMNI PERSPECTIVES:

KGI ALUMNI SHARE THEIR VIEWS ON ETHICAL DECISION MAKING IN THE WORKPLACE

Susan Alfs, Adam Calvert, Michelle Pesce, and Wendy Milling interviewed six KGI alumni over the semester to ask them about tough decisions they face in their roles as bioscience professionals, and how KGI students can prepare for making such decisions in our future careers. Here's what they had to say.

By Susan Alfs

Your company has finished conducting clinical trials on a promising new drug. There is currently a lot of industry buzz over the release of this new drug since it could be the next big blockbuster, which would really fuel your company's success. Your best friend calls you to ask if you have any information about the FDA approval of your company's next blockbuster. You know the press release is scheduled for tomorrow, but have been bursting to tell someone the exciting news. You trust your friend to keep a secret, but you know that they are also in the same industry as your company.

What would you do? What would your company want you to do? Do you have a clear message from your company on how their ethics policies translate into your actions on a day-to-day basis?

Over the past semester, the Ethics Committee has reached out to Keck Graduate Institute alumni including Hutch Humphreys (MBS 2003), Sarah Arlien (MBS 2010), Ted Nguyen (MBS 2008), Anders Chan (MBS 2009), Mike Esselman (MBS 2010), and Louis Shamel (MBS 2009) to discuss situations they have experienced at KGI and in biotechnology companies. These industry professionals have offered opinions on how ethics plays a role in business as well as their advice on what can be done to encourage ethical behavior. We hope that through this article students get a glimpse into ethics in the workplace and can appreciate the role it should play in student professional development.

What is ethics in the context of the business world?

First of all, the alumni agree that ethics impacts everyday decision-making in the industry. Specific departments deal with different issues. For example, Louis Shamel works in Mergers and Acquisitions at Life Technologies and regularly encounters issues such as confidentiality, protection of information, and adherence to insider trading that are explicitly outlined in Life Technologies' code of ethics. People in regulatory affairs, such as Sarah Arlien and Hutch Humphreys, often deal with issues regarding meeting FDA requirements and accurately reporting data. Most large companies have a formalized program to ensure

a code of ethics is upheld. Typically this document is introduced during new employee training and must be reviewed annually. Additionally, companies maintain a formalized reporting system to allow employees to voice their concerns either directly to Human Resources or a compliance officer, or through an anonymous hotline.

Regeneron's Code of Conduct

"Our reputation for integrity and excellence requires careful observance of the spirit and letter of all applicable laws and regulations, as well as a scrupulous regard for the highest standards of conduct and of corporate and person integrity. Regeneron's continued success depends upon the trust of our customers, collaborators, employees, shareholders, contractors, and suppliers. We are dedicated to preserving that trust."

Source: "Code of Business Conduct and Ethics." *Regeneron*. <<http://www.regeneron.com/docs/Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf>>.

Even with these measures in place, the actions of most employees are not governed by the company code of ethics, but rather by ethical decision-making norms ingrained in the culture of the company. Hutch Humphreys believes that most people have already developed their personal ethical standards and modes of behavior by the time they are hired. He says the company will not likely change a person's *beliefs*, but it is still important that a company's management demonstrates that ethical actions are important and there are consequences for acting unethically. In this way, a company can influence *behaviors*. Also, if a company takes a stance on expected behavior early on, employees understand that values like trust are important and taken seriously in the company. Initiatives like emphasizing a code of conduct exist in part to comply with federal laws, but they ultimately protect the company from making unwise business decisions. Placing an emphasis on ethics is especially vital in biotechnology

since it is a tightly regulated industry. Taking shortcuts on pharmaceuticals or medical devices is especially unacceptable because of the possible harm this could have on patients.

Ethics as a decision-making tool

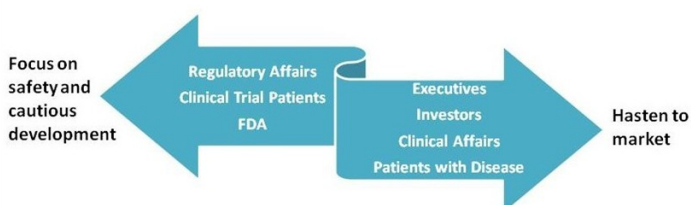
Many business decisions fall in a gray area in which there is no clear distinction between right and wrong. Individual employees are responsible for making ethical decisions in such gray areas on a daily basis. Mike Esselman describes this reality,

“Gray areas are common in business. People can start to make ethical compromises ‘for good reasons,’ especially under pressure from supervisors. [Professionals need to] think about it ahead of time and establish an ethical framework so that [they] can handle those situations and avoid compromising [their] integrity.”

There is often tension between the incentives of individuals and departments within a company that can hamper clear decision-making. Therefore, it is important to use an ethical code as a decision-making tool in order to prioritize whether meeting deadlines or quality is the most important in a given situation. Ted Nguyen explains how Illumina views the importance of quality with the example that managers will not compromise the quality of deliverables even if it means they must postpone deadlines. Hutch Humphreys echoes this sentiment, expressing that it is easier to take more time to get projects right the first time rather than to go back and fix mistakes. Also, it is important to decide which stakeholders or departments have priority, since each of these may have different incentives guiding them.

For example, in the case that a pharmaceutical company is developing a new drug several different priorities are at play: patients suffering from a disease will want the therapeutic to enter the market, patients in clinical trials will be concerned with safety, the Clinical Affairs department will be incentivized to continue trials, Regulatory Affairs’ goal is to ensure that the drug is safe, and executives want to see the drugs come to market and provide returns for the company (see “The Push & Pull of Priorities”). In effect, a company has obligations to multiple stakeholders with varying interests, which makes any decision a high-impact one.

The Push and Pull of Priorities



In such complex decision-making, understanding the stakeholders’ positions is vital to inform decisions. In Louis Shamel’s case, he believes that in certain business transactions, an employee’s obligation to shareholders should drive ethical decision-making:

“Think about whether you would want someone in a company of which you own stock to do what you are about to, from upgrading to first class on a business trip because no one will question you to negotiating a multi-million dollar acquisition of a cutting edge sequencing technology company.”

An important skill for employees to develop is to understand the structure and objectives of their company in order to make decisions that keep the appropriate stakeholders in mind, and go above and beyond the minimum ethical standards.

Why is ethics important in our industry?

Ethical companies are valued and respected in the bioscience industry, and Hutch Humphreys expresses that “Ethics is a value driver. It helps differentiate you [the company] in public perception.” Coming across to the public as “ethical” will bolster a company’s reputation. For example, Hutch Humphreys describes Amylin (his former employer) as a company that has chosen to develop some pharmaceuticals that have a small patient population and are not likely to net significant returns, but does so because of the clear unmet medical need. Sarah Arlien expressed how Regeneron has developed a reputation among regulatory officials and the medical community as a company that is serious about safety and reliability. Anders Chan also agrees that decisions made as a company will reflect back on an employee’s personal reputation, since “people need to know that what you’re telling them is the truth and that you will keep your commitments.” Exercising ethical decision-making and behavior on an individual basis is tied to the company’s reputation. For example, if a regulatory associate ignores safety signals in a clinical trial, a wide range of consequences can occur, including detrimental side effects to the patients or legal action against the company or its personnel once the product is brought to market. A company should emphasize the values it wishes to uphold, and encourage its employees to adhere to them.

How can lessons from industry apply to Keck Graduate Institute?

Like most companies, Keck Graduate Institute has an ethical framework which is used to guide decision making. This ethical framework is in the form of the Honor Code, which is similar to an industry code of conduct. The honor code is meant to help students take a personal responsibility for their behavior. Sarah

Arlie worked to make the Honor Code less of a list of “do not’s”, and more of an overarching brand of KGI ethics.

“We [the Ethics Committee] wanted it to be something that reflected us [KGI] and we wanted it to reflect a more professional code of conduct. We looked at other business schools’ and companies’ codes of ethics to start transitioning from an academic code to a professional one. A lot of our projects are professional, and because we are such a small community, what any one member does reflects on all of us, and we wanted everyone to be ethical.”

The goal of the Honor Code is to promote ethics in every aspect of the culture of KGI including assignments, exams, presentations, and in interactions with one another and industry contacts.

KGI Honor Code Philosophy Statement

We, the KGI community, strive for the highest ethical standards and will hold one another accountable to them. We will abstain from improper conduct in our academic and professional lives, ensuring that our successes come only from just and ethical means.

KGI also has the same kind of tension between ethics, quality, and meeting deadlines that Ted Nguyen discussed encountering in industry.



In this stressful student environment, tough situations arise where one of these elements must be neglected in order for the others to be held to a high standard. For individual assignments, students often have to reduce quality to meet deadlines. Yet, if quality is lacking on a group project, other’s grades and reputations are at stake, just like a company’s stakeholders have an interest in the success of a new product launch. KGI’s culture is

constantly evolving, and it is important to create an environment where ethics and quality are not sacrificed in order to get work done. Ted Nguyen emphasizes that “Students at KGI [should] hold each other accountable, and that holds true for industry...It is really a culture that needs to be in place at a company to be ethical in everything you do and every decision you make.” Students need to safeguard their reputation by acting with integrity, starting with the network being built at KGI.

In addition, the alumni emphasize the importance of ethical decision-making and the role it plays in professionalism. By reflecting on past conflicts and their personal decision-making process, KGI students can determine their personal standard of ethics, the quality of opportunities they are willing to pursue, and characteristics of organizations they would join. KGI students should continue to be aware of how their actions will be interpreted in a business setting and recommit to presenting themselves and the school in the best light possible.

Alumni Biographies

Sarah Arlie (Regeneron), MBS 2010. Sarah was in the Clinical and Regulatory Affairs Track, and is now a Professional Regulatory Associate at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. At KGI, she was the Ethics and Judicial Chair for both her first and second years. She was influential in writing the Honor Code as well as the Student Academic and Disciplinary Procedures.

Anders Chan (Baxter), MBS 2009. While servicing as Ethics Chair, Anders was instrumental in rewriting the KGI Honor Code to promote ethics and professionalism. He is currently in the Operations Development Program at Baxter.

Mike Esselman (Genentech), Class of 2010. Mike served on the Ethics Committee and was instrumental in developing KGI’s Honor Code and the ethics awareness workshops. He is currently a Rotational Analyst in Genentech’s Operations Rotational Development Program, having previously served in Technical Development where he worked on strategy and harmonization with Roche. He is now in Quality, where he develops quality network strategy.

Hutch Humphreys (Therapeutics, Inc), MBS 2003. Hutch worked in Regulatory Affairs for Amylin and recently transitioned to Therapeutics, Inc.

Ted Nguyen (Illumina), MBS 2008. Ted was the Ethics Chair in his second year at KGI, and worked to provide visibility of ethics and provided oversight for compliance to ethical standards. He is now a business analyst at Illumina.

Louis Shamel (Life Technologies), MBS 2009. Louis Shamel was Curriculum Representative in his first year and Class President in his second year at KGI. He currently works in Mergers and Acquisitions at Life Technologies.

Horror Stories from the Claremont Ethics

Emergency Hotline Case Files

By Wendy Milling

Operator: Claremont Ethics Emergency Hotline. What is your ethical dilemma?

Caller: I have a situation, and I'm not sure what to do about it. Me and my buddy, we'll call him Jimmy Joe, we decided to brew up some beer for the Mountain House party. So we got some yeast from the bioprocessing lab of a famous professor, I won't say his name but his initials are Matt Croughan --

Operator: Sir, this is supposed to be an anonymous hotline!

Caller: Oh, right. We should just call him M.C. Hammer. Anyway, we couldn't find the malted barley, so J.J. went to the store to get some sugar instead, because we are flat broke. But he didn't have a car, and since Shelley's -- er, the Shoe-Man's car was nearby, J.J. decided to borrow it.

Operator: You mean he broke into it?

Caller: Yeah, it was an emergency. The party must go on, you know? But the gas tank was empty, so J.J. had to fill it with some biofuel from another project in M.C. Hammer's lab. So J.J. gets to the store and then realizes he doesn't have any money on him, so he stuffed a bunch of NutraSweet boxes into his KGI bag and left.

Operator: You're kidding. He actually -- wait, did you say NutraSweet? Why did he take NutraSweet?

Caller: I'm not sure. He was mumbling something about ALS 354 and "sugar substitutes." Anyway, there was an accident with the NutraSweet in the parking lot, and the car got scuffed up real bad.

Operator: How in the world do you scuff up a car with NutraSweet?!

Caller: That's what the Shoe-Man said when he saw his car. At least, that's what I later heard he said, because J.J. just parked that thing and split.

Operator: So let me get this straight. You and J.J. appropriated school property -- twice -- broke into a car, shoplifted some NutraSweet, damaged the car without reporting it, and you aren't sure if you have an ethical dilemma?

Caller: Well, I dozed through the ethics workshop during orientation, I slept through the first-year ethics class, and I skipped out on all the special ethics events like the guest lecturers, lunches, debates, and film reviews. I've never read the Honor Code or the ethics policies, and I don't read the Kethical Dilemma.

Operator: Sir, then why are you calling?

Caller: It's the beer. I mean, Jimmy Joe is a good guy and all, but the stuff that came out of that keg -- that was a crime against humanity. Should I report him to somebody?

Operator: I'm calling the police.

Caller: Good idea. Say, do you think you could get them to stop by the liquor store on the way over?

Operator: <click>

Editor's note: These students are no longer associated with KGI.