Ms. Jessica Cussins  
Project Associate, Center for Genetics and Society

Ms. Cussins is a Project Associate at the Center for Genetics and Society, a nonprofit information and public affairs organization working to encourage responsible uses and effective societal governance of the new human genetic and reproductive technologies. She graduated with highest distinction from the University of California, Berkeley with a B.A. in Anthropology and Peace and Conflict Studies. She is a regular blogger at Biopolitical Times, Psychology Today, and the Huffington Post.

Bio courtesy of: Ms. Jessica Cussins

Dr. Daniel Eichner, Ph.D.  
Executive Director,  
Sports Medicine Research & Testing Laboratory

Dr. Eichner was previously the Science Director at the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), where he provided scientific support for programs in research, intelligence, sample collection planning, results management, arbitration, and education. Prior to joining USADA, he was the Chief Scientific Officer for the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) where he was a member of the Anti-Doping Research Program and the Anti-Doping Ethical Review Board. He received his B.S. from the Australian National University (ANU) with first class honors and later completed his Ph.D. in medical science from the ANU.

Bio courtesy of: http://www.smrtl.org/professional-staff.php

Dr. Ron Epstein, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus, Dharma Realm Buddhist University

A graduate of Harvard University, the University of Washington, and the University of California, Berkeley, Dr. Epstein has a Master's degree in Chinese language and literature and a doctorate in Buddhist studies. He is currently a senior research fellow at the Institute for World Religions in Berkeley, California, and Lecturer Emeritus at San Francisco State University. He also previously taught for several years at the University of California, Davis. The Chan Patriarch Hsuan Hua (Xuanhua) awarded him the title Fojiiao Jiaoshou (“Professor of Buddhism”) in 1968. In addition to teaching courses on Asian and comparative religion, he has been active in interreligious dialogue and is a member of the editorial board of the scholarly journal Religion East and West. His publications include “Redesigning the World: Ethical Questions about Genetic Engineering” (Ethical Issues in Biotechnology); “Genetic Engineering: A Buddhist Assessment” (Religion East and West).

Bio courtesy of: Dr. Ron Epstein

Dr. Doug Frantz, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Chemistry,  
The University of Texas at San Antonio, College of Sciences, Department of Chemistry

Dr. Frantz obtained his bachelor’s degree in chemistry at Stephen F. Austin State University and his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at Texas A&M University in 1998. He did a postdoctoral fellowship in Zürich, Switzerland, where he discovered and developed new chemistry important for the synthesis of chiral drugs. He has received several awards including UTSA’s President’s Distinguished Research Award for Tenure-Track Faculty. He holds an adjunct professor position in the department of biochemistry at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and co-founded the Center for Innovative Drug Discovery.


Linda MacDonald Glenn, JD, LLM  
Assistant Professor, Center for Biomedical Ethics Education and Research, Albany Medical College

Ms. MacDonald Glenn is a bioethicist, attorney, educator and consultant. She is a Women’s Bioethics Project Scholar and a Fellow with the Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies, and formerly a fellow with the Institute of Ethics at the American Medical Association. Her research encompasses the legal, ethical, and social impact of emerging technologies and evolving notions of personhood.

Bio courtesy of: http://www.amc.edu/Academic/bioethics/faculty.cfm#

Dr. Jeffrey Steinberg, M.D., FACOG  
Reproductive Endocrinologist-Director,  
The Fertility Institutes

After graduating from UCLA & Rush Medical College in Chicago, Dr. Steinberg completed a residency in Obstetrics & Gynecology at Rush. He then completed postgraduate fellowships in Reproductive Medicine & Reproductive Endocrinology at the UC School of Medicine in San Diego. He carried out his subsequent advanced in vitro fertilization training at Bourne Hall Clinic at Cambridge University, the birthplace of IVF. He worked with Drs. Patrick Steptoe & Nobel Prize winner Robert Edwards, both British pioneers of IVF. He worked in Australia at then the world’s most successful IVF programs. He returned to the U.S. to establish the third program of IVF in the U.S. at The Fertility Institutes in Los Angeles. His center was world recognized in 2004 for providing couples for the first time the ability to choose with 100% accuracy the gender of their next pregnancy.

Bio courtesy of: drjeffreysteinberg.com

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Bio courtesy of: drjeffreysteinberg.com
Greetings from the Issues Day 2014 Committee

The 2014 Issues Day Committee is honored to offer this compelling discussion on Genetic Engineering, an increasingly prevalent issue in our time. The controversial topic of this year's Issues Day will take a detailed look into Genetic Engineering and how our society will approach it in the near future.

We would like to formally express our gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the extensive, demanding process of coordinating Issues Day, including our generous sponsors, staff, faculty, family members and especially the esteemed speakers who have donated their time to further our knowledge and growth as young intellectuals.

Finally, the Class of 2015 would like to welcome you all to Issues Day 2014!

The 2014 Issues Day Committee

Sam Afshari
Lorenzo Arce*
Annie Atwell
Chloe Battah
Austin Blackwell*
Audrey Blow
Hannah Brierty
Lauren Byrum
Gaby Caliendo*
Thomas Casey*
Emma Davis
Ashley Drengler*
Matthew Drengler
Inma Escalante*
Alexandra Flaherty
Megan Frese*
Austin Garcia
Olivia Garcia*
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Logan Guy
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Alejandro Juul
Carson Kessler*
Tyler Kozma
Cathy Leavitt
Michael Lee*
Chris Lira
Jasmine Liu-Zarzuela
Marcela Madero
Trey Maurer*
Katherine Mayfield
Julia Medellin
Jacob Miller*
Madeline Miller
Brealan Muniz
Roshan Nair
Olivia Nastala*
Alex Pfirrmann*
Sam Rosenbloom*
Gus Rowland*
Sophia Salingeros*
Seis Steves*
Abhi Suri*
Jenna Thomas
Madison Truevich*
Amaan Virani*
Josh Winnert*
Sikander Zakria*

Bolded* names denote members of the Speaker Team.

THE CLASS OF 2015 THANKS YOU FOR ATTENDING ISSUES DAY 2014

SCHEDULE
THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2014
9:00 AM OPENING REMARKS
9:20 AM SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS
10:50 AM BREAK
11:05 AM CROSSFIRE
11:50 AM STUDENT PARTICIPATION
12:20 PM CLOSING REMARKS
12:30 PM DISMISSAL

"There is no more important question that is going to face us than deciding how to control and use genetic engineering and genetic selection to design our kids. Nothing."

Art Caplan, Ethicist at the University of Pennsylvania.

Moderator
Mr. David Henderson,
Chief of the DWI Task Force,
Bexar County District Attorney's Office

Mr. Henderson is the chief of the Bexar County District Attorney's Office DWI Task Force. He graduated from the University of Texas in Austin with a BA in Plan II honors in 1998 before obtaining a law degree from UT in 2001. He joined the DA's office in 2006 where he has tried over sixty jury cases to a verdict. Presently, he is lead counsel on all intoxication manslaughter and DWI murder trials. He is a guest lecturer for the Texas District & County Attorney's Association on the subjects of jury selection and using PowerPoint in the courtroom. He is also an active member of Toastmasters International, who in 2010 crowned him the World Champion of Public Speaking after rising to the top of 30,000 contestants from 113 different countries. He received Northside Independent School District’s Pillar of Character award in 2011, and was elected to serve on the UT Advisory Council for the School of Undergraduate Studies in 2013.

Image Source: Issues Day 2014 Graphic Design Team

Bio courtesy of: Mr. David Henderson