



# ProVita

Online Newsletter of the  
University Faculty for Life



**I**n this edition we not only recap the annual UFL conference at Brigham Young University, but we also celebrate the news that one of our deceased members is moving towards canonization as a saint in the Catholic Church. Finally, we begin our series in which we focus on a pro-life approach to a particular academic discipline. This time we look with **Jeff Koloze** at English/Literature.

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## UFL Updates

**I**n which we highlight the scholarly activities of our organization, members, and chapters, including publications, talks, and consultations.

### UFL

➤ **2012 Conference.** The 2012 UFL Conference was held at Brigham Young University in scenic Salt Lake City, Utah June 1-2. It was the first time that BYU hosted the UFL conference, which drew over 50 scholars who heard 31 academic presentations from presenters from over twenty colleges and universities in the United States and Canada and experts working in related institutes and foundations.

**Lynn Wardle**, from the BYU School of Law, (ably assisted by Francie Jenson and



others at BYU) did a wonderful job organizing the conference and providing

gracious hospitality. **Barbara Freres**, of Cardinal Stritch University served as conference director, evaluating paper proposals and putting the program together.

Highlights included the keynote address by **Dr. William E. May**, winner of our Smith Award, followed by excellent plenary talks by **Dr. Maureen Condic**, **Clarke Forsythe**, **Stephen Ricks**, and **Dr. Joseph Stanford**. Among the disciplines represented by the break-out talks were: medicine, philosophy, English, foreign languages, management, nursing, history, law, linguistics, literature, political science, and moral theology.

The vigil Mass was celebrated at the BYU Law School by **Father Joe Koterski**.

### ➤ **Smith Award.**

Also at the conference, the 2012 Smith Award was presented to **William E. May**, Professor Emeritus and Michael J. McGivney Professor of Moral Theology at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at the Catholic University of America. The author of more than a dozen books, and more than 240 scholarly



articles, Dr. May is known as a leading scholar in the revival of natural law theory, and for decades he has been a powerful pro-life academic voice.

Dr. May delivered a keynote talk at the 2012 UFL Conference on “‘Brain Death’ and the Debate over Neurological Criterion as a Valid Way to Determine Whether a Person has really Died.”

Each year UFL bestows [The Rupert and Timothy Smith Award for Distinguished Contributions to Pro-Life Scholarship](#) at its annual convention.

- ***Scholarly Achievement Award.*** On Saturday night UFL presented its annual Scholarly Achievement Award. Eight student entered works in two of the contest’s three categories, Creative Writing and Research. The winner in the Research category was Christina Serena, a student at the University of Notre Dame, for her paper “The Catholic Church v. the State: Analyzing the Constitutionality and Legality of the HHS Mandate.” The winner in the Creative Writing category was Alexandra Scholldorf, a graduate student enrolled in the Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing and Literature at Stony Brook, for her poem “Kept” (See the end of this issue for the text.).

Honorable mentions went to Clare Myers, a student at the University of Dallas, for her essay “A Pink Cow and a Road Trip: March for Life 2012”; Jennifer Sandoval, a student at Molloy College, for her poem “Giving Me Life”; Margaret Skoch, a student at the University of Notre Dame, for her poem “Premature Account of Life and Death”; Anna Flintrop, a student at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota, for her paper “Genetic Screening and Other Prenatal Tests.”

Students may submit work in three categories: creative writing, literary criticism, or research. Work submitted in any category

must demonstrate the application of a life-affirming perspective on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or related issues. Winners in each category received \$200. More information can be found [on the UFL web page](#).

## UFL in the News

- Former UFL Advisory Board member **Jerome Lejeune** (1926-1994) has taken one more step towards being canonized (named a saint) by the Roman Catholic Church. The diocesan (local) investigation has been completed and the cause has been sent to Rome.

According to UFL member and past president, **Richard Myers**, “An indefatigable pro-life champion, he was a Medical Doctor, a Doctor of Science and an internationally recognized geneticist who in 1958 discovered the chromosomal abnormality that causes Down syndrome (trisomy 21). For this discovery, President Kennedy in 1962 presented him with the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation Award in Mental Retardation. In 1969, he received from the American Society of Human Genetics, the most prestigious award in the world in genetics, the William Allan Memorial Award. He was the first Professor of Fundamental Genetics at the University of Paris Medical School, and taught at the California Institute of Technology. He held memberships in several academic and professional organizations such as the Pontifical Academy of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Royal Society of Medicine (London), and the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences of the Institut de France.”

In May 1994, **William Colliton M.D.**, one of our earliest members, wrote of Dr. Lejeune: “The right to life movement has lost a mighty warrior. No blazing fire or blaring trumpets accompanied him into battle. He approached the fray with a gentleness and humility that were consuming. His greatest weapon was an intellectual acuity that delivered the truth

with telling force. His Christ-like demeanor in no way hampered his effectiveness” (UFL *ProVita*: May 1994, p.2).

## UFL and the HHS mandate

- **Richard Stith** spoke at the Rally for Religious Freedom in Valparaiso Indiana. His remarks, which describe the threat that attack on conscience poses to national unity, have been posted [on the UFL Blog](#).
- **Michael J. New** and Helen Alvare published [comments on the social science implications of the HHS Mandate](#) on the [Society for Catholic Social Scientists](#) web page. [Here is a video](#) of a presentation by Alvare on Religious Freedom and the HHS Mandate given at Georgetown’s [Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs](#) on March 22.
- **Fr. Joseph Koterski** issued a [statement on the HHS Mandate](#) on the [Fellowship of Catholic Scholars](#) web page.
- **Teresa Collett** spoke on the mandate at several Fortnight for Freedom events including events sponsored by the Minnesota Catholic Conference, the Catholic Medical Association, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, and the Archdiocese of Chicago. [This link](#), from the *Weight of Glory* blog, has audio of her talk at the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis’s event called “Religious Liberty, Our Most Cherished Freedom.”
- **Mary Lemmons, Deborah Savage,** and **Teresa Collett**, of the University of St. Thomas, presented [talks on the political, philosophical, and theological principles underlying opposition to the HHS mandate](#), especially as it effects the women’s freedom.

## Publications and member activities

- **Richard Fehring** & Theresa Notare (Director of the USCCB Diocesan Development Program for Natural Family Planning) co-edited *Science, Faith, and*

*Human fertility: The Third Conference on Ethical Fertility Health Management*, Milwaukee: Marquette Press, 2012. (Nursing)

- **Samuel W. Calhoun** wrote “Stopping Philadelphia Abortion Provider Kermit Gosnell and Preventing Others Like Him: An Outcome That Both Pro-Choicers and Pro-Lifers Should Support,” *57 Villanova Law Review* 1 (2012). (Law)
- **Patrick J. Flood** wrote "Why Regional Human Rights Institutions Matter to Unborn Children," in the Fall 2011 issue of the *Human Life Review*. The article describes the four regional courts (two in Europe and one each in the Americas and Africa) and the six commissions (two in Africa and one each in the Americas, the Arab League, the association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation). Less well known than their UN counterparts, they have potentially greater impact on the right to life in their respective regions. The article covers their legal authority, composition, access rules, and possible courses of action open to pro-life advocates. (Political Science)
- **Jane Gilroy's** *A Shared Vision: The 1976 Ellen McCormack Presidential Campaign* is now available on Amazon.Com in Kindle format. This listing includes the "Look Inside" feature.

A recent review of this book by **Clara Sarrocco** can be found in June's *Homiletic and Pastoral Review* (the 4th review on the page). (English)

- **Richard Stith** wrote “Her Choice, Her Problem: How Having a Choice Diminishes Family Solidarity” for the online journal *International Journal of the Jurisprudence of the Family*, vol. II. Valparaiso University Legal Studies Research Paper No. 11-12. Available at SSRN <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1911917>. (Law)

- **Ryan C. MacPherson** wrote a new book, *The Culture of Life: Ten Essential Principles for Christian Bioethics* (The Hausvater Project, 2012). (History)
- **Richard Myers** co-edited with Joe Varacalli and Michael Coulter the 3rd volume of the *Encyclopedia of Catholic Social Thought, Social Science, and Social Policy* (Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2012).. The original 2 volumes were published in 2007 (Steve Krason was the 4th co-editor of those volumes). See [The Scarecrow Press](#) for more on Volume 3.

The third volume includes a number of entries on pro-life topics, such as *Dignitas Personae* (authored by **Father Joseph Koterski**), Ectopic Pregnancy (**Richard Myers**), Embryo Adoption and/or Rescue (**William E. May**), Eugenics (**Father John Berry**), Infanticide (**Chris Kaczor**), International Law and the Right to Life (**Pierro Tozzi**), Palliative Sedation (**Joseph Piccione**), Partial-birth Abortion (**Rick Hinshaw**), Persistent Vegetative State, Feeding and Hydrating Persons in (**William E. May** and **Christian Brugger**), and the Right to Life movement (**Keith Cassidy**).

- **Fr. Joseph Koterski** reviewed “Death and Donation: Rethinking Brain Death as a Means for Procuring Transplantable Organs,” by Scott D. Henderson. *International Philosophical Quarterly* (Dec. 2011, Vol. 51 Issue 4, p. 532-534). (Philosophy)
- **Jeff Koloze** has been appointed as Associate Professor in English at the Cleveland, Ohio Campus of South University. (English)

## Social Networking

- Don't forget, UFL is on Facebook and Twitter. On Facebook you can “like” the “University Faculty for Life” page. On Twitter follow “Faculty4Life”. Our blog can be found at [www.uffl.org/blog/](http://www.uffl.org/blog/). There is also an active “University Faculty for Life”

subgroup of the “Pro-life Professionals” group on LinkedIn.

## Scholarly Opportunities

**I**n which we highlight opportunities for members to engage in further research on and networking regarding the issues of abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia in their respective fields.

### Calls for papers, conferences, other opportunities

- The 2013 **UFL Conference** will be held at the University of San Francisco May 31-June 1, 2013. Additional information about the annual conference is available at: [www.uffl.org](http://www.uffl.org).
- The 2012 convention of the **Fellowship of Catholic Scholars** will take place in Washington, D.C., on the weekend of September 28-30. The theme of Religious Liberty is timely for pro-life scholarship in light of the recent attacks on conscience rights by governmental agencies. Speakers will include Raymond Cardinal Burke, and **Fr. James Schall**, FCS is introducing a new opportunity for a larger number of newer scholars to give papers in break-out groups in literature, philosophy, theology, morals and ethics, history, political science, law, and canon law and other disciplines that members request. The deadline for submitting proposals is August 1. For more information, or to register, see the [registration web page](#).
- The 2012 (20th Anniversary) Annual national meeting-conference of the **Society of Catholic Social Scientists** will be held at Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale, Long Island, New York on October 26-27, 2012. Among the topics are Social Science, Psychological, Historical, etc.

The plenary speaker for the conference is Robert George, McCormick Professor of

Jurisprudence, Princeton University. He will speak on “Conscience and Its Enemies,” a subject of great interest to those striving to uphold pro-life principles in their disciplines.

- The **Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture** announced the theme for its [13th Annual Fall Conference](#) to be held November 8-10, 2012, “The Crowning Glory of the Virtues: Exploring the Many Facets of Justice.” As always, the conference’s topic opens many avenues for pro-life scholarship. More information can be found on the [NDCEC web page](#).
- **Jeff Koloze** notes that there are ample opportunities for scholarly presentations for the [National Association of African American Studies](#) and its affiliates, the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies, the National Association of Native American Studies, and the National Association of Asian Studies. There are many calls for papers for research forums, symposiums, such as “Global Issues in Hispanic Health and Human Services,” and regional meetings, as well as the [national conference](#) which will be held February 11-16, 2013.
- **Richard Fehring** noted some opportunities from the [Catholic Medical Association](#):

The [Linacre Quarterly](#) regularly accepts papers for publication which bring faith and reason to bear on analyzing and resolving ethical issues in health care, with a particular focus on issues in clinical practice and research. To submit a manuscript or proposal, email the editor at [LQ@cathmed.org](mailto:LQ@cathmed.org).

The [Linacre Quarterly](#) editorial board also has undertaken an initiative to pair physicians and ethicists to address both the medical and ethical aspects of specific issues of interest to physicians and ethicists alike. These issues include (but are not limited to) abortion, euthanasia, contraception, assisted nutrition and hydration, fertility care, same sex attraction, health care reform, conscience

protection in medical practice, organ transplantation, spirituality in medicine and others. They are seeking to encourage ethicists and physicians to work together to craft scholarly articles addressing these and related issues for submission to *The Linacre Quarterly*. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please contact the editorial board at [LQ@cathmed.org](mailto:LQ@cathmed.org).

Finally, the CMA is looking for abstracts for poster presentations for its annual education conference in St. Paul September 27-29, 2012. The presentations should be of scientific or theological topics of interest to Catholic physicians. More details can be found [here](#). Deadline: August 3, 2012. Submit by email: [LQ@cathmed.org](mailto:LQ@cathmed.org).

## Resources

**I**n which we highlight scholarly journal and online articles and resources regarding abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia representing all sides of issue.

### Recent research and data

- One way to keep up with arguments on the other side are by subscribing to *Reproductive Justice, Law & Policy eJournal*, sponsored by the Center for Reproductive Rights and American University Washington College of Law. It can be accessed though [SSRN](#).

Among the articles in the current issue are: “Back to the Future of Regulating Abortion in the First Term,” by Tracy A. Thomas, University of Akron School of Law (see below); “Changing the Marriage Equation,” by Deborah A. Widiss, Indiana University Maurer School of Law; “The Legal Standpoint of Surrogacy in India,” by Saurav Bhaumik, National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL); “Orphaned at Conception: The Uncanny Offspring of Embryos,” by Robert Sparrow, Monash University - Faculty of Arts.

- Another important resource is the Guttmacher Institute's journal, *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* (formally *International Family Planning Perspectives*). All articles since 1995 are archived [here](#).

Among articles in the current edition (Vol. 38, No. 2, June 2012) is "Incidence of Induced Abortion by Age and State, Mexico, 2009: New Estimates Using a Modified Methodology," by Fatima Juarez and Susheela Singh. In this article the researchers analyze data about the incidence of abortion in the individual states in Mexico, which have a diversity of abortion laws.

- "The Trouble with Futile Care Theory," by Wesley Smith focuses on the very troubling *Rasouli* case from Canada. According to Smith: "Futile Care Theory is only the first step toward a coming duty to die. Think of Futile Care Theory as ad hoc health care rationing. Once Obamacare is up and running, centralized boards will create cost-benefit bureaucratic boards that could systemize Futile Care Theory into mandatory refusals or outright health care rationing based on patients' quality of life."

Also by Wesley Smith, "That Unrepentant Bigotry," *Human Life Review*

- Rienzi, Mark has published "The Constitutional Right Not to Kill" (March, 17 2012). Rienzi argues that there is a federal due process right not to be forced to kill. Abstract and download available [here at SSRN](#).
- As mentioned above, Tracy A. Thomas has written "Back to the Future of Regulating Abortion in the First Term," *Journal of Gender, Race and Justice* (Vol. 16, 2012 U of Akron Legal Studies Research Paper No. 11-11). In light of recent proliferation of state laws restricting abortion, "This Article...offers a legal history of *City of Akron v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health*, and *Ohio v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health (Akron II)*. These two

cases, both out of Akron, Ohio, maneuvered the legal boundaries of first-term regulations, with very different results; the first striking down such regulation, while the second upheld limitations on early abortions."

- Scott Gaylord and Thomas Molony wrote "Casey and A Woman's Right to Know: Ultrasounds, Informed Consent, and the First Amendment." The authors conclude "that the government has broad authority to mandate disclosures designed to inform a woman's decision about an abortion." The article contains a very useful discussion of the relevant state statutes and the ongoing litigation about state ultrasound laws.

## Web pages

In which we highlight web pages that members have found to be helpful for pro-life scholarship:

- **Philosophy.** *Healing the Culture* is an organization dedicated to the promotion of the Life Principles developed by UFL co-founder **Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J.** They have developed resources for a diversity of contexts, including undergraduate classes.
- **Law.** The *Bioethics Defense Fund (BDF)* "is a public-interest law firm whose mission is to advocate for the human right to life via litigation, legislation and public education. BDF provides legal expertise and public education on the issues of healthcare rights of conscience, abortion and its impact on women, human cloning/destructive human embryo research, and end of life issues including physician-assisted suicide and healthcare rationing."

Their web page contains many useful resources, such as white papers on fundamentals of life issues. "When Does Human Life Begin?" by **Maureen L. Condic** and "Emergency Contraceptives & Catholic Healthcare," by Fr. Thomas Berg, Marie Hilliard, and Mark Stegman.

- **Ethics.** The **National Catholic Bioethics Center** (NCBC), established in 1972, conducts research, consultation, publishing and education to promote human dignity in health care and the life sciences, and derives its message directly from the teachings of the Catholic Church.

## Focus on the Disciplines

**I**n which we explore the way a scholar in a particular discipline can promote the culture of life. This issue **Dr. Jeff Koloze**, of South University in Cleveland, focuses on English/Literature:

### ***Affirming Life in English Studies.***

Pro-life English Studies faculty members have a wonderful opportunity to advance life-affirming principles in the discipline by striving to accomplish at least four objectives.

Consistent with the ancient guiding rules of all literary criticism (to entertain and to teach), the primary function of English faculty who support life is to assist students of literature not only to understand, but to enjoy literary works and other texts which address abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and related topics. Faculty can, for example, explore abortion in *The Cider House Rules*, infanticide in Swift's *A Modest Proposal*, and euthanasia in films such as *Million Dollar Baby*.

Second, life affirming faculty perform vitally important work by adding their scholarly contributions to the criticism of world literature. They generate substantial research to help their colleagues, their students, and the world — those who affirm life and those who may not yet be able to perceive the value of all human life — to see that discussion of the life issues in literature spans all generations, all eras, and all cultures. For example, pro-life scholars have explored the life issues in American, European, and Asian literatures; religious and non-religious texts; and contemporary and historical milieux, ranging from the ancient drama *Oedipus Rex* by

Sophocles to contemporary Chinese and Korean short stories.

Third, faculty who affirm life follow the model of others in the discipline who have shaped language so that it more closely affirms the value of every human life. Thus, for example, just as feminists argued for the use of inclusive language so that women are recognized as much as men, pro-life faculty are consistent in referring to the unborn child as a human entity denoted by the humanizing pronouns “he” or “she” instead of the depersonalizing “it.” Similarly, to counter the tendency in some literature to dehumanize (illustrated well in James T. Farrell's *The Death of Nora Ryan*), the elderly are affirmed as human persons whose right to life must be respected, no matter what their physical condition is.

Finally, life-affirming faculty in all areas of English studies have a signal duty to support future generations of students and scholars—indeed, all future generations—so that their contributions can advance the cause of respecting human life at all stages from fertilization to natural death and in all conditions.

Pro-life faculty accomplish all these objectives with passion, reasoned debate, and, above all, sheer joy and love for their fellow human beings.

## Editor's Corner

Is the problem with our thinking or our imagination? It is tempting for us to focus only on philosophical, legal, medical, or even theological issues in our efforts to promote the culture of life. Yet, in helping create a *culture* of life we will need to help form a pro-life imagination as well as intellect.



I recently led a discussion of high school juniors and seniors of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of*

*Wrath*. This novel contributed greatly to the struggle for justice in the 1940s. We have seen some recent cinema offerings that address life issues, such as *Bella* and *October Baby*. Unfortunately, we have also seen plenty of attempts in literature and cinema to show in a positive light the choice to abort or euthanize.

Two items in this issue help us focus on the formation of the imagination in literature. First, the Scholarly Achievement Award in Creative Writing highlights and encourages a student's poetic efforts to cherish human life. **Jeff Koloze's** short essay on four objectives for pro-life English studies faculties offers helps all of us see the important role faculty members can play in shaping the imagination and the intellect.

Please begin to think about items for next issue, which will come out on October 1. I especially like to receive notices of member's publications, presentations and other activities. I also like to have calls for papers and notices of upcoming conferences. You can send them to me any time. I will put them on the blog first, then put them in *ProVita* in October.

I will also be looking for someone to write a short essay, like Jeff Koloze's above, about their discipline and the pro-life movement. If you are interested, let me know.

Any contributions may be forwarded to [profgotcher@yahoo.com](mailto:profgotcher@yahoo.com).

## Masthead

Publisher University Faculty for Life

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*ProVita* is the quarterly online newsletter of the University Faculty for Life. Its purpose is to promote research, dialogue and publication by faculty who respect the value of human life from inception to natural death, especially focusing on abortion, euthanasia, and infanticide. More information about UFL can be found on our web site at [uffl.org](http://uffl.org). Editorial correspondence can be sent to the editor at [profgotcher@yahoo.com](mailto:profgotcher@yahoo.com).

"Kept," by Alexandra Scholldorf

*Winner of the UFL Scholarly Achievement Award for Creative Writing.*

Waiting for ma to return with emery boards  
is like waiting for a train you're not sure will  
arrive.

I'm hopeful, nevertheless.

Was this what it was like when she waited  
for the blue pregnancy cross? And for the  
ultrasound  
technician? Paralyzed, wondering, with  
every reason to stay  
but my father's reason to leave, because a  
picture wouldn't matter once

I was gone. Was this what it was like

waiting

for the train to her sister's Sacramento, three  
months of morning sickness

left behind? The relief the same, when the  
train arrived?

The strangeness, when she heard from my  
father:

"You can keep it," he wrote, with her  
engagement ring tucked inside the padded  
envelope.