



ProVita

Online Newsletter of the University Faculty for Life



In this edition we wrap up the 2013 UFL Conference at the University of San Francisco in May, as well as look forward to next year's conference at Fordham in the Bronx. We also continue our Focus on the Disciplines, with historian Keith Cassidy.

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UFL Updates

In which we highlight the activities of our organization, members, and chapters, including publications, talks, and consultations.

UFL

➤ **2013 Conference.**

The 2013 UFL conference was held at the University of San Francisco from May 31 to June 1. The plenary speakers included:

Wesley Smith, lawyer and prolific writer, a Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute's Center on Human Exceptionalism. He spoke on "The Danger of an Undignified Bioethics."



Wesley Smith discusses human exceptionalism



Janet Smith discusses the morality of deception.

Janet Smith, the Fr. Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Issues at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan and consultant to the Pontifical Council for the Family. Smith spoke on the use of lying and deception in pro-life activism.

William B. Hurlbut, M.D., Consulting Professor in the Neuroscience Institute at Stanford, Stanford University Medical Center. He served on President George W. Bush's Council on Bioethics from 2001 to 2008. Hurlbut spoke on the ethical impact of trends in stem cell research and therapy.



Dr. William B. Hurlbut in an after-talk discussion.

There was also a panel discussion called "Roe v. Wade at 40" with Jon Shields, Associate Professor of Government, Claremont McKenna College; **Francis Beckwith**, Professor of Philosophy and



Participants continue to discuss the talks they attended during a break

Church-State Studies, Baylor University; **Samuel Calhoun**, Professor of Law, Washington and Lee University School of Law; and **Richard Myers**, Professor of Law, Ave Maria School of Law.

Other presenters included:
Christopher Kaczor, Jason Eberl, Jennifer Lahl, Nyna Caputi, Scott Gaylord, **William Saunders**, and Clarke Forsythe.



Masses were celebrated by Fr. Joe Koterski, SJ, at the Christo Rey Carmelite Convent on the USF campus.

➤ **Smith Award.**

The 2013 Rupert and Timothy Smith Award for Distinguished Contribution to Pro-Life Scholarship was awarded Saturday night at the closing banquet to Dr. Raymond Dennehy, Professor of Philosophy, University of San Francisco. Dr. Dennehy is not only a noted scholar in the areas of metaphysics, epistemology, and social ethics, but also is a long-time, highly effective debater, having debated Mary Anne Warren, Derek Humphry, Malcolm Potts, and representatives of Planned Parenthood, NARAL, and NOW. His is noted for being invited to argue on behalf of life at UC Berkeley for 48 consecutive semesters. A large representative of his four children and eleven grandchildren and their families was at the banquet.

➤ **Student Essay Awards.** During the banquet on Saturday night, Dr. **Jeff Koloze** presented the Scholarly Achievement Award in Creative Writing, Literary Criticism, or Research. Koloze and **Jane Gilroy** have selected the winners of the contest since its inception in 2004.

The three winners of this year's contest are: First place: Rev. Mr. Brandon P. O'Brien, a graduate student at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, for his literary criticism essay, "Violence and Strife in the City: Discerning Life-affirming Themes in Cormac McCarthy's Postmillennial Novels"; second place: Emily Hurd, University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, Minnesota), for her literary criticism essay, "Crime and Punishment: Understanding the Value of the Human Person"; third place: Sharon Ngai, Redeemer University College, Canada, for her research essay, "Euthanasia: A License to Kill."

The following two students have earned honorable mentions: Emily Hurd, University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, Minnesota), for her creative writing piece, "They Said It Would Be Easy," and Samantha Stempky, a graduating senior from the University of Notre Dame, for her research essay, "Sexuality, Freedom, and Truth."

Three other students will receive letters encouraging them to continue their work and to submit in future contests. Invitations will be sent to the contest winners to improve their essays as necessary for possible publication in conference proceedings.

➤ **2014 Conference.** Plan now for the 2014 UFL Twenty-Fourth Annual Conference "Life and Learning XXIV" to be held June 6-7, 2014 at Fordham University, Bronx NY.

Attendance is open to current or former college, university, and seminary faculty and their spouses, graduate students, and others by individual request.

Proposals for scholarly paper presentations are invited. Papers should focus on the life issues of abortion, infanticide and euthanasia. Themes for the conference include the legal, political, social, economic, and medical implications of these topics; relevant legal, philosophical and theological issues; the physical and psychological effects of abortion; and insights from history, literature, the arts, humanities and other disciplines. Paper proposals should be one page (maximum) and should include the working title of the proposed paper, author's name, affiliation, full contact information (including address, phone, fax and email), and a brief abstract or outline. The deadline for receipt of proposals is April 7, 2014. All papers presented at the conference may be submitted after the conference for possible publication in *Life and Learning*, an annual peer-reviewed selection of conference papers.

To propose a paper, send the proposal (preferably by email attachment) by April 4, 2014 to:

Professor Barbara Freres
 Department of Philosophy
 Cardinal Stritch University
 6801 N. Yates Road
 Milwaukee WI 53217
 tel: 414-410-4844
bjfreres@stritch.edu

- ***Life and Learning Proceedings.*** The latest edition of UFL's conference proceedings is completed and is available: [Life and Learning XIX: Proceedings of the Nineteenth University Faculty for Life Conference at the University of St. Thomas School of Law, 2009](#), ed. Joseph W. Koterski, S.J. (Washington, D.C.: University Faculty for Life, 2013). The volume will soon be mailed to members. For online versions of the papers, go to the [UFL Annual Proceedings](#) link on the UFL web page.

UFL in the News

- ***R.I.P. Dr. Edmund Pellegrino.*** **Dr. Edmund Pellegrino** died on June 13 at 92. Dr. Pellegrino was the recipient of University Faculty for Life's Smith Award for distinguished contributions to pro-life scholarship. Dr. Pellegrino was a giant in the field of bioethics and he influenced many with his voluminous writings and his example. His passing is a great loss.

[Here](#) is a link to a brief comment that **Richard Myers** posted on the Mirror of Justice blog. [Here](#) is a tribute on *The Catholic Thing* by **Bill Saunders**. See also these news articles at *The Catholic Sentinel* and *The Catholic Standard*, and [this tribute at America Magazine](#).

- ***R.I.P. Barbara Willke.*** Barbara Willke, sometimes called the "Godmother of Modern Pro-Life Movement" died on April 14, 2013. Barbara Willke (along with her husband Dr. Jack Willke) received University Faculty for Life's Smith Award in 2007. More on Barbara Willke's life can be found on the [LifeNews.com](#) obituary.
- ***Dr. Jérôme Lejeune.*** [Here](#) on the [National Catholic Register](#) web page is an article about Dr. **Jérôme Lejeune**, "father of modern genetics," candidate for Catholic sainthood, and former adviser to UFL. The focus of this article is on the U.S. Jérôme Lejeune Foundation, which continues the work he started to help care for people with Down's Syndrome and to look for a cure. Lejeune's wife, Birthe, is quoted extensively.

UFL Chapters

- ***Long Island.*** The Long Island Chapter of University Faculty for Life will host a program at Molloy College on "The Effects of Abortion on Men." The event will be on Sunday, October 13, 2013, and is being co-sponsored by the Molloy College Campus Ministries Dept. **Dr. Philip Mango**, a

licensed, board certified psychotherapist with 35 years experience in mental health counseling, education and consulting, working with individuals, marriages, families, and organizations will be the speaker. Dr. Mango is the President and founding member of St. Michael's Institute for the Psychological Sciences and captain and founder of Warrior Brothers – an international organization committed to developing strong, happy, Catholic men. He has in the past worked with Mother Teresa on mental health projects for the poor and lectured at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Washington, DC.

- **Marquette**. On May 4 the Marquette Chapter of UFL co-sponsored with the Milwaukee Guild of the Catholic Medical Association the 9th annual Midwest Regional Bioethics Conference. The talks included “The Beginnings of Bioethics Principlism and the Natural Law,” by **Barb Ferres**, “A Catholic Ethos in Health Care,” by **Peter Colosi**, “POLST (Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment): Threats to Patients and Catholic Health Care,” by Frank Smith, M.D, and “Spiritual Care of Fertility,” by **Richard Fehring**. The Conference ended with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Jerome Listecky of Milwaukee.

MUFL is currently seeking suggestions for an academic speaker next spring on issues related to biology or bioethics . The talk will be co-sponsored by the Milwaukee Guild of the Catholic Medical Association. Contact **Richard Fehring** with suggestions.

Publications and member activities

- **O. Carter Snead** (Law) wrote on *Public Discourse* “[The Constitutionality of Protecting Unborn Babies at 20 Weeks](#),” an adaption of his testimony before the Texas Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. In it he argues that “There is nothing in the text, history, or tradition of the U.S. Constitution that precludes extending

the most basic protections of the law to twenty week-old (or older) unborn children who are capable of experiencing pain.”

Snead was also interviewed by Reuters concerning destructive embryonic stem cell research. [See Cardinal Newman Society summary here.](#)

- **Peter Colosi** (Theology) organized the fourth Theology of the Body International Symposium in Fatima, Portugal June 13-16. The Theology of the Body is Bl. Pope John Paul II's teaching on the significance of the human body made male and female. Although usually associated with marriage and sexuality, it also has important significance for life issues. Colosi's own talk, entitled “The Relation between Catholic Moral Teaching and Theology of the Body,” made that connection explicit. Also speaking was UFL member **Janet Smith**. Recordings of all the talks will soon be available on the [symposium website](#).
 - **Francis Beckwith** (Political Philosophy) gave a presentation on June 15 at the Vatican as part of a panel called “The Gospel of Life and the New Evangelization” at the “[Day Celebrating Evangelium Vitae](#).” *Evangelium Vitae* is Pope John Paul II's 1995 encyclical on life issues. Also presenting are Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, Prefect of the Apostolic Signatura, and Robert Royal, President of the Faith and Reason Institute and Graduate Dean at the Catholic Distance University.
- In an [interview with Vatican Radio](#) Beckwith describes his presentation: “The case that I make,” Beckwith says, “is that even those who are hostile to a culture of life, down deep, assume or rely on understandings of the human person that we can use to show them that ultimately their own view is incorrect.” Beckwith also summarizes some of the points he made in his talk in this [The Catholic Thing](#) essay, “[Positivist Mentality and the Gospel of Life](#).” In it he looks at Pope John Paul II's diagnosis of the intellectual conditions that lead to a Culture of Death in our day, esp. “scientism.”

Beckwith also wrote the Introduction for *A Second Look at First Things: A Case for Conservative Politics: The Hadley Arkes Festschrift* (St. Augustine Press, 2013). [Here is the announcement on Beckwith's blog.](#)

- **Richard Stith's** (Law) paper, "'Construction vs. Development: A Source of Deep Misunderstanding Concerning the Beginning of Life,'" has been accepted for future publication by the *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*.
- **Monica Miller** (Theology) responds to a recent New York Times op-ed by a woman who aborted one of two children she was carrying during her 23rd week of gestation with a [letter to the editor](#).
- **Lynn Wardle** (Law) was quoted in [an article on the DOMA Supreme Court ruling by the Salt Lake Tribune](#).
- **Michael New** (Political Science) wrote an article for *Reproductive Research Audit* called "[The New York Times Misleads on Scientific Evidence Regarding Abortion Health Risks](#)."

New also recently published a short article on the *NRO* website, [The College Republicans' Report Has Good Advice on Abortion](#). He provides a short survey of several opinion polls and concludes:

"The opinions of young adults on the issue of abortion tend to be nuanced. Many polls show that young people are somewhat less likely than older Americans to describe themselves as 'pro-life.' However, there is a growing body of data showing that young adults are actually more likely than older voters to support limiting abortion in specific circumstances."

New also wrote an analysis of a Gallup Poll about attitudes towards abortion for the *National Review Online*, "[Gallup Poll Shows Long-Term Gains in Pro-Life Sentiment](#)"

- On the *Human Life Review* blog, **John M. Grondelski** (Theology), former Associate Dean of the School of Theology, at Seton Hall University poses the question [Is Ruth Bader Ginsburg Getting Mellow in Her Old Age?](#) His comments accord with those of UFL member **Sam Calhoun** (Law) in his presentation critiquing the Siegel-Greenhouse book, [Before Roe v. Wade](#).

Grondelski also wrote a review of Paul Linton's, "Abortion Under State Constitutions: A State by State Analysis," 2nd ed., in *Human Life Review*, 39 (Winter 2013)/1: 77-80.

- [Here](#) is a link to a Minneapolis Star-Tribune op-ed by **Teresa Collett** (Law) in which she explains why Kermit Gosnell could not have been prosecuted in Minnesota. May 14. She made similar arguments in favor of a law banning abortion at 20 weeks in [an op-ed](#) published the Saint Paul Pioneer Press in June.

Collett, who serves as special assistant attorney general for the state of Oklahoma, is awaiting a response to her petition before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Pruitt v. Nova Health Systems* challenging the Oklahoma Supreme Court's ruling that Oklahoma's recently-passed preabortion ultrasound requirement was unconstitutional. More information can be found on the [SCOTUSblog](#).

- **Ryan MacPherson** (History) of Bethany Lutheran College presented "Men and Abortion: The Forgotten Legacy of Roe v. Wade" at the 33rd Annual MAYDAY! Peace Conference sponsored by Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn. on May 2, 2013.

Social Networking

- Don't forget, UFL is on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. 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/. There is also

an active “University Faculty for Life” subgroup of the “Pro-life Professionals” group on LinkedIn.

Scholarly Opportunities

In 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

➤ ***HHS Mandate Dinner and Lunch.***

The ProLife Center at the University of St. Thomas is sponsoring a "Dinner and Update on Religious Liberty vs. HHS Mandate." On Thursday, August 1 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Greg Hall, a Catholic deacon and owner of American Manufacturing Company based in St. Joseph, Minnesota, will discuss why he is in federal court challenging the constitutionality of the HHS mandate. For more information or to register online go to <http://religiousfreedomdinner-es2.eventbrite.com/>.

The Center is also sponsoring a “Religious Liberty vs. HHS Mandate Lunch and CLE” on the same day. The event will not only include Greg Hall, but also Attorney Erick Kaardal will discuss four Minnesota lawsuits challenging the HHS regulations requiring employers with 50+ employees provide health insurance coverage of contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs. See <http://hhsmandatelunch.eventbrite.com> for details.

➤ ***G.E.M. Anscombe Conference at Oxford.*** One of the great pro-life philosophers of the 20th century was analytic philosopher G.E.M. Anscombe, of Oxford and Cambridge Universities. The Anscombe Bioethics Centre and Blackfriars Hall at

Oxford are sponsoring a conference called “The Moral Philosophy of Elizabeth Anscombe.”

It will be held Friday 27th and Saturday 28th September 2013 at St Hugh’s College, Oxford where G.E.M. Anscombe studied as an undergraduate.

Speakers include: Christopher Coope, Rev Prof Kevin Flannery SJ, Dr Mary Geach, Rev David Goodill OP, Prof Luke Gormally, Dr Edward Harcourt, Prof David Albert Jones, Prof Anselm Müller (Anscombe Memorial Lecturer 2013), Dr Matthew O’Brien, Prof Thomas Pink, Prof Duncan Richter, Dr Roger Teichmann, Prof Jose Maria Torralba and Prof Candace Vogler.

Registration at www.bioethics.org.uk, where you can see the conference pages for the full program, travel information, a call for papers (for graduates/early career academics) and accommodation details.

➤ ***Prolife World Congress.*** The sixth ***Prolife World Congress*** will be held in Guayaquil, Ecuador from Oct. 3-6. The Congress is dedicated to the promotion of a global culture of human life, especially in the public arena. For more details, see <http://www.prolifeworldcongress.org/>

➤ ***Abortion in a Post-Gosnell World.*** On October 4, 2013 the University of St. Thomas Journal of Law and Public Policy is sponsoring a symposium, ***Abortion in a Post Gosnell World***. Several UFL members including **Dr. Maureen Condic** and Professor **Dwight Duncan**, are among the speakers. The event is free and open to the public. Application is being made to the Minnesota Board of Continuing Legal Education for approval of CLE credit.

➤ ***Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture Fall Conference.*** The Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture will devote its Fourteenth Annual Fall Conference

(Nov. 7-9) to the theme, “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: The Body and Human Identity.” This conference will take up a host of questions related to the human meaning of the body and life as an embodied self from the perspective of many disciplines, including philosophy, theology, political theory, law, history, economics, the biosciences, literature, and the arts. For more information see the [NDCEC web page](#).

➤ ***UFL and Washington and Lee Law Review cosponsor Roe v. Wade, the Controversy Continues.***

The Frances Lewis Law Center of the Washington and Lee University School of Law in Lexington, VA, is sponsoring a symposium called Roe at 40, The Controversy Continues, Nov. 7-8, 2013. Among the keynote speakers will be Caitlin Borgmann, Professor of Law at CUNY School of Law, and Michael Paulsen Professor of Law at the University of St. Thomas School of Law. Confirmed panelists include several UFL members, including:

Sam Calhoun (Professor of Law, Washington and Lee University)

Teresa Collett (Professor of Law, University of St. Thomas)

Lynne Marie Kohm (John Brown McCarty Professor of Family Law, Regent University)

The event is free and open to the public. Attorneys who want to receive CLE (Continuing Legal Education) credit will have to sign in to memorialize their attendance. For more information, go [here](#).

➤ ***Information on Pro-life Library Collections Needed.*** **Jeff Koloze** is looking for information on libraries that specialize in pro-life collections (500+ items). If you have any information on such a collection, send it to the address below:

Dr. Jeff Koloze
President, Koloze Consultants
10019 Granger Road
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125-3101
216-262-3511
LinkedIn profile:
<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/dr-jeff-koloze/22/555/b37>

- ***On the other side.*** Activist scholars on the other side of the UFL issues of abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia also have their academic conferences. You may want to be aware of, or even considering attending, conferences such as the following:

“Derecho a la vida: un dialogo sobre justicia, igualdad de genero y derechos reproductivos en America Latina.” Third Latin American Legal Congress on Reproductive Rights, Cuernavaca, Morelos - Mexico, October 14-16, 2013.

Resources

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

Recent and upcoming research and data

- Clark Forsythe’s new book *Abuse of Discretion: The Inside Story of Roe v. Wade* (Encounter Books, 2013), will be release in September. Forsythe makes “a critical review of the behind-the-scenes deliberations that went into the Supreme Court’s abortion decisions and how the mistakes made by the Justices in 1971-1973 have led to the turmoil we see today in legislation, politics, and public health.”
- Robert P. George’s new book, *Conscience and Its Enemies: Confronting the Dogmas of Our Age* (American Ideals and Institutions) contains several chapters in Part III in

defense of traditional moral positions on life issues. There are also chapters on “Good Guys and...Not-So-Good Guys,” such as Harry Blackmun, Andrew Sullivan, Bernard Nathanson, Richard John Neuhaus, G.E.M. Anscombe, John Finnis, Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, and Eugene Genovese.

- Dr. **Maureen Condic**, Associate Professor of Neurobiology and Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Utah School of Medicine, gave [testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice concerning fetal pain](#). Condic spoke at the 2012 UFL Conference at BYU.
- The much-anticipated [infanticide & “after birth” abortion special issue](#) of *Journal of Medical Ethics* recently came out: 39.5 (May 2013).
- **Frank Beckwith** notes that James Witherspoon’s 1985 article, “[Reexamining Roe: nineteenth-century abortion statutes and the Fourteenth Amendment](#),” is the best short critique of Justice Blackmun’s distorted history of abortion law in *Roe v. Wade*. Add to this Joseph Dellapenna’s magisterial work, [Dispelling the Myths of Abortion History](#), and it is clear that an accurate legal history of abortion law provides no support for the abortion license created in *Roe v. Wade*.
- The Guttmacher Institute, a research organization started by Planned Parenthood, has updated its annual survey of abortion laws in the United States. You can view it [here](#). **Teresa Collett** says, “I occasionally dispute the characterization of a law, but find it to be a good starting point for research.”
- For updates about the relationship between governmental policy and bioethics (with a Catholic focus), the National Catholic Bioethics Center published the [Washington Insider](#). It is produced quarterly by Richard Doerflinger, Associate Director of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-life Activities, and **William Saunders**, Senior Vice President and Senior Counsel of Americans United for

Life. Much of the information about policy and research is useful for non-Catholics. [Here is the Summer 2013 issue](#).

- [The Foetal Condition: A Sociology of Engendering and Abortion](#), by sociologist Luc Boltanski (*Polity*, 2013) explores how individuals and society use language to distinguish between “project” fetuses and “tumoral” foetus, even though they are biological exactly the same.
- A new edition of [RU486: Misconceptions, Myths and Morals](#), by Australian feminist scholars Renate Klein, Janice G. Raymond, Lynette Dumble, has been released. The book is extremely critical of RU486 on the basis of women’s safety and health, rather than from the perspective of the morality of elective abortion.
- Mark Osler, of the University of St. Thomas Law School and expert on criminal sentencing, presented a paper questioning why so many states still allow post-viability abortions. His paper “[Roe’s Ragged Remnant: Viability](#)” is now available on SSRN. It is a nice snapshot of the current state of the law.
- [Three Ted Talks on Fetal Development that Help Build the ProLife Case](#). Most academics are aware of TED talks – a global initiative to make short (18 minutes or less) speeches on important and interesting topics available for free via the worldwide web. This can be a great resource for academics who want to introduce videos into their teaching. [Annie Murphy Paul](#), “What we learn before we’re born” [Tyrone Hayes](#) and [Penelope Jagessar Chaffer](#), “The toxic baby?” and [Alexander Tsiras](#), “Conception to birth — visualized.”
- The [Public Discourse](#) page of the Witherspoon Institute has an article by [Gabrielle M. Speech](#) and [Elissa Sanchez-Speech](#), [Cuomo’s Women’s Equality Act Will Harm Women](#), outlining the evidence that late-term abortions are never medically

indicated. Quoting from Congressional testimony and reports of maternal-fetal specialists, the authors make a compelling case that women suffering from serious medical conditions during the last half of pregnancy are better served by induced delivery than abortion.

- John M. Thorp Jr., “[Public Health Impact of Legal Termination of Pregnancy in the US: 40 Years Later](#).” *Scientifica* Volume 2012 (2012), Article ID 980812. Thorp is from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, School of Medicine, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

“During the 40 years since the US Supreme Court decision in *Doe versus Wade* and *Doe versus Bolton*, restrictions on termination of pregnancy (TOP) were overturned nationwide. The use of TOP was much wider than predicted and a substantial fraction of reproductive age women in the U.S. have had one or more TOPs and that widespread uptake makes the downstream impact of any possible harms have broad public health implications. While short-term harms do not appear to be excessive, from a public perspective longer term harm is conceiving, and clearly more study of particular relevance concerns the associations of TOP with subsequent preterm birth and mental health problems. Clearly more research is needed to quantify the magnitude of risk and accurately inform women with the crisis of unintended pregnancy considering TOP. The current US data-gathering mechanisms are inadequate for this important task.”

- Shirley Darby Howell, Professor of Law at Faulkner University’s Thomas Goode Jones School of Law in Montgomery, Alabama, wrote “[The Frozen Embryo: Scholarly Theories, Case Law, and Proposed State Regulation](#)” for the *Human Life Review* (Spring 2013) and *DePaul Journal of Health Care Law* (Vol. 14.3:407). She looks at possible state laws that would resolve disputes about the status of frozen embryos.

- Priscilla K. Coleman, Director of the World Expert Consortium for Abortion Research and Education ([WECARE](#)) responds to the June 12 NY Times article by Josha Lang called “[What Happens to Women Who are Denied Abortions](#).” Her article, called “[What Really Happens to Women Who are Not Denied Abortions? Best Not to Ask NY Times Journalist Joshua Lang](#),” points out the serious flaws in Lang’s analysis of the research.

She is especially critical of Lang’s reliance on the work of Diana Greene Foster, a demographer and an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of California, San Francisco. Foster’s study, which Coleman says has several serious methodological flaws, reinforces the idea that turning women away from abortion has negative affect on them.

- A study by Elard Koch, et. al. maternal death rate in Chile over the past few decades shows that the downward trend in maternal mortality rate was not slowed by the prohibition of abortion in 1989, contrary to assertions that maternal mortality rates will increase where abortion is made illegal. The study, called “[Women’s Education Level, Maternal Health Facilities, Abortion Legislation and Maternal Deaths: A Natural Experiment in Chile from 1957 to 2007](#),” is available on the [PLOS One website](#), an open access journal. According to an [article on LifeNews.com](#), the study has been criticized on methodological grounds by the Guttmacher Institute. The authors have replied to the Guttmacher criticism.

It should be noted that the study does not assert that the change in abortions laws *decreased* maternal mortality rate. It only asserts that the change in law did not slow down an already occurring annual reduction in maternal mortality.

Some Recent and Upcoming Historical Studies

- [Between Birth and Death: Female Infanticide in Nineteenth-Century China](#) by Michelle King (Dec 4, 2013); ['A Most Diabolical Deed': Infanticide and Irish Society, 1850-1900](#) by Elaine Farrell; [A History of Infanticide in Britain, c. 1600 to the Present](#) by Anne-Marie Kilday (Jun 14, 2013); [Women, Infanticide and the Press, 1822-1922](#) by Nicola Goc (Mar 28, 2013); [What Else Could I Do?: Single Mothers and Infanticide, Ireland 1900-1950 \(New Directions in Irish History\)](#) by Cliona Rattigan (Mar 25, 2013); [Nurses and Midwives in Nazi Germany: The Nazi 'Euthanasia' Program \(Routledge Studies in Modern European History...\)](#) by Susan Benedict and Linda Shields (Dec 28, 2013)

Some Opposing Views

- The soon-to-be released [Assisted Death: A Study in Ethics and Law](#) (McGraw-Hill, 2013), by L.W. Sumner offers a defense of legal assisted suicide in the context of themes, such as conceptions of death, the badness of death, the wrongness of killing, informed consent and refusal, the ethics of suicide, cause of death, the double effect, the sanctity of life, the 'active/passive' distinction, advance directives, and nonvoluntary euthanasia. He attempts to rebut “a wide range of common objections, including those which appeal to slippery slopes or the possibility of abuse.”
- A new edition of Kristin Luker’s, [Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood](#) (California Series on Social Choice and Political Economy) (University of California Press, 2013) will be released in October.

“Drawing on data from decades of public documents and newspaper accounts, as well as hundreds of interviews with both pro-life and pro-choice activists, Luker argues that moral positions on abortion are intimately tied to views on sexual behavior, the care of

children, family life, technology, and the importance of the individual.”

Luker is clearly in favor of legal access to elective abortion.

- Anne O'Rourke, Lachlan De Crespigny, and Amanda Pyman offer a working paper on SSRN called “[Abortion and Conscientious Objection: The New Battleground](#).” It is critical of the claim that the “obligation to refer” clause violates the rights of the individual.
- “[Abortion Law Around the World: Progress and Pushback](#),” by Louise Finer and Johanna B. Fine, *American Journal of Public Health* 103.4 (April 2013): 585-9.
- “[Human rights versus legal control over women’s reproductive self-determination](#),” by Diya Uberoi and Maria de Bruyn, in *Health and Human Rights* 15.1 (June 2013): 161- 174.
- [Life Before Birth: The Moral and Legal Status of Embryos and Fetuses](#), by Bonnie Steinbock, Oxford University Press, 2011, 2nd edition.
- “[Remaking the case for a woman's right to choose](#)” by Ann Furedi, *Reproductive Review*, 26 April 2013. “Writing on spiked, [British Pregnancy Advisory Service] chief executive Ann Furedi argues that in replacing the ideal of reproductive choice with ‘reproductive justice’, feminists underestimate women’s capacity for autonomy.”
- Here are a couple of chapters in [Gender & Equality Law](#), ed. Julie Goldscheid (Ashgate, 2013): “Sex equality arguments for reproductive rights: their critical basis and evolving constitutional expression,” by Reva B. Siegel; “The global reproductive health and rights agenda: opportunities and challenges for the future,” by Laura Reichenbach, in *Gender & Equality Law*, ed. Julie Goldscheid (Ashgate, 2013).

Other News and Analysis

- ***U.S. Supreme Court accepts two abortion cases.*** *Cline v. Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice* is a case seeking to overturn a challenge to an Oklahoma law that regulates use of abortion-inducing drugs. The case was granted by the U.S. Supreme Court a writ of certiorari (review) before the Oklahoma Supreme Court before SCOTUS will consider the case. More information can be found on the [SCOTUSblog](#) and the [Stanford law blog](#).

The second case is *McCullen et al. v. Coakley et al.*, a case challenging a Massachusetts “buffer zone” around “reproductive health care facilities” on free speech grounds. More on this case can be found on the [SCOTUSblog](#).

- ***Kirsten Powers rejects Davis as “hero.”*** There is more anecdotal evidence that the consensus in the U.S. against legal late-term abortions is broadening. Most recently columnist Kirsten Powers, labelled a “liberal” by many, in a [Daily Beast](#) article called “[I don’t stand with Wendy Davis](#),” came out against Davis’s filibuster of a Texas bill that would make abortion after 20 weeks illegal. HT Janet Smith and [LifeSiteNews.com](#).
- ***Abortion Rules in Europe.*** A [recent BBC article](#) lists the various rules for abortion in European countries. Malta is the only country that has a complete ban. Many countries allow it “on request,” but usually not after 12 weeks. Sweden allows it on request up to 18 weeks. Any country that allows it beyond 18 weeks has certain conditions, including, for instance, Ireland, which only allows it to save the life of the mother. Interestingly, that condition includes possible suicide, “a loophole the government and Catholic Church wanted closed.”

- ***Fewer surgical abortions in Michigan this year.*** According to Right to Life Michigan’s analysis of statistics from the Michigan Department of Community Health, the number of abortions has dropped 53% since 1987. The percentage of teenage abortions has dropped as well. See [LifeNews.com article](#).

Focus on the Disciplines

In which Keith M. Cassidy, historian and President of Seat of Wisdom Academy in Ontario, Canada, elaborates the task of a pro-life historian.

An historian with a pro-life commitment can do much to help ensure that human life is respected and protected at all its stages. The other side of the coin is that a pro-life perspective can add a crucial dimension to historical inquiry, enriching and enlarging our understanding of the past.

One thing which should be stressed is that, regardless of any personal commitments, the historian’s first job is to tell the truth – nothing not factual can be added and nothing material can be discreetly hidden, not at least if you wish to be anything other than a propagandist. However while it is the case that the historian must always strive for objectivity, this does not mean that he or she must be neutral. A passionate commitment to a cause does not preclude honesty and fair-mindedness.

The truth about the history of abortion in Western culture, particularly in the Anglo-American world, is frequently distorted and suppressed. It is an urgent task for historians to help in the recovery of the real tradition and to ensure that it is well known. The claim continues to be made that “abortion was a common law liberty” before the nineteenth century, despite a clear record of cases to the contrary. Similarly the movement to pass anti-abortion statutes in that period continues to be misrepresented as animated by misogyny, racism and professional

self-interest. Scholars have done the research and analysis required to dispel these myths, but their work remains little known, even in the scholarly world.

This is not a matter of scholarly trivia: our perception of history powerfully affects our understanding of issues. The Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* was based in large measure on the deeply misleading historical account given to it by Cyril C. Means of the common law relating to abortion, and of the passage of anti-abortion legislation in the nineteenth-century. Later, for both the *Webster* and *Casey* cases, pro-choice historians presented amicus curiae briefs filled with shoddy and tendentious scholarship.

The proper response is not an equally reprehensible pro-life account. It is a clear and persuasive showing of the way in which a respect for human life has been, until recent decades, a consistent thread in the moral thinking in the Western world. The materials for that account are readily available: the task is to pierce the fog of misinformation which blocks a clear view of this truth.

While the historians can advance the goals of the pro-life movement, it is also true that a pro-life perspective can enrich historical inquiry. Just as history was enlarged and deepened by the inclusion of issues such as class and gender into what had once been largely political and military narratives, it can be improved by pro-life concerns. If it is legitimate, in giving an account of a society, to raise the question of its treatment of women, it is surely legitimate to question its treatment of the vulnerable elderly and the unborn. We should ask not only what the official value assigned to innocent life, but also what was the actual social practice. In effect it is asking historians, who already ask questions arising from social justice concerns, to broaden their horizon to all human life: a consistent life ethic makes a fruitful perspective for historical inquiry.

Editor's Corner

However we come down on the issue of the use of deception in pro-life "sting" operations, I believe, with Keith Cassidy that scholars must first of all be devoted to the truth in their work. As he put it, and I would apply to all scholars, "the historian's first job is to tell the truth – nothing not factual can be added and nothing material can be discreetly hidden, not at least if you wish to be anything other than a propagandist." As Cardinal Newman said, the purpose of the University is the teaching of universal knowledge. Not opinion. Not rhetorical strategies. Unless we believe that a) there is an objective truth, b) it can be known to a certain extent, and c) it can be communicated, we are reduced to rhetorical power plays.



This means we must concede facts that are firmly established and arguments that are sound when they are made on the other side of the issues. Anyone who has read St. Thomas Aquinas knows that he begins with arguments that oppose his position. He sometimes even concedes an argument. If our goal is the truth, then we will present and then argue against the opposing arguments in their best form.

To know the arguments we have to read the works of those who take the opposite view as we do on life issues. That is why *ProVita* often includes scholarship from those who are trying to defend abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. If you know of any such scholarship or conferences, please let me know so I can include them in the next issue. My email is <mailto:provitanews@yahoo.com>.

Please begin to think about items for next issue, which will come out in October, 2013. We need

- Notices of member's publications, presentations and other activities,
- Calls for papers and notices of upcoming conferences.
- Citations of relevant significant research in any discipline, whether from a pro-life perspective, neutral, or the opposing perspective.
- Useful online and print resources.

You can send them to me any time. I will put them on the [blog](#) first, and then put them in *ProVita*. Any contributions may be forwarded to provitanews@yahoo.com.

Masthead

Publisher [University Faculty for Life](#)

Editor [Robert F. Gotcher, Ph.D.](#)

Technical [Stephen Feher, of the Ridgefield Group](#)

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. Editorial correspondence can be sent to the editor at <mailto:provitanews@yahoo.com>.