

FACULTY & STAFF

UMC turns to Professor Hopkins to help monitor research ethics

Millsaps philosophy professor Patrick Hopkins occupies a place where science and the public interest intersect. Twice a month, that intersection is a seat around the conference table where the University of Mississippi Medical Center Institutional Review Board meets.

The IRB regulates research involving human subjects to ensure that it is humane, necessary, and in compliance with all federal and institutional guidelines.

All members but Hopkins are UMC personnel: nurses, pharmacists, dentists, physicians, scientists, and others who have a vested interest in research.

Only Hopkins speaks for the person whose last encounter with science may have been in the ninth grade and who may not know a petri dish from a placebo.

And only Hopkins is indispensable. If he or his designated alternate, Millsaps Professor Ted Ammon, is not present, the board cannot meet. According to the federal regulations that govern the board, no meeting can take place without the person who represents the public's viewpoint.

Hopkins is hardly Everyman. He has edited two books and written numerous articles in scholarly journals. Among his topics: civil rights for cyborgs, custody battles over frozen embryos, biology and the Bible, artificial wombs, and pig parts. Hopkins is a scholar, perfectly at home with abstract concepts and the art of debate. But when he's seated around the table with other IRB members, he assumes the posture of a layman.

"I try to put myself in the place of my niece, my 85-year-old grandmother, and the person who checks my groceries," Hopkins said.

The board spends much of its time reviewing the forms that docu-

ment informed consent from research subjects.

"I always think of a person, perhaps already sick, who may read at only an eighth-grade level and then try to determine if he can understand it," Hopkins said. "We spend a lot of time translating doctor- and science-speak into eighth-grade-speak." Even though Hopkins pursued a science career as an undergraduate and has worked in a research lab, he is not as familiar with medical terms as most of his IRB colleagues.

"It was a little difficult at first," he said. "I didn't want to be the only one around the table who didn't understand something. But it's not a problem at all now. Part of overcoming that was my own willpower. I refused to let my embarrassment stand in the way of what I needed to do. But the group also welcomed me. They didn't roll their eyes when I asked a question. It's a very free environment in which I can express whatever concerns I have, and I'm grateful for that."

Nancy Olson, the IRB administrator, estimates that IRB members spend six to eight weeks a year reviewing research, looking over as many as 78 separate proposals for one meeting. In that respect, Hopkins' scholarly background and experience in reading esoteric manuscripts work to his advantage.

All of it is voluntary. No one on the board, including Hopkins, is paid.

"It does take a lot of time," Hopkins agrees. "But I look at it as my tiny contribution to the community. At some point, some person lying in a hospital bed will be the beneficiary of a decision we made."

And Hopkins likes being around scientists. "Academics like me don't often have the opportunity to talk to scientists," he said. "It's a good expe-



Dr. Patrick Hopkins represents a layman's point of view on biotechnology.

rience for me. And I hope that once in a while I will bring a perspective to the table the others haven't thought of."

According to Dr. Richard Summers, an associate professor of emergency medicine and IRB member, Hopkins does that frequently. "We tend to get wrapped up in the science of the thing," he said.

"Patrick gives us a patient's point of view, as well as an ethical perspective. He'll ask us, 'would we want this done to us?' Or 'is this ethical?'" He's not afraid to speak up when he has a concern. And he reads each proposal in detail. I'm always amazed at how thoroughly he prepares for the meetings."

Dr. Stan Chapman, director of the Division of Infectious Diseases and the IRB chairman, agrees. "I can always count on him to have read

every proposal thoroughly," Chapman said. "He knows exactly what his charge is on the board, and he takes it very seriously. He is absolutely essential to the board, and he makes my life much easier."

Chapman credits Hopkins with the first use of the word "metaphysical" in the history of the board.

"I was looking at something in one of the proposals," Hopkins said, "and I commented that whatever it said was 'metaphysically impossible.'" Dr. Chapman said it was probably the first time that word had been used in that room."

A native of Mississippi, Hopkins earned his B.A. at the University of Mississippi and his M.A. and Ph.D. at

Washington University. He did post-doctoral research at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

"I loved science in school and actually thought I would end up doing neuroscience," Hopkins said. "I still love science, but discovered that the day-to-day life of the scientist is not for me. I found I was more interested in the big implications of science and technology and for that I needed to study social theory and philosophy."

In the classroom, he teaches courses in biomedical ethics, computer ethics, death and dying, and gender and technology. He once taught an introduction to philosophy course using some of the classics of science

fiction and "Star Trek."

A veteran of 30 or 40 IRB meetings, Hopkins says his disappointment has been in seeing how little regard corporate enterprises have for human subjects. "I see how much information they obtain from the subjects and how little they give them in return," he said.

On the other hand, he says that he has been very impressed by his fellow IRB members. "I'm amazed at how thoughtful and serious they are about protecting the rights of human subjects," he said. "I come away from the meetings knowing that we're really doing work here that helps people."

Emeritus professors Cain and Bishop shaped generations of scientists

Millsaps College has had 10 presidents in its history, and Dr. Allen Bishop and Dr. Eugene Cain taught under the leadership of five of them. Together, they taught chemistry at Millsaps for 77 years.

Their devotion to the College has shaped generations of doctors, scientists, and researchers. In recognition of their remarkable contributions, at the 2002 Commencement ceremonies Millsaps awarded Cain and Bishop each the title of emeritus professor of chemistry.

Bishop, professor of chemistry and director of academic computing, taught at Millsaps for 35 years with an energy in the classroom that was matched only by his dedication to providing the best computing technology to Millsaps faculty and students. He served as the chair and acting chair of computer studies, physics, and biology and as acting associate dean of the sciences. He also co-founded Millsaps' computer science program.

Millsaps honored Bishop in 1998 with the Distinguished Professor Award, the highest award the College can bestow upon its faculty members. In nominating him, Bishop's colleagues said that he solved problems and bro-

kered agreements with "wit, charm, and wisdom."

In 1999, Bishop was named Outstanding Educator of the Year by the United Methodist Foundation for Christian Higher Education. He was selected from candidates at 123 Methodist institutions for his extraordinary impact upon his college, church, and community. "Bishop has shown how much a person can achieve, and how many lives a person can affect, with a lifetime of commitment," said Richard A. Smith, vice president and dean of the College.

Cain, meanwhile, has "strengthened and uplifted" the Millsaps community for 42 years, Smith said. The former chair of the chemistry department, Cain has been "a teacher and mentor to countless students by helping them succeed not just in the classroom but also in life," he added.

For instance, as an advocate of a minority premed program in the



From left, Dr. Eugene Cain, President Frances Lucas-Tauchar, Dean Richard A. Smith, and Dr. Allen Bishop at commencement.

1970s, Cain opened the door to medical school for disadvantaged students from across the state. And Cain has also helped make Millsaps a front-runner in undergraduate research.

Chosen by the United Methodist Church's Division of Higher Education for a 1992 Exemplary Teacher Award, Cain served as the first president of the Faculty Council, and he is a lifetime member of the Mississippi Academy of Sciences.

Miller, English department chair, is named Distinguished Professor

Dr. Greg Miller, associate professor of English, was presented with the 2002 Millsaps Distinguished Professor Award at commencement. The award is the highest honor that the College can bestow upon its faculty members.

"As chair of the English department, Dr. Miller has been a versatile member of our faculty, teaching creative writing, poetry, American literature, and Shakespeare with intelligence and enthusiasm," said Dr. Richard A. Smith, vice president and dean of the College. "He is a caring but challenging professor who asks for the best from his students."

The recipient of a Mississippi Humanities Teacher Award in 1998, Miller served as the president and driving force behind the 1999 Southern

Literary Festival, which brought poet laureate Robert Pinsky to Millsaps. He has also spent residencies at the MacDowell Colony, the Yaddo Colony, and the Fine Arts Work Center.

His poems have appeared in such prestigious journals as *The Paris Review*, *The Vanderbilt Poetry Review*, and *The Three-penny Review*. He has been honored with the Academy of American Poets Prize.

Miller is the author of *Iron Wheel* (1998) and *Rib Cage* (2001), both published by the University of Chicago Press. Both volumes of poetry have received nominations for National Book Awards and Pulitzer Prizes.

"Being named distinguished professor at Millsaps College is a singular honor, particularly because of the



Dr. Greg Miller is a winner of the Academy of American Poets Prize.

excellence of my colleagues and the emphasis that our community places on innovative teaching and scholarship," said Miller.

Professor Galaty searches for threatened Albanian culture

Dr. Michael Galaty, assistant professor of anthropology, spent his summer exploring the northern highlands of Albania, searching for stories about a lost way of life. In this remote corner of the world, blood feuds sometimes still rage between embittered families and soaring mountains keep watch over stone houses dotting the valleys.

In 1921, a young writer named Rose Wilder Lane, the daughter of author Laura Ingalls Wilder, also heard the beckoning call of the newly independent nation of Albania. She chronicled her travels in a book called *Peaks of Shala* (1923). As part of a documentary project sponsored by the Associated Colleges of the South, Galaty retraced Lane's journeys to learn more about her intense self-examination and to determine how much of the tribal system she described still exists.

"When Lane was living and working in Albania, a northern Albanian tribal system with ancient roots still functioned," said Galaty. "Oral law governed the social, economic, and political relationships that bound rival clans. Justice was swift

and brutal. Lane, and the other female travelers to Albania, were fascinated by the tribal system and produced complex and detailed descriptions. Eventually, the tribal system was destroyed by communism, though echoes of it still persist in remote regions, such as Shala."

Traveling largely on gravel and dirt roads, Galaty, joined by novice filmmaker Robert Schon, retraced Lane's footsteps, visiting the cities of Theth and Shkodre. With a translator and a guide, the two were able to recreate several of Lane's own photographs and speak to the descendants of the people she met during her journey.

"We met the descendant of the man Lane called the richest in Theth," said Galaty. "She still lives in the family's three-story stone house, carved with ancient pagan symbols. She received us in the same sitting room Lane had visited and regaled us with stories of her ancestor."

Galaty and Schon plan to create a film of the experience, blending digital and conventional film footage to capture and reveal the dramatic physical and human landscapes of the land

about which Lane wrote so glowingly. The finished product, which will include moving and still images accompanied by Lane's narrative descriptions, will document the remnants of traditional Albanian culture.

"We learned so much about life in the Albanian high country," said Galaty. "It was easy to appreciate why this place affected Lane as deeply as it did. The scenery is absolutely stunning, but the real wonder of Shala is the people and their culture, which is barely holding on in the new, capitalist Albania. I hope the film will do their stories justice."



Dr. Michael Galaty has begun work on a documentary film about Rose Wilder Lane's Albanian travels.

Arts and Letters

Collin Asmus (art) had a sculpture accepted into a national competition, the LaGrange National, showing at the Chattahoochee Art Museum in LaGrange, Ga. The sculpture was one of 40 selected out of 350 entries. He also had two paintings selected for the Meridian Museum of Art's Annual Bi-State Competition, one of which received an award of achievement. In addition, he had a sculpture included in the Texas National at the Stephen F. Austin State University Gallery in Nacadoches, Texas. His piece was one of 60 selected from 2,500 entries.

Catherine Freis (classical studies) was selected as a participant in the National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar "Roman Religion in its Cultural Context," held in Rome. She also conducted a workshop on the "Classical Legacy of Myth" for teachers in the Academic and Performing Arts Complex of Jackson Public Schools.

An essay by Eric Griffin (English), "From Ethos to Ethnos: Hispanizing 'the Spaniard' in the Old World and the New," appeared in *CR: The New Centennial Review*, a journal devoted to interdisciplinary and comparative approaches to the Americas. His essay "Ethos, Empire, and the Valiant Acts of Thomas Kyd's Tragedy of 'The Spains'" appeared in *English Literary Renaissance*, one of the major journals in his field. He spent 10 days in August 2002 conducting research at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.

Thomas Kohn (classical studies) presented a paper entitled "The Tragedy of Ezekiel" at the meeting of the American Philological Association in Philadelphia. He also delivered a paper entitled "The Use of Four Speaking Actors in Seneca's *Oedipus*" at the meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South in Austin, Texas.

Greg Miller (English) has had two articles accepted for publication.

"Soul Making': Spirituality in Contemporary American Poetry" will be published in the fall edition of *Tikkun*. "'Glorious, Afflicting, Beneficial': Triangular Romance and Dickinson's Rhetoric of Apocalypse" is forthcoming in *The Emily Dickinson Journal*.

Elizabeth Moak (performing arts) has returned from her spring sabbatical, which included three trips to France. While there, she performed in Paris, Dijon, Rouen, Notre Dame de Gravenchon, St. Esteve, and Autun. She also observed teaching at the Paris National Superior Conservatory of Music and Dance.

Darby Ray (religious studies) attended the annual meeting of the Workgroup on Constructive Theology in Nashville, where she and 40 other Christian theologians were invited to work together on a new textbook series.

Elise Smith (art) gave a presentation on Marian imagery in the art of Evelyn De Morgan at the National College Art Association meeting in Philadelphia. Her book *Evelyn Pickering De Morgan and the Allegorical Body* was published in May 2002 by Fairleigh Dickinson University Press.

Steve Smith (philosophy and religious studies) had an article in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* called "'The Gates of Greatness Break Open': Religious Understandings of Worth in Action." His essay "Topics in Philosophical Pneumatology: Inspiration, Wonder, Heart" has appeared in the book *Advents of the Spirit: An Introduction to the Current Study of Pneumatology*. His essay "Worthy Actions" has been published in *The Journal of Ethics*.

Sandra Smithson (art) had a painting accepted into the Annual Painting

International Juried Exhibition at the Period Gallery in Omaha, Neb.

Bill Storey (history) presented a paper, "Gun Control and Political Culture in Cape Colony, 1876-78: Citizenship, Risk, and Skill," to the Southeastern Regional Seminar in African Studies. The seminar was held at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

Kristen Tegtmeier (history) gave a talk entitled "'The Free Sons of the North' vs. the 'Myrmidons of Border Ruffianism': What Makes a Man in Bleeding Kansas?" at the Lecompton Historical Society in Kansas. The talk took place in the old Constitution Hall, a national historic site where Kansas' first pro-slavery constitution was written in the 1850s. She also took two senior history majors, Vicki Myers and Cole Cheek, to the regional convention of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honorary society, at Mississippi College. The students presented papers based on original research, and Tegtmeier served on a panel that focused on civil rights in Mississippi.

John Thatamanil (religious studies) attended the IX International Paul Tillich Symposium in Frankfurt and presented a paper entitled "Beyond Number: Trinity as Symbol in Paul Tillich's Thought." The symposium was an invitation-only meeting for Tillich scholars. He was also awarded a grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. The grant will support research and writing on church-relatedness.

Thatamanil taught a class for "Kaleidoscope," a gathering of the Presbytery of Mississippi on "Christian Approaches to Religious Diversity" at First-Trinity Presbyterian Church in Laurel. He spoke to the Unitarian Universalists of Jackson on "Spirituality and Wholeness" and discussed the issue "Does God Takes Sides?" with Darby Ray (religious studies) at St. James Episcopal Church, Jackson.

Else School

Ajay Aggarwal (management) has been appointed to serve a two-year term on the strategic planning for international affairs committee of the national Decision Sciences Institute.

Jesse Beeler (accounting) and Professor James E. Hunton of Bentley College cowrote a research paper, "Contingent Rents: Insidious Threats to Auditor Independence," which was presented by Hunton at a seminar on auditor independence and the Enron situation. The seminar was sponsored by New York University's Stern School of Business and featured Harvey Pitt (former chairman of the Securities Exchange Commission) and Lynn Turner (former chief accountant for the SEC). The working paper was cited by the SEC in its "Final Rule; Revision of the Commission's Auditor Independence Requirements" (effective Feb. 5, 2001). The final paper was scheduled for publication in the journal *Advances in Accounting Behavioral Research*.

Kevin Pauli (management) cowrote an article for the journal *Business & Society* titled "The Role of Moral Intensity in Ethical Decision Making: A Review and Investigation of Moral Recognition, Evaluation, and Intention."

Science

Jeanne Middleton-Hairston (education) has been appointed by Governor Ronnie Musgrove to the Southern Regional Education Board. The SREB supervises working alliances between government and education leaders in 16 states.

Patrick Hopkins (philosophy) gave a lecture entitled "Biotechnology and the Social Construction Debate" at the American Philosophical Association Convention in Atlanta, sponsored by the American Philosophical Association and the National Science Foundation.

Debora Mann (biology) and Jane Buck, B.S. 2002, presented a poster entitled "Impact of the exotic *Ailanthus altissima* on ground cover diversity in a disturbed Virginia forest" at the 87th annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America in Tucson, Ariz.

Kathy Mathis (psychology) published an article entitled "Semantic interference from objects both in and out of a scene context" in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*.

Sarah Lea McGuire (biology) and student Jim Goode presented their research on cell cycle control at the national meeting of the American Association for Cell Biology in Washington, D.C. McGuire's article "The DNA Damage Response in Filamentous Fungi" was published in the April 2002 issue of *Fungal Genetics and Biology*.

Kristina Stensaas (chemistry) hosted and directed the Mid-Mississippi competition for International ChemOlympics in March 2002. She and her research student, Anisha Bajah, gave a presentation entitled "Comparison of Aqueous Solvent Effects on the Singlet Oxygen Ene Reactions of Angelic Acid, 2, 3-Dimethyl-2-Butenoic Acid and Their Salt Derivatives" in August 2002, at the National American Chemistry Society meeting in Boston.

Donald Schwartz (computer science) received a \$244,256 software grant from Oracle Corp., which also donated Oracle 9I, its newest database environment, for use in his research and courses.

Ming Tsui (sociology-anthropology) presented her paper (cowritten with Lynne Rich, B.S. 1998) "The Only Child and Educational Opportunities for Girls in Urban China" at the ACS Women's Studies/Gender Studies Conference at Hendrix College. Tsui also mentored six students (Alan Burrow, Karen Sheridan, Erin Redding, Margarita Schmid, Britney

Mauldin, and Keely Mixon) on their research papers and helped prepare them for presentation at the meeting. Student Caroline Ficara also presented her paper (a research project with Michael Galaty) at the conference.

Staff

Don Fortenberry (student affairs) has served on the committee reading applications from colleges and universities around the country for undergraduate fellowships from The Fund for Theological Education, an Atlanta-based organization whose director, Jim Waits, is a Millsaps graduate. He has also been reading nominations for National Leader of the Year for Omnicron Delta Kappa, an award won by Peyton Hays, B.S. 2001.

Paula Garrett and Kathi Griffin (writing center) attended the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Chicago. Garrett chaired the session "Teaching Writing without Composition: Administering Writing at Small Colleges without Composition."

Ginger Gibson (student affairs) was awarded a Martin Luther King Jr. Incentive Grant from the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service.

Nola Gibson (adult learning) was one of three judges of the Salute to Business & Industry Awards for the Mississippi Business Expo 2002.

Ann Hendrick (admissions and financial aid) was elected to chair the College Scholarship Service Southern Regional Council.

Wendy Hutchins (financial aid) has been selected as a summer instructor for the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators New Aid Workshop at Furman University.

Patrick James (financial aid) is the site coordinator for Mid-Level Training, a new joint venture sponsored by the Southern Association and Southwestern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

Larry Madison (library) had his op-ed piece "Drive, She Said: But Who or What Is Really in Control?" published in the library periodical *Against the Grain*. The piece addressed the need for prudence in adopting new technologies to replace traditional library materials.

Allison Mays (library) participated in a panel at the North American Serials Interest Group Continuing Education Seminar "E-Journal Management Systems" at Mississippi State University.

Jon Parrish Peede (communications) has been elected president of the

College Public Relations Association of Mississippi.

Carol Stewart (bookstore) has been recognized for her outstanding service to bookstore customers. She has been named a winner of the Follett's Finest Award. This program recognizes Follett bookstore employees who have consistently demonstrated superior customer service in their attitude, their appreciation of their customers' needs, and their approachability.

Cindy Strine (student affairs) has been reappointed the associate member-relations coordinator for the National Association for Campus

Activities South Region. She coordinates communication with all agencies and artists involved in south regional activities in the fall and spring. She will be working with the Jackson Arts and Music Festival (Jubilee!Jam) Band Slam Competitions and the *Planet Weekly* stage.

David Wilkinson (maintenance) has been selected as Millsaps College Physical Plant Fellow for the Associated Colleges of the South Environmental Initiative. He recently attended their first meeting of the year at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla.

'Friends, what are we to do?' Looking to Thomas Merton and Buddhist Thich Nhat Hanh

Book review by Richard Freis

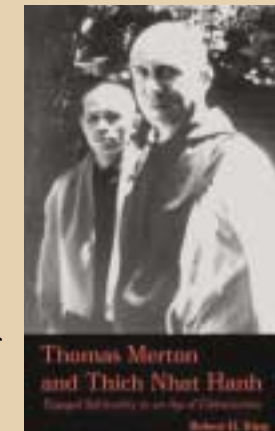
Robert H. King, *Thomas Merton and Thich Nhat Hanh: Engaged Spirituality in an Age of Globalization*. (New York: Continuum, 2001) 202 pp. \$24.95.

The Millsaps Faith & Work Initiative addresses one of the major questions of spiritual life: What is the right relationship between my vocation as the work I do and my vocation as my response to the call addressed to me by God? This is a version of a question that has been asked for two and a half millennia by cultures worldwide: What is the right relationship between a consecrated life centered on *contemplation* (the prayer of deep, wordless absorption in God for its own sake) and *action* (life in the world on behalf of oneself and others)?

Robert H. King, a former dean of Millsaps College, takes up this question anew in the context of two changes that mark religious life in the last half century. The first is the prominence of an "engaged spirituality," in which the mutual dependence of contemplation and action is recognized. "Contemplation, if it is genuine, must express itself in action on behalf of others, while social action unaccompanied by contemplation invariably grows sterile and unproductive.

Contemplation *and* action are required for a fully integrated spirituality." The second is the need, fostered by accelerated globalization, for increasing dialogue between religions. King states the connection between these two phenomena and the good they potentially offer. "Contemplative practice can open the way to interreligious dialogue. Dialogue, in turn, can lead to greater mutual understanding and a greater willingness to cooperate with persons of other faiths in addressing the pressing social issues of our day. These will almost certainly be global issues that will require cooperative action across national, ethnic, and religious lines."

Because this book addresses the fundamental Christian question, "Friends, what are we to do? (Acts 2:37)," King embodies much of his understanding by showing how the American monk Thomas Merton and the Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh devoted themselves to engaged spirituality and interreligious dialogue. King sums up the universal aspect of his exploration in a vision of mystical intensity, which



draws on the medieval practice of prayerfully walking a circular labyrinth as an image of our spiritual journey:

"On reflection I have come to think that the labyrinth is a good metaphor for what is happening spiritually for many people today. We find ourselves walking a path that we do not fully understand. Sometimes it seems to be moving toward the center and sometimes away from it. There are others on the path, but we are not always walking together, and we cannot be sure we are always going in the same direction. When we reach the center, as we inevitably do if we persist, we find that we cannot stay there. We are propelled outward, moved to retrace our steps back into the world we came from, knowing we have been transformed but in ways we cannot explain . . . We may hope that when we finally emerge from our respective labyrinths, we will recognize one another as brothers and sisters, members of the same human family, and will find creative ways of working together for the resolution of the world's problems."

King has written a moving account of the shape and scope of contemporary spirituality. His portraits of Thomas Merton and Thich Nhat Hanh are vivid, illuminating, and poignant.

Dr. Richard Freis is a Millsaps classical studies professor currently on leave. He has published widely as a scholar, critic, and poet.