

Scholarship established in honour of Barry Brown

By Michael Vertin

A tuition scholarship has been established in the University of Toronto's Department of Philosophy by *ethica* Clinical Research Incorporated to honour Professor Barry Brown for his many years of service to the discipline of bioethics. Conceived by Dr Janice Parente, founder and Managing Director of *ethica*, the scholarship is worth \$5,000 annually and is intended for an undergraduate in bioethics. Ms Bernice Duan has recently been named as the first recipient. Bernice, a third-year student at University College, is pursuing a double major in bioethics and toxicology. After graduation she hopes to undertake specialized studies in either medicine or law.

Barry Brown is well-known to readers of *The St Michael's Bulletin*. He began teaching at St Michael's back in the 1960s as a member of the S.M.C. Department of Philosophy. Though his doctoral dissertation treated a highly speculative topic ("The Being of Accidents, according to Thomas Aquinas"), Barry's lifelong interest in practical matters disposed him toward teaching not only mediaeval metaphysics but also current ethics. In 1971 he collaborated with Professor Abbyann Lynch in presenting an undergraduate half-course entitled "Morality, Medicine, and the Law." In retrospect, this course was the first element of what would eventually blossom into today's extensive undergraduate and graduate bioethics enterprise at the University of Toronto.

Professors Lynch and Brown were quick to build on the success of the 1971 course at St Michael's. They established a complementary course that, like the first, brought ethical reflection to bear on such diverse medical and legal issues as death and dying in general, suicide, euthanasia, abortion, sterilization, reproductive technologies and genetics, mental illness, the right to health care,

discontinuation of treatment, and research using human subjects. Their central involvement as both teachers and administrators in the rapidly expanding area of bioethics continued after the integration of the College Department of Philosophy into the University Department in 1975. They helped implement an undergraduate minor, then a major, and finally a specialist program. Professor Lynch was also instrumental in fostering study and research in bioethics in various professional faculties both at the University of Toronto and at the University of Western Ontario. Professor Brown continued as coordinator of the undergraduate bioethics programs at the U. of T. until 1999.

Barry took official retirement from the University of Toronto in 1999, but his service to bioethics has continued unabated. He conducted two graduate courses in bioethics at the Joint Centre for Bioethics. He served as a member of the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council of Ontario from 1998 to 2006, working on referrals in complementary and alternative medicine. He was a member of the Department of National Defence Advisory Committee on the Herbicide Spraying program at Canadian Forces Base Galetown, N.B., during 2006-2007. And for the past 11 years he has played an important role in *ethica* Clinical Research Incorporated.

ethica is a contract research organization based in Montreal. It conducts



Left to right: Dr Janice Parente, Ms Bernice Duan, Professor Barry Brown.

and manages clinical trials of pharmaceutical products, biologics, medical devices, and natural health products. It is the first company in Canada to achieve full accreditation from the U.S. Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs. The company's Research Ethics Board provides ethical review of clinical trials with human subjects, chiefly pharmaceutical studies. Barry has served as the chair of this board since it was established in 1996.

On behalf of his colleagues at St Michael's, I warmly compliment Professor Barry Brown on his more than three decades of productive work in bioethics, I congratulate him on the *ethica* scholarship in his honour, and I extend him every good wish for the future.

Michael Vertin is the most recent Discipline Representative in Philosophy at St. Michael's College.

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including textual materials, photographs, artifacts, and other media. The indexes to the records are from 50 per cent to 90 per cent described in electronic format, making them easily accessible. Expensive conservation will not be needed as the files are in good condition. The readiness to relocate ranges from two to 10 years. With this information in hand, the archivists will formulate a common vision statement which will then be

tendered to the decision-making bodies of their religious communities. Once finalized and accepted, the plan of the archivists would be presented as a proposal to the University of St Michael's College. The heritage represented by these archives really is a part of Canadian history and a story of importance to everyone. The alternative is that the records may be lost to future researchers, or removed entirely to other countries.