

Integrity Update



The Newsletter for members and friends of the Center for Academic Integrity

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CAI Launches Integrity Update!

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As a membership organization, the Center for Academic Integrity fulfills well its mission when it provides opportunities for members to share with each other the policies, programs, and ideas that promote academic integrity in our schools. Historically, the annual conference has been our marketplace; the formal and informal swapping of exemplary codes, illuminating research, and best practices invigorates attendees who return to their home institutions well prepared to initiate or sustain the integrity dialogue on their campuses. But once (a year) is not enough! If we are truly going to roll back the tide of cheating and plagiarism, we need to be in continuous conversation about what is working in our educational communities. And that is where the new CAI newsletter, “Integrity Update” can play an important role. As partners with one another in the effort to affirm the fundamental values of academic integrity, I ask that you continue to suggest items (recommended books, articles, programs, websites and other instruments used in the promotion effort) that can fill the pages of “Integrity Update” and provide your colleagues with valuable resources.

In the absence of other entries, I am supplying the recommended article for this first edition of “Integrity Update.” This Associated Press article from July 11, on scientific research misconduct is the latest in the series of “wake-up calls” over the past 25 years that have spurred the academy to action. Twenty years ago, many were surprised to learn of the high rates of cheating among college students. Ten years ago, the prevalence of cheating in high school became a focal point. Now we must confront the issue of cheating and plagiarism in the graduate student and professional scholar ranks. The article reinforces for me the necessity of promoting the habits of integral thinking in high schools and colleges while addressing the systemic, cultural and ethical factors that induce cheating at all levels.

Timothy M. Dodd
CAI Executive Director

Faked Research Results on Rise?

Associated Press, Martha Mendoza, AP National Writer
From Wired News:

http://wired-vig.wired.com/news/medtech/0,1286,68153,00.html?tw=wn_story_page_prev2

Allegations of misconduct by U.S. researchers reached record highs last year as the Department of Health and Human Services received 274 complaints — 50 percent higher than 2003 and the most since 1989 when the federal government established a program to deal with scientific misconduct.

Chris Pascal, director of the federal Office of Research Integrity, said its 28 staffers and \$7 million annual budget haven't kept pace with the allegations. The result: Only 23 cases were closed last

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year. Of those, eight individuals were found guilty of research misconduct. In the past 15 years, the office has confirmed about 185 cases of scientific misconduct.

Research suggests this is but a small fraction of all the incidents of fabrication, falsification and plagiarism. In a survey published June 9 in the journal “Nature,” about 1.5 percent of 3,247 researchers who responded admitted to falsification or plagiarism. (One in three admitted to some type of professional misbehavior.)

On the night of his 12th wedding anniversary, Dr. Andrew Friedman was terrified.

This brilliant surgeon and researcher at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School feared that he was about to lose everything — his career, his family, the life he’d built — because his boss was coming closer and closer to the truth: For the past three years, Friedman had been faking — actually making up — data in some of the respected, peer-reviewed studies he had published in top medical journals.



“It is difficult for me to describe the degree of panic and irrational thought that I was going through,” he would later tell an inquiry panel at Harvard.

On this night, March 13, 1995, he had been ordered in writing by his department chair to clear up what appeared to be suspicious data. But Friedman didn’t clear things up.

“I did something which was the worst possible thing I could have done,” he testified. He went to the medical record room, and for the next three or four hours he pulled out permanent medical files of a handful of patients. Then, covered up his lies, scribbling in the information he needed to support his study. “I created data. I made it up. I also made up patients that were fictitious,” he testified.

Friedman’s wife met him at the door when he came home that night. He wept uncontrollably. The next morning he had an emergency appointment with his psychiatrist.

But he didn’t tell the therapist the truth, and his lies continued for 10 more days, during which time he delivered a letter, and copies of the doctored files, to his boss. Eventually he broke down, admitting first to his wife and psychiatrist, and later to his colleagues and managers, what he had been doing.

Friedman formally confessed, retracted his articles, apologized to colleagues and was punished. Today he has resurrected his career, as senior director of clinical research at Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, a Johnson & Johnson company.

He refused to speak with the Associated Press. But his case, recorded in a seven-foot-high stack of documents at the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine, tells a story of one man’s struggle with power, lies and the crushing pressure of academia.

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Some other cases have made headlines:

- On July 18, Eric Poehlman, once a prominent nutrition researcher, will be sentenced in federal court in Vermont for fabricating research data to obtain a \$542,000 federal grant while working as a professor at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. He faces up to five years in prison.

Poehlman, 49, made up research between 1992 and 2000 on issues like menopause, aging and hormone supplements to win millions of dollars in grant money from the federal government. He is the first researcher to be permanently barred from ever receiving federal research grants again. In 2001, while he was being investigated, Poehlman left the medical school and was awarded a \$1 million chair in nutrition and metabolism at the University of Montreal, where officials say they were unaware of his problems. He resigned in January when his contract expired.

- In March, Dr. Gary Kammer, a Wake Forest University rheumatology professor and leading lupus expert, was found to have made up two families and their medical conditions in grant applications to the National Institutes of Health. He has resigned from the university and has been suspended from receiving federal grants for three years.

- In November, 2004, federal officials found that Dr. Ali Sultan, an award-winning malaria researcher at the Harvard School of Public Health, had plagiarized text and figures, and falsified his data — substituting results from one type of malaria for another — on a grant application for federal funds to study malaria drugs. When brought before an inquiry committee, Sultan tried to pin the blame on a postdoctoral student. Sultan resigned and is now a faculty member at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, according to a spokeswoman there.

While the cases are high-profile, scientists have been cheating for decades.

In 1974, Dr. William Summerlin, a top-ranking Sloan-Kettering Cancer Institute researcher, used a marker to make black patches of fur on white mice in an attempt to prove his new skin graft technique was working.

His case prompted Al Gore, then a young Democratic congressman from Tennessee, to hold the first congressional hearings on the issue.

“At the base of our involvement in research lies the trust of American people and the integrity of the scientific exercise,” said Gore at the time. As a result of their hearings, Congress passed a law in 1985 requiring institutions that receive federal money for scientific research to have some system to report rule breakers.

“Often we’re confronted with people who are brilliant, absolutely incredible researchers, but that’s not what makes them great scientists. It’s the character,” said Debbi Gilad, a research compliance and integrity officer at the University of California, Davis, which has taken a lead on handling scientific misconduct.

David Wright, a Michigan State University professor who has researched why scientists cheat, said there are four basic reasons: some sort of mental disorder; foreign nationals who learned

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somewhat different scientific standards; inadequate mentoring; and, most commonly, tremendous and increasing professional pressure to publish studies.

His inability to handle that pressure, Friedman testified, was his downfall.



“And it was almost as though you’re on a treadmill that starts out slowly and gradually increases in speed. And it happens so gradually you don’t realize that eventually you’re just hoping you don’t fall off,” he told a magistrate during a state hearing in 1995. “You’re sprinting near the end and taking it all you can not to fall off.”

At the time he started cheating, Friedman was in his late 30s, married and a father of two young children. Following the path of his father, grandfather and uncle who were all doctors and medical researchers, he was an associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive biology at Harvard Medical School and chief of the department of reproductive endocrinology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

His reputation was tremendous and his work groundbreaking. His 30-page resume highlighted numerous awards and honors, lectures in Canada, Europe and Australia, and more than 150 articles, book chapters, reviews and abstracts. Of those, 58 were original research articles, where he had designed studies, conducted clinical trials, enrolled patients, collected and analyzed data and made conclusions.

In the end, investigators found Friedman had made up information for three separate journal articles (one of them never published) involving hormonal treatment of gynecological conditions. Friedman confessed to the falsification.

He testified that he was working 80 to 90 hours a week, seeing patients two days a week, doing surgery one day a week, supervising medical residents, serving on as many as 10 different committees at the hospital and the medical school and putting on national medical conferences.

He did seek help, both from a psychiatrist, who counseled him to cut back, and from his boss, who demanded Friedman increase his research and refused to reduce Friedman’s patient load.

As good as Friedman was as a doctor, surgeon and researcher, he was actually a lousy cheater. One thing that brought about his demise, in fact, was that the initials he used for fictitious patients were the same as those of residents and faculty members in his program.

Unlike many scientists who file immediate lawsuits when they’re caught, Friedman was repentant, resigning from his positions at both Brigham and Women’s, and Harvard.

In 1996, Friedman agreed to be excluded for three years from working on federally funded research. During the next three years he consulted with drug companies, he paid a \$10,000 fine to the state of Massachusetts and surrendered his medical license for a year, became very active with the American Red Cross, donating more than 500 hours, and attended several lectures on ethics and record-keeping.

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“Andy can never undo the damage that his actions have caused. However, he has paid the price — his academic career is ruined, his reputation sullied, and his personal shame unremitting,” wrote Dr. Charles Lockwood, then chair of obstetrics and gynecology at New York University School of Medicine, in a letter on Friedman’s behalf.

In 1999, after successfully petitioning to get his license reinstated, he went to work as director of women’s health care at Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceuticals. The job, which he still has, involves designing and reviewing clinical trials for hormonal birth control, writing package insert labels and lecturing to doctors. Lately he’s appeared on television and in newspaper articles responding to concerns about the safety of the birth control patch.

Mary Anne Wyatt, a retired biochemist in Natick, Massachusetts, is one of several former patients. “I think it’s not at all surprising that a drug company would hire somebody who is very comfortable with hiding the effects of very dangerous drugs,” said Wyatt, who unsuccessfully sued him.

Ortho-McNeil spokeswoman Bonnie Jacobs said the company was well aware of Friedman’s history when it hired him. “He is an excellent doctor, an asset to our company,” she said.

Featured Programs

Interactive Academic Integrity Workshop a Success at UNCG

Submitted by: Dr. Jen Shaw

Dean of Students, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

For more information or a copy of the workshop script email Dr. Shaw at jdshaw@uncg.edu

Most outreach to The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) students regarding Academic Integrity has occurred in University Experience courses, the one credit, first semester course offered to students to assist their transition. Thirty-five presentations were given during 2004-2005 to 2123 students about Academic Integrity using an engaging game show format. Evaluations are positive. However, institutional data has revealed that the majority of academic integrity violations at UNCG occur during the last month of each semester. In order to address this issue with students directly, an interactive workshop was designed and offered to faculty for their classes and to student organizations. After one semester of implementation, violations decreased by 23%. While this decrease cannot be directly attributed to the new workshop, our goal is to follow up with the 175 students who participated during spring, and find out if the information presented influenced their decision making in the long term. Evaluations done at the completion of the workshop indicated students believed the knowledge learned would influence their behavior.

A fifty-minute workshop was offered with “just the facts” since the assumption was that faculty may not be willing to invest 50 minutes in a topic not directly related to course content so late in the semester. However, the interactive 50-minute workshop proved to be most popular with faculty and student organizations. The workshop agenda included an experiential learning activity concerning making good ethical choices using real life scenarios and group discussion, an overview of the policy, the short and long term implications for making a bad choice, and resources on campus to assist students such as the Writing Center. Average student ranking of the usefulness of the workshop was a 9.3 out of 10.

E-tegrity Initiative at The University of Arizona's Eller College of Management

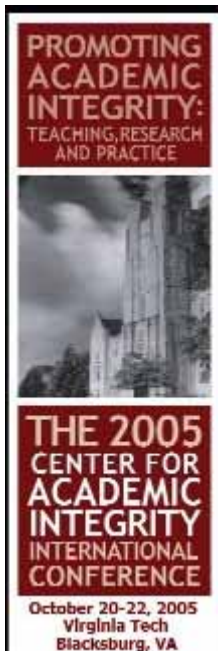
Submitted by: Paul Melendez
Director, Academic & External Affairs
Lecturer, School of Public Administration & Policy
Eller College of Management, The University of Arizona

In fall 2005 the Eller College of Management at The University of Arizona will host its National Ethics Case Competition for undergraduate business students. In three years the ethics case competition has grown from state (2003) to regional (2004) to national (2005) stature with plans for the competition to go international in 2006. The competition exposes students to a thought provoking ethical case that they could face in their professional careers. Student teams collaboratively analyze, present, and respond to questions posed by a panel of executive judges. The competition challenges students' moral reasoning, provides a wonderful networking opportunity, and in the end, raises students' awareness of the importance of corporate social responsibility.

The ethics case competition is part of the college's E-tegrity (Eller Integrity) initiative that was launched in fall 2003 as a response to highly publicized business scandals, high levels of academic dishonesty on campus, and requests from local employers for the college to address personal integrity.

E-tegrity is a college initiative and enjoys a broad base of support from students, faculty, and the University. In its first year, E-tegrity won two national awards for "innovation" (2003 McCombs Student Empowerment Conference and 2004 Southwestern Business Deans' Association) and reduced academic integrity cases within the College by 20% in its first year! E-tegrity has both student development (student oath and student board) and academic (Turnitin.com and ethics course) components.

The National Ethics Case Competition is one strategy to promote the message of integrity amongst aspiring undergraduate business students. The undergirding of the ethics case competition is a comprehensive ethics initiative that was/is greatly informed by The Center for Academic Integrity. The Eller College of Management at The University of Arizona would like to thank The Center for Academic Integrity and all affiliated institutions and professionals for the commitment, sharing, and support of all efforts to promote integrity."



The Center for Academic Integrity 2005 Conference

October 20-22, 2005

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA

“Promoting Academic Integrity: Teaching, Research and Practice”

Sessions Topics Will Include:

- Ten Updated Principles of Academic Integrity
- Like Student, Like Professor: A Research Integrity Policy for All
- Implementing an Honor Code: Balancing the Needs of Faculty and Students
- Student Responses to Cheating
- Twenty Easy Ways to Prompt Classroom Discussions about Plagiarism
- Building Men and Women of Character in the College Environment
- The Big Picture: Academic Integrity in Engineering and Biomedical Science
- You Just Don't Understand: Faculty and Student Perceptions of Integrity
- The Challenge of Maintaining Honor and Integrity in a Changing World

For more information, or to register for the conference, please visit the CAI website at www.academicintegrity.org

Featured Book

CAI Member Philip Carlton Williams Publishes His New Book

Submitted by: Philip C. Williams, J. D., Ph.D
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College
Methodist College
Website: <http://www.daviejay.com>

Daviejay is the story of a married woman forced to experience a violent inner struggle among three virtues: her personal integrity, her sense of justice, and her love for a man who is not her husband. This tension among virtues — honesty, justice, and love — reaches the breaking point when Daviejay is appointed academic dean at a conservative Christian university in Alabama, only to find that she desperately needs the assistance of her secret paramour, a man who happens to be a Jewish lawyer. When Daviejay accuses the university president of changing a grade to benefit a star athlete, he and the university's board of trustees want her head on a platter. If Daviejay allows herself to seek the help of her former lover, will she be sinning? What if she allows her sense of justice and the seduction of romantic love to destroy her sense of personal integrity? *Daviejay* is the story of one intelligent woman's search for the answers to these questions.



Featured Academic Integrity Websites

Academic Integrity @ Texas Tech

The Texas Tech University Student Judicial Programs website supports their “Integrity Matters” campaign by offering helping resources in one convenient location with eye-catching icons. They offer several “give away” items such as blue academic integrity pens, and blue “Integrity Matters” business cards with the link to the academic integrity website listed on them to encourage the campus community to visit the site. The site provides both instructional information on citation and paraphrasing as well as facts and figures about academic dishonesty.

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentjudicialprograms/AcademicIntegrity.htm>

Plagiarism and Cyber-Cheating: a Bibliography

A comprehensive website that not only provides a useful bibliography on the topic, it includes links to websites that provide instruction for students and information about text-matching software and mega term paper search engines for faculty.

<http://mnllibraryassociation.org/ARLD/Conference/Plagiarismbib.rtf>

Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism

The Council of Writing Program Administrator's website provides helpful definitions and clarifications as well as excellent guidance on educator and student responsibilities, assignment design, and other teaching “best practices” intended to promote academic integrity.

<http://www.ilstu.edu/~ddhesse/wpa/positions/WPAplagiarism.pdf>

The Center for Academic Integrity is affiliated with the Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina