PROGRAM FACULTY

Director: Dr. Anne Stiles, Department of English

Dr. Dan Bustillos, Center for Healthcare Ethics
Dr. James DuBois, Center for Healthcare Ethics
Dr. Philip Gavitt, Department of History
Dr. Charles H. Parker, Department of History
Dr. George Ndege, Department of History
Dr. Deborah Hwa-Froelich, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Dr. Jennifer Ohls, Department of Communication
Fr. Edwin Lisson, S.J., Department of Theological Studies
To provide undergraduates with a foundational understanding of and appreciation for the ways that studies in the Humanities can ultimately enrich one’s capacity to deliver quality health care.

GOALS OF THE MINOR IN MEDICAL HUMANITIES AT SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

- To provide students with a recognition of the humanistic and cultural dimensions of health care and health care systems.
- To promote an inquiry into the foundational values of medicine.
- To provide students with a clarification of the values that underlie the experience of illness and care.
- To promote an improved understanding of the ways that meanings of illness and health are historically and culturally constructed, and to promote a recognition of the treatment implications of this constructedness.
- To cultivate interpretive and narrative competence, and develop an appreciation for the crucial role such competence plays in health care delivery.
- To recognize the ways that aspirations of Medical Humanities resonate deeply with the aims enunciated in the Five Dimensions of Saint Louis University Education.
- To familiarize students with and cultivate, as appropriate to an undergraduate curriculum, the Core Competencies of medical education as designated by the association of American Medical Colleges.
- To foster students’ insights as to prospects of research clarified by the inquiries made in Medical Humanities.
- To complete an optional internship in a medical setting.
- To complete a substantial research paper as part of a capstone requirement, and to present this paper in a public forum on campus.

"For all my patients, hope, true hope, has proved as important as any medication I might prescribe or any procedure I might perform. Only well into my career did I come to realize this...Now, when I meet a new patient, listen to his history, perform a physical examination, review his laboratory tests, and study his X rays, I am doing more than gathering and analyzing clinical data. I am searching for hope. Hope, I have come to believe, is as vital to our lives as the very oxygen that we breathe.”

—Jerome Groopman