Dear Friends,

What a treat it is for me to be writing you with such good news about the Center. It has been some time since I have authored our newsletter and it is very satisfying to be able to share so many wonderful achievements.

First, thank you so much to everyone who donated to the Center for Ethics in Health Care. We have an amazing Donor Honor Roll for 2015. So many names and such generosity. It is a particular pleasure to welcome new Founders Amy Dundon-Berchtold and Jim Berchtold and Gary Chiodo, DMD. Amy and Jim are outstanding philanthropists who are making a better future for us all through their vision and generosity. Gary is one of the original faculty members at the Center and his engagement with the Center spans more than a quarter century. Welcome Amy and Jim and Gary!

And now, what your generosity has made possible...

Dr. David Barnard led the Living with Life Threatening Illness class to new success. Always acknowledged as a class with deep meaning and often life and career changing inspiration, the Living with Life Threatening Illness was oversubscribed this year and, sadly, students were turned away. Please see some of the moving comments from students on the back of this page.

Dr. Lynn A. Jansen and Dr. Phyllis Beemsterboer are working with a team to build materials and assessment tools that will be used as the first cohort of medical students move into their clinical training years. This effort impacts the new School of Medicine curriculum entitled “Your MD.” This is the first major revision of curriculum at OHSU in about 20 years. Lynn and Phyllis are providing a voice for the Center for Ethics’ values and teachings, raising the bar on ethics and professionalism education at OHSU. As Phyllis expressed to me, “This increased emphasis on accountability will enhance the profile of ethics for those doctors in training now and as they approach graduation.”

POLST continues to be in the headlines. 42 states attended the national conference in early February and, of course, Oregon continues to lead the way in innovation. At the conference, Susan was honored with the inaugural Susan Tolle, MD Award for Outstanding Service. This award is in recognition of her vital role and leadership in promoting and supporting the national POLST effort. Congratulations, Susan! You have done us proud! But, as you always say, “There is still much work to be done.”

Thank you, again, for your generosity, kindness and vision in supporting the Center for Ethics in Health Care at OHSU. As one of those who started over 25 years ago with a dream of a better way within the practice of health care, I am so grateful to see this success that goes so far beyond what any of us could have imagined as we set down the path to change the world.

Yours in gratitude,

Cornelia Hayes Stevens

For help in making a gift to the Center for Ethics, please contact Ann Barden at bardena@ohsu.edu or (503) 412-6355.