

PREFACE



The nature of what makes something right or wrong may not change, but the things that confront us and that are right or wrong change with the lay of the land. New ethical issues stem from changes in the social and political landscape and from changes in new technology. Among the ethical issues discussed in this volume are those confronting us due to new biotechnology: ethical issues concerning matters such as cloning, genetically modified food, and genetically modified people. The articles in this volume are written for the non-specialized audience and attempt to offer at least the outlines of solutions to some of the crucial ethical issues that we all face as this new century unfolds.

In October of 2001, the American Philosophical Association and the University of Delaware Philosophy Department jointly sponsored a conference on ethics. The conference had the program title “Morality in the Twenty-First Century.” It was timed to celebrate the 100th year of the American Philosophical Association and the twenty-fifth year of the APA’s being located at the University of Delaware. The conference was supported by funds from the Baumgardt Fund of the APA and the Class of 1955 Ethics Endowment of the University of Delaware. Both funds seek to promote a pursuit of ethical issues (broadly conceived) and to promote discussion of those issues across traditional academic boundaries. For that reason the conference was designed to involve members of the academic community, government, industry, health care workers, doctors, lawyers, and members of the public at large, as well as students and graduate students. The conference was a solid success and had wide participation and accomplished its goal of moving academic interest in ethical issues beyond purely academic boundaries. The joint venture of the APA and University of Delaware will continue across conferences in 2004 and 2007, and may continue beyond that.

Many of the papers in this volume trace their origin to papers delivered at that Delaware conference in 2001. Some of them have appeared elsewhere and we acknowledge permission for them to reappear here. All of them address issues with which we are confronted as concerned citizens living in a new global community (as opposed to more isolated communities of past ages—communities who largely faced ethical issues on the battlefield rather than in the journals and presses).

Abstracts for all articles have been provided by the editor.

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