

November 2019

November greetings, friends and colleagues of Ethical Reasoning in Action!

Below are updates, events, and stories from ERiA that you may find of interest. Please share how you are using the 8KQ in your classes, programs, work, and daily life—we would love to hear your stories and, with your permission, to share them in an upcoming newsletter!

Ethical Reasoning in Action at JMU

Ethical Reasoning Podcast



ERiA faculty fellows Drs. Kara Kavanagh (Department of Early, Elementary, and Reading Education) and Audrey Burnett (Department of Health Sciences) worked with Dr. Kristi Lewis (Center for Faculty Innovation and Department of Health Sciences) to produce a [podcast on ethical reasoning](#). Dr. Burnett begins the podcast by providing a brief historical background of ethical reasoning at JMU, highlighting how ethical reasoning emerged as a unifying theme for enhancing student learning as part of the Quality Enhancement Plan process. Ethical reasoning is the ability to evaluate the ethical implications of different courses of action for ourselves, others, and the community, which resonates with the core of JMU's Mission Statement, to prepare students to be "educated and enlightened citizens." Dr. Burnett stresses that instructors from *any discipline* can integrate ethical reasoning into their courses. Ethical reasoning can take many shapes and forms, such as in-class discussions, group activities, games, and role-playing. Dr. Kavanagh

encourages other faculty to dive in and offers to share ER curriculum she developed. ERiA has a number of instructional resources available: [Eight Key Questions Handbook](#) and cards, a sample [rubric](#) for evaluating moral reasoning essays, small grants, workshops, assistance with curriculum development from one of our fellows (such as Dr. Kavanagh), as well as peer educators who are undergraduates that facilitate classes and workshops upon request. Faculty can take advantage of the resources and find what works for their teaching preferences and students' needs. You can listen to the podcast [here](#).

Make Your Mark on Madison



MYMOM Leadership

Make your mark on Madison, [MYMOM](#), a program under the Dux Leadership Center develops student leadership. Student participants meet for ten consecutive Monday nights in the fall to explore their capacities for leadership and begin to shape their own leadership plan. Ethical Reasoning in Action contributes to the program focusing on JMU's "organizational values," e.g. "being the change," "preparing educated and enlightened citizens who lead meaningful and productive lives," and being part of the national model for the engaged university. On Monday, November 11, approximately 100 students discussed organizational values generally, how organizations shape values, and worked through the 8KQ ethical reasoning strategy as the "signature skillset" of the JMU organization. From its beginning in 2013, Ethical Reasoning in Action (formerly known as "the Madison Collaborative") has participated with these emerging student leaders.

Career and Academic Planning



Laura Hickerson of JMU's Career and Academic Planning department partnered with Katrina Libera, ERiA engagement fellow, and the Ethical Reasoning Educators to design an event helping seniors navigate the ethical waters of considering job opportunities and offers. In the past, some students have reneged on job commitments, which can strain partnerships between JMU and employers. Katrina developed a series of mini scenarios reflective of past situations. Using the 8KQ with these scenarios that place the student in the position of decision maker, participants could imagine and simulate the kinds of pressures and competing obligations that can creep up and make better informed decisions. After working with those scenarios, attendees had Q&A with an expert panel. The event helped to show different perspectives of the hiring process and help future employees see the complex dynamics at work in their decisions.

Ethical Reasoning Educator Austin Evans gives this first-hand report: "I was gifted with the opportunity to be the lead educator for the night of the event. I always enjoy working with my peers and helping them to gain a sense of agency by using the 8 Key Questions scenarios and that night was no exception. The audience members, while a little quiet at first, were quickly able to use the 8KQ as talking points to engage in deep conversations.

They generated valuable questions which helped them to gain insight into the impacts of their decisions. This chance to exercise their critical thinking and develop questions was a perfect pair for the Q&A session which took place in the latter half of the program. Students were able to ask very specific and nuanced questions and many walked away with the objective of the program having been completed."

Health Policy Summit

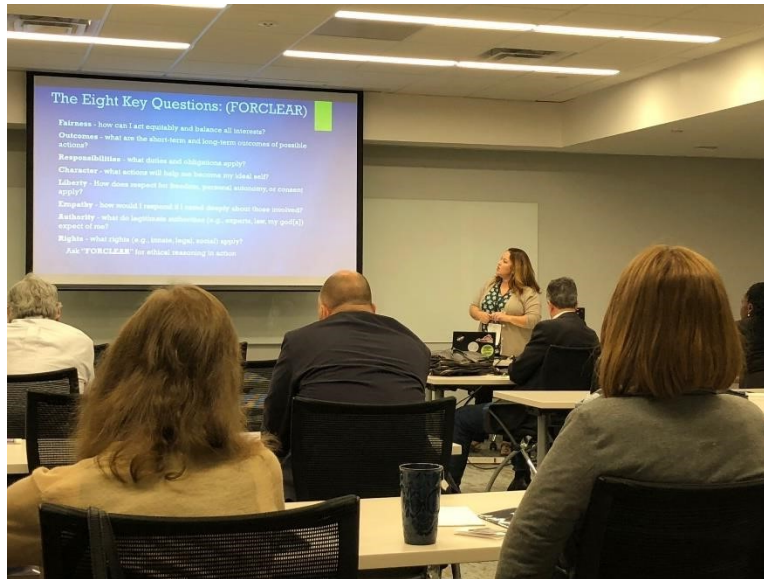
For the bi-annual inter-professional education event, students from nursing, political science, occupational therapy, and social work gathered to examine bills that address prevention and treatment strategies related to the opioid epidemic. Prior to the in-person summit, students prepare by learning more about the bills and the Eight Key Questions, as well as profession-specific



knowledge that they can contribute to the inter-professional small groups of students. After understanding the existing bill, each group determines how they might improve it, if the new proposed policy is politically and economically feasible, and how the Eight Key Questions can help them consider the ethical implications of the bill as well inform their new policies. Local and state legislators are invited to hear and provide feedback on the winning ideas. Faculty from each discipline organize the event and embed the summit experience as part of their curriculum.

Ethical Reasoning at Conferences

SEAC presentations / SEAC at JMU in 2021



Dr. Kara Kavanagh presenting at SEAC

Drs. Kara Kavanagh, David McGraw (Integrated Science and Technology), and Christian Early (ERiA and Philosophy) each presented at the annual [Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum](#) conference, hosted this year by Villanova University. Kara's presentation examined using moral scenarios and the Eight Key Question ethical reasoning framework to respond to social justice in teaching education. David's presentation highlighted a relational and caring approach to ethics, using the key question of empathy, to think about practical jokes as having morally salient aspects. Christian's presentation discussed the advantages of JMU's ethical reasoning strategy and introduced participants to the new [Overdose scenario](#). Responses to all three presentations were very positive and generated interest in using the Eight Key Question approach at other institutions for higher learning.

JMU will host the SEAC conference in September of 2021. The organization also sponsors the [Teaching Ethics](#) journal that is interested in "pedagogical methodologies and also professional practice in business, medicine, trades, technology, law, science, and other areas of liberal education."

Virginia Library Association

JMU Libraries faculty and staff Bob Martin, Jenne Klotz, and Michael Trocchia presented on Ethical Reasoning in the Library at the annual [Virginia Library Association](#) conference. They highlighted how JMU Libraries integrate the 8KQ through brown bag conversations, poster presentations, workshops, collaborative events, book studies, and book displays on themes such as

moral courage, micro-aggression, renaming buildings, stealing credit, fake news, and hiding behind anonymity. In their session, they also gave the audience of 60 a chance to consider how one library system is addressing many of the 8KQ within the context of the opioid epidemic. You can find the slides [here](#).



Assessment Institute in Indianapolis

Keston Fulcher (JMU Center for Assessment and Research Studies), Shawn Boyne (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis), Christine Robinson (UNC Charlotte), and Monica Stitt-Bergh (University of Hawai'i at Manoa) presented at the [Assessment Institute](#) on approaches to improve ethical reasoning at four different schools using different strategies, including the 8KQ.

Virginia Assessment Group

Brielle Pedrick (undergrad psychology major), Brian Leventhal (CARS), Andrea Pope (doctoral student in Assessment and Measurement), Chris Patterson (doctoral student in Assessment and Measurement), Samantha Gonzalez (Graduate Assistant, CARS), and Sara Finney (CARS) all presented at the [Virginia Assessment Group](#) annual conference. Brielle and Brian presented on the Ethical Reasoning Writing Essay, which asks students to respond to an essay prompt. Responses are rated and Generalizability Theory is used to assess reliability of generalizability of the scores. Andrea, Chris, Samantha, and Sara presented on using program theory to enhance learning outcomes with ethical reasoning as their working example.

Association for the Study of Higher Education

Drs. Sara Finney (CARS) and Kristen Smith (JMU alum and Director of Assessment, School of Education at UNC-Greensboro) presented at [ASHE](#) on program theory and implementation fidelity to help students learn better and used Ethical Reasoning in Action as their programmatic example.

Ethical Reasoning in Action Beyond

Developing Employee Ethical Reasoning Skills and Ethical Culture



Dr. Lori Pyle with Emmes employees

[Emmes](#), "truth" in Hebrew, collaborates with sponsors to establish and manage health care research. They have conducted more than a thousand clinical trials and research studies in 60+ countries on six continents. Emmes works with government agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, and the Food and Drug Administration, as well as, academic institutions, nonprofits, foundations, and pharmaceutical/biotech companies. Brian Hochheimer, ('80), Chief Financial Officer, a CPA and attorney, noticed *The Madison Collaborative: Ethical Reasoning in Action* in *Madison Magazine* in 2015. Since then, *Ethical Reasoning in Action* has facilitated *Eight Key Questions* workshops with hundreds of Emmes employees. In early November ERIa introduced 75 employees at the Rockville, Maryland, corporate offices to the *Eight Key Question* strategy.

Walter Shaub in DC



Walter Shaub, Esq., Drs. Bill Hawk, ERiA, and David Jones, Washington Semester

Walter Shaub ('93) currently of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington and formerly head of the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) spoke on "Restoring Ethics to Government" at JMU's Washington Seminar on October 17. Sponsored by the JMU Political Science alumni association, Sean Lowry ('10) president, and the Washington Semester, Dr. David Jones, Professor of Political Science, Shaub talked about the inevitable ethical challenges faced in public service and the importance of preparing to face possible wrong-doing. Shaub linked his former work at OGE to JMU's Ethical Reasoning in Action as important preventative programs designed to help make better ethical decisions. See the JMU feature article on Shaub's conversation [here](#).

Ongoing Conversations, Emerging Opportunities, and Future Projects

- ERiA is getting to know other organizations with a common focus including [The Alliance for Decision Education](#), the [Edmund J. Safra Center for Ethics](#) at Harvard, and [The National Ethics Project](#).
- Sean York, doctoral student in JMU's Assessment and Measurement program, is developing an innovative digital "choose your own ethical adventure" project that aims to instruct *and* assess 8KQ ethical reasoning capabilities.
- Please notice and "like" our new [Ethical Reasoning in Action](#) Facebook page. Thanks to Mollie Zenz (ERiA fellow and Orientation).
- ERiA fellow Audrey Burnett is exploring how the 8KQ might be incorporated into JMU Honor Council procedures, paper work, and programming.
- ERiA fellow, Joe Derby, (Department of Marketing), suggested using the 8KQ as part of relationship development to students participating in professional sales role plays through JMU's [Center for Professional Sales](#).

- Faculty and staff from other universities are interested in using the 8KQ in their classes (Maine Marine Academy) and in a first-year class (Mars Hill University).
- [Pennsylvania Consortium for the Liberal Arts](#) – on learning improvement and ethical reasoning programming supported by CARS and ERiA, with Keston Fulcher and Debbie Perrone
- A cross-divisional team submitted an 8KQ card or board game idea for consideration by the Madison Trust program. The proposed description: “Right, wrong or somewhere in between — it’s the game that has everyone challenging their moral conscience! The Eight Key Questions game brings the heartbeat of JMU’s ethical reasoning strategy into the hands and homes of learners/players who want to make better-informed ethical decisions through interactive game play.”

Contact Ethical Reasoning in Action

To request a custom workshop or consultation, reach us at ethicalreasoning@jmu.edu.

We wish you the very best,

Bill, Lori, Christian, and Katrina

Ethical Reasoning in Action
James Madison University
www.jmu.edu/ethicalreasoning