



BENTLEY UNIVERSITY
Hoffman Center
for Business Ethics

THE

Ethics Buzz

- THE HCBE STUDENT-RUN NEWSLETTER -



THE AFRICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION IS HELPING BUILD A SCHOOL?

The ASA Gala at Bentley University is a celebration of the many diverse and fascinating facets of African culture. This event is organized by the African Student Association, which aims to increase cultural awareness of African cultures on campus and promote the diversity that Bentley University is striving towards. Through a range of activities including cuisine, fashion, music, art, and dance, the ASA delivers an immersive experience that showcases the unique qualities of African cultures. As stated in its mission statement, the ASA "strives to create a welcoming environment for African students, current students, and prospective students looking to attend Bentley University."



The student organization's annual gala was a resounding success this year, with tickets selling out and generating more revenue than ever before. Typically, the funds raised from the event would go towards minor expenses throughout the school year, like purchasing

merchandise and food for future events. However, this year the organization decided to go above and beyond its usual mission and extend its efforts to support efforts on the African continent. The proceeds from the gala were donated to a project aimed at building a school in Liberia, which will provide educational opportunities for many children who may have been previously unable to access education.

Beyan Franklin and his wife recognized a critical need for education in their remote town, where no schools existed. Over the past two years, they have been working tirelessly to build a school themselves. This effort was spurred by the fact that children in the area had to travel for miles just to



access education, leading many families to opt not to send their children to school at all. By taking on this ambitious project, Beyan, and his wife are providing a valuable educational opportunity for the children in their community who would otherwise have been left without access to learning.

Beyan Franklin and his wife are remarkable people who have dedicated their lives to providing opportunities to those in need. Despite the challenges he faced growing up, Mr. Franklin knew the value of education and believed that every child deserves access to it. With this vision in mind, he set out to build an elementary school in Liberia with his own money and hands. Beyan saw the lack of opportunities for children who could not afford education, and he was determined to make a difference. His unwavering commitment to this cause led him to start his fully self-founded school construction project, which will provide a bright future for many children in his town who may not have had access to education otherwise. Beyan Franklin is a true inspiration to all those who believe in the power of education to change lives.

The African Student Association's decision to use the proceeds from their annual gala to support Beyan Franklin's school project in Liberia is a shining example of altruism and community service. Despite being an organization whose primary mission is to create a welcoming environment for African students, current students, and prospective students looking to attend Bentley University, they found the time and resources to give back to a third party. This action underscores the potential for businesses to make a positive impact beyond their primary mission. By embracing social responsibility and prioritizing projects that benefit the broader community, companies can drive meaningful change and inspire others to do the same. Ultimately, the ASA's act of generosity serves as a reminder that even small contributions can make a big difference in the world.

Below are pictures of the progress that has been made with the school. If you are interested in supporting this effort, feel free to contact ASA through their email: asa@bentley.edu



Opportunities for Advancing Business Ethics

Three Opportunities for Advancing the Science and Practice of Business Ethics

*Written by Carsten Tams
Founder & CEO Emagence LLC
& HCBE Advisory Board member*



Connecting Human Sciences and Business Ethics

The central focus of my work as a consultant is to support organizations in operating ethically. In my approach, I peruse diverse human sciences – from philosophy, sociology and psychology to evolutionary biology and neurosciences – in search of insights relevant to the ethical life of social groups and apply them to organizational settings, such as businesses, universities, and international institutions.

Based on this consulting work and my consumption of literature on organizational ethics, I find that a small set of assumptions exerts outsized influence in both the science and practice of business ethics, at the expense of major tenets in human sciences that are potentially of great value for understanding and managing the ethical life of organizations but remain largely overlooked.

Dominant assumption

Ethics management is about formal social control.

Ethics requires that employees abstain from harmful behavior. (“Do no harm.”)

Ethics is about personal character and individual choice.

Undervalued assumption

Ethics in an organization is significantly shaped through informal social control.

Employees incorporate ethics into their professional identity through ethical enactment (i.e., active participation in the organization’s ethical life).

Organizational ethics is profoundly social.

To continue reading, [click here](#).



Why you Shouldn't Try to Make the World a Better Place

Brown Bag Business Ethics Research Series

Mikhail (Mike) Valdman

(Virginia Commonwealth University)

April 14th,

12:30 - 1:45 Hybrid Event - AAC 254

FEATURED NEWS IN BUSINESS ETHICS



Tik Tok

TikTok accused of mishandling sexual harassment allegations

Financial Times

March 14, 2023

"TikTok has been accused of mishandling allegations of sexual misconduct and harassment against a senior manager in London, highlighting longstanding concerns about the working culture at the fast-growing social media platform."

To continue reading, [click here](#).



Barclays probed by UK regulator over anti-money laundering systems

Financial Times

February 10, 2023

"Barclays is being probed by the UK financial regulator for suspected persistent failings in its compliance and anti-money laundering systems, according to people with knowledge of the matter."

To continue reading, [click here](#).



How to Start an AI Panic

Wired

March 10, 2023

"LAST WEEK THE Center for Humane Technology summoned over 100 leaders in finance, philanthropy, industry, government, and media to the Kissinger Room at the Paley Center for Media in New York City to hear how artificial intelligence might wipe out humanity. The two speakers, Tristan Harris and Aza Raskin, began their doom-time presentation with a slide that read: 'What nukes are to the physical world ... AI is to everything else.'"

To continue reading, [click here](#).

GROWTH OF AI IN BUSINESS AND EDUCATION

Artificial intelligence, particularly chatbot applications such as ChatGPT, has quickly become a hot topic in the news. Students have been able to submit homework completed by ChatGPT and receive high scores. Researchers have been able to use ChatGPT to summarize advanced topics briefly. People are even using ChatGPT to draft emails and similar communications on their behalf. In terms of business ethics, what implications are made by ChatGPT? Should it be avoided, or should it be a tool to be used carefully by businesses?

The following articles showcase various perspectives. **To read an article, click on the image.**



TikTok algorithm making it easier for child predators to find, meet, & traffic children

One company that has recently found itself under heat was TikTok, the short video app that has taken youth and social media by storm. In February, the platform served as a medium of communication between a 42-year-old man in Alabama and a 14-year-old girl in Texas. The dilemma with TikTok and similar platforms is that their algorithms are made to keep users on the app, so they will feed them whatever content will do that – whether it is ethical or not. Should these algorithms, which many find to be very invasive in their methods of learning about their users, be held accountable for crimes like this? In other words, is TikTok to blame?

If you would like to read more, please click the image.



FAREWELL TO OUR GRADUATING SCHOLARS



Wasif Shawman

A thing at Bentley he will miss the most: I will miss the atmosphere of Bentley the most. I have always appreciated that the success of their students is truly one of Bentley's top priorities. I will miss seeing the familiar faces everyday!

Future plans: In the future, I plan to pursue graduate studies in Economics and work in Investment/Portfolio management.

Statement of gratitude towards HCBE: Being a Sullivan Scholar for the past four years has been my pleasure. The Center for Business Ethics has provided

me with a home on campus that I am sincerely grateful for. I have enjoyed my time and discussions with Jeff, Gail, and all my peers, and I will truly miss the HCBE. The scholarship has allowed me to spend my time at Bentley focusing on my studies and the environment on campus as it alleviated a significant financial burden and has inspired me to give back to students in the future. Thank you, HCBE!



Ashley Talla

A thing at Bentley she will miss the most: I will miss the everyday interactions with the people I've made connections with and attending social events for various clubs/organizations. My advisor and the reliable resources that have helped me throughout Bentley are also things that I will miss. Lastly, I will miss the beautiful campus.

Future Plans: Currently looking for a full-time opportunity in New York City

Statement of gratitude towards HCBE: I am honored to have been a recipient of the Bentley Reverend Leon Sullivan Scholarship throughout my undergrad career. This scholarship has significantly helped to ease my financial hardships throughout the past four years, and I'm truly grateful for that. It has been an amazing experience interning at the center. Thank you for welcoming me with open arms and introducing me to all of the Sullivan Scholars. It's beautiful to see the family dynamic the center encompasses. I've always enjoyed our semester luncheons and annual Christmas parties, and I will miss those fun times. I see the center represents a family of individuals that have

various perspectives but are all striving to make a difference on campus and in the business world. Since day one, it has been fascinating to explore the meaning of “business ethics” and see the importance of ethics within the corporate world. Throughout my work in building the center’s social media, I’ve learned that there is a common goal across industries to practice strong ethics, and I look forward to implementing that throughout my professional career.

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ABOUT THE W. MICHAEL HOFFMAN CENTER FOR BUSINESS ETHICS

Established in 1976 at Bentley University, the W. Michael Hoffman Center for Business Ethics (HCBE) is among the world's oldest and most highly-respected business ethics research and educational institutes.



VISIT US! HCBE has an extensive business ethics library, and all students, staff, faculty, and the general public are welcome to visit and make use of our resources as well as those on [our website](#).



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Contributors to this edition of the newsletter are the following current HCBE Leon Sullivan Scholars:

Augustine Peprah and Wasif Shawman. Augustine serves as the editor of the newsletter. Sullivan Scholars work as interns at the W. Michael Hoffman Center for Business Ethics during their undergraduate years to experience the true meaning of “business ethics.”

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