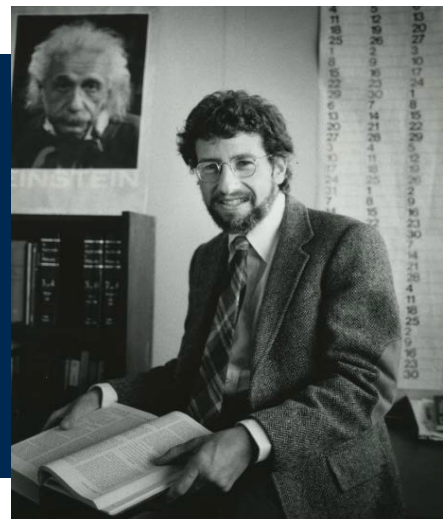




COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCES, & LETTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE, PHILOSOPHY, & THE ARTS  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN



## Retirement Reception Honoring Dr. Elias Baumgarten



# Born in Brooklyn

545 Williams Avenue



# Parents (Gabe and Selma) and sister (Rochelle)



*Elias and Rochelle*



"Fellow travelers" in Ürgüp, Turkey





## Young Elias as baseball player

Family moved from Brooklyn to Los Angeles, 1952

Dodgers moved from Brooklyn to Los Angeles, 1958

# Mountain hikes



First major mountain hike, Arapahoe South Peak, Colorado Rocky Mountains, 1969



At Irente Point, Usambara Mountains, Tanzania, 2008



Best possible mountain guide (you are required to have one), Malefia, the only woman (and best) guide with an amazing life story, Simiens Mountains, Ethiopia, 2015

# God-daughters, Benna and Mira





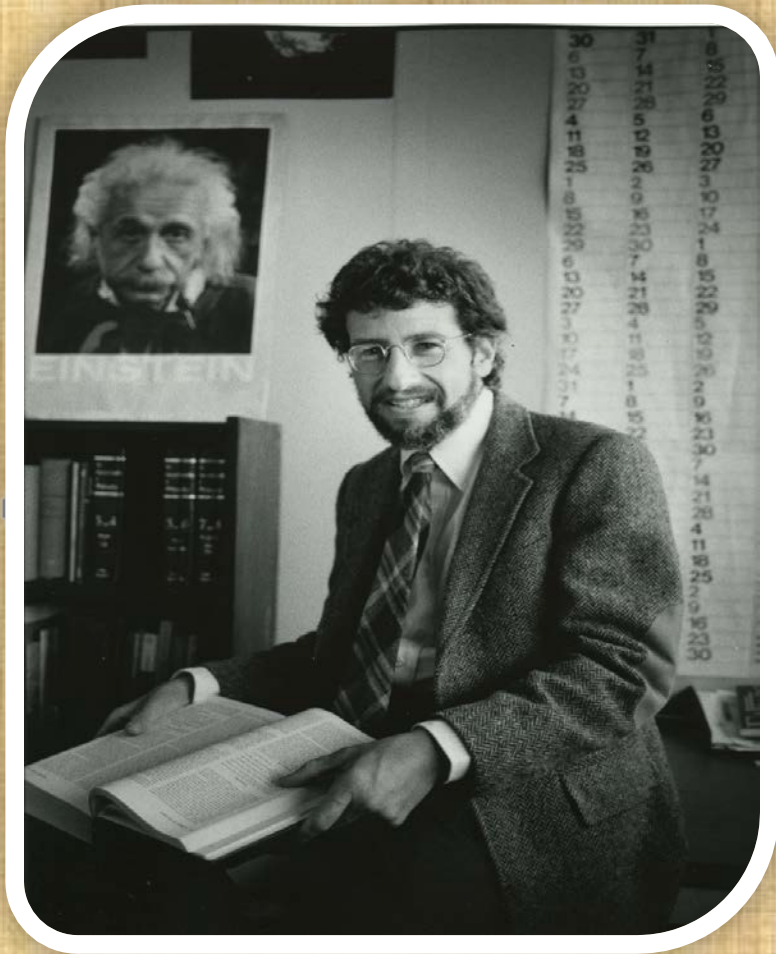
1970's

Graduate student,  
Northwestern University



1972 joined the faculty at the  
University of Michigan-Dearborn





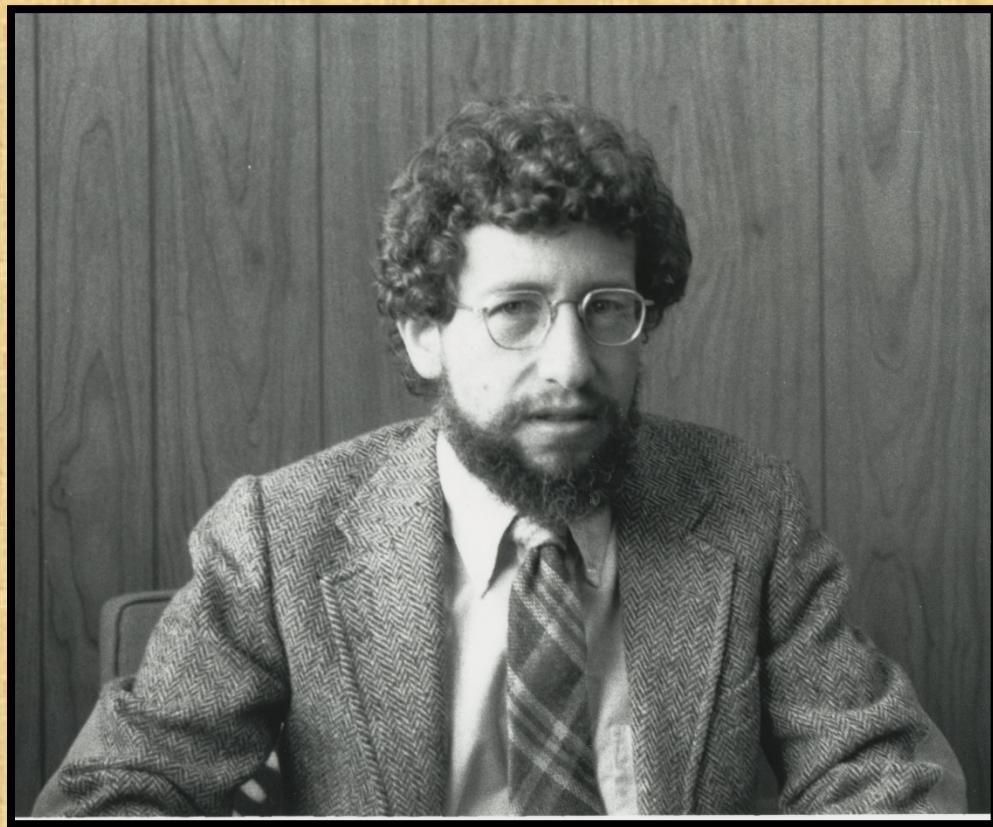
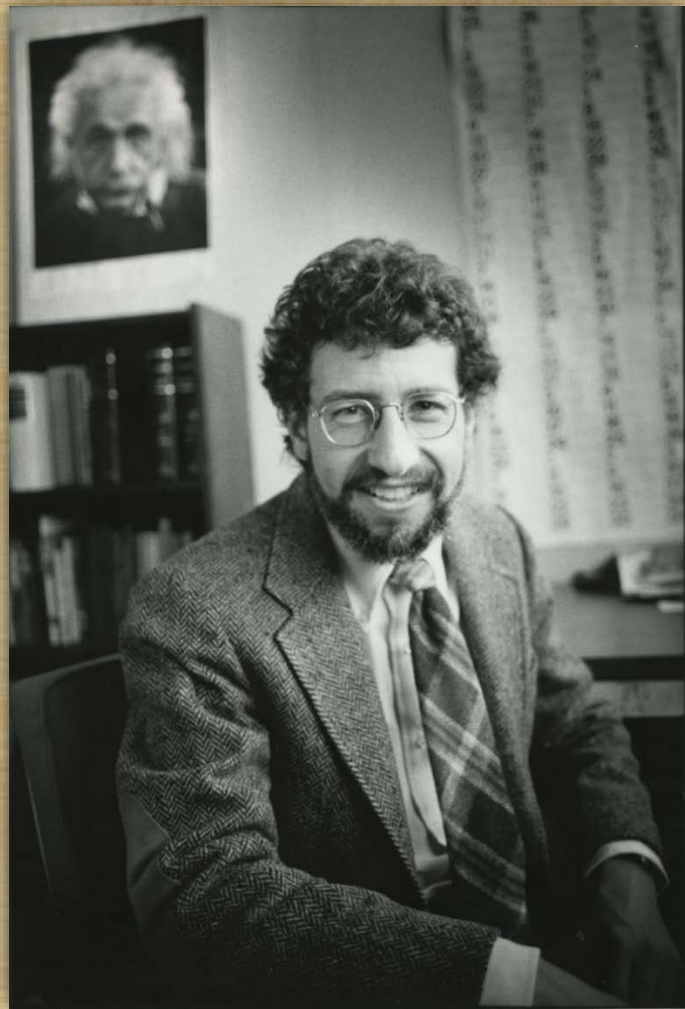
**“Our task must be to free ourselves...by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.”**

**Albert Einstein**

**"Who is a wise  
person?  
One who learns  
from everyone"**

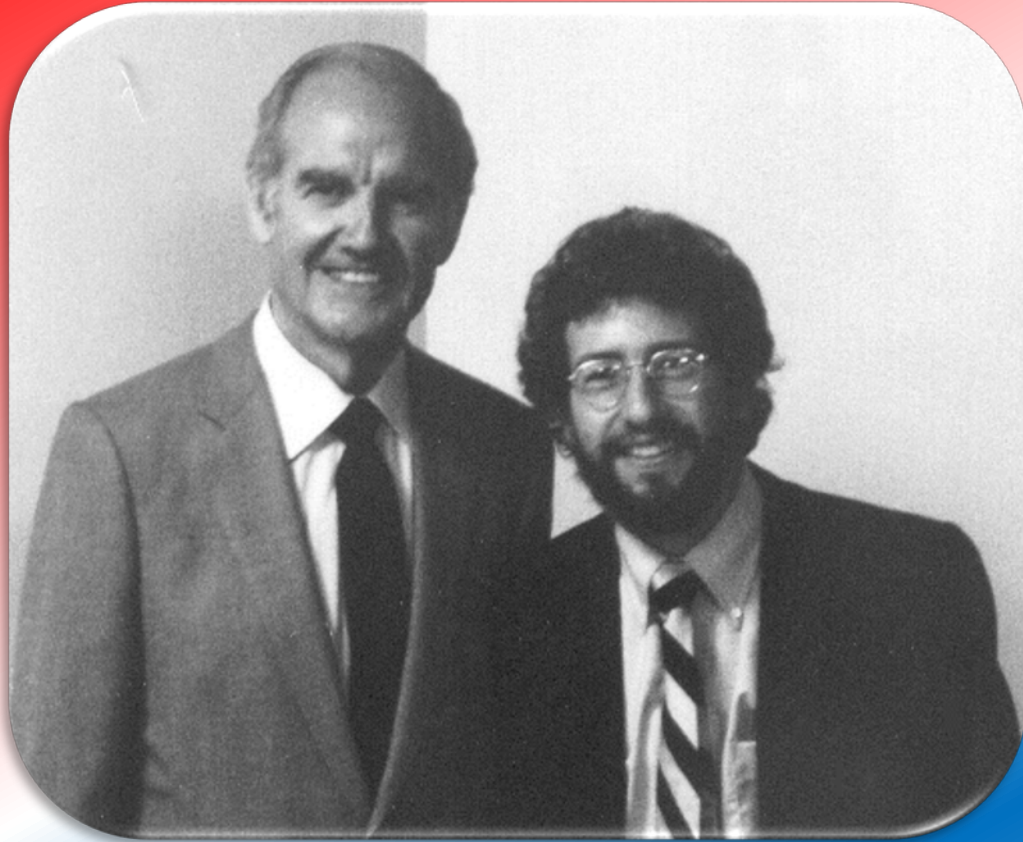
**(*Avot* 4:1) Talmud**







Hired as instructor at UM-Dearborn in 1972,  
appointed to assistant professor of philosophy in 1975,  
promoted to associate professor of philosophy in 1980.



With George McGovern,  
1972 Democratic candidate for  
President  
(He lost to Richard Nixon.)

At UM-Dearborn

# Denis Dutton (1944-2010)



Elias's first officemate at UMD.

An American philosopher of art before becoming a professor of philosophy at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand.

*(Elias took this photo when he visited Denis and gave a talk at University of Canterbury Philosophy Colloquium, 2004)*

# 1977 Distinguished Teaching Award Recipient



1980's Department of Humanities Dr. Ed Sayles Retirement Party





# Esteemed colleagues and dear friends, Ed and Ginny Sayles



Close friend, carpool mate, and Professor of English Sidney Warshausky





Meenakshi Amman Hindu Temple; Madurai, India



**"The journey itself is my home."**  
Matsuo Bashō (17th Century Japanese poet)



# World Traveler

Sphinx  
in  
Egypt

# Synagogue in Alexandria, Egypt



# Synagogues in Kolkata and Cochin, India





Western Wall, ירושלים (Jerusalem)



Mosque in Shiraz,  
Iran





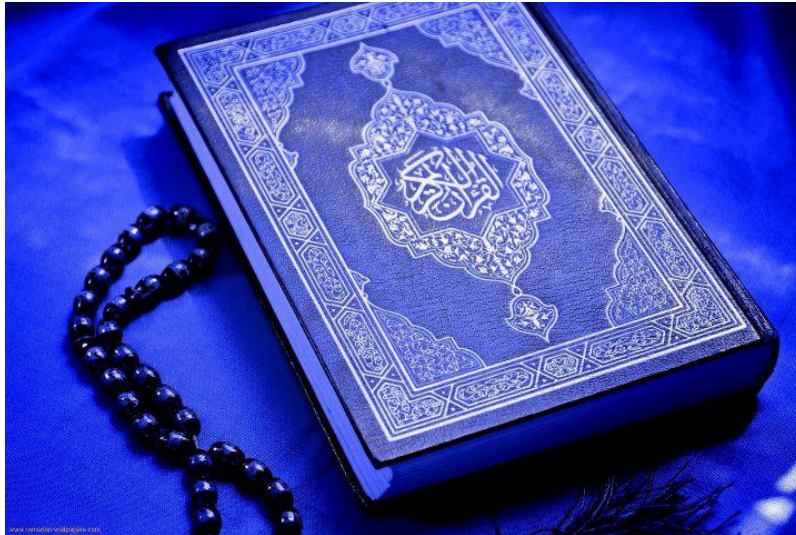
Ibrahimi  
Mosque,  
Hebron,  
فلسطين  
Palestine

# Speaking at Al Quds University in Palestine



"People, we...made you into races and tribes so that you should get to know one another."

*Quran 49:13*





**“Dialogue of Civilizations” with Imam  
at Fatima Masumeh Shrine; Qom, Iran, 2014**

"All those who follow the spiritual path are blessed."

*Bhagavad Gita (7:18)*





Buddhist temple / Bangkok, Thailand



## Angkor Wat, Cambodia

*(This was actually on the  
“meditation floor” of the  
temple)*



Bayan,  
Angkor  
Temple,  
Cambodia





Dr. Baumgarten's teaching and publications on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict were informed by travel and panels in those countries, which allowed him to bring back first-hand reports to his students.

Journal of Ecumenical Studies, 42:3, Summer 2007

## IN SEARCH OF A MORALLY ACCEPTABLE NATIONALISM

Elias Baumgarten

### PRECIS

The author argues that nationalism based on culture or ethnicity is morally problematic but can be morally acceptable if certain conditions are met. These requirements include, but go beyond, respecting the political rights of minorities. A crucial requirement of a morally acceptable nationalism is the promotion of cosmopolitan education and historic truth. This requires nations to nurture the ideal of world citizenship and to teach the shameful as well as the glorious parts of their own histories. The author applies these requirements to the competing nationalisms in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



# Two visits to Burqa, occupied West Bank



Three girls watching solidarity demonstration with Israeli peace activists in first year of the intifada, 1987

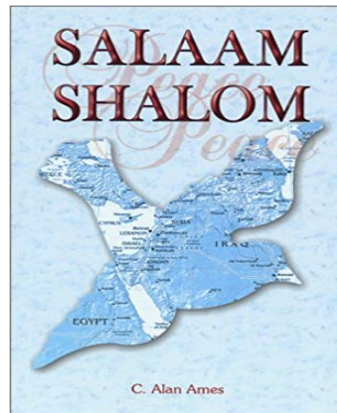


Reem (middle girl)



Revisit: Reem as adult with her family and holding old photograph

Taught "The Problem of Human Freedom," "Ethics of War and Peace, an Honors Tutorial on "Ethics of Nationalism," and promoted Arab-Jewish dialogue in Israel/Palestine and in Michigan



**"Who is a hero? A hero is one who makes an enemy into a friend"**

--Pirke Avot (Jewish, "Sayings of the Fathers")

# Volunteering



Teaching English to children and Dalit (“untouchable”) women, Sambhali Trust, Jodhpur, India, 2018

Tutoring for Centro de Esperanza Infantil, Oaxaca, Mexico, 2017



With Karla Palaez



2008

Barack  
Obama  
Presidential  
Campaign  
Headquarters

# Detroit Tiger Fan!





Elias judged at the high school Ethics Bowl, sponsored by A2 Ethics, and is now volunteering as a “philosopher coach” for two high schools

# MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ETHICS BOWL 4

January 28-29, 2017

U-M PALMER COMMONS CONFERENCE CENTER

**M** | LSA PHILOSOPHY  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

**A2ethics**

# Detroit Riverfront Run June 2018



Member of  
the University  
of Michigan  
“Wellness  
Champions”  
since 2014





Dr. Elias Baumgarten was a member of the Executive Committee of the Medical Ethics Resource Network of Michigan from 2007 to 2012.

*His special interests include patient autonomy, intercultural issues, and virtue ethics.*



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Dr. Elias Baumgarten has served on the University of Michigan Health System Pediatric Ethics Committee since 1986 and the Adult Ethics Committee since 1995.

*These roles allowed him to teach medical ethics using his knowledge of real world cases.*



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## Remarks from colleagues

Walking around the campus grounds while philosophizing - the Peripatetic legacy continues with Elias!

– Dr. Imran Aijaz,  
Associate Professor of Philosophy

"I enjoyed sitting in on your Advanced Ethical Issues course 35 years ago."

–Orin Gelderloos  
Professor of Biology and  
Environmental Studies



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## Remarks from staff

My favorite memories are the ones when Elias would email me pictures (& send post cards) of all the wonderful places he was visiting.

His thought provoking questions and call to action in the Forum.

- Belinda Soliz,  
Former Administrative Asst. in the Dept. of Humanities

- Lavada Smith, Assoc Librarian  
Mardigian Library

I have worked with Elias for 11 years. I will always remember sending him a request for his office hours and he would reply from one of his many foreign travels, “Hope all is well, I am here ... in India, here is a picture of some elephants. My office hours are...”

- Elisa Madrigal, LPA Admin



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# Former Student and close friend Holly Arida



# Former student (1972) and fellow traveler Michael Mulvihill



“A great thrill for me to greet Michael arriving in Dharamsala on his first trip to **India**”

--Elias (2016)



With Michael in Hsipaw, Myanmar (2017)



Dublin, Ireland (2004)



Wonderful village café, Alpujarras region, Andalucia, Spain (2018)

## Remarks from Former Student Sarah Jawad

“There are so many (moments) to choose from especially since I took nearly every class Professor Baumgarten taught. However, I think chatting about life and philosophy during his office hours were moments I always think of fondly. I also appreciated the time he stopped by my parents’ home for dinner. It was the first time I had a Professor over and I recall how excited my mother was to meet my college mentor.”

--Sarah Jawad



# Former Students

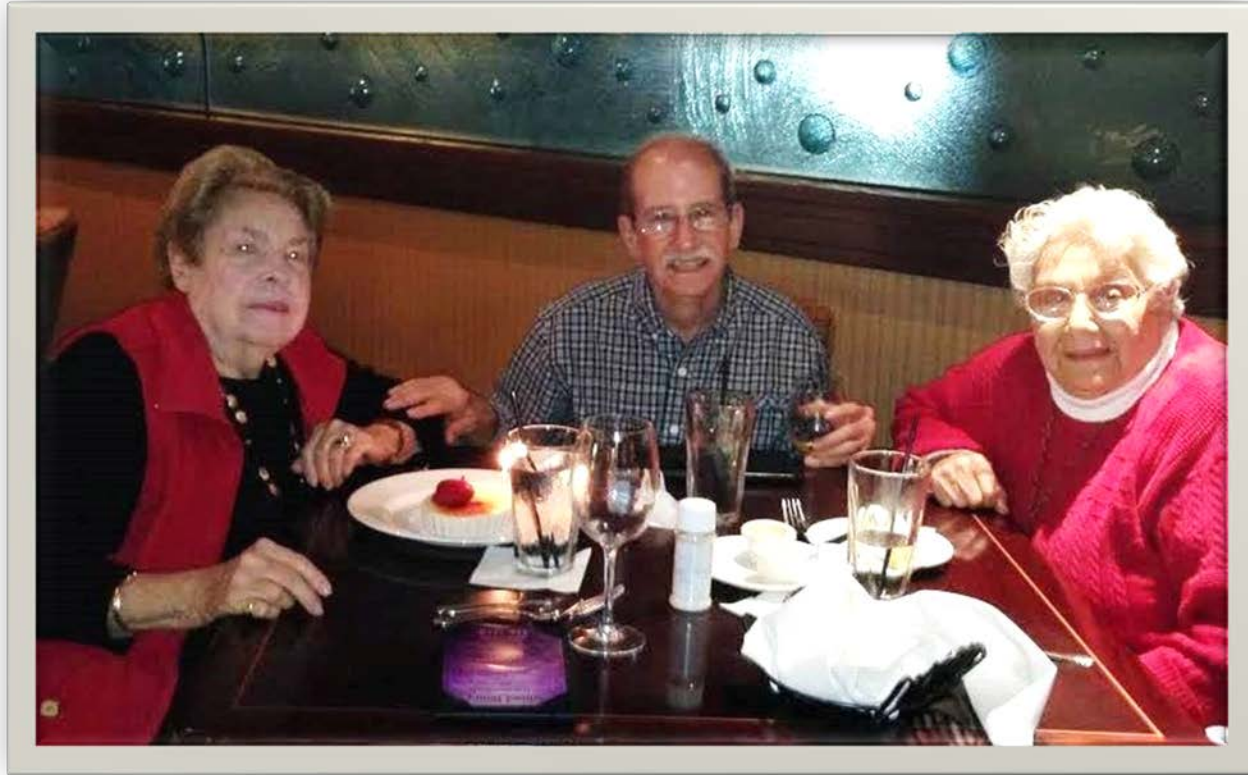


With Wasim and Christy at Kensington Metropark

“We hung out together often and joked about representing the three monotheistic religions” --Elias



# Former Students



Celebrating Bernadette's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with Senior students Bernadette and Roz (then 94 and now 97 and here for this retirement reception)

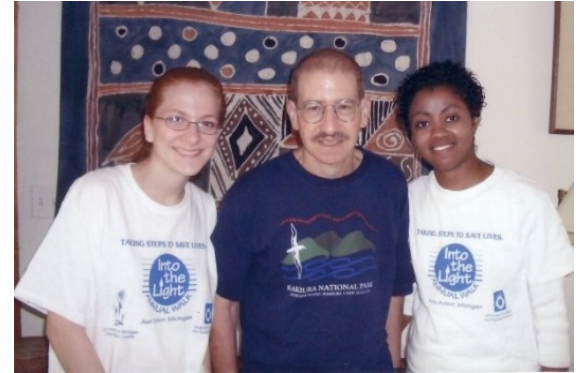
# Former Students



Zakaah Hassan,  
former medical  
ethics student,  
now a physician.



Dr. Nabil Khoury, former  
student and a major  
influence on Elias's life.



With Maureen nee  
McEachern and Ray-Nitra  
Pugh, at Elias's home  
after "Into the Light"  
walk to combat depression



Maryam Nour,  
future physician

"Dr. Hassan, your first patient is ready..."

## Remarks from Former Student Hanan Nasser



Hanan spoke on “Kindness as a Crowning Moral Virtue” at Meeting of Minds, a follow-up to her work in “Contemporary Ethical Issues” course

“Professor Elias Baumgarten and I spent a Ramadan evening together at the Arab American Museum's annual film festival. We watched a wonderful documentary together, chatted about everything from movies to philosophy, and Professor Baumgarten paid for my ticket so that we could have dinner together. It is a moment I will cherish forever. I will also cherish every visit to his office, every second I spent in his classes, and I hope that, just as I had the blessing to know him during my time at UMD, to have the honor of being his student and friend all my life.” – Hanan Nasser

## Remarks from Former Students

“I have so many memories of Dr. Baumgarten. I took Ethics, Medical Ethics, and the Ethics of War and Peace course (which was in the semester just after 9/11) with him, and always very much enjoyed talking to him. Our conversations were engaging and lively.

He was my advisor for one of my papers in the Meeting of the Minds, and since ethics was my special passion, I appreciated him allowing me to drop in on him once in a while.

...moment among so many occurred when I did a Depression Walk fundraiser. A friend, a recent Philosophy dept. alumna, joined me, as did my mother. Dr. Baumgarten invited us to start at his home. He was so inviting and warm and... it really left an impression on me to be so supported.

I found this spirit of warmth and openness throughout the department as well as again and again at U of M - Dearborn, but Dr. Baumgarten was among the most open and willing to speak candidly with us. It's hard to believe that he is retiring. I wish him the best, always.”

- Maureen Laneski nee McEachern, BA 2003

## Remarks from Former Students

“Professor Baumgarten inspired me with his constant generosity. Being a part of his medical ethics class tested my sense of morality as well as my idea of what it means to be a human being. I'll never forget the last day of class when Professor Baumgarten and the other students brought food and had a wonderful discussion together. Not only was the food delicious, but the company was delightful. Professor Baumgarten is one of the few professors that has managed to stay in touch with his students outside of class. His dedication is evident and he exudes a level of compassion everyone should strive for.”

- Raehanna Ahmed



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# Former Students

Emann and Zeinab, showing their proof of voting in Iraqi election



Emann is now teaching philosophy and Zeinab is an attorney

## Remarks from Former Students

“Talking about philosophy and his traveling stories in his office. Some of my best moments in my life. :D”

- Samiha Ishrat

“Sitting in his Ethics courses was what made me realize that philosophy is my great love. I owe him greatly for that and I regret not being able to make it to the reception”

- Griffin Kiegiel

“Discussing the distinction between moral obligation and praiseworthiness, also eating Zingermann's bread”

-Sarmed Jabra



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# Former Students



Naudulet and Aray, students from Khazakstan



*Thank you Dr. Elias Baumgarten for  
46 Years of Service and Teaching  
at the  
University of Michigan-Dearborn*