

Ethics Institute Newsletter

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Films in the Ethics Series

All films are scheduled to begin at 6pm.

- Monday, Nov. 16, "Whose Life Is It Anyway?"
- Monday, January 25, "Trade"
- Monday, Feb. 15, "Crash"
- Monday, Mar, 15, "Glengarry Glen Ross"
- Monday, Apr. 19, "Dr. Doolittle 2"

Brown Bag on Environment Ethics

The final Ethics Brown Bag for this academic year features Dr. Melissa Stewart addressing issues related to Environmental Ethics.

The session will be held in Knight Auditorium of Valade Hall beginning at 12:10, Thursday, April 22.

Commenting on her presentation, Dr. Stewart writes, "Environmental ethics considers the ethical relationship between the human and the natural environment. It is influenced by a large range of disciplines: law, sociology, theology, economics, ecology and geography.

"Environmental ethics attends to such questions as the following. Should we continue to clear cut forests for the sake of human consumption, should we continue to make gasoline powered vehicles which will deplete fossil fuel resources

even though the technology exists to create zero-emission vehicles, what are our environmental obligations to future generations, and finally, is it right for humans to knowingly cause the extinction of a species for their own benefit.

"If we continue to treat humans and the environment as two totally distinct and different entities then we will continue to cause immense environmental destruction in exchange for the perceived benefit of humans. Since they are intertwined, we are actually ultimately leading to the destruction of both. Our decisions affect both the environment and the human, and it is time that we started acting like it."

A big "thank you" to everyone who has made this year's Brown Bag series a huge success. This "thanks" extends to everyone who participated through their



Dr. Melissa Stewart, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy / Religion

presentations and their attendance.

We look forward to next year's series which will focus on the way in which ethics is woven into the professions. The presenters will be current Adrian College faculty members as well as outside members of the Institute's advisory board.

Ethics Film Series: "Dr. Doolittle 2", Monday, April 19, 6pm

The next Institute for Ethics film series presentation is "Dr. Doolittle 2." It will be shown Monday, April 19, at 6:00 in Knight Auditorium in Valade Hall.

The movie raises serious questions about the way in

which animals may see the world and what they would say to us if they could talk. Done in a comedic format, the movie was well received when it was released and it is still enjoyed by fans of the Dr. Doolittle series.

Dr. Melissa Stewart (Philosophy/Religion and Janet Salzwedel (Biology) will lead the discussion.

Due to copyright issues, the film series is open only to the Adrian College community.

Brown Bag Schedule:

- Sept. 24, Dr. James Spence
- Oct. 22, Dr. Tony Coundouros
- Nov. 5, Prof. Nathan Goetting*
- Dec. 1, Dr. Fritz Detwiler
- Jan. 28, Prof. Bill Bachman
- Feb. 25, Dr. Sheri Bleam
- Mar. 18, Rev. Dr. Chris Momany
- **Apr. 22, Dr. Melissa Stewart**

Times and Location:

- Knight Auditorium, Valade Hall
- 12:10—12:45. Twenty-minute presentations . Fifteen minute Q&A.

Ethics Film Series cont.

Please contact Dr. Scott Elliott at selliot@adrian.edu if you would like a formal part in the discussion.

The Institute for Ethics welcomes ideas for films from other campus groups. The films must directly deal with an ethical issue / problem /

dilemma facing the contemporary world.

Suggestions for next year's Film series are particularly welcomed. All films will be followed by an open discussion.

For faculty and staff who would like to lead a discus-

sion on a suggested film, the Institute for Ethics does provide an honorarium. This would be a great opportunity to show a film relevant to a class you are teaching which includes ethical situations.



Ethics Bowl Scrimmage — Friday, April 15, Adrian v. BGSU

The Adrian College varsity Ethics Bowl team will host their counterparts from Bowling Green State University in an intercollegiate scrimmage on Friday, April 15 at 4:00 pm. The event will be held in the Alumni Lounge in Valade Hall.

This past November, the Adrian College team made a strong showing in their first competition at the Upper Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl competition. Members of the team include T.J. Behling

(Freshman: undeclared), Creedence Hoffman (Junior: Political Science/ Mathematics double major), Cleary Murphy (Senior: Philosophy/ Criminal Justice double major), Nolan Gillespie (Junior: Criminal Justice with a Philosophy minor), and Ken Warren (Junior: Philosophy/ Mathematics double major),

The scrimmage on April 15 constitutes a re-match between the two teams. In the regional competition, Adrian bested Bowling Green.

The purpose of the scrimmage is two-fold. First, it provides another competition for the team. Second, it is a chance for the Adrian College community to experience Ethics Bowl competition.

Those students who may be interested in future participation are especially invited to attend. The session is open to the public.

A Place to Start: Infusing Ethical Conversation into Courses

One of the best ways to start thinking about integrating ethical reflection into your classes is to clarify what counts as an ethical reflection.

Discussions about ethics often get bogged down when we confuse other types of thinking with ethics. Here are some of the most common types of thinking that get discussions

off-track:

Practical Questions are descriptive whereas ethical questions are normative or prescriptive.

Religious Questions are matters of faith and are thus subject to strong disagreements among people whereas ethics, whether or not it is grounded

in religion, is related to prescriptive statements about human behavior.

Social Questions focusing on social acceptance, majority opinion, and deviance are descriptive — asking what “is” rather than what “ought” to be.

Legal Questions are interpretive of social customs, norms, and traditions which have been codified into laws.

While there is overlap between these questions and ethical ones, in order to keep a discussion focused, we should be aware of the differences and not get side-tracked by confusing them.

“It is better to be a human being dissatisfied than a pig satisfied; better to be Socrates dissatisfied than a fool satisfied.”

— John Stuart Mill

A hearty thanks to

all of you who responded to the request for professional codes of conduct. We received nearly 20 responses. By the beginning of the Fall Semester, these will be placed on the College website (or some other convenient location) as a resource for faculty, staff, and students!