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Hamington's "Embodied Care" weds body knowledge to care ethics

Maurice Hamington, assistant professor of philosophy, gave the last Liberal Arts Faculty Colloquia lecture of the 2004-2005 academic year Friday, March 18, to an engaged audience primarily made of up faculty in the School of Liberal Arts. This is Hamington's first academic year at the University and he said, "I'm enjoying all my colleagues and I feel welcome and at home here."

He began at 3:30 p.m., and though he was competing with sunshine, the weekend, and the Community of Scholars 20th anniversary event in New Harmony, Indiana, Hamington was still taking questions from his audience at close to 5 p.m., finally asking, "You guys want to stop, don't you?"

His lecture, "Embodied Care," outlined his book, "Embodied Care: Jane Addams, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, and Feminist Ethics," published in 2004 by University of Illinois Press. His premise, that the body is "built to care," was the subject of his doctoral dissertation in philosophy. (He also has a Ph.D. in religion and social ethics.)

Hamington's book is the first to argue for the body's centrality to care ethics, an approach to morality which assumes that humans exist in a web of relationships and considers traditional morality, with its rules and consequences, important, but not constituting all of morality. Care ethics is based on the work of ethicist Carol Gilligan and, according to Hamington, has been wrongly perceived as a "woman's morality."

Embodied care asserts that the body is the common denominator of humanity. Hamington illustrated the idea that "we share in the body" by quoting Shylock's speech from Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*: "Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? Fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer, as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die?"

As another example, he said that if he were to stab himself in the hand, any other person would wince. "I have the resources to understand in my own body," he said.

Habits are another form of embodied knowledge. "Bodily habits allow us to care about one another," he said. "There is a subtle kind of communication in the interaction between our bodies." As an example, he said that when he shampooed his young daughter's hair, he was not telling her repeatedly, "I love you, Rosemary," but the caring way he touched her expressed that nonetheless. That sort of bodily communication also is part of how people learn to care. "Our bodies have the potential to care because we've been cared for," he said.

In order to care for those we don't know, he said we must have a moral imagination, and be able to think from the standpoint of another. This is the social and political dimension of a caring

approach to ethics. "What you know about other people makes a big difference in terms of your approach toward them," he said. "If you don't know somebody it is difficult to care about them."

He said his hero, social reformer Jane Addams, exemplified the moral imagination by using her knowledge of the marginalized to improve society, co-founding Hull House, a type of welfare house for the poor and a center for social reform.

Hamington ended his book and his lecture with a case study of same-sex marriage. In a traditional approach to ethics, he said, principles and rights can be invoked, and consequences can be evaluated. This makes morality a game in which the highest principle and the most important rights win.

With an embodied care approach, one can feel empathy for gays and lesbians who want to be married, and a desire for them to flourish, but also care for those who feel strongly that the rights of gays and lesbians should be restricted. "I can always come back to this fundamental connection we have with each other," he said.

Care ethics is not an alternative to traditional approaches, he said, but works with them as a positive, hopeful approach to morality. "Our bodies have the ability to perceive and know, and care is one of the things we know. Caring is always a choice."

The 2005-2006 Liberal Arts Faculty Colloquium series will open September 30 with "How to Build a War: The Post 9/11 Construction of Inevitability," presented by **Steven Williams**, assistant professor of sociology.

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University Q & A: Shadow Robinson

Shadow Jason Quinn Robinson is an assistant professor of physics in the Physics and Geology Department. He has been with the University since 2003. He holds bachelor's degrees in mathematics and physics from the University of Kentucky and a Ph.D. from Rutgers University. He is engaged to be married to Felicia Davis, a chemist in research and development at Red Spot Paint, on June 25.

Who are your favorite prose writers?

Tolstoy, Kafka, Tolkien.

Who are your favorite poets?

Homer, Dante, e.e. Cummings.

Who are your favorite composers or musicians?

Composers: Beethoven, Rachmaninoff; Musicians: Vladimir Horowitz, Anne Sophie-Mutter.

Who are your favorite artists?

Van Gogh, Monet, Dali.

Who are your favorite characters in history?

Charles the Hammer, Rasputin.

Who are your favorite characters of fiction?

Fingolfin (from The Silmarillion).

What was the last book that you read and loved?

Nuclear Structure from a Simple Perspective.

What was the last song that you heard and loved?

"Eleanor Rigby."

What is your hobby and what about it gives you joy?

Writing an epic poem. I am not sure if the emotion can be called joy. I find it is simply a necessary part of who I am.

If you won the lottery, what would be the first thing you'd buy?

An Edouard Cortes painting.

If you'd like to be featured in University Notes Q & A, or would like to recommend a faculty or staff member, contact the editor at wkbredhold@usi.edu.

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Course spotlight POL3 314: The American Presidency

The American president is the most powerful democratically selected person in the world. This course is designed to understand the responsibilities and opportunities confronting any individual who resides at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC. Beginning with the Constitution, we assess how the presidency has changed and how it has remained essentially the same over the last 218 years. We also look at how the American public regards the office and we will assess trends in the kinds of qualities serious contenders for the U.S. Chief Executive must have. As many do, we will play the "rating game," judging which presidents have been great and which not, and why.

Stephen Bennett, a lecturer in the Philosophy, Political Science, and Public Administration Department, first taught a course in the American Presidency at the University of Cincinnati 35 years ago, during Richard Nixon's first term. He taught at UC from 1969 until 2001, when he took early retirement. He has taught at USI since the 2003-2004 academic year.

He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Illinois State University-Normal and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, and also is associate editor of *Critical Review*, "a small but well-behaved journal," he said, of the New York City-based *Critical Review* Foundation.

That sense of humor is on display in his loose, but not undisciplined, classroom. He said the class is primarily made up of political science majors, with a "smattering" of education majors who take the class as part of their requirements. In a recent class, in which about 40 students are enrolled, he announced the names of four who had received awards during the School of Liberal Arts Honors program. The students responded with applause.

After a pop quiz, students gave oral presentations on the five most and least effective presidents in U.S. history, based on crite-

ria that the students themselves chose. Bennett divided the class into 13 groups of three, and one member of each group presented their findings. Bennett said a number of historians have formulated criteria by which to judge a president's success apolitically. "Some have looked at whether individuals had to cope with national or international crises," he said. "Others have based it on whether the individual enhanced the power and respect of the presidency while in office or diminished it - which is where Nixon has been hammered, for his role in the Watergate crisis and cover-up. But the students must specify what criteria they are using."

Kris Harris, a junior social science/secondary education major, spoke for his group, who he said based their judgments on leadership skills, personal popularity, influence on future presidents, flexibility and adaptability, among other criteria. They chose Franklin D. Roosevelt, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy as the best presidents; Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan, Richard Nixon, Warren G. Harding, and Ulysses S. Grant were chosen as the worst.

Harris's group chose Ronald Reagan, who ranks high in opinion polls, as a president who has been misplaced in history, citing his administration ignoring AIDS; its support of the Nicaraguan contras and condemnation by the World Court; and the Iran-Contra affair. He also said that Reagan should not be credited with the fall of the Soviet Union and ending the Cold War.

At least one student in the class uttered expressions of disbelief in response to the criticisms of Reagan, but Bennett said he does not engage the students in political debate. "I tell all the classes: I'm a teacher, not a preacher," he said. "Some of the discussion brings out ideological divides, but I don't do it myself. I've had students ask me what my partisan leanings are, and I tell them, 'I'm not going to tell you because the kids from the other party will ignore what I have to say,' so I don't reveal that."

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Berger Faculty Community Service Award

A teacher who believes in partnerships between university professors, students, agencies, and society is this year's recipient of the Sydney L. and Sadelle Berger Faculty Community Service Award. **Kathy Elpers**, associate professor of social work, received the award during the Bower Suhrheinrich School of Education and Human Services Honors Program at the University of Southern Indiana on March 21, 2005.

A faculty member at USI for 17 years, Elpers served as a social worker assisting people professionally 15 years prior to the USI appointment. She has dedicated her academic and clinical career to service to Southwestern Indiana.

Faculty colleagues agree that Elpers has demonstrated to her students the value of community involvement by exposing them to community organizations. "By getting students involved, Kathy helps advance professional development of students and is generating a new level of contributing citizens for Southwestern Indiana," said **Peggy Shields**, associate professor of marketing. The award is presented by the Academic Affairs committee at USI.

Elpers has served on the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities, YWCA, and Ohio Valley Hospice. She also has served on projects and committees, often in a leadership role, for the Indiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and in 1991 was recognized as NASW Region 8 Social Worker of the Year. She has served as chair of the Southwestern Indiana United Way's Youth Guidance Board, member of the Deaconess Cross Point Advisory Board, Evansville Youth Coalition, and, Perry County Welfare Board among others. She is a board member for CASA (Court Appointed Special

Advocate). In this capacity, she is involved in board and volunteer training, so juveniles receive proper treatment in the legal system.

With grant money from the John A Hartford Foundation, the USI Social Work Department added geriatric information into the social work curriculum at both the undergraduate and graduate levels to increase students' knowledge about aging as well as their interest in working with older adults. Elpers serves as faculty advisor to STELLAR (Students and Elders Linking Around Relationships), a student group focusing on building relationships between students and seniors. With STELLAR participation, she developed projects involving USI students and the retired sisters living at Seton Residence and with residents living at the Rathbone Retirement Community.

She received her Ed.D. degree in 2001 from Spalding University.

The Berger Faculty Community Service award is given annually at USI. James Cavera, journalist and local social worker, wrote in support of the Elpers nomination, saying, "I had the privilege of knowing Sadelle Berger and her work, and I strongly feel that Professor Elpers embodies the spirit of this particular award." The Sydney and Sadelle Berger Faculty Community Service Award is made possible by the Bergers' son Charles and his wife Leslie.



Names in the news

In sympathy

The University community extends sympathy to **Virginia Poston**, instructor in art history, whose father, **Myron Schuster**, died March 2, 2005.

Accomplishments

Tom Rodgers, lecturer in history, presented a paper, "Liberty, Order, and Republican Manhood: The Ideological Origins of the Civil War," at the Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, Nebraska, on March 4.

Carolyn Roth, instructor in art, is currently showing her mixed media acrylic painting "Stream of Life" in an exhibition entitled "Genesis, in the Beginning" sponsored by The Indiana Women's Caucus for Art at The Jewish Federation in South Bend, Indiana, February 9 through March 27.

Tracy Anthony, assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at Indiana University School of Medicine-Evansville Center (located in the Health Professions Center), has co-authored a paper on how animals and humans modify their diets for health and survival. A team of researchers at IU School of Medicine-Evansville and the University of California-Davis has identified a brain pathway in mammals that senses nutritional stress at a sub-cellular level and prevents the premature death of cells. Their research provides initial evidence about how mammals detect dietary deficiencies of amino acids in the foods ingested for growth and survival. The research is a first step in exploring chemical mechanisms in the brain that control healthy food choices. The results will be published in the journal *Science*.

Thomas M. Rivers, professor of English and director of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, has an article published in the *Journal of General Education*, Penn State University Press, Vol. 53, No.3-4, entitled "Ten Essentials for Character Education."

Elliot Wasserman, associate professor of theatre, has been selected to participate as a faculty fellow in the Kennedy Center

American College Theatre Festival April 18-24 in Washington, D.C. He will mentor two nationally selected student directors during the week.



FYI

Waitman memorial dedication

A memorial honoring **Michael Waitman** will be dedicated at noon Friday, April 1, next to Reflection Lake behind the Liberal Arts Center. Waitman, an associate professor of English, taught undergraduate and graduate English and humanities courses at USI starting in 1968. He died April 27, 2002, after a long illness.

The memorial consists of a stone bench inscribed with the words, "In memory of Professor Michael Dean Waitman, 1944-2002. Longtime member of the English faculty, devoted colleague, and friend." A ginkgo, Waitman's favorite tree and a symbol of eternity, has been planted nearby. The memorial was funded by donations from English Department and other faculty.

The dedication will involve a short ceremony followed by refreshments. All University personnel who knew Waitman, or wish to honor him, are welcome. In the case of rain, the ceremony will be held in the lounge just inside the main entrance to the Liberal Arts Center.



USI Secretaries and Associates Club receives donation

The USI Secretaries and Associates Club has received a check in the amount of \$500 for their Endowed Scholarship Fund. **Nancy Eaton**, '88, received a Length of Service award from the Lumina Foundation for Education in Indianapolis and is donating it to the club in honor of **Roberta Schweizer**, retired senior secretary in the School of Liberal Arts. Eaton was a recipient of the USI Secretaries and Associates Club scholarship when she attended USI.

Graduating employees

Graduating employees and family members of employees who would like to be recognized in *University Notes* should send their names to **Penny White**, senior administrative associate in Advancement, no later than April 22. If the graduate is a USI employee's family member, specify the individual's relationship to the employee. Names can be e-mailed to pjwhite@usi.edu.

Free alcohol screenings offered

The Counseling Center will conduct alcohol screenings from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 7, Room 1051 in the Orr Center. All students, faculty, and staff are invited to take the screening, which consists of a five-minute written self-assessment followed by a confidential meeting with a Counseling Center professional, if appropriate. For more information contact Brooke Orth, staff counselor, at 812/464-1867.

Summer Enrichment Camp

Limited numbers of full-time and part-time enrollments are now available in USI's Summer Enrichment Camp, May 25 through July 29, from 6:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Corpus Christi, one mile east of USI on Hogue Road. Children entering grades 2-5 in the fall are eligible to attend. For more information or a pre-enrollment form, contact **Jacklyn D. Cline** in Extended Services at 812/465-1274.

Performance evaluation training

Kim Greenlee, assistant director of Human Resources, will lead two sessions on preparing for the annual performance review process from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, and 9 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 30, in Room 206 of the University Center. Performance evaluations are one of the most vital responsibilities of supervisors and managers. The performance evaluation process provides a good opportunity for supervisors and employees to exchange feedback and to set performance goals and standards for the coming year. These training sessions will help supervisors and managers understand the importance of performance feedback. Participants also will learn how to prepare for and effectively conduct evaluations. New and experienced managers and supervisors are encouraged to attend. To register, call 812/464-1989, or use the online form at www.usi.edu/extserv/training/schedule.htm.

Astronomy Day at the Evansville Museum

The Evansville Museum of Art, History, and Science, in partnership with the Evansville Astronomical Society, will present Astronomy Day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 16, at the museum. Gale E. Christianson, a distinguished professor of the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana State University, will present the Adventures in Science Lecture, "Edwin Hubble: An Astronomer's Life," at 2 p.m. Christianson is the author of several books, including *Edwin Hubble: Mariner of the Nebulae*. Admission to Koch Planetarium shows will be only \$1 per person. There will also be opportunities to meet with amateur astronomers, observe the sun and moon, and more. The event is made possible by a grant from Michelle and Philip Eykamp. For more information, call 812/425-2406 or visit www.emuseum.org.

Volunteer USI opportunity: Playtopia New Harmony

Skilled and unskilled volunteers are needed to help build a playground for the children of New Harmony, Indiana, and surrounding areas, Tuesday, May 3, through Saturday, May 7. About 150 to 200 volunteers are needed each day. Work shifts are from 8 a.m. to noon; 12:30 to 5 p.m.; and 5:30 to 8:30 or 10 p.m. Help also is needed on Sunday, May 8, to clean up the site. Volunteers may work for as little as an hour, but are encouraged to sign up for a four-hour shift. Skilled workers need not be carpenters, but must be comfortable with power tools. Other volunteers may help with volunteer sign-up, child care, food preparation, sanding, shoveling, and assisting with carpentry jobs. For more information or to sign up, contact Trisha Kennedy, assistant director of Alumni and Volunteer Services, at 812/465-1215.

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Marketplace

Camp Invention

A summer program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Camp Invention is a weeklong, non profit, summer enrichment day camp that fosters creativity, teamwork, inventive thinking skills, and science literacy. Open to children entering second through sixth grade. The camp will be held at Daniel Wertz Elementary School June 20-24 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Camp fee is \$199. Call 800/968-4332 or visit www.campinvention.org.

Delta Zeta golf scramble

You are invited to the second annual Delta Zeta golf scramble. The event will be held at Clearcrest Pines Golf Course on April 22. We invite you to sponsor one of our eighteen holes and/or donate prizes, to be won at each hole. You can become a

platinum sponsor for \$400, a gold sponsor for \$300, a silver sponsor for \$200, and a bronze sponsor for \$150. All proceeds will go to the non-profit Delta Zeta Foundation. To reserve your hole, please send a reply letter to Delta Zeta-Lambda Beta Chapter, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, Indiana 47712. Include your company information and check made out to Delta Zeta. Please reply by April 4. Call 812/468-2145.

Donations needed

Board games suitable for children ages 7 to 11 years old. The games will be used at USI's Summer Enrichment Camp. Games may be dropped off at Extended Services, located on the first floor of the Orr Center. Call 812/465-1274.

Duplex for rent

Located near University of Evansville. Two bedroom and one bath. Newer construction and fresh paint. Kitchen appliances included. \$450 per month plus deposit. Call 812/985-7679.

Lawn mowing service

Wanted, lawns to mow. Mowing, trimming, and leaf removal. Will provide free estimates. Provide my own equipment to do the job. Call 812/838-0870 or 812/449-8506.

Love seats

Two bright yellow love seats. Only two years old. \$175 for both or \$100 each. Call Ext. 1840 or 812/424-8547 after 5 pm.

Nordic Track Aerobic Skier

The high end Achiever Model in excellent condition \$600 new, asking \$200. Call 812/423-7101.

WalkAmerica 2005

Teams for WalkAmerica 2005 are currently forming. Walk with co-workers or with your family. Walk for someone you love. Games for kids, prizes to be won, and entertainment including music and a "mini animal encounter" provided in part by Mesker Park Zoo. Lunch provided in part by Chick-fil-a. Registration at 9 a.m., April 30 at Sunrise Park. Call 812/473-3300.

Wanted

Looking for an elliptical machine in excellent/good condition. Contact me via email with manufacturer, model, and asking price. Call 812/461-5430.

Wedding dress

Full length beaded wedding dress with straps and a lace-up corset back. Featured in a Super Bride Sunday style show. Size two. Asking price \$350. Call 812/853-3130.

Friday, March 25, is the deadline for submitting information for the next "Marketplace." Submissions may be made by calling 812/465-1192.

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