

## **Learning Community: Desire and Happiness**

### **Emerging Leaders, Fall 2006**

Congratulations on being chosen as a recipient of the Emerging Leaders Scholarship offered through Moravian College. As indicated in your letter from the Admissions Office, with this scholarship, you have been awarded the opportunity to be part of an exciting pilot program at Moravian, coordinated by the Leadership Center. To the extent possible, Emerging Leaders are registered for courses in common and will participate in an additional set of out-of-class educational opportunities with five faculty members. Students also will be encouraged to participate in the activities of the Leadership Center and will be given priority for the 2007 LeaderShape Institute. Students who successfully complete the requirements of the Learning Community in fall 2007 will receive ¼ unit of deferred credit in their sophomore year.

#### Learning Community Faculty

Dr. Kelly Denton-Borhaug  
*Religion Department*  
Office: Comenius

Dr. Denton-Borhaug has been Assistant Professor in the Religion Department at Moravian College for 1 year. Prior to coming to Moravian she taught in religious studies and also did work in multi-faith chaplaincy at Goucher College and Stanford University. Her Ph.D. in Christian theology and ethics was completed at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA in 1998. Current research interests include feminism and Christianity; religious ethics, war and war-culture; and Christian understandings of salvation.

Dr. Heikki Lempa  
*History Department*  
Office: Comenius

Dr. Lempa's classes on modern European and German history explore politics, culture, the history of everyday life, emotions, education, and the use of historical knowledge. While the book, *Bildung der Triebe. Der deutsche Philanthropismus (1768-1788)*, discussed the rise of modern education in Germany, his current work on a book-length study, *Educating the Middle-Class Body. Dietetics, Dancing, and Walking in Nineteenth-Century Germany*, focuses on the everyday life of the German middle-class. Besides history Dr. Lempa loves walking.

Dr. Sean Mulholland  
*Business and Economics Department*  
Office: Comenius

Dr. Mulholland enjoys teaching environmental economics and science, economic growth, labor economics, and the economics of education. His research interests include the private protection of the environment, the production of education, and the importance of human capital, physical capital, and total factor productivity on the growth and variation of income. Dr. Mulholland was a 2001 Property and Environment Research Center (PERC) Fellow. He enjoys visiting National Parks and Monuments, fiddling with old (and new) cars, and playing with his dog, Doolin.

Dr. Fran Ryan  
*History Department*  
Office: Comenius

Dr. Ryan is interested in modern United States history, particularly social, urban, and political history. His research interests include U.S. labor history, with emphasis on public workers, as well as transformations in political cultures, gender, race, and the history of everyday life. Dr. Ryan's other interests include women's history, oral history methodologies, and Irish culture.

Dr. Michelle Schmidt  
*Psychology Department and Director of Academic Leadership Programs*  
Office: PPHAC

Dr. Schmidt's research interests lie in the area of social and emotional development in childhood and adolescence. Her publications to date have focused on the precursors and consequences of early attachment relationships, the links between social competence in preadolescence and adjustment in early adulthood, and friendship and victimization in middle childhood. Dr. Schmidt's current research projects include a longitudinal study of bullying behaviors in elementary school children and an evaluative study of Moravian's TLC Mentoring Program. She is currently writing a book, *Friendships in Childhood and Adolescence*, with Dr. Catherine Bagwell, Department of Psychology, University of Richmond.

### Courses

All Emerging Leaders are enrolled in a common *Introduction to College Life* section with Dr. Lempa. Wherever possible, students are also registered for courses from the following list of Learning Community cluster courses:

REL197: *Seeing and Believing: Women, Religion, and Film* (Dr. Denton-Borhaug)  
What do feminism and religious traditions have to say to one another? A huge body of literature has burst onto the religious scene in the last thirty or more years as more and more women on the U.S. scene and around the world are exploring this question. Over the course of this semester students will be exposed to writers whose shared struggles with feminism and the religious traditions of Judaism and Christianity have deeply touched the lives of countless religious women (and also men). We will compare and contrast Jewish and Christian women writers on themes such as the understanding of

God, sacred texts, halakhah, understanding of community, sexuality, and ritual. In addition to assigned books, a number of additional articles, essays and chapters also are assigned; these may be found on reserve in the library (or may be passed out in class). As well as learning about the intersection of feminism and the traditions of Judaism and Christianity, this class in particular honors the opportunity to direct the questions of feminism and religions to our own lives. Additionally, we will learn from a few local women religious/educational leaders with respect to the fundamental questions of feminism and religion. (M3)

HIST112: *European Civilization Since 1500* (Dr. Lempa)

The history of Europe gives us initial insight into how the human construct called Western civilization has emerged. By exploring this history, we locate ourselves in time and place, thus helping us judge our position and possibilities. The course is an intellectual adventure in which we find our basic assumptions and values constantly challenged. What do we mean by “state” or “race”? What about our civilization is Western, and what is non-Western? (M1)

HIST114: *The United States Since the Civil War* (Dr. Ryan)

American politics, society, and culture from the Civil War to the present, including Reconstruction, late 19th-century urban-industrial world, Populist-Progressive era, America’s emergence as an international power in two world wars, the 1920s, Great Depression, and 1945 to the present. Designed to give overall perspective and an introduction that can be followed by more specialized coursework. (M1)

ECON152: *Principles of Economics* (Dr. Mulholland)

Study of basic economic theory and major economic institutions, including the development of economic thought. Emphasis on structure, functions, and underlying principles of modern economic life and includes elementary macro- and microeconomic theory. (M4)

### Learning Community Schedule

*In order to receive the ¼ unit of credit, you will be required to attend the following discussion sessions throughout the semester. If you know now that you will have a conflict, please notify Dr. Schmidt. Short readings will be assigned to get you thinking about the session topic. As you read the handouts, please keep in mind the topic of our learning community (Desire and Happiness) and think about how you can link the readings and the weekly topic to your learning community courses (and beyond!) Your verbal and mental participation in the discussion sessions is expected!*

*All class meetings, unless otherwise stated will be held in The Leadership Center in the Hauptert Union Building.*

|                           |                               |             |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Friday, September 8       | Introduction to the Community | All faculty |
| 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. (?) |                               |             |

Description: We will begin our semester with dinner at Nawab, an Indian restaurant on the Southside of Bethlehem. We will hear the owner's thoughts on happiness and desire.

Friday, September 22                      Transformation of Happiness                      Dr. Lempa  
6:00 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.

Description: We know when we are happy? But do we know whether and when other people are happy? Do we know whether and how people in other cultures are happy? Do we know how people were happy thousand years or five hundred years ago? I want to invite you to explore how happiness has changed over the past four hundred years in the Western World. We take a look at a nobleman in the early eighteenth century and listen to his opinions about human life, honor, and happiness. Then we move a hundred years ahead and listen to an Englishman's views of happiness. Finally, we move into the twentieth century and explore how Sigmund Freud viewed happiness. By using short texts, movie clips, and pictures we trace the transformation of happiness from honor to work to sexual pleasure.

Friday, October 14                      The Good Life                      Dr. Schmidt  
6:00 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.

Description: Historically, psychology has been a discipline defined by the study of abnormal processes. Recently, there has been a shift to the study of normal and even optimal functioning in humans. This week we will explore what defines the "good life." We will read a recent publication by the American Psychological Association on "Redefining the Good Life" and watch a segment of an ABC News Special Report on "The Mystery of Happiness." During discussion, we will think about questions, such as the following: What makes you happy...what makes people happy in general? How can we benefit from the study of "what's right" with people? Are some people wired to be happier than others? How can other disciplines learn from psychology's new focus on healthy development?

Friday, October 28                      Women, Income, and Happiness                      Dr. Denton-Borhaug  
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Description: What relationship does money have to happiness in life? Does gender affect the way we think about the importance of money and its relationship to happiness in our lives? Does money figure differently sociologically in men and women's lives? Why or why not? (We might also ask about the influence of other diversity markers in this equation.) In preparation for our gathering this evening, we will read a short selection from *The Price You Pay: The Hidden Cost of Women's Relationship to Money*, by Margaret Randall (Routledge, 1996). Our evening will begin with our viewing of *Friends with Money*, a film that was showcased at the 2006 Sundance film festival. Afterwards we'll discuss the reading selection, the film, and the questions they raise for us in light of our own life experience, values and understanding.

Friday, November 10                      Wealth                      Dr. Mulholland  
6:00 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.

Description: It's getting better all the time. Almost every objective indicator of well-being is improving: education levels are rising; per-capita income is rising; disease is declining; life span is increasing; pollution is declining; and discrimination is declining. And as far as we can tell, we

aren't any happier today than we were yesterday. Yet, if we take a cross-section of people, say all the students in this class, and we try to measure your happiness levels and income levels, it will be true that richer students will, on average, report that they are happier than students reporting lower levels of income. What are the sources of this paradox? What are the weaknesses of such surveys? Should we ask these questions so that causality is reversed: how does current happiness affect future income and well-being? To prepare for our evening of experiments, discussion, and intrigue, we will read the first three chapters of *The Progress Paradox: How Life Gets Better While People Feel Worse* by Gregg Easterbrook.

Friday, December 1  
6:00 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.

Immigration

Dr. Ryan

Description: The immigrant experience is at the very heart of the American experience, and each of us can root our family history to the journeys that our relatives (or we ourselves!) made to come to this nation. Understanding what brought immigrants to these shores remains one of the most important aspects of studying U.S. history. What were the conditions that people wanted to leave behind in their native lands? What types of sacrifices had to be made to succeed once here? What role did the quest for happiness play in these decisions to come to new lands, and what specifically was promised in the American Dream? These themes will be developed through this course, by paying close attention to the experience of immigrants as they shaped the United States between 1865 and 1945.