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Final session of 31st Midwest Philosophy Colloquium

Summary: Eric Olson, professor of philosophy, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, will address the final session of the 31st Midwest Philosophy Colloquium on the Colloquium topic of Personal Identity. Olson will speak on "When Do We Begin and End?" at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 26, at the Newman Center.

(March 9, 2007)-Eric Olson, professor of philosophy, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, will address the final session of the 31st Midwest Philosophy Colloquium on the Colloquium topic of Personal Identity. Olson will speak on "When Do We Begin and End?" at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 26, at the Newman Center, 306 E. 4th Street, Morris.

He will also present "Objects and Their Matter" at 2:30 p.m. the same day in the Prairie Lounge of the University of Minnesota, Morris Student Center.

The gradual nature of development from fertilization to birth and beyond leaves it uncertain when we cease to exist. Many philosophers have tried to answer these questions. Olson will argue that most of these answers are wrong and that a simpler answer follows from the apparent fact that we are biological organisms. A panel, comprised of Mark Collier, assistant professor of philosophy, Paul Z. Myers, associate professor of biology, and Ben Waterworth, student philosophy major, will facilitate discussion following the presentation.

Olson holds a doctoral degree in philosophy from Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Reed College. Most of Olson's research has focused on the metaphysics of material objects and of personal identity. He has written a book, *The Human Animal: Personal Identity Without Psychology* and has just finished another called *What Are We?*

Free and open to the public, these lectures are made possible by a grant from the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Dean, UMM.

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