

# Elmhurst College

## Faculty Development Committee

To: All Faculty  
From: Faculty Development Committee (FDC)  
Date: January 10, 2001

**Re: Midwest Faculty Seminar – Remaining Institutes**

Elmhurst College continues its affiliation with the Midwest Faculty Seminar (MFS) offered by the University of Chicago as an opportunity for faculty intellectual stimulation and development. Our membership in the MFS Consortium entitles us to send one faculty member to each of the four institutes in this year's series.

The remaining two institutes in the series for this academic year are "Computer Cultures" on March 1-3, 2001 and "Capital Punishment and the Limits of Ethics" on April 26-28, 2001. Each program will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday and will conclude mid-day on Saturday. The programs are described further in the included material.

If you would like to attend the **first** of these three-day institutes, please apply by email to the Chairperson of the Faculty Development Committee, Earl Swallow ([earls@elmhurst.edu](mailto:earls@elmhurst.edu)) no later than noon, Friday, February 2, 2001. We plan to send two participants to this institute (courtesy of financial assistance from the Special Assistant to the President). In your application, please indicate how you see participation in the institute contributing to your development as a faculty member. Please note that because the FDC prepays for the participation of faculty members, the committee assumes that those who apply are able to attend all three days of the seminar to take full advantage of the entire program.

If you are interested in attending the **second** institute (in April), please send an email giving us a *tentative* indication of your interest to assist with our planning.

Our prepaid subscription covers the cost of lodging on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights and some meals. Parking at the hotel is included, and a shuttle is provided to take participants to the meeting site. The Faculty Development Committee will reimburse up to \$75.00 for additional expenses such as meals that are not included and mileage for one round trip.

If you have any questions, please call Earl Swallow (ext. 3577 or [earls@elmhurst.edu](mailto:earls@elmhurst.edu)).

**Please Note:** This document, a link to the MFS web site, and others material related to the work of the *Faculty Development Committee* can be found at <http://www.elmhurst.edu:8000/~earls/fdc>. Also included on the MFS web site is information concerning their *Occasional Fellowships* and *Redfield Fellowships* programs.

# Midwest Faculty Seminar Institute Topics 2001

## Computer Cultures

**March 1-3, 2001**

Computer technology has transformed almost every aspect of modern life. Computers provide new means for creating, processing, communicating, and preserving information. For better or worse, computing technologies are ambassadors and advertisements mainly for American-or broadly speaking, Western-values and beliefs. Computers and computing networks convey ideologies about freedom of speech and censorship; rights to privacy and habits of hospitality; practices of intellectual property, labor, and entrepreneurship; and about technologies themselves. How has computer technology altered culture, and conversely, how do cultural values shape the development of computer technologies? What trends can we project into the future concerning the role of computers in science, the arts, the media, or education? Our program will address these and other questions central to computer scientists, social scientists, and humanists.

## Capital Punishment and the Limits of Ethics

*April 26-28, 2001*

One of the most hotly debated issues in America today concerns the legal and ethical status of capital punishment. The question of whether it is just to execute a human being for crimes committed has long been a dividing-point between political parties. In recent years, however, the debate has grown even more urgent, marked by well-publicized shifts of sentence, claims that innocent people have been wrongly put to death, and increased political pressure by constituents and the national media. Our seminar will call upon voices from law, philosophy, psychology, history, and literary studies to explore the contested terrain of capital punishment and the implications of this debate for ethical thinking.