UVSC opens ethics study center

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UVSC officially opened its own center for the study of ethics Thursday, October 21. Open house activities included Dr. Robert Lawry, a law professor from Case Western Reserve University, who presented two speeches on "Ethics and Equity."

"The center for the study of ethics will serve as a resource center to students, faculty and community members who would like information on ethics," says Elaine Englehardt, associate professor of ethics and director of the center. Articles, books, films and expert consulting will be available to anyone interested.

On Thursday, Lawry's speech was discussed by a panel of professors and faculty members. Friday's speech included a panel of students from UVSC. Both were open to the community.

"The most important thing I was trying to do was to suggest to the students that we share an awful lot of values that, on the surface, we may not think we share," said Lawry.

Another point of Lawry's speech was that "Excellent! He was really down to earth," says UVSC student Scott Carey. "I think what I enjoyed most was that he didn't take a position; he left it open for us [the students] to think."

Michael Dalzen, a member of the student panel, explained his role; "I thought the students were right on target in so many ways," Lawry said. "The students were approaching these questions with the same kind of responses that people with much more experience in the world have. That shows me that the students are really on the ball."

The center, located in the Business Building, Room 137, will be open daily. Workshops and lectures will be scheduled during each semester on different ethics topics. Some of the topics will include "Justice and Equality," "Women and Professional Ethics" and "The Ethics of Higher Education."

"We are very proud of Elaine Englehardt for putting us on the map," says Sharon Staples, chair of the humanities dept. "The center will give our students exposure to national scholars in the field of ethics."

The center will sponsor at least two public lectures each academic year. The lectures will be made by individuals of national reputation. The center will also challenge students to understand basic principles of ethics, to think and to write critically and to confront inconsistencies in their own ethics and values systems.

Naming individuals for achievements in ethics will also be an activity of the center. "We want to recognize individuals, businesses and organizations for their ethical achievements," "Our board of directors will select these individuals and honor them at a banquet in the spring of each year."