Nammour Symposium focuses on “What’s in a Game?”

The Nammour Symposium sponsored by Sacramento State’s Center for Practical and Professional Ethics will focus this year on “What’s in a Game?” The two-day event at the University Union, Hinde Auditorium, begins at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 10, and concludes at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 11.

The morning festivities under the rubric “Taking Games Seriously” commence Wednesday to include “Game On: Why Culture Competition Beats Culture War as a Metaphor for Cultural Conflict,” presented by Professor Russell DiSivestro. “Confessions of a Soccer Fan: Why Competition Isn’t Always Good for Us” will be discussed by Professor Christina Bellon, and “Games of Life and Death” by Professor Garret Merriam, University of Southern Indiana.

From 1:30 to 3 p.m., winners of the Student Essay Competition will be announced and will present their papers. The Philosophy Club Limerick Slam will be held from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the Valley Suite.

Wednesday’s opening theme, “Changing Games Changing Us,” begins at 10 a.m. with Professor Sarah Strand discussing “The neurology of play,” Professor Matt McCormick pondering “Game Changer: The Kinect and Human Health and Well-Being” and Lok Chi Chan, San Francisco State University, discussing “The wandering life: Some Daoist Reflections on the openness of video games.”

Wednesday afternoon’s overarching theme, “The Aim of the Game,” will have Professor Rick Schubert of Cosumnes River College detailing “Winning, Losing and Play with Games: A Daoist Approach to the Martial Arts.” Also included are “Gaming Wisdom” by Professor Mark Alfino of Gonzaga University and “Galahad v Odysseus: Moral Controversies in Sport” by Emrys Westacott, Alfred University.

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

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