

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

WHEN DO PERSONS BEGIN AND END?

A PHILOSOPHER LOOKS AT LIFE, DEATH AND WHAT WE ARE

Defining when human life begins and ends has always been vexing but advancing technology and media hype now raise urgent questions on the status of—say—fertilized eggs, frozen embryos, organ donors, and those in a persistent vegetative state. If we're just animals, as many people think, do we exist exactly as long as our organisms exist? Professor Baker will argue that, while we're wholly material beings, biology does not tell the full story of what we are, and to think usefully about human life and death, we must recognize how we're in an ontological category distinct from that of even our closest biological kin.

DFLS

DISTINGUISHED
FACULTY
LECTURE
SERIES



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Department of Philosophy

Monday, December 5, 2005

4 P.M.

Massachusetts Room

Mullins Center

Free and open to all

Reception follows the lecture

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