



Illinois State University Media Relations

Thomas To Deliver Expanding Teaching Nursing Home Lecture, April 11

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Contact: Eric Jome

Dr. William H. Thomas, author of *What Are Old People For? How Elders Will Save the World*, will speak on Tuesday, April 11, at 5 p.m. in the Bone Student Center Old Main Room. Thomas is the presenter for the Expanding Teaching Nursing Home National Speaker Event at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University.

A reception will precede the event at 4 p.m. in the Old Main Room. The event is free, but registration is requested. For more information or to register contact Charlene Aaron at (309) 438-7116.

Thomas will discuss his book, *What Are Old People For?*, and examine the important role senior citizens play in our society. He will also discuss the Eden Alternative for nursing home care. Thomas is the founder of The Eden Alternative, a global non-profit organization that is committed to improving the care received by people who live in long-term care facilities everywhere.

The Eden Alternative emphasizes the need to see long-term care facilities not simply as institutions, but as habitats in which people can overcome loneliness, helplessness and boredom. Thomas has also developed the Green House project, a radically new approach to long-term care that focuses on creating smaller homelike settings for nursing and long-term care facilities. For more information on the Eden Alternative and the Green House project visit www.edenalt.com

Thomas travels the country addressing university faculty, health care professionals and researchers on issues related to aging and longevity as well as the wise use of prescription drugs.

Thomas graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1986 and was selected by the Mead Johnson Foundation as one of the top family medicine residents in the country during his three-year residency at the University of Rochester. He maintains a part-time appointment as an assistant clinical professor in family medicine for Upstate Medical Center.

Thomas' presentation is co-sponsored by the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Association and the Xi Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. The event is one of a variety of events sponsored by the Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Project, funded by a congressionally directed U.S. Department of Education Grant for the improvement of postsecondary education, and The Expanding Teaching Nursing Home Project, funded by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

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