

# UM ETHICS PROGRAMS & UM ETHICS SOCIETY *INTRODUCE* THE ARSHT ETHICS DEBATE AT SPORTS FEST!

The Arsht Ethics Debate will include six teams, composed of 3-4 students each, and representing each of the six Sports Fest dorm teams – Mahoney, Pearson, Eaton, Apartment Area, Hecht and Stanford. The debate will consist of two main rounds. Round 1 will involve three separate competitions of two teams each (i.e. Mahoney vs. Pearson, Eaton vs. Apartment Area, and Hecht vs. Stanford), and Round 2 will set the two highest scoring teams from Round 1 against each other in a final competition. Thus, the winner of Round 2 will win the debate.

Teams will be presented with four scenarios during training sessions prior to the debate, two of which will be used during Round 1, and two of which will be used during Round 2. Given the time constraints during debate preparation and the competition itself, the teams will be allowed to use a basic outline of their notes during the debate. While students will not be allowed to come in with entire arguments and simply read from them during the debate, the teams will be allowed one 3 x 5 index card per case on which to write a brief outline of their argument.

The debate will be held during the Sports Fest weekend, on February 10<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 4pm. Each member of the first place team will receive a \$100 American Express card (which can be used anywhere American Express is accepted), each member of the second place team will receive a \$75 American Express card and each member of the third place team will receive a \$50 American Express card. All participants not among the top three teams will receive \$25 gift certificates to the Rat.

Please e-mail Ethics Society President Elizabeth Tedford or Ethics Society Debate Chair Ryan Kairalla at [UMEthicsSociety@gmail.com](mailto:UMEthicsSociety@gmail.com) for more information, or to be added to our mailing list. Thanks for your interest!!

## **Ethics Debate Rules**

1. Each round will begin with a coin toss. The team that wins the coin toss may elect to present first (to be the team designated as Team A) or to have the other team present first (and thus to be the team designated as Team B).
2. Copies of the first case will be distributed to the competitors and to the judges. Neither the judges nor the team members will have advance knowledge of which case will be presented.
3. Team A will have up to 30 seconds to confer, after which Team A may speak for up to 5 minutes.
4. Team B will have up to 30 seconds to confer, after which Team B may speak for up to 3 minutes in response to Team A's presentation.
5. Team A will have up to 30 seconds to confer followed by 3 minutes to respond to Team B's challenge.
6. The judges will then conduct up to a 5 minute question and answer session with Team A. Before asking questions, the judges may confer briefly.
7. More than one team member may respond to a given judge's question. Team members may not confer for longer than 20 to 30 seconds after a question has been asked.
8. Each judge will then give Team A a score between 1 and 15 with 15 being the highest, and Team B a score between 1 and 5, with 5 being the highest. Judges will assign scores based on consistency, clarity and intelligibility, comprehension of ethically relevant factors, avoidance of ethically irrelevant issues, and completeness in analysis.
9. After the judges have made their scoring decisions, a second case will be given to the same two teams.
10. The competition will proceed as above, with Team B presenting for 5 minutes in the second half, Team A offering a 3 minute commentary, Team B responding for 3 minutes, and Team B participating in the judge's question and answer session.
11. At the end of the round, the judges will announce the scores for both teams. In each round, teams will have the opportunity to present one case and to respond to the other team's presentation of another case, for a total of 20 possible points.
12. The two highest scoring teams from Round 1 will advance to the final round. In the event of a tie, the team with the higher median score (rather than average score) will advance to the final round.
13. The final round will proceed congruently with the treatment of the two remaining cases, and will yield the Arsht Ethics Debate at Sports Fest Champion!