

# THE MACKLIN BUSINESS INSTITUTE AND CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP at Montgomery College



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## Macklin Team enters Los Angeles ethics competition

### Topic: What Matters Most at Top Colleges, Business Success or Academics?

Each year, MBI scholars face off against inter-collegiate teams from four-year colleges, taking on unique business ethics topics in the National Intercollegiate Business Ethics Competition. The event, central to the Business Ethics Fortnight held by the Center for Ethics and Business at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in Los Angeles, was held April 19-21 at the college's Westchester campus.

This year, the team took on a topic straight from the news: Should colleges place winning and financial gain before the student athlete's right to an education? Specifically, the scholars focused on University of Virginia coach Al Groh, whose team last year did not win enough games to satisfy fans and alumni, but whose academic rating was one of the best in the country.

"The topic was meant to address not only the University of Virginia, but a growing concern for academic standards in athletic departments throughout the nation when hundreds of millions of dollars are involved," said MBI scholar Sarah Vandy. "The values and message being sent to students and the public are contradictory to the mission statements schools were founded on," added team member and MBI scholar Daniel Cleveland.

The team was excited to tackle this topic and analyze the legal, financial and ethical dimensions of the case

before a panel of judges and peers. Judges comprised university faculty and professionals from the local business community, including Bank of America, Toyota, FedEx Kinkos, and many others.

"How could a higher learning institution think it's more important to have a winning football team than a respectable standard for a student athlete?" asked MBI scholar Ronan Jenkins.

The five scholars made up one of 39 teams from 34 different universities, including Dartmouth, New York University, the University of Pennsylvania and Texas A&M. Montgomery College was the only two-year college to face off against top teams from MBA and undergraduate divisions. Other topics presented included: offensive and violent material in video games, direct-to-consumer advertising in the pharmaceutical industry, and the ethics of credit card companies on college campuses.

In addition to the competition, the fortnight also features intramural and intercollegiate student competitions, "L.A.'s Weirdest Biathlon," and the optional LMU 5K/10K Run for the Bay, a fundraiser for the local environmental organization, Heal the Bay. The scholars participated in the optional 12th annual LMU 5K Run, taking full advantage of their first-time visit to



### American (Business) Idols

The Macklin Ethics Team (l-r): Sarah Vandy, Amit Sharma, Luis Corrales, MBI Director Steve Lang, MBI Faculty Coordinator, Prof. Brian Baick, Daniel Cleveland, Ronan Jenkins represented Montgomery College in the 12th annual Business Ethics Competition at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. They were the only two-year college team to face off against top teams from MBA and undergraduate divisions.

L.A.

Although the MBI team did not advance to the final round as one of the top four teams, they were proud to hold their own against some of the most reputable business schools in the nation. "This was one of the best expe-

riences of my life," said MBI scholar Amit Sharma. "I really learned what it means to work as a team."

MBI Director Steve Lang, who accompanied the team, is proud of their overall performance. "Although Dartmouth took the winning prize, this

year's event succeeded in enabling the MBI students to work as a team, hone their presentation skills, and compete against the best... Ultimately, they gain a profound understanding of the issues and challenges imposed when businesses use ethical practices," said Lang.

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