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February 20, 2007

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Undergrads Defeat Top U.S. Teams in Cincinnati Competition

CINCINNATI, OH (February 23, 2007) -- The University of Miami has won the national championship bowl -- in ethics.

UM's Ethics Society Debate Team prevailed over the nation's leading teams at the annual competition in Cincinnati on Thursday. A core feature of the annual conference of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, the National Championship Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl (IEB) featured 32 undergraduate teams that ranked well in eight regional autumn competitions.

The mood in Cincinnati was electric as UM debaters enjoyed an extraordinary round of applause from participants and observers, and were presented with the IEB trophy last night.

Members of the UM team and their majors: Christina Fiallo, junior, political science and history; Nick Holzer, freshman, economics and biology; Ryan Kairalla, junior, political science and economics; Josh Morales, junior, business law; and Elizabeth Tedford, Ethics Society President, senior, history. The UM team won in the following match-ups:

Round 1: Loyola University Chicago

Round 2: Peninsula College (Washington)

Round 3: Western Michigan University

Quarter Finals: Weber State University (Utah) Semi Finals: U.S. Military Academy at West Point

Finals: Westminster College (Pennsylvania)

Other teams included Williams College, the University of Southern California, the U.S. Naval Academy, the University of Washington and Southern Methodist University.

Debaters tackled cases dealing with affirmative action in South Africa, reproductive decisions involving deafness, use of GPS systems to track children through cell phones, destruction of artwork by owners, whether prisoners may receive vegan meals and other topics.

According to the Ethics Bowl Website (<http://ethics.iit.edu/eb/index.html>), "The Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl (IEB) combines the excitement and fun of a competitive tournament with a valuable educational experience for undergraduate students. Recognized widely by educators, the IEB has received special commendation for excellence and innovation from the American Philosophical Association, and received the 2006 American Philosophical Association/Philosophy Documentation Center's 2006 prize for Excellence and Innovation in Philosophy Programs. The format, rules, and procedures of the IEB all have been developed to model widely acknowledged best methods of reasoning in practical and professional ethics."

UM's Ethics Society was established 13 years ago. The Debate Team is a recent component, established three years ago. Debate Team activities have been supported by generous gifts from Karl Schulze, the Citizens Board and community leader Adrienne Arsht, chairman of the Board of Directors of TotalBank.

The UM Ethics Society's faculty advisors are Professors Anita Cava, J.D., Associate Professor of Business Law, and Kenneth Goodman, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Medicine and Philosophy. Profs. Cava and Goodman are co-directors of the universitywide Ethics Programs, which comprise the Bioethics Program, the Business Ethics Program and the Pan American Bioethics Initiative.

For more information, call Prof. Cava at 786-457-7222 or Prof. Goodman at 305-610-2066.

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