The Center for Ethics and Business at Loyola Marymount University is pleased to announce its 8th Annual National Student Team Business Ethics Competition to be held from April 6 to 8, 2006, in Los Angeles. This includes a new intercollegiate MBA division.

This event includes: Student team presentation competitions (MBA and undergraduate), an optional combined academic/athletic competition, and an awards banquet

I. Student Team Presentation Competition

Teams of 3 to 5 students choose a topic from any area of business ethics and make a presentation in which they describe the issue and propose a solution. Each team explains the legal, financial and ethical dimensions of the case. They then recommend a solution that must pass muster on all three counts. Even though all three areas must be dealt with, judges place special weight on the strength of the ethical analysis of the problem and the ethical acceptability of the solution. For this competition, the ethical character of teams’ analyses and recommendations will be evaluated from the perspective of “philosophical ethics.” That is, as appropriate to the case, judges will be looking for discussion of at least the amount and type of tangible good and harm involved, and the intrinsic character of the actions involved. The idea of the exercise is to help students see that it is possible for a business to run both profitably and ethically.

Presentations run from 20 to 30 minutes. Judges then question the team for another 30 minutes and give the team feedback. The top teams from each division will advance to a final face-off. There is no prescribed format for the presentation, but each member of the team is expected to speak at some point. Presentations are judged by a combination of business executives and university faculty. The winning teams and runners-up will receive cash prizes.

II. LMU 5K/10K Run for the Bay—“L.A.’s Weirdest Biathlon”

Believing that an educational program focusing on ethics should ultimately produce some tangible good, the Center for Ethics and Business also sponsors an annual 5K/10K walk/run – the “LMU Run for the Bay.” We do this in order to make a positive contribution to the local community (we donate the proceeds to Heal the Bay), to encourage students to form healthy habits early in life, to stimulate community participation in a university event, and to find a way for everybody to have some fun in connection with an academic program.

Student teams from the presentation competition are encouraged, but not required, to participate in the walk/run. However, those who do will be eligible for prizes in “L.A.’s Weirdest Biathlon.” As a way of encouraging students to take seriously the ancient maxim of “a sound mind in a sound body,” cash prizes are awarded in each division (5K and 10K) to the top two teams with the best combined score between the presentation competition and the run. At least three members from each team must participate in the run to be eligible for the biathlon prize.
Scoring for the race portion is determined by the best three scores from each team based on finishing place in gender. Because of NCAA rules, some team members who are college athletes may be ineligible to receive cash prizes. In such cases, the prize money will be donated to their schools.

III. Concluding Program

The weekend will conclude with a final program that includes: final presentations by the top teams, the announcement of the winners and an awards banquet.

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Information is also available on the Center’s website:  www.ethicsandbusiness.org