



U.S. Naval Academy wins the 27th annual APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl®

Students grappled with ethical issues in national competition

PORTLAND, OREGON (March 6, 2023)—A team of undergraduate students from the U.S. Naval Academy is the 2023 Champion of the Association for Professional and Practical Ethics Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl® (APPE IEB®). The team competed against 35 other teams in the national championship, which was held last night in Portland, Oregon. More than 100 teams competed in regional events to try and earn a bid to the national championship. Tufts University placed second.

The winning team included Kyle Beasley, Jackson Hathaway, Olivia Hunt, Tomas Maldonado, Ryan Knight, Eduardo Ramirez, and Washington Ross, and were coached by Shaun Baker.

During the two-day competition, some of the questions the teams discussed with each other included:

- What's more important in sports—character development or winning?
- Did tattoo artist Kat Von D do anything morally objectionable in using someone else's photograph as the basis for a tattoo that she then posted on social media?
- Are mandatory retirement laws morally justifiable?
- Is it permissible to use Artificial Intelligence tools in courtrooms?
- Is direct pharmaceutical advertising permissible?

Using a set of cases that are drawn from real-life ethical challenges in education, business, life, and politics, teams participating in the APPE IEB® are judged not by their answers to such questions, but by their ability to identify and analyze the ethical dimensions of each case in a clear, focused, and thoughtful manner and with an appreciation for varied perspectives.

[See the full cases here](#). The final match can be viewed on the APPE [YouTube site](#) under livestreams.

Approximately 180 teams from 135 schools competed in regional competitions last fall to earn a berth to the national competition.

“Like in life, the cases are complex, difficult to resolve, and sometimes polarizing,” said John Garcia, APPE IEB® Council Chair. “Unlike debate, in Ethics Bowl, teams are not assigned ‘pro’ and ‘con’ sides of an ethical issue. Each team’s goal is to identify the various ethical considerations, analyze the importance of those, and engage in civil discourse with another team that expands the conversation based on its position. Our goal is to help students see the value of continuing to engage with others despite difference, to understand more about views that differ from their own, and to help students think of collaborative solutions to solve societal problems.”

The final eight teams included:

- Rollins College (Quarterfinalist)
- Santa Clara University (Semi-Finalist)
- Tufts University (Runner-Up)
- University of Chicago (Quarterfinalist)
- University of Maryland (Semi-Finalist)
- United States Naval Academy (Champion)
- Utah Valley University (Quarterfinalist)
- Virginia Military Institute (Quarterfinalist)

The national competition is held in conjunction with the annual international conference of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE). APPE is an international non-profit membership organization founded in 1991 dedicated to advancing scholarship, education, and practice in practical and professional ethics.

About the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics

The Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE) is an international nonprofit membership organization that supports research, training, and education in practical and professional ethics. It was founded in 1991 to encourage interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching among educators and practitioners. APPE hosts an annual conference and the APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl® each February. Since 2017 APPE has been housed at the Prindle Institute for Ethics at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. Learn more at www.appe-ethics.org.

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