UC SAN DIEGO INAUGURAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ETHICS BOWL TEAM

This is the inaugural year of the UC San Diego Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl Team. The Ethics Bowl involves a series of regional tournaments that take place in early December, with the top four teams at each regional being invited to participate in a national tournament in the spring of the following year.

The aim of the Ethics Bowl is to encourage thoughtful and respectful exchanges on important topics of ethical significance. Teams of undergraduates compete by providing extended answers to moral questions based on case descriptions that are provided ahead of time. Cases are often taken from the headlines. This year, teams were asked to discuss whether laws banning the unstunned slaughter of animals are unfair to meat-eating Jews and Muslims, whether ex-felons should regain the right to vote, whether transracial persons should be accorded the same level of social recognition as transgender persons, whether it is morally permissible for the United States to use economic threats against small island nations that serve as tax havens, and more.

The team selection process took place in late September 2018, and five students were chosen from a pool of nineteen applicants. The team was coached by Sam Rickless, Cory Davia (a graduate student in philosophy), and Jessica Davis (coordinator of the Faculty Mentor Program and Undergraduate Research Conferences at UC San Diego). Two-hour coaching sessions were held once or twice a week, September-November. The team was generously sponsored by the UC San Diego Department of Philosophy and the UC San Diego Institute for Practical Ethics.

On December 1, 2018, the UC San Diego team won three rounds and lost one round, placing seventh out of twenty-four teams in the regional competition. It was a brilliant performance, and a great accomplishment.

At right: Robert Walter, Natasha Taylor, and Cory Davia after the team's first win.

From left: Angel Leano, Marleen Hiedo, Natasha Taylor, Robert Walter, Ashley Kim.