



The Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges

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Virginia Students to Debate “Ethics and the Environment” Top Business & Community Leaders to Judge Student Team Arguments

Richmond, VA –The Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges (VFIC) and Wachovia Bank will sponsor the ninth annual statewide collegiate Wachovia Ethics Bowl on February 10-11, 2008 on the campus of Marymount University in Arlington, VA. Serving as Co-Chairs for the event are **Roger Mudd**, former journalist for CBS and The History Channel and **Ken Garren**, President of Lynchburg College. **The theme of the 2008 Wachovia Ethics Bowl is *Ethics and the Environment*.** Student teams from 15 of Virginia’s leading independent colleges and universities will participate in the competition and debate a variety of case studies highlighting environmentally focused dilemmas.

Wachovia is the signature sponsor of the two-day event and **Amy Nisenson, Community Affairs Manager for Wachovia Bank**, has participated as an Ethics Bowl debate moderator for 3 years. “Wachovia continues to be a proud sponsor of the VFIC Ethics Bowl,” said Nisenson. “This event is an event like no other that allows the leaders of today to interact with dynamic young people who will be the leaders of tomorrow. The environmental issue will undoubtedly affect each of us during our lifetime and we expect this year’s program to be an energetic and engaging sharing of ethical perspectives and values.”

Teams of 3-5 students from the 15 VFIC colleges will be paired in head-to-head competition that will be judged by panels of distinguished leaders from across Virginia. Many notables from the business sector, law, finance, journalism, and other fields will listen to team presentations and offer reactions to students’ presentations.

2008 VFIC Ethics Bowl 2-2

“The Ethics Bowl is a unique forum that allows some of Virginia’s most promising students to work with many of the state’s most recognized business and community leaders,” said **Ned Moore, president of the VFIC**. “The topic of the 2008 program is timely as our society battles with major debates regarding the environment which is a highly technical and multi-faceted issue with economic, social, political and legal consequences.”

The Ethics Bowl program will commence with an opening session on Sunday, February 10 at 3:00 p.m. at Marymount University’s Truland Auditorium with the first round of debates scheduled for 3:30 p.m. A special reception and dinner will follow honoring long-time VFIC Trustee Preston C. Caruthers, President of Carfam II, LLC and Caruthers Foundation. On Monday, February 11, rounds 3 & 4 will begin at 8:15 a.m. The final round of competition will take place at 11:30 a.m. in the Truland Auditorium. The public is invited to attend the debate sessions free of charge. There is a cost for the reception and dinner Sunday evening. The winning team will be announced at 12:45 p.m. on Monday. The team from University of Richmond took home the trophy at the 2007 Ethics Bowl.

“The Ethics Bowl event continues to provide opportunities for students to apply the ethical decision-making skills they’ve been developing through their coursework and test their belief systems,” notes **Ken Garren, president of Lynchburg College**. “The environmental question can leave no one indifferent. It affects every individual on this planet as well as the good of future generations. Dedication to the promotion of a sound ethics of the environment will be a considerable contribution to society and we look forward to an exciting event this year.”

Founded in 1952, the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges is a nonprofit fund-raising partnership supporting the programs and students of 15 leading private colleges in the Commonwealth: Bridgewater College, Emory & Henry College, Hampden-Sydney College, Hollins University, Lynchburg College, Mary Baldwin College, Marymount University, Randolph College, Randolph-Macon College, Roanoke College, Shenandoah University, Sweet Briar College, University of Richmond, Virginia Wesleyan College and Washington & Lee University. For additional information on the VFIC, visit www.vfic.org.

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