



The Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges

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Washington and Lee University Places 1st in Statewide Collegiate Ethics Bowl
Students from 15 Virginia Colleges and Business Leaders debate “Ethics and Journalism”

Richmond, VA – **Washington and Lee University** won the 10th Annual intercollegiate **Wachovia Ethics Bowl** debate competition held February 8 and 9 in Lexington, VA. A program of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges (VFIC), the Bowl featured a theme of *Ethics & Journalism* and involved student teams from 15 private colleges and universities in Virginia debating case studies with ethical dilemmas facing reporters, publishers, television stations and news photographers and videographers. The teams presented their analysis, positions and recommendations to panels of judges comprised of business, professional and educational leaders drawn from throughout Virginia.

W&L’s student team won the championship and the Batten Trophy in a close final debate over the team from **Shenandoah University**. Teams from Hampden-Sydney College and Randolph College were semi-finalists, runner-ups. For the 8th year in a row, the Ethics Bowl was sponsored by Wachovia, a Wells Fargo Company.

“The participating students are to be commended for their thoughtful insight and preparation for this year’s Ethics Bowl,” said **Bill Crawford**, Executive Vice President with **Wachovia Bank**, the lead sponsor for the event. “Wachovia is proud to be associated with the VFIC Ethics Bowl program because we believe the future foundation of our nation will be built upon the ethical standards of these fine young people.”

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Additional sponsors for the event included: BAE Systems; Dominion; GEICO Corporation; Verizon and the Emily S. and Coleman A. Hunter Charitable Trust.

Members of the winning team from Washington and Lee University included: **Alexander Weber**, a senior physics and politics major, **Alisha Laventure**, a senior journalism and romance languages major, **Melissa Caron**, a senior journalism major and **Alexandra Scaggs**, a senior journalism major. James Mahon and Paul Gregory served as faculty advisors for the Washington and Lee team.

Members of the runner-up team from Shenandoah included: **Eric Swenson**, a senior political science major, **Andrew Palanzi**, a senior political science major, **Jason Guy**, a junior political science major and **Kevin McKenzie**, a senior political science major. Constance DeVereaux served as the faculty advisor for the Shenandoah University team.

During the two-day program, the VFIC also announced the creation of the Roger Mudd Ethics Bowl Fund, honoring the retired CBS, NBC and History Channel television journalist who, as a VFIC Trustee, was instrumental in creating the Ethics Bowl ten years ago.

The Eleventh Annual Wachovia Ethics Bowl will be held on the University of Richmond campus on February 14-15, 2010.

Founded in 1952, the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges is a nonprofit fund-raising and programmatic consortium 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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