



“I wanted to thank you for making the Ethics Bowl possible; it was a really great experience for me. ..I walked away feeling proud of what I accomplished.”

■ Student/competitor



Parr Center Director Jan Boxill with the winning team from East Chapel Hill High School.

High School Ethics Bowl is an academic competition involving teams of students who analyze and discuss the ethical considerations surrounding a fact pattern. It is modeled after the successful National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl with some relatively small, but nonetheless important adaptations for high school students.

On April 30, 2011, the Parr Center for Ethics with the UNC-Chapel Hill Department of Philosophy hosted the inaugural High School Ethics Bowl on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus. Six local high schools (three public and three private) sent teams to the event – a total of 45 students. The competition was judged and moderated by 16 professors, graduate students, undergraduate students, and members of the community. Several parents came to hear their children compete and speak about ethics. In the final, East Chapel Hill High School defeated the North Carolina School of Science at Mathematics.

In the months prior to the competition, the teams met regularly at their individual schools. In most cases, the teams opted to have assistance from a UNC-Chapel Hill Philosophy graduate student or visiting professor. During these sessions, the students would consider the ethical issues at stake, decide on a position and formulate an argument.

“...[My students] have even planned a philosophy club for school for next year, with the ethics bowl being the concluding event. So hats off to you guys – if the ultimate goal was to get students thinking more critically about ethical issues then you hit a home run. You might even have bred a couple of future philosophy undergrads...”

■ **Teacher/coach**



Teams have a chance to consult before making their presentation.

We aim to expand the program to more local schools in the fall of 2011, with a goal of at least 10 teams in the spring 2012 competition. Down the road, we hope to build similar programs across the state, so that we might host a state-wide championship competition in the near future. .

Additionally, the Parr Center is working with the School of Education in a cross-disciplinary partnership to train future teachers in the Ethics Bowl. During the fall semester, Education students will train with the UNC (Intercollegiate) Ethics Bowl team. In the spring semester, the students will participate in an honors course, and visit high schools with graduate students, expanding the base of high school teachers with a knowledge and understanding of ethics.

“...It was a wonderful experience for our students and they are eager to help to continue to build the program next year...When we started the experiment, I would not have anticipated what a great learning experience this would be. This was mostly because the students really got into it and started teaching and learning from each other. In the process, I saw kids stepping up in ways that I would not have fully anticipated...”

■ **Teacher/coach**



Carolina Friends discusses the ethical implications of pregnant athletes.