THIRD ANNUAL LONG ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL ETHICS BOWL TO TAKE PLACE AT MOLLOY COLLEGE ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2012.

East Northport, NY: The third annual Long Island High School Ethics Bowl will take place at Molloy College, Rockville Centre, NY, on Saturday, February 11, 2012. Ten schools from the metropolitan area (including Long Island, Manhattan, and New Jersey) will field 22 teams. The bowl begins at 8:00 a.m., with breakfast and introductions; the final round will begin at 2:30. First and second place prizes, as well as three honorable mentions, will be awarded.

The event, profiled last year in both The New York Times and Newsday, is sponsored by The Squire Family Foundation, founded by Long Island native Gary Squire, which advocates for more philosophy instruction at the pre-college level; and by Molloy College.

An Ethics Bowl is a collaborative yet competitive event, more nuanced than debate, in which two teams are presented with a series of wide-ranging ethical dilemmas and are asked to analyze them; they are then judged on the basis of their analyses. An exciting tournament, it’s also a way for students to gain valuable insight into ethical issues. Judges, representing many professions, are drawn from the community.

The ethical dilemmas used in a high school ethics bowl range from those particularly relevant to young students (questions about cheating, plagiarism, peer pressure, use and abuse of social media, the right to privacy, relationship responsibilities) to political and social issues (free speech, gun control, eco-tourism) and bioethical issues (cloning, parental consent).

According to Michael Steinmann, director of the Stevens Institute High School Ethics Bowl, the event promotes intellectual, personal, and social growth. It deepens students’ understanding of the complexity of ethical issues; increases their sense of personal responsibility; and promotes a model of rational, civil discourse so essential to functioning democracies.

The high school ethics bowl is modeled on the popular Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, now in its 16th year, sponsored by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics. The event was created by Dr. Robert Ladenson.
Dear [MEDIA OUTLET EDITOR, WRITER, PRODUCER, ETC],

Sponsored by the Philosophy Department and organized by yours truly, I'm writing to let you know about Thursday's 1st Annual East TN High School Ethics Bowl.

Two teams are slated to compete—one from Catholic High School and a second from Tennessee School for the Deaf. The bowl is an effort to spread the fruits of applied ethics into the local community, encourage the love of wisdom in pre-college students, and inspire the formation of high school philosophy clubs—eventually producing a more thoughtful citizenry.

The teams from TSD and Catholic will be presented with three ethical case studies (perhaps on drug use, abortion, pollution, end of life issues, etc), asked questions involving application of the four dominant ethical theories (Kantianism, Utilitarianism/Consequentialism, Virtue Ethics and Feminist Care Ethics), and judged by Professors John Hardwig (Philosophy Dept Head) and Glenn Graber (renowned bio ethicist) according to their accurate application of the theories, attention to moral relevancies, and how well they embody the philosophical pursuit of truth.

I hope that someone from your office will cover the event, a) to reward these wonderful students and coaches for their hard work, and b) to set an example for Knoxville on how to reason through controversial ethical issues with sobriety, care and impartiality.

Event: 1st Annual East TN High School Ethics Bowl  
Teams: Catholic High School, coached by Sister Anna Wray, O.P.; Tennessee School for the Deaf, coached by Emily Headrick and Dave Kyser  
Location: Shiloh Room, University Center, UT  
Date: Thursday, November 19th  
Time: 6:30-8:30 pm  
Cost: free  
Contact: Matt Deaton at 865-323-9773 or matt@mattdeaton.net

Sincerely,

Matt Deaton, MA  
Graduate Teaching Associate  
Philosophy Department  
University of Tennessee  
865-323-9773  
http://mattdeaton.net/