

Ethics Editorial

Vol. 2, Issue 1



2019-2020 Events

CHANGE

October 22, 2019

College of Behavioral, Social, & Health Sciences
'Should everyone be the same?' Essay Contest

November 5, 2019

College of Education E2: Ethics in Education Academic Integrity Panel

November 13, 2019

Ethical Implications of Sexual Harassment (partnership with Its On Us)

Questions? Contact Tim Switzer at tswitze@clemson.edu

Rutland Institute for Ethics

Nov. 1- Dec. 31, 2019

Rutland & Barton Scholarship Applications Open

clemson.edu/ethics/awards-scholarships

February 1, 2020

Video Ethics Case Competition

clemson.edu/ethics/programs/videocasecomp.html

March 23, 2020

James F. Barker Ethics in Action Award Ceremony honoring Coach Dabo Swinney

clemson.edu/ethics/awards-scholarships

March 25, 2020

Ethics Lunch & Learn: Civil Discourse

clemson.edu/ethics/programs/lunchnlearn.html

CHANGE Exchange

This year CHANGE has been working to continue engaging the Clemson student body in new ways around campus. Since August, we have received numerous applications and have accepted several new members. Due to the influx of interested students, we have taken the initiative to establish an executive board, which consists of two undergraduate and one graduate student per college. For the first time since CHANGE has been established, we currently have all seven colleges at Clemson represented on the committee!

We would like to recognize our newest members:

- Kendra Gordillo – College of Science – Genetics
- Wesley Grant – College of Engineering, Computing, and Applied Sciences – Industrial Engineering
- Zion Kaauwai – College of Engineering, Computing, and Applied Sciences – Industrial Engineering
- Lisa Manglass – College of Engineering, Computing, and Applied Sciences – Environmental Engineering (Ph.D.)
- Bria Martin – College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities – Language and International Business
- Fallon Scates- College of Business- Management
- Erica Wearing – College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Life Sciences – Agricultural Education

Rutland Institute for Ethics Contact Information:

Dr. William McCoy, Director

wmccoy@clemson.edu
864-656-6147

Rachel Dial, Assistant Director

dial2@clemson.edu
864-656-2473

Tim Switzer, Graduate Assistant

tswitze@clemson.edu
864-656-5379



Although the executive board is limited to two undergraduate and one graduate student per college, CHANGE has a rolling application deadline and is constantly seeking to accept new students to assist the executive board in promoting ethics in their respective disciplines.

To apply, please complete our online application by scanning the QR code!



Additionally, in order to stay up-to-date with the programs and events we plan each semester, follow us on Instagram @clemsonchange!

McCoy's Corner



By Dr. William
McCoy

Over the summer, the Rutland Institute for Ethics Advisory Board hosted a recruitment session specifically targeting former advisory board members. The session proved very fruitful, with three former advisory board members returning and one pledging support despite various personal challenges. All of them expressed great delight at the progress the institute has made in a relatively short amount of time, and more importantly, the re-aligned focus of the institute on integrating ethics education throughout the entire university.



Over six months prior to this session, I approached President Clements about helping us in our recruitment efforts. I believe my exact words were, "I don't ask for much, but your presence at this function is necessary to show how the university supports this institute." At that time, President Clements promised me that he would come. Well, not only did he attend, but he was accompanied by his Chief of Staff, the Provost, and the Vice-Provost. All of them, along with most of our present advisory board members, stayed for the entire function and individually reinforced the impact and vitality of the Rutland Institute for Ethics on Clemson's campus.



As a person who majored in English during my undergraduate years, seldom am I at a loss for words. Tuesday, July 9, 2019 was one of the few times I was verbally overwhelmed by the support provided by the leaders of our university. I walked away knowing that the future of the Rutland Institute for Ethics is brighter than ever, and if you are reading this, you can be assured of the same!

Meet the Assistant Director

Interview with new Assistant Director, Rachel Dial



What led you to Clemson University?

I was working at the Center for Ethics at Emory University and had been there for about seven years. I heard about the position of Assistant Director for the Rutland Institute from the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE), and it seemed like a great career opportunity for me. It was both a continuation and advancement of my old position at Emory. I was involved in more of an academic field at Emory, but I was always interested in programming, which is what I get to do with the Rutland Institute.

Why is ethics important in higher education?

I believe ethics is important in higher education because every student, regardless of major, goals in life, where they go after college, etc., is going to face ethical situations. It is our responsibility to prepare them to manage those situations when they face them. It is common to turn on the news and see a story about a company making an unethical decision, but what many people fail to remember is that behind those companies are people who made those unethical decisions. We don't ever want those people to be our students, so I want to prepare them to think ethically in both their personal and professional lives.

Why should students care about ethics?

Students should care about ethics because ethics WILL come up in their lives. They will have to face difficult situations, whether it is when they first begin working, see someone else making unethical decisions, or later in life when they are a supervisor. Students should realize that ethical decisions do not only influence them, but influence everyone around them. They need to have thought about ethical dilemmas before they face an ethical dilemma.

What do you hope to accomplish during your time at the Rutland Institute?

I want every student, even the non-philosophy majors, to have heard the term "ethics" and to understand what a decision involving ethics requires. Even if they don't come to an event of ours, or even if they never hear any of our speakers, I want the Rutland Institute to, in one fashion or another, have an impact on them while they are at Clemson.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is probably having the ability to be creative when coming up with new ways to get students involved and caring about ethics. I enjoy finding ways for people to think about ethics and how it affects them. With all of the speakers, events, etc. that we do, I love pulling from my creative side to figure out how we can most effectively reach students.

The STAR Model

The Rutland Institute's Faculty Advocating for the Commitment to Ethics (FACE) Committee has designed a new ethical decision-making model for Clemson University. The STAR Model is being slowly introduced this year and will be rolled out campus-wide in Fall 2020.

The College Admission Scandal Through the STAR Model



Stop- Recognize, Identify, and Develop

- Recognize the ethical problem- I want my child to go to the best school, but they probably do not meet the criteria. I have heard of some backdoor ways to make it very likely they will be admitted.
- Identify stakeholders- Myself, my child, colleges, other potential students
- Develop Solutions- 1) Pay a third party to get my child admitted into the school of my/our choice by cheating on standardized tests or false athletic recruiting, 2) Give a lot of money to the college so that administration feels compelled to let my child in, 3) Pay to get a traditional tutor to help them raise their grades and study for their standardized tests.



Test- For each potential solution, use at least three (of six possible) tests

*We are only testing one possible solution for example purposes.

1) Pay a third party-

a. Harm Test- Does this option do less harm than the alternatives?

No. This option takes away an admission place for a student that would have actually qualified to be admitted to the school. Many students work very hard to get into good colleges that can create better lives for themselves and their families and this decision might take away their opportunity. This could also be harmful to my child in the future if it is ever discovered that I/we cheated to gain admission.

b. Legality Test- Is this option legal?

No. While the legality of falsifying athletic recruiting is questionable, bribing and cheating on standardized tests are definitely not legal.

c. Respect Test- What would someone you respect or hold in high regard say if they learned of this option?

While many parents speak to the adage that they would do anything for their children, most also recognize that is not the truth and would be disappointed in someone they know taking advantage of a system like this.



Act- Using these tests, make a decision and act upon it.

The celebrities in this situation chose to get their students into universities through fraudulent actions and bribery. What would you have done in their shoes?



Reflect- Reflect on what you've learned through the process and the outcome of your decision and, if necessary, adapt and modify your decision for the most positive results moving forward.

As many of the parents involved in the College Admission Scandal now face legal recourse and several athletic coaches and administrators have been fired, their reflections on the events are probably not favorable and many would have made another decision. If they have a child not yet in college, they will likely make very different decisions. We also have not fully seen how this will affect the children that were involved, either knowingly or unknowingly.



Need advice on an ethical issue in your life?

Ask Dr. Dilemma

Submit questions to ethics@clemson.edu or go to clemson.edu/ethics and click on “Ask Dr. Dilemma”.

Select questions will be answered on the Rutland Institute for Ethics’ Facebook and Twitter (@clemsonethics). Anonymity will be respected.



CHANGE is an officially recognized student organization on campus. Among its activities, CHANGE is the creator of the Rutland Institute for Ethics bi-annual newsletter.

For more information about CHANGE, please contact Tim Switzer at tswitze@clemson.edu or 864-656-5379.



Scholarship Opportunities

Cherry Braswell Rutland Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is designed to recognize a student at Clemson University who exhibits ethical leadership through excellent decision-making skills. A minimum of one award will be presented annually in the amount of **\$1,000** to an eligible student who embodies the spirit of ethical leadership.

J.T. Barton, Jr. Memorial Ethics Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to a singular student and/or a student group on the Clemson University campus who programmatically uses the award to in part or fully advance good ethical decision-making skills. Three awards are provided annually in the amounts of **\$1,500, \$1,000, and \$500**.

Scholarship applications open November 1- December 31 at clemson.edu/ethics/awards-scholarships



Created and edited by: Dr. William McCoy, Rachel Dial, Ansley Cordero, Bradi Crockett, and Tim Switzer.