



the center for ethics

A STUDENT-WRITTEN NEWSLETTER

by Robert Marley, Ph.D.

This is the fourth issue of The University of Tampa's Center for Ethics newsletter. A guiding principle of the center is involving students in events, programs and operations. Accordingly, we asked students to take the lead in writing this semester's newsletter. Students not only responded, but filled the entire issue! We know you will enjoy their perspectives.



Robert Marley, Ph.D.
Associate Director,
Center for Ethics

UT STUDENTS WIN CFA TAMPA BAY SOCIETY ETHICS COMPETITION

by Meghan Knowles '18, Kelly Moore '18, Jessica Slain '18 and Anthony Viggiano '18



The winning team consisted of Jessica Slain, Meghan Knowles, faculty advisor Robert Marley, faculty advisor Marcus Ingram, Anthony Viggiano and Kelly Moore.

A student team from UT won first place in the 2018 Tampa Bay CFA Society Ethics Competition. Teams from both UT and USF competed against each other before a panel of five judges on March 27 at the University Club of Tampa Bay.

The four students from UT were invited by the Tampa Bay CFA Society to participate in the first annual Ethics Invitational. The Ethics Invitational was designed by investment professionals to help those entering financial professions by:

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UT Students Win CFA Tampa Bay Society Ethics Competition

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- Increasing the awareness of the ethical dilemmas they will face as investment professionals;
- Becoming familiar with the CFA Institute’s Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct, which are the ethical benchmarks for investment professionals around the globe, and;
- Practicing how to apply a decision-making framework to aid investment professionals in conducting business with integrity.

Congratulations, Spartans!



STUDENTS’ THOUGHTS ON EARNEST BROUGHTON’S PRESENTATION

Students of the Sykes College of Business that attended the Hot Seat featuring Earnest Broughton provided the following comments on the presentation:



Earnest Broughton
Senior Advisor,
Ethics & Compliance
Initiative

JW — “The Ethics Hot Seat was informative because it described a lot of the psychological and moral meanings behind ethical decisions.”

KV — “The presentation was insightful in terms of becoming a better person. The most interesting aspect was Broughton’s concept of knowing your future self. Coming to terms with who you are as a person, and what type of person you strive to be, really helps motivate you to form a path of self-awareness and reason in your professional career. I believe it is important as emerging accountants to become self-aware in order to foster an ethical base.”

CR — “Earnest brought a philosophical approach to how we deal with ethics and discussed concepts such as internal and external perspectives and how both situation and character impact ethical decision-making. My favorite discussion topic was meditation. Earnie stated that the more you meditate, the more you are able to brush off the aggravations of daily life. I plan on viewing some of the references that he used in the presentation to enhance my understanding of ethics from this unique perspective.”

AP — “Broughton asked many reflection questions of the audience...I tried to take the questions seriously and used the reflections to

realize that my personal ethics are not as enacted as they could be. This related to the concepts discussed in class of espoused and enacted ethics. His view of ethics was unique, and I am glad I attended.”

AM — “One saying that stood out to me was “culture eats strategy for breakfast”...If you do not fit the culture of the firm, thriving will be difficult.”

GL — “I enjoyed when he spoke about connecting with your future self and really digging deep to find the life that you want to live and be the ethical person you believe you should be. This really resonated with me.”

MH — “Listening to Broughton speak about connecting to your future self helped me to better understand how humans react on the spot and how we try to redeem ourselves and come to terms with our actions if they did not represent our values.”

AD — “If we do not have a real understanding in what we believe, then we can sway from our beliefs.”

MC — “The idea of our decisions affecting three networks of people outside our own network is something I never knew or thought of before. It really painted a bigger picture for me. There are implications to our actions and sometimes the implications are bigger than we think.”

OG — “He mentioned that studies demonstrate your brain patterns sync with those around you.

I previously took comfort in the thought that we are in control of our own behavior. Hearing this rips the band-aid of comfort off and makes me want to put serious effort into surrounding myself with moral people. Another takeaway from his speech was mindfulness. Broughton inspired me to put more effort into practicing mindfulness. I think if I am able to do this, I will be less susceptible to negative influences and better equipped to stand firm in my ethical convictions.”

SAVE THE DATE – UPCOMING CENTER EVENTS

Fall Ethics Hot Seat

Oct. 10, 2018

6 – 7:15 p.m.

Vaughn Center Crescent Club,
9th Floor

The University of Tampa

Tampa Bay Ethics Award

Oct. 12, 2018

7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Vaughn Center Crescent Club,
9th Floor

The University of Tampa

TONY MENENDEZ SPEAKS ON ETHICAL COURAGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA'S CENTER FOR ETHICS HOT SEAT EVENT

by Michael Isabella '18

Anthony Menendez, a former CPA for Halliburton, spoke about the importance of ethics in business at a recent event about business ethics.

"It is really nice when we get to bring in speakers like this," said Jessica Luce, staff assistant for the Sykes College of Business. "It is neat because it makes you to think."

Menendez, a known whistleblower, informed about 200 students on his past experiences and moral difficulties when it came to illegal and non-ethical activities during his employment at Halliburton.

He informed the audience about the history of his case and how this ethical dilemma impacted his life and career to this day. Menendez presented a series of statistics in his speech that represented his minute chance of winning, and explained how people in power were unwilling to act ethically.

"Water cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence," said Menendez. "I didn't have any power. I didn't have any money. I was scared for my life, but I wasn't going to give up until I made a difference."

The decision to follow his moral compass helped put an end to a series of accounting scandals and re-established the integrity of the profession. This case went on for nine



Anthony Menendez
Litigation Consultant,
Financial Fraud
Examiner LLC

years as Menendez continuously presented evidence supporting his claims while being rejected by investigating committees.

The purpose for his speech was to shed light on a controversial topic and to encourage doing what is right even when it is difficult. He also provided current knowledge about business scandals and the battle with moral/ethical decisions in organizations.

Menendez expressed his appreciation for being able to speak to "upcoming professionals and future leaders," in hopes that they would learn something beneficial.



Hot Seat speaker, Anthony Menendez, shares his experiences as a whistleblower.

"I actually like coming to these events," said Josh Dion, a junior majoring in marketing. "It allows me to gain valuable insight and make ethical decisions for my future career in business."

Students applauded Menendez for the time he spent to enlighten them about his life and past experiences in corporate America.

Anthony Menendez is currently working as a forensic accounting litigation consultant, writer and speaker. He travels to universities to spread awareness of ethical practices and morally conscious decisions in regards to financial reporting. He describes his prior experiences with the purpose to protect others from involvement in morally conflicting business situations.



Tony Menendez stands alongside Dr. Robert Marley, Dr. Melissa Walters and students of The University Tampa.

STUDENT'S REFLECTION ON ANTHONY MENENDEZ'S PRESENTATION

by Hannah Hines '19

I was delighted that Anthony "Tony" Menendez took the initiative to speak out, to be a brave whistle blower and to be honest like any morally good upstanding person. Society needs people like him, maybe not like in a fairytale or even a Superman, but everyday heroes who are honest and who are doing the right thing. However, listening to his journey of what he went through with his old company and his circumstances, I was disappointed. In the business world, companies and the people that run them are prone to make mistakes, including unethical ones. History has shown it, and business students are being taught it. Thus, that is to be expected.



Hannah Hines

The thing that was surprisingly disappointing was how long it took Menendez to receive justice and to recognize what he was saying was true. The company that Menendez whistle-blew had a lot of stakeholders that were affected by this company's unethical decisions. Menendez went through several years with pressure to receive justice for being honest. It should not have taken that long.

I was delighted that Menendez had the confidence to speak out, but I was disappointed that those involved were supposed to help keep this moving along with legitimate investigations and a thorough understanding. This would have needed to be handled by those

not just seeking their own interests, but who have a vested interest in doing the honest thing. This goes for all of the co-workers, leaders, auditors, investigators, lawyers and judges and anyone else that could have played a role in the outcome of this situation. I am so glad Menendez persisted because he is a trailblazer for not just future whistle blowers, but for any of us within and without the business world who actually want to make a positive difference and continue to do the honest and just thing.

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to make a difference,
we're ready to help

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Thomas A Meachum, CFP®
Senior Vice President
Wealth Management Advisor
727.462.2345

Merrill Lynch
601 Cleveland Street
Suite 900
Clearwater, FL 33755
727.462.2345

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**SYKES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
CENTER FOR ETHICS**

(813) 258-7415 • ethics@ut.edu