

Ethics Editorial

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From the Founding Father Interview of the Rutland Institute for Ethics founder, Bob Rutland



Bob Rutland

BIOGRAPHY:

Robert J. Rutland founded the Rutland Institute for Ethics in 2001. Before founding the institute, Rutland was the chairman of Allied Holdings, a company committed to treating people with respect. Rutland has stated, "The purpose of the Institute for Ethics is to encourage discussion on campus, in businesses and in the community about how ethical decision-making can be the basis of both personal and professional success." Rutland is currently the director of Fidelity National Bank in Decatur, Georgia, and Georgians for Better Transportation. He was named the 1997 Executive of the Year by Georgia Securities and was a 2000 finalist for the Entrepreneur of the Year for the Southeast. Bradi Crockett had the pleasure of interviewing Rutland to gain an understanding of his perspective regarding the founding of the Rutland Institute for Ethics.

INTERVIEW:

Rutland expressed he went into business after his time at Clemson; specifically, he was involved in recruiting prospective employees for management. He realized

By: Bradi Crockett
(Elementary Education – College of Education)

many of the prospective employees had great skills yet were lacking in values and ethics. This led to the creation of the Rutland Institute for Ethics. Rutland hoped to create an institute that would encourage young people to acquire a skillset in ethics that influenced all curriculums. Rutland stated his biggest hardships in creating the Rutland Institute for Ethics were the financial burden and getting administration on board. Luckily, the president of Clemson University was very supportive of the institute and helped advance the vision. After the creation of the institute, Rutland noticed there was a need for education regarding ethics, and he saw a greater awareness on campus regarding ethics. He also noticed, through creating the institute, there were more venues to talk about ethical decision-making, which led to a greater communication of ethics around South Carolina. One of the biggest accomplishments Rutland has seen the institute produce is its prominent standing within Clemson University, specifically within the provost office. Rutland had incredible insight into the background and overall goals of the Rutland Institute for Ethics, and it was an honor to interview him.



UPCOMING EVENTS

We need judges! **First Annual High School Ethics Case Competition** - The Rutland Institute for Ethics is hosting our First Annual High School Ethics Case Competition on **Friday, March 1, at the Watt Center**. If you are interested in judging or have questions regarding the competition, please email Tim Switzer, the graduate assistant for the Rutland Institute for Ethics, at tswitze@clemson.edu.

To Catch a Cheater - On **Tuesday, March 5, from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in the Student Center Chambers of the Edgar Brown Union**, the Rutland Institute for Ethics is hosting a faculty-student Ethics Lunch n' Learn Discussion forum. This will be hosted in collaboration with the Office of Academic Integrity, and the topic is cheating. Everyone is invited!

Rutland Institute for Ethics Contact Information:

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McCoy's Corner



Dr. William McCoy

BIOGRAPHY:

Dr. William McCoy joined the Clemson University family as the director of the Rutland Institute for Ethics on March 1, 2018. Previously, Dr. McCoy was the Director of Ethics Education and Diversity Initiatives for the College of Business at Northern Illinois University (NIU) in DeKalb, Illinois. He has a Bachelor's degree in English (NIU), a Master's degree in Continuing and Vocational Education (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and a Doctoral degree in Educational Administration (Edgewood College). Dr. McCoy has a long history of serving in roles designed to help others. In the nonprofit sector, he served as the Vice President of the Center for Sight and Hearing in Rockford, Illinois, an organization designed to assist hearing- and/or vision-impaired individuals in the Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin regions. In the corporate sector, he served as the Manager of Management Development and Corporate Quality for Wisconsin Physicians Service, one of the largest Medicare Part B providers in the nation. Dr. McCoy was also the first Managing Director for INROADS Oklahoma, an organization that develops and trains minority talent in corporate and community leadership. Under Dr. McCoy, the institute will push ethical decision-making to the forefront of Clemson Tiger education, engaging faculty, students and staff members across all disciplines.

MCCOY'S CORNER:

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter developed, produced and edited by the CHANGE student organization at Clemson University. I am proud of this unique group of students who are dedicated to spreading the word about ethics education and ethical decision-making. I look forward to the impact this publication will have on the Clemson community.

Since joining the Clemson family in March, I am overjoyed to be a part of such an excellent higher education organization. Success is our middle name — whether it's on the football field or in the classroom. It is my hope we can affect change on this campus in a way never before experienced. Our goal is to make every student aware of dilemmas and, more importantly, a way to solve those ethical dilemmas in a methodical and formulated way.

We strive to fulfill Clemson's mission statement to help students make healthy and ethical decisions, which in turn will produce well-rounded and ethical graduates. Also, continue to look for the bi-annual publication of this newsletter towards the end of each semester.

CHANGE Exchange

Serving to promote ethical education from a student perspective



Rami Major (Genetics – College of Sciences)

What do questions of genetic engineering, job hiring and patient consent have in common? They all fall under the larger umbrella of ethical decision-making. Questions of ethics are pertinent in one's personal life and professional life, impacting individuals in a variety of ways.

There has been a recent push to incorporate the teaching of ethical decision-making throughout institutes of higher learning. Therefore, the Rutland Institute for Ethics' student ethics committee, **Creating Habits and Norms Guiding Ethical Decisions (CHANGE)**, was recently established here at Clemson University. CHANGE will serve to create ethical programming at both the university-wide and college-specific levels, bringing in speakers and hosting activities that focus on exposing students to real-life applications of ethical decision-making. In addition to programming initiatives, CHANGE will assist in hosting a high school ethics case competition in the spring; publish a biannual newsletter highlighting various aspects of the Rutland Institute for Ethics; serve as the student voice to the institute, advisory board and faculty; and assist in promoting Annual Ethics Day. It is CHANGE's goal to consist of two undergraduate representatives and one graduate representative from each of the seven colleges at Clemson University. Applications for new members will be accepted in the beginning of the spring semester. Please reach out to Tim Switzer (tswitze@clemson.edu) if you would like more information regarding CHANGE, are interested in joining, or have any questions.



Wareham's Lasting Impact

Interview of John Wareham, Assistant Director for the Rutland Institute for Ethics

By: Katerina Villanueva
(Psychology – College of Behavioral, Social, and Health Sciences)
and Tim Switzer
(Clinical Mental Health Counseling – College of Education)



John Wareham

BIOGRAPHY:

John Wareham joined Clemson University in 2015 from the University of California where he served as deputy director of the Lick Observatory and in management roles in the University of California Los Angeles and University of California San Francisco Schools of Medicine. He received his Bachelor of Science in Management from the University of Redlands and has earned Project Management Professional (PMP) and Six Sigma Black Belt credentials. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Wareham conducts research, leads discussions, and lectures on ethics and confirmation bias.



What is your favorite memory from working at the institute?

I really enjoy being around the students and working in such an energetic environment that values school spirit. I attended a small university and later worked on an isolated mountain top, so I enjoy being able to interact with students on a daily basis and live Clemson's ultimate college experience vicariously through working at the Rutland Institute.

What are some of the benefits you have seen at Clemson from the Rutland Institute being established?

There have always been benefits that came with the establishment of the institute, but what I like about Dr. McCoy's current vision is that it's campus-centric; it allows for students to really engage in thinking about the ethical decisions and issues they encounter every day. The Rutland Institute helps students identify those decisions and issues and assists them in making those choices.

How did you lead and keep the institute intact when there was no official director?

I think having the knowledge of knowing how important the institute is and recognizing the need for students to be able to respond to ethical dilemmas in their life really helped me. It was also very beneficial for me to have traveled to other parts of the world; seen and experienced other cultures; and gained a broader, more global perspective on issues. I see college as an opportunity for students to learn HOW to think rather than WHAT to think.

How have you been encouraged through working at the institute?

Everything goes back to the students. I am encouraged to be around students that give me faith in our future. It's so easy to see anger and polarization when you are off campus, but when you're here on the Clemson campus, you're surrounded by what we strive to be — an oasis of free thought and an exchange of ideas.

What is one of your greatest accomplishments during your career here at Clemson?

I'm not sure if I would classify it necessarily as an accomplishment, but I am really proud to have nominated former Charleston Mayor Joe Riley as the 2018 recipient of the James F. Barker Ethics in Action Award. I was really inspired by the work he did and how he was able to transcend party lines and be an advocate for everyone regardless of their race, gender, socioeconomic status, etc. I am also proud to have helped build a program partnership between the College of Charleston's Riley Center for Livable Communities and Clemson University's Master of Resilient in Urban Design.

You are retiring in January, so what would you like people to think of when they remember you and your work at the institute and at Clemson?

I would hope future staff, faculty, and students would appreciate the role I played in the influence of the institute to include all of South Carolina, especially Charleston. Our core mission is to help graduate students who have a firm understanding and dedication to ethics. It is a noble mission.



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 in Dr. Dilemma’s monthly column in *The Tiger* newspaper.

Anonymity will be respected.

CHANGE - Creating Habits And Norms Guiding Ethical Decisions



CLEMSON® UNIVERSITY

CHANGE

CREATING HABITS AND NORMS GUIDING ETHICAL DECISIONS

CHANGE is a newly-formed student ethics group in the process of becoming 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 regarding CHANGE, please contact Tim Switzer at tswitze@clemson.edu or (864) 656-5379.