



## Press Release

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### **IBE/EBEN-UK Student Essay Competition in Business Ethics**

***“It is vital that we equip our employees of the future with the tools to deal with the ethical dilemmas of business life,”  
says Philippa Foster Back***

In presenting the prizes for the annual **IBE/EBEN-UK Student Essay Competition in Business Ethics**, Philippa Foster Back, Director of the Institute of Business Ethics outlined the motivation for the IBE’s joint sponsoring of the award. The essay competition encourages student interest in the topic and the teaching of business ethics to those who will form the business community of the future.

#### **Essay Competition**

The winner of the £500 postgraduate prize was Robert Bailes from the University of Nottingham for his essay on facilitation payments. The undergraduate prize of £500 was awarded to a group of students from Glasgow University; Samantha Byrne, Paul Davey, Kirsti McFarlane, John O’Brien, Craig Templeton, for their essay, *Patent Rights or Patent Wrongs? The Case of Patent Rights on AIDS Drugs*.

Philippa Foster Back urged academic institutions to take business ethics seriously in the curriculum:

*“With business behaviour under scrutiny, and trust in business at a low, it is vital that we equip our employees of the future with the tools to deal with the ethical dilemmas of business life. We look to higher education to deliver*



*graduates to us who have a degree of ethical acumen as well as business acumen."*

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## Notes for editors:

### About the IBE

The **Institute of Business Ethics** was established in 1986 to encourage high standards of corporate and business behaviour and the sharing of best practice.

We enable companies to:

- Build relationships of trust with their customers, employees, suppliers, owners and the community.
- Exchange and discuss experiences on issues relating to the conduct of business
- Obtain help and advice on business ethics matters relating to their organisation
- Provide training in understanding and solving business ethics dilemmas.

Details of publications are available from [www.ibe.org.uk](http://www.ibe.org.uk). 020 7798 6040

The IBE, together with EBEN-UK, runs a teaching business ethics website. [Teaching Business Ethics](http://www.ibe.org.uk/teaching/home.html) introduces readers to the subject of business ethics and how it is taught. It contains details about teaching techniques, methods and issues. The web site also includes sections on teaching materials and bibliographies, as well as links to other relevant web sites.

[www.ibe.org.uk/teaching/home.html](http://www.ibe.org.uk/teaching/home.html)

### About EBEN-UK

EBEN-UK is the leading academic body in the UK, affiliated to the European Business Ethics Network and with a wide membership from across the Universities in the UK. Its members teach business ethics within Business Schools and publish text books and scholarly articles on the subject.

[www.ebenuk.org](http://www.ebenuk.org)



## About the winning entries:

The winning entries will be submitted for publication in *Business Ethics: A European Review*.

### **Undergraduate Winner**

#### ***Patent Rights or Patent Wrongs? The Case of Patent Rights on AIDS Drugs***

Samantha Byrne, Paul Davey, Kirsti McFarlane, John O'Brien, Craig Templeton  
Department of Accounting & Finance, University of Glasgow

With 36 million people world-wide affected by HIV, and the majority in developing countries unable to afford the high costs of branded drugs, there arises an ethical dilemma surrounding patent rights on AIDS drugs. This essay explores whether patents should be respected or ignored so that low-cost generic drugs can be distributed to AIDS victims in developing countries? Greater involvement from the wider international community to facilitate an increased supply of low-cost AIDS drugs to developing countries should be encouraged whilst at the same time protecting patent rights. This approach would encourage pharmaceutical companies to invest in R&D for AIDS drugs in the future.

### **Postgraduate Winner**

#### ***Distinguishing bribes and 'facilitating payments' in the context of culture and corruption issues facing multinational companies operating in foreign countries***

Robert Bailes, MA in CSR, University of Nottingham

This paper examines the issues behind facilitation payments: whether they are a result of culture or a symptom of institutionalised corruption. Despite the general consensus concerning the negative consequences of corruption for countries and business, the paper argues that little has been achieved in attempting to curb it. Using the example of BP in Angola, some of the practical issues facing MNCs are examined, highlighting the complexity of this issue. However, with initiatives such as the Publish What You Pay campaign, greater transparency and accountability is encouraged, challenging the preconception that facilitation payments are cultural. The author concludes that just because corruption is routine, does not make it right.