

# Ethics conversation addresses life choices

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In celebration of Ethics Week, the Rev. Ted Dotts was invited by the Honors College to speak Tuesday as part of an event sponsored by Eta Omicron Nu (HON).

Dotts' lecture was entitled "Conversations and Ethics/Conversations About Ethics, an Exploration" and was comprised of presuppositions and definitions among other items.

Christina Jones, a senior advertising major from Austin and president of HON, said Dotts was chosen to speak at the event because of his connection to Gary Elbow, associate dean of the Honors College.

She said she did not know what Dotts was going to be addressing specifically before the event.

"I guess walking into the room I wasn't sure what to expect," she said.

Because Dotts is a reverend, Jones said she thought he would discuss more issues concerning the Bible, but she was pleased with the lecture.

The section Jones said she liked best was the presuppositions he presented, especially the last one which said "being loved is enticement, to deny that any experience or practice is too inferior for worth, to improve habits by subverting less than loving habits, to recognize that to be is to be with."

Janet Veal, the merit scholarship coordinator for Texas Tech and an Honors College adviser, said this is the first time HON, whom she is a sponsor for, has sponsored an event specifically dealing with ethics.

"This was a really good way to get involved in Ethics Week for the Honors College and HON," she said.

Veal has heard Dotts speak in the past, and said she believes his lecture was relevant.

"I think that more and more we see that students are in need of ethical decision," she said. "They need these lessons in life and in the workplace."

Dotts' background in the medical field, as well as in the ministry, were driving forces behind the specific topics he addressed during the lecture.

He spoke about three habits connected to learning: lecture, coaching and conversation, of which conversation is the most important.

"If you can stay in a conversation long enough with a person or a group, perhaps what you need to do or know emerges," he said.

Beyond conversations and learning, discovering the truth is something Dotts stressed as being important.

"To do ethics is to seek to discover the truth," he said. "And the truth as I'm defining it at this moment is what is worth believing whether I like it or not."

Specifically when it comes to the medical field, Dotts said restraint can be more important than actions depending on the situation.

"It may require a certain detachment from within," he said. "Another part of the ethic is you have to ignore a lot of the immediate responses that are within. Part of an ethic is being aware of our own defense systems and being weary of them."

Veal said she felt Dotts' lecture was effective and fulfilled his goal.

"It certainly gave very good lessons on ethical issues," she said. "I think a lot about ethics is slowing down long enough to listen."