DEAN DAVID F. LEVI calls Peter Kahn ’76 and John Yates ’81 “terrific exemplars of the Duke Law ideal of the citizen lawyer.” Both, he points out, are at the top of their games professionally, Kahn as an accomplished litigator at Williams & Connolly in Washington, D.C., and Yates as head of the technology practice at Morris, Manning & Martin in Atlanta.

The two Board of Visitors members have each recently made — with their wives Debbie Kahn and Ellen Yates T’79, respectively — leadership gifts to further excellence, ambition, and innovation in the Law School’s teaching and scholarly initiatives. The gifts provide critical funds for immediate needs and offer a valuable show of support for Duke Law’s strategic goals.

Continued on page 4
The Law Alumni Association: Building on a rich tradition

Since my first day of law school in 1977, when Professor David Lange introduced me to my classmate and future husband, Eric Holshouser, the Duke Law family has enriched my life, personally and professionally, through friendships, intellectual engagement, professional support, and great times at reunions, meetings on campus and gatherings around the country. I have had the privilege of serving on the Law Alumni Association Board of Directors in the ’80s, ’90s, and the ’00s. As the current president, I am overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of our board, the broader Law School community, and our global alumni network, all of whom are actively engaged in supporting Duke Law students and fellow alumni.

The Duke Law Alumni Association Board strives to provide leadership and support to the Law School alumni, and its current and future students, through the development of mutually beneficial relationships. Our volunteers have stepped up in this difficult economy to serve as mentors to students and graduates, offering them help with their job searches. In collaboration with the Career Center, they have served on educational panels and participated in student workshops addressing various aspects of professional development. We have clubs and regional partners around the world where our volunteers have helped plan professional programs and social activities. Our volunteers have worked on communication initiatives such as the new website design, lifetime e-mail addresses, and a developing program to connect affinity and practice-area groups.

Recently, we restructured our board and added the New Lawyers Division of recent graduates led by Amy Yeung ’06 and, now, Sarah Hawkins ’08. This energetic group has provided valuable input on our committees and has been instrumental in proposing and implementing creative new programs to help students and alumni with career planning. Many of our accomplishments would not have been possible without them.

These types of volunteer efforts have made our school and our community what it is today. On behalf of all alumni, I extend heartfelt thanks to our past and current volunteer leaders, to the Law School faculty and staff, and to all of our alumni volunteers for contributing to this vibrant, global community, as well as to Anna Walker, Kate Buchanan, and the Alumni and Development Office for guiding our board and helping us strengthen our alumni network. I am proud to be part of such a wonderful tradition of volunteerism.

Please join us by sharing your time and expertise with your alma mater. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, peruse the website (www.law.duke.edu/alumni), or contact Anna Walker (walker@law.duke.edu) or any member of our board (www.law.duke.edu/alumni/connected/boards/laa). I look forward to many more years of friendships with the great people I have met and hope to meet through Duke Law.

Sincerely,

Lori Terens Holshouser ’80
President, Duke Law Alumni Association Board of Directors

Lori is a former litigator in Jacksonville, Florida, where she lives with her husband, Eric Holshouser ’80 and sons, Eric Jr. and Andrew.

Thank you for service on the LAA executive board:
» President Lori Terens Holshouser ’80
» Vice President John DeGroote ’90
» Secretary David Esquivel ’97
» Committee and Division Chairs Linda Martin ’96, Rick Robinson ’82, John Methfessel ’86, Amy Yeung ’06, and Sarah Hawkins ’08

Giving Roundup

Thank You!

» The Ford Foundation for providing a $150,000 grant to the Aids Legal Project.
» Glen Payne ’72 for supporting Duke Law through a deferred gift.
» Lindsey Stewart, parent of Heather Stewart ’02, for supporting students with a scholarship.

» Gary and Bonnie Sellers, parents of Britton Sellers ’09, for establishing an endowment fund that will provide support for the Office of Admissions.
» Xiaoming Li ’90 for his generous support of the Judy Horowitz LLM Scholarship. (See Page 5.)
» Stuart Feiner ’74 for additional support to the Stuart F. Feiner Scholarship.
COLIN BROWN ’74, longtime Duke Law supporter and life member of the Board of Visitors, has contributed matching funds of up to $100,000 to the Annual Fund to establish the Colin Brown Young Alumni Challenge. The challenge encourages alumni from the Classes of 2002 to 2011 to support the Law School at any level and provides a dollar-for-dollar match for new gifts or multi-year pledges of up to $1,000 to any Law School fund.

“By providing this match, I hope that recent graduates realize that their annual participation is important to the future of Duke Law,” said Brown, president and CEO of JM Family Enterprises. “Alumni support is the life blood for the school’s well-being. When alumni give back, they make possible the continuation and improvement of those things which have inspired them and in which they believe the most.

“My first gift to Duke was $25 in my first year after graduation, and it has been important to me to continue to give each year. Supporting the Law School is the most effective way to maintain a connection to it while having a direct impact on its future.”

Duke Law’s Annual Fund is designed to be the most responsive and versatile stream of funding available to the Law School, Coates added. Gifts to the Annual Fund ensure stability for existing programs in the face of unforeseen expenses, while allowing the dean to create new initiatives that support the changing needs of the school’s faculty, students, and staff in a timely and effective manner.

“I encourage all young Duke alums to take advantage of Colin’s incredible gift, to give to the Annual Fund, and to help us reach our goal of 20 percent participation for all young alumni at Duke Law.”

— Sarah Hawkins ’08, chair of the Law Alumni Association’s New Lawyers Division

Participation is the focus for young alumni giving, said Jeff Coates, associate dean for alumni and development. “Over 30 percent of the Law School’s alumni body graduated in the past 10 years, which is why it’s critical that this generation of alumni give back in order for Duke to retain its prominent reputation as an elite law school,” he said. “Consistent support, year after year, demonstrates to others that those people who are closest to the Law School value its contribution to their lives, trust in its leadership, and believe in its future.”

“More than anything, participation is critical to the Annual Fund’s success,” added Hawkins, an associate at Kirkland & Ellis in Washington, D.C. “Giving back in any amount makes a big difference to Duke Law, its faculty, and its students. And this year, Colin Brown has given young alumni a special reason to give — taking advantage of his generous matching grant! We are grateful for Colin and the example he provides for all young Duke Law alumni.”

Fact:

Every $2,500 gift to the Annual Fund is the equivalent of $50,000 of endowment funds.
“It would be easy for both Peter and John to do nothing else than attend to their very demanding law practices,” said Levi. “But these are people who give back to so many organizations, including and perhaps primarily, to Duke. They care about our faculty and our students, they help me make good decisions about programs that connect to the profession, and they reach deeply into their pockets to help us fulfill our dreams and ambitions.

“Just as it’s true that you can’t be a leading school without a lot of faculty who are leaders in their particular fields, we cannot be a leading institution without the support of the leadership of our alumni community,” said Levi. “And these are two great examples of such leadership.”

Both the Peter & Debbie Kahn Strategic Priorities Fund and the John & Ellen Yates Strategic Priorities Fund were established with leadership-level, multi-year pledges. The funds are being used in the year they are donated to allow Levi to be proactive in financing opportunities, initiatives, and strategic priorities at Duke Law. In addition to these cash pledges, each couple has included a major bequest to Duke Law in their estate plans; the Kahns’ bequest will add support to the Kahn Family Scholarship Fund, established in 2006.

“We owe a debt of gratitude to the Kahns and Yates for these commitments, which place them in a small group of alumni who have supported the school at this level,” said Jeff Coates, associate dean for alumni and development.

“Ellen and I enjoyed our Duke education and have come to value the ever-increasing prominence of a Duke diploma. We wanted to continue supporting the school and, in particular, innovative programs the dean has initiated.” — John Yates ’81

“Any good manager or leader needs to have the ability to make strategic moves in short order,” said Kahn, a former BOV chair, of establishing the Kahn Strategic Priorities Fund. “If you’re not prepared to act quickly when an opportunity arises — when faculty become available or programming needs seed money — you may lose it. “Because we have great confidence in David and share his vision for the Law School, we wanted to give him the ability, to the extent we can, to make those strategic moves.” A Duke University trustee, Kahn noted that Debbie became “a loyal Duke fan in every way” after she watched the Blue Devils come back from a substantial half-time deficit and win their 2001 NCAA Final Four game against her alma mater, the University of Maryland.

“And she has, of course, seen what the Law School has meant to me and my career, to the education of our daughter Alyssa [T’09, L’12], and the enjoyment I get from my involvement at the Law School and the University,” he said. “Debbie is 110 percent behind all of that and she is a true partner in these gifts.”

Yates, whose volunteer commitments include leadership of Atlanta’s host committee for the 2013 NCAA Basketball Final Four and service as a Furman University trustee, also cited Levi’s stewardship as a factor in establishing the Yates Strategic Priorities Fund when he and Ellen were contemplating a gift to the Law School.

“Ellen and I enjoyed our Duke education and have come to value the ever-increasing prominence of a Duke diploma. We wanted to continue supporting the school and, in particular, innovative programs the dean has initiated,” said Yates, who heads the BOV Development Committee and has a special interest in Duke’s Law and Entrepreneurship program.

“We were impressed with what Duke had done since my 1981 graduation — the development of clinics, recruiting world-class faculty, and focusing on students and scholarships. And we were most impressed by Dean Levi and the direction he was taking the school. To have someone of his reputation become dean at a major law school, to us, was remarkable.

“We had such confidence in the dean and support for his vision that we were very pleased to seek his guidance on how
The Judy Horowitz LLM Scholarship honors architect of Duke's international programs

WHEN Judy Horowitz began working with Duke Law School’s international programs in 1981, only a handful of international lawyers were enrolled as LLM and SJD students, and exchange relationships, summer institutes, and international alumni associations simply did not exist.

Horowitz has worked closely with four consecutive deans of Duke Law School to build a top-notch International Studies program at Duke Law. In the current academic year, 96 attorneys are enrolled in the LLM program; 15 students are in the SJD program; Duke Law has exchange agreements with 21 foreign universities; the Asia-America Institute in Transnational Law and the Duke-Geneva Institute in Transnational Law are thriving, as is the Durham-based Summer Institute on Law, Language and Culture; and alumni have organized clubs all over the world.

Duke Law School’s international alumni now number more than 1,200 and are engaged in every manner of legal endeavor. They are partners in major law firms, leading in-house legal departments, and are prominent judges, prosecutors, public interest lawyers, and government officials. Without exception, all were affected by Horowitz during their Duke education, and most count their year at Duke as being transformative.

To honor Horowitz’s pivotal role in transforming Duke Law into an international institution, Duke Law has created the Judy Horowitz LLM Scholarship Fund, launched with a leadership gift from Xiaoming Li ’90, partner and head of the China practice at White & Case in Beijing and a member of the Board of Visitors. Once fully endowed, it will provide a full scholarship each year to a deserv- ing international scholar and create a permanent tribute to the architect of much of the Law School’s international success.

“This scholarship is our way of celebrating Judy’s achievement, and nothing could be more meaningful for her than a scholarship in her name to assist deserving students to come to the very programs that she did so much to create.” — Dean David F. Levi

“One of the remarkable features of Duke Law School is how international it is, and no one has done more to further its international presence and reputation than Judy Horowitz,” said Dean David F. Levi. “The LLM program that Duke has is a result of her hard work. The program is notable, in large part, because the LLM students are so well integrated into the life of the Law School and sit side by side with JD students in their classes. Judy — and now Jennifer Maher — work very hard to ensure that our foreign students will be welcomed into the intellectual community and student life of Duke Law School.

“This scholarship is our way of celebrating Judy’s achievement, and nothing could be more meaningful for her than a scholarship in her name to assist deserving students to come to the very programs that she did so much to create,” Levi said. ¶

To contribute to the Judy Horowitz LLM Scholarship Fund, contact the Alumni and Development Office at (919) 613-7017 or alumni_office@law.duke.edu.

The Judy Horowitz LLM Scholarship honors architect of Duke’s international programs

Donald and Judy Horowitz with Xiaoming Li ’90, center

the gift could best further the Duke Law School mission.”

Kahn and Yates hope their inclusion of Duke Law in their estate plans will motivate others to follow suit.

“If enough of us make bequests, it effectively becomes an annuity and, as such, the annual cash flow to the Law School will become significant because, unfortunately, we’re all going to die sometime,” said Kahn. “Practicing lawyers only have their time to sell. They may not have the immediate liquidity that those in business may have to make a major current gift. But they can accumulate wealth, and it’s certainly easy for alumni to write the Law School into their wills.

“We hope the estate-planning component sends a positive message to others,” said Yates. “It underscores to our family the importance that Duke has played in our life and legal career. And at the Law School we are pleased to be supportive and provide sustainability for the center for entrepreneurship and the many clinics to allow them to become self-sustaining.

“We hope other alumni will be encouraged to consider their ability, at a later time in life when they may be more comfortable, to give back to the Law School that has had a positive impact on their lives,” he said.

“I think it’s so important that we give back and in a sense ‘pay ahead’ for the next generation with the hope that they will do the same going forward,” said Kahn. “With this gift Debbie and I have reached. It certainly wasn’t easy,” he added, “but I’m hopeful that others also will reach. There’s just a tremendous feeling you get when you’ve done something good for an institution you strongly believe in and for those who will benefit from it in the future.” ¶
SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Supporting students

MORE THAN 200 scholarship and fellowship benefactors, recipients, and faculty gathered for lunch in Star Commons on Oct. 21 to honor what Dean David F. Levi called “the commitment of one generation of Duke Law graduates to another.” Scholarships and fellowships at Duke Law support both student tuition and summer public interest work.

“Any great institution, whether of learning or for other purposes, is a compact among the generations over time,” said Levi in his welcoming remarks at the 2011 Scholarship Luncheon. “Each generation is a trustee of a legacy, and each generation attempts to do better for those who will come later. It does not have to be this way. It is not a law of nature that we be caretakers, creators, and conservators. This is the mystery and power of communal life, of altruism, and of philanthropy.

“To our donors, I say that your support for student scholarships is evidence of both the extraordinary generosity that characterizes our alumni community and your abiding faith and hope in the future of our profession. Thank you for your vision and your generosity.”

Happy Perkins ‘80 told the assembled group that his motivation for establishing the Happy R. and Cheri W. Perkins Scholarship, along with his wife, is simple: He received scholarship funds to attend Duke Law and the experience changed his life. “I would never have been at Duke apart from that,” said Perkins, a Board of Visitors member. He recalled being steered to Duke by a University of Kentucky pre-law adviser, who informed him of its ‘need-blind’ admission policy.

“At Duke people looked out for me and for my classmates in ways that are unusual,” he said. “And it opened doors for me that would not otherwise have opened.” Among those doors: a clerkship with the chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, thanks to an introduction — and a push — from Dean Paul Carrington; a position and subsequent partnership with a top Louisville firm; and an overture from GE, where Perkins served as general counsel for GE Appliances, and for GE Energy, GE’s largest division.

“I just don’t think the doors would have been opened in the same way for me that they were coming from Duke and really riding so much of my career on Duke’s reputation,” Perkins said. “I’d like to see this generation of students have similar opportunities. I know that in my case, financial aid made possible a career and a life that wouldn’t have happened otherwise.”

David Chenkin ‘82, who created the David B. and Yvette Chenkin Scholarship along with his wife, expressed his ongoing enjoyment of the multi-generational annual luncheon.

“The camaraderie and level of commitment by both the scholarship sponsors and recipients never ceases to amaze me,” said Chenkin, a partner at Zeichner, Ellman & Krause in New York and a member of the Law Alumni Association. “I know that I get a lot out of speaking with the students and seeing their enthusiasm, and I hope they feel the same way about seeing folks who are in the position they may find themselves in 20-30 years from now. It also highlights the fact that time passes quickly and you really have to pay it back and pay it forward.”

Get involved.

Supporting scholarships and fellowships:

» Unrestricted Scholarships
  $100,000 endowment or
  $10,000 per year for three years

» Restricted Scholarships
  $250,000 endowment or
  $15,000 per year for three years

» Public Service Fellowships
  $250,000 endowment or
  $15,000 current use gift

» Dean’s Summer Service Grant Program
  $250,000 endowment or a current use gift
A student says “Thank you!”

Speaking on behalf of student scholarship recipients at the 2011 Scholarship Luncheon, Katie Ertmer ’13 shared her reasons for choosing to attend Duke Law over several other top schools. She described how her high expectations of Duke have been exceeded ever since she received a personal e-mail from Associate Dean Bill Hoye — in the wee hours of a Monday morning — telling her she had been accepted.

Ertmer recalled being particularly impressed by her campus visit, when Professors Jim Salzman and Sam Buell met with her individually. “Duke didn’t just offer me money — Duke wanted to interview me,” she said. “This made me feel as if I was more than the sum of my LSAT score and my undergraduate and grad school grades.” She appreciated the tour she received from Rocio Perez ’11 — even though her visit coincided with spring break. “Of all the schools I visited, this was by far the most comfortable to me,” she said.

Duke’s personal outreach continued after Ertmer returned home to California, where she was working as city planner in Yuba City. Not only did Salzman send her regular e-mails about campus events he thought would interest her, Dean David F. Levi also contacted her.

“He very kindly reached out to say that he had made a similar move from Sacramento to Durham and that he was happy to arrange a time to answer any questions I might have,” said Ertmer, noting that the kindness and accessibility demonstrated by this outreach has, in her experience, been typical of Duke Law professors, staff, and students.

“I worked in the ‘real world’ long enough to know that good things like this don’t just happen automatically,” she said. “It takes people like Dean Hoye approving admissions decisions into the early hours of Monday morning, people like Professor Salzman being considerate enough to think of his potential students and taking a couple minutes to forward them an e-mail he thinks they would like, students like Rocio Perez coming in on their spring break to give a tour of the building, and people like Dean Levi demonstrating empathy for someone struggling to decide if a 3,000-mile move is really worth it. “And this leads me back to the main point of my speech, which is to say thank you to all of you who have donated to the scholarship funds that attract brilliant classmates, to the funds that built this fantastic space, and to the funds that allow Duke to hire and keep excellent professors. You have given us an amazing opportunity to make our lives better than they otherwise might be, and we take seriously our responsibility to carry your torch forward and provide the same opportunities for future generation of Duke Law students. From the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of the students here today, thank you for giving us this honor and privilege.”

Thank You!

Your support for public interest helps launch careers

Caitlin Swain ’12, Joanna Darcus ’12, and Lauren Fine ’11 share a passion for public interest legal work and the goal of making it the focus of their careers. Each has secured a prestigious public interest fellowship to do just that — a Skadden Foundation Fellowship for Swain, an Independence Foundation Fellowship for Darcus, and Juvenile Justice Center’s Zubrow Fellowship in Children’s Law for Fine. Significantly, all three women will be returning, as fellows, to work with organizations they first served as summer interns, supported, in large part, by Duke Law summer service grants and fellowships.

“I think it’s fantastic that [during two] summers I was able to get funding from Duke to do the work that I otherwise wouldn’t have been able to afford to do,” says Darcus, who will work on issues relating to economic justice in the Consumer Law Unit of Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, where she spent her 1L summer supported by Duke’s Carroll-Simon Fellowship and as an Equal Justice Works Summer Corps member. During her 2L summer, she worked for the Community Development Project of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington, D.C., supported again by the Carroll-Simon Fellowship.

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The Bridge to Practice program is helping new graduates navigate a volatile market as they launch their careers in the public sector and beyond

Laura Bull ’10 credits the Bridge to Practice program with helping her unlock a door that seemed all but stuck: landing her “dream job” as a public defender, right out of law school, during an economic downturn.

“The way the world is now, when you want to do a somewhat specialized job, you only have two options — to have summered there or [to do a] Bridge to Practice,” says Bull, who came to Duke Law with the goal of becoming a public interest lawyer. “These are organizations that don’t hire outsiders, particularly.”

Once she was in the door at the Legal Aid Society of New York, working on the civil side in its law reform unit, she was able to both prove her value as an attorney and develop the relationships that would facilitate a permanent position as a criminal defense attorney.

“I feel so grateful and appreciative for the Law School’s awareness of the needs of recent graduates. ... Just having the sponsorship of the school — having it be a program and having some stipend made it easier to work with potential employers.” — Laura Bull ’10, a public defender at the Legal Aid Society of New York

Getting a foothold
Duke Law School administrators launched the Bridge to Practice program in spring 2008 to help a handful of students who were committed to public service careers but found it difficult to get that all-important foothold on their first job.

“Getting these jobs is hard for a number of reasons,” says Dean David F. Levi. “Some of these employers require bar passage before considering a graduate. Some only will hire graduates who have interned in their offices or are otherwise known to the office. Some of the offices are interested in seeing how dedicated and hungry for the work the particular student is.”

Levi and the cadre of talented staff who comprise Duke Law’s Career Center built the Bridge to Practice fellowship program to provide graduating students with eight-week post-bar exam fellowships for work primarily in government offices and nonprofit agencies. The program was a win-win proposition: Graduates would gain a
substantive work experience that advanced their efforts to secure permanent employment in the public sector; employers would gain the assistance of a well-trained and eager Duke Law graduate — at no cost. Participating graduates would receive a stipend paid by the school (financed in large part by donor contributions) in exchange for a commitment to work throughout their fellowship with career counselors and mentors to continue their job searches.

The model proved highly successful: In that first year, seven of nine participants secured permanent employment through their Bridge positions.

Duke Law expanded the Bridge program in 2009 to assist students whose career plans had been disrupted by contractions in the legal job market caused by the economic crash. But the model remained the same: the Bridge offered graduates a path toward permanent employment and an opportunity to prove to newly reluctant-to-hire employers that they were a good investment. Since 2008, Bridge to Practice fellows have worked around the country with non-profit and advocacy organizations, district attorneys’ offices, courts, general counsels’ offices, and small law firms. Altogether, 56 graduates participated in the Bridge to Practice program between 2008 and 2010; of those, 46 secured permanent employment thanks to their Bridge position. Many continued in permanent roles with their Bridge employers; others found that the connections and skills developed in their Bridge positions led them to opportunities they might not have had otherwise.

About 35 graduates of the Class of 2011 participated in Bridge positions in fall 2011 and many turned into or led to permanent positions.

Bethan Haaga’s fellowship with the Montgomery County Public Defender’s Office in Maryland led to her full-time position there. Haaga ’10 says the funding from the fellowship gave her the ability to pursue the position she wanted, and the formality of the fellowship gave her confidence in her work and her role in the office. She consulted regularly with Duke Law Associate Deans Kim Bart ‘00 and Bruce Elvin ’93 throughout her fellowship, gaining “extremely helpful” guidance for how best to position herself for a full-time job. And when the job opened up, she was the obvious choice. “They had known me for months; they knew my work.” She credits the Bridge to Practice program’s combination of funding, support, and structure for helping her land “the best job I could ever hope for.”

Participation of alumni in the Bridge to Practice program has been essential to its success; in addition to providing financial support for fellowship funding, alumni have served as mentors and employers. Jason Rathod ’10, who obtained his position with the Washington, D.C., boutique class-action firm of Mason LLP (now Whitfield, Bryson and Mason) through a Bridge fellowship, tapped into the Duke Law alumni network to line up a Bridge that would position him for a career in litigation.

“I knew I wanted to litigate class actions on the plaintiff side,” says Rathod. “During my third year, I told my career adviser about my aspirations, and he provided the names of alums that I should talk to. I found that practitioners in niche firms are passionate about their work and eager to help law students and young lawyers break into their field.”

His meeting with Gary Mason ’87 led to a Bridge position and then to an offer of permanent employment with Mason’s firm, where Rathod now litigates lawsuits related to consumer protection, worker rights, and civil rights.

Thank you to those who have financially supported Duke Law with Bridge to Practice fellowships.

Get involved.
» Support the Bridge to Practice Fellowship Program in perpetuity by establishing a $250,000 endowment or support one fellow each year with a $3,500 current-use gift.
» Provide a fellowship position in your office or organization.

To make a gift:
Please contact Associate Dean Jeff Coates at (919) 613-7175 or coates@law.duke.edu.

“...the Bridge, at its core, is a chance for law students to prove to newly reluctant-to-hire employers that they were a good investment.”

Meeting the challenge of a changed market
Given the modest pace of the national economic recovery, making sure that every graduating student who wants a job has the resources and opportunities needed to land one will continue to be a challenge for the foreseeable future, says Elvin, who oversees Duke Law’s career and professional development programs. He says his office will continue to call upon the commitment and involvement of the entire Law School community, from staff to faculty to alumni in every sector of practice, to assist graduating students who are expected to drive their own job searches.

“Our institutional employment record really is a reflection of our students’ efforts and how hard they work, as well as the entire Duke Law community, including alumni and faculty, and the broad commitment to supporting students through their three years here and long afterward,” Elvin says.

And the successes of the Bridge to Practice program have ensured that the program is here to stay, Levi says.

“The Bridge, at its core, is a chance for our graduates to demonstrate how well-prepared they are for work. That they are able to make themselves invaluable to these employers is a reflection on these students, their hard work, their determination, and the quality of the education they receive here at Duke.”
KIP A. FREY ‘85, an entrepreneur and visiting professor of the practice at Duke Law, has been named director of the Law and Entrepreneurship LLM (LLMLE) program.

Frey is president and CEO of EvoApp, a Durham company that helps businesses strengthen customer relationships and social media intelligence through complex data analytics. He has led and advised a number of entrepreneurial and venture-backed enterprises throughout his career. Since 2010, he has served as chair of the LLMLE advisory board, has taught classes through the program, and has helped coordinate practicum experiences for students. Frey also is an adjunct professor at Duke’s Sanford School of Public Policy, where he teaches intellectual property law and policy courses.

“It is tremendously exciting for me to be involved in the LLMLE program at Duke,” Frey said. “It fills a distinct need in the business community, particularly as entrepreneurship becomes an increasingly important force in our economy. Lawyers who work with entrepreneurial companies need to be able to embrace risk, call upon deep knowledge of both the law and business, and find ways to move companies forward within a rapidly changing economic and regulatory landscape. This requires a specific blend of skills and experience that you really can’t get in any other law or business program.”

The one-year LLMLE program at Duke integrates coursework, work experience, and high-level networking opportunities to prepare lawyers to advise, create, and lead entrepreneurial companies. Courses are designed to help students develop a deep understanding of relevant legal and regulatory issues as well as the unique business demands that entrepreneurs face; a required, full-semester practicum allows students to put that knowledge to work within the leadership team of a local entrepreneurial company.

Through the year, an LLMLE student might work in a local entrepreneurial venture, advise a student team in Duke’s Startup Challenge, and conduct case studies of real-world problems presented by visiting scholars and practitioners.

Frey has already tapped his knowledge of the entrepreneurial landscape and connections within the startup community to assist LLMLE students in arranging their practicums. Students currently are working in practicums with companies around the Research Triangle and beyond, including Hatteras Venture Partners, Joystick Labs, Sciquest, Bandwidth.com, and CBC New Media Group.

“Professor Frey did a great job of matching me with a good practicum host,” said Karl Goodman LLMLE ’11, who served in a practicum with the Triangle Community Foundation and is now an associate with Morgan, Lewis & Bockius in New York. “He has connections all over North Carolina and listened closely to what I wanted out of my practicum.”

Prior to joining EvoApp, Frey was president and CEO of Zenph Sound Innovations. He has served as a partner at the venture capital firm Intersouth Partners and as the head of a variety of venture-backed companies. He served as executive vice president and general counsel of Ventana Communications Group, sold Ventana to the Thomson Corporation in 1994, and continued in an executive role at Thomson through 1997. He also has served as president of Accipiter, Inc., and as president and CEO of OpenSite Technologies, Inc.; each company sold for more than $500 million during his tenure.

Frey has been honored by Digital South Magazine as the Southeast’s top entrepreneurial CEO and in 2000 received the Council for Entrepreneurial Development’s Entrepreneurial Excellence Award.

“Kip brings an entrepreneur’s creativity, passion, and vision to our LLMLE program,” said Dean David F. Levi. “He is in a great position to help our students and our school develop and deepen connections to entrepreneurial ventures. His legal and business skills and experience, as well as his leadership in the Triangle’s entrepreneurial community, present a great opportunity to move this program forward.”

Support entrepreneurship education at Duke Law

» The Naming Opportunity: The school has created a $10 million gift opportunity to endow and name the innovative Law & Entrepreneurship LLM Program.

» Professor of the Practice: $1.5 million endowment for a naming opportunity. The Professor of the Practice endowment would fund a faculty member with significant entrepreneurial experience or a tenured research scholar in the areas of entrepreneurship, innovation policy, tax, regulation, and business strategy.

» Student Scholarships: $250,000 endowment for a naming opportunity.

» The Startup Ventures Clinic: $4 million endowment for a naming opportunity. The clinic will be managed by a supervising attorney. Students will work with entrepreneurs in their startup endeavors.

» Law & Entrepreneurship Fellows Program: $1 million endowment for a naming opportunity. The Fellows Program would allow current students to mirror entrepreneurs, executives, and lawyers to gain an understanding of the issues faced in this field.

» In every case, annual current-use gifts are also important.
James D. Smith ’86

IT’S PROBABLY AN UNDERSTATEMENT to say that James Smith has a full schedule.

Consider the docket he oversees as chief administrative patent judge at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO): almost 25,500 ex parte appeals from patent examiners’ decisions; expanded jurisdiction under the America Invents Act to hear certain contested proceedings; and oversight of other matters delegated to him by the USPTO director. Aiming to cut the processing time of patent appeals by two-thirds, Smith, who assumed his post in May 2011 by appointment of then-Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, also has a congressional mandate to hire 100 new BPAI judges by January 2013; as of late February, he had presided over more than 80 candidate interviews and several dozen hires.

Yet Smith, who is in his fifth year as a member of the Law School’s Board of Visitors, sounds content as he describes his busy schedule, as well as the entire course of his career since his Duke Law graduation.

“I really can’t imagine having scoped out a better 25-year course of study for this job than the one I happened into,” he says of a career in intellectual property law that has included a clerkship at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, private practice focused on patent litigation and licensing, oversight of global licensing for Nokia, and service as chief intellectual property counsel for Baxter International.

Having arrived at Duke Law with a degree in electrical engineering in hand and a summer at the USPTO behind him, Smith acknowledges that the “gravitational pull” of intellectual property law was strong from the start. Even as he aimed to keep his options open, he made sure to take every class taught by Professor David Lange, then a virtual one-man IP department, and clerked both summers with Washington firms that specialized in the practice. He practiced patent law with Finnegan Henderson for two years before being recommended by a Duke Law classmate for a clerkship with now Chief Judge Paul R. Michel, who then was the newest judge on the Federal Circuit.

“Those years of practice and learning about litigation, patent law, and patent litigation were a very necessary education before the clerkship,” says Smith, calling his friend’s good word and the clerkship itself life-changing events. “The experience that I gained on the court helped frame the years of my career that followed and certainly made me much more comfortable doing this job than I would have felt otherwise.” He still turns to Michel’s guidance with regularity, he adds.

Smith returned to private practice following his clerkship. He was focusing on patent litigation at the district court level and serving as managing partner for a Dewey Ballantine office in Texas when he was asked to consider becoming global director of intellectual property licensing at Nokia in 2004. The mobile device manufacturer’s technology and attendant legal issues aligned well with his longtime practice, he says.

“It was just a fabulous job,” he says of his three-and-a-half years at Nokia. “I traveled constantly, participating in licensing and cross- licensing of technology for mobile devices, cell phones, computers — Nokia’s entire product set. And I got to conduct negotiations in countries all over the world, and to visit and participate in companion litigation. The entire time was a highlight reel.”

Smith calls his position as chief intellectual property counsel at Baxter International “equally fabulous.” Significantly, it gave him exposure to biotechnology patent and licensing matters which has proven useful in his current position, he says.

Smith credits his career satisfaction with motivating his long-time volunteer service on the Duke Law Alumni Association and now on the Board of Visitors.

“Being granted admission to Duke Law was one of the best things that ever happened to me,” he says, noting that such professors as Lange, Jerome Culp, Robert Mosteller, John Weistart, and Sara Sun Beale left a lasting impression.

“It was a fabulous place to go to school — the atmosphere of learning, the simultaneously collaborative and competitive ethos of the school was remarkable. The fabulous opportunities for learning and the caring instruction I received made me feel permanently indebted to the school.” — James D. Smith ’86

The fabulous opportunities for learning and the caring instruction I received [at Duke Law] made me feel permanently indebted to the school.” — James D. Smith ’86

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GALLERY

Innovation & Entrepreneurship Reception
New York City, Dec. 8, 2011
Robert Cochran '74 and Suzanne Cochran welcomed colleagues from Duke Law and Duke University's Pratt School of Engineering into their New York loft for a discussion of the University's plans for addressing the challenges of our time through innovation and entrepreneurship. Kip Frey '85, director of the Law and Entrepreneurship LLM program, and Kimberly Jenkins, who heads innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives at Duke, spoke. (photos by Joseph Lawton)

Duke Law Club of Charlotte Inaugural Gathering
Charlotte, Oct. 26, 2011
Dean David F. Levi hosted a reception and conversation with Gary C. Lynch '75, the global chief of legal compliance and regulatory relations for Bank of America, and Walter Dellinger III, Duke's Douglas B. Maggs Professor Emeritus of Law, at Bentley's. (photos by Angus Lamond)

Dialogue with the Dean
Washington, D.C., Feb. 20, 2012
Dean David F. Levi hosted a discussion with Michael Krimminger '82, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation general counsel, about the future of legal education and law practice. (photos by Jay Mallin)
North Carolina Museum of Art
Raleigh, Jan. 20, 2012
Deborah DeMott, the David F. Cavers Professor of Law, and museum docent Evelyn Pursley ’84 led a discussion and viewing of the NCMA’s “Rembrandt in America” exhibition for 87 attendees, following a reception. (photos by Jared Lazarus/Duke Photography)

Third Annual International Alumni and Student Dinner
New York City, Jan. 26, 2012
Almost 100 LLM candidates, alumni, and friends, joined Dean David F. Levi, and Associate Deans Judy Horowitz and Jennifer Maher ’83 for dinner at The Netherland Club of New York. Manuel Sager LLM ’85, the ambassador of Switzerland to the United States, offered keynote remarks at the event, which benefitted the Judy Horowitz LLM Scholarship Fund. (photos by Joseph Lawton)
INTEGRATING Duke Law School did not involve a court order, a shouting governor, or an army of National Guardsmen. Instead it happened quietly, but no less forcefully, in 1961, through the recruiting of Dean Elvin “Jack” Latty and the willingness of two young men who would come to Durham that fall.

“Was I seeking integration? No,” says David Robinson II, who was preparing to graduate from Howard University in Washington D.C., in the spring of 1961. “In fact, my entire family was opposed to it. They were concerned for my safety.” But Robinson found Latty, who came to Howard looking for potential students, “a most persuasive, fatherly figure. He said ‘we’re gonna do this.’” In convincing Robinson to accept a scholarship, Latty, who served as dean from 1957 to 1966, also talked up Duke’s intellectual caliber. “He said, ‘Here’s an opportunity to attend a small law school that is a true center for legal education.’ For me it was a no-brainer.”

It was slightly more complicated for North Carolina A&T senior Walter T. Johnson Jr., who had already made his post-graduation plans when he received a phone call from Latty. “I said, ‘Dean, you know I’ve already been offered a scholarship at Columbia University’s School of International Affairs.’” Johnson, an ROTC scholar who had committed to three years of active duty in the Air Force, explained to Latty that a hard-fought agreement had been reached that would specifically allow him to complete his studies at Columbia before entering the military. “[Latty] said, ‘Well, what if I could get that changed so that you can come to Duke instead?’ I knew he couldn’t get it changed. So I said, ‘If you can get it changed I’ll come.’ And I thought that was the end of it.”

It wasn’t. Latty got it changed, and a few months later, Johnson found himself on the Duke campus, along with Robinson and another student, R.L. Speaks, who was entering the Divinity School. They were the first African Americans to enroll at Duke, which would not integrate its undergraduate program until the fall of 1963; the Duke Law student government had pushed for and the faculty had supported its earlier integration.

“I felt very comfortable,” says Robinson, who roomed with a white divinity student during his first year at Duke and an African American minister pursuing a Duke PhD thereafter. “Classmates were congenial. They didn’t go out of their way, but I didn’t feel isolated.” He recalls Latty telling him about fielding an inquiry from the chairman of the Duke Board of Trustees at a meeting. “The chair approached him and said, ‘I understand you have an African American student at the Law School.’ Dean
Latty said, ‘You should come over to meet him. He’s a nice guy!’”

Johnson helped his own social cause by playing on the Law School intramural football team, a squad so impressive that after playing a game at the Wallace Wade Stadium, more than one official told the team that it “might have been the best football played on the field that year,” he notes.

There were, of course, incidents. In Johnson’s third year, an executive visiting campus urged students to consider careers in business law, and then used a racial slur in telling them they could “make money” representing black clients. “It got real quiet in there,” Johnson recalls. “He meant it as a joke and he was expecting laughter. And he found out that the reason it got quiet is that I was sitting there in the corner. He didn’t see me. Later he came up to me to apologize and I said, ‘Don’t apologize, that’s the way you feel. And I know people just like you in my hometown.’”

But in the classroom, it was all about the business of learning law. “This was the early 1960s,” Robinson says. “Civil rights legislation was pending before Congress. Freedom Riders were traveling through the South. But at Duke, the law students were so busy studying, that there was not much in the way of controversial discussion. In that way, I suppose, I was protected by the very walls I integrated.”

Johnson recalls asking the renowned professor Brainerd Currie for a conference after doing poorly on a test. “‘Bring your notes,’ he said to me. And he sat with me that afternoon and taught me how to study. He helped me develop a process for understanding the law. He showed me how he did it, and he made it very simple.”

More challenging, perhaps, were prospects after graduation; Robinson and Johnson both knew that many large law firms remained segregated. Johnson did interview for a position at a major New York City firm during his third year. “The hiring manager looked me in the eye and said, ‘You have all of the credentials. But you have to realize we just hired our first Jewish associate last year.’”

Robinson bypassed the firm-interviewing process completely, opting instead for a position at the Federal Reserve, where he remained for three years. In 1967, he moved his family to Rochester, N.Y., to take a position at Xerox. Two years later, he found that a company survey indicating that black employees were happy with their positions and salaries had been fudged.

Robinson helped organize the Concerned Association of Rochester, Inc., a nonprofit organization devoted to the elimination of discrimination at Xerox, and then served as its executive director. “We worked with management on what we called their ‘tokenism philosophy.’ They had hired a few black professionals here or there, but they were not doing what they should have been doing in terms of recruiting,” he explains.

Robinson, who worked for the Dade County court system in Miami after retiring from Xerox in 1988, notes that he graduated from Duke “able to talk toe to toe with top executives at a major corporation.” He also credits Xerox for listening. “I’m very proud of the fact that their CEO today is an African American woman.”

After fulfilling his Air Force service requirement, Johnson went on to become North Carolina’s first black assistant district attorney in the late 1960s before entering private practice. He also served as chairman of the Greensboro school system, playing a significant role in its continuing desegregation in the early 1970s. Johnson worked closely with Greensboro School Board attorney and fellow Duke Law alumnus William D. Caffrey ’58 to reach a successful compromise that ultimately led to complete integration.

“People hold certain things sacred,” says Johnson, who still lives in Greensboro. “If they know you have an open mind and will listen, it’s easier to work out a compromise that benefits everybody. I learned that at Duke, and it helped me provide whatever contributions I did provide in trying to make sure that we came out of it with a unified school district.”

It was, of course, the actions of the Law School dean that brought Johnson and Robinson to Durham to begin with.

“I learned my first lessons in power politics from Dean Latty,” says Johnson, “but he also had strong principles.” Robinson, who served on the Board of Visitors in the 1970s, remembers Latty as a man of morals and humanity, but also with a sense of humor. “I talked to him when I was at Xerox. He said to me, ‘Dave, I want you to know that you’ve contributed more to the Law School this year than Dick Nixon’ who was then the president. He was really something.” — Paula Edelson
To learn about Duke Law alumni events in your area, visit www.law.duke.edu/alumni/events

We hope to collect and archive stories from as many Duke Law alumni as possible. We are looking for recollections of memorable professors, moot court competitions, softball games, and even falling in love over casebooks. Anything goes.

You can make an oral history video during Reunion Weekend, on Saturday, April 21, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., or any time you are visiting Duke Law. For more information, contact Forrest Norman at norman@law.duke.edu. View Oral History Project videos at www.law.duke.edu/ohp.