Philanthropy with impact

John ’69 and Rita Canning

In their hometown of Chicago, John and Rita Canning are renowned for the transformative impact of their philanthropy. They help women escape domestic abuse through their support of transitional housing and educational programming. They provide 100 scholarships each year to send inner-city children to high-performing parochial schools. And they fund undergraduate and community college scholarships for students who have surmounted hurdles posed by socioeconomic hardship and domestic violence to help secure their future success.

With their recent gift to Duke Law, the Cannings are giving students who have faced early challenges a chance to go to law school. » (continued on Page 4)
Dear Friends,

Do you recall your excitement upon receiving your letter of acceptance to Duke Law School? After a long wait you received thrilling news, and the opportunity to attend Duke Law became real.

Although the excitement of receiving that news has not diminished for today’s admitted applicants, many quickly turn to the question of how to pay for a world-class legal education. Given that Duke attracts students from a range of socioeconomic backgrounds, the answer is not always clear.

Most admitted applicants accept the responsibility of investing in their own education and professional development by financing a sizeable portion of the cost of tuition and living expenses. Families with the means to do so willingly contribute large sums as well. But for many students today, the question is not whether to borrow, but whether it is prudent to assume a level of debt possibly exceeding $150,000 or $200,000. Educational debt can be crippling and can severely limit the types of employment students pursue following graduation.

Of course, many of our students successfully seek employment in large, major-market law firms that handle complicated cases with important ramifications for the nation’s economy, governance, and standard of living. These graduates may be well positioned to handle large debt from law school, assuming they remain in their jobs for at least 10 years. But a large number of our students come to Duke primarily to prepare for leadership at the highest levels of government and in nonprofit organizations. Others desire to unleash the power of their Duke education in smaller towns and firms where legal excellence and service to the community go hand in hand, and yet prevailing salaries cannot adequately service high educational debt.

This is why so many of our admitted applicants turn to the school — and to you — for some measure of assistance in reducing the cost of education for three years at Duke. Scholarships have never been more important to attract the most capable and talented students, regardless of their financial standing. Grants and fellowships for summer public-interest positions help students gain critical practical experience and build professional networks, while post-graduate fellowships that fund public service employment help students launch their careers in a challenging employment market.

And Duke’s Loan Repayment Assistance Program helps those who accept low-paying public service jobs pay back their federal loans.

All of these important financial assistance programs are funded in large part by Duke Law alumni. On behalf of our students, we thank you for your continuing support, dedication, and generosity.

Sincerely,

William J. Hoye
Associate Dean, Admissions and Student Affairs
Meet the students your gifts support

Christine Kearsley '14
Abigail Reardon and Arthur A. Gosnell Scholarship

Christine Kearsley came to Duke Law after earning a master’s degree in health policy and management at the University of North Carolina. Kearsley, who also worked as a congressional aide for two years, entered law school with the goal of crafting a career in health law and policy at a federal agency like the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. And that’s exactly where she’ll start her career after she graduates: in the FDA’s Office of Chief Counsel.

“Duke has been amazing at either creating or accommodating opportunities for me to work in health law,” says Kearsley, who led the Health Law Society as a 2L and volunteers with the student-run Cancer Pro Bono Project. Many of those opportunities were possible thanks to supporters of summer fellowship funds, the Annual Fund, and the Public Interest Law Foundation.

- 1L and 2L summer positions with the Human Services and Medical Facilities Section of the N.C. Attorney General’s Office and the FDA’s Office of Policy, funded by summer service grants;
- a 3L externship with the nonprofit National Health Law Program;
- a 2L Duke in D.C. externship placement in the public health division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of General Counsel; and
- successive semesters working on behalf of clients and on policy matters in the AIDS Legal Project and advanced AIDS Policy Clinic.

“Having support from Duke to be able to work in unpaid internships that offer high-quality experience was hugely advantageous,” says Kearsley. “Moreover, my scholarship has made it possible for me to begin a career in public service, where I know that I can make an impact.”

Ruben Henriquez '14
Robert H. Booth Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Ruben Henriquez says he was “sold” early on the strong student culture he found at Duke. “Here at Duke we enjoy spending time with one another both in the classroom and outside of it,” he says. “I’ve made lots of friendships here that will definitely last a lifetime.”

A political communications major at the University of Pennsylvania with a graduate degree in politics and media from the London School of Economics, Henriquez has focused much of his non-class time on making the student experience at Duke even better. As president of the Duke Bar Association, he has raised the organization’s profile on campus and facilitated more opportunities for student service and for socializing through DBA “Fundays,” which have included outings to a trampoline arena and a touring Broadway musical, a paintball tournament, and running the Krispy Kreme challenge — a 5K race with a pit stop for donuts.

“I want students to genuinely enjoy their time here,” says Henriquez, who also helps write “Tricky Dick,” the annual student revue. “I wanted to foster, improve, and give back to the community that means so much to me.”

A senior editor on two law journals who will join the corporate practice at Bracewell & Giuliani in New York after graduation, Henriquez has made the most of the academic opportunities he has found at Duke Law. One highlight: attending Duke’s Asia-America Institute in Transnational Law in Hong Kong after his 1L summer work at a Japanese law firm. “It was one of the most exciting and enriching summers of my life, and I hadn’t expected to be able to do something like this at law school before coming to Duke,” he says.
PHILANTHROPY WITH IMPACT
(continued from Page 1)

The Cannings have pledged $1 million to Duke Law School — to be paid in $100,000 installments over 10 years — to fund need-based scholarships, fellowships, and other forms of financial support to help deserving students and recent graduates reach their potential and realize their goals. And a generous bequest will ensure the program will continue beyond their lives.

"John and Rita Canning think strategically about their philanthropy," said Dean David F. Levi. "Their approach in different areas of need is to try to help individuals surmount immediate challenges and build independent lives that achieve their dreams. With this gift to Duke Law School, they will be opening doors to future leaders with the vision and the tools to effect lasting change in their communities."

In a telephone interview from his office at Madison Dearborn Partners, the private equity firm he co-founded in 1992, John Canning joked that it was Levi’s “relentless” outreach that spurred the gift to Duke Law. “He finally figured out how to get to me,” Canning said. "And to his credit, he structured something that I could get enthused about.”

Canning said that he and his wife long ago identified the issues and causes that “we really got energized about” — helping at-risk, inner-city children for him, and helping women and children facing domestic violence for her.

When Rita Canning discovered, in the early ’90s, that in spite of enormous need there were no domestic violence shelters where she could volunteer near her home, she decided to build one. Joining the board of WINGS (Women in Need Growing Stronger), which she now chairs, she has helped build the first safe house in Chicago’s northwest suburbs, established other transitional housing for abused women and their children, tripled WINGS’ services and programs, and raised more than $10 million for the cause. The Cannings’ scholarship fund in the Women’s Program at Harper College in Chicago is directed to women with histories of domestic violence.

“We find strength in the women we serve,” Rita Canning wrote last December in an essay in the Chicago Sun-Times, sharing the story of a WINGS alumna who fled her abusive husband with her children after her 4-year-old son “told his father to hit his mother because she was being bad.” The woman is now happily remarried after graduating from the WINGS program, Canning wrote. "The successes and challenges of WINGS’ women like these inspire and motivate me.”

The couple’s engagement with inner-city schools and students began in 1994 after they read about a tragedy in Chicago’s notorious — now demolished — Ida B. Wells housing projects. Two preteen gang members dropped a 5-year-old boy out of a 14th-floor window after the child refused to steal candy for them. Moved to aid the victim’s family or community, the Cannings were directed to the child’s South Side Catholic school, where the nuns suggested offering scholarship support to several students who could not afford the tuition. The Cannings immediately agreed, later meeting the beneficiaries at a party initiated by those children and their families. “We became very close with those students,” said John Canning, adding that one of them, a third-grader in 1994, had just been in to visit him a day earlier.

The couple quickly realized that funding elementary school scholarships “would not accomplish anything” unless the recipients could move on to good high schools, which were utterly lacking at the time in the public school system, said Canning. “Although I’m not Catholic — and the cardinal calls me ‘the heathen’ — I realized that the only alternatives were the Catholic schools.” They immediately started funding scholarships, finding the Catholic high schools, like the elementary schools, both structured and safe, and the students primed to succeed. “Because you pay tuition and need-based scholarships, fellowships, and other forms of financial support to help deserving students and recent graduates reach their potential and realize their goals. And a generous bequest will ensure the program will continue beyond their lives.

"John and Rita Canning think strategically about their philanthropy. ... With this gift to Duke Law School, they will be opening doors to future leaders with the vision and the tools to effect lasting change in their communities.”

— Dean David F. Levi

because you have to go through an application process to get in, you usually have a child who has parental support at home and is with ‘like’ children," he said.

The Big Shoulders Fund, an organization established to support Catholic schools in Chicago’s neediest areas, soon contacted him, and he found an enduring passion in its mission to deliver high-quality, values-based education in a secure environment to children from all religious backgrounds. As co-chairman of the organization since 2004, he has helped raise over $250 million for its schools that serve almost 25,000 students, the vast majority of whom are members of minority groups and come from families living below the poverty level. And the vast majority of them now succeed in school.

“We have data now that indicates 92 percent of our scholarship recipients go to college,” said Canning. The organization is now tracking their graduates’ college success.

Outcomes are key to Canning, who traces much of the success of Big Shoulders Fund schools to the emphasis they put on enriching the entire student experience in and out of the classroom, including with travel. “We’ve tried to bring in life experiences for the kids..."
that they otherwise wouldn’t have, rather than just concentrating on the curriculum.” On one recent outing — an annual event — he hosted 18 high school girls at a Chicago Bulls game. “I get so much fun out of these kids,” he said, noting that he and his wife meet and get to know all the scholarship recipients they support in Chicago schools and at Harper College, DePaul University, and Northwestern University.

While the Big Shoulders Fund is, perhaps, closest to John Canning’s heart and WINGS is closest to his wife’s, their community and philanthropic leadership extends to a broad range of Chicago-based cultural, medical, educational, and community organizations and institutions. John Canning became chairman of the Museum of Science and Industry last June, becoming the only person to also have chaired the Field Museum. A former director and chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and the Chicago Community Trust, he currently serves on multiple corporate boards, including that of the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club, of which he is a 12 percent owner; he also co-owns five minor-league baseball teams. Rita Canning also serves in multiple volunteer leadership posts, including as a trustee at Harper College.

Having long kept Chicago as the epicenter of their philanthropic efforts, why extend support to Duke Law students?

Although he jokes about the dean’s persistence, John Canning expresses his deep gratitude to his alma mater. “Duke provided me with credentials and the opportunity to get my first job that ultimately elevated me to where I am,” he said.

Canning, who “never really wanted to be a lawyer,” joined The First National Bank of Chicago following his Duke Law graduation, at a time when banks were just beginning to move into non-banking activities. Assigned to help establish First Chicago Venture Capital, he became president and CEO of the subsidiary in 1980. He founded Madison Dearborn Partners with a group of First Chicago colleagues in 1992, and served as its CEO until 2007 when he became chairman. He remains involved in day-to-day operations.

“I never really enjoyed the ‘law school’ part of law school,” said Canning, who always envisioned a career in business, “but I actually enjoyed being a lawyer. That was kind of a surprise to me. I enjoyed doing the deals.”

With their gift to Duke Law, all parties are sure they’ve made a good one, and that future generations of Canning Scholars at Duke Law will make the same kind of contributions to their communities as John and Rita Canning have made to theirs.

“‘My time at Duke has been transformative, and [the Robbins’] aid has enabled me to have a truly multi-faceted and remarkable law school experience.’” — Menaka Nayar JD/LLM ’14

Meet the students your gifts support

Menaka Nayar JD/LLM ’14
H. Haywood Robbins Scholarship

Menaka Nayar spent her 3L fall semester in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, working for a United Nations investigating judge assisting the tribunal trying members of the Khmer Rouge for genocide and other violations of international criminal law. “It was a fascinating and eye-opening experience,” says Nayar, whose related research project was supervised by Laurence Helfer, the Harry R. Chadwick, Sr. Professor of Law. “Duke’s willingness to work with me to facilitate my externship meant that I was able to take advantage of an amazing hands-on opportunity to learn the field of international criminal law and transitional justice.”

Nayar, who held a 2L externship in the Durham District Attorney’s Office and a 1L summer research internship at the Irish Centre for Human Rights in Galway supported by a Carroll/Simon public interest fellowship, hopes to engage with issues of international human rights and social justice throughout her career. That’s why she pursued the externship in Phnom Penh while working as a 2L summer associate at Linklaters, where she will return after graduating. “I knew that actually getting to practice in the area would be valuable,” she says.

The JD/LLM program offered a “perfect fit” for Nayar’s academic and professional interests. And the Duke University graduate says she was surprised by “the mind-boggling breadth of courses available to students who are truly interested in learning more about the law, and the approachable nature of the professors.”

The generosity of the Robbins family has made a difference in her life, Nayar says. “My time at Duke has been transformative, and their aid has enabled me to have a truly multi-faceted and remarkable law school experience.”
“Jack Latty nurtured, developed, launched, and encouraged many successful and rewarding lives, including mine,” said Nick Gaede ’64.

Gaede and his classmates are now paying Jack Latty’s support forward, using their 50th reunion gift to establish a scholarship in honor of the dean who led Duke Law from 1957 to 1966. They have been joined in the effort by members of the Class of ’69 — all Latty recruits — who are celebrating their 45th reunion this year.

Gaede, a partner at Bainbridge, Mims, Rogers & Smith in Birmingham, Ala., recalled Latty’s persuasive pitch for Duke when they met at Yale in 1960 as well as his talents as a teacher and the facility with which the dean arranged a 2L summer position for him with a simple phone call. Gaede went on to spend more than 40 years at that Birmingham-based firm, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, including six as managing partner, and has enjoyed a career that has taken him all over the world.

“Most of us felt close to the dean,” Gaede said of Latty. “He was someone we all appreciated and admired.”

Along with classmate Stephen Crawford, a member at Hand Arendall in Mobile, Ala., Gaede is co-chairing the Class of ’64 reunion committee. The gift in Latty’s honor is a particularly fitting tribute to the late dean’s belief that scholarships gave opportunities to those who were qualified but did not have the resources to attend law school, he said, adding that it remains true today. “Like many, we are concerned about the ever-increasing cost of higher education, including law schools, and how cost can be a bar to some.”

Citadel graduate J. Sidney Boone ’69 gave up a scholarship at Wake Forest Law School after Latty called him to say “he had a space for me at Duke if I wanted to come.” At Duke, professors such as Bertel Sparks and John B. Johnson opened doors to his career in real estate law, and the network of classmates and alumni he developed helped it flourish.
“Dean Latty made it possible for me to go to Duke,” said Boone, of counsel at McNair Law Firm in Charleston, S.C., who is chairing his class reunion committee. “He was so personable — it was just a delight to be around him, to be in his classes, and to be at the Law School.”

Jeffrey Lewis ’69 had just graduated from Duke University as a zoology major and was enrolled in law school at the University of Chicago when Latty lured him back to Durham.

“He told me he thought I would really like to stay at Duke and he liked my science background and, by the way, our entering class would have the highest LSAT [scores] in the country,” said Lewis, dean emeritus and professor of law at Saint Louis University School of Law. “We all had him for his Chattel Transactions course in our first year. He was just absolutely a wonderful teacher and dean and human being. He remembered everyone’s name and where we had gone to undergrad and what we had majored in.

“The impression he made on me certainly had a great influence on my decision to become a law professor. And I have been dean at two major law schools; he had something to do with that too,” said Lewis. “I think the student scholarship fund in his name is ideal, since he loved students.”

Gifts, pledges, and estate gifts to the Elvin R. Latty Endowed Scholarship are being accepted from all alumni and friends. As of early February, donors had committed $200,000 to the effort. Support of this scholarship also counts in Duke Law’s Duke Forward campaign. If you would like to give to this initiative, please contact Halley Bogart at 919-613-8572 or halley.bogart@law.duke.edu.

“I think the student scholarship fund in [Latty’s] name is ideal, since he loved students.” — Jeffrey Lewis ’69
The Advocate • Spring 2014

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

FUELED BY GRATITUDE

Christie’s influence, tenure inspires scholarship

A GROUP OF GRATEFUL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS have endowed a $100,000 scholarship in honor of George C. Christie, the James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of Law, who retired from teaching last August after 46 years at Duke.

“George taught thousands of Duke Law students over his 46 years,” said Dean David F. Levi announcing the scholarship at a Nov. 3 dinner celebrating Christie’s long academic career. “The relationships that he has formed with many of these students have deeply affected both students and professor.”

One of those students, N.C. Senator Daniel T. Blue Jr. ’73, said Christie’s irrepressible energy was one of the first things he noticed about the young Torts teacher.

“He was the bounciest person we had ever seen,” said Blue, a former chair of the Duke University Board of Trustees. “He had a rhythm. Once he started making a point, it was like he was reverberating on the blackboard. He was fun and he made studying torts an exciting and uniquely rewarding experience.

“He was also friendly, which was what made him so special to many of us. He would seek us out,” said Blue, who went on to take Jurisprudence with Christie in his 3L year. The two men have maintained a close friendship over the ensuing four decades.

N.C. Sen. Floyd B. McKissick Jr. ’83 spoke of Christie’s kindness during McKissick’s hospitalization after a shooting, a few years after his Duke graduation.

“He didn’t just come there on one occasion, he came there on a number of occasions,” McKissick said. “I think it’s that character that made him a most amazing professor.”

In an interview, Christie credited his close ties to students to the Law School’s small size during his early years at Duke.

“I taught during a period when the faculty was a lot smaller and the curriculum was more limited,” he said. “As a result, there were long periods where I must have taught more than half of the graduating class. I try to keep in contact with many of them over the course of their careers. That has given me pleasure.”
Meet the students your gifts support

Wilmoth Henry Baker IV ’14
William Louis-Dreyfus Scholarship

A Tallahassee native who helped lead a congressional campaign and volunteered as a teacher in a Kenyan village prior to law school, Bud Baker says he was drawn to Duke Law by the level of interaction he saw between faculty and students. It proved to be an accurate impression, he says.

“It seems like the faculty and administration are working tirelessly to ensure that each individual student becomes a successful lawyer.” Baker will join the corporate practice group of K&L Gates in Raleigh after graduation.

A member of the Moot Court Board, Baker has competed extensively in both mock trial and moot court tournaments. He also has served as a volunteer coach for his undergraduate mock trial team at Duke University, through which he first got interested in a legal career. The Black Law Students Association, of which he is past president, has been a touchstone of his time at Law School, as have spring break service trips to New Orleans, where he has volunteered with both the Public Defender’s Office and the Louisiana Juvenile Justice Project.

“Duke Law has given me wonderful opportunities,” he says.

But the relationships he’s made with peers in class and through intramural softball and bowling and BLSA have left the most lasting impression.

“They are smart, successful, and supportive,” he says. “Everyone is competitive, but Duke Law has shattered the stereotype of law school having solely a cutthroat atmosphere.”

— Dan Blue ’73

He has also been gratified, he said, to have witnessed Duke Law’s transformation from a regional school into one of national and international renown.

Christie came to Duke after serving in Washington as assistant general counsel for the Near East and South Asia of the U.S. Agency for International Development. Before that, he taught at the University of Minnesota, and had been a Ford Fellow at Harvard Law School and a Fulbright Scholar studying at Cambridge.

At Duke, Christie influenced the direction of both the Law School and the university. In 1972, he chaired a university-wide committee report that called on administrators to consult the Academic Council on all matters affecting academic affairs before they are implemented or submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. The provision in the report, which codified that the faculty’s voice would be heard in university governance, is still called “the Christie Rule.”

An expert in torts and jurisprudence, Christie has written 12 books and more than 60 articles, many of which have been translated into other languages. In 2007, he received an honorary degree from the University of Athens; his father had graduated from that institution’s law faculty more than 90 years prior.

He said he was surprised and touched by the scholarship established in his name. “In my own education I was really a scholarship boy,” he said. “My dad died when I was 15 years old and he was never particularly well-off anyway. So I’ve gotten a world-class education owing to the generosity of others.”

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— Dan Blue ’73
A visitor to the Chapel Hill home of Professor Bill Reppy and Juliann Tenney ’79 can get a sense of their personal interests with a quick look around. A baby grand piano that occupies a prominent position — with an organ close by — testifies to Reppy’s considerable talent at the keys. Their passion for animals is unmistakable, with three large rescue dogs vying for attention: Sean, a golden retriever; Max, a standard poodle; and Puck, an Anatolian shepherd. Bicycles leaning against the second-story catwalk hint at the couple’s shared love of outdoor sports, as does the indoor lap pool. (Reppy quietly shares the fact that his wife enjoyed a successful competitive swimming career as a teenager, and now focuses on cycling and tennis.)

The couple’s deep ties to Duke Law School, where Reppy is the Charles L.B. Lowndes Professor Emeritus of Law, are also in evidence. A ginko tree that sits in a small clearing off the deck was given to Reppy by a group of students in the ’90s. Nearby is a custom-made
iron bench with an animal and bird motif, a gift from his faculty colleagues and friends when he retired from teaching in 2010.

“I had a wonderful job, wonderful students, and wonderful colleagues over more than 40 years at Duke,” said Reppy, who still pursues scholarship in the areas for which he is renowned: community property and animal law.

He recalled teaching such courses as Property, Matrimonial Property, and Legal Writing when the faculty was relatively small. “There were periods where I must have taught more than half of the graduating class,” he said, adding that he has stayed in touch with many of his students. Tenney’s connection began with the “rich environment” she found at Duke Law during her student days.

“In law school you are taught and led by the faculty, but you also learn from your classmates,” said Tenney, who also spent a significant portion of her career at Duke, directing compliance as associate dean at the School of Medicine before becoming the first director of Duke’s Institutional Ethics and Compliance Program. “I found that Duke was strong in both respects: It had an excellent faculty and an excellent student body of colleague-peers that also helped us all learn.”

Reppy and Tenney have recently made Duke Law the beneficiary of a $1 million charitable remainder unitrust, or CRUT. The gift reflects a desire to use their resources effectively and in a way that shows their appreciation for the good fortune they have enjoyed as members of the Duke community, said Tenney, who now oversees all institutional research compliance and HIPAA privacy matters at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her undergraduate alma mater.

The trust gives Reppy and Tenney a quarterly income for life “and ultimately provides a very generous and important legacy for Duke Law School,” said Mike Sholtz ’88, senior development counsel in Duke’s Office of Planned Giving — and a former student of Reppy’s — who worked with them in setting it up. The trust will be managed by the same investment managers who oversee Duke University’s endowment, DUMAC Inc., with the day-to-day administration being handled through Duke’s Office of Gift Planning, he said.

Sholtz called it a privilege to work with Reppy and Tenney on their retirement and charitable gift planning.

“Bill Reppy was the first faculty member I met upon arriving at Duke Law in 1985,” he said. “I was blessed to have a double helping of Bill, as he was both my first-year small section professor and legal writing instructor. Bill’s love of the profession, his students, and Duke Law has always been pronounced. He was an inspiration, mentor, and friend during my formative years, and so he remains. I celebrate Bill and Juli’s commitment to Duke Law as they help to preserve and build on the Law School’s excellence for future generations.”

“Bill and Juliann have deep ties to Duke Law School and already have made a huge difference in the life of the Law School,” said Dean David F. Levi. “This wonderfully thoughtful and generous gift is another way in which they continue to give back and help make us better able to fulfill our mission of excellence and service.”

For Reppy, who in 2010 was honored by the Law Alumni Association with its A. Kenneth Pye Award for excellence in teaching and compassion toward students, the gift is just one piece of a long legacy at Duke established over decades as a scholar and teacher. But it’s one the couple felt called upon to make “as beneficiaries” of the Duke Law community, said Tenney.

“Tuition doesn’t come anywhere near covering the costs of a Duke education. And I think anybody who’s been a beneficiary should feel called upon to remain an active part of the community.” — Juliann Tenney ’79
Volunteer profile

John DeGroote '90

John DeGroote ’90 is a big believer in networking — in business and beyond. “It’s a valuable tool for keeping in touch with friends and meeting new, like-minded people,” says DeGroote. He makes it central both to his Dallas-based practice focused on service as a trustee, mediator, and arbitrator, as well as to outreach within Duke Law’s alumni community, which he has served continuously since 1995, most recently as Law Alumni Association (LAA) president.

DeGroote discovered the power of networking as a Duke Law student, in fact. “I loved that Duke Law was so collaborative,” he says. “Law school is about learning the law, but at Duke I really learned how to work with people. Students would make copies of relevant cases and stick them in a shoebox in the library for anyone who needed them. I was blown away. It was completely inconsistent with the cutthroat stereotype of law school you saw in ‘The Paper Chase.’”

Early in his career, DeGroote says, he benefitted from the Duke Law alumni network, receiving valuable guidance and feedback from senior attorneys, and some of his first client referrals from classmates. That’s one of the reasons he has stayed so closely connected to the Law School. He has served as president of the Future Forum (now the Young Alumni Association) and on the executive committee of the LAA, and he has mentored students and young alumni, most recently taking a 2013 graduate into his firm through the Law School’s Bridge to Practice fellowship program. He also is a longstanding member of the Barrister Donor Society.

“I owe a lot of my success to Duke,” he says.

DeGroote’s success as a negotiator and mediator offers evidence of his skill at bringing people together. He has facilitated settlements in twenty states and in various countries around the world. After establishing himself as a litigator over almost a decade in law firm practice with McKool Smith and Jackson Walker, he honed his skills at BearingPoint, Inc. (formerly KPMG Consulting, Inc.), a multinational management and technology consulting firm where, from 2000 through 2009, he served consecutively as chief litigation counsel, chief legal officer, and president. He launched his firm, John DeGroote Services, LLC, in 2009, when he was appointed to manage BearingPoint’s liquidation, and now divides his time between trust work for that and other companies, and a growing practice as a mediator and arbitrator.

Blogging and public speaking are key outreach tools for DeGroote. In his blog, Settlement Perspectives, he offers regular commentary and numerous resources relating to negotiation, mediation, and arbitration, each of which he considers to be a vital skill for lawyers.

“I loved that Duke Law was so collaborative. Law school is about learning the law, but at Duke I really learned how to work with people.”

— John DeGroote ’90
“As outside counsel, pushing toward settlement is important,” he says. “When the client is truly in jeopardy, and you’re moving toward trial without trying to solve the problem, then you’re not serving the client’s real interests.” In addition to sharing his own perspectives, DeGroote enjoys the interactive aspects of blogging. “It’s been great. People find me and start conversations — both attorneys in the field, as well as people who need my help.”

While much of DeGroote’s networking takes place online, he takes a face-to-face approach to mentoring his associate Keaton Forcht ’13.

“When I was a junior attorney, I was lucky enough to sit in on conference calls, attend client meetings, and hear partners strategize cases out loud,” DeGroote says. “Now there are fewer options for kids to listen in, since a lot of case discussion takes place ad hoc during cell phone conversations outside the office.” He tries to include Forcht more directly in case evaluations and meetings.

“It’s a wonderful situation,” says Forcht, who met DeGroote at a Law School event during his second year. “John is tremendously generous with his time. I’m more like an apprentice than anything — he has been committed to my learning the practice of law and is never too busy to explain things as we go along.”

DeGroote, who actively encourages others to mentor and engage with young Duke Law alumni, is nearing the end of his term on the LAA, but plans to stay connected — and networked — with the Law School.

“I’ll miss my frequent trips to Durham, but there’s a lot to be done at the local level,” he says. “I love the institution.”

— Caitlin Wheeler ’97
Fifth Annual International Alumni and Student Dinner
New York City, Jan. 23, 2014
Alumni, friends, and LLM students gathered at The Netherland Club for a dinner hosted by Dean David F. Levi and Associate Dean Jennifer Maher ’83. Susanne I. Haas LLM ’85 and JD ’87 (near right), vice president and general counsel of Environmental and Combustion Controls at Honeywell International Inc. and a member of the Board of Visitors, delivered the keynote address. The dinner followed a reception in honor of the Law School’s International Student Interview Program, hosted by Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz.
12th Annual ESQ Career Symposium

More than 40 alumni returned to the Law School to offer students career insights and advice during panel discussions, small group meetings, and informal “speed-networking” sessions during the 2014 symposium. Christine P. Richards ’79 (top left), executive vice president, general counsel, and secretary of FedEx Corp., delivered the keynote address. ESQ was presented by the Duke Business Law Society, in conjunction with the Career & Professional Development Center and the Alumni & Development Office.

International Alumni Gathering
Santiago, Chile, and Buenos Aires, Argentina
June 16–23, 2013

Members of the Duke Law community enjoyed a weeklong tour of two of South America’s most exciting cities and their surrounding areas, exploring cultural, natural, and culinary hotspots, meeting regional alumni, and engaging in discussions about legal education and practice in Chile and Argentina. Highlights included conversations with Chief Justice Ricardo Lorenzetti of the Supreme Court of Argentina; Arturo Fernandois, former ambassador of Chile to the U.S.; and the dean and faculty of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC).
The Duke Law Raise the Bar Challenge seeks to increase the number of donors of $1,000 or more to the Annual Fund in 2014. If we collectively reach the goal of 700 donors, a $150,000 grant will be provided to the Law School by a generous group of alumni!

Our Challenge donors know that the Annual Fund supports everything we do at Duke Law. And they know participation matters. That’s why they are asking you to help raise the bar on Annual Fund giving.

Will you step up to this challenge with a gift of $1,000 or more? You’ll be supporting:

**STUDENTS** like Shifali Baliga ’14 and Celia Glass ’14, winners of the 2014 Dean’s Cup. Baliga, a repeat winner, will clerk for Judge Andre Davis of the 4th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals after graduation. Glass, who won the Hardt Cup in 2012, will clerk for Judge Anthony Scirica of the 3rd Circuit. Both women serve as editors of *Duke Law Journal*. Their skills in advocacy and scholarship are shared by many outstanding members of our student body.

**FACULTY** like Laurence R. Helfer, the Harry S. Chadwick, Sr. Professor of Law, an expert in the areas of international law and institutions, international adjudication, human rights, and international intellectual property law and policy. Helfer has served as an expert adviser to the U.S. Department of State on LGBT human rights and has also testified before the U.N. Human Rights Council.

**PROGRAMS** like the Center for Innovation Policy which addresses fundamental issues of law and policy affecting innovation. Led by Stuart M. Benjamin, the Douglas B. Maggs Professor of Law, and Arti K. Rai, the Elvin R. Latty Professor of Law, the center brings a scholarly focus to cross-cutting policies relevant to innovation generally and to sector-specific areas such as the life sciences, information and communications technology, and energy-related technology.

**TAKE THE RAISE the BAR CHALLENGE**

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