From the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Having just completed my first semester at this wonderful law school, I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your warm welcome, support, and advice as I have settled into my new role as dean. I have come to appreciate what a strong and vibrant community we have at Duke Law School. The members of our faculty are superb teachers and scholars. It is a great learning experience to hear about their scholarship and various projects. The alumni are accomplished and have pursued a variety of different career paths. We have alumni in all corners of the country and the world. Their loyalty to the Law School, their enthusiasm, and their high expectations both set a high standard and help us to achieve it. Finally, our students are just delightful. They are impressively smart, nice, and idealistic. They want to use their law training to make the world a better place.

Like so many organizations, a law school thrives on leadership. We have been blessed with able leadership from deans, faculty, and alumni. Because of this history of strong leadership, we can and should have ambitious goals for this school. Our overarching goal, supported by the faculty and our alumni leadership boards, is simply stated: We want Duke Law School to be the most exciting place in the country to study law, whether as a member of the faculty or the student body. To do that, and in keeping with the Law School’s most recent five-year plan, we must focus on 10 areas:

1. Faculty enhancement: We should expand our exceptional faculty with new hires in the areas of law and business, international and comparative law, law and economics, jurisprudence, criminal law, and more.
2. Scholarship funding: To compete for the very best students in the country and the world, we need to offer better scholarship assistance and strengthen our Merit Scholars program, which provides full-fellowship grants to the very top applicants.
3. Endowment for clinical and support centers: Our clinical programs offer our students the experiential opportunities an excellent legal education demands. Our centers fuel the vibrant intellectual life of this law school. Both require consistent and ongoing support to flourish.
4. Alumni enrichment: Duke Law should be an institution of life-long learning and engagement. We want to expand opportunities for alumni to share their experiences and expertise through participation in conferences and symposia and service as mentors, teachers, and advisers. We also want to provide continuing opportunities for our alumni to learn about legal scholarship and developments in the law, particularly as they contemplate new career directions and possibilities.
5. Curriculum: We will continue to strengthen our legal writing program and expand upon our summer programs in Hong Kong and Geneva. We should consider whether to join in such endeavors. We should increase the number of visiting faculty from foreign institutions and expand upon our summer programs in Hong Kong and Geneva.
6. Joint degrees and interdisciplinarity: We want to ensure that our students have ambitious goals for this school. Our overarching goal, supported by the faculty and our alumni leadership boards, is simply stated: We want Duke Law School to be the most exciting place in the country to study law, whether as a member of the faculty or the student body. To do that, and in keeping with the Law School’s most recent five-year plan, we must focus on 10 areas:

7. Diversity: Expanding the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the legal profession is important to the profession’s ability to lead and serve. Efforts to further diversity our student body and faculty should be coupled with the development of “pipeline” programs to provide academic support and generate interest in legal careers among young minority students. A more diverse student body also translates — over time and with the right kind of support — into a more diverse faculty.
8. Special projects and centers: Our new center on criminal justice and professional responsibility was announced by Duke President Richard Brodhead last September; we also are exploring options for new clinics, a judicial institute, and a “Duke in D.C.” mentorship program, among other possible initiatives.
9. The international law school: We must respond to the increasing importance and centrality of international law and institutions by working to “internationalize” the Law School. Other parts of the university are establishing new degree-granting campuses abroad. We should consider whether to join in such endeavors. We should increase the number of visiting faculty from foreign institutions and expand upon our summer programs in Hong Kong and Geneva.
10. Joint degrees and interdisciplinarity: We want to ensure that our students have ambitious goals for this school. Our overarching goal, supported by the faculty and our alumni leadership boards, is simply stated: We want Duke Law School to be the most exciting place in the country to study law, whether as a member of the faculty or the student body. To do that, and in keeping with the Law School’s most recent five-year plan, we must focus on 10 areas:

Sincerely,

David F. Ye]

Duke Law School Selected Events Spring 2008

1/16 Second Annual Duke Law Leadership Experience: Development of Identity and Professionalism
1/28 Data Privacy in Transatlantic Perspective: Conflict or Cooperation? (co-sponsored with the Center for International and Comparative Law)
2/6 Sixth Annual ESG Career Symposium
2/15 International Tribunals and the United States Judicial System
3/2-23 Family Weekend Public Interest Law Foundation Auction
3/26 Siegel Lecture in Ethics: Professor Mark A. Rothstein, Herbert F. Work Chair of Law and Medicine, University of Louisville School of Medicine, University of Louisville
3/27 Paul D. Clement, Solicitor General of the United States
3/10-14 Southern Justice Spring Break Mission Trip
3/25 Brainerd Currie Memorial Lecture: Pamela S. Karlan, Dean, and Prof. of Public Interest Law, Stanford Law School
4/7 Meredith and Kip Frey Lecture in Intellectual Property: Sunniva Svanberg, CrossProfessor of Economics and Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley
4/10-11 National Security Conference: Center on Law, Ethics and National Security Programs/Faculty
4/15-16 Reunion 2008
5/10 Duke Law School Hooding Ceremony

Duke Law Magazine welcomes your thoughts. Please send letters to: editor@law.duke.edu or by mail to: Letters to the Editor, Duke Law Magazine, Duke University Law School, Box 90389, Durham, NC 27708-0389

Student profile brings back memories

Re: Chris Murray ‘07: Making Duke Law History (Spring ’07) * Congratulations on a great magazine! I read it cover to cover. Because it was our dear friend and classmate, E. David White, II, we were all very proud when Dave argued a criminal inmate appeal before the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Va.

Most of the members of the Class of ’73 will no doubt remember the, uh, spirited discussions between Dave and Ray (Raymond) Yockey ’74 emanating from Leroy Simons’ (Class of ’73) main floor law library cubicle, as Ray assisted Dave in preparation for the big day. I do not recall if we were cognizant Dave was the first student to so argue before the Fourth Circuit. But I would expect that the other members of the Class of ’73 arguing in the Spring ’07 issue, Ken Starr, Dan Blue, Ward Greens, Dan Mayer, Jeff Nickly, and Kenny Armstrong, would also recall Dave’s feat.

By the way, law class was just getting going in the mid-70s. I believe Dave’s effort came from the regular Trial Practice Course so wonderfully and ably taught by Dan Tom Read ’63.

Mike Stover, Class of ’73

McLean, Va.

*Editor’s note: Our article stated that Chris Murray, then a student in the Appellate Litigation Clinic, was the first Duke Law student to argue a case in the Fourth Circuit when he argued on behalf of the petitioner in Lyons v. Weser on Jan. 30, 2007. Whether or not he was the first, his argument was successful. On Sept. 21, the court issued a writ of habeas corpus for the client’s client, Carl E. Lyons, who is currently serving a 30-year sentence in a North Carolina prison for kidnapping and forcible rape.

Duke Law Magazine