Endowed professorship honors the transformational efforts of Lanty Smith ’67

“... In the annals of universities there are some people who really made the university or laid the foundation for its future more than others. You are standing in the presence of one of those giants.”

— Duke University President Richard H. Brodhead, toasting Lanty Smith ’67

COLLEAGUES, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS have established an endowed law professorship to honor Lanty Smith ’67 for decades of devoted volunteer leadership at Duke Law School and Duke University. Gifts and pledges to the endowment fund totaling $1.7 million were matched by $1 million from The Duke Endowment.

At an intimate cocktail reception at Duke University’s Hart House on Feb. 11, Dean David F. Levi said it was a joy — and remarkably easy — to quietly marshal support among Smith’s many friends in the Duke community and beyond for the Lanty L. Smith ’67 Professorship.

“This is a tribute to you, Lanty,” said Levi, pointing to the gathered friends and family members. “It puts one in mind of that Christopher Wren epitaph: ‘If you seek his monument, look around you.’” » (Continued on page 4)
Dear friends,

I have been privileged to be a part of the Duke Law community for nearly 38 years. The wonderful students I have taught and gotten to know over that time — including many of you — contribute to my deep feeling of gratitude for this special place. Together with my amazing faculty colleagues, the great deans with whom I have worked, our hard-working staff, and the extended Duke Law community of family and friends, you have made this a remarkable place. These are just a few of the reasons the Law School has been my home for these many years. As an eyewitness to the Law School’s rise in both reputation and rank, I can speak from a point of authority on the matter: Duke Law School is one of the premier law schools in the world, and we continue to become stronger because of engagement and financial support from dedicated alumni and friends.

Thank you for providing the essential support needed to enhance the educational experience at Duke Law. Your gifts allow us to recruit and retain exceptional students and a faculty of national stature. You support the teaching and learning of a range of subjects, including Constitutional Law, Securities Regulation, National Security, Gender Discrimination, and Elections Law. You support our 11 clinics, including the Wrongful Convictions Clinic, which has helped six individuals gain release from prison after serving long sentences for crimes they did not commit, and our 12 centers, such as the Global Financial Markets Center, which recently offered a “Financial Markets Bootcamp” to ensure students are well-prepared for their summer jobs.

Your philanthropic investments allow my friend and colleague, Dean David F. Levi, the flexibility to provide generous financial support to students, expand curricular offerings, and fund library resources and technological tools that make creative scholarship and teaching possible. Having a robust Annual Fund gives us the ability to pursue new opportunities as they arise, which has continually enabled us to be nimble and creative in our curriculum and programming.

Thank you for your continued interest and engagement with this institution. I can assure you that your support is helpful; it moves the needle and moves us forward. Thank you for helping ensure that the excellent legal education at Duke will remain available to exceptional students.

I look forward to seeing you when you return for a reunion, a program, or a game, or when you are bringing your children for a Duke tour. My faculty colleagues and I always enjoy seeing our former students and I know you will enjoy experiencing, first-hand, the intellectual energy and feeling of camaraderie that makes it a joy for me to come to work every day.

With warm regards,

James D. Cox
Brainerd Currie Professor of Law

Professor James Cox teaches a class in 2008.
Allen '66 endows new professorship in international business law

ANY SUCCESSFUL LAWYERS dread retirement, assuming that life outside the corner office will be all downhill. That’s certainly been true for Richard M. Allen ‘66 — and he couldn’t be happier. Since retiring as a partner at Cravath, Swaine & Moore, he has spent 17 seasons as a ski instructor, including one in Vail, the legendary resort in the Rockies.

For Allen, helping people learn an activity that will get them outside and “leave a big smile on their face at the end of the day” is immensely rewarding. “Much more satisfying than practicing law,” he jokes.

But as much as he loves his second career, Allen hasn’t forgotten where he came from. A life member of the Board of Visitors, he recently made a gift of $1.25 million to endow a new distinguished chair at Duke Law School that honors both his long and successful corporate practice and the firm at which he worked his entire career.

The Richard Allen/Cravath Professorship in International Business Law will be reserved for a scholar whose specialties include international commercial transactions. Through the Duke Law Faculty Endowment Challenge, matching funds from The Duke Endowment will bring the total gift to $2.5 million, and former colleagues of Allen’s have also made contributions.

“Our support of this professorship is consistent with Cravath’s longstanding commitments to improving the law and legal system and giving back to those organizations and institutions that are carrying out important work throughout the world,” said Cravath partner Stephen M. Kessing ’05, a donor to the professorship endowment. “This professorship is rooted in the understanding that business law crosses borders, and laying a foundation for law students’ learning and development in this area will be crucial to their success in an increasingly global marketplace. We are proud to support its mission to provide distinguished education and training in the field of international business law.”

SUPPORTING FACULTY
SUPPORTING FACULTY

Smith (continued from page 1)

Levi, who with his wife, Nancy Ranney, is a lead donor to the endowment, conceived of the professorship as a fitting gesture of appreciation for Smith’s many contributions to his alma mater. These include serving as chair of the Law School’s Board of Visitors and subsequently as a Duke University trustee, as a trustee of The Duke Endowment board, and as a member of the board of directors of the Duke Management Company (DUMAC). He currently serves as chair of his 50th class reunion committee and is leading fundraising for the Class of 1967 Fund, a dean’s discretionary fund that he established to celebrate the close friendships still shared among his classmates.

Smith and his wife, Margaret WC ‘66, PhD ‘86, have been leading benefactors of the Law School, most notably establishing the ambitious Samuel Fox Mordecai Scholars Program in 1997 with the creation of the first two merit-based, full-tuition scholarships. The Mordecai Scholarships have been pivotal in facilitating the recruitment of top applicants to the Law School and, in turn, helping to spur its reputational ascent.

All 25 past recipients of the Smith-Mordecai Scholarship — Matthew Leerberg ’06 called them the “Smith-Mordecai family” — contributed to the endowment fund. In a tribute video, many thanked the Smiths for opening the doors of Duke Law to them and for making their individual careers in private practice, public service, business, finance, and entrepreneurship possible.

“You continue to be a role model and an inspiration to me and I keep you in my thoughts as I seek to find ways to give back,” said Sheena Paul ‘10. “It seems only fitting that the school to which you have given so much will have a professorship in your name,” said Kelly Townsend ’03.

Brodhead noted Smith’s contributions, as a Duke trustee, to an in-depth study of the relationship between the university and its health system to uncover every opportunity for mutual benefit as well as every avenue for potential liability. And as a DUMAC board member charged with managing the university’s investments during Brodhead’s tenure as president, Smith displayed a rare blend of “caution and imagination” that contributed to its success, he added.

Smith, the founder, chairman, and CEO of Tippet Capital LLC, a Raleigh-based investment and merchant banking firm, also leads several companies engaged in medical device development and research, and serves as chairman of the board of directors at Precision Fabrics Group, Inc. He is the former chairman and interim CEO of Wachovia Corporation. Smith began his career in business, banking, and entrepreneurship after leaving a partnership at Jones Day.

In addition to his volunteer service at Duke, Smith has served in leadership roles with many nonprofit organizations in the areas of health care and social welfare, on state task forces, and with the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina, the North Carolina Humanities Center, and the North Carolina Institute of Medicine.

“We hope that the inspired faculty who will hold the Smith chair will add as much to the intellectual life of Duke as Lanty has,” said Joseph Neubauer, who, along with his wife, Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer, and the Neubauer Family Foundation, is an anchor donor to the professorship endowment. “We deeply admire our friend, who never stops probing for new insights nor high impact ways to apply them to serve humanity.”

Bruce and Martha Karsh and A. Morris Williams Jr. also are anchor donors to the endowment fund.

Raised on a small family farm in Sherrodsville, Ohio, by parents who he said revered education, Smith was a mathematics major at Wittenberg University. It was there he met the former Dean Elvin “Jack” Latty, who, hoping to build Duke Law School’s reputation, traveled the country. 

Lanty Smith, center, and Dean David F. Levi, right, with former Smith-Mordecai Scholars, from left, Tommy Thekkekandam JD/MBA ’10, Matthew Leerberg ’06, and Nan Donnelly ’01
in the late 1950s and 1960s to personally recruit promising students. Although Latty told the young man that he had no financial aid to offer, he sent a telegram a few days later saying that a full scholarship had become available. Smith, who had planned to go to Harvard or another top law school, came to Duke.

“Dean Latty huckstered me, but Duke has been very special,” Smith said at the reception. “It’s been an enormous lifelong love, and I’ve gotten far more from Duke than I’ve ever contributed.” Topping that list: his marriage. Smith met his wife of more than 50 years on a blind date while he was a law student and she was a Duke undergraduate. “We’ve been extraordinarily blessed in our time together,” he said. “She has been a role model for our three daughters.” All three, Meg Smith T ’94, Abby Presson, and Amanda Lacoff ’06, as well as nine of their 10 grandchildren were at the reception.

Smith also credited Duke with generating many more of the diverse professional opportunities, interests, affiliations, and relationships that followed his student years. “My overwhelming sentiment is simply gratitude,” Smith said — for his parents, for his hosts, and for the assembled friends and family who “made this all happen,” such as Levi, Associate Dean for Alumni and Development Kate Buchanan, and his daughters and their husbands.

“I think the thing that makes me happiest about all this is that it was completely unexpected,” he said. “It’s not something I would have done for myself. And they had so much fun doing it, as they described it to me.”

Smith described himself as a collector: “I collect friends — friends who become colleagues and often teammates. The greatest joy in my life is working in teams. I’ve just been so blessed and am blessed now, to have teammates.” He also called himself a lifelong student who always saw law school as the best graduate school in the humanities: “How do we order society? What are the rules? How do you live together? And in these somewhat troubled times with our judiciary and our legal system, we should never forget how important it is for an accepted legal system to establish the way people relate to each other.

“At this point in my life, I continue to ask lots of questions,” he said. “I’m still a very willing student. And I don’t want to stop my collecting. I think I’m in my seventh career and I think I have room for one more. In the meantime, the precious things I’ve collected are you.”

It seems only fitting that the school to which you have given so much will have a professorship in your name.”
— Kelly Townsend ’03, a former Smith-Mordecai Scholar

OVER DINNER IN LATE DECEMBER, LaMonte Armstrong surprised Professors Theresa Newman ’88 and James Coleman by presenting them with a donation of $50,000 to the Wrongful Convictions Clinic, which they co-direct.

The gift wasn’t Armstrong’s first to the clinic, but had the same motivation: gratitude. “I pretty much owe Duke Law School my life,” he said in a March telephone interview. “I know that money will be going for a good cause.”

Armstrong spent more than 17 years in prison for a murder he didn’t commit, winning his release after Newman, Coleman, and clinic students investigated and litigated his case over a six-year period, several contributing to the effort long after graduating. In 2012, a newly tested palm print discovered at the Greensboro, N.C., crime scene identified the real killer and exonerated Armstrong. Most members of what Armstrong calls “the A-Team” were on hand to greet him when he was released from prison on June 29, 2012, as was David Pishko ’77, a Winston-Salem-based defense attorney who appeared, with Newman, as his counsel.

Since his release, Armstrong received a full pardon from former North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory as well as compensation from the state. He works as a case manager helping others to navigate life after incarceration or on probation, always urging clients to persevere through setbacks. “I tell them that no matter what, even if doors are slammed in your face, you can’t give up,” he said.

“I cheer for Duke now”

Armstrong lived that credo throughout his own incarceration as he doggedly wrote to lawyers and law school groups all over the country to ask for help with his claim of innocence. A lifelong Tar Heel basketball fan — and still an avid player — he was sorely disappointed when the Innocence Project at the University of North Carolina declined to proceed with his case after a preliminary investigation, yet he never thought to write to the Innocence Project chapter or the Wrongful Convictions Clinic at Duke Law. “I didn’t like Duke in sports, so I didn’t write to Duke,” he said.

But in 2006, after a Duke student retrieved his file from the North Carolina...
Center on Actual Innocence, which serves as a clearinghouse for wrongful conviction claims, and brought it to the clinic, Newman contacted Armstrong. “She said they would be delighted to have me as a client and would work hard to get me out of prison.” His basketball allegiance, already beginning to turn, switched for good when two students visited him in prison in 2010, he said. “They said they had enough evidence to get me out of prison — they just couldn’t say when. Ever since then, it’s been, ‘Go Duke!’” Armstrong also acknowledges his gratitude to the Duke University Medical Center for “patching up my back” with surgery years ago. “I cheer for Duke now,” he said.

He has stayed in touch with each of the students who worked on his case on their way to becoming lawyers and long ago became his friends. “Each has said they got so much out of working in the clinic and on my case, that it was a highlight of their whole careers,” Armstrong said. “I think every aspiring lawyer should work in the clinic at least one semester, or even for a year.” One he knows has already spent a summer as an undergraduate clinic intern: his granddaughter, a senior at Winston-Salem State University, who worked in the clinic last summer.

Armstrong has also remained close with Pishko, who represented him in a civil suit, as well with Newman and Coleman, the John S. Bradway Professor of the Practice of Law. And he has been “a great friend” to Duke Law and the clinic in multiple ways since his release, said Newman. These include sharing his story with incoming first-year students during their LEAD Week orientation, speaking to alumni, participating in a fundraising video, and traveling to New York with Dean David F. Levi and Coleman to meet with the late William Louis-Dreyfus ’57, who subsequently made a significant donation to the clinic.

“LaMonte — a North Carolina A&T graduate — once joked that the most difficult part of his transition after release was becoming a Duke fan,” said Newman. “But he’s now all-in, Duke’s biggest fan, especially Duke Law. He tells everyone how terrific our students are, how proud he is to be associated with a school so dedicated to helping others, and how committed he is to helping us achieve freedom for others. We can’t imagine not having him on our team.” ¶

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Ichel ’78 establishes new scholarship for ‘Double Dukies’

DAVID ICHEL, WHO ARRIVED at Duke University as a freshman undergraduate and left with a bachelor’s and a law degree, hopes to increase the ranks of “Double Dukies” with a new merit-based scholarship.

Ichel ’78 T ’75 and his wife, Jan Ichel, who have previously endowed a distinguished professorship and supported other faculty, student, and building needs, have created a full scholarship for a talented Duke University undergraduate who enrolls at Duke Law School. The first recipient of the David W. Ichel Duke Leadership Law Scholarship, Jenny Wang JD/ MA ’19, T ’14 is one of 11 Duke graduates in the first-year class.

“Duke University is attracting the very best students in the country to be undergraduates here and these students have the choice of any of the best law schools,” said Ichel, a former chair of the Board of Visitors. “What I’ve found is that you can actually multiply the great effect that Duke has on a person by continuing in the Law School because you already know the university, you’re experiencing it in a different way, and you’re able to introduce other class members to a great institution.”

“With their latest act of generosity, David and Jan have shown the power of philanthropy to enhance this institution,” said Dean David F. Levi. “The Ichel Scholarship will make it possible for outstanding students to continue their Duke education and obtain a second Duke degree at the Law School.”

Ichel fell in love with Duke University on his first visit here as high school student from Edison, N.J. But if it hadn’t been for a Durham attorney, Norman E. Williams, taking him on as an intern during his sophomore undergraduate year (a job that resulted from a plea bargain between the attorney and the local district attorney, who was one of Ichel’s professors) he might not have attended Duke Law School after graduating summa cum laude as a political science major. The internship, a subsequent job as a clerk at the Durham courthouse, and a great undergraduate experience, led him to stay.

“I learned how to try a case just from watching some great Southern trial lawyers while serving as a clerk at the courthouse,” Ichel said. “So I thought of staying here to practice law, and the only reason I didn’t was Dean [Kenneth] Pye said to me, ‘You have to try a big firm somewhere.’”

After interviewing with firms in New York and San Francisco, Ichel accepted a summer associate position at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, where he would end up working for 38 years, the last 29 as a litigation partner representing major corporations and institutions. In 2016, after retiring from Simpson, he founded David W. Ichel Dispute Resolution, serving as a mediator, arbitrator, and special master in the same kinds of complex cases he had handled as a litigator.

Ichel has taught Complex Commercial Litigation at the Law School each

Jan and David Ichel ’78 with Jenny Wang JD/MA ’19, the inaugural recipient of the David W. Ichel Leadership Law Scholarship
Spring since 2011, served on the Board of Visitors since 2002, and was the Board’s chair from 2009 to 2014. He previously served as co-chair of the Law School’s Building Campaign Committee and as a member of reunion committees and the Law Alumni Association Board of Directors, as well as president of the New York-area Duke Law alumni organization.

The Ichels have been frequent financial supporters of the Law School. In 2010, they made a $1.25 million gift to create a distinguished chair for a professor of constitutional law and government who also teaches undergraduate courses, which is held by Professor Neil S. Siegel, who himself had been a Duke undergrad. They also contributed to the endowment of the Simpson Thacher & Bartlett Professorship that is held by Richard Schmalbeck, endowed another student scholarship, and have given to a variety of other needs at the Law School and the university, including the Center for Judicial Studies, a seminar room, and Duke Athletics.

“Duke has been our number one priority for giving,” said Ichel, who was awarded a $2,000 scholarship beginning in his second year at Duke Law, which, he noted, at that time amounted to two-thirds of the annual tuition. “I’ve said to Dean Levi, our current principal giving interest at Duke is for scholarships, because I would like to see more students have the ability to go to both the undergraduate and law school without tuition burden.”

Ichel said he hopes to inspire fellow alumni to fund more opportunities for undergrads to stay at Duke for their legal education. For Wang, the opportunity was too good to pass up.

“I applied to Duke Law knowing from my experiences as an undergraduate that I would have the opportunity to delve into interdisciplinary studies right away,” said Wang, who majored in biology at Duke and is now pursuing a master’s degree in bioethics and science policy along with her JD. “I am truly grateful that this scholarship enabled me to return to Duke and pursue a dual degree. I think most importantly the scholarship will enable me to make decisions concerning my future career based solely on my interests, and not on financial pressures to pay off student loans.”

Leadership gift supports Chinese students in legal studies at Duke

A $3 MILLION GIFT will support top Chinese law students in their JD and LLM studies at Duke Law, strengthening the school’s longstanding connection to the legal profession in China.

The gift comes from a foundation that wishes to remain anonymous. The gift will be used support a partnership with Tsinghua University in Beijing, through which top law students will spend a semester at Duke Law. After completing their degrees at Tsinghua School of Law, these students will be eligible to apply to return to Duke for two years as advanced JD candidates or for one-year LLM studies.

The new gift also will be used to expand the Global Leaders Scholarship Program, established in 2011, that provides full-tuition LLM scholarships to Chinese nationals who demonstrate high levels of academic achievement, records of leadership, and commitment to the use of law in addressing economic, social, and ethical challenges in China. Five students have received the scholarship to date.

By sponsoring Chinese students in their studies at Duke Law, the foundation wishes to promote the rule of law, the protection of human rights, and the development of a modern and sophisticated legal system in China. It hopes that these graduates will foster cross-cultural dialogue between the peoples of China and the U.S. It also hopes that these talented young lawyers trained in the U.S. will return to China and bring their Duke Law education to bear in improving the Chinese legal system.

“This is a very moving gesture, and we have a great responsibility to measure up to this gift,” said Dean David F. Levi. “We understand that the donor came to Duke because of Duke Law’s close ties to China and Tsinghua University that have existed since the Nixon Scholars program of the 1980s. The donor expects the gift to deepen these ties and lead to positive, long-term change as these students eventually assume leadership positions in China and internationally.”

The first American law school to welcome Chinese students after the end of the Cultural Revolution, Duke has longstanding ties to prominent Chinese institutions and leaders. Duke Law has had a cooperative relationship with Tsinghua University School of Law since the 1990s, and one of the earliest Nixon Scholars, Gao Xiqing ’86, who headed one of China’s leading sovereign wealth funds and serves on the Duke University Board of Trustees, is now on the faculty.

A former Tsinghua Law dean, Wang Zhenmin, will visit Duke Law as the Ken Yun Visiting Professor of Law in 2018. “Tsinghua is a school with which we seem to share the same kind of entrepreneurial spirit,” said Levi, who noted that Duke Law also has cooperative relationships with the law schools at Renmin University of China, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and Peking University.

When asked why the donor wished to remain anonymous, a spokesman replied: “According to Chinese wisdom, doing good without being seen is a secret virtue. This is the central idea of our mission, and our guiding principle.”

He quoted a Chinese scholar: “The ancient Chinese, pitying the moth did not light the lamp; they regularly left rice for the mice; they built bridges and paved roads; they dug wells and diverted water; they donated coffins and paid for burials; they helped others in exigencies; they did not attribute success to themselves, did not call themselves righteous, and did not expose others’ mistakes. Such are secret virtues.”

The donor’s spokesman said the foundation’s gift reflects gratitude for Duke Law School’s “love and care for the Chinese people” and expressed hope that it will serve as encouragement for international alumni to support their alma mater. This illustrates, he said, another central Chinese philosophy: “Always be grateful and reciprocate on people’s kindness.”
SUPPORTING STUDENTS

“No matter how late I’m up working, no matter how heavy my backpack, I am constantly remembering how fortunate I am to have the opportunity to be this exhausted from working my brain all day,” Ault said. Calling her fellow students “some of the most humble and hardworking people I know,” she said they share her appreciation for opportunities made possible by generous alumni and friends of Duke Law School.

“I look around this room and see so many of you who helped put law school within reach for us,” she said. “That tells me that you haven’t taken your privileges and opportunities for granted either. You’ve leveraged the opportunities that came your way and you’ve shared the benefits of your hard work with me and other scholarship and fellowship recipients at Duke. On behalf of these classmates and myself, I’m up here to thank you today.”

Observing that “you can tell how much a person values your gift by what they do with it,” Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Lewis Hutchison thanked donors for making it possible for Duke to continue the legacy of admitting students, like Ault, “with minds full of ability and with hearts that care.”

In her welcoming remarks, Associate Dean for Alumni and Development Kate Buchanan reported that donors had

Scholarship and Fellowship Luncheon:

“Paying it forward is very rewarding”

MEGAN AULT ’18 credits her Rust Belt roots for her belief in the value of hard work and appreciating all opportunities that come her way. At Duke Law, she said, her classmates share those values.


Having attended a high school that did not offer advanced placement courses and knowing fewer than half her classmates would graduate from college, Ault said she savored the opportunity to attend the University of Pittsburgh on scholarship. She threw herself into classes, research, teaching, and student organizations and graduated summa cum laude with majors in environmental studies, political science, and urban studies. After graduation, with an eye toward eventually attending law school, she juggled a retail job with bartending in her hometown of Youngstown, Ohio, to save for tuition.

“It wasn’t that long ago that I was mopping the floor of a bar after a long shift making cocktails for $3.98 an hour plus tips,” said Ault, now a LEAD fellow, co-president of the Environmental Law Society, and case manager of an investigation team with the Innocence Project. She expressed her gratitude for those who inspired her and helped her gain entrance and opportunity at Duke Law: her parents; her sister, who bravely endured multiple limb-lengthening operations; the Ohio community “that taught me to work hard;” and the scholarship donors whose generosity in funding her scholarship has made her legal education and summer positions with public interest environmental law organizations possible.

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established 51 new scholarship and fellowship endowments to that point during the Duke Forward fundraising campaign, and an additional 15 in their estate plans. More than 30 of those endowments utilized matching funds from the financial aid challenge fund established by Elizabeth and Stanley Star ’61.

Addressing the Stars, who attended the luncheon, Buchanan said: “Your initial gift has already been multiplied 30 times and, in future years, as generations of students are awarded scholarships from these new endowments, the multiplier will continue to grow.” Buchanan also offered her personal thanks to the couple on behalf of her family for helping them establish the Daniel F. and Dale S. Bernard Scholarship in memory of her father, a 1967 Duke Law graduate and longtime member of the Law Alumni Association board who died in 2011.

Buchanan urged the assembled students and donors to forge relationships and rapport with one another. “Your tuition bill did not magically disappear or get reduced,” she told the students. “Real people ... chose to invest in you.” Alumni and other donors, she added, can see their gifts to “financial aid” are not just deposited into a generic bank account: “You have made a choice to invest your hard-earned dollars to lend a helping hand to students ... who are likely to become future leaders and problem-solvers in the legal profession and in the world.”

Alumni speaker Nora Jordan ’83 said she and her husband, Allen Reiser ’83, found “investing” in future students by endowing the Thomas Jordan Memorial Scholarship in 2013 was a fitting tribute to her late father. Jordan, a partner and head of the investment management group at Davis Polk in New York, credited her father, an immigrant from Ireland who had to leave school at the age of 14, with inspiring all of his seven children to excel in their studies and in their professional lives. “You didn’t miss school unless you were dead,” she joked, recalling how her father, who read constantly, walked his children to the library on his one day off from multiple jobs and gave them riddles to solve in the evenings.

“He stressed education for the sake of education, not just for getting ahead,” said Jordan, a member of the Law School’s Board of Visitors. Having received scholarships to attend the University of Notre Dame and Duke Law, she expressed the hope that all of the scholarship and fellowship recipients in attendance would someday return as donors: “Paying it forward is very rewarding, especially because I was able to use the opportunity to honor my father.”

Dean David F. Levi, who also endowed a scholarship with his wife, Nancy Ranney, said that “keeping the doors of the Law School open” to promising students from all walks of life strengthens Duke Law, the broader community, and the profession.

“All of our institutions are aggregations of people who care about one another — we are so much stronger together,” he said. “That’s how it is at Duke Law. We are philanthropic in a setting where we have the same goal and same intent, and together we make a difference.”

— R. C. Kelly Mordecai Law Scholar Megan Ault ’18

“No matter how late I’m up working, no matter how heavy my backpack, I am constantly remembering how fortunate I am to have the opportunity to be this exhausted from working my brain all day.”

— R. C. Kelly Mordecai Law Scholar Megan Ault ’18
Thank You to our Blueprint Benefactors

Each year, dozens of programs and events help Duke Law students prepare for career success and leadership through networking, interviewing, building relationships, practicing professional skills, and engaging intellectually with key issues of the day. Law firm sponsorships are key to the success of all of these initiatives, from annual events like the ESQ Career Symposium, the Hardt Cup Moot Court Competition, the 1L Blueprint for Success expo, and the PILF Auction & Gala (pictured at left) that supports public interest fellowships, to issue-based conferences, speaker series, and events like a recent panel discussion on the future of religious freedom organized by the Muslim Law Students Association. In addition to their critical financial support, many members of these firms participate in Duke Law events as commentators, interviewers, advisors, and mentors. We are grateful for the support of all of our Blueprint Benefactors. You continually move Duke Law forward. Thank you!

For information on becoming a Blueprint Benefactor, contact Kate Shivar, Assistant Director of Annual Giving, Young Alumni at kate.shivar@law.duke.edu or review the menu of sponsorship opportunities law.duke.edu/alumni/giving/blueprintbenefactors/.

1L Blueprint for Success
This event allows first-year students to establish meaningful connections with representatives from law firms, corporations, nonprofits, and government agencies around the country — including Duke Law alumni — in advance of the 2L recruiting season.

“This is a great way to meet a lot of different employers. It’s great to get that exposure and learn about what practice areas there are and how people got where they are.”
— Karim Pirani ’17, who attended the event in 2015

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The ESQ Career Symposium
Organized by the Business Law Society, ESQ brings students together with alumni and practitioners from a range of fields to gain insight on career opportunities and expectations, such as the importance of relationships to success on the job. Kirkland Hicks ’97, general counsel of Lincoln Financial and a member of the Board of Visitors, delivered the keynote address at ESQ 2017 on Feb. 4, which was followed by topical panels and lunchtime networking reception and basketball watch party in Blue Devil Tower in Duke’s Wallace Wade Stadium.

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett and Sullivan & Cromwell served as lead ESQ sponsors, with additional sponsorships provided by Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft; Cravath, Swaine & Moore; Kirkland & Ellis; Paul, Weiss, Rifkind; Wharton & Garrison; Weil, Gotshal & Manges; and White & Case.

“ESQ would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsoring firms. Firm sponsorship provides our organization with the flexibility to modify the event from year to year according to students’ needs and interests, and according to changes in the legal recruiting environment.”
— Abby Frisch ’18, co-chair Business Law Society

The Eighth Annual International Alumni and Student Dinner
Held in New York on Jan. 26, 2017, the event featured a discussion about the future of legal practice and entrepreneurship in the health care industry with James J. Bergin LLM ’93, vice president law at Johnson & Johnson Innovation, and Bruce R. Rosengard, MD, FRCS, chief medical science and technology officer at Johnson & Johnson Medical Devices Companies. The event, which benefits the Judy Horowitz LL.M. Endowed Scholarship, followed a reception hosted by Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, held in conjunction with the Law School’s International Student Interview Program. Sponsors include Dechert; Ropes & Gray; Weil, Gotshal & Manges; Lin Chua LL.M ’00 and Evert Vink, Paul Hespel LL.M ’95, Julian Vasquez LL.M ’05, and Bergin.

“We have used law firm funds to educate students about 1L diversity opportunities, connect with alums, and strengthen our community at Duke. The unique opportunities provided to our students because of firm giving has been incredible.”
— David Kuwabara ’18, chair, Asian Law Students Association
Volunteer profile

Lin Chua LLM ’00

The key to a successful career is seeking information, perspective and input from industry experts, colleagues, friends and family — and making sure you pay back the favor. That’s a crucial insight Lin Chua has gleaned from a career as a transactional lawyer, international banker, and “fintech” entrepreneur.

“Everybody offers something to you, and you can offer something to that next person,” said Chua, the co-founder, chief operating officer and head of capital markets of InterNex Capital, an asset-based digital lending company that provides lines of credit to the lower mid-market.

“Build that community of support and help people back because that’s the network that will be helping you.”

A native of Singapore, Chua has practiced what she preaches from the time she arrived at Duke Law from Australia, where she was a transactional attorney at Freehills (now Herbert Smith Freehills). Choosing Duke as her gateway to her goal of landing a job at a New York law firm was a “no-brainer,” she said, as she was “very much taken by the people who had reached out to me and by the conversations I had before I came in.”

Chua, a member of the Law School’s Board of Visitors, speaks five languages, has lived on four continents, and has worked — often managing cross-border deals and teams — in three countries. As she advised students to do at her keynote address for the 2016 ESQ Career Symposium, Chua quickly built her Duke network. While still at Duke, she found mentors in Professors James Cox and Steven Schwarz, with whom she remains in contact. She kept her door open to LLMs who were visiting and interviewing in New York while she practiced at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett. And she remained in touch with administrators of the LLM program during a three-year stint at the De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek law firm in Amsterdam.

Chua ramped up her alumni engagement after moving back to New York to take a position at GE Capital, mining her broad network of professional relationships to help Duke JD and LLM candidates find diverse career opportunities in practice and industry. Along with Judy Horowitz, then the associate dean for International Studies, she established the International Advisory Board. The idea was to create a thriving LLM alumni community and support the LLM program with strategic advice in international efforts. The first step: cementing connections among the many LLM graduates who had established careers in the New York region.

“That was our launch pad for creating community and I think we’ve been very successful in the first generation of that ‘build,’” Chua said. “The next phase will involve taking the International Advisory Board into a more online and international level, where people still feel that sense of connection to the Duke Law network, despite the fact they are in far-flung locations.”

Chua has been instrumental in building support and sponsorship for the annual International Alumni and Student Dinner in New York, held in conjunction with the Law School’s International Student Interview Program. The event, of which Chua and her husband, Evert Vink, regularly serve as gold-level sponsors, celebrated its eighth year in January. (See page 11.)

“The dinner is an anchor event for the International Advisory Board and we see it as a unique opportunity to try to lead in
demonstrating to the international community the importance of giving back and contributing back to the Law School,” she said.

Now in her first term on the Board of Visitors, Chua previously served on the Law Alumni Association (LAA) board and received its Young Alumni Award in 2015. Chua said her board service “ties back to individuals at the Law School who have helped me through their generosity, through their introductions, and through their networks, both when I was at Duke and after. Over time, it became about the joy of being able to help others in that same process.”

She calls the network and the relationships she has built through her volunteer service “phenomenal” and highly enriching, both personally and professionally.

Students and young professionals should regularly ask themselves what they are learning from each position they occupy, Chua said in her 2016 ESQ keynote address, adding it’s crucial to use metrics to define goals.

“If you can’t measure something you can’t manage it,” she said, suggesting that transactional lawyers assess their skill-development over five deals by asking each client or co-counsel to score their representation on a scale of one to 10. “Give it a number so you can align your goals with what you are trying to achieve and drive yourself towards it.”

She also counseled students to embrace the unknown, be prepared to take risks, and ward off any complacency. “Face into uncertainty and embrace it,” she said. “There is a scale between anxiety and boredom. Stay slightly tilted towards anxiety.”

Her experience since the launch of InterNex Capital in the fall of 2015 “has never crossed the center line towards boredom,” Chua quipped in an interview a year later. “Every single moment has been tilted towards anxiety.”

She co-founded the company with fellow former GE Capital senior executives, following another piece of advice she shared with students: Define your own path.

“When I decided to leave GE Capital, I was fortunate to have several options, and one was a significant promotion to another major financial institution,” she said. “I was talking to a long-time friend about the pros and cons of my options and he said, ‘You’ve been thorough and methodical in your analysis of each choice. But what I haven’t heard is what do you, deep-down, want to do yourself?’”

Chua decided that she wanted to follow a family tradition of entrepreneurship. Her father founded a sovereign wealth fund; her brother established an ophthalmology practice; and her mother ran her own insurance business at a time when it was still unusual for women to work in Singapore. “She was very much on the front line in encouraging me to do my own thing, to trust my instincts, to be loyal and build long-term relationships, but also to be very independent,” Chua said.

Chua called 2015 through 2016 “the build period” for InterNex Capital. She and her co-founders created the infrastructure and technology to offer asset-based revolving lines of credit without the paperwork, bureaucracy, or reporting that can overwhelm small and medium-sized business borrowers, perfected the algorithm they use to underwrite, manage, and monitor their portfolio, and secured strategic partnerships and significant investments. “At the end of 2016, we truly ‘cut the ribbon’ and opened the doors for business,” she said.

Her decision to become an entrepreneur has proven deeply satisfying. She helped InterNex Capital to structure its business, financing, and investor capital, learning along the way.

“The fulfillment I get from being challenged, from learning, and from constantly having to think faster, make connections, and make decisions and plan solutions quickly has been tremendous,” she said.

At ESQ, Chua challenged attendees to look at themselves in a similar way: “What do you truly want to do? You have to love your job. You spend too many hours of your life doing it not to be passionate about it.”
Planned Philanthropy

Plan for Duke Law’s future while you plan for yours

Including Duke Law in your estate plans allows you to ensure the Law School’s ongoing success in teaching and research and to support programs you care about. A legacy gift allows you to make a lasting impact on this special place that made its mark in your life.

“We have seen the great work Duke is doing to develop smart and thoughtful attorneys through its clinics and experiential learning opportunities. Our hope is to ensure these Law School programs continue in the years to come.”

Kristin ‘92 and Tom Clyde ‘92

Bequest for retirement account to support Duke Law
Kristin and Tom Clyde recall their time at Duke Law School fondly. Duke Law prepared them for their future legal careers and it was where they first met and began numerous friendships. In honor of their 20th reunion, they named Duke Law a beneficiary of their account. They hope their support will help the school continue to foster the close-knit, collaborative environment from which they benefitted.
For more information on smart charitable planning in support of Duke Law School, contact Associate Dean Kate Buchanan T’92, JD at (919) 613-7217 or buchanan@law.duke.edu.

Designating a bequest to Duke Law was a way for us to make a contribution that did not involve additional use of current funds. It’s simply the right thing to do, and it’s an easy way to help the school.”

Martha Hays ’82 and Rich Horwitz ’82

Bequest to support Duke Law

Martha Hays and Rich Horwitz met while waiting in line for Duke basketball tickets during their first year at Duke Law. They have remained involved with the Law School community by attending their reunions and sharing in the camaraderie among their graduating class. Martha has also served on the Duke Law Board of Visitors. The couple provides ongoing support to Duke Law in gratitude for its contributions to their personal and professional success. They also included a bequest to the Law School in their estate plans.

“Duke Law gave me an excellent legal education, enhanced my critical thinking skills, and set a standard of professional excellence that I’ve tried to maintain my entire career.”

Michael Schwartz ’82, MHA ’71

Charitable gift annuities to support the Kathrine R. and Robinson O. Everett Fund and The Fuqua School of Business

Michael Schwartz attributes many of his blessings in life to Duke. Before attending Duke, Michael was an Army infantry officer. He received his master’s and law degrees from Duke, then worked at Duke Medical Center for 12 years. He and his wife, Phyllis, established two charitable gift annuities in appreciation for Duke and his invaluable law degree. Michael hopes that his gift to Duke Law will enable students with military backgrounds to receive the same quality education that he received.
THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT, *Duke Forward* campaign progress has been remarkable:

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» Alumni and friends have established **13** new professorship endowments and **68** new scholarship and fellowship endowments.

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WE HAVE MORE TO DO to meet all of our strategic objectives before the campaign concludes on June 30, 2017. Please help:

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