NEW CENTER HELPS SAFEGUARD OUR SHORES

It's been called a clearinghouse. Sparkplug. Resource center. And, yes, even an amoeba. There doesn't seem to be one label that sticks to the new Center for Health and Homeland Security at the School of Law.

MARLENE ENGLAND

And that's a good thing, because in today's terrorism-focused world—where the law and its interpretation seem to be changing daily, if not hourly—there needs to be a resource that's anything but one size fits all.

Formally established in May 2002, the Center for Health and Homeland Security was set in motion by University President David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil. He recognized the need, particularly after the tragedy of Sept. 11, to bring together and build upon all that the University's six professional schools were doing with regard to counterterrorism and homeland security issues.

Ramsay knew that the schools of Dentistry, Law, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Social Work, along with the graduate science program and the Health Sciences and Human Services Library, were making significant contributions in this area well before Sept. 11. The ambitious goal Ramsay set forth for the Center for Health and Homeland Security was to coordinate all the University's existing scientific research, health programs, policy development, training, legal analysis, and government consulting—and then to expand these efforts to better serve the campus, the Baltimore community, and ultimately the public at large.

In Ramsay's eyes, there was one man for the job. Michael Greenberger, a law school professor and former high-ranking
U.S. Justice Department official, had already earned the respect of students and faculty with his popular course, Homeland Security and the Law of Counterterrorism. The class covers all aspects of the legal implications of counterterrorism, including public health emergency management, civil liberties, money laundering, intellectual property, constitutional law, and more. Originally planned for 15 students, the class attracted 50 in its first year; the demand remains so high that Greenberger is considering teaching the course in two sections next year.

Ramsay knew that Greenberger's professional experience also would serve the Center well. As principal deputy associate attorney general at the Justice Department, Greenberger had served as an advisor on counterterrorism, working with Attorney General Janet Reno to develop a nationwide counterterrorism war game. In his 20-plus years in private practice with the Washington, D.C., law firm of Shea & Gardner, he served as lead counsel and argued cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and various other federal and state courts. And Greenberger was no stranger to the public eye, appearing frequently on local and national news broadcasts, including C-SPAN and "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer," and often quoted in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and other publications.

Greenberger admits he needed a lot of convincing by Ramsay and Dean Karen Rothenberg before accepting the position as Center director, but he has quickly embraced his new role. Both he and the Center have been on a rapid and steady course of progress since May 2002. The Center's Website at umaryland.edu/healthsecurity—one of many accomplishments—reflects the Center's high productivity level. The "In the News" section chronicles Greenberger's writings, including "The Law of Counterterrorism Wants You!" in the November/December issue of the Maryland Bar Journal, and an exhaustive number of media appearances, ranging from CNN to local Baltimore newscasts. Both national and local media turn regularly to the Center and its director for help in explaining to the public the many complex scientific and policy issues related to the United States' war on terrorism.

Greenberger also is a sought-after speaker. The Website shows that in one month alone—June 2003—he was a presenter at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency Workshop on Continuity of Operations for Maryland State Agencies in Reisterstown; he moderated the 27th Annual Health Law Teachers Conference, Session on Bioterrorism, Public Health and Civil Liberties at the Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, Del.; and he spoke on vaccine distribution and immunization issues as part of a biodefense vaccines panel at the Therapeutics and Diagnostic Conference: Policy, Funding, Development, Testing, Production, and Distribution in Washington D.C.

In addition to links to judicial opinions on homeland security, homeland security reports, documents, and bills, and related articles, the Website also features the Citizen's Homeland Security Tool Kit. On this page, the public can access accurate information on a variety of terrorism-related topics, everything from detailed descriptions of specific biological agents to advice for dealing with the emotional and psychological effects of a terrorist attack.

"One of the best ways to fight terrorism is to eliminate unreasoning fear," Greenberger states. "The Tool Kit is designed to inform the public—citizens and students—about many of the unfounded myths concerning methods of mass destruction."

Another project presented on the Website is the Capabilities List, a 59-page anthology of the homeland security research and policy development efforts now underway in the University's six professional schools.

Lisa Yonka, a second-year law student and research assistant to Greenberger since last February, did much of the legwork for the Capabilities List, interviewing administration and faculty at all six schools and then compiling the results. "The Capabilities List really answers the question of what's going on here, not just in the School of Law but campus-wide," Yonka explains. "I was impressed..."
with what the University's professional schools are doing on the local, national, and global level. It's all cutting-edge.”

Capabilities are listed with reference to Category A and B biological agents and threats as set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Various homeland security-related research and educational initiatives are also included, along with an extensive school-by-school outline of homeland security efforts and faculty research interests.

The level and range of expertise highlighted in the Capabilities List is impressive. The School of Medicine's Center for Vaccine Development, for example, is evaluating a new anthrax vaccine for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and also will participate in an NIH study to measure the effectiveness of the existing smallpox vaccine. A $2-million NIH grant will establish an Emerging Pathogens Research Center at the medical school, complete with special containment areas for the safe study of infectious diseases. In conjunction with the School of Medicine, the School of Nursing is working with the U.S. Department of State to train embassy health care personnel on day-to-day skills as well as bioterrorism, disaster management, and emergency medicine. The School of Pharmacy has conducted three statewide training programs that outline responsibilities and notification procedures for pharmacists in an emergency, along with the most likely biological agents that may be encountered in a terrorist attack.

By creating the Capabilities List, the Center for Health and Homeland Security has made significant progress in helping the campus community, as well as the general public, to understand the University's leadership role in national security and public health issues. For Greenberger, the Capabilities List is one of several ways the Center encourages collaboration among faculty involved in similar projects.

“It's gratifying to introduce people who are working on the same things, and I'm pleased that the Center can be the forum for bringing them together,” Greenberger states. “There are hundreds of professors in the medical school, for example, and not all are aware of the law school's health law program. Right now, there's a tremendous need for lawyers to work closely with the medical sciences to achieve new policy directions and deal with a host of bioethical issues,” he explains. “This was precisely what President Ramsay envisioned for the Center—that people need to meet, coordinate and work together. Now we have the ability to merge areas of expertise, with the Center serving as a bridge between the different institutions on campus.”

Diane Hoffmann, director of the School of Law's Law and Health Care Program, values the many meaningful ways she and students concentrating in health law can collaborate with the Center on issues related to bioterrorism and public health. “Through forums, new courses and special projects, the Center creates opportunities for students interested in public health law to learn about vaccine development issues, emergency medical response issues, the tension between public health and safety and patient privacy and civil liberties,” Hoffmann says. She looks forward to an interdisciplinary course that Greenberger plans to offer next year on the public health issues arising from the war on terrorism. “I see the Center as a very valuable addition to our multidisciplinary and multiprofessional campus, bridging gaps and providing ways for faculty from different schools to work together.”

The Center and the synergy it's creating among the schools is certainly an example to follow. No one else has tried to marshal the resources to provide insight on the interaction between national security, law, and public health. It's fortunate that the University has the Center and Michael Greenberger to weigh in on the different issues.

It is both exciting—and essential—for law students to be analyzing the cutting-edge policy issues of the day. Students involved with the School of Law's Civil Rights Clinic are in the thick of it all—working on a post-Sept. 11 case regarding immigration charges and Immigration and Naturalization Service detainees and collaborating with various D.C. policy shops on post-Sept. 11 issues. For students and faculty alike, the Center's role in identifying research opportunities and providing up-to-the-minute insights on national security issues is invaluable.

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It's a two-way street, as Greenberger often seeks advice from his colleagues at the School of Law and other schools on campus. This ongoing exchange of ideas is important to law school Professor Taunya Banks. "I enjoy engaging in the dialogue and appreciate the fact that Michael Greenberger has created space for this dialogue to go on at a very high level," she states. "The Center fosters thoughtful discussion—taking a holistic approach that incorporates various perspectives in a balanced way. It's a multipurpose institute that deals with multiheaded issues and what the implications are to the Constitution and to our personal freedom."

Many of these multiheaded issues that Banks refers to are discussed at Center-sponsored events, presented regularly and open to the public. Last Sept. 11, the Center and the School of Law sponsored a campus teach-in on homeland security, public health and civil liberties. Banks was a panelist, along with Professor Michael Van Alstine, Dean Rothenberg, Greenberger, and Harvey Eisenberg, assistant U.S. attorney and coordinator of the Maryland Antiterrorism Task Force.

Banks recalls that her first-year law students were impressed with the forum, especially because the state's top homeland security officer was part of the discussion. "The lesson I think many of the students took away from the exchange was the lesson the framers of the Constitution intended—to be wary of attempts by the national government to exercise seemingly unchecked power, especially in the name of 'national security,'" Banks says. "This wariness does not mean that some great governmental powers are unjustified, but simply that requests for this type of power must be closely examined and the need clearly established. We can't allow democracy to slip away because we are fearful about our personal safety."

In November, Greenberger delivered the keynote address for the University's Community Issues Forum on "Health and Homeland Security: Taking Control." Presentations then followed from five other professors representing the schools of Pharmacy, Medicine, Nursing, and Social Work, with topics ranging from workplace disaster plans to vaccine development to strategies for combating the psychological effects of terrorism. Much of the discussion focused on how the University is preparing for future terrorist strikes and how the general public can participate.

The forum attracted a sizable crowd of University professors and staff, elementary and junior high school teachers, social workers, and other professionals in the community. Greenberger cautioned those attending to be prepared for future emergencies. "Don't sit back and wait to be told by CNN what you should be doing. Don't wait until the day you hear something bad has happened. Use the tools we've laid out for you to educate yourself," he advised.

Greenberger stressed that every area
of the law is being impacted dramatically by counterterrorism. It's a message his students hear loud and clear in the classroom, and it's a message that continues to drive the Center for Health and Homeland Security.

"The Center is not limited to one or two issues," Greenberger states. "We're actively involved across the board, and we're doing everything we can to make ourselves available—throughout the University campus and the community."

Every week Greenberger is called upon to do programs and briefings on behalf of the Center. He is assisting Baltimore's mayor and the city's Public Health Department in the planning of a regional bioterrorism exercise and also is working with the state attorney general's office and the Baltimore office of the American Civil Liberties Union. Recently, he contracted as an advisor with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Law firms, many of which are developing their own homeland security departments, turn frequently to Greenberger and the Center for advice.

Most recently, the Center was awarded a contract from the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to assist state agencies in their preparations for withstanding terrorist attacks. MEMA is responsible for coordinating the state response to any major emergency or disaster. This includes supporting local governments as needed or requested, and coordinating assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"I'm very proud of what the Center has accomplished so far," Greenberger summarizes. "Already we're recognized as a leading commentator of national security issues. Given the proper support, the Center is positioned to be one of the country's foremost think tanks on homeland security issues," he predicts. "I believe our efforts ultimately will be successful, but we have lots of work to do."

Kate Christensen '02 was one of the first law school students to take Professor Michael Greenberger's course, Homeland Security and the Law of Counterterrorism.

"Everything about the class was so timely, so current," she recalls. "As a student, it was incredibly exciting to be learning cutting-edge law in real time." The course covers such timely topics as weapons of mass destruction, military tribunals, racial profiling, attorney/client privilege issues, media and the First Amendment and more. Greenberger often shifts the syllabus to correspond with the latest national security happenings.

For Christensen, the course hit close to home. While interning for a U.S. senator last year, she had to leave her office during the anthrax scare. "That fueled my interest in homeland security even more," she says. Christensen hopes to find a policy position in the homeland security field this fall.

Through August, Christensen served as a law fellow in the Center for Health and Homeland Security. She worked with research assistants and prepared background material for Greenberger's many media appearances. After working side by side with her former professor, Christensen has a greater understanding of the issues surrounding counterterrorism—and a deep appreciation for the Center and its interdisciplinary approach.

"We're in a different time now," she reflects. "People's civil liberties are being threatened, and there are so many other issues out there. We're going to have to deal with these issues for a long time. It's really uncharted territory." Christensen is grateful to the Center and to Greenberger for helping her gain an expertise that many practicing attorneys and other law school graduates do not possess. "I have the advantage of studying homeland security from both the legal and the health sides. This is an amazing opportunity for me."