A community of scholars, our faculty is on the leading edge of critical issues in law and public policy. Several new initiatives are helping to nurture their groundbreaking work.

BY VERONICA L. NAISMITH
Good ideas take time. And time, the saying goes, is money. These truisms apply in academia just as they do in business, government, the arts, and almost any human endeavor. For the School of Law, finding resources and strategies to support the faculty’s ambitious scholarly agenda is a consummate challenge. Generous support from alumni and friends is making all the difference.

“As we brought our campaign for the new building to a close,” says Dean Karen Rothenberg, “we knew that we needed to make the same kind of investment in human capital that we were then making in our physical plant.” To guide that investment, Rothenberg appointed a special faculty committee, the Dean’s Advisory Committee on Professorships, and charged it with investigating new ways to use faculty development resources. The committee conducted a comprehensive review of the policies and practices adopted by leading law schools across the country to support faculty scholarship. Its recommendations led to the creation of a program of three-year, rotating professorships, which will allow selected members of the faculty to receive recognition and time to focus on their scholarly activities. In addition, the School of Law initiated a new endowed professorship, a new distinguished visitors program, and an expanded program of summer research grants.

The Robert F. Stanton Professorship

When the Advisory Committee on Professorships met last fall, they solicited no nominations for the newest endowed professorship; instead, the committee considered every full professor at the School of Law for the distinction of being named the Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law. The committee selected Robert Percival for that honor. The Stanton Professorship results from a major new endowment at the law school—it is a permanent professorship named professors. Our process demonstrates Dean Rothenberg’s commitment to including...
Greg Young is delighted with his new appointment, and with the fact that these resources will be available to other deserving faculty on a rotating basis. Throughout his teaching career, Young has explored topics ranging from constitutional law and federal jurisdiction to federalism and corporate governance. While intellectually stimulating and a boon for the law school’s reputation, Young aspired to look critically at broader issues that would link the narrower topics he’d been writing about for years. But with a full load of classes to teach, students to counsel, and administrative tasks to juggle, he lacked the time necessary to tackle such a large-scale project.

“If I show up here to teach, I’ll get drawn into the intellectual and social life of this place which I love, so I must take a semester to really focus on my scholarship,” Young says. He is very interested in learning about the use of legislative motive in assessing the constitutionality of statutes, as well as how the Supreme Court’s levels of scrutiny analysis works in areas not governed by more precise rules.

“Greg’s project is really a capstone project involving big questions in constitutional law and theory,” explains Boldt. “It culminates a long period of active scholarship and will bring a lot of attention to Greg and the law school.”

The scope of Rena Steinzor’s project is no less ambitious. With two books currently in progress, Steinzor also plans to take a semester break from teaching to work on her scholarship. As one of the nation’s leading authorities in public health and the environment, Steinzor has watched the regulatory process become so polarized and contentious that the integrity of science itself is threatened.

“We need clean, clear, good science much more now than at any time in human history,” she says, noting that warring interests have so much money at stake that some manipulate science to gain desired outcomes. Steinzor is completing an edited volume called *Rescuing Science from Politics*, which will be published by the Cambridge Press. She is also writing *Mother Earth and Uncle Sam: How Pollution and Hollow Government Hurt our Kids*, forthcoming from the University of Texas Press.

Steinzor’s work often crosses disciplinary lines. She teaches a course in critical issues in environmental law and science with students from nursing, medicine, law, and public health backgrounds. "We’re teaching what we’re writing about, which is ideal in academia."

New voices enliven a scholarly community. The opportunity to work with and learn from distinguished peers from the larger legal academy enriches lively collegial dialogue and brings fresh perspectives and new insights. The law school’s new Distinguished Visitors Program invites distinguished academics from both legal and non-legal disciplines, as well as prominent judges and legal practitioners, to join the School of Law community for short or longer-term academic visits. These visits include opportunities to work with students and faculty, conduct “mini-symposia,” and otherwise make presentations to the law school community on topical issues. The first group of Distinguished Visitors will begin their appointments this fall.

“The first cohort is impressive—nationally and internationally known scholars of the first rank,” says Boldt. “And their eagerness to join us speaks volumes to the caliber of the faculty here at the law school.” The visitors represent a diverse array of fields.

Dorothy Roberts is the Kirkland & Ellis Professor of Law at the Northwestern University School of Law and a prolific scholar on issues related to child welfare.
policy, criminal law, family law, critical race theory, and feminist theory. She will be a short-term distinguished visitor during the fall 2005 semester.

Professor Roberts' scholarly interests are a terrific fit with a great deal of the legal work and applied scholarship under way in the School of Law's Clinical Law Program, and also will support the growing concentration in family law that is developing at the law school. Professor Roberts is a longtime friend of the School of Law, whose interest in a visit stems from the school's history of important scholarship on race and gender. This includes work by Taunya Banks, Karen Czapskiy, Sherrilyn Ifill, Jana Singer, and the Women, Leadership and Equality Program, directed by Paula Monopoli.

Stephen Bainbridge, a professor of law at UCLA, will also be a distinguished visitor during the fall 2005 semester. Professor Bainbridge's work covers a variety of subjects, but with a strong emphasis on the law and economics of public corporations. He has agreed to spend a week at the law school in the fall 2005 semester in connection with a business law conference the school is hosting. The resources of our

Business Law Program, including Professors Lisa Fairfax and Richard Booth, make Professor Bainbridge a natural partner.

Maxwell L. Stearns is a professor of law at the George Mason University School of Law. Professor Stearns is a leading expert on public choice theory, constitutional process, and federal jurisdiction. As a recent speaker at a law school faculty workshop, Stearns was heard to quip that he engages in "political science without a license." He is the author of two well-regarded books and many articles, including articles in the Michigan Law Review, the Yale Law Journal, the University of Pennsylvania Law Review, the California Law Review and, most recently, the Stanford Law Review. Professor Stearns will be a distinguished visitor at the law school for the entire 2005-2006 academic year. He will teach a new course on public choice theory and a second new course on advanced federal jurisdiction topics. His visit here will allow him to explore common interests with members of the law school faculty who work in public law, constitutional theory, and jurisprudence.

Kendall Thomas is the Nash Professor of Law and founding co-director of the Center for the Study of Law and Culture at Columbia University in New York. Professor Thomas will be a distinguished visiting professor at the University of Maryland School of Law for the fall 2006 semester. His teaching and research interests include U.S. and comparative constitutional law, human rights, legal philosophy, feminist legal theory, critical race theory, and law and sexuality. Professor Thomas's work in law and culture, law and sexuality, and international public health complements work being done by UM law school faculty. He will teach courses in those areas and will deliver a public lecture during his visit.

Expanded Summer Research Grants

When the academic year ends in May, many members of the law school's faculty find that their most productive scholarly work begins. Long, focused days with time for research and writing make the summer a great time for faculty members to delve deeply into the most vexing questions on their scholarly agendas. Summer research grants—merit-based grants designed to support ambitious scholarly projects during the summer months—provide much needed support for this work and permit the School of Law to remain competitive with the peer institutions with which we compete for new young talent.

"Dean Rothenberg's commitment to increasing funds for summer research grants is matched only by the faculty's enthusiasm for the work they support," says Boldt. "Faculty submit proposals for summer projects they would like to fund. The increasing scope, quality, and inventiveness of the projects in these proposals is a real measure of the good this program is doing." This year, grants supported thirty-six faculty working in a broad range of specialties.

Hallmarks of Faculty Development

Collegial support is vital to the continued success of the School of Law and to the academic mission of its faculty. The school's professors are grateful to its alumni and friends for the support they've received, and recognize that these supporters are partners in the broader mission they are undertaking.

"We are constantly reinventing ourselves in order to keep the law school at the cutting edge," Boldt stresses. "You look at Bob Percival, who is a leader in studying the policy implications of trans-boundary pollution. If he didn't have terrific support, it would be more difficult for him to remain a leading voice in this field. We are committed to providing academic leadership at the local, state, national, and international levels. Bob is a perfect example of how to get that job done."

Veronica L. Naismith has been covering legal issues for more than twenty years.