Dean’s Message

A New Sense of Hope

It goes without saying that we at the School of Law were horrified and heartbroken by the events of Sept. 11. As we learn of those within our community affected by the disaster, the victims and their families are constantly in our thoughts and hearts, and the efforts of the brave men and women who worked to save lives and ease pain will never be forgotten.

As the dean of a law school committed to public service, I am particularly proud that our students and faculty responded so quickly to those in need. Members of our student organizations solicited for blood donations, water for rescue workers and money for the September 11th Fund. Our community answered the call. Our faculty offered their expertise during a terrorism teach-in, held during the week following the tragedy. We used the time to discuss the societal, political and legal implications of the terrorist attacks and to provide a forum through which members of the School of Law community could voice their concerns. This range of activities from the educational to the financial, underscores our strong commitment to public service.

In August, we lost Professor Emeritus John Brumbaugh, who to many of us, was the heart and soul of the School of Law. John’s legacy is far-reaching—in his almost 46 years at the School, he taught virtually every student who passed through our doors. You can’t say enough good things about John and his dedication to the School, but later in this magazine, his colleagues and friends have tried. In their own words they pay tribute to him and his valuable work here.

As this publication went to press, we were further saddened by the news that Professor Stanley Herr passed away at the end of September. A champion of the rights of the physically and mentally disabled, Stan and his work were well-known around the world. Not only will he be dearly missed by the law school community, but also by the members of the groups he served so nobly. Please plan to read a tribute to his life’s work in the next issue of JD.

Despite the sadness of these issues, the start of the academic year is always an exciting time for us—faculty and students alike. And this year is no exception. Because of the unprecedented number of applicants who accepted our offers of admission, our entering class is the largest in the School’s history, evidence that our national reputation is growing. We have added three new professors to the faculty—in the areas of intellectual property, writing and clinical law as well as an assistant dean for academic technology. We have also added a number of visiting faculty this year, all experts in their particular fields. You can read about their professional experiences and their plans to enhance the curriculum in this issue.

You also will find in this JD an article on our specialty programs—clinical law, law and health care, and environmental law—which continue to distinguish the School of Law.

One of my priorities since becoming dean has been to foster collaboration among students, faculty and alumni. Many examples of these synergies are touched upon in this issue. I am particularly pleased that many alumni have taken advantage of the numerous opportunities to be involved with our students and faculty.

As so often follows tragedy, a new sense of hope and unity has emerged. We have a renewed purpose and commitment to promote peace and justice both at home and around the world, by providing the best education possible to tomorrow’s leaders and by producing the scholarship that informs the creation and development of public policy. I am proud to be part of a community that has that mission at its very core.

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