



A Message from Dean Art Gaudio

The decision to pursue an education in the law is an intricate undertaking, both academically and financially. As you remember, the three to four years you spent at the School of Law were rewarding yet anxious ones as you had to balance rigorous academic requirements with responsibilities to family and friends, all the while meeting necessary financial obligations.

Our alumni can help to ease the financial burdens current students face with a contribution to one of the School's scholarship funds. More than 80 percent of law students require financial aid, and each year these students are graduating with immense debt from financing their education through various government and private loans. Your financial support for our scholarship programs can lighten the load for your future colleagues.

One of the most rewarding initiatives law alumni can support is the Annual Scholarship Program. For a donation of at least \$1,000 per year for a minimum of two years, you can create an annual scholarship in your name or to honor or memorialize a loved one. The full balance of this gift will go to one returning second-year student with demonstrated financial need. Your two or more year commitment will be used to fund directly the education of the student for the remainder of the student's career at the School of Law provided the law student continues to meet the eligibility criteria of



Dean Arthur R. Gaudio

the award. If at a future point the student originally selected to receive the scholarship no longer meets the criteria for the award, another student in the same class year who does meet the criteria will be selected. You can designate your gift to either a day or an evening student or to a

student with the greatest need. This type of personal impact is unmatched in any other giving opportunity.

Feel free to explore gifts to our other scholarship funds including the Diversity Scholarships, Public Interest Scholarships, Alumni Endowed Scholarships, or any of the other named scholarships. For a full list of all scholarships offered at the School of Law, visit www.law.wnec.edu/prospective. Contact JoAnne O'Neil in the Advancement Office at 413-782-1523 or email jroneil@law.wnec.edu for more information on this or other giving opportunities.

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SAVE THE DATE

Reunion 2009

Calling members of classes
ending in "4" and "9."

Reunion 2009 – October 17, 2009

If you would like to be a committee member and help with the planning of your reunion or just want to share an idea with the staff, please email Carol Thompson at cthompson@law.wnec.edu or call her at 413-782-1311.



To see who else is planning to attend, visit www.law.wnec.edu/alumni.

New York Mints New Lawyers

Twenty-five members of the Class of 2008 were recently admitted to the New York State Bar. Five Western New England College School of Law graduates and their families were present at a luncheon following the swearing in ceremony at the Empire Plaza in Albany on January 22, 2009.



Save the Date

How To

Entrepreneurship Institute

The Law and Business Center presents the third annual
"How To" Entrepreneurial Institute
Friday, March 27, 2009

S. Prestley Blake Law Center, Room D

Keynote Speaker: Andrew Morrison, President,
Small Business Camp and Host of *The 16 Week Challenge*

This year's event will again feature a two path structure for entrepreneurs just starting out and those who are looking to take their business to the next level.

\$50 per person

To register or for more information, call 413-796-2030 or email: amunnings@law.wnec.edu.



Thanksgiving at the School of Law

On Thanksgiving Day, 26 students gathered at the S. Prestley Blake Law Center to celebrate the holiday with each other and members of the administration and staff. The assembly, an idea of Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Director of Academic Support Michael Johnson, was organized to provide a place for students who could not travel home for the recess.

“I saw students having difficulty getting home due to the economic crisis,” explained Dean Johnson. “We have more students attending from outside the Northeast and more international students, so travel is expensive and time consuming.”

The staff and students donated food for the dinner. Festivities commenced around 1:00 p.m. in the lobby, as students munched on appetizers while enjoying a football game on the large flat screen television. Dinner was served with all of the traditional Thanksgiving trimmings and the event wrapped up around 4:00 p.m.

“We had a really good time,” said Dean Johnson. “Some students brought their families and children. We had an overwhelmingly positive reaction from all who attended.

“An event like this exemplifies the personal touch for which this School is known. Students made such comments as ‘one of

the reasons I choose Western New England College was because of things like this.”

Plans are already in the works to continue this new holiday tradition next November. If you have any ideas for a unique dish or would like to help, contact Dean Johnson at **413-782-1376**.



Attendees enjoyed a wide variety of culinary delights.



Dean Johnson caringly works to prepare the holiday feast.

You Be the Judge—Volunteers Needed!

Do you remember your first-year moot court argument experience?

How about sitting on the other side of the bench this time?

The Legal Research and Writing Program needs volunteers to preside as trial judges for oral arguments scheduled from April 6-20. Judging will take less than two hours of your time. The students value your advice and insight, and we think you will find the experience rewarding.

Please contact Linda Towne, Law Faculty Assistant, at **413-782-1522** or **ltowne@law.wnec.edu** to schedule a convenient time for you to serve.

Thank you.

Extreme Business Makeover Transforms Friends of the Homeless

The Law and Business Center for Advancing Entrepreneurship held its third Extreme Business Makeover on December 5, 2008, in the BankNorth Community Conference Room in the heart of downtown Springfield.

For this semiannual event, a preselected local organization is examined by experts in the fields of finance, law, accounting, and



FOTH Executive Director
Bill Miller



Extreme Business Makeover
Panelists

marketing who offer advice on entrepreneurship, advertising, profitability, and much more.

Friends of the Homeless (FOTH), a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides emergency shelter for hundreds of men and women at its 769 and 501 Worthington Street buildings, was this winter's designee and the first nonprofit analyzed in the Makeover's history. FOTH Executive Director Bill Miller gave a brief presentation on the organization's 20-year history in the greater Springfield area. Describing the organization's mission, Mr. Miller said, "We strive to bring dignity to people's lives during their difficult journey from homelessness to stability and independence."

Then it was the experts' turn to offer cogent and sometimes candid advice. "This is an Extreme Business Makeover. The most extreme thing I can think of is to change your name since some of your past publicity may be working against you," said John Drost '88/L91, an Attorney with Fitzgerald Law Firm in Springfield on the years of controversy and negativity surrounding the issue of homelessness in the City of Homes.

"There is a lot you are trying to accomplish over the coming years," explained Lisa Harrison, Group Manager, MultiCultural Marketing and Strategy, Verizon Telecommunications. "I think you would benefit from chunking your goals. What are you trying to get done in 3, 6, 9, 12, 24, 36 months? For each of those chunks of accomplishment, assign visions for success. When all of this is done, what does Friends of the Homeless look like in its perfect state?" She also suggested creating a three-minute elevator pitch "that would intrigue people like us to hear more."

The other experts were Anne Wunderli, Director, Abundant Table, Pine Street Inn; and Glenn Welch, Senior Vice President, Hampden Bank. The final Extreme Business Makeover for the 2008-09 academic year is scheduled for June 5 at 12:00 noon at the BankNorth Community Conference Room when the Jelupa Theatre Company, Inc., of Springfield will be scrutinized.

School of Law Welcomes Northeast Black Law Students Association Conference

On February 12-14, Western New England College School of Law welcomed members of the Northeast Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) for a three-day regional conference involving mock trial competitions, seminars and panels, networking events, and receptions. Organized by third-year law student Stephanie Duclair, the conference highlighted the important roles that Western New England College School of Law and greater Springfield attorneys play in the Northeast legal community.

The Frederick Douglass Moot Competition and the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition were held in Springfield on Friday and Saturday. Over 100 law students from New England, New York, and New Jersey competed in appellate and trial competitions, with the winners advancing to the national finals in California in March. The Western New England College team of Jasmine Rojas 3L and Katie Foster 3L won the award for Best Brief.



2009 Frederick Douglass Team (L to R): Ira Richardson 3L, Coaches Professor Harris Freeman '93 and Professor Bridgette Baldwin, Jasmine Rojas 3L, and Mara Shulman Ryan 3L

Springfield Reception

Area alumni gathered in the School of Law lobby on February 18, for the annual Springfield Alumni Reception. Many alums got to see the new addition and renovation to the S. Prestley Blake Law Center for the first time at this event.

Massachusetts Superior Court Judges Tina Paige '82 and Constance Sweeney '74 served as guest speakers for the gathering. They shared Hampden Superior Court's plans for celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Massachusetts Superior Court in 2009.



Martha Ferrabelo '06, Morica Ribeiro Mertzic '05, Associate Dean for External Affairs Sam Stonefield, Victoria Rebeiro Juliano '06



Massachusetts Superior Court Judge Constance Sweeney '74



Massachusetts Superior Court Judge Tina Paige '82



Thomas Garcia '96, Julian Tynes '97 and Dennis Tully '76

Upcoming Events

March 2009

- 3** CLE Seminar – “Probate and Guardianship Reform: Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code,” S. Prestley Blake Law Center Room A, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 5** Law and Business Center Information Session— Registering, Permitting, Licensing, Scibelli Enterprise Center, 12:00 noon
- 5** “Start Your Own Practice” presented by Josh Gilman '04, Gilman and Francis LLP, S. Prestley Blake Law Center, 4:00–5:00 p.m.
- 21** Virtual Alumni Association Board Meeting
- 24** CLE Seminar – “Representing the OUI Client,” S. Prestley Blake Law Center Room A, 4:00–7:00 p.m.
- 27** Law and Business Center Third Annual “How To” Entrepreneurship Institute, S. Prestley Blake Law Center Room D, all day

April 2009

- 7** CLE Seminar – “District Court Survival Guide,” S. Prestley Blake Law Center Room A, 4:00–7:00 p.m.

- 7** Clason Speaker– Molly Beutz, 12:00 noon–1:00 p.m. Law Library
- 8** Mass. Appeals Court 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon Moot Court Room
- 14** Law and Business Center Speaker Series— Dorothy Bridges, S. Prestley Blake Law Center lobby, 12:00 noon
- 20–21** Grad Fest, Rivers Memorial Hall, 12:00 noon–6:00 p.m.
- 22** Dean’s Tea Awards Ceremony, S. Prestley Blake Law Center lobby, 4:00–6:00 p.m.

May 2009

- 16** Commencement, Springfield Symphony Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- 20** Dial-A-Lawyer, (call-in program) 3:30–7:30 p.m.

June 2009

- 5** Law and Business Center Extreme Business Makeover, BankNorth Community Conference Room, 1441 Main Street, 12:00 noon – Jelupa Theatre Company, Inc.