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# PRO SE

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL OF LAW

## Teaching the Teachers

By Deborah Calloway

### I like the saying: "It takes a village to raise a child."

Watching this community respond to the challenges posed by the "Bullets and Bubbly" party has helped me see that it does take the efforts of an entire community working together to create a place where it is possible to have open and honest discussion that can lead to genuine understanding. The foundation for recent efforts was laid over the last several years by the persistent and skillful activities of the members of BLSA. This semester, their effort has expanded into a community-wide effort.

There are many components to building genuine community. First, all of us (faculty, students and staff) need to be honest with ourselves, recognize our tendency to label and judge, and work toward seeing each other clearly without pre-conceived expectations. Second, it is important to have opportunities to learn about other cultures, and to

appreciate those opportunities; be they in the academic classroom or in campus-wide events. We can learn more about other people's experiences by studying with a diverse faculty, representing clients in clinics, working together on projects, or working in the surrounding community. Third, having a diverse community means interacting on both an academic and a social level. The effort this community has engaged in this semester has encompassed many of these components. Wonderful educational, social, and mind training events have been cosponsored and attended by students, faculty, and staff from a variety of backgrounds. This very newsletter has at its source one such event.

The "Teach the Teachers" initiative approaches community building from several perspectives. The faculty wishes to learn the skills

required to facilitate open and honest discussion of race and other sensitive topics in the classroom. On May 3, 2007, faculty will participate in a workshop directed at developing these skills. Our aspiration is that through this training we will begin to acquire the awareness, understanding and skills required to educate a diverse student population and to help students learn to value diversity and work skillfully with classmates, colleagues, clients, court personnel and others from diverse backgrounds. In addition to skills training, we have begun a process of discovering and sharing materials and approaches to legal education that highlight the central importance of issues relating to race, gender, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, and class. This process will continue next year and beyond, and will expand to include training, events and social opportunities for faculty, staff and students.

## Introducing *Pro Se* by Katrina Goyco

I am proud to introduce *Pro Se*, UConn Law's new school newspaper by students and for students, to the law school community. As its title suggests, we students are taking matters into our own hands. *Pro Se* was born out of a discussion among students, faculty, and staff interested in making positive changes on our campus. Blake Ratcliff (2L), Samantha Krasner (2L), Myung Reeder (3L), Naurin Hashmi (1L), and I recognized an opportunity to improve communication campus-wide so that students may learn more valuable lessons and interesting stories outside of the classroom. We envisioned a school newspaper that would promote awareness of campus events, highlight the pursuits of our exceptional faculty, and provide a venue to showcase the experiences and perspectives of our diverse and talented peers. A wonderful group of 13 students has since assembled in support of this effort, and we can only hope that the newspaper's mission is duly accomplished by this and many more future publications. Please enjoy reading *Pro Se*.

# Capital Punishment, Capital Gains

by James Goodfellow

I write this piece to advocate for the continued funding of the hockey team and to a lesser extent, other non-academic pursuits. In my years at the law school, much has been made about the hockey team and the amount of funding it receives from the SBA. I will be the first to admit that we do receive a great deal of money, and for the support, we on the team are eternally grateful. There are students who believe that the SBA's primary purpose should be to fund groups that help promote the school's image in the wider legal community, partly to raise the school's profile and US News ranking. These students tend to disagree — some vehemently — with the funding of non-academic clubs. I submit today that the wholesale reneging of funding to non-academic clubs would be a grave mistake and a misuse of the SBA's power. The SBA's role on campus is, and I quote from the preamble, "[to promote such] activities as may be of interest to the student body." This means that stripping funding from clubs that do not promote the profile of the school is a misuse of the power delegated to the SBA by its constitution.

How then, does one view the hockey team's allocation? Each year, we owe the league \$14,800 for the two teams to play. We

received \$3700 in SBA allocations. This requires each member to cover the remaining \$11,100, 75% of the operating expenses, out of his or her pocket. This does not cover equipment or fuel costs incurred from travel to and from the rink. The team has 20 members. \$3700 breaks down to \$185 per member. The team plays 32 games each semester. \$3700 works out to be roughly \$58 per meeting. Before passing judgment on the amount of the hockey team's allocation, I challenge anyone to compare these figures with those from other clubs. When compared to our need, and compared with the dollar figure spent per member and per meeting, the hockey team's allocation is not as large as one might originally think. One should also look at how the hockey team has given back to the school. Over the past four years, the team has raised — through donations by individual members and the team itself — over \$1000 for charity at the PILG auction.

Founded by William Gullotta (UConn Law '04) in the fall of 2001, Capital Punishment Ice Hockey has enjoyed unparalleled success both as a hockey team and as a campus institution. Over the past six years, Capital Punishment has won its league four times.

The current team is comprised of players who range in ability from an outstanding collegiate performer to a complete beginner. We play in Newington, CT in two leagues, one for experienced players and one for inexperienced players. Last semester, the experienced team played an entertaining brand of hockey and despite a downturn in play towards the end of the season, rebounded and won the league. The inexperienced team was not as successful in the won-lost column, but all of the players improved a great deal, and the team's record now sits at .500. The team has been successful in drawing players new to the game and teaching them a sport they can play for years to come. It provides networking opportunities for current members, given the professional success of previous members, many of who still keep in touch with the team and follow its progress, as well as an outlet from the rigors and pressures of law school. From my own personal experience, hockey has been the most consistent and popular talking point in every job interview I have had in law school. I hope that future UConn Law students will have the opportunity to play hockey here at the law school.

## A Note from Our SBA President...

Dear UCONN Law Community:

As spring quietly thaws our campus and warms our spirits, it strikes me that hope is also in bloom. With each new blade of green peeking through loosened soil, optimism grows. It is an unyielding desire to show our city, our state, and our nation just how great we are. This is not blind faith in impossible dreams. Our talent, intelligence, and ingenuity demand that we reach our highest potential. The only way to make our hope a reality is to unite. Although we comprise a spectrum of perspectives, we are linked by the common ambition of bettering our fine institution and ourselves. Let us join together for this great cause. Let us nurture our hope until it grows into a stronger, more united community.

I look forward to serving you and working with you to make our hope a reality.

Thank you,  
Fallon DePina, SBA President-Elect

## Graduation Sentiments

By Lahny R. Silva

We did it! We arrived on this campus in the summer of 2004 and survived three years of intellectual boot camp, growing pains, and an awkward yet wonderful sense of accomplishment. It's 2007 and we're graduating!

There are two mantras that I have lived by since day one that I want to share with you. The first is never, never, never give up. No matter how tough it seems, no matter how challenging or strenuous the situation may be, never give up. Even if you don't win the case, even if you don't get that settlement, you will get the respect of your colleagues. Secondly, never, never, never be afraid to stand up for what is right. I've learned in my three years at this institution that the thought of being the lone voice is usually worse than the reality. Take the chance and don't look back. You will always regret the missed opportunity to do the right thing.

Congratulations Class of 2007 — We did it.

The Moot Court Board Presents...

## Litigation Week 2007

By Thomas Feazell, Brendan Goodhouse, Robert Dunn, et al.

The Moot Court Board expanded Litigation Week this year, opening the event to the entire law school community to increase visibility on campus and show people that while appellate argument is sometimes thought of as a very formal and elitist pursuit it can also be a lot of fun and entertaining.

The first night of Litigation week began with the case of an agent representing players with the Major League Soccer Players Association (MLSPA) who had his certification stripped due to a possible conflict that hindered his ability to serve players. The agent declared bankruptcy and the bankruptcy court declared his certification to be an asset, ordering the MLSPA to reinstate the certification pending the results of the bankruptcy. The appellate court ruled that the certification was in fact an executory contract, therefore not property that fell within the bankruptcy court's jurisdiction, and that the MLSPA had the right to maintain the suspension. The issue before the Supreme Court was whether an agent's certification, granted by the players union, was property that fell under the bankruptcy court's power to reinstate pending the outcome of a bankruptcy action. Typically, the bankruptcy court can freeze all actions currently pending in order to distribute the funds properly.

The arguments were well made and a number of 1Ls were present to witness the debate. Because one of the competitors had to drop out due to health issues, one of the petitioners actually flipped and argued both sides, which was very interesting to watch.

Litigation Week's second argument featured a student vs. alumni match-up. Ryan Greco and Michael Pepe represented the current student body as they took on alums Daniel Krisch ('99) and Mike Taylor ('94), in the case of Massachusetts v EPA. Dan and Mike represented the petitioner states and

cities, arguing that the EPA violated the Clean Air Act by refusing to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles without sufficient justification. Ryan and Michael advocated for the respondent EPA, asserting that the states did not have standing and that the EPA had acted within the scope of its discretionary authority in refusing to promulgate the requested regulations. On the bench sat a combination of current students and alums; namely Joel Norwood (3L), Kristin Plude ('06), and Mathew Jasinski ('06).

While spectators and the competitors had differing opinions on which team 'won' the argument, all witnesses agreed on the high level of oral advocacy. Mike and Dan showed the courtroom savvy and oral skills that have helped them become partners at Horton Shields & Knox, P.C. and that they now share when teaching Moot Court classes. Ryan and Michael did not disappoint, and demonstrated why they both were named "Best Oralist" in UConn's moot competitions (Ryan, 2005 Loiselle; Michael, 2006 Hastie). While being peppered with questions from the bench, led by 'Chief Justice Jasinski', the competitors made arguments that were calm, collected, and effective, making current and former students proud.

On the second night, members of the Moot Court Board met in a head-to-head clash of champions over the First Amendment in schools. The problem involved a student who held up a sign saying, "Bong Hits 4 Jesus" at a public event held just outside school grounds during school hours. Robert Dunn (3LD) and John "Southie" O'Donnell (3LD), the Loiselle champions from 2005, represented the school. Jess Ragosta (2LD) and Shane Early (2LD), the 2006 Losielle champions, advocated on behalf of the student in defense of his first Amendment rights. Justices Emily Gianquinto

(Class of '06), Ryan Johnson (3LD), and Nick Mendicino (2LD) acted as the Supreme Court Justices hearing the case.

The problem raises important legal questions concerning the balance of free speech rights for students and the need for school supervisors to maintain discipline. Both sides did an excellent job advocating their positions and responding to tough questions from the bench. Despite an informal tone to the moot, both sides raised strong points about the concerns of constitutional rights in school. In the end, the ultimate questions the moot sought to answer were: How much freedom should we give students and how much discretion should school administrators have? Though the debate did not answer these questions conclusively, the competitors did a great job of addressing the crucial constitutional issues raised by this case.

The final day of Litigation Week featured an exhibition moot between 3L Jim Goodfellow and Professor Loftus Becker. The event also coincided with the renaming of the second floor courtroom in Starr as the Koskoff, Koskoff and Beider courtroom. Before the exhibition moot, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony, with remarks by Dean Strasser.

The moot was judged by Dean-designate Paul, Professor Barnes and Attorney Beider, whose name now adorns the courtroom. The issue dealt with the constitutionality of the racial tiebreaker used in the application process in Seattle's public high schools. The arguments were thought provoking and well put, and though no winners were announced (in fact, the true winners were the audience) one attendee felt Jim Goodfellow easily beat Professor Becker, and was described by some in the audience as reminiscent of some of the great advocates in history such as Clarence Darrow and Ben Matlock.

## Student Loan Repayment Assistance Act *by Kiley Gosselin & Gavan Meehan*

After years of work by Gavan Meehan, PILG members, UCONN Law staff and others, a bill has been put forth in the State Senate to provide loan repayment assistance for law students working for the State of Connecticut as public defenders and prosecutors. The bill, Senate Bill # 1322, would provide up to \$500 per month and a maximum of \$40,000 total to qualifying

recipients after they have been employed as a public defender or prosecutor for two years.

Thanks in large part to Elizabeth Keyes, the bill has moved into the appropriations committee. It is estimated that the program, based on those in other states as well as the federal government's loan repayment program, would only cost the state \$150,000 per year. As a

direct result of UCONN community members' efforts, the bill would also help to streamline the loan repayment process for other professionals who currently receive loan repayment assistance from the state.

If you're interested in helping, please call or write to your legislator and encourage them to support funding for Senate Bill

#1322. Tell them why this is important to you! You can find your legislator by accessing: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/maps/townlist.asp>. For more information or to find out how you might be able to help, e-mail Gavan Meehan at [gavan.meehan@gmail.com](mailto:gavan.meehan@gmail.com) or Kiley Gosselin at [kileyg@gmail.com](mailto:kileyg@gmail.com).

## Attorney General Blumenthal Speaks to Law School Dems

*By Albert L. Barrueco*

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal recently spoke to the UCONN Law Democrats about what it was like to be Attorney General. The AG discussed a variety of issues he faces on a daily basis, and provided back-stage insight into his office's more controversial cases. Among them is Connecticut's decision to sue the federal government over the "No Child Left Behind" legislation. Attorney Blumenthal praised the

quality of Connecticut's educational system and the legislation's goal of closing achievement gaps, but stated that the suit was necessary in order to secure federal funding for federal mandates.

The AG also expressed disappointment over how the federal government, particularly the Justice Department, has dropped the ball in going after big tobacco and protecting the environment. According to Blumenthal, he is concerned over how many traditionally

federal responsibilities are now being abandoned and left to the individual states. The U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision over EPA regulation standards is an example of this type of policy shift.

He expressed great enthusiasm about his office's "active" reputation compared to other states, and made no secret about how pleased he is that he and his staff routinely tackle cutting-edge legal claims.

When asked about a 2010 gubernatorial run,

Blumenthal smiled, and declined to confirm the rumors.

A Democrat, Blumenthal serves as the state's chair of Senator Dodd's presidential campaign. Blumenthal graduated from Yale Law School, where he edited the Yale Law Journal. A former law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun, Blumenthal was Connecticut's U.S. Attorney from 1977 to 1981.

## Incarceration Nation *By Thomas Plotkin*

On April 6, 2007, ACS and BLSA co-hosted "Incarceration Nation," a panel discussion about the consequences of our nation's mass-imprisonment policy. The event was conceived as a result of last year's Bureau of Prison statistic that this country has 2.3 million people behind bars. Our nation's rate of incarceration is between 4 and 8 times higher than the rest of the developed world. Our nearest competitors are China, with 1.5 million, and Russia, with 870,000 prisoners. Add those on parole and probation to our 2.3 million, and the figure reaches a staggering seven million individuals. As the

rate of violent crime has been plummeting from its mid-'70's peak, our prison population has quadrupled. Many of those imprisoned are non-violent offenders, often jailed for petty drug convictions.

Anthropologist and George Washington University Law Professor, Donald Braman spoke of his book, *Doing Time on the Outside*, the product of years of field interviews in Washington, D.C. His talk touched on the hidden costs of mass-imprisonment and the harm it inflicts on this community. As with the two panelists that followed, Braman's talk left little doubt that, in the case of the mass-

incarceration of non-violent offenders, the cure may be worse than the disease.

Mie Lewis, a Fellow at ACLU and Human Rights Watch and author of "Custody and Control," a report about the ill-treatment of girls within institutions in the New York juvenile justice system, spoke about the rising number of women being imprisoned, largely for non-violent drug offenses, and emphasized the toll this takes on families and relationships outside the prison walls. She also discussed the brutalizing effects of the daily exposure to violence upon the efforts of corrections officers.

Our final speaker was State Representative Mike Lawlor, co-chair of the state Judiciary Committee and Assistant Professor at the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Studies, University of New Haven. He spoke of the economic cost of the "prison industrial complex" in Connecticut, at one point referring to the fact that a few years ago our prison budget surpassed our education budget. Rep. Lawlor believes our thirty-year social experiment in mass-imprisonment may soon be coming to an end as budget constraints finally take their toll.

## DEAN'S CORNER

### A Word from Dean-Designate Jeremy Paul

I couldn't be more delighted that you are launching *Pro Se* just as I am becoming Dean. My wife has spent most of her career writing for or about newspapers, and I believe they are the lifeblood of a vibrant community. I am grateful to you for getting this going and also for inviting me to participate.

Our community is especially in need of *Pro Se* because we have so many wonderful things going on that it's otherwise hard to keep up. For complex reasons, our beautiful campus tends to create patterns of foot traffic in which we too seldom find ourselves with a moment to sit and share a cup of coffee, and perhaps a story or two. So until we can do something to remedy that I will try to work into my column little snippets about developments on campus.

I think it appropriate to start by celebrating what I detect as a wonderful developing sense of student involvement, not just in the important work of training to be lawyers but also in making this a better place for everyone. I have already been brought into discussions with students seeking to press the campus to reconfigure its heating system to save energy. I have learned that students helped in the creation of our new family room, and several are seriously investigating what it might take to have child-care here on campus. I know that the number of applications for public interest fellowships over the summer is way ahead of previous years. And while having fun attending the wonderful student-organized Diversity Reception or LLSA's poetry reading featuring Mariposa at Tisane, students are patronizing a local business in a way that contributes to the economic health of our neighborhood.

I applaud each and every one of you, as well as the countless others which space prevents me from singling out. Of course, renewed pressure for community improvement from a vigorous and well-educated student body will make my new job harder. I wouldn't want it any other way.

## IP CAREER PANEL

*by Christophe Renaud*

On March 28th, the Intellectual Property Law and Technology Society hosted the Second Annual IP Career Panel featuring Scott Brown ('97) from Skadden Arps, Marina F. Cunningham ('93) and Tucker Griffith ('98) from McCormick, Paulding & Huber, and Amy Span Wergeles (U. Va. '87) from Robinson & Cole. The panelists began with a wistful retelling of their initial attraction to IP law. Although each now practices a different aspect of IP law, each agreed that the IP field is fast-paced, dynamic, and gratifying. They also confirmed that demand for IP attorneys is rapidly increasing. If you are still searching for a creative and engaging career, the challenges and many possibilities IP has to offer may very well be worth a closer look. All the panelists agreed that regardless of your background, you would be joining some of the most talented, enthusiastic and inspiring lawyers of our time.

## DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

*by Jessica Nuzellillo-Moran*

Created in the Fall of 2006, the Diversity Committee is a group of seven students with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. They are appointed by the SBA President and confirmed by both the SBA and the previous year's Diversity Committee. This past year, the Committee worked tirelessly to define its purpose and draft its bylaws. The Committee was designed to act both proactively and reactively to promote, ensure and protect the open and inclusive nature of our law school community.

The Committee is currently working with administrators and faculty to ensure diversity training for incoming students during orientation as well as regular diversity training for faculty as part of their professional development. In addition, the Committee is sponsoring several events such as Diversity Week, which are designed to bring all members of our community together for thought provoking debate and discussion on the creation and maintenance of an inclusive community.

When an event within the law school community, the greater Hartford area, the State of Connecticut, or anywhere in our nation enhances or challenges our beliefs in an open and inclusive community, the Committee will act as a fact finder and facilitator of discussion for these events.

This semester, the SBA voted to approve the Diversity Committee as a standing SBA committee. It also approved its proposed bylaws. The bylaws will be available through a link on the SBA webpage in the near future.

Beginning next semester, the Committee will hold at least one meeting per semester that is open to the entire law school community. In the interim, should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for the Committee, please contact Lahny Silva at [lahny.silva@uconn.edu](mailto:lahny.silva@uconn.edu), or Frank Yu at [frank.yu@uconn.edu](mailto:frank.yu@uconn.edu).

The Committee is looking forward to working with the law school's student leaders, faculty, and administration to create a more cohesive campus atmosphere.

## A Word from the Stacks *by Simon Canick*

1. Old exams are now online! Go to: <http://www.law.uconn.edu/students/examarchive/>
2. Extended library hours (4/28-5/17):  
M-F 8am-12am, Sat. 9am-12am,  
Sun. 12pm-12am
3. The Research Librarians are available to aid any research effort: stop by their desk or chat by clicking on the Librarian button from: <http://www.law.uconn.edu/library/>
4. Relax with our new magazine, novel, and DVD collection by the library couches



### Volleyball Action

The aptly named "B-6 Motions" are the law school's representatives in Windsor's Tuesday Night co-ed volleyball league. The team is diverse in its skill range (with several first-timers and several collegiate-level players), and is working to achieve more consistency in its performances. Despite the fact that the first-timers cost the team a few points now and then, the B-6 Motions are currently in 5th place in the league, putting them in good shape to make the playoffs. Behind the leadership of the more experienced players, and the inventive "punch hits" of the beginners, the team is looking forward to the tournament and is hoping to climb up in the standings! The team consists of Alex Kidder, Tiffany Kouri, Brian Minehan, John Norman, Amy Letourneau, Nick Brown, and Ingrid Swanson. Wish 'em luck in the tourney!

### Basketball Tournament

February 16th - 18th marked the 32nd annual Western New England Law Basketball Tournament. Despite a few early losses in the tournament, the UConn Law women's team earned enough tournament points to land a spot in the championship. There, the team battled injuries and sickness (as well as a bit of continued "rustiness"), but pulled together to defeat the other teams, who practice throughout the year to gear up for the contest against UConn. The team was proud to continue its reign as tournament champion!. Led by 3L Liz O'Connor, the team consisted of Chaia Odoms, Liz Murray, Lauren Drury, Beth Libow, Julie Wynns, Julie Mahaney, Jennifer Hughes, and Ingrid Swanson. For next year's tournament, the women are looking

to have a UConn showdown in the finals - UConn women alums vs. UConn women students!



Picture (back row, l to r): Liz Murray, Lauren Drury, Chaia Odoms, Beth Libow, Julie Mahaney, Julie Wynns; (front row, l to r): Ingrid Swanson, Liz O'Connor

### UVA Softball Tournament

Approximately sixty UCONN Law students recently made the trek down to Charlottesville, Virginia to take part in the 24th Annual, University of Virginia Law School Softball Tournament. Fifty schools sent 112 teams to compete over the weekend. The weather cooperated for the first time in three years, providing two days of sunshine and 75 degree weather. Although the four UCONN teams did not fare as well as they hoped, they all had an enriching experience. UVA proved gracious hosts again, putting on two days of softball and a Saturday barbecue (with some of the best pulled pork one could ever find) for the over 1,200 law students who participated in the games.

The two co-ed teams played hard but came up on the wrong side of the score more often than desired. The 2L team was ousted from the tournament by a school that shall remain nameless, but are truly devils from Durham, North Carolina. The 3L co-ed team started with two strong wins over Villanova and Boston

University Red, but slipped and ended their hopes by losing to Boston College and Boston University Charcoal.

The other two teams, UCONN Blue and UCONN II entered the competitive division of the tournament. The UCONN II team, undermanned and injured, played admirably but came up winless for their efforts. The team was overcome in a hard fought effort against a surprisingly good NYU team. UCONN Blue also left the tournament disappointed. Hoping to avenge last years loss to eventual champions UVA Gold, UCONN began its day in the competitive division with a 30-1 trouncing over Seton Hall. Hard luck placed the guys in a difficult Sunday bracket, where a few fielding mishaps and base running difficulties produced a losing effort in an 8:00 a.m. game to the University of South Carolina.

Despite their loss on the field, the UCONN Blue team left with a win of sorts; they were voted the best looking team at the tournament by the UVA organizers. The tournament provided a great experience for all students to meet and become friends with members of other law schools nationwide. The experience was made possible due to the support of the SBA, Westlaw and the incredible organizing efforts of Russel Jarem, who undertook direction of the event for the second year in a row.

## PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT: PROFESSOR BERMAN & PROFESSOR DICKINSON

Professors Paul Schiff Berman and Laura Dickinson have been away from the law school this academic year, serving as Visiting Professors and Visiting Research Scholars in the Program in Law and Public Affairs (LAPA) at Princeton University. The Program chooses 6-8 scholars each year (from approximately 200 applicants) to be in residence at Princeton, where they attend a seminar series and regular lunches, in addition to having time for scholarship. Berman is writing a book about law and globalization entitled *Law Beyond Borders*, and Dickinson is writing a book about the privatization of military and foreign aid activity, entitled *Outsourcing the State*. Professor Peter Lindseth will be a LAPA fellow next academic year, continuing the Princeton-UConn Law connection. Prof. Berman will be teaching Civil Procedure courses throughout next year, and Prof. Dickinson will be teaching International Human Rights in the Fall and a Human Rights/International Law clinic next Spring.

## WLSA Family Room *by Marisa Fegan*

This year the Women's Law Students Association has brought attention to the need for childcare on campus. Our efforts started with an initial survey of students, faculty, and staff about whether they had children and would use childcare connected with the law school. Within twenty-four hours about thirty students responded in the affirmative. We felt this was a very strong response and confirmed a real need on campus. Dr. Jane Brown, Priya Morganstern, and myself formed a "Childcare Working Group" to brainstorm ways to meet this need. Over the course of this year, and after many meetings, a "Family Room" has opened in Starr Hall to give nursing mothers and parents with small children a private space. We are currently drafting a proposal to designate space for a larger childcare area. With a designated space we can then plan the particular details about what sort of childcare arrangement could be offered. There are some feasible ideas we have been considering, however they are all contingent on obtaining space. WLSA hopes that facilities, faculty, administration, and you, our fellow students, will support this worthy objective. The WLSA Board gives many thanks to Dr. Jane Brown and Priya Morganstern for the invaluable time and effort they have invested in this initiative, and to the faculty members who have voiced their support for it.

## Environmental Law Society

*by Blake Ratcliff*

The Environmental Law Society (ELS) is spearheading an effort to replace Starr Hall's aging water boiler with an efficient, carbon-clean fuel cell. We have met with many school officials, and everyone is very supportive. Hartford is a fuel cell industry hub, and we hope to benefit from our proximity to UConn's Global Fuel Cell Center and United Technologies' fuel cell plant. We are looking into several state and federal funding opportunities for renewable energy project, including the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. An energy consultant is scheduled to conduct a feasibility study. Please check out our TWEN site for updates on our progress.

On Saturday, April 14th, the ELS conducted its spring hike on 14 April at Penwood State Park. It was a great success! We had beautiful weather, great food, and a wonderful time! Please join us for our next hike in the fall.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: EMILE BUZAID

*by Emile Buzaid & Naurin Hashmi*

**"I dig the fast bikes. For me, it's just how I live my life: I grip it and rip it. I live it with a lot of flair, I live it on the edge."**

Before attending Law School, Emile Buzaid graduated from the West Point Military Academy as a math major with honors in May, 2000. After some time, he was stationed in Fort Carson, CL, where he worked in the construction engineering unit which consisted of 600 officers specializing in skills such as masonry and carpentry. Here, Emile also developed an interest in real estate and got his broker's license.

In April 2003 the Army sent Emile to Iraq. He was stationed in Mosul, which is in the northern part of an area known as the Sunni Triangle. There Emile was in the unique position of participating in active combat while also involved with construction and renovation projects with the Combat Reconstruction Unit. The projects ranged from building Army bases and roads to renovating hospitals, orphanages, and airports.

Emile left Iraq in February, 2004 and then one year later he left the Army in the rank of Captain of the Army Corps of Engineers honored with, among other medals, a Bronze Star. He moved back to his home in Danbury to start his own brokerage company and then later the same year started school.

When not in class, Emile enjoys racing motorcycles, running, playing the piano, weight lifting, pistol shooting, and golfing. This summer, Emile will be a Summer Associate at Day Pitney, LLP and would like to continue working in their real estate department eventually becoming a partner, while still maintaining his brokerage company, after graduating.

## Café con Leche by Charleen Merced & Dinamary Arvelo

On March, 31, 2007 the Latino Law Student Association launched the first, of what hopes to become many, "Café con Leche" events at Tisane Tea & Coffee. This year's poetry performance featured the acclaimed artist Mariposa, a "Nuyorican" poet from the Bronx, NY.

Mariposa mesmerized, excited, and engaged the audience about issues of identity, politics, language, sexism, racism, and poverty. Members of the audience could identify with various parts of her performance, including Dean Paul who identified with her reading about attempts to "relax her

hair." In addition to addressing a broad array of social justice issues, Mariposa reached out to Latino law students and encouraged them to become judges and social justice leaders, "because we need you."

Sean Forbes, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Connecticut's Department of English Literature followed Mariposa's performance with some of his own work. Students were then invited to read poetry of their own during an "open mic" session.

The event was covered by *Viva Hartford!*, which surveyed the reactions of the audience to performances as

well as the significance of the event. The Latino Law Students Café con Leche will be featured in one of their upcoming television programs.

Café con Leche was the culmination of a series of events organized by LLSA this semester to celebrate Latino culture. LLSA held its annual Salsa Night at La Casona, which included a Latino dinner and salsa lessons. Members of LLSA also prepared a "Borders" Display located in the hallway just outside of the library to debunk myths and stereotypes of Latinos by highlighting many of the success and accomplishments of Latino people in our country. This display was unveiled with a lunch and a surprise visit from LLSA's Founder.

## Pearls of Wisdom from Chris Sanetti

Never discuss an exam, once you have left the room. Someone involved in this conversation always ends up feeling terrible.

Always back up your data, notes, etc.

Don't volunteer a comment in class until you have said it silently to yourself 5 times and it still sounds intelligent.

Don't mention your relevant legal experience unless it is *directly* relevant to the question - it sounds like bragging.

Try to keep contact with non-law-school friends. Try extremely hard not to bore them with conversation about legal issues.

More than 4 people in a study group is too many. If your study group isn't functioning well, declare your independence. Bent feelings are soon forgotten. For explaining otherwise unacceptable behavior, "I was in finals" may soon replace "I was drunk," if it hasn't already.

## The Cranky DVD Reviewer By Thomas Plotkin

In this column, I'll dismiss a hot new DVD release in a sentence and recommend a similar film you've probably never heard of that's more worth your limited law-student time.

### **You Could See The Departed, but you should see: Mean Streets.**

The Departed of course copped Oscars for Best Picture and Director, and it is an entertaining gangster picture. But director Martin Scorsese used to be an artist. Mean Streets (1973), the movie that launched his

career, is a gangster movie too, but it is so much more.

The story line involves a group of young men, childhood buddies from Little Italy; bottom-tier hoodlums, they live with their moms, wake up at night, hang out, drink, fight, and sometimes kill each other. The hero is Charlie, played by an unbelievably cute and boyish Harvey Keitel.

Charlie is the only up-and-comer among the crew, as his uncle, a made guy, has plans for him. But Charlie is also a devout Catholic, and the

lurid streets he dwells in seem awfully close to Hell to him. So he does his penance by helping out friends in need - namely Johnny Boy.

Johnny Boy is the role that unleashed Robert De Niro on the world, and it's a fireworks display of a performance. Johnny Boy gets his kicks by blowing up mailboxes, firing guns off of tenement roofs, racking up gambling debts all over town and never paying them back. He's anarchy incarnate, the only one of the fellas who is his own man, and, within the circumscribed social code of the streets, a disaster

waiting to happen. Charlie's efforts to smooth the feathers of the men with guns Johnny Boy baits has the set-up of classic tragedy.

The plot is slight, the style everything: hilariously profane improvised dialog, jagged editing, a killer soundtrack, and a camera that never stops moving. Scorsese said growing up in Little Italy left him with the options of being a mobster or a priest. Mean Streets is about a man who tries to be both, and is Scorsese's most personal film. Check it out.