

## UConn Storrs Takes Over Parking On Campus

By Navid Wheeler '17

On July 14, 2015 UConn Parking Services alerted students of the process to purchase a "Regional Campus commuter student parking permit." The email reported that the Regional Campus commuter parking permits would be sold for \$116.99/year, which including sales tax, ultimately brings the price to \$124.42.

Students who purchase this permit would also be able to park on the Storrs campus, albeit only in lots associated with the \$116.99 price (which, as many Storrs students, both current and former, will tell you, hardly makes driving worth the effort). As part of the new takeover of Law School parking, faculty members are now required to pay for parking permits as well.

On September 1, 2015, Karen DeMeola, UConn Law's Assistant Dean of Students, sent an email to

the Law School student body confirming the suspicions of many: UConn Storrs is taking over parking at the Law School, and law students who want to park on campus will have to purchase a new commuter parking permit, a separate cost that was not budgeted into our tuition and fee bill.

In previous years, law students who wanted to park on campus were required to buy a \$40 parking decal from the Law School directly, a cost that was included in our fee bills. The change in price represents a 211% increase in parking costs for students, many of whom depend on student loans and do not have the extra money to spend. Many students have expressed their frustration with the unprecedented increase in parking costs and have approached their Student Bar Association class representatives as well as the UConn Law administration to voice their dissatisfaction.

The increase in parking costs also raises another

important, though less talked about, issue. UConn Law is home to the Thomas J. Meskill Law Library, which is not restricted to the Law School community, but is rather open to the public as well. Many individuals from outside the Law School community come to use the law library for its rich resources and varied research aids.

These patrons may now be expected to purchase a parking permit to use the law library. This concerns some on campus about the potential for public patrons to receive expensive parking tickets from Storrs parking services monitors.

Furthermore, there is widespread concern among on-campus student groups as to how this new policy will affect guests who are invited to events hosted on the law school campus. Student organizations at times invite prominent figures including judges and political figures, as well as other members of the public.

See PARKING, p. 3

## DeMeola Discusses Her New Position as VP of the CBA

By Madiha Malik '16

Assistant Dean of Students Karen DeMeola will be serving as Vice President of the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA) for the 2015-2016 term. DeMeola stated she was "surprised and honored to receive the nomination," which she graciously accepted. As a part of her involvement with the CBA, DeMeola serves on the CBA's Diversity Committee, LGBT Section, and Membership Committee.



Karen DeMeola

Photo via [www.law.uconn.edu](http://www.law.uconn.edu)

DeMeola has been a member of the CBA since 1996 and was involved in early conversations about creating an LGBT section.

DeMeola stated that she was encouraged by many individuals to join the CBA's leadership track, though her initial reaction was to decline the opportunity. After realizing what issues the CBA was facing, however, DeMeola reconsidered the possibility.

Unlike other states, Connecticut does not have mandatory state bar membership and consequently, many attorneys will join affinity and practice area-based bar associations instead of joining the CBA. "It is hard to join a club when you feel like you do not belong," said DeMeola. As a result, according to DeMeola, the CBA is losing the membership of many talented attorneys.

One of DeMeola's goals is to strengthen diversity and inclusion efforts within the CBA and break down the divide between the Young Lawyers Section of the CBA (YLS) and the more senior bar. "This engagement across generations is challenging but I believe it will serve the Association

See DEMEOLA, p. 3

## Law School Adds Two New Unique LL.M. Programs

By Alexandra Cavaliere '16

UConn Law launched two new LL.M. programs this year: the LL.M. in Energy and Environmental Law ("E&E") and the LL.M. in Human Rights and Social Justice ("HRSJ"). Both programs have taken off in such a short period of time.

The E&E LL.M. was approved last year by both UConn Law faculty and UConn's Board of Trustees. However, it was not until this past April that the American Bar Association acquiesced to CEEL advertising and marketing the program. Impressively, in just a few short months CEEL was able to bring in three students to start this fall. The HRSJ LL.M. currently has four enrolled students, and is expecting a few more to join them in the spring.

After speaking with both program directors—Professor Molly Land for HRSJ LL.M. and Professor Joe MacDougald for E&E—it was clear that each program offers something very unique to legal education.

Contrary to popular belief, the HRSJ program does not require studies in international law, and does not require focus in either human rights or social justice exclusively; students are free to study a wide range of topics from the criminal justice system and policy reform, to corporate social responsibility. "One of the strengths of this program is that it allows students to create an individualized course of study oriented on the issues they find most compelling," Professor Land commented.

The E&E LL.M. is unique in that, unlike many environmental LL.M. programs, it offers a combined study of both energy and environmental law; there are only a handful of other schools in the country that offer such a combined course of study.

The HRSJ LL.M. program was created as part of the Law School's broader effort to think more innovatively about legal education, and it came as a "natural outgrowth" of the Law School's

See LLM PROGRAMS, p. 2

## Dean Fisher Reflects on Last Year's Successes, Talks Goals for Year Ahead

By Uriel Lloyd '18

As Dean Timothy Fisher heads into his third year as the Dean of the Law School, Pro Se sat down with him to reflect on UConn Law's recent successes, as well as his thoughts looking forward to this academic year.

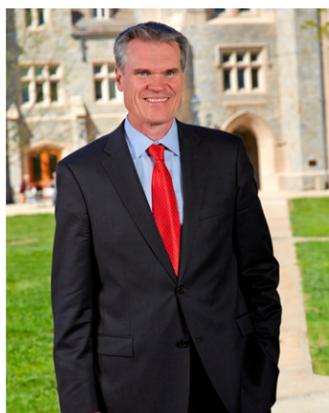
Fisher reflected fondly on last year's successes. He is particularly proud of the increase in philanthropic contributions to the Law School, resulting in record-breaking donations. In years prior, gifts and commitments have rarely exceeded \$2 million, however, according to Fisher, last year's donations exceeded \$4 million. Alumni donations, which in the past had been at a stagnant 12%, increased to 15% last year. Fisher credits the record-breaking increases in contributions to student initiatives such as the student-led

program "Ignite," where a number of student organizations used the UConn Foundation's crowdfunding website to solicit money for desired events and resources. Fisher recognized the Ignite campaign as a huge help in attracting donors who were previously not a part of the system.

"Students are the future of this law school; not just a part of our family today, not just our customers today. The students are actually going to be our owners. Students' loyalty and support is what is going to continue to make us great and grow

even greater," said Fisher.

Looking forward to the year ahead, Fisher highlighted a topic all students worry about: employment. Fisher commended the Law School's Career Planning (CPC), under the leadership of the new Director, James Ray. According to Fisher, Ray's previous experience in private practice and being part of a hiring committee will better prepare students for their legal careers. Fisher acknowledged the changes implemented by the CPC to make career services and the Symplicity database more user friend-

Dean Timothy Fisher  
Photo via [www.law.uconn.edu](http://www.law.uconn.edu)

ly, accessible, and relevant to student employment needs.

Fisher noted that one of the changes that he and CPC would like to see for UConn Law students in the near future is increased opportunities for students to have mentors during their time as law students and in their professional careers after law school. Fisher stated that it is important for these mentors to be "volunteers from the law school foundation, alumni, and faculty; mentors who are willing to have a deeper level of contact with students, to give them advice on how to prepare themselves to make them the best possible candidate for employment."

Overall, Fisher wanted to leave students with advice to consider for employment opportunities. He expressed

See DEAN, p. 2

Student Organization  
Event Planning 101Student Org. Spotlight:  
Mock Trial SocietyAmerican Museum of  
Tort Law Opens in CT

## Student Organization Event Planning Made Easy by your UConn Law ITS Department

By Jessica de Perio Wittman,  
Director for Information Technology



Confused or worried about successful planning, promoting, and hosting your student organization's event? The UConn Law Information Technology Services Department is here to help! We provide student organizations with the tools to promote their events to the community and offer AV and technical assistance.

Services include displaying your event on the Law School Website Events Calendar, creating an RSVP for your event, and assisting with microphones, PowerPoint, projection, and more.

Following these easy steps is a great way to help your event run smoothly.

### 1) Read the Event Planning Guide online and Secure a Room Reservation.

Read the Event Planning Guide online (<http://s.uconn.edu/lawepg>) and secure your room reservation by filling out this form: <https://law.mhssoftware.com/EditItem.html>. Booking a room is the first step to securing UConn Law ITS assistance with events and promotion.

### 2) Get your event posted on the website.

Simply fill in the information requested at <http://s.uconn.edu/law-eventcalendar> and we will give your event its very own listing on the law school's event calendar. Student organizers should not solely rely on sending a community email to promote their events. By publically displaying your event on the UConn Law Website, you are displaying your organization's efforts and achievements as well as helping UConn Law showcase its student community and involvement for prospective students, alumni, and

others.

### 3) Determine whether you need an RSVP.

After requesting an event listing, UConn Law ITS can create an RSVP for your event so you can be aware of how much food to order from your caterer or create nametags for those attending your event.



Set up an RSVP by filling out this form: <http://s.uconn.edu/lawrsvp>. We can have the results emailed directly to your student organization's UConn email address for on the go awareness of who is interested in your event.

### 4) Determine whether you need AV or other Technical assistance.

If your event needs microphone or projection assistance, or any other technical support, let us know by filling out this form <http://s.uconn.edu/lawav>. We ask that you give us **two weeks notice** so that we can ensure equipment and staffing for your event.

Don't know what you need yet? Don't worry! Contact the help desk and we can set up an appointment so that one of our staff can recommend technology for your event.

Additionally, event organizers can find templates and procedures for procuring plastic nameplates for displaying speakers and judge's names, as well as room layouts to select from for purposes of room setup. All of the forms are in one place, so fill them out at the same time. This will save you time and energy, as much of the requested information will be similar, if not the same.

With regards to event planning, there is one location to find all of the forms and materials you'll need: the Law School **Student Portal!** (<http://s.uconn.edu/lawstudentportal>)

#### Help Desk Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

[lawhelpdesk@uconn.edu](mailto:lawhelpdesk@uconn.edu)

860-570-5158

## Pro Bono Opportunities On and Off Campus

By Page Zitzkat '18

UConn Law offers an abundance of pro bono opportunities for those who are interested in public-interest work or wish to dedicate time in law school to providing legal aid to underserved populations. By doing work pro bono publico ("for the public good"), lawyers offer free legal services to clients that cannot afford to pay.

On UConn Law's website, under "Academics" and "Pro Bono & Public Interest," there is a current list of organizations that are seeking pro bono assistance from students. This list includes organizations such as Connecticut Voices for Children, Office of the Victim Advocate, and Lawyers Without Borders. Additionally, the Law School's clinical programs are designed to provide free legal services to those who cannot afford to pay.

Students can also seek out pro bono opportunities independently by contacting law firms and non-profit organizations that may require help with pro bono work. Students who wish to organize pro bono projects or opportunities may contact the faculty pro bono coordinator, Professor Timothy Everett, at [timothy.everett@law.uconn.edu](mailto:timothy.everett@law.uconn.edu).

Performing pro bono work has enormous benefits for both clients and law students. For law students, pro bono work is a way of entering the legal world before graduation.

By performing pro bono work in a variety of different ways, students will not only provide invaluable assistance to those who need it most, but they will also gain practical experience and form valuable connections. By taking advantage of these opportunities early on in their professional career, law students can begin to discover the kind of lawyer they might want to be after graduation.

Providing legal services to those who cannot ordinarily afford legal help is an enriching experience. The Law School's Pro Bono Coordinator, Professor Timothy Everett explained, "What I've found, over my decades as a lawyer, is that those people who perform pro bono work are much younger in spirit than the persons who solely pursue the business of lawyering."

The Law School has a Pro Bono Pledge Program through which students who perform 50 or more hours of pro bono service are eligible to receive a notation on their academic transcripts. Certain unpaid public-interest internships can also qualify as pro bono work for purposes of the Pro Bono Pledge.

For more information about pro bono opportunities or the Pro Bono Pledge, visit the Pro Bono section of UConn Law's website: <http://www.law.uconn.edu/academics/pro-bono-public-interest/pro-bono-service>.

## Fisher Looks Back, Comments on Year Ahead

from DEAN, p. 1

three main components to make oneself a quality contender: professionalism, writing ability, and financial literacy. Fisher emphasized the sense of responsibility and maturity students should portray not only as law students, but also as professionals in the legal field.

Specifically addressing writing ability, Fisher stated that there is a general speculation that the overall writing ability of law school graduates has declined. However, Fisher pointed to surveys that indicate UConn Law provides more opportunities for writing than most law schools and he aims to maintain that practice at a high level.

Fisher emphasized that an unexpected attribute of an ideal legal job candidate is to have the ability to read and understand a financial statement, particularly in private practice. Consequently, Fisher will be looking to create more opportunities for UConn Law students to gain experience in financial literacy before graduating.

Fisher concluded by stating that he is excited to continue to work with students and faculty in the upcoming year, and hopes for many more institutional successes.



## New LL.M Programs Take Off Running

from LLM PROGRAMS p. 1

gald noted. To earn either degree, students must complete 24 credits. However, students who begin their education as a J.D. student at UConn Law are eligible to receive up to 12 credits of advanced standing for environmental and energy law classes or human rights and social justice classes, respectively, taken during their J.D. coursework, and then enroll in a subsequent 12 credits after completion of their J.D. That would allow UConn students to complete the full LL.M. degree in just one semester post-completion of a J.D.

The E&E program was developed through the Center for Energy & Environmental Law ("CEEL"), an effort supported by Professors Sara Bronin, Joe MacDougald, and Richard Parker. After seeing significant interest from its Energy & Environmental Law certificate program, CEEL set its sights on creating a unique LL.M. program. "Both the subject matter, by combining energy and environmental law, and the chance for our own UConn Law JDs to get an advanced placement make this a really exciting program," Professor MacDou-

Both degrees are unique opportunities that UConn Law has added to its legal program offerings. Students are encouraged to reach out to the LL.M. program directors with any questions about enrolling in either program, or to just learn more about what the new LL.M. degrees have to offer.

## Student Organization Spotlight: Mock Trial Society

By Je'Quana Orr '18

Mock Trial Society (MTS) is one of our campus' student-run organizations that strives to give students practical experience in the courtroom.

Participating in mock trial gives students a great comfort level with not only standing up in a court room, making arguments, and examining witnesses but also with courtroom procedure and the rules of evidence," explained MTS member and former inter-scholastic competitor Joe Brown '16, Joe Gasser '16, CJ Schoenherr '15, and Eric Larson '17, who competed last spring in the Cap City Mock Trial Competition in Washington, DC. "As a 2L taking evidence, I particularly appreciated the early exposure I had as a 1L to the Rules of Evidence both in terms of substance and their application."

While most attorneys many spend minimal time in the courtroom (even litigators!), the skills that are gained by being in MTS and participating in its events are also valuable to transactional lawyers. Mock Trial Society helps to not only improve students' advocacy skills but to also hone general public speaking skills. These skills are helpful in any career path that a student may choose.

The William R. Davis competition will be the first exposure most 1L students receive to litigation. "Davis is great because it's a learning experience. . . . You're six weeks into law school [and don't know much] but it doesn't matter," said Chris Stanton '16, President of MTS. The objective of the competition is to start to familiarize students with trial procedure. The competition starts on October 5th with preliminary rounds, and students, faculty, and staff are all invited to watch the final rounds, to be argued in front of real judges, on October 22nd.

Once students participate in the Davis competition, either by compet-

ing as an attorney or volunteering to play a witness, they will become official members of the Mock Trial Society and will be able to judge future on-campus competitions and apply to compete in off-campus interscholastic competitions.

In the past, travel teams have competed in competitions held in New York, Massachusetts, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. These trips are a great networking opportunity; participants meet not only students from other law schools across the country, but also practicing attorneys and judges as well.

Additionally, students who compete on the travel teams receive two pass/fail academic credits and a transcript designation. "Mock Trial used to be unable to offer any credit for participating in mock trials, despite all of the hard work that goes into preparing for a mock trial competition. But our executive board, led by President Chris Stanton, worked with faculty to arrange for students to earn two pass/fail credits for participating in interscholastic competitions," explained Joe Gasser '16, a MTS member and two-time interscholastic competitor.

Students who would rather not compete directly in mock trial competitions are still welcome and encouraged to join Mock Trial Society. MTS offers the opportunity to join scrimmage teams, which help the travel teams prepare for competition. Additionally, Mock Trial Society provides the opportunity to volunteer to help prepare a Hartford public high school mock trial team and a UConn undergraduate team.

If you are interested in joining Mock Trial Society or have any questions about the program, feel free to contact MTS President Chris Stanton at [christopher.stanton@uconn.edu](mailto:christopher.stanton@uconn.edu).

## DeMeola Comments on New Gig

from DEMEOLO, p. 1 well. The legal profession has changed tremendously and we need to think creatively about how to provide access to justice and legal services generally. Harnessing the innovative talents and engaging the YLS will be key in our continued success as an association," DeMeola commented.

DeMeola credits her role at the Law School as putting her in a unique position to lead the CBA. "I have witnessed the dramatic shift in law school applicants, have seen law schools change teaching methods to meet the demands of the profession and students, and continue to face the challenges presented in a mixed generational environment," said DeMeola.

DeMeola stated that connecting law students to the CBA will be a natural consequence of her leadership. She encourages all students to join the CBA, as membership is free and beneficial for all students, in terms of educational and networking opportunities, re-

gardless of where they may see themselves practicing law after graduation.

In addition to her position with the CBA, DeMeola will maintain her responsibilities as Assistant Dean of Students at UConn Law. In her role at the Law School, DeMeola is charged with handling all non-academic issues of student life. "In Student Services, our mission is to assist students develop a professional identity, ensure diversity and inclusion, and support student wellness," explained DeMeola.

As part of her role, DeMeola provides advice and assistance to students on various topics including academics, professional development and diversity. "For me it is important to get to know people generally, but in particular, the students." While DeMeola stated she enjoys having an open door policy, her availability will be reduced this year as she will be recruiting, admitting, and matriculating the classes of 2019 and 2020.

## Future of Parking on Law Campus Uncertain

from PARKING p. 1

Th e s e practical and financial inconveniences fuel student frustrations. For now, Storrs has not yet begun ticketing cars

that have not purchased a parking decal and Student Services has reported to be actively seeking answers to student concerns from UConn Parking Services.

## New Professor Spotlight: Lisa Perkins

By Pamela Alberca '17

This school year, the Law School welcomes Lisa Perkins as the new Associate Director of UConn Law's in-house Tax Clinic. Perkins received her B.S. and J.D. degrees from Michigan State University, and her LL.M. in Taxation from Georgetown University.

Prior to joining the Law School faculty, Perkins spent over 17 years as a trial attorney in the Tax Division of the United States Department of Justice. In her capacity, she prosecuted tax crimes all over the western half of the country.

Later, Perkins moved to Connecticut to become an Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Hartford, where she managed a caseload of a wide range of matters, including civil rights, federal tort claims, immigration, financial crimes, and medical malpractice, just to name a few.

After committing over 10 years to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Perkins decided to start her own practice that primarily focused on helping clients with legal matters concerning civil rights, immigration, and tax. In explaining why she chose to brave the legal field on her own, Perkins explained, "It was time for me to represent real people with real problems."

When she learned the Law School was in search of a new Tax Clinic Director, Perkins immediately jumped at the opportunity, given her desire to help real clients and her long-held

interest in tax work. Now as the new Associate Director, Perkins plans to continue to provide high-level legal representation to low-income tax payers who otherwise might not have that opportunity.



Perkins also wants to provide students with a unique opportunity to provide high-quality legal representation to clients in need while enhancing all of the essential lawyering skills law students will need for a future practice in law. For that reason, she hopes to not only supervise students in her capacity as Tax Clinic Director, but to also serve as a professional resource and a mentor.

Outside of the Tax Clinic, Perkins enjoys swimming, biking, kayaking, and most importantly spending time with her son. Her office is located in Hosmer 336, at the back of the Legal Clinic wing.

## Preview: William H. Hastie Moot Court Competition

By Nina Pelc-Faszczka '16

For upperclassmen interested in appellate advocacy, sign up for this year's William H. Hastie on-campus moot court competition! To be eligible, you must (1) be an upperclassman (at least a 2LE); (2) have completed the moot court class OR transferred to UConn Law having had the Moot Court requirement waived by the registrar's office; (3) have not competed in two previous Hastie and/or Loiselle Competitions; and (4) have one fully year of study remaining at the law school.

Hastie is similar to spring moot court competition, Loiselle, but is different in important ways. Hastie competitors not only are permitted to submit an appellate brief to perfect their knowledge of the issues and supplement their oral advocacy scores for Board admission, but they also compete individually rather than in teams of two. For those of you who have trouble working with others (or prefer not to), here's your chance to shine!

Hastie is a great way to sharpen your skills in both appellate advocacy and public speaking, and to try your hand at becoming a member of the Connecticut Moot Court Board. Membership on the Board affords students the opportunity to participate in interscholastic moot court competitions for which students receive academic credit, network with Connecticut practitioners and judges, and hone oral and written advocacy skills. Students on the Board receive a designation on their transcript, which is highly regarded by employers.

Furthermore, Slota commented on the seemingly grueling task of having to perform the oral arguments several times if you advance through multiple rounds, to assure competitors that the hard work is worth it. "It was a lot of work to . . . adjust my argument after each round to plug up holes exposed by the other competitors," Slota explained. "But I felt myself become a better litigator and a more critical thinker with each new round."

For additional information, please contact Bianca Slota, the Moot Court Board's Intramural Competition Director, at [bianca.slota@uconn.edu](mailto:bianca.slota@uconn.edu).

5th, and the Moot Court Board will be accepting sign-ups until October 9th. Competitors will have the entire month of October to prepare their arguments, and preliminary rounds will take place the week of November 2nd. The competition will continue through various intermediary rounds in front of students, professors, and local practitioners, and culminate in a final round on Tuesday November 17th in front of real judges.

Pro Se sat down with last year's winner Bianca Slota '16, who called Hastie her "favorite experience of law school," and emphasized the thrilling experience of arguing in front of real judges. "I was so nervous going into the final round because I was going to argue in front of real appellate judges and in front of an audience," said Slota. "But I can't think of anything more valuable than having the opportunity to test my legal skills in front of those judges. All of the judges, even the students and professors, provided both encouraging and critical feedback, making the entire competition a tremendous learning opportunity."



Last year's Finalist Charles Modzelewski '16, and Champion, Bianca Slota '16. Photo via UConn Law's Facebook Page.

# The Back Page

## American Museum of Tort Law Opens in Winsted, CT

On September 26th, the American Museum of Tort Law, established by Ralph Nader, was opened in Nader's hometown of Winsted, CT.

According to a New York Times article on the opening, *Ralph Nader's Tort Law Museum Seeks to Keep His Crusade Evergreen*, "the museum aims to describe the evolution of the law regarding negligence and liability, and it features some of the most groundbreaking



Dean Fisher, Professor Pandya, and various UConn Law students pose with Ralph Nader at the Opening of the America Museum of Tort Law on Sept. 26.

cases of the late 20th century."

The guests of the opening included professors, judges, leading trial attorneys, former plaintiffs, former jurors, federal, state, and local officials, and friends and associates of the founders of the Museum.

UConn Law's presence at the opening included Dean Fisher, who spoke at the event, Professor Sachin Pandya, and a number of UConn Law students.

## "One Stop" Is Here! UConn Law Moves Most Essential Offices to One Convenient Location

By Navid Wheeler '17

The One Stop Student Center is now open! One Stop is located on the second floor of the library and consists of the Admissions, Bursar, Financial Aid, Registrar, and Student Services offices. Prior to this summer, these offices were scattered in different locations across campus. The consolidation of these essential offices in one location on campus was implemented for student convenience, to provide one location where all of the im-



portant student needs can be met.

One Stop's stated mission is to provide prompt and friendly service in a collaborative and cooperative way. The new arrangement expects to welcome not only current UConn Law students, but also prospective students, alumni,

and faculty.

One Stop will be open Monday – Friday from 9am to 5pm.

## Semester in D.C. Program: Students Have A September to Remember

By Madiha Malik '16

*This is a new column that will discuss the experiences of students in the Semester in D.C. program as they navigate government agencies and learn the quirks that come with living in the nation's capital.*

The Semester in D.C. program began just a few weeks ago and is already off to an exciting start for some, with presidential sightings and braving #popeocalypse.

Within the second week of being in Washington, D.C. Afua Akoto '16 sat mere feet away from President Obama as he congratulated the UConn Women's Basketball team for their third consecutive championship win in a row. "Getting to see a President Obama is something that I have only dreamed of so to see him up close and personal is still unbelievable," said Akoto.

The atmosphere of the event was casual and conversational, said Akoto, with the President making jokes about this being the team's third visit to the White House. This semester, Akoto is working as a fellow in Senator Richard Blumenthal's office. According to Akoto, Senator Blumenthal received

tickets to attend the event at the White House and had ten extra tickets on a first-come, first-served basis. Akoto was able to get a ticket by responding to an email sent by a staffer. Also attending the event from Senator Blumenthal's office was a mix of undergraduate interns, fellows including Akoto, and staffers.

On September 22nd, Pope Francis began his three-day visit to Washington, D.C. causing excitement and terror at the same time. Most students received warnings from their respective agencies and news headlines blared that traffic conditions would be apocalyptic with road closures due to security and flocks of visitors crowding into the metro system. Commuting into and around the city was anticipated to be a nightmare and was all anyone could talk about.

The Semester in D.C. program students were allowed the day off with class cancelled due to the anticipated "gridlock" traffic. The result for some was anti-climactic: on the days of the Pope's visit, downtown D.C. was a modern day ghost town. Did Pope Francis bless D.C. traffic? Areas where there are usually hoards of people on a regular workday were empty with

only a few stragglers to be seen.

Instead, bars and restaurants were bustling in the middle of the day as most decided to "telework" or bask in the glory of a mid-week day off. Those who did commute to work reported that their travel time was significantly shortened and easier than a typical workday. Now that Pope Francis has left the nation's capital, regular work schedules are expected to resume.



At the White House, President Obama Accepts UConn T-Shirt and Basketball from Geno Auriema, Coach of the UConn Women's Basketball Team.

Photo by Afua Akoto '16

## Hot Spots in the Hartford/ West Hartford Area

By Drew Manning '18

Blue Back Square in West Hartford hosts a number of great restaurants and bars to relax and hang out and with friends after a hard week's work. One of these notable joints is the newly-opened World of Beer. This bar offers 50 beers on tap and over 500 different bottled beers. To manage this overwhelming number of choices, there are iPads at each table, programmed to let customers scroll through all 550 options.



When asked about his experience at World of Beer, 1L Michael Rondon said, "I've never been to a place that lets you sort through the menu like that." The bar offers Trivia Nights on Wednesdays, and hosts live bands on Fridays and Saturdays. The bar's menu is limited to traditional pairings for beer such as soft pretzels and artisan sausage plates. World of Beer is open seven days a week, from 11am to 1am.

In Hartford, City Steam Brewery offers both a bar and comedy club, all in one place. The comedy club hosts comedians who have appeared on Comedy Central, MTV, and VH-1. The bar offers daily specials and a Happy Hour. All of City Steam's beers are made in-house, and they have regular beer-tasting specials.



According to their website, the bar's location, the Cheney building, "is regarded as the finest example of Romanesque architecture in the United States," and many elements of the original building remain visible in the brewery. Furthermore, the brewery gets its name from the fact that it powers its 23-barrel system with steam from the Hartford Steam Company. City Steam is located at 942 Main Street, a block away from the XL Center, in downtown Hartford.

## Diary of the New Guy: Voyage of a 2L Transfer

By Mike DiPietro '17

I'm Mike, the new guy. Which is interesting, because at twenty-six years old, I don't think I've ever been the new guy before. For everything I expected 2L year to bring—the stress of finding a job for the summer, juggling school work and



extracurricular activities, trying to maintain something that looks like a normal and healthy lifestyle, you get the gist—I didn't expect it to include

things like searching for a classroom for the first time as if it were the quest for the Holy Grail, or getting lost in the library. In my defense, I'm using "lost" loosely. Maybe "disoriented" is a better word. It's a big library. Don't judge me.

Being the new guy has helped highlight aspects of the Law School that are easy to take for granted, and has quickly shown me why UConn Law is a special place. In the last three weeks, three things have particularly stood out to me.

First, the striking architecture and beautiful landscaping never cease to amaze me. For the challenges that law school can present, at least it's in a jaw-droppingly beautiful place.

Second, the school's physical location makes it easy to access some of the best parts of Hartford, West Hartford, and the surrounding area. Having lived in other parts of Hartford, you can't beat how easy it is around here to sneak off campus for lunch or grab dinner after a long day of classes.

Finally, it's amazing to see how tight knit and supportive the student body is. People have consistently gone out of their way to make introductions and make me feel at home. It's easy to tell that everyone understands that we're all in it together.

So, for being the new guy for the first time I can't really say I expected to have a better experience. I'm excited to be part of the community and can't wait for an awesome year ahead!