Week of February 3, 2008

Vol. I, Iss. 18

Sesquicentennial Celebration Continues at SCOTUS

By President Tope Yusuf ’08. On January 31, Columbia continued its year-long Sesquicentennial celebration with a dinner at the Supreme Court hosted by Columbia alum Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. A star-studded event included alumni, faculty and a handful of students. Among the most notable guests were Columbia University President Lee Bollinger ’71 who introduced the Justice and NBA Commissioner David Stern ’66. The black-tie event took place in the Great Hall of the Supreme Court.

Justice Ginsburg’s speech was mostly a recollection of her time at Columbia, both as a student and a member of the faculty. She also spoke of the offer made by Harvard Law School to grant her a degree if she would renounce her CLS degree, an offer she ultimately did not accept. Dean Schizer, a former law clerk to Justice Ginsburg, closed out the event by recalling the accomplishments of Columbia Law School in the past 150 years.

It was an amazing experience! The architecture of the Great Hall and the room where the reception was held was breathtaking. We were able to take a peek into the actual court room where arguments take place and that was an inspiring moment. So much history has been made in that building. It was also great to talk to the different alums that were present; so many people leave Columbia and do great things. As a current student it was definitely the highlight of my Columbia education. The only thing that beats this is getting my diploma on May 22nd!

Official Senate Announcements

Senate Turnover. 2L Senator Craig Greiwe resigned effective Monday, January 14th. In accord with Art. III, Sec. 2, of the Senate Constitution (“In the event of a vacancy on the Senate, the next runner(s)-up in the class of the former Senator from the last election shall fill the position until the next regularly scheduled election.”), Amy Maffucci has been named as the newest member of the Student Senate. You can learn more about Sen. Maffucci in this week’s page 3 spotlight profile.

Free Coffee Feasibility Study Approved. At the first Senate meeting of the semester, the Senate approved a resolution to explore whether it would be possible to make free coffee available to all law school students at Jerome Greene Hall. The resolution was amended once from the original version introduced by its nine sponsors (final text of the resolution on page 2). The sponsors say that Harvard Law School provides free coffee to its students.

Legal Practice Workshop Focus Group Needs More 1Ls! We are especially in need of students who had an adjunct instructor first semester. Remember, this is your chance to influence lasting change in the 1L curriculum! CLS is planning to permanently restructure the LPW program this year, and we are working with Professor Philip Genty to make sure the student experience is taken into account. Our focus group to study your take on the first year legal writing and research program will be held on Thursday, February 7th at 5:00 PM, and the meeting will last about one hour. Dinner will be provided. If interested, please submit the info below to senate@law.columbia.edu by Monday night. If you are selected, we will be in touch with you by Tuesday. Also, contact us if you have any questions.

Name:
Legal Practice Workshop Instructor:
Moot Court:
One sentence about your Legal Practice Workshop experience:

Senate Super Bowl Party Was Super!

Over 100 packed Lenfest Café to eat, drink, and watch the home team win!
The CLS Black Letter

A Student Senate Publication

Week of February 3, 2008

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Your 2007-2008 Student Senate

Please contact us with questions or concerns! We are working hard to represent you.

E-mail us at senate@law.columbia.edu, and visit us at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/law/senate/.

Executive Board
Tope Yusuf, President
Dan Y. Shin, Vice President
Max Miller, Treasurer
Gabriel Gershowitz, Secretary
Kathrin Schwesinger, Parliamentarian

Senate Business

The first Student Senate meeting of 2008 took place this past Wednesday, January 30th, at 9:15 pm in JGH 105. Please note that this is not our regular meeting time—ordinarily, we will meet every other Monday at 9:10 PM in JGH 105. The minutes for our first meeting are available at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/law/senate/meetings/minutes013008.pdf.

Highlights of the nearly two-hour meeting included the approval of budget allocations to student organizations totalling $64,787.50, the formation of two special task forces, and the passage by a 26-10-8 vote of a resolution pertaining to free coffee. The text of the final version of the resolution is included below.

Our next meeting will take place on Monday, February 11, 2008, at 9:10 pm in JGH 105. Meetings are generally open to the entire student body.

Text of Final Resolution

Resolution to Provide Free Coffee to Columbia Law School Students

Sponsors: Benjamin Brickner ’10
David Cheng ’10
Max Dublin ’10
Yael Fischer ’10
William Leavitt ’10
Mary Kate Johnson ’10
David Peters ’10
Francesco Pezone LLM ’08
Meredith Uhl ’10

January 30, 2008

WHEREAS Columbia Law School students are generally sleep-deprived and income-less,

WHEREAS coffee, when consumed as a complimentary beverage, has been shown to reverse the effects of sleep deprivation without promoting indebtedness,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the CLS Student Senate, working through committee and with the Law School Administration, shall explore whether free coffee can be provided to CLS students within Jerome Greene Hall and outside the normal business hours of Lenfest Café.
Get to Know Your CLS

**Spotlight on Amy Maffucci**

Amy Maffucci is a member of the J.D. Class of 2009 and the newest member of the Student Senate.

**Q.** Where are you from? Can you tell us a little bit about your background?
**A.** I'm from Pittsford, NY, which is a suburb of Rochester, way upstate (about 5 1/2 hours from here). I went to UMass for undergrad, where I majored in Political Science with a secondary major in Economics. I also played on the varsity women’s soccer team all four years I was there and was captain my senior year. During the summer after my junior year, I studied European Politics in Denmark at Denmark’s International School. And I came straight to law school after I graduated.

**Q.** Why did you decide to come to law school?
**A.** Law school had always been something that intrigued me. As I got closer to graduating, I realized that there wasn't really much in the “real world” I could do that would utilize my degree without some sort of advanced education. If I was going to stay in school, law school seemed like the logical choice to me.

**Q.** What inspired you to run for Student Senate as a 2L?
**A.** A very good friend of mine, who was on the Senate at the time, convinced me to do it. He said it was the perfect way to have my voice heard and to help make Columbia a better place.

**Q.** How do you feel about joining the Senate in the middle of the year?
**A.** I'm just excited about the opportunity, whether it was from the start or in the middle of the year. With such a short time left in the year, I just hope I can help.

**Q.** Do you think you will run for re-election?
**A.** Yes.

**Q.** What are your plans for after law school? What are your goals in life?
**A.** As of right now, the plan is to go to work for a firm and get some experience actually being a lawyer. I don't necessarily know about goals in life, but wherever my career takes me I hope to be able to work with kids at some point.

**Q.** What has been your favorite experience at law school thus far? What has been the greatest experience of your life?
**A.** For law school, I would have to say that my favorite experience has been meeting the people I go to school with. Everyone comes from such diverse backgrounds and has such unique life experiences. I think it’s one of the best parts about Columbia: that it can draw such incredible people. As for my life, it would definitely be playing D1 soccer at UMass. Playing soccer in college was my dream growing up and to be able to do it at that level was really fulfilling.

**Q.** What is the one piece of advice you would give to people thinking about coming to Columbia Law School?
**A.** Whether ultimately you want to be a lawyer or not, make sure you really want to be in law school. It takes a lot of time and effort to be here.
This Week at CLS  
February 4 - 10, 2008

Monday  
- ACS/FedSoc: Annual Constitutional Law Mixer. 4:00 - 6:00 PM; Jerome Greene Annex.  
  *Food and drink.*

Tuesday  
- Feminist Legal Theory Workshop: Mari Matsuda. 4:10 - 6:00 PM; JG Case Lounge.  
- PILF 1L Summer Job FAQ. 5:00 - 7:00 PM; Lenfest Café.  
- CalSoc: Super Tuesday Results Viewing Party. 7:30 PM - 12:00 AM; Lenfest Café.  
  *Food and drink.*  
- ACLU/ACS/IMPACT/CLS Democrats/CLS Republicans: Super Tuesday Results Viewing Party. 7:30 PM; 1020 Bar (110th & Amsterdam).  
  *Open bar and food, CLS ID required.*

Wednesday  
- CPIL: Life in the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division. 12:10 - 1:05 PM; WJW 103.  
  *Pizza.*  
  *Lunch.*  
- “Policy Makers: Inside and Outside of the Federal Government.” 6:00 - 8:00 PM; JG 106.  
  *Dinner.*  
- DeVinimus: “Taste California.” 8:00 - 10:00 PM; JG 101.

Thursday  
  *Pizza.*  
- APALSA/SCL/KLSA: Lunar New Year Festival 4706. 6:00 PM - 12:00 AM; JG Annex.  
  *Tickets on sale Monday through Thursday in JG Lobby.*

Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
- *All quiet on the weekend front.*

Event information is taken from the *Advisor*, a Student Services e-publication. To have your event listed, follow the link below and submit the on-line form. These must be submitted by 10am on Thursday, the week BEFORE your event.  