Official Senate Announcements

Senate Elects New Executive Board.
At our transition meeting on Monday, April 14, the 2008-2009 Student Senate elected its executive board: president is Max Miller ’09, vice president William Leavitt ’10, treasurer L. David Peters ’10, secretary Jessica Isokawa ’10, and parliamentarian Benjamin Brickner ’10.

U Senator Apps Due.
The deadline to submit candidate statements for the Law School’s student University Senate position is 8:00 pm tonight. Polls will be open Wednesday in the JGH Lobby between 11 am and 5 pm. Please email your completed candidate statement to senate@law.columbia.edu and place two hard copies in the Student Senate folder at Student Services. The University Senator serves a two-year term ending May 2010 and serves concurrently as a Law School Student Senator. All CLS students are eligible to run for this office. Additional information about the University Senate is at www.columbia.edu/cu/senate/.

Hogan ’08 Takes Stone
Four of CLS’s best oral advocates appeared this past Thursday afternoon before a packed house of over 400 CLS students, alums, and faculty and a distinguished panel comprised of Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts, Judge Michael McConnell of the 10th Circuit, Judge Diana Gibbon Motz of the 4th Circuit, and Judge Diane Wood of the 7th Circuit, to argue the hypothetical case of *Nafziger v. Kaergard* in this year’s Harlan Fiske Stone Moot.

Presidential Farewell Address
It has been a pleasure serving as your Senate President for the past year. During the course of the year I had the opportunity to work with many students, student groups, faculty members and members of the administration. It was an honor to collaborate with such incredibly thoughtful and dedicated individuals.

At the last Senate meeting, I listed our top 10 achievements for the year. While it was published in the minutes, I’m not sure everyone read it so I think it’s worth mentioning again … with some elaboration on the details.

1. Established a presence with the main campus through provost’s advisory committee for Manhattanville, voting on provost and president’s fund, John Johnson serving as Chair of Student Affairs Caucus on University Senate and collaboration with the undergrads and other graduate schools. In the past, the law school has been isolated and not worked with other CU schools. This year there was an active effort to be more involved.
2. No wait list for Barrister’s Ball this year! The last couple of years, students have been upset because Barrister’s Ball sold out so early. This year we were able to identify a larger space and accommodate all students who wanted to attend.
3. More efficient Senate meetings. This year, we met bi-monthly instead of weekly. The bi-monthly meetings allowed us to focus on the issues and take time to evaluate rather than rushing through weekly meetings.
4. Most successful blood drive in law school history. In the past, the law school has been lackluster in its efforts with regard to blood drives. Thanks to Jason Lear and the Senators who helped him, we were able to have the best blood drive in law school history.
5. Graduation committee has worked hard to sell tickets and avoid repeating the mistakes from last year. They have already sold the amount of tickets from last year and will likely sell more. Buy your tickets now!
6. Creation of Columbia Law Diversity Council. A task force of Senators met to address some of the issues we faced last semester and developed the CLDC. I hope this Council will be proactive in their efforts and also develop initiatives that will help the law school in its efforts to address issues of diversity. Additionally, the task force developed the CU Graduate School Diversity Network. This information sharing tool will keep all grad schools informed of different initiatives and events surrounding diversity.
7. Black Letter has been a great communication tool. Many thanks to Dan Shin and his efforts to unite the law school and give everyone something to look forward to on Sunday nights!
8. IT Committee has done an incredible job; among their accomplishments are firstname.lastname email addresses, double sided printing and faster computers.
9. Academic programming has been improved from last year
10. We are not in debt anymore! We started this year with an unprecedented debt and I am thrilled that we were able to overcome that challenge and have an amazing successful year.

We have certainly accomplished a lot and I hope that the 2008-2009 Senate will continue some of our initiatives and accomplish even more! I am grateful to the 2007-2008 Executive Board for all of their hard work and to the Senators for having faith in our ability. I wish you all the very best.

Tope Yusuf ’08

*Please be kind and double-side your printouts!*
The CLS Black Letter

A Student Senate Publication

Week of April 20, 2008

Vol. I, Iss. 29

Your 2008-2009 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
Max Miller, President
William Leavitt, Vice President
L. David Peters, Treasurer
Jessica Isokawa, Secretary
Benjamin Brickner, Parliamentarian

Class of 2009
Rajiv Batra
Stephen Chu
Stephen Cockrell
Dustin Crawford
Gabriel Gershowitz
Brian Goldberg
Craig Greiwe
Jason Lear
Amy Maffucci
Scott McJannet
Mikhaile Savary
Kathrin Schwesinger
Daniel Y. Shin
Adam Sparks

Class of 2010
Elliott Ash
Esha Bhandari
Kelly Bolar
Max Dubin
Yael Fischer
Dimia Fogam
Ryan McDevitt
Austin Thompson
Meredith Uhl
Eric Wolkoff
Steven Wu

Senate Business

At the first meeting of the Spring Senate, held at 9:10 p.m. on Monday, April 14, 2008, the Senate’s new executive board was elected by the 2008-2009 Senate. The outgoing and incoming executive boards met at 4:10 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, to transition responsibilities.
STONE (continued from p. 1.)

Court Competition. The panel praised all four finalists for their excellent oral advocacy and their understanding of complex legal issues, but in the end they had to award the Lawrence Greenbaum Prize for Best Oral Advocacy to one, and that was Christopher Hogan ’08, who also earned the highest overall score in the previous rounds of competition. Judge McConnell said all four student participants “should be very proud. Their answers were spectacular. They didn’t flinch. There’s only one winner tonight, but the other three students are winners, too.” The other three finalists were Mollie Kornreich ’09, Jordan Connors ’08, and David Scherr ’09. The judges were also complimentary of the complexity of the case that Alison Wright ’08, Director of the Stone Moot Court Competition, had drawn up; it involved three low-income women who claimed they had been denied quality healthcare as a result of a regulation issued by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (DHFS).

News & Notes

Let’s Talk: Faculty Diversity. This is the first in a series of discussions on issues that impact our university-wide campus community. This panel, occurring on Monday at 5 p.m. in JGH 101 will feature:

- Geraldine Downey, Vice Provost for Diversity Initiatives and Professor of Psychology
- Nick Dirks, Vice President for Arts and Sciences and Professor of Anthropology and of History
- Kathryn Johnston, Associate Professor of Astronomy
- Ana F. Abraido-Lanza, Associate Professor of Sociomedical Sciences and Member of the Professional Schools’ Diversity Council
- -Mae Ngai, Professor of History

CU Public Safety writes: In conjunction with the New York City Police Department, CU Public Safety will be having a “STREET SMARTS SEMINAR” on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in JGH 106. This important event will feature Crime Prevention exhibits, as well as presentations from: the NYPD Commanding Officer, 26th Precinct; NYPD Crime Prevention Officer, 26th Precinct; NYPD Commanding Officer, Manhattan North Grand Larceny Unit; NYPD Crime Prevention Officer, Transit District #3; CU Public Safety’s Director of Investigations; and CU Public Safety’s Crime Prevention Specialist. Light refreshments will be served. Seating is limited. Please RSVP to Ricardo Morales, Crime Prevention Manager, at rm29@columbia.edu or 212-854-8513.

If you have a news item that everyone should know about, please email senate@law.columbia.edu.
This Week at CLS
April 21 – 27, 2008

Monday
• Associates-in-Law Colloquium. 4:10 PM; JG Case Lounge.
• “Let’s Talk: Faculty Diversity.” 5 PM; JG 101.

Tuesday
• Koleinu: “Rabbinic vs. Secular Courts: What's a Jew to Do?”, Rabbi Hershel Schachter. 12:10 - 1:00; JG 807. Kosher For Passover Lunch.
• HRI: “Just Back from Darfur.” 12:15 - 1:00pm; JG 646. Lunch.
• Columbia Law Review Q&A. 12:20 - 1:10 PM; JG 103.
• Feminist Theory Workshop: Martha Fineman, “The Vulnerable Subject: Anchoring Equality in the Human Condition.” 4:00 - 6:00 PM; JG 546.

Wednesday
• Overview of the Praxis Project of the African American Policy Forum. 12:10 PM; WJW 417. Box lunch.
• “Student Activism at the Law School 40 Years Ago - and Its Consequences,” Justice Gus Reichbach ’70. 4:10 - 6:00 PM; JG 103.
• Christian Legal Society: Screening of Chariots of Fire. 7:15 - 9:15 PM; JG 101 (tentative). Food.

Thursday
• ALSA: Critical Connections Conference. 9:00 - 5:00 PM; JG Annex.
• “Foreign Investment Regulation in an Uncertain,” Peter Muchlinski. 12:05 - 1:05 PM; WJW 103.
• Registrar/Student Services: Building An Academic Program: Nuts and Bolts of Pre-Registration. 12:20 - 1:30 PM; JG 105. Box lunch.
• CSLC: Enterprise Village. 4:10 - 5:30 PM; JG Case Lounge.
• WAITING FOR ROBERTS: Law Revue Spring Show. 8:00 - 10:00 PM; Lerner Hall Party Space.

Friday
• Thank goodness it’s Friday.

Saturday
• WAITING FOR ROBERTS: Law Revue Spring Show. 8:00 - 10:00 PM; Lerner Hall Party Space.

Sunday
• Everybody’s working for the weekend.

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. http://www.law.columbia.edu/current_student/studentor_abc/studentor_ev/eventform.