TVSO Advocates For Transfer And Visiting Student Interests

Fall 2008 student group allocation budget appeals were heard at the General Meeting of the Student Senate on October 20. Every semester, Senate Budget Committee members volunteer several days of their time to reviewing student groups’ requests for funding and allocating the Senate resources. On behalf of several TVSO members attending the Senate meeting, TVSO president Bethany Jenkins presented the group’s request for additional funding. Her impassioned oratory not only secured higher funding for TVSO, but enlightened many senators to the issues facing students who transfer to or visit Columbia Law School.

With 67 incoming transfer and visiting students this year, a significant percentage of our student body arrives at Columbia Law from other institutions. For many, the switch to Columbia is a tremendous adjustment which they must make suddenly and with limited guidance. Instead of the incoming 1L’s or the LL.M’s week-long orientation period followed by Legal Methods or Comparative Intro to American Law, transfer and visiting students must acclimate themselves to their new surroundings after a one-day orientation. Furthermore, most 2Ls immediately find themselves plunged into the Early Interview Program for job placement. Having only just arrived at Columbia Law, they are suddenly conducting interviews as students of an institution with which they are not yet familiar, in a city to which they are likely new.

Perhaps the most significant challenge facing these new students, however, is the social aspect of Columbia Law School. Most students who begin their legal studies at Columbia can remember the nervous anxiety surrounding their first few weeks here as they sought out fellow newcomers and began forming social ties. While usually very friendly, the veteran students seem to have a mysterious aura about them that could be intimidating as they dispense sage advice on classes and professors. 1Ls thus tend to seek refuge within groups of their peers who are as bewildered as they are while the secrets of CLS unfold. At Columbia Law, much as anywhere else, we begin our journey together, supporting each other as we are cold-called in Contracts or addled by CivPro.

The camaraderie begotten by the confusion of 1L year is unique; the bonds that are formed have a sense of originality to them to which students who join the “herd” later are not entirely privy. Transfer and visiting students thus have a much different experience at Columbia, and one which may not be well understood by those whose experiences at Columbia have been different. The TVSO was formed to bridge the gap between the experience of beginning one’s time at Columbia amidst a robust social scene and an abundance of common ground and the experience of arriving at Columbia to join a class which has already formed its bonds.

The TVSO began organizing social events and created a mentorship program where students who had transferred in the prior year can guide newcomers through the process, help them select classes, and assist as they fully integrate into the academic and social network of Columbia Law. This year, TVSO has proposed a breakfast entitled, “How To Navigate the 2L Summer,” to assist students in choosing summer activities and evaluating firms or public interest organizations. TVSO also hosts several happy hours throughout the semester in the belief that there is a unique value in continually bringing all of the transfer and visiting students together. The TVSO-sponsored social events help new students to meet others in their position and begin to form the same sort of ties founded on new experiences as did the 1Ls during the events organized for them. Furthermore, the events serve to increase the exposure of transfer and visiting students to the general student body, as non-transfers are encouraged to attend these events as well. The TVSO does an excellent job of helping transfers and visiting students integrate more fluidly into the hustle and bustle of Columbia Law School. It was a distinct privilege for the Student Senate to be given the opportunity to learn more about the unique issues facing students who enter CLS midway through their legal academic careers, and the Senate was happy to do all it could to help facilitate the beneficial work of the TVSO.
This Week At CLS: October 27 - November 3, 2008

Monday
- DVP: Domestic Violence and Immigration Panel. 12:00 - 1:00 PM; JG 103.
- HRI: “Justice and War: Thoughts from Lebanon’s Killing Fields.” 12:00 - 1:00 PM; JG 102. Lunch served.
- Military Society: In the Sh*t: CLS and CU Veterans Share Experiences from Iraq, Afghanistan, & More. 12:10 - 1:00 PM; JG 105. Pizza served.
- Maurice Rosenberg Memorial Lecture: Jeffrey Toobin, “The Supreme Court and Election 2008.” 4:00 - 6:00 PM; JG 104. Reception to follow in Drapkin Lounge.
- Legal Theory Workshop: Erin Murphy. 4:15 - 5:45 PM; JG Case Lounge.

Tuesday
- CPIL: Health & Disability Law. 12:00 - 1:10 PM; WJW L104.
- SALDF: Mid-Semester Meeting. 12:10 - 1:00 PM; JG 807. Veggie sandwiches served.
- EASLS: Lunch Discussion with Entertainment Lawyer Ira Schreck ’80. 12:15 PM; JG 105. Pizza served.
- DeVinimus: Unusual Regions Wine Tasting. 8:00 - 10:00 PM; JG 104. RSVP to devinimus@gmail.com by Sunday, 10/26, at noon.

Wednesday
- CGLP: “How Should the United States Use Armed Force in Preemptive Self-Defense or Intervene Militarily In Other Countries?” 12:05 - 1:00 PM; JG 107. Pizza served.
- IL Electives Panel. 12:10 - 1:00 PM; JG 104. Lunch served.
- Career Services: “Chicago: Practicing Law in the Windy City.” 12:10 - 1:00 PM; JG 103.
- CPS: Roundtable on managing romantic partnerships/marriage during law school. 12:15 - 1:00 PM; JG 940. Lunch served.
- CU Science and Technology Ventures Speaker Series: “Protecting Your Scholarship: Copyrights, Publication Agreements, and Open Access.” 1:00 - 2:00 PM; Lerner Hall, Room 569.
- SJI and CPIL: “Economic Policy with a new President and a new Congress: Economic recovery, health care reform and fiscal policy.” 6:00 - 7:30 PM; JG 103. Dinner served.
- CLABLA: Capital Markets in Latin America. 6.30 PM; JG 106.

Thursday
- CPIL: International Organizations (II). 12:00 - 1:10 PM; WJW L104.
- Legal History Workshop Series: Dan Kevles, Yale University. 4:10 - 5:45 PM; JG Case Lounge.
- Public Interest Summer Job Mixer. 6:00 - 8:00 PM; Lenfest Café. Drinks and snacks served.

Friday
- Student Services: Trick-or-Treating & Costume Parade. 3:00 - 5:30 PM; WJW 5th Floor.

Saturday
- SALSA: Mela. 8:00 PM - 12:00 AM; Low Library. Tickets on sale during week before event.

Monday
- Clinic Open House. 12:00 - 1:00 PM; JG 101. Refreshments served.
- Law and Economics Workshop: Yair Listokin, Yale Law School. 4:10 - 6:00 PM; JG Case Lounge.

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.

Comments? E-mail: senate@law.columbia.edu
Flu Shot Fair: Nov. 12, 12pm-3:30pm, JG 3rd Floor Gallery

Don’t want to get the flu this year? As a service to the University community, Health Services at Columbia has scheduled free “Flu Shot Fairs” for all University students, faculty, and staff. During the month of November, the flu shot will be administered at various campus locations; on November 12, from 12 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., a Flu Shot Fair will be held in the 3rd floor Gallery of Jerome Greene Hall. Members of the Law School community are also welcome to attend any of the other scheduled fairs.

For all scheduled dates and locations, please see below:

Any student unable to attend the scheduled fairs can make an appointment with campus Health Services (212-854-7426, or http://www.health.columbia.edu/).

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<th>Lerner Hall I</th>
<th>Lerner Hall II</th>
<th>Columbia Business School</th>
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<td>Wednesday, October 29</td>
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<td>Lerner Hall, Broadway Room</td>
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<td>Thursday, November 6</td>
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<td>Location TBD</td>
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Who should get a flu shot?

Anyone who wants to reduce the possibility of getting the flu should consider getting a flu shot. However, some people are at a higher risk of complications from the flu, and are strongly encouraged to have an annual vaccine.

Strongly encouraged to get a flu shot:

- Anyone over the age of 50
- People with chronic health problems, such as heart disease, lung disease, asthma, kidney disease, or diabetes
- People with a weakened immune system due to:
  - HIV/AIDS
  - Long term steroid treatments
  - Cancer
- Women who are or will be pregnant during flu season
- Household members or caretakers of children below the age of five
- Healthcare workers

Questions about the Law School’s Flu Shot Fair on November 12? Contact Matt Rafalow, mrafal@law.columbia.edu, 212-854-4801.

Questions about the flu shot, or Health Services? Call Health Services at 212-854-2284. We look forward to seeing you on November 12!

Reprinted courtesy of Columbia Law School Student Services
Donate Blood at the CU Blood Drive

The University-wide fall 2008 Blood Drive will run from Monday, October 27 through Saturday, November 15. Register online at: *https://drm.nybloodcenter.org/PublicScheduler/GroupWelcome.aspx?Group=97529

*Please note that it is still possible to donate blood simply by walking up on a particular day.

Fall 2008 Schedule:

- **Monday, October 27**
  - 11:00am – 4:30pm
  - Lerner Hall Auditorium
- **Tuesday, October 28**
  - 12:00pm – 8:00pm
  - Wallach Hall Lounge
- **Wednesday, October 29**
  - 12:00pm – 8:00pm
  - Hepburn Lounge – URIS
- **Friday, October 31**
  - 12:00pm – 8:00pm
  - Low Library – Rotunda
- **Tuesday, November 11**
  - 12:00pm – 8:00pm
  - Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion – CUMC
- **Thursday, November 13**
  - 10:30am – 5:30pm
  - Jerome Greene Law School – Drapkin Lounge
- **Monday, November 17**
  - 1:00pm – 8:00pm
  - Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion – CUMC

**WEEKEND DRIVES**

- **Saturday, November 1**
- **Saturday, November 8**
- **Saturday, November 15**
  - 11:00am – 4:30pm
  - Donor Bus – College Walk

Each donor will receive a free T-shirt…while supplies last

Sponsored by the President’s Office, Office of Government and Community Affairs and the New York Blood Center.

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The 2008-2009 Student Senate

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Jessica Isokawa, Secretary
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Kathrin Schwesinger
Dan Y. Shin (University Senator)
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Aditi Chatterjee
Rex Chatterjee
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Christina Kim

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David T. Parkinson
Brittany J. Schoepf
Kahlil Williams
Charles Wolf

**LL.M./J.S.D.**

Celine Assaf (LL.M.)
Patryk Labuda (LL.M.)
Peter Lochoir (LL.M.)
Mathias Oleskow (LL.M.)
Hiram Pagano Filho (LL.M.)

Questions? Comments? E-mail the Student Senate at senate@law.columbia.edu!
New York's law schools cordially invite you...

Halloween
@ MANSION

Thursday, October 30th
Free admission 9pm-11pm
530 W. 28th St.

Halloween
@ MANSION

Free Admission 9PM-11PM; one law school ID per group
Free drinks for first 100 Columbia students
$5 Beers 9PM-10PM
Costume contest with prizes @ 10PM

Brought to you by the Columbia Law School Student Senate