Spring 2014

The Nebraska Transcript, Spring 2014, Vol. 47 No. 1

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebtranscript

Part of the Law Commons

http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebtranscript/11

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Law, College of at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Nebraska Transcript by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.
International Perspectives:
New 1L Course Prepares Students for Worldwide Practice

Also in this issue:
Pearce, ’99, Named Assistant Dean for Student Affairs
Lyons Finds Home at Nebraska Law
Alumni, Faculty, Friends Mourn Professor John M. Gradwohl, ’53
## Introducing a New 1L Course in International Law

Seeing the increased globalization of the practice of law, the College of Law faculty adapted its curriculum to require that all first year students take a 2-credit international law class.

### Nebraska Law

University of Nebraska

---

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln not to discriminate based upon age, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, gender, sex, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran's status, marital status, religion or political affiliation.

©2014, The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska. All rights reserved.
Welcome to the newest edition of the Transcript. As you will see, there has been a lot of activity at the College since the last edition of this alumni magazine.

We have seen a lot of transitions over the past few months. The most recent and sad was the passing in February of Professor John M. Gradwohl. Professor Gradwohl spent over 50 years at the College, for the past few years as an active emeritus professor who still came to the office and published articles. Almost all of our alumni know John and I have heard from many of you recently. Here is one of my favorite emails from a graduate in the 1980s. It nicely captures John’s wonderful blend of toughness, directness and amazing capacity for kindness:

“John provided me with support and encouragement when I most needed it at the College. While he told me I was ‘full of sh*t’ when I said it, I attribute my making it through law school to his kindness and caring attitude. He’s certainly one of my heroes. … I will miss him.”

We will all miss him.

There are other transitions going on as well. At the end of spring semester, one of the most beloved professors at the College, Alan Frank, will be retiring after 42 years on the faculty. Professor Frank has made an enormous impact on this law school in many ways. One very significant way was by starting the Client Counseling Competition many years ago. Through his leadership, and that of Professor Craig Lawson, Nebraska Law students have been regional champions in client counseling 14 times, national champions five times and international champions once. This year’s team won the national competition and placed second at the international competition in Puerto Rico in the 1980s. It nicely captures John’s wonderful blend of toughness, directness and amazing capacity for kindness:

“As you will see in the next few pages, we have a new dean of student affairs and administration. Marc Pearce, a JD and Ph.D graduate of the University of Nebraska, joined us in January. He has brought great new ideas and new perspectives to the Law College administration. In another transition, after nine years as the College of Law’s director of development, Angie Hohenwarter left for a new opportunity last fall. Angie was a wonderful friend and colleague, whom many of you know. Our new director of development is Joanna Nordhues. Joanna has spent almost a decade at the University of Nebraska Foundation, first with the College of Engineering and later with Journalism and Mass Communications. Joanna is off to a great start and I hope you will all have the opportunity to meet her. I feel tremendously fortunate to have the privilege to work with such intelligent and dedicated professionals from the Foundation.

These transitions allowed us to do some other reorganizing of our administrative team. Molly Brummond is now the assistant dean of student & alumni relations and annual giving. Molly’s position allows her to connect with our students at the Law College, and remain a key point of contact after they become alumni. To round out this team, we made a new hire of Mollie Cox as the director of marketing & digital strategy. Mollie Cox has extensive experience as a marketer and web designer, and you will see some of the fruits of her work if you log on to our website over the summer. So we have several new faces, a surfeit of Mollies and lots of talent.

Your law school continues to flourish and to change. We are exposing our students to a broad-based curriculum as well as an array of guest speakers and community opportunities that will prepare them for interesting and successful careers.

I cannot sign off without reminding you once again that we continue to need your support as we work through these challenging times in legal education. As I have said before, we are endeavoring to have 15% of our alumni contributing to the annual fund by 2015. We have made progress from 9% to almost 12% over the past two years. I hope that you will consider a gift to the College in any amount, and that if you already give, you will continue to do so. We need your help to stay on track and continue to provide an accessible and world-class education.

Thank you, our loyal alumni, for all that you do to support us.

Dean and Richard C. & Catherine Schmoker Professor of Law
Lyons Credits Students, Faculty For Making Nebraska Law Home

By Emily Anderson, ’15

Professor William H. Lyons arrived in Lincoln in August 1981. After spending his entire life on the east coast, he left his law practice in Bangor, Maine, to teach tax law at the College of Law. Lyons loved Maine, but that particular winter was filled with sub-zero temperatures. When he first visited the Law College for his on-campus interview, “it was 50 degrees and the flowers were blooming. I remember thinking ‘this is a part of the country I could get to like.’”

Lyons grew up in Fitchburg, Mass., where he attended high school. He received his bachelor of arts from Colby College, a small liberal arts college in Waterville, Maine. He attended Boston College Law School, where he graduated in 1973, cum laude and Order of the Coif. While at Boston College, Lyons considered teaching, but decided on advice from the dean at Boston College that he should practice law first. “The better teachers,” the dean said, “are the ones who have had some experience practicing.”

Family obligations also informed his decision to practice law right out of law school. He married his wife, Karen, only three months before starting law school, and they had their first child during his third year. “It was life changing,” Lyons recalled. “The idea of having children in law school was almost impossible to believe. There were seven of us who were married in my class of 150.”

Teaching law, however, was always his ultimate goal. A conversation with then dean of Boston College and Lyons’ mentor, Richard Huber, “galvanized” him into teaching and ultimately connected him with Nebraska Law.

The move to Nebraska required some initial adjustments, Lyons admits. Midwestern allergies gave him “serious trouble” after living in the state only three weeks, almost forcing him to move, and political differences were apparent. “I thought my views didn’t have a place here.”

Despite the initial difficulties, Lyons made Lincoln his home. He credits the students as a primary reason he is still teaching here today. Lyons describes his life prior to living in Nebraska as “parochial.” For example, he did not realize how much of a New England regional accent he had. To illustrate his point, Lyons shared an anecdote: during his first semester of teaching income tax law, Lyons presented students with a problem that asked them to find a secret formula for a family business in an old office desk. “After class, some of the students approached me and said, ‘Professor, we don’t understand you. You said that the secret family business was somewhere in the desk.’ I said, ‘Yeah, somewhere in the drawer (which he pronounced without the r).’ The students replied, ‘What is a drawer?’”

After the incident, he made a conscious effort to moderate his accent. “I’ve always appreciated the fact that students took the time to work with me. They could have just gone to the dean and said, ‘get rid of this guy.’ It told me something about the people here. That first class was very patient with me.”

Over the course of his 33 years at the College, Lyons’ repertoire of classes has included Legal Writing, Individual Income Tax and Wills and Trusts, to name a few. “I have become much better at teaching. It’s like becoming a parent: A person isn’t automatically a wonderful parent – you have to learn on the job. I am lucky that my students at the Law College allowed me to do the same thing. I think I have become more confident in what I do and more willing to take some risks.”

When Lyons is not teaching, he spends time with family and keeps busy with one of his many eclectic hobbies. He belongs to the Society for American Baseball Research, has contributed to a book on a Boston Red Sox spring training tour that included games played in Lincoln and he is currently writing a chapter for a book on the history of African-American baseball in Nebraska.

Another of his interests highlights Lyons’ friendly and curious intellect. “I’m an amateur radio operator. If you see a little Subaru out in the faculty parking lot with large antennas, it’s my car. With the radio equipment in my car, I can talk to people all over the world.”

Why this interest? “The fascination is difficult to describe. I like talking to people and getting to know them even if I’ll never be able to meet them face-to-face.” He also enjoys using amateur radio to assist with communications at public service events, such as the Lincoln Marathon, regional triathlons and similar activities.

During the years he has taught at the Law College, Lyons has accumulated many fond memories. He will always hold special affection for the Class of 1984, the first class he saw through all three years at the College. He thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve as one of the faculty advisors to the Law College’s National Moot Court Competition teams. He appreciates the support of his faculty colleagues, particularly that of Professor John Gradwohl, who helped Lyons become a real part of the Nebraska legal community. He credits his commitment to continuing legal education to the emphasis Gradwohl placed on that activity. Although he has taught, as a visiting professor, at several other law schools, his experiences at those schools have confirmed his sense that Nebraska Law was and is home.
Jack M. Beard
Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Jack Beard’s article, “Autonomous Weapons and Human Responsibilities,” has been accepted for publication by the Georgetown Journal of International Law. The article reviews the growth and evolution of autonomous military technologies, explores the search for individual culpability for the actions of autonomous weapons and examines problems in assigning international legal responsibility to states for the actions of these lethal machines. He made a presentation on rules governing cyber conflicts at Nebraska Law’s Sixth Annual Space & Cyber Washington, D.C., Conference, a presentation at the Law College entitled “Law, War, Ethics and Terror” that was co-hosted by the American Constitution Society and the Federalist Society and a presentation entitled “The Challenge of Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Weapons Proliferation” at the 16th Annual Nebraska Capitol Forum on America's Future. At a ceremony in the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., Beard was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service. The award was based on his work in recent years as a consultant to the Office of the General Counsel of the Department of Defense. As a consultant, Beard has advised the Department of Defense on a variety of important international legal and national security issues. He also continues to supervise Nebraska Law students serving as honors externs in the Office of the Deputy General Counsel (International Affairs).

Eric Berger
Associate Professor of Law

Professor Eric Berger is on leave during the 2013-14 academic year and is a visiting scholar at the University of Wisconsin Law School in Madison, Wis. His article “Originalism’s Pretenses” was published in 16 University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law 329. The article surveys recent developments in originalism scholarship and contends that originalism cannot fulfill its stated goals of fixing constitutional meaning and constraining judicial decision making. Berger presented his new work, “The Rhetoric of Constitutional Absolutism,” at faculty workshops at the University of Richmond School of Law, St. Louis University School of Law and the University Wisconsin Law School, and at the Fourth Annual Loyola Constitutional Law Colloquium at Loyola University, Chicago, School of Law. He also participated in “Federalism in Flux,” the 2013 Wisconsin Discussion Group on Constitutionalism at the University of Wisconsin Law School. Berger was interviewed by Huffington Post Live about recent developments in lethal injection litigation across the country.

Kristen M. Blankley
Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Kristen Blankley’s article, “Lying, Stealing, and Cheating: The Role of Arbitrators as Ethics Enforcers,” was published this spring by the Louisville Law Review. Blankley has also been working on scholarship dealing with arbitration preemption, and she spoke on her research at the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. In addition, Blankley coached three students in the International Academy of Dispute Resolution International Law School Mediation Tournament held in Chicago.

C. Steven Bradford
Earl Dunlap Distinguished Professor of Law

Professor Steve Bradford was part of a panel discussion on “Asking the Audience for Help: Crowdfunding as a Means of Control” at a conference in Austin, Texas, on Fighting for Control in Entertainment and Sports, sponsored by the Texas Review of Entertainment & Sports Law.

Eve M. Brank
Associate Professor of Psychology, Courtesy Professor of Law

Professor Eve Brank, with Lindsey Wylie, ’13, has written an article entitled “Differing Perspectives on Older Adult Caregiving” that has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Applied Gerontology. Brank co-authored, with current law students Lori Hoetger and Kate Hazen, “All in the Family: A Retrospective Study Comparing Sibling Bullying and Peer Bullying,” which will appear in an upcoming issue of the Journal of Family Violence.

Beth Burkstrand-Reid
Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Beth Burkstrand-Reid’s article, “From Sex for Pleasure to Sex for Parenthood: How the Law Manufactures Mothers,” was published in 65 Hastings Law Journal 211. It was featured as a recommended article in the prominent Legal Theory Blog. She also presented a STIR talk to the Law College community titled, “Center of the Country, Center of the Controversy.” It focused on Nebraska’s role in current legal controversies related to contraception, abortion and same-sex marriage. Burkstrand-Reid is currently serving on the planning committees for the Law and Society and Emerging Family Law Scholars conferences, both of which will take place this spring in Minneapolis. Her article, “Dirty Harry Meets Dirty Diapers: Masculinities, At-Home Fathers, and Making the Law Work for Families,” was selected for inclusion in Women and the Law, a book published by Thomson-Reuters Westlaw, that is an annual collection of some of the most significant academic contributions in the area of gender law. This is the third time Burkstrand-Reid’s work has been selected for republication in Women and the Law.

Robert C. Denicola
Margaret Larson Professor of Intellectual Property Law

Professor Rob Denicola was named professor of the year by the first-year class at the College of Law.
Faculty Notes

Marcia Dority Baker
Assistant Professor of Law Library and Access Services Librarian

Assistant Professor of Law Library Marcia Dority Baker, along with Professor Stefanie Pearlman, published A Bibliography of University of Nebraska College of Law Faculty Scholarship 1892-2013. It is the first publication in the Schmid Law Library Publication Series. She contributed the chapter on “Social Software” for the recently published book, Law Librarianship in the Digital Age edited by Ellyssa Kroski. Dority Baker also published, with Charles D. Bernholz of Love Memorial Library, in The American Indian Treaties Portal an article entitled “The Deployment of the Terms Indigenous, Aboriginal, and Indian in the Texts of International Constitutions.”

Alan H. Frank
Professor of Law

Professor Alan Frank spoke on mediation and restorative justice perspectives at a panel that provided responses to the question: “What Does Justice Look Like in the Context of Violence against Women?” The panel was held at Nebraska Wesleyan University and was part of the One Billion Rising for Justice 2014 week dedicated to stopping violence against women.

Justin (Gus) Hurwitz
Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Gus Hurwitz has been kept busy by current events related to his research. In the past two months, he has co-authored and submitted two sets of comments to the House Energy and Commerce Committee discussing a proposed revision of the Communications Act and has written several short pieces and participated in academic and media discussions about those comments, about the D.C. Circuit’s recent rejection of the FCC Network Neutrality rules and about the recently announced Comcast-Time Warner merger. He has also presented at several academic conferences and events relating to the FTC’s regulation of online privacy and data security. Two of these events were broadcast on CSPAN3, giving him the opportunity to talk about the exciting intersection of antitrust and administrative law before a national audience. He has also helped organize the panel on telecommunications law at the College of Law’s annual Washington, D.C., Conference on Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law.

Richard A. Leiter
Director of Schmid Law Library and Professor of Law

Professor Richard Leiter published two articles this year. The first, “Much Ado about Authentication,” 23 Trends in Law Library Management and Technology 7, addresses the problem of authenticating primary legal materials that are published officially online. It focuses on the argument that case law may be self-authenticating because it comes from a single, secure source, i.e., the court itself. The second article, “Tools of Our Trade,” 18:1 AALL Spectrum 37, argues that modern law librarians must be expert in all manner of technology that is used for legal information consumption and research and calls upon administrators to increase support for development of digital skills and infrastructure. After six years of wrangling with the publisher of his highly regarded and award-winning work, National Survey of State Laws, Leiter finally obtained the full copyright to the book and found a new publisher, Wm. S Hein & Co, Inc. The seventh edition is scheduled to be published in print and digitally in Hein Online in the summer of 2014. The work is also licensed to a number of other online legal research publishers including Westlaw and Fastcase. He also oversaw the formation of the Schmid Law Library Publication Series, published in conjunction with the University of Nebraska Press. The first title in the series, A Bibliography of University of Nebraska College of Law Faculty Scholarship 1892-2013, was written by Stefanie Pearlman and Marcia Dority Baker. The new series is expected to publish one title per year.

Brian D. Lepard
Law Alumni Professor of Law

Professor Brian Lepard made a presentation at the Law College on “Humanitarian Intervention in Syria: Is It Legal under International Law?” He participated as a member of the jury in the dissertation defense of a French law student, Handam Nadafi, at the Université Jean Monnet in Saint Etienne, France. Lepard served as co-director of Dr. Nadafi’s dissertation, which is entitled “Freedom of Religion in States with Islamic Law.” He authored a chapter on “Ethical Perspectives on Interpreting and Implementing Article 4(h)” in a book on humanitarian intervention in Africa entitled Africa and the Responsibility to Protect: Article 4(h) of the African Union Constitutive Act, edited by Dan Kuwali and Frans Viljoen and published by Routledge.

Colleen E. Medill
Robert and Joanne Berkshire Family Professor of Law

Professor Colleen Medill published a major Supplement to her casebook, Introduction to Employee Benefits Law: Policy and Practice (West 3d ed. 2011). The Supplement focuses on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act since the law’s enactment and on recent Supreme Court developments in the ERISA area. The Supplement is the only academic publication to date that contains a comprehensive explanation of the ACA and its policy...
Richard E. Moberly
Associate Dean and Professor of Law

Professor Richard Moberly has authored or co-authored three chapters in a forthcoming book, *The International Handbook on Whistleblowing Research* published by Edward Elgar Publishing. He wrote the chapter titled “To Persons or Organisations That May Be Able to Effect Action: Whistleblowing Recipients” and co-authored the chapters “Whistleblowing, Its Importance, and the State of Research” and “Strategic Issues in Whistleblowing Research.” He also spoke on “Law, Policy and Ethics Governing Whistleblowing,” at the Conference on Strategies for Investigating and Pleading Securities Fraud Claims, held at Loyola University Chicago School of Law’s Institute for Investor Protection and Institute for Law and Economic Policy.

Stefanie S. Pearlman
Professor of Law Library and Reference Librarian

Professor Stefanie Pearlman, together with Professor Marcia Dority Baker, published *A Bibliography of University of Nebraska College of Law Faculty Scholarship 1892–2013*. It is the first publication in the Schmid Law Library Publication Series. Pearlman has updated her chapter, “Animal Welfare,” for the forthcoming seventh edition of *National Survey of State Law*, edited by Schmid Law Library Director Richard Leiter. Pearlman has also been elected as vice president/president elect of the American Association of Law Libraries’ Animal Law Caucus. She will take over as president in July.

Susan Poser
Dean and Richard C. & Catherine Schmoker Professor of Law

Dean Susan Poser was recently appointed by the president of the American Association of Law Schools to the Membership Review Committee and the Steering Committee of the inaugural AALS Deans’ Forum. She served as the co-chair of the American Bar Association’s New Deans Workshop and as the chair of the search committee for the dean of Arts & Sciences at UNL. Poser also testified before the Judiciary Committee of the Nebraska Unicameral in support of LB808, which subsequently passed and will provide loan repayment to law graduates who work in underserved rural communities in Nebraska.

Josephine R. Potuto
Richard H. Larson Professor of Constitutional Law

Professor Josephine (Jo) Potuto was recognized by the National Football Foundation and Fidelity Investments for her commitment to the ideals of the scholar-athlete and the leadership-building qualities of intercollegiate football in her role as the University’s faculty athletics representative. She presented “The NCAA Today: Identity and Challenges” to the University of Mississippi College of Law. During the presentation, Potuto discussed the two major challenges facing the NCAA today: revamping NCAA Division I governance so that schools in its largest conferences can use resources to do more for student-athletes, and enhancing the student-athlete experience while maintaining the amateurism principle. Potuto also did a CLE presentation for the Lincoln Bar Association and presented at the Sport Law section at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Schools.

Matthew P. Schaefer
Law Alumni Professor and Director of Space, Cyber and Telecommunications Law Program

In Fall 2013, Professor Matt Schaefer gave commercial space law presentations to the international law society and space law society at the University of Southern California School of Law, University of Florida College of Law, New York University School of Law and Columbia University School of Law. As co-chair of the American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA) Space Law Committee, he organized, moderated and presented on two panels: “Regulating and Incentivizing New Commercial Space Markets” at the International Law Weekend – Midwest at the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis and “Complexities of Regulating New Commercial Space Markets” at the International Law Conference in St. Louis.

Imaginations. The accompanying Teaching Materials for the Supplement were published on-line and are currently being used by law school professors around the country who teach ERISA, health care or labor and employment courses. Medill also served as an invited moderator for the Third Annual ERISA, Benefits and Social Insurance Conference. This invitation-only event, which is the premier conference in the field, brings together leading scholars and Washington, D.C., policymakers for a discussion of emerging legal and public policy issues. Medill presented her current scholarly work-in-progress, “The New Revocable Property,” at the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Association for Law, Property and Society. This fall, Medill became the faculty sponsor for a new student organization at the College of Law: The Nebraska Real Estate Law Society was formed to serve law students who are interested in a legal career in the field of real estate. She joined the board of directors for the Catholic Lawyers Guild of the Diocese of Lincoln and continues to serve as the faculty advisor for the College of Law’s St. Thomas More Society for Catholic law students. Medill was named professor of the year by the upper-class students at the College of Law.
Faculty Notes

Lating the Space Domain by Analogy to Other Domains’ Legal Regimes” at the International Law Weekend at Fordham University School of Law. Schaefer wrote a 40-page White Paper on “Liability Issues Regarding Third Parties and Space Flight Participants in Commercial Space Activities: The Path Forward,” organized an industry and government roundtable to discuss the white paper and organized and moderated two public panels on the topic as part of UNL’s Sixth Annual Washington, D.C., Space and Cyber Conference. He also presented a version of the paper to the Space Exploration Conference, hosted by the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), prior to the Heads of Space Agency Summit in Washington, D.C. The White Paper was circulated to members and staff of the Senate Commerce and House Science Committees, as well as officials at the White House, FAA and NASA, as they consider legislative amendments to the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act. Schaefer also wrote an op-ed based on his white paper that appeared in the February 11, 2014, edition of the Orlando Sentinel.

Anthony B. Schutz
Associate Professor of Law

Professor Anthony Schutz presented at the American Agricultural Law Association’s Annual Conference in Madison, Wis. Schutz, who is on the board of directors for the organization, provided conference attendees with information on environmental legal issues in the agricultural sector.

A. Christal Sheppard
Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Christal Sheppard has been active in local and national patent legislative and policy initiatives. Most recently, Sheppard testified before the Nebraska unicameral Legislature’s Judiciary Committee. She made extensive comments regarding the language, effect and constitutionality of the proposed Nebraska Patent Abuse Prevention Act. Sheppard also continued her work reviewing the policies, goals, performance, budget and user fees of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) as a member of the Public Patent Advisory Committee (PPAC) and chair of the PPAC finance subcommittee whose annual report on the PPAC review of the USPTO was transmitted to the president of the United States, the secretary of commerce and the United States Congress. She also participated in several conferences on intellectual property matters including the 2014 Patent Experts Conference in Naples, Fla., and the 3rd Annual Global Congress on Intellectual Property and the Public Interest in Cape Town, South Africa. Later this year, Sheppard will present and act as moderator for intellectual property panels at the 2014 Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Jessica A. Shoemaker
Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Jessica Shoemaker was selected to present her article, “No Sticks in My Bundle: Rethinking the Indian Land Tenure Problem,” at the Junior Faculty Works-in-Progress Conference at Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee, Wis. She will also be presenting a new paper, tentatively entitled “The Land Tenure We Inhabit,” at a session she led at the Rural Future Institute’s annual conference, “Governing the Land: Maximizing Rural Places Locally and Globally.” Shoemaker has also developed and is supervising law student externships at three new placements across Nebraska, including providing opportunities for law students to work with two Native American tribes in the state.

Adam Thimmesch
Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Adam Thimmesch’s article, “The Tax Hangover: Trailig Nexus,” was selected for publication in the Virginia Tax Review. The article, the first to comprehensively analyze the duration of states’ taxing powers over nonresident persons, will be published this spring. Thimmesch also testified regarding the taxation of legal services at a hearing of the Nebraska Tax Modernization Committee. In addition, he was awarded the 2014 Law College Distinguished Teaching Award.
Alan Tomkins
Director, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center and Professor of Psychology and Law

Professor Alan Tomkins has been named the winner of a national award for contributions to the administration of justice by the American Judges Association. Tomkins received the Glenn R. Winters Award, which the AJA gives to recognize a non-judge who has significantly contributed to the administration of justice. Tomkins was recognized for his work in editing two legal journals, in making social science information accessible to the legal community and his work through the Public Policy center in assisting courts.

Frans von der Dunk
Harvey & Susan Pertman Alumni/Other Professor of Space Law

Over the past months, Dr. Frans von der Dunk has worked on his Handbook of Space Law, which is aimed at filling the gap on current up-to-date yet in-depth and comprehensive handbooks and manuals in this field of universities, and has spoken at several conferences and foreign universities.

At the 56th Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space in Beijing, China, he spoke on “Private Commercial Spaceflight: Some Legal Issues.” At the annual International Law Weekend of the American Bar Association of Labor Law Journals, of which Willborn is currently president. The award is named for a friend of Willborn’s, a renowned labor law scholar in Italy, who was murdered by the Red Brigade because of his labor reform activities.

Steven L. Willborn
Judge Harry A. Spencer Professor of Law

Professor Steve Willborn published “Legal Education as a Private Good,” 41 Washington University Journal of Law and Policy 89, “Tiebout in the Country: The Invertible Politics of Rural School Consolidation,” 33 Great Plains Research 89 and “Models of Labour Enforcement: Necessary Indeterminacy,” in Creative Labour Regulation: Indeterminacy and Protection in an Uncertain World, published by Palgrave Macmillan. Willborn spoke on “What Are You Thinking: Law School, Employment Law at the University of Mississippi and on “Wage Garnishment and the Uniform Law Commission” at the Eighth Annual Colloquium on Current Scholarship in Labor and Employment Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Willborn taught a short course on international labor law in Prato, Italy, through a program sponsored by Monash University in Australia. He also served on the selection committee for the Marco Biagi Award. This award is for the best comparative labor law article in the world by a young scholar. It is an annual award of the International Association of Law Journals, of which Willborn is currently president. The award is named for a friend of Willborn’s, a renowned labor law scholar in Italy, who was murdered by the Red Brigade because of his labor reform activities.

Sandra B. Zellmer
Robert B. Daugherty Professor of Law

Professor Sandra Zellmer is co-author, with Christine Klein of the University of Florida College of Law, of Mississippi River Tragedies: A Century of Unnatural Disaster, a book that uses a series of stories to show that it is misleading to call floods and other environmental catastrophes "natural." She concludes that, while the acknowledgement of human responsibility for unnatural disasters can lead to blame, guilt and liability, it can also prod us to confront the consequences of our actions, leading to a liberating sense of possibility and to the knowledge necessary to avoid future disasters. The book was published by New York University Press. She also is co-author, with Jan Laitos of the University of Denver College of Law, of Principles of Natural Resources Law, a concise hornbook published by West Academic Publishing. Zellmer’s review of Robert B. Keiter’s book, To Conserve Unpaired: The Evolution of the National Park Idea, titled “An Unvarnished View of America’s Best Idea,” appeared in the High Country News.
Faculty Members Play Key Roles In International Law Weekend

Several of the College of Law’s international law and space and cyber law faculty attended the American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA) and the International Law Students Association (ILSA) annual International Law Weekend (ILW) conference in New York City on October 24-26, 2013. The annual event brings together hundreds of practitioners, law professors and students. The theme of the conference was “International Law and Legal Practice.”

Professor Jack Beard was a co-chairman of the conference and also spoke on the Rethinking the Rules for Conflict and Competition in Cyberspace panel, which examined evolving cyber threats to governments and businesses and reevaluated the rules that may govern them. Professors Matt Schaefer and Frans von der Dunk spoke on “Complexities of Regulating the Outer Space Domain by Analogy to Legal Regimes in the Other Four Domains,” where they compared existing legal regimes to the developing space law regime. Human trafficking expert Professor Anna Shavers spoke on “Combatting Human Trafficking Through International Law.” Professor Brian Lepard also attended the conference, led a committee meeting and visited United Nations officials during the conference. Executive director of graduate programming, Elsbeth Magilton, met with JD students from across the world to inform them of the College’s growing programs for international students.

Professor Matt Schaefer wrote an influential white paper that addresses liability protections for the U.S. commercial space industry. The paper highlights the immediate need for an extension of U.S. government indemnification for third-party liability of commercial space launch operators. The paper was the focus of the Law College’s Sixth Annual Washington, D.C., Space and Cyber Law conference in November 2013. It was distributed in early December 2013 to members and staff of the Senate Commerce and House Science committees as well as the FAA, NASA and Office of Science and Technology Policy at the White House.

Schaefer presented the paper at the International Academy of Astronautics Space Exploration Conference in Washington, D.C., on January 9, 2014, and was quoted in SpacePolitics.com on the issue. On January 15, 2014, a three-year extension of the government indemnification regime for third-party liability was passed by Congress and was signed into law a day later by President Barack Obama. If Congress re-examines the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004 later this year or next, the paper contains additional recommendations to enact a permanent third-party liability cap similar to that given to the anti-terrorism technology industry and the nuclear industry in its early days.

In the paper, Schaefer also recommends space flight participants be included in the federal cross-waiver regime to prevent suits by them or their heirs, given the inherent risks of space travel. Professors Frans von der Dunk and Steve Willborn provided comments on the paper, as did Giugi Carminati, LL.M. ’12, and friend of the program Cleveland-Marshall law professor Mark Sundahl, that were very helpful to the final product. Sandra Teichert, LL.M. ’14, served as Schaefer’s research assistant on the project.
The Schmid Law Library is pleased to announce the publication of the first item in our new publication series, *A Bibliography of University of Nebraska College of Law Faculty Scholarship, 1892-2013*, compiled by Marcia L. Dority Baker and Stefanie Pearlman. The Schmid Law Library Publication Series will be a series of occasional papers on a variety of formats (print and online) intended to enhance and expand knowledge and scholarship in the field of legal research and legal bibliography.

By way of introduction to our first title, below is the Foreword to the bibliography. For information about the series or if you would like a free copy of the bibliography, please contact Richard Leiter at the Law College library at rleiter@unl.edu. The bibliography can also be downloaded from UNL’s Digital Commons at http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/lawlibrary/14.

**Foreword by Richard A. Leiter, director of the Schmid Law Library and professor of law:**

When Professors Dority Baker and Pearlman approached me with the idea of compiling a faculty writing bibliography, I told them that it was an excellent idea, but cautioned them that it wouldn’t be as easy as it sounded.

Faculty-writing bibliographies are notoriously difficult to compile. The volume of scholarship for any size law faculty can be very large partly due to the large (some would say disproportionate) number of scholarly law journals. The number of journals combined with the fact that faculty are encouraged to write, speak and present papers – both for their own professional development including earning tenure and for the reputation and prestige of the school – also contributes to a very large volume of legal periodical scholarship.

The existence of our Law and Psychology and Space Law programs make the complexities of compiling a bibliography for the associated faculty even more difficult. Psychology faculty publish in journals that are outside of our normal experience, are indexed in different indexes and are cited according to rules that are very different from the Blue Book. Faculty associated with the Space Law program publish in many international journals, some in foreign languages.

Another unexpected challenge is that, while untenured and recently tenured faculty tend to keep meticulous track of their scholarly output, most senior faculty do not. Reasons vary from faculty member to faculty member, but in general, once faculty have received tenure, outside of annual reports, which record scholarship for the year, there is less need to maintain a continuously updated curricula vitae. Gathering information about senior faculty’s writings can be problematic when they’re asked to remember everything they’ve ever written. They may have a current vitae, but it may only record “major” works or contributions. From personal experience, I can attest to the fact that the difficulty increases as I get older.

Another challenge that Dority Baker and Pearlman posed for themselves is that they wanted to include all faculty at the College of Law, past and present. Historical research of this magnitude is fraught with difficulty, owing to the fact that there is no one single index that covers law journals and reviews comprehensively.

In conjunction with the bibliography, they also decided to include a list of all visiting and adjunct faculty. Simply compiling a list of all the faculty members who taught at the Law College over the last 120 years is hard enough, but including visitors and adjunct faculty makes the task an order of magnitude more difficult because these individuals are, by definition, transient and difficult to track down for verification. The good news is that they persevered and we now have a comprehensive list of all members of the faculty that have taught at Nebraska Law.

Listing the obstacles overcome in compiling this work should enhance the pride that they feel in their accomplishment and the gratitude that we feel for having such a comprehensive work. Alumni, faculty and the administration of the Law College and the University of Nebraska at large can also bask in the evidence of an engaged, productive and active faculty. The final work is several hundred pages long and lists hundreds, if not thousands, of works. Merely compiling a list from scratch of so many works is long, hard work. As library director at the Law College, I can attest to the numbers of hours and hard work that the two authors spent putting together this excellent work. Professors Dority Baker and Pearlman are each possessed of high professional standards and they worked tirelessly to compile an accurate, well formatted testament to a faculty committed to scholarship.
Faculty Introduces International Law Course to 1L Curriculum

“...The fact is,” said Professor Brian Lepard, “today no lawyer can escape dealing with international law or with foreign law.” Lepard is one of the instructors, along with Professors Matt Schaefer and Jack Beard, of the College of Law’s innovative required first-year course, International Perspectives, first taught in the spring 2013 semester, developed to help Nebraska Law students meet the challenges of today’s global legal climate.

Many forces came together to make this course a reality. The Law College was in the midst of curricular reform. Torts was a candidate to be reduced to a four-hour, one-semester course, and the faculty was exploring what subject would be the most appropriate to be added to the first year. For many years, members of the College’s international law faculty had thought that there should be someplace in the curriculum a required international law course that would create a baseline for students’ further study. Students, too, were part of the process, and many were very enthusiastic about the idea.

Schaefer was convinced that international law is appropriately studied in a law student’s first year. “I think it’s good in the first year because students are already starting to be exposed to some international law issues in their first-year classes. For instance, the international sale of goods is studied in their Contracts course.” Schaefer pointed out that if a student takes only this new course and no other international law course, instruction in international law concepts would comprise two percent of that student’s legal education. “Shouldn’t every law student be required to have two percent of his or her legal education in international law, given the way the world is today and where it’s headed?”

Lepard agreed. “It gives our students a mental map of how our legal system fits in with legal systems in the world, how it draws inspiration from other legal systems in the world and how it relates to international law...”

“...It helps give our students a mental map of how our legal system fits in with legal systems in the world, how it draws inspiration from other legal systems in the world and how it relates to international law. It helps them from the very early stages of their legal education to develop this map, which will help them solve practical problems in their legal practices.”

- Professor Brian Lepard

The most persuasive reason, however, was the growing importance of international and foreign law to legal practice in the United States. “It’s something no practitioner can avoid these days, and we believe it’s critical that all of our students have a fundamental knowledge of international law and comparative law,” said Lepard. He recalled an experience he had on Admitted Student Day when he described the course to an admitted student and her dad, a practicing attorney in a small town in western Iowa. The dad said, “I think this is fantastic that you are teaching this course. I encounter international and foreign law issues all the time in my small town practice.”

His experience is hardly unique, Lepard explained. For instance, customary international law can impact many legal problems especially in the human rights area. Treaties also impact many kinds of transactions. “For instance, if you enter into a business contract with a business customer in a foreign country; that contract will actually be governed by an international treaty, the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, unless the parties otherwise agree. And Nebraska companies have gone global; in 2013 they exported over $7 billion worth of goods.”

Technology plays a part too, explained Beard. “It may be a shrinking world, but boundaries and borders are still there and all the separate legal systems are still there. The industrial commercialized, digitized world has made boundaries not less important, but more important, and the modern lawyer needs to know how to work across those boundaries.”
The International Perspectives course they developed is unique. It is taught in one section comprising the entire first-year class and each professor teaches a third of the class. Beard teaches the first part in which he provides an introduction to the basic concepts of international law, the sources of international law, customary international law and treaties. He then spotlights, as an example, extradition treaties.

Schaefer focuses on how U.S. courts apply international law, particularly the impact treaties have on the U.S. domestic legal system. He covers such issues as whether international agreements automatically enter the U.S. domestic legal system He covers such issues as whether international agreements automatically enter the U.S. domestic legal system. He covers such issues as whether international agreements automatically enter the U.S. domestic legal system. He covers such issues as whether international agreements automatically enter the U.S. domestic legal system.

The International Perspectives course has been recognized by National Jurist magazine as one of the top 50 innovations in legal education. With three professors giving the entire first-year class a broad perspective on international and foreign law in a two-credit course, the International Perspective course is, indeed, unique and that uniqueness is made possible because, in many ways, Nebraska Law is itself unique.

Other law schools offer first-year international law courses, but often students have to select among a variety of courses, Schaefer explained. The Law College’s small class size enables the entire first-year class to get a common understanding of international law from the unique practice perspectives of three experts in their fields.

Yet the course remains coordinated because the professors usually attend each other’s sessions. In addition, Schaefer said, it’s hard to do curricular reform especially in the first year and it’s hard to get three faculty members to agree to cooperate. Lepard reported that a high-ranking officer of the American branch of the International Law Association told him that it is only a matter of time before every American law school will be compelled to follow the “Nebraska model.”

Consistent with the current emphasis in legal education on teaching lawyering skills even in the first year of law school, the International Perspectives course utilizes a number of simulation exercises to help the students see the issues raised in the course in a practical perspective. For example, the study of extradition treaties is enhanced by a case study of the Amanda Knox trial; students work in teams of two to negotiate choice of law provisions in a contract between a Nebraska manufacturer of irrigation systems and a Mexican customer; and the students engage in a number of client interviewing and counseling sessions as well as simulated conversations between lawyers.

The International Perspectives course is, indeed, unique and that uniqueness is made possible because, in many ways, Nebraska Law is itself unique. It is taught in one section comprising the entire first-year class and each professor teaches a third of the class. Beard teaches the first part in which he provides an introduction to the basic concepts of international law, the sources of international law, customary international law and treaties. He then spotlights, as an example, extradition treaties.

Schaefer focuses on how U.S. courts apply international law, particularly the impact treaties have on the U.S. domestic legal system. He covers such issues as whether international agreements automatically enter the U.S. domestic legal system. He covers such issues as whether international agreements automatically enter the U.S. domestic legal system. He covers such issues as whether international agreements automatically enter the U.S. domestic legal system. He covers such issues as whether international agreements automatically enter the U.S. domestic legal system. He covers such issues as whether international agreements automatically enter the U.S. domestic legal system.

The International Perspectives course has been recognized by National Jurist magazine as one of the top 50 innovations in legal education. With three professors giving the entire first-year class a broad perspective on international and foreign law in a two-credit course, the International Perspective course is, indeed, unique and that uniqueness is made possible because, in many ways, Nebraska Law is itself unique. Other law schools offer first-year international law courses, but often students have to select among a variety of courses, Schaefer explained. The Law College’s small class size enables the entire first-year class to get a common understanding of international law from the unique practice perspectives of three experts in their fields. Yet the course remains coordinated because the professors usually attend each other’s sessions. In addition, Schaefer said, it’s hard to do curricular reform especially in the first year and it’s hard to get three faculty members to agree to cooperate. Lepard reported that a high-ranking officer of the American branch of the International Law Association told him that it is only a matter of time before every American law school will be compelled to follow the “Nebraska model.”

At the Law College itself, the “Nebraska model” had to overcome the initial skepticism of students who questioned how relevant the course would be to them. In the end, however, many of those students were grateful that they had the opportunity to take the course, especially after encountering international legal problems in their summer clerkships. Second-year student Rick Tast said that he used knowledge he had gained from the class while working on two issues over the summer, “which really surprised me, as I worked for a smaller firm and did not foresee them having issues delving into international law. One was a choice of law issue in a divorce and another dealt with a dowry from a country with community property laws.” Likewise, 2L Katie Joseph said that she had two projects dealing with international law at her summer clerkship, “and thanks to the course, I knew where to start the research.”

Students found the course useful in other ways. Second-year student Nathan Clark said that he “found the class even more rewarding than I first expected. It placed everything we learned as 1Ls into a larger framework, and it offered practical benefits to us as future practitioners. I found the comparative law section particularly edifying by placing our own legal system into a larger cultural and historical context.” A final advantage, he said, was that it served as an introduction to constitutional law issues before encountering them in the second-year Constitutional Law course.

Beard, Schaefer and Lepard also appreciated the benefits that the course has brought to the students. Students who have had the course are able to engage with the material taught in upper-level international law courses at a much higher level. Beard said that the externs he places with the Department of Defense each semester benefit greatly from having an international law background. The International Law Society is now one of the Law College’s “most vibrant” student organizations, Beard said, due in large measure to the enthusiasm of the 1Ls. In addition, they believe that students have chosen to come to Nebraska Law because they have heard about the course and the College’s strong international law program.
What brought Pearce back to the College? In part, Urbom’s impending retirement led Pearce to consider what the next phase of his career would be. His wife, Denise, mentioned to him that Glenda Pierce would be retiring, and Pearce examined the job description. When he saw that the emphasis of the job would be on counseling and academic support programming, he was moved to apply. “It seemed like a great match for both my law and psychology backgrounds.”

As Pearce begins his work at the College, a primary focus is on providing students with academic success programming. “I inherited a really solid skills program, so while I am experimenting in some respects, there are no radical changes.”

“Working for Judge Urbom was a fantastic opportunity. Not only did I learn a lot about the law, I learned how to be patient, listen and reserve judgment until I have all of the information. That lesson is just a good lesson for life.”

What brought Pearce back to the College? In part, Urbom’s impending retirement led Pearce to consider what the next phase of his career would be. His wife, Denise, mentioned to him that Glenda Pierce would be retiring, and Pearce examined the job description. When he saw that the emphasis of the job would be on counseling and academic support programming, he was moved to apply. “It seemed like a great match for both my law and psychology backgrounds.”

As Pearce begins his work at the College, a primary focus is on providing students with academic success programming. “I inherited a really solid skills program, so while I am experimenting in some respects, there are no radical changes.”

“Glenda has done so much to help me through this transition. One piece of advice that she gave me was that there was a great team in place to rely upon for help. I have taken that advice to heart and found it to be absolutely true.”
Brooks, '15 Confirms Long-term Career Goals with Summer at U.S. Embassy in Thailand

While many of his classmates were busy interviewing for clerkship positions at Lincoln and Omaha firms last January, Taylor Brooks, '15, had just been accepted for an internship with the United States Embassy in Thailand. From January until May 2013, he waited for his security clearance — the final confirmation he needed to take off for the three months he would spend in Bangkok. "I was supposed to leave two days after graduation. The security clearance came days after I was supposed to arrive there, so I bought a ticket and left three days later."

The short notice of having received his security clearance was only the beginning of the thrilling summer Brooks spent working as a cultural affairs intern in the public affairs division for the United States Embassy in Thailand. Every day he took a motorbike taxi through the busy streets of Bangkok so he could catch a train to the Embassy. In that role, Brooks had the opportunity to plan public events for United States and celebrated American politicians from both the United States and Thailand. "It was a huge year in terms of public outreach. They brought in musicians and acts from the United States and celebrated American political accomplishments, such as the DOMA ruling."

Of the many events he traveled to alongside the ambassador, Brooks identifies his most meaningful work as traveling to rural parts of Thailand as a representative of the Embassy, giving speeches to promote positive relations. "I got to go out and see the parts of Thailand where not a lot of foreigners go. They were thrilled because many of them had never talked to an American before. I was welcomed as an American in this small place and in a very official way."
Donald Examines Impact of Technology on Profession

By Emily Anderson, ’15

On September 4, 2013, the Honorable Bernice Donald, United States district court judge from the Western District of Tennessee, delivered “It’s Not Your Father’s Legal Profession: The Impact of Technology, Globalization and Diversity in the Legal Profession” to the College of Law community.

Humorously educating students on the size of cell phones from the 1980s, Donald demonstrated how far technology has since progressed. Calling social media “revolutionary,” she noted how quickly “these sites have become ubiquitous in society.” But, also in this short time, “online research has become second nature.” The books to which the courts subscribe, she said, are being used for nothing more than photo backdrops now.

“I’ve had to adapt to many of these changes that have been driven by technology,” she said. But, there’s good and bad to changing technology. While attorneys are now tethered to their phones and always “on,” there’s now no need to walk to a courthouse to file papers – it can be done online. Judges have immediate access to resources and check citations from the bench. Documents can be shared and edited in real-time from across the globe. Some countries, she told the audience, even allow you to practice via computer. “You can remain here and advocate remotely,” she said. “The rules we follow as attorneys have had to change to keep up and attorneys will, too.”

Globalization has increased diversity in the law. Donald noted, however, there is still work to be done to make things better. While women now make up a majority in law school classes, they make less than their male counterparts. Donald recounted the steps taken by an ABA task force just to show businesses that minority lawyers were able to do the same quality of work as others.

Donald ended with a request for audience members to use their positions to fight for equality. “We have had wonderful facially neutral laws,” she said, “but laws are not self-executing. It takes lawyers and people of good will to make certain that the laws are actualized.

“Many of you will make a lot of money and that’s great,” she continued, “but never walk away from your responsibility for social justice.” Urging the audience toward pro bono work and public defense, she finished by stating, “You are responsible for the world we leave to the next generation. Let’s make sure it’s better than the one we inherited.”
Forty years now, Nebraska Law’s Community Legal Education Project (CLEP) has been partnering with Lincoln Public Schools and private schools to send law students into the community to teach students about the law in our society.

Started by Professor Alan Frank and law student Brad Burden, ‘75, in 1972, CLEP began as a way for lay people and children in particular to learn about the law.

“It started with the belief that law is too important to just be left to lawyers,” Frank said. “People need to have an understanding of the law and how it affects their everyday life. That’s why it was important to get the law out to the community.”

Each spring, law students involved with CLEP are given a curriculum on a particular topic to present to students from grade school to high school, once a week for six weeks. Courses in criminal justice and courses on the Bill of Rights have been taught over the years.

The CLEP faculty advisor baton was passed to Professor Eric Berger within the last few years, but Frank returned during Berger’s sabbatical this year and participated in CLEP’s newest program — teaching eighth graders in Lincoln about the Constitution in honor of Constitution Day.

Dean Susan Poser had approached the organization about doing an enhanced teaching program in the spring, which resulted in two students writing a curriculum over the summer for Constitution Day. 3L students Joel Rische and Chris Preston put together a curriculum and slide presentation that the other law students used to teach Lincoln eighth graders about the U.S. Constitution.

Coordinated by 2L, Hannah Putz, the new Constitution Day program saw more than 50 volunteers sign up. 2L Aditya Ezhuthachan, one of the student volunteers, noted, “It was encouraging to see that eighth graders were so engaged and interested in learning about the Constitution. I was mostly surprised and excited that the kids were really into it! They made it fun.”

Frank observed the teaching as well. “I went to Irving Middle School and the kids were very engaged,” he said. “I just thought it went wonderfully. Kudos to all the law student/teachers.”

Putz recounted that the LPS social studies curriculum coordinator emailed her on the afternoon of Constitution Day and “had heard really good things. Everything had gone smoothly and the teachers and students had enjoyed it.” Another teacher complemented the program afterward, stating that it was a success and that they hoped it would be continued again next year.

It has not yet been determined if a Constitution Day program will be recurring, but Putz notes, “It’s definitely something when, that was done with the hope it would be done every year, and I think everyone involved agreed.”

Teaching young students about the Constitution isn’t just important on its face, however. Frank noted that this early exposure to the law sticks with people from childhood. “There have been some students here at the Law College that have told me that their interest in the law came through their exposure in the CLEP program in grade school. You can’t start too young in getting their interest.” Recruitment, he said, isn’t the primary focus of these programs, “but it’s a wonderful byproduct.”

“People need to have an understanding of the law and how it affects their everyday life. That’s why it was important to get the law out to the community.” – Professor Alan Frank

Hannah Putz, ‘15

“it was encouraging to see that eighth graders were so engaged and interested in learning about the Constitution.” – Aditya Ezhuthachan, ‘15

LPS student Kaitlin Smith was the runner up in CLEP’s essay contest held in connection with its Constitution Day program.

Joel Rische, ‘14

Chris Preston, ‘14

AROUND THE COLLEGE
RECENT SCHOLARSHIP & ACTIVITIES

AROUND THE COLLEGE
RECENT SCHOLARSHIP & ACTIVITIES
We the People: Why the Constitution Matters to Me

By Aaditya Rau, Lux Middle School
Winner of the CLEP Constitution Day essay contest

Over 225 years ago, in Philadelphia, a document was signed by a group of delegates to bring structure and order to America. This imperative document is the Constitution, and it still is the foundation of our government today. It is the door to freedom. Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom to assemble, right to bear arms and much, much more. Furthermore, it governs how we vote, how we are paid and how we tax. The piece of paper called the Constitution of the United States of America truly governs how we live.

However, this essay is supposed to be about what the Constitution means to me, as a person. And to me, it means patriotism. It shows me that a group of people, with a strong sense of will, can rise up to the challenge of a new idea, one with a shaky base, and be the hand that steadies and nurtures that idea. In context, the new country called America had just won the Revolutionary War against Britain. To serve as the laws of this new country, the greatest men of the country wrote up the Articles of Confederation. The problem was, the Articles were full of problems. Trouble reigned all around, and it threatened to destroy the country which was paid for in the blood of soldiers. The solution was to repeal the failed Articles and write the Constitution.

A second message I get from this snippet of history is one of perseverance. Quite simply, I see that you cannot give up on something just because it isn’t working the way it looked in your dreams. Through the story of the Constitution, I now know one more thing: you just can’t give up.

Back to the story of the Constitution; it became the document that was a basis on life in the free America. The American Revolution sparked revolutions across the globe, all with nations hungering for freedom. And in many of these newly-liberated countries from the tyrannies of dictators and despots, the people there structured their constitution with ours as inspiration. So, the Constitution, to me, is also a symbol of freedom. It is thanks to this integral part of history that I can be writing these words in this essay, or be given the opportunity at all. And I am truly grateful for that.

Building on these past few paragraphs, the Constitution has realized itself in yet another way to me. As an epitome of justice. The very decision if a new law or bill is just when inspected by the Supreme Court involves if it is “Constitutional”, or “Unconstitutional.” The Constitution is what gives both men and women to vote, of all races. The Constitution is what gives power to the people, the states, and the government, really with no one person having more leverage than the other. This balance of power is the heart of the Constitution, as we wrote it after being under the rule of a King, and being subject to his decisions. When crime suspects are captured, to add on, they are bound to be given a fair trial, and a lawyer. To make sure that no one person can be considered a higher caste or caliber than another person, there is a passage dictating that no title of nobility shall be given. The Constitution is like an algebraic equation. It keeps the equality on all sides of the equation. Likewise, the Constitution doesn’t have a bias or favor one group or ethnicity more than another, it treats them all the same, although they might live on two sides on an equal sign.

An envoy of order, these words definitively capture some aspects of the Constitution. In Section Ten of Article One, some of the rules about how States do war go as thus, “No State shall, without Consent of Congress … engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.” This prevents just all out anarchy and war between States, or between us and other countries, just because of any disagreements.

Written in 1787, in Philadelphia, the Constitution was born, and it has grown to be many things. A guideline, a structure, a judge, laws for war, and much more. But to me, it is an inspiration. An inspiration of the American spirit, of liberty and justice for all.
Panel Reflects on Public Defense Forty Years After Gideon v. Wainright
By Emily M. Anderson, ’15

Forty years ago, Clarence Gideon was charged with a misdemeanor in the state of Florida. He could not afford an attorney, so he asked the judge to appoint him one. The judge denied his request because, at the time, the right to counsel did not exist in state court unless the charged crime was a capital offense. With only an eighth grade education, Gideon represented himself at trial – he made opening statements, cross-examined and presented witnesses. The result was a guilty verdict and a sentence to five years imprisonment.

Gideon refused to accept the outcome. During his incarceration, he filed a writ of habeas corpus in the Florida Supreme Court on the grounds that the refusal to appoint counsel violated his constitutional rights. The Florida Supreme Court denied his petition. Gideon then filed a handwritten petition in the U.S. Supreme Court, which granted his petition. The result of Gideon’s relentless efforts made him an unlikely hero. In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court extended the right to counsel for all criminal defendants in felony cases. When Gideon was appointed counsel and his case retried, he was acquitted.

To honor the 40th anniversary of Gideon v. Wainright, four panelists of public defenders, Matt Meyerle, ’11, Jerry Soucie, ’80, David Stickman and Zoe Wade, ’80, visited the College of Law to answer questions on their respective careers, all of which are devoted to serving clients like Gideon.

“You can’t have a fair trial if you don’t have an attorney representing the defendants. We take it as an intrinsic part of our rights as Americans, but fifty years ago, we didn’t have that.” - David Stickman, federal public defender for the District of Nebraska.

The panelists also agreed that although winning cases isn’t a common occurrence, they redefine winning in terms of the rewarding nature of the work and the benefits it serves to their clients. “Winning can just be negotiating a good outcome for your client. When it does go your way, it is very rewarding,” said Wade.

Soucie concluded the panel by adding, “Sometimes when you win, you lose. Even if you lose, if you are making a valid argument, it can educate the judiciary, who later on may change its mind. From a societal point of view, making sound arguments and not getting mad about it has an impact on the court and society as a whole.”
Panel, Student Group Create Rural Connections for Students
By Emily M. Anderson, ’15

When Christin Lovegrove, ’09, gets off work, she often goes to the family farm to run a grain cart or spends the night coaching the girls basketball team. Nick Buda, ’12, sometimes spends his Friday afternoons golfing, and Matthew Boyle, ’09, has renewed his passion for taekwondo.

What do all three have in common? They are young attorneys in rural Nebraska. Along with Jamian Simmons, ’06, the four Nebraska Law alumni returned to the Law College to talk with students about the unique advantages that practicing in rural Nebraska offers. The panel was one of a series of Exploring Opportunities programs offered to provide students information about specific practice areas.

The takeaway from the panel was clear: rural practice has its perks. One of these is a more flexible schedule, by comparison to firms in “urban” locales, such as Lincoln or Omaha. According to Buda, of Kearney, that would mean parting with the luxury of golf on a Friday afternoon. Of course, they still have to put in the hours, but spending extra free time with family or personal hobbies is “not frowned on,” said Lovegrove, who practices in Geneva. “It’s embraced.”

Simmons can also attest to this so-called “laid back lifestyle.” The entire county in which Gordon sits, and where Simmons practices, has a population of only 5,000. “You can’t get more of a welcoming community. Judges and attorneys all go to lunch together.”

The smaller populations in rural Nebraska also mean less competition for law graduates, so young and new attorneys have the chance to “get their feet wet a lot faster.” They meet clients from their first day at work and start taking cases independently from the beginning. Simmons had her first [solo] jury trial in her first week as an associate. Lovegrove has clients that only a senior partner would typically acquire in larger cities, including a twelve million dollar estate. One of the partners at her firm told her when she was starting out, “I’m going to give you enough rope to hang yourself and, if I need to cut you down, I will.”

Although these responsibilities can be daunting in the first years of practice, Boyle, of Grand Island, assures that he has always had support. Partners at his firm always have their doors open to provide guidance. “Other attorneys in firms in the area are also helpful to each other. Everyone is willing to help out and pitch in.”

Being a lawyer in a small town also doesn’t allow for as much privacy as one might find in larger locales. The four panelists agreed, through some laughs, that it is difficult to escape clients at any and all hours of the day. Whether they are walking down the street, out socializing with friends or at home, people in their communities ask them for legal advice. “It doesn’t matter where you are in a small town – everyone knows you’re a lawyer and you get the weirdest questions.”

“I get calls from clients at all times. You’re always in demand,” said Buda.

Boyle advised, “Do your best not to call your clients from your cell phone,” and Simmons also commented on the issue of clients tracking her down. “You can’t get away.”

The panel members attribute their high demand to the scarcity of lawyers in the rural areas. Older attorneys who have reduced their hours, retired or passed away are not being replaced, creating a major issue in some parts of the state. Simmons noted that clients soon may be forced to drive elsewhere for legal services. Gordon has only three attorneys, and in nearby Chadron, there are only four.

“Be brave. Be willing to step outside your comfort zone and try something new. If you’re really going to consider it, consider it by visiting.” - Jamian Simmons, ’06

Associate Director of Career Services Heather Hilgers introduces the panelists for the Exploring Opportunities: Rural Practice program.
The panelists offered advice for students like Hoyt, Lord and Samples, who are interested in making rural connections and serious about practicing in greater Nebraska someday. Boyle said, "Ask questions, because they don’t teach you how to be a lawyer. That’s why they call your first year of practice your fourth year of law school.”

Simmons offered, “Be brave. Be willing to step outside your comfort zone and try something new. If you’re really going to consider it, consider it by visiting.”

Lovegrove agreed. “If you want to come to a rural area, be committed to that area.”

Buda’s advice is one that the Rural Connections organization is putting into action. "Start making the connections now and figure out where you want to be and what you want to do.”

A new student organization at the College of Law is hoping to address that need. 2Ls Katie Samples, Logan Hoyt and Lisa Lord started Rural Connections to help students interested in practicing in greater Nebraska search for jobs and network with future colleagues in rural areas. Their hope was to create connections in western Nebraska to complement the pre-existing efforts of the Nebraska State Bar Association and the Law College.

Their vision for the group began in the spring of their 1L year, when they discovered that connecting with jobs located up to seven hours away is difficult.

In less than a year after its creation, Rural Connections has 32 members and extensive goals. They are creating a database of attorneys in rural Nebraska who are willing to talk about practicing in their region, in addition to hosting speakers. Their long-term goal is to establish a mentorship program between established rural attorneys and law students.

Post-graduation, the three look forward to returning to smaller communities like the kind they grew up in, for much the same reasons as the panelists. The rural sense of community, the flexibility and the emphasis on family life cannot be matched elsewhere.

Hoyt, who grew up in McCook, hopes to join a firm in southwestern Nebraska when he graduates. "I lived in Arlington, Va., for a few months and never managed to meet the person in the apartment next door. In contrast, I could tell you the name of every person in a several mile radius of my parent’s home. It’s a different way of living, and I can’t wait to return to it.”

Lord and her fiancé have families in western Nebraska and will return when she graduates. “Back home, family is more important than your job and your boss knows that. I want to be able to take off in the afternoon for my kid’s game and participate on local boards.”

Samples, who is from Windsor, Colo., came to law school to be an agricultural attorney. Her fiancé owns a hog farm in Lisco, Neb., so the flexible lifestyle will allow her to help out on the farm and practice in the Sidney area. She has her sights set on opening her own firm eventually, specializing in agriculture with a focus on business succession and estate planning for farms.

“‘I lived in Arlington, Va., for a few months and never managed to meet the person in the apartment next door. In contrast, I could tell you the name of every person in a several mile radius of my parent’s home. It’s a different way of living, and I can’t wait to return to it.”’ — Logan Hoyt, ’15

Lisa Lord, ’15

Logan Hoyt, ’15

Katie Samples, ’15

The panelists offered advice for students like Hoyt, Lord and Samples, who are interested in making rural connections and serious about practicing in greater Nebraska someday. Boyle said, “Ask questions, because they don’t teach you how to be a lawyer. That’s why they call your first year of practice your fourth year of law school.”

Simmons offered, “Be brave. Be willing to step outside your comfort zone and try something new. If you’re really going to consider it, consider it by visiting.”

Lovegrove agreed. “If you want to come to a rural area, be committed to that area.”

Buda’s advice is one that the Rural Connections organization is putting into action. “Start making the connections now and figure out where you want to be and what you want to do.”
College Celebrates December Commencement

Associate Dean and Professor Richard Moberly leads the faculty procession.

Julie M. Berkshire, '14, alongside her father, Richard Berkshire, '79, and her aunt Laurie Meyers, '93, and Dean Susan Poser.

Graduates David Wayt and Brock Smith listen to remarks from Dean Susan Poser.

Julie M. Berkshire, '14, alongside her father, Richard Berkshire, '79, and her aunt Laurie Meyers, '93, and Dean Susan Poser.


Brock Smith, '14.

Graduates David Wayt and Brock Smith listen to remarks from Dean Susan Poser.

Julie M. Berkshire, '14, alongside her father, Richard Berkshire, '79, and her aunt Laurie Meyers, '93, and Dean Susan Poser.


Brock Smith, '14.

Graduates David Wayt and Brock Smith listen to remarks from Dean Susan Poser.

Julie M. Berkshire, '14, alongside her father, Richard Berkshire, '79, and her aunt Laurie Meyers, '93, and Dean Susan Poser.


Brock Smith, '14.

Graduates David Wayt and Brock Smith listen to remarks from Dean Susan Poser.

Julie M. Berkshire, '14, alongside her father, Richard Berkshire, '79, and her aunt Laurie Meyers, '93, and Dean Susan Poser.


Brock Smith, '14.

Graduates David Wayt and Brock Smith listen to remarks from Dean Susan Poser.

Julie M. Berkshire, '14, alongside her father, Richard Berkshire, '79, and her aunt Laurie Meyers, '93, and Dean Susan Poser.


Brock Smith, '14.
Nordhues Leads College’s Development Efforts

“I am thrilled to be working with the College of Law and Dean Susan Poser. The College is seen as an engine on campus, and just in my short time, I am amazed by the engagement of the alumni.”

Joanna Nordhues is an anomaly: a fundraiser who purposefully chose fundraising as a profession. “I grew up in the Catholic schools, so I have been fundraising my whole life,” Nordhues jokes. “But, for me, it is something that I have wanted to do for a very long time, and I have been fortunate to be able to make philanthropy into a career.”

The College of Law is fortunate to have such a person leading its development efforts. Nordhues joined the College in November after former senior development director Angie Hohensee left to pursue another opportunity.

Nordhues has been a development officer at the University of Nebraska Foundation since 2005, having previously led the development efforts for the Colleges of Engineering and Journalism and Mass Communications. Prior to joining the foundation, Nordhues worked for the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo “doing just about everything you could possibly do with an advertising degree.” While at the zoo, Nordhues also had the opportunity to do some fundraising work.

During her time as an undergraduate student, Nordhues was an intern at the University of Nebraska Foundation. While working for the zoo, she kept in touch with her mentors at the foundation. So, when a development officer position became available, she knew about it and applied immediately. The rest, as they say, is history.

Nordhues will spend the next months traveling throughout the state and country meeting alumni and learning about their careers and interests. “Development work provides me with the opportunity to bring the College’s mission and priorities to alumni. I look forward to doing just that!”
Alumni Master Sharon McIlany, ’89, Shares Her International Career, Lessons She Has Learned

By Emily Anderson, ’15

Sharon McIlany always told herself she would never be a lawyer, politician or teacher. When she had graduated from the College of Law in 1989, however, she had checked off two of the three on that list. McIlany shared her story of diverse education and career pursuits during her visit for Alumni Masters Week. That diversity ultimately led McIlany to a career as a legal advisor in all aspects of global and domestic project developments, acquisitions and divestitures, joint venturing and operations.

“Being an entrepreneur requires a whole different set of skills – the personality behind it and that willingness to get the door shut in your face a lot.”

McIlany received her undergraduate degree from University of Nebraska-Lincoln in broadcasting, and initially pursued a career in that field. She describes her short career as “Susie Stickett,” a promotional campaign for KFRM radio station, driving a car and handing out prizes to people on the street, as her “claim to fame.”

The years it would take to advance in broadcasting coupled with her impatience, led McIlany to pursue a masters degree in business also at UNL. After receiving her M.B.A., McIlany began teaching marketing and managing at Doane College in Crete, at the ripe age of 23. During her tenure at Doane, she was named director of the A.R. Kinney Business Program and outstanding educator.

After six years of teaching, McIlany began coursework toward a Ph.D. in marketing, but soon realized that direction was not a fit. When her sister, College of Law alumna Sheila McIlany, ’78, suggested she go to law school, Sharon took the advice. Although self-admittedly “very suggestable” to other’s advice, law school helped McIlany discover her passion. “It didn’t take me long to say, ‘this is it!’” Despite attending law school with two small children, ages two and nine months old, she was managing editor of the Nebraska Law Review and graduated cum laude in 1989.

After graduating with her J.D., McIlany practiced corporate transactional law at Clark, Klein & Beaumont in Detroit, Mich., for three years, but decided to leave private practice when an opportunity as general counsel in Chile presented itself. Matias Energy, with her business partner, Tom Miller, an engineer and former employee at CMS Energy, Matias Energy provides international and domestic energy infrastructure project consulting and management services, including support for project development, ownership and operation, acquisition and divestiture.

“I was always the only woman in the room. I’m more aware of being human than I am of being a female. I really care more about the quality of my character.”

Though McIlany’s busy and successful career path would leave most exhausted, her sense of humor and energy are contagious and welcoming. Joking that she was often “the only estrogen in the room,” she chooses not to acknowledge a gender difference in her professional career. “I was always the only woman in the room. I’m more aware of being human than I am of being a female. I really care more about the quality of my character.”

One of her representative projects at CMS was leading the development of the Atacama project, a $1 billion integrated natural gas pipeline and electric generation project in Argentina and Chile. The 941 kilometer pipeline brought natural gas to Chile for the first time. “I lived on airplanes. I knew I should have moved to Chile the day the baggage handler knew me. It was a fabulous experience, but I had many at CMS. There was not one dull moment.”

After working at CMS Energy for 15 years, McIlany left to start her own company. In 2007, she formed Matias Energy, with her business partner, Tom Miller, an engineer and former employee at CMS Energy. Matias Energy provides international and domestic energy infrastructure project consulting and management services, including support for project development, ownership and operation, acquisition and divestiture.

“Being an entrepreneur requires a whole different set of skills – the personality behind it and that willingness to get the door shut in your face a lot. I have learned a lot from this experience.”

McIlany credits her character to her mid-western roots, having grown up in Wyoming then moving to Nebraska for college. “The fact that you are from Nebraska stands out. If you take with you the work ethic that Nebraskans have, it will serve you well.”

Throughout Alumni Masters Week, McIlany offered useful and honest advice to the students on being a lawyer and finding a career that makes them happy, while inserting comedic relief often. Her advice to students? “Get a thick skin and get it now. Law is not for the faint of heart. When you are a lawyer, you are married to the law. You have a fiduciary duty to the law. It makes me proud to be a lawyer, and it makes me go that extra mile.”
On June 13, 2013, Angel Velitchkov, ’06, a native of Bulgaria, was appointed that country’s deputy foreign minister. The Nebraska Transcript interviewed Velitchkov via email. Here is what he had to say about his experiences in the United States and Bulgaria:

**Transcript:** Let's start at the beginning. Tell us about growing up in Bulgaria.

Velitchkov: I grew up in a small town in the mountains of Bulgaria called Kostenetz – very beautiful picturesque place – rich in hot springs and scenic views. This was while Bulgaria was still a communist country, but since I didn't know anything different, I didn't mind it. Every once in a while, the grade school teacher would tell us how the Americans wanted to destroy us with atomic bombs. (Later, when I was in America, I learned they were telling the American students the USSR wanted to destroy them with their bombs.)

**Transcript:** When did you come to the U.S. and why?

Velitchkov: In 1996, I was attending a school in which a retired American couple from Minnesota was teaching English. Every year they would pick one of their students to take to Minnesota to attend high school for a year as an exchange student. The last year they were in Bulgaria, they picked me, and I found myself attending high school in St. Paul, Minn.

**Transcript:** What led you to stay in the U.S.?

Velitchkov: While I was in high school in St. Paul, Minn., I took the ACT exam and garnered a high score. I had good grades too, and my high school guidance counselor sent me with a minor in German language. I enjoyed Graceland very much and had some amazing experiences, such as interning at the United Nations headquarters in New York and the Washington, D.C., office of Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa.

**Transcript:** Tell us about your time at Graceland.

Velitchkov: I majored in international studies and political science, accepting a 4.0 GPA from Graceland. What could really happen? But 10 minutes into his class, I wanted to hide under the desk so he wouldn't make eye contact with me.

One thing I'll always remember was going into Professor [Rob] Denicola's 1L Contracts class for the very first time. I'd read the assignment, knew the case almost by heart and had some confidence from having graduated with a 4.0 GPA from Graceland. What could really happen? But 10 minutes into his class, I wanted to hide under the desk so he wouldn't make eye contact with me. It was a great lesson in the Socratic method and personal humility for me that has served me well since.

**Transcript:** What are your memories of your time at the Law College?

Velitchkov: While I was at Graceland University, I was an assistant to a professor who had a J.D. degree from the University of Iowa, and he and I often talked about the options a law degree provides and the quality of education it furnishes. I became excited about trying law school. Then, when I graduated, I worked as a gofer for a law firm in Des Moines, Iowa, to see if the environment was one I wanted to be a part of. After taking the LSAT, I applied to the law schools in the area and received an acceptance letter from the Law College. It said that I had been awarded a Harvey and Susan Perlman Alumni Scholarship. So I was able to follow my dream of graduating from a respected law school.

**Transcript:** How did you come to work for Congressman Jeff Fortenberry? What did you do for him?

Velitchkov: When I started at the Law College, I found a small clerkship job at the Kinsey Rowe Becker & Kistler law firm in Lincoln. All of the partners were graduates of the Law College, and the firm had an immigration practice. I was very interested in immigration law and worked for them throughout law school. My third year in the firm, I had a case that was frustrating me; I wasn't able to do anything more to make a difference. So I asked for advice and was told that perhaps a congressman or a senator might be able to help. I called Congressman Fortenberry's office, introduced myself and started explaining the situation. The lady who answered the phone told me that the person doing immigration case work for them had just moved to a different job, but it sounded like I knew something about this subject matter and asked whether I would like to volunteer at their office and do constituent case work in the field of immigration.

That's how it started. Then Congressman Fortenberry offered me a job after graduation, and I spent the next seven years working for him. I rose through the ranks from case...
worker, to regional representative, to deputy district director in the Lincoln office and eventually going to Washington, D.C., to serve as his top aide there.

**Transcript:** What did you do for Senator Mike Johanns?

Velitchkov: When I was in Washington, I briefly had the opportunity to work at Senator Johanns’ office as an archivist – compiling and summarizing some of his legislative accomplishments.

**Transcript:** How did you come to be selected as deputy foreign minister of Bulgaria?

Velitchkov: As one of Congressman Fortenberry’s committee assignments was on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I had exposure to various events including meeting representatives of the diplomatic corps and attending lectures and discussions on Capitol Hill and throughout Washington. I also was a frequent guest at the Bulgarian Embassy in Washington and got to know a number of Bulgarian diplomats. When in February 2013, the government of Bulgaria resigned and new elections were scheduled, I received an invitation to interview for the job. I had the unique background of being born in Bulgaria but having had the opportunity to receive an excellent education in the United States and having been exposed to the U.S. Congress for years. That gave me an advantage, and I was offered the position, which I accepted.

**Transcript:** What do you do as deputy foreign minister?

Velitchkov: I participate in the formulation and execution of Bulgaria’s foreign policy when it comes to the Western Hemisphere, Asia, Africa and Australia and Oceania. I also conduct conversations with my counterparts, which encompass discussions on trade, political cooperation, cultural and educational exchanges and possibilities for increased mutual investments. I hold these conversations abroad, as well as in the capital of Bulgaria, Sofia, where the Foreign Ministry is situated.

**Transcript:** We understand you attended the funerals of Nelson Mandela and Ariel Sharon.

Velitchkov: Yes, I had the privilege of representing Bulgaria at two monumental events the last few months – one was the funeral of the late president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, and the other was the funeral of former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Mandela’s funeral was a truly historic event of global proportions and almost every nation on the planet sent representatives to honor his sacrifice and pay tribute to his courage. I was able to meet and greet most of the current leaders of many countries, as well as see the thousands of mourners who gathered in the pouring rain to celebrate his life. The feeling of belonging to the one global family was palpable, and passing by the open casket of the late president was surreal. I’ll never forget it.

Prime Minister Sharon’s funeral was smaller in scale, but by no means smaller in importance. The complex processes in the Middle East afforded his life story with a tremendous wealth of experiences and controversies. But, surely, it was again a privilege to pay Bulgaria’s respects to a historic figure with a tremendous significance for Israel and the Middle East as a whole.

**Transcript:** What are your future plans?

Velitchkov: You know they said that the best way to make God laugh is to tell Him your future plans. I certainly try to make the most of every day on the job, soak in the experiences from the places and people I get to see and interact with, and learn as much as possible about the points of view of many nations in the world. I also realize that jobs in politics don’t last forever, and certainly, after this adventure is over, I’ll pursue other options. Perhaps in international organizations or consulting. Also, I’ve been thinking about teaching as an option – as I’d like to share the experience with those who want to know and understand what it was like.

**Transcript:** How do you see your law school training as helping in your current job?

Velitchkov: Attending the College of Law was one of the major blessings in my life. It gave me a solid foundation in the ability to understand complex problems and resolve them in a manner that is consistent with good principles and strong values of justice and integrity. Now, when I have to discuss complex trade matters or political, economic or any other areas of interactions between any two countries or within international organizations, I feel confident that I have the skill set to be at the negotiating table. Also, I realize the great significance that some of these conversations, agreements and treaties might have for millions of people, and this gives me a sense of focus and responsibility to find good options. Just as I couldn’t hide under the desk during Professor Denicola’s contracts class, I have to face the music and do the best I can. Having taken most of Professor Matt Schaefer’s international law classes and Professor Brian Leonard’s International Human Rights class is a tremendous help, as well, on a daily basis.

**Transcript:** We understand you’re a big Husker football fan. How did that come about?

Velitchkov: I had never heard about the Huskers before I came to law school. In fact, the first few months I did not get what the big deal was about. Then, after attending a game at Memorial Stadium with my law school roommate, I was hooked for life. I love the emotion and the feeling of community this game brings to the entire state and feel tremendous pride of being a part of Husker nation. Whenever it is that I am around the world, I find a way to watch or listen to the games on the Internet – and experience the entire set of emotions that most of Nebraskans feel. It is only a matter of time until the Huskers win a national championship, and when that happens a Big Red flag will wave over the little mountain village in Bulgaria where I was born.

**Transcript:** Anything else that might be of interest to the readers of The Nebraska Transcript?

Velitchkov: I certainly want to express my deepest gratitude to the entire Law College community – all of my professors, administration and alumni and especially my former classmates who have helped me in more ways that I can express. The College of Law is a very special place, and I carry it in my heart and mind wherever I travel. I feel that I continue to belong to a unique and wonderful community, and I never miss an opportunity to share with whoever it is that I talk to around the world that I went to the College of Law.
Johnson, ’82, Shares Experience ‘Bringing Charles Taylor to Justice’

“What is the answer to this trivia question?” asked James C. Johnson, ’82. “Who is the only person who served as solicitor general, attorney general and U.S. Supreme Court justice?” The answer is Robert H. Jackson. But Jackson is known for something else, as well, explained Johnson, who is president and chief executive officer of the Robert H. Jackson Center located in Jackson’s hometown of Jamestown, N.Y. Jackson represented the United States at the London Conference that set up the International Military Tribunal and served as chief of counsel for the United States at the first Nuremberg Trial.

“Jackson, being the first prosecutor, is in many ways the architect of the international tribunals we have today because of his work at Nuremberg,” said Johnson. This explains Johnson’s connection to Jackson and the Jackson Center. Johnson, who spoke at the Law College on February 10 on “Bringing Charles Taylor to Justice: Reflections of an International War Crimes Prosecutor,” worked for nine years as a prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Johnson’s interest and expertise in international law developed during the 20 years he was with the U.S. Army as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer. He went on active duty in January 1983 after his graduation from the Law College, which he attended on a ROTC scholarship. During his tour of duty, he served as a prosecutor and international/operational law advisor to both conventional and special operations units. He also received a LL.M. degree from the Judge Advocate General’s School in Charlottesville, Va., and then stayed at the JAG School as an assistant professor of international and operational law.

Johnson’s last military assignment was as legal advisor to the director of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch, Germany. The center’s mission was to teach senior military officers from the countries of the former Soviet Union about the laws of war and armed conflict and to educate them about how a military functions in a democracy “Being subordinate to a civilian authority was a new concept to them,” Johnson explained.

When Johnson retired from the military in January 2002, he joined the international war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone, which was created by an agreement between the United Nations and Sierra Leone and operated under the UN umbrella. The tribunal’s chief of prosecution was a retired JAG officer whom Johnson had known for many years and had worked with at the JAG School, and he invited Johnson to join the prosecution team. While the prosecutions were expected to take about three years, Johnson served for more than nine years and was the longest serving international at the office of the prosecutor. He did not leave until all the trials were completed.

Johnson started out as a senior trial attorney in charge of prosecuting a joint trial of three defendants. When the chief of prosecutions left after three years, Johnson assumed that position, which meant that he was the supervisor of the senior prosecution attorneys who prosecuted the cases.

One of those cases was that of Charles Taylor. Taylor was president of Liberia when he was indicted by the special court completed, Johnson accepted the position as president and CEO of the Jackson Center. He first came to know the center when he attended some of the center’s International Humanitarian Law Dialogs, annual gatherings of international prosecutors from Nuremberg through the present day and leading professionals in the international criminal field. One of the dialogs featured a retrospective on the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The dialogs, Johnson explained, are “maybe the only time that all the prosecutors of the international tribunals are at the same place at the same time. That’s what makes the experience so valuable.”

The Sierra Leone conflict was a horrible one, Johnson explained. By conservative estimates there were 50,000 victims killed in the conflict and tens of thousands who were victims of mutilations. Women and girls were rounded up and taken as sexual slaves, under the whim of multiple rebels, or taken as bush wives forced to marry rebel soldiers.

The Sierra Leone conflict was a horrible one, Johnson explained. By conservative estimates there were 50,000 victims killed in the conflict and tens of thousands who were victims of mutilations. Women and girls were rounded up and taken as sexual slaves, under the whim of multiple rebels, or taken as bush wives forced to marry rebel soldiers.

The Jackson Center is the only standalone institution memorializing a Supreme Court justice. Most other such institutions are associated with law schools. While the center houses archives and exhibits, its mission, Johnson explained, is to carry Jackson’s legacy forward. One way it does this is through its educational programs. It offers activities, programs and resources for teachers, students, educators and community members. Johnson said that when he talks to high school students about genocide and war crimes, when he tells them about the close to 300,000 children who are conscripted into combat around the world, he “gets blank looks. It’s important to teach them about what’s going on overseas.”

Also important is supporting international humanitarian law and the International Criminal Court. The United States, China and Russia are not members of the court and the court is under attack by other countries. That why Johnson believes that the center’s upcoming dialog on “The New World Disorder: The Future of International Humanitarian Law” is so important, as it is the center’s work espousing “all things Jackson.”
2013 Alumni Reunion

2013 Alumni Reunion
1950s
William D. Blue, ’52, posthumously was awarded the 2013 George H. Turner Award by the Nebraska State Bar Association. The George H. Turner Award is presented to a member of NSBA who has demonstrated unusual efforts in furthering the public understanding of the legal system, the administration of justice and confidence in the legal profession. Judge Blue, who served on the Lancaster County District Court bench for 24 years, was recognized for his long years of service on the bench, his community service and his professionalism.

Daryl F. Hamann, ’58, has been inducted into the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce. Hamann is of counsel at the Omaha law firm Baird Holm, where he is a member of both the corporate law and tax sections.

1960s

Les Seiler, ’66, was named the Notable Mystery Man of Madison by the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce. Seiler is a senator in the Nebraska Legislature representing the 33rd legislative district.

John K. Boyer, ’69, a partner at the Fraser Stryker law firm, has been inducted into the Omaha Business Hall of Fame. He was recognized for helping to guide the growth of the Henry Doorly Zoo, the Durham Museum and the Boy Scouts and for his work with the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

1970s
Michael J. Owens, ’72, retired as judge of Nebraska’s Fifth Judicial District on January 31, 2014. He had served on the court since 1996. He was a member of the Supreme Court’s Limited Scope Representation Subcommittee of the court’s Pro Se Committee and on the Legislative-Judicial Visit Program. Prior to joining the court, Judge Owens was a judge advocate in the JAG corps of the U.S. Air Force and served in private practice in Aurora and as Hamilton County attorney.

Randall L. Rehmeier, ’72, who retired as judge of Nebraska’s Second Judicial District on March 31, 2013, was elected to the Nebraska State Bar Association’s House of Delegates.

Michael J. Tavlin, ’73, chief financial officer for Speedway Motors, has been appointed to the Lincoln-Lancaster Board of Health.

Richard Wegener, ’73, has joined the Minneapolis office of the international law firm Faeger Baker Daniels, where he concentrates on food regulatory and litigation practice.

Graten Beavers, ’74, of the County Court, Ninth Judicial District, has retired effective January 31, 2014. Judge Beavers took the bench in May 1991. He served on the Nebraska Supreme Court’s Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee from 1999 to 2003, as well as several committees for the Nebraska County Judges Association. He is the current chairman of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

No Cost CLE?
Nebraska Law offers its alumni multiple no cost Continuing Legal Education opportunities each academic year. Programming and registration details can be found at http://law.unl.edu/alumni/CLE.
Alumni Association, as well as serving on the College of Law Alumni Council.

William Merritt, ’74, has been named senior director, corporate banking-business development for First National Bank in Omaha. He had recently retired from Woods & Atkin, where he had been a partner, managing partner and employee for more than 34 years in both the Omaha and Lincoln offices.

Brian Ridenour, ’75, had retired from his position as vice president and associate general counsel with the corporate legal department at First in Lincoln.

Karen Flowers, ’76, retired as judge of the District Court, Third Judicial District, effective December 31, 2013. She was also the recipient of the 2013 Outstanding Contributor to Women and the Law Award by the Nebraska State Bar Association. The Outstanding Contributor to Women and the Law Award is given in recognition of the recipient’s lifetime accomplishments as someone who has directly contributed to the active integration and participation of women in the Nebraska system of justice.

Judge Flowers was the first woman in Lancaster County to have been appointed to the district court bench. She established the Lancaster County Adult Drug Court and is the past president of the Lancaster County Alumni Commission on the Status of Women.

Teresa L. Luther, ’76, was awarded the 2013 President’s Professionalism Award by the Nebraska State Bar Association. The President’s Professionalism Award is presented to a member of the NSBA who exemplifies the attributes of the true professional, whose conduct is always consistent with the highest standards of practice and who displays appropriate courtesy and respect for the public, clients, fellow attorneys and the justice system. Judge Luther, who is a judge of the District Court for the Ninth Judicial District and of the Central Nebraska Adult Drug Court, was recognized for her ongoing dedication as a Nebraska lawyer and judge and for her service on several committees.

Paul Merritt, ’77, was presented with the Supreme Court’s highest honor by Chief Justice Mike Heavican. Judge Merritt was given the Service to the Judiciary Award for his many years of active involvement in committee work and volunteer teaching through court education programs and the College of Law. Merritt is a judge of the Lancaster County District Court, Third Judicial District. He is also a judge of the Lancaster County Adult Drug Court.

Carol Watson, ’77, is a member of the Cather Circle, which is a UNL alumnae organization that provides networking, professional development and mentoring for women who belong to the organization. Watson is vice president and general counsel at Assurance Life Insurance Company in Lincoln.

Gary Gotsdiner, ’78, of the Omaha law firm McGill, Gotsdiner, Workman & Lepp, has completed a yearlong program organized by the Omaha Community Foundation to earn the designation Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP).

Barbara W. Schaefer, ’78, has been elected to the Mutual of Omaha Bank board of directors. She is former senior vice president and corporate secretary for Union Pacific Corporation.

William B. Cassel, ’79, a judge on the Nebraska Supreme Court, gave the address at the December 2013 College of Law commencement.

Timothy Engler, ’79, has been named chair-elect of the Nebraska State Bar Association House of Delegates. He is a partner with the Lincoln law firm Harding & Schultz.

Fred Witt, ’79, has joined Advanced Green Innovations of Phoenix, Ariz., as vice president and general counsel. Witt recently published his first novel, a legal thriller titled Partnership in Crime.

1980s

Paul R. Elofson, ’80, has been named a shareholder at the Omaha law firm Fitzgerald Schorr. Elofson joined Fitzgerald Schorr in 2009 as of counsel after practicing law in Omaha for several years. He practices in the areas of civil, commercial and employment litigation, as well as business and real estate law and estate planning.

Annette M. Kovar, ’80, of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, has been elected a fellow by the American College of Environmental Lawyers.

Arlin Langvardt, ’81, was recently awarded by Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business the Graf Family Professorship in recognition of his teaching and research accomplishments. Langvardt is professor of business law at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind.

Kathy Olson, ’81, was presented with the Linchpin Award by her colleagues at UNL’s Center for Children, Families and the Law for her many years of contributions to the center.

Jerry Pipkely, ’81, an attorney with the Lincoln law firm Harding & Schultz, was installed as the worshipful master of Masonic Cotter Lodge No. 297.

Claus Berrebeckman, Jr., ’82, has been elected to serve on the Corzad Hospital Foundation.

James Stecker, ’82, has been appointed by Gov. Dave Heineman to the District Court, Fifth Judicial District. Stecker has been practicing law for 31 years. He was with the Stecker Law Office in Columbus.

Alan J. White, ’82, has been reelected to the Columbia County Circuit Court in Wisconsin.

Vernon C.R. Daniels, ’83, was awarded the 2013 Award of Appreciation by the Nebraska State Bar Association. The Award of Appreciation is awarded to an individual or organization in recognition of outstanding public service creating a better public understanding of the legal profession and the administration of justice. Judge Daniels, a judge of the Douglas County Juvenile Court, initiated the founding of the NSBA Juvenile Law Section.

Michael J. Linder, ’83, has joined the Omaha and Lincoln offices of Koley Jessen as a shareholder. Prior to joining Koley Jessen, Linder served as director of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) for 14 years. Prior to that, he served as the department’s general counsel for 10 years.

Patty Pansing Brooks, ’84, was presented the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award at the 2013 Nebraska Philanthropy Day Awards luncheon. Since the 1980s, she has been actively involved in numerous organizations, including the YWCA, United Way of Lancaster County, Family Service, Partnership for Healthy Lincoln Board and the Lincoln Parks Foundation. She is vice president and co-founder of Brooks Pansing Brooks Law Firm in Lincoln.

Kimberly Conroy, ’86, has been named Nebraska’s new tax commissioner for the Department of Revenue by Gov. Dave Heineman. Previously, she served as deputy tax commissioner; prior to that, she served the Department of Revenue as the director of the compliance division.

Christine Denicola, ’86, retired on January 1, 2014, from the EducationQuest Foundation. Denicola, who joined EducationQuest in 2002, served as vice president of grants, outreach services and scholarships.

Susan Tast, ’86, has retired from the Lancaster County Public Defender’s Office where she worked for 25 years. Currently she is an adjunct professor in Lincoln at UNO’s School of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Mark Quandahl, ’87, has resigned his position on the Nebraska State Board of Education.

Paul Wood, ’87, has been named Nebraska’s new state board of education commissioner; prior to that, he served as the state’s education commissioner. He served as the Department of Education’s commissioner for 10 years. Prior to that, he served as the department’s general counsel for 16 years. Prior to that, he served as the department’s general counsel for 16 years.

Mark Koley, ’87, has been named Nebraska’s new tax commissioner for the Department of Revenue by Gov. Dave Heineman. Previously, he served as deputy tax commissioner; prior to that, she served the Department of Revenue as the director of the compliance division.

Christine Denicola, ’86, retired on January 1, 2014, from the EducationQuest Foundation. Denicola, who joined EducationQuest in 2002, served as vice president of grants, outreach services and scholarships.

Susan Tast, ’86, has retired from the Lancaster County Public Defender’s Office where she worked for 25 years. Currently she is an adjunct professor in Lincoln at UNO’s School of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Mark Quandahl, ’87, has resigned his position on the Nebraska State Board of Education.

Paul Wood, ’87, has been selected as the 2013 Mid-Plains Community College Alumnus of the Year. Since 1991, Wood has been county attorney of Red Willow County.

Lucinda Glen, ’88, has joined the law firm Siler & Parker in Hastings. Her practice includes estate planning, probate, corporations, real estate, family law and banking law.
Catherine Stegman, ‘88, is an associate attorney with the Omaha law firm Sodoro, Daly, Shomaker & Seide. She is experienced in litigation and case management and has extensive experience in the federal court system.

Melanie Whittamore-Mantziou, ‘88, has been installed as the 2013-2014 vice president/president-elect for the Lincoln Rotary #14 Club.

Stephen J. Henning, ‘89, announced the opening of the New York, N.Y., office of Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman. New York is the seventh state where the firm maintains an office and first East Coast location for the firm. Henning is with the firm’s Los Angeles office.

Lisa Thayer, ‘89, has been elected to the Stuhr Foundation’s board of directors. Thayer is an attorney with Thayer & Thayer in Grand Island.

1990s

Michael P. Kneale, ‘90, has joined Five Points Bank in Grand Island as a senior trust officer in the bank’s trust department.

SaraBeth Donovan, ‘92, was selected by Peru State College as the grand marshal for the college’s 93rd Annual Homecoming Parade. Donovan received her undergraduate degree from Peru State College in 1985 and currently is an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Mark Fahleson, ‘92, has been appointed by Gov. Dave Heineman to the Nebraska State Fair Board. Fahleson, who is with the Rembolt & Ludtke law firm in Lincoln, presented “The Playground and the Classroom: Addressing Misconduct in Educational and Religious Institutions” at the DRI Sexual Tortis Seminar in San Diego.

Mark L. Brasee, ‘94, a partner in the Omaha law firm Fraser Stryker, has been elected chairman of the board of trustees for Goodwill Industries.

Amie Martinez, ‘94, has been named president-elect of the Nebraska State Bar Association House of Delegates. She is a shareholder with the firm Anderson, Creager & Wittstruck in Lincoln.

Leslie Levy, ‘95, has been named executive director of the UNL International Quiet Study Center and Museum. Previously she was the executive director of the Willa Cather Foundation.

Lori A. Maret, ‘95, has been named judge on the District Court bench for the Third Judicial District in Lincoln by Gov. Dave Heineman. Maret has served as deputy Lancaster County attorney since 2002. She also served as an associate attorney at Brumbaugh & Quandahl law firm in Omaha.

Stacie Neussendorfer, ‘95, has been hired by Westwood Trust, a subsidiary of Westwood Holding Groups, as a wealth adviser and private client advocate. She is responsible for the creating asset allocations, performing portfolio reviews and developing holistic wealth solutions to meet clients’ needs.

Barbara Roma, ‘95, was selected Prosecutor of the Year for the 13th New Mexico judicial district. The honor recognizes her continued dedication to prosecuting and training in child abuse cases.

Carl Eskridge, ‘96, was named the first recipient of the Be-ing Change Award during the LGBTQA History Month dinner. Eskridge is a Lincoln City Council member.

Gregory P. Gillis, ‘96, of the Scottsdale, Ariz., law firm Nussbaum Gillis & Dinner has joined the board of directors at Children Cancer Network in Tempe.

Obie Saddler, Jr., ‘96, of the Saddler Law Firm in Phoenix, Ariz., was the keynote speaker at the Martin Luther King banquet, “Preserving the Past, Celebrating the Future,” in Waterloo, Iowa.

Robert M. Schafer, ‘96, was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the Nebraska Air National Guard’s 155th Air Refueling Wing. Schafer is a partner at Carlson, Schafer & Davis law firm in Beatrice and serves on the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.

David Spinar, ‘96, has been promoted by RBC Wealth Management to associate vice president and financial advisor in Lincoln.

Steve Williams, ‘96, has been named a shareholder in the Lincoln law firm Harding & Schlitz. Williams has represented school districts throughout the state for over 17 years in matters regarding employment law, special education, contracts, construction, reorganization and open meetings law.

Derek Vaughn, ‘99, has been appointed to the Douglas County Court, Fourth Judicial District in Omaha by Gov. Dave Heineman. Prior to his appointment, Vaughn served as deputy county attorney in the Douglas County Attorney’s Office as a prosecutor for the Drug Court, Young Adult Court and Mental Health Division. He also has served as an adjunct instructor of Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Midland University.

2000s

Angela Dunne, ‘00, has released a second edition of her book, Divorce in Nebraska, that she co-wrote with her law partner, Susan Anne Koenig. The book, which explains the legal process for divorce, clients’ rights and what they should expect, has proven to be a model for other states. Thirteen states have published their own versions of the book, based on their states’ laws. Dunne is with the Omaha firm Koenig Dunne Divorce Law.

Robert J. Engler, ‘00, has joined the Burlington, Iowa, law firm Robberts & Kirkman. He practices in the areas of Social Security disability, workers’ compensation, personal injury, family law, mediation and criminal defense.

Todd C. Kinney, ‘00, of Kutak Rock’s Omaha office, has been admitted to partnership in the firm. His practice focuses on commercial and intellectual property litigation.

Andrew Weeks, ‘03, has joined the Lincoln law firm Satterl & Bogen as an associate attorney. Weeks has a diverse legal background with significant civil litigation and criminal trial experience.

Heather Anschutz, ‘94, has joined Amertinas in Lincoln as second vice president and associate general counsel – group division.

Stephanie Beckwith, ‘04, has been named partner for the Nebraska Regional Office of Thrivent Financial. Beckwith plays an integral role in supporting existing financial representatives as they build their practice. She also helps recruit talent to the financial representative role and help them begin their career with the organization.

Steve Williams, ‘96, has been named a shareholder in the Lincoln law firm Harding & Schlitz. Williams has represented school districts throughout the state for over 17 years in matters regarding employment law, special education, contracts, construction, reorganization and open meetings law.

Derek Vaughn, ‘99, has been appointed to the Douglas County Court, Fourth Judicial District in Omaha by Gov. Dave Heineman. Prior to his appointment, Vaughn served as deputy county attorney in the Douglas County Attorney’s Office as a prosecutor for the Drug Court, Young Adult Court and Mental Health Division. He also has served as an adjunct instructor of Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Midland University.

2000s

Angela Dunne, ‘00, has released a second edition of her book, Divorce in Nebraska, that she co-wrote with her law partner, Susan Anne Koenig. The book, which explains the legal process for divorce, clients’ rights and what they should expect, has proven to be a model for other states. Thirteen states have published their own versions of the book, based on their states’ laws. Dunne is with the Omaha firm Koenig Dunne Divorce Law.

Robert J. Engler, ‘00, has joined the Burlington, Iowa, law firm Robberts & Kirkman. He practices in the areas of Social Security disability, workers’ compensation, personal injury, family law, mediation and criminal defense.

Todd C. Kinney, ‘00, of Kutak Rock’s Omaha office, has been admitted to partnership in the firm. His practice focuses on commercial and intellectual property litigation.

Robert J. Likes, ‘00, a partner in the Omaha office of Stinson Leonard Street, has completed a yearlong program organized by the Omaha Community Foundation to earn the designation Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP).

Matthew Huss, MLS ‘01, has been named 2013 Nebraska Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. Huss, who teaches in the Psychology Department at Creighton University in Omaha, accepted his award at a luncheon at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

Jonathan D. Crosby, ‘03, has joined the Omaha law firm Vacanti Shatruck as an associate. He is in charge of the firm’s new criminal department. Crosby formerly was deputy Seward County attorney and assistant city prosecutor for Omaha.

James R. Korth, ‘03, has established The Law Offices of Reynolds, Korth & Samuelson in the former Blessing’s Food and Seed Building in Ogallala. The firm also has an office in Sidney.

Martin Malang, ‘03, and his wife Becky welcomed their son Samuel James on November 6, 2013. Samuel weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces.

Andrew Weeks, ‘03, has joined the Lincoln law firm Satterl & Bogen as an associate attorney. Weeks has a diverse legal background with significant civil litigation and criminal trial experience.

Heather Anschutz, ‘94, has joined Amertinas in Lincoln as second vice president and associate general counsel – group division.

Stephanie Beckwith, ‘04, has been named partner for the Nebraska Regional Office of Thrivent Financial. Beckwith plays an integral role in supporting existing financial representatives as they build their practice. She also helps recruit talent to the financial representative role and help them begin their career with the organization.

Stanley N. Breeder, ‘04, a partner in the Lincoln law firm Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, has been elected vice president of the board of directors for Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Jeffrey A. Gaerig, ‘04, has joined the Beatrice law firm Carlson, Schafer & Davis as an associate practicing in the areas of civil and criminal litigation. Previously he was with the Nebraska Attorney General’s Office.
Jennifer R. Growcock, ’04, has been promoted to commercial litigation shareholder with the Springfield, Mo., office of Polsinelli.

David W. Rasmussen, ’04, has been named partner at the Lincoln law firm Wolfe, Snowden, Hard, Luers & Abil. His practice concentrates on corporate law, contract negotiation and drafting, commercial and residential real estate, business transactions and estate planning.

Andrew Romatzke, ’04, has purchased Vintage Title & Escrow in Kearney. Romatzke practiced law in Kearney and worked in the title insurance industry in Omaha and Grand Island.

Amanda Dutton, ’05, and her husband have welcomed a daughter, Avery Madeline, on November 15, 2013. She weighed 6 pounds and 13 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Stephanie Mattoon, ’05, has been honored by the Omaha Jaycees with the 2013 TOYO (Ten Outstanding Young Omahans) Award for her commitment to improving the community while maintaining her position as a partner at Baird Holm.

Alisa M. Rosales, ’05, has been named director of Career and Professional Development at the University of Wyoming College of Law. She previously served as associate director of Public Service Law at DePaul University College of Law.

Luke Deaver, ’06, and his wife Becky welcomed daughter Lucy Gianna on October 17, 2013.

Leigh M. Koehn, ’06, has joined the Omaha office of Koley Jessen as an associate. Koehn focuses on intellectual property and technology law and commercial transactions.

Allyson A. Mendoza, ’07, has joined the Nebraska State Bar Association’s House of Delegates.

Jonathan Grob, ’07, has earned an LL.M. in Taxation from New York University. He is a shareholder at McGrath North in Omaha.

Nicole Seckman Jilek, ’07, has been honored by the Omaha Jaycees with the 2013 TOYO (Ten Outstanding Young Omahans) Award for her commitment to improving the community while maintaining her position as an attorney with Abrahams Kaslow & Cassman.

Bradley E. Marsicek, ’07, has opened Marsicek Law in downtown Omaha. Marsicek formerly served as an attorney in Kansas City, Mo., and Omaha. He also worked as a consultant for the State of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services where he was responsible for writing legal opinions regarding welfare benefit appeals, including SNAP and Medicaid issues.

Ann J. McGill, ’07, of Kutak Rock’s Omaha office, has been admitted to partnership in the firm. McGill concentrates her practice in the area of commercial real estate.

Michael D. Samuelson, ’07, has established The Law Offices of Reynolds, Korth & Samuelson in the former Blessing’s Food and Seed Building in Ogallala. The firm also has an office in Sidney.

Isaiah Wilson, Jr., ’07, has joined the Omaha office of Kutak Rock as an associate attorney. He practices primarily in the areas of intellectual property protection, technology law and commercial transactions.

Rodney C. Dahlquist, ’08, was elected to the Nebraska State Bar Association’s House of Delegates.

Christine Higgins-Wilcox, ’08, has been promoted by Union Bank & Trust Company in Lincoln to the position of assistant vice president, in-house counsel. Her responsibilities include providing advice and direction to bank officers and the board of directors, affiliate issues, work-out loans, third-party vendor agreements and day-to-day legal activities. She also serves as the conduit for legal work delegated to outside counsel.

Daniel J. Honz, ’08, has joined Advent, an intellectual property law firm specializing in intellectual property procurement, protection and strategy, as a patent attorney in its Omaha office.

Jesse Krause, ’08, has joined the Lincoln law firm Rembolt Ludtke. His practice focuses primarily on family law and personal injury.

John C. “Jack” Ehrich, ’09, who practices law in South Sioux City, was elected to the Nebraska State Bar Association’s House of Delegates.

Tony Essay, ’09, has been selected as a trust and fiduciary specialist with Wells Fargo Private Bank. Prior to joining Wells Fargo, Essay worked as a financial planner at Principal Financial Group in Lincoln.

2010s

Clint Cadwallader, ’10, and Erika Nickel were married on April 5, 2014, at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Omaha. Cadwallader is an associate attorney at Fraser Stryker in Omaha.

Maggie Cox, ’10, has been selected as the Omaha office of Kutak Rock as an associate attorney. Working in the intellectual property and technology group, her practice focuses on business and corporate litigation matters with an emphasis on intellectual property and patent litigation.

Morgan Davis, ’10, has been selected as a trust and fiduciary specialist with Wells Fargo Private Bank. Prior to joining Wells Fargo, Davis worked as a broker with Baird Warner in Chicago, where he specialized in helping clients find investment and residential property in downtown Chicago.

Gregory S. Frayser, ’10, and his wife Laura welcomed daughter Willa Rose on September 24, 2014. Greg is an attorney with Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather in Lincoln.

John Lentz, ’10, and his wife Lisa Marie welcomed the birth of their son Isaiah Allen on September 11, 2013. He weighed 8 pounds and 7.2 ounces. Lentz is an attorney with Lepant Law Office in Lincoln.

Tanya M. Martens, ’10, is a member of the newly-established Law Offices of Reynolds, Korth & Samuelson in the former Blessing’s Food and Seed Building in Ogallala. The firm also has an office in Sidney.

Ross R. Pesek, ’10, was honored with the 2013 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award by the Nebraska State Bar Association. The Outstanding Young Lawyer Award is presented to a young lawyer who has made exemplary contributions to the community and to public service, who actively participates in state and local bar activities and who stands out in the areas of professional knowledge, skill, integrity and courtesy. Pesek was also recognized at the Nebraska Alumni Association’s annual Alumni Awards Banquet where he received the Early Achiever Award. A personal injury and criminal defense attorney with the Omaha law firm Dornan, Lustgarten & Troia, Pesek conducts a free legal clinic on Mondays at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church for the purpose of aiding Omaha’s Latinos who are seeking legal advice. He started the True Potential Scholarship for recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (“Dream Act”), and he travels with the Mexican consulate to out-state locations to offer free legal advice about immigration and personal matters.

Michael L. Echternacht, ’11, has been named executive director at Kaneko. With the tag line “Open Spaces for Your Mind,” Kaneko is a non-profit cultural organization, exploring and encouraging the process of creativity and how it impacts our lives.

Jonathan D. Gardner, ’11, has joined the Omaha office of Kutak Rock as an associate attorney. Gardner works in technology contracting and various other matters within the litigation group.


Drew C. Sova, ’11, has joined the banking & finance team at...
at Husch Blackwell in Omaha as an associate. Previously, he served as general counsel at Omaha Title & Escrow.

Catherine Cane, ’12, has joined the Omaha office of Jackson Lewis as an associate. She represents management in all areas of labor and employment law.

Ashley Christiansen, ’12, and Christopher Di Lorenzo, ’12, were married on March 29, 2014, at Christ the King Catholic Church in Omaha. Ashley is an associate attorney at Crowly Fleck in Kalispell, Mont. Chris is an associate attorney with Moore Cockrell Goicoechea & Axelberg also in Kalispell.

Amanda M. Cusic, ’12, has joined the Lincoln Law firm Kinsey Rowe Becker & Kistler where her practice focuses on immigration, personal injury and civil litigation.

Joe Ehrich, ’12, has joined the firm Seiler & Parker in Hastings. His practice is focused mainly in estate planning, probate, corporations and real estate.

Katharine Q. Martz, ’12, has joined the Lincoln law firm Sattler & Bogen as an associate attorney. She focuses mostly on defending railroad clients.

Asher R. Ball, ’13, has joined the Omaha office of Kutak Rock as an associate attorney. Ball represents participants in the affordable housing tax credit industry, with a sizeable portion of his practice involving the representation of tax credit investors and syndicators in equity investments.

Jason D. Bring, ’13, has joined Heidman Law Firm in Sioux City as an associate attorney.

Nathan T. Burkman, ’13, has joined the Omaha office of Koley Jessen as an associate. Burkman practices in the firm’s employment, labor and benefits practice group as well as the estate and business succession planning practice group.


Heather A. Carrer, ’13, has joined the Lincoln law firm Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather. Her area of practice focuses on real estate and transactional areas.

Christopher C. Cassidy, ’13, has joined the Lincoln law firm Rembolt Ludtke as an associate. He practices in the areas of business transactions, intellectual property, real estate and tax law.

Brian Copley, ’13, has joined the Heldt & McKeone Law Offices in Lexington as a general practice attorney. His practice focuses primarily on business law, real estate law, family law and criminal defense.

Brett Ebert, ’13, has joined the Lincoln law firm Baylor Evnen Curtiss Grimit & Witt. As a member of the firm’s business and commercial and trusts and estates practice groups, her practice includes estate planning, estate administration, intellectual property, real estate law, entity formation and planning for charitable giving.

Cassidy R. Ellis, ’13, has joined the Las Vegas office of Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman. His areas of practice include commercial and business litigation, construction and product liability litigation.

Shannon E. Fallon, ’13, has joined Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather in Lincoln. Fallon works on general transactional and corporate matters.

Janelle Foltz, ’13, has been named an associate attorney with Moyer & Moyer in Madison.

Noah J. Helfin, ’13, has joined the Lincoln law firm Jackson Lewis as an associate attorney. His practice includes civil litigation, insurance defense and real estate litigation.

Caitlyn James, ’13, has been hired by Geneva State Bank as trust administrator. She oversees investments, makes trust distributions and handles tax and accounting within the trust department.

Joshua A. Johnson, ’13, has joined the Kearney law firm Conway, Pauley & Johnson as an associate. His practice focuses on immigration law, personal injury, workers’ compensation, family law and general civil litigation.

Rhianna A. Kittrell, ’13, has joined the Omaha law firm Fraser Stryker as an associate attorney. Her practice focuses on labor and employment law, employee benefits and ERISA and business and corporate law.

Alexis Kramer, ’13, has joined the Omaha office of Kutak Rock as an associate attorney. Her practice concentrates on employee benefits law, including health and welfare plans, retirement plans and qualified tuition plans.

Andrew D. Hanquist, ’13, has joined the Grand Island law firm Leininger, Smith, Johnson, Baack, Placek & Allen as an associate attorney.

Jack W. Lafleur, ’13, has become an associate with Moyer & Moyer in Madison.

David A. Voorman, ’13, has been named an associate with the Omaha law firm Larson Dugan & Murray in their litigation department.

Elizabeth Kauert, ’13, and her husband Mark welcomed Silas Paul on January 13, 2014. He joins big brother, Isaiah.

A. Bree Robbins, ’13, has been named as an associate attorney at Reagan, Melton & Delaney in LaVista. Her areas of practice include civil litigation, family law, criminal law, guardian ad litem and other areas of general practice.

Christine L. Usher, ’13, has joined the Lincoln law firm Matson-Ricketts as an associate. Her primary practice areas are probate, estate planning, real estate transactions, tax, contracts and business formations.

Noah J. Helfin, ’13, has joined the Lincoln law firm Baylor Evnen Curtiss Grimit & Witt in its litigation and commercial practice groups. His practice includes civil litigation, insurance defense and real estate litigation.

Caitlyn James, ’13, has been hired by Geneva State Bank as trust administrator. She oversees investments, makes trust distributions and handles tax and accounting within the trust department.

Joshua A. Johnson, ’13, has joined the Kearney law firm Conway, Pauley & Johnson as an associate. His practice focuses on immigration law, personal injury, workers’ compensation, family law and general civil litigation.

Alexis Kramer, ’13, has joined the Omaha office of Kutak Rock as an associate attorney. Her practice concentrates on employee benefits law, including health and welfare plans, retirement plans and qualified tuition plans.

Christopher Labenz, ’13, has joined the Lincoln certified public accounting firm Labenz Associates.

Kelli Langdon, ’13, is legal counsel for Charter Title & Escrow in its Omaha office.

Daniel S. Murow, ’13, has joined the Omaha office of Kutak Rock as an associate attorney. He practices primarily in real estate law with an emphasis on commercial leasing and real estate development and finance.

Michael Palmer, ’13, was married to Rachel Gerlach on May 25, 2013, in Parker, Colo.
Stay Connected!

Be sure to let the Alumni Relations Office know of your accomplishments, life changes and new opportunities. Alum Notes may be submitted by visiting the website (http://law.unl.edu/alumni/transcript_note.shtml) or emailing molly.brummond@unl.edu.

Max Hamilton, son of James Hamilton, '00
Kase Arganbright, son of Kurt Arganbright, '10
Henry Gonnerman, son of Laura Gonnerman, '12

“John Gradwohl was a man of enormous compassion who could not tolerate intolerance or intellectual laziness,” wrote Doug Deitchler, '70, as he reflected on the life of Professor Gradwohl in an email to The Nebraska Transcript. John Mayer Gradwohl died on February 2, 2014, in Rochester, Minn. He was 83 years old. He had served on the faculty of the College of Law for 50 years.

John received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska in 1951 and in 1953 graduated from the Law College where he served as editor of The Nebraska Law Review and was a member of the Order of the Coif. He and his wife Jan met as law students and were married in 1954, the day after her last final exam.

John served in Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) office for the Air Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio from 1954 to 1956. After receiving a Master of Laws degree from Harvard Law school in 1957, John practiced law with his father Bernard, '24, and Ed Carter until 1959 when he began his teaching career at the University of Minnesota Law School.

In 1960, John returned to the College of Law, where, until his retirement in 2011, he taught courses including Legislation, Labor Arbitration, Estate Planning, School Law and Judicial Administration. He was a challenging teacher. Wrote
Deitchler, “Through eight years of college, I had some professors who challenged me not at all, most professors who challenged me to learn, but one professor who was extraordinary in his manner of challenging me to think and to be wary of the simple and quick answer. That extraordinary person was Professor Gradwohl. John’s class was one I did not want to miss for fear of being left behind and never catching up. In John’s class, when called upon, I was never sure whether I was going to engage in dialogue or be the victim at an inquisition. In John’s class, I always wanted to be prepared and have my focal matter together (John might have expressed it differently) as his critique of my thought process was not always gentle. Although not always having an appreciation for his methods at the time, I soon understood and gained an appreciation for the fact that I not only learned law from him but that, even more importantly, I learned how to think like a lawyer and how to be a lawyer.”

In addition to teaching, John’s contributions to the Law College and the legal community were prodigious and often groundbreaking. Long before law schools came to recognize the importance of international law to their curricula and to the futures of their students, John and Jan Gradwohl were in Europe studying how legislative history was used to interpret statutes and were traveling to China and Japan where they taught courses on comparative law. With Professor Zhao Yuhong and Ling Bing, John and Jan co-authored the English/Mandarin textbook, *Criminal Trial Materials: A Comparative Study*, published in China in 1995 with funding from the Asia Foundation. Among their other writings that came out of their experiences in China, John and Jan, along with Xia Hong Wei of the Office of International Affairs at Peking University, wrote the paper, “Imaginative Cross Cultural Law Teaching Through the Use of Role Playing,” which they presented at the International Law School Deans’ Conference of Legal Education for the 21st Century in Beijing.

Long before legal materials went digital, John was instrumental in the first attempt to computerize the Nebraska statutes so they could be searched. Chancellor Harvey Perlman, ’66, who knew John as John’s student, colleague, dean and chancellor, recalled that John worked with the director of computer services to put all of the statutes on perforated cards, which they then ran through the University’s mainframe computer. “The legislature adopted the system, which was used for searching Nebraska law for several years before computers moved to digitization,” Perlman said. Professor Alan Frank remembered using John’s system to put together compilations of family law and civil procedure statutes for his classes.

Before joint degree programs and cross-disciplinary studies became vogue in legal education, John worked with Professor Dale Hayes of the Teachers College to create a joint degree program in Law and Educational Administration. One of the first students in the program was Don Uerling, ’79, retired emeritus associate professor of educational administration. Uerling had left his job as a school superintendent to join the program, which he calls “my best-ever experience as a student. I owe a lot to John and Dale.” In 2001, the *Nebraska Law Review* published a symposium on national education law dedicated to John. In the foreword to the symposium, the Honorable John M. Gerrard wrote, “It is difficult to overstate the impact Professor Gradwohl had on the development of education law in the State of Nebraska.” John was also active in facilitating interdepartmental activities with the School of Accountancy, which gave John a courtesy appointment as professor of accountancy.

Long before continuing education for lawyers became mandatory in Nebraska, John was at the forefront of continuing legal education in the state. He was a longtime supporter and leader of the Nebraska Continuing Legal Education Corporation and a founder of the Great Plains Federal Tax Institute, which celebrated its 50th consecutive year in 2012. He conceived the idea of producing the *Nebraska How to Practice* manuals in various areas of the law. In 1984, he received the Francis Rawle Award of Special Merit from the American Law Institute of the American Bar Association for his leadership role in Nebraska CLE.

Former Law College Professor David Ludtke and Professor Bill Lyons, John’s colleagues on the tax faculty, recalled that one of the many things that John did to mentor them was getting them involved in bar association and continuing legal education activities. Lyons said that “in the world of continuing legal education, John was not afraid to take a bit of a chance.” One instance was when John proposed having a representative of the Christie’s auction firm speak on estate and gift valuation of original art objects. “Some of us worried that such a presentation would have little relevance in Nebraska, but John argued that the presentation would be both useful and interesting. As usual, John was correct—the presentation was very well received.”

Ludtke recollected that John was always looking to give former students who had developed expertise in an area the opportunity to participate in CLE programs. “One of John’s most successful efforts at developing new speakers occurred while two of his students were still in school,” Ludtke said. The students had drafted estate plans using different techniques for a class, and John had them present the plans at a CLE. The students, “who did an outstanding job,” were Bryon Stone, ’83, now an accountant in Omaha, and Tom Gru, ’83, currently dean of the University of South Dakota School of Law.

Before such issues were as prominent as they are today, John foresaw, in an article in the * Transcript* in 1991, that the practice of law and the demands placed on lawyers would be quite different by 2025. Among the areas of knowledge that would be necessary for effective practice in the future would be becoming more culturally aware and informed. Accordingly, in 1991 John and Jan endowed the College of Law Minority and International Students Centennial Scholarship Fund and a scholarship that honored John’s parents, whose interest in multicultural issues and concerns began in the 1940s. In 2000, Deitchler and Ludtke announced the creation of The Access to Justice Scholarship to honor John in his 40th year of teaching.

Deitchler said recently, “John’s passion and compassion for social equity, diversity issues and equity had an impact extending well beyond the law and the law school.” Professor Catherine Wilson agreed. “I am thankful for the times I had the opportunity to listen to his insights on ensuring that the law school is a welcoming place for students of color and the outstanding work he did with multicultural students when he opened his home on countless evenings for relaxation, good conversations and laughter.”

John and Jan annually hosted at their home Triivia Night sponsored by the Multi-Cultural Legal Society and Black Law Students Association. Each year the event had a different cultural theme, such as Hispanic culture or Mardi Gras. John was also a member of the Nebraska Supreme Court/Nebraska State Bar Association Minority and Justice Task Force and of the NSBA Committee on Access to the Legal Profession.

In addition to those mentioned above, John’s work garnered him many awards and honors. His scholarship and passion for teaching were recognized when he received one of the first chairs awarded at the College of Law, the Ross McCollum Distinguished Professorship in 1985. In 2004, he was awarded the Judge Harry A. Spence Professorship. In 1993, John received the Nebraska State Bar Foundation’s Shining Light Award, which recognizes outstanding legal research conducted by a lawyer, and in 1995 he was given the organization’s Outstanding Legal Educator Award. He and Jan individually received Alumni Achievement awards from the University of Nebraska Alumni Association and were jointly recognized in 2012 by the College of Law Alumni Council with its Distinguished Alumni Award. John was also recognized for his service as a judge on the Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations from 1963 to 1972 and from 1978 to 1985.
John was a man of strong opinions. Lyons recalled that John maintained that “a professional is honest, even when the honesty is not well received by others.” In his “Busi- ness Law Prot Blog,” Professor Steve Bradford wrote, “I will never forget his willingness to identify bull!” for what it was. He even had a stamp that had bull!” on it; when a particularly egregious piece of nonsense came to him in the mail, he never hesitated to stamp it and return it to the sender.” Deitchler remembered one such occa- sion when he sent a letter to John “with an opinion he did not think highly of.” John returned the letter stamped “in red ink from his favorite rubber stamp” and added “Strong Letter to Follow.” Remark Deitchler, “Such was John’s impact on me that for the last 30 years I have been won- dering when that letter would come.”

However, what most endeared John to his colleagues and students was his kindness and helpfulness. He was a mentor to many young faculty members. Bradford’s com- ments in his blog are typical of the experiences of many: “When I came to Nebraska without a friend within 500 miles and without a clue about how to be a legal academic, John virtually adopted me and my family. We stayed at his house, and he and Jan’s grandchildren sat in our front row seats, behind home plate on the upper level at Hawks Field. We brought our scorebooks, our in- dividual copies of the rules of baseball and current stats on the players. We spent much time debating the rules applicable to particular plays, no doubt to the amusement of the various people who sat immediately behind us. We talked constantly of how to score particular plays. We dis- cussed the reasons for – and wisdom of – various rules as only lawyers who are real baseball fans would do.”

At the Law College, Gradwohl was instrumental in setting up the Mel Shinn Run – also known as “Race Judicata” – in the memory of Mel Shinn, ’66, who John described as an “outgoing individual who knew how to have a good time” and who would have found holding a sporting event in his honor very appropriate.

Most of all, John loved his family. And his family was an important part of the Law College community. In addition to his father and his wife, John’s daughter Jill Schroeder, ’84, attended Nebraska Law, as did his son-in-law, Jeff Schroeder, ’86. New his granddaughter, Shannon Schroeder, is a member of the first-year class. Shannon said that before she began her law studies, John gave her her great grandfather’s property notebook that contained his notes on some of the classic property cases that are still being taught. In one of their last conversations, John gave Shan- non tips on how to conduct her upcoming oral argument. Professor John Gradwohl never stopped teaching.

Velda Elizabeth Benda Anderson, ’38, passed away on January 3, 2014, in Lincoln at the age of 101. She was legal consultant for the State Department of Assistance and Child Welfare and an attorney for the United States Agricultural Department in the regional office in Lincoln and in Washington, D.C. From 1948–1950, she was a librarian and instructor at the College of Law.

Donald R. Ross, ’48, died on December 18, 2013, in Omaha at the age of 91. Ross served as an active and senior circuit judge on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit for 31 years. He was appointed to the court in 1973 by President Richard M. Nixon. Judge Ross was the recipient of the Her- bert Harley Award from the American Judicature Society for his “outstanding service in promoting the administration of justice.” He entered the Army Air Corps in 1942 and flew 46 missions as the lead bomb- bardier with the 306th Bomb Group from 1943–45. He was promoted to major and was twice awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Ross practiced law in Lexington with Cook & Ross and was elected mayor of Lexington in 1953. He was appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as U.S. Attorney for Nebraska and served from 1953–56. He practiced law with Swave, May, Royce, Smith, Anderson & Ross in Omaha from 1956–71. He served as vice president and general counsel for ConAgra from 1969–71.

Lee C. White, ’50, died on October 31, 2013, in Bethesda, Md. He was 90 years old. White was assis- tant special counsel to President John F. Kennedy and special counsel to President Lyndon B. Johnson and was instrumental in the preparation of civil rights legislation during both administrations. White began his career with the Tennessee Valley Authority and remained a legal expert in utilities throughout his life. He served as chairman of the Federal Power Commission, predecessor to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He was of counsel to the Washington, D.C., firm Spiegel & McDermid at the time of his death. He and others had started the now-disbanded law firm White, Fine & Verville in 1973 in Washington, D.C. His autobiography, Government for the People: Reflections of a White House Counsel to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, was published in 2005.

John Remine “Dugie” Doyle, ’51, died on August 28, 2013, at the age of 88. He was a navy pilot during World War II and served on the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga in the Pacific Fleet. After taking enemy fire during a bombing mission, he was missing in action in the Philippines before being picked up by a Navy seaplane. He was awarded the Navy Cross for his military service. He was a Ne- braska lawyer and a national leader in alcoholic rehabilitation.

Wayne R. Douce, ’52, passed away on November 2, 2013, in York, Pa. He was 85 years old. After graduation from the Law College, Douce achieved the rank of first lieutenant in the Air Force working as an assistant staff judge advocate at Perrin Air Force Base in Denison, Texas. Upon the completion of his military service, Douce returned to Lincoln where he joined the City Attorney’s office and subsequently became deputy city
attorney. In 1956, he was hired as department attorney for the Nebraska Department of Insurance. In 1961, he began his service as general counsel for Guarantee Mutual Life Insurance Company in Omaha. He held this position for 29 years until he retired as senior vice president, general counsel and secretary in 1990.


Claude E. Berreckman, ’61, died on September 28, 2013, in Cozad. He was 80 years old. He was a member of the U.S. Marine Corps serving for two years in the Korean War. Berreckman opened his own law practice in 1961 in Cozad. In 1983, the firm became Berreckman & Berreckman, when his son, Claude Jr., ’83, joined him in practice. When the firm added Brian Davis, ’04, in 2004, and the firm became Berreckman & Davis.

Earl J. Wirthoff, ’61, died on February 16, 2014, at the age of 79. Wirthoff was a former Lancaster County District Court judge having been appointed to the position by Gov. Kay Orr. Wirthoff served as a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Adjutant General Corps as attorney and counselor of the U.S. Court of Military Appeals. In 1964, he joined the Lincoln firm Perry, Perry & Perry and later became an attorney and counselor of the U.S. Court of Claims. He was also an adjunct professor with the UNL College of Business Administration.

Ralph O. Canaday, Jr., ’63, passed away on February 20, 2014, at the age of 82. He worked for the Department of Interior in the Solicitor’s Office in Lakewood, Colo., until his retirement.

Richard R. Wood, ’64, of Lincoln passed away on December 2, 2013, at the age of 76. He served in the U.S. Army Judge Adjutant General Corps as attorney and counselor of the U.S. Court of Military Appeals. In 1964, he was named chief of the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, which later became the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the Department of Interior. He retired in 1981.

Earl J. Witthoff, ’61, died on February 16, 2014, at the age of 79. Witthoff was a former Lancaster County District Court judge having been appointed to the position by Gov. Kay Orr. Wirthoff served as a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Adjutant General Corps as attorney and counselor of the U.S. Court of Military Appeals. In 1964, he joined the Lincoln firm Perry, Perry & Perry and later became an attorney and counselor of the U.S. Court of Claims. He was also an adjunct professor with the UNL College of Business Administration.

Ralph O. Canaday, Jr., ’63, passed away on February 20, 2014, at the age of 82. He worked for the Department of Interior in the Solicitor’s Office in Lakewood, Colo., until his retirement.

Richard R. Wood, ’64, of Lincoln passed away on December 2, 2013, at the age of 76. He served in the U.S. Army, where he achieved the rank of infantry captain. After his military service, he began his legal career that included serving for five years as the city attorney for Lincoln and 29 years as vice president and general counsel of the University of Nebraska.

Claude E. Berreckman, ’61, died on September 28, 2013, in Cozad. He was 80 years old. He was a member of the U.S. Marine Corps serving for two years in the Korean War. Berreckman opened his own law practice in 1961 in Cozad. In 1983, the firm became Berreckman & Berreckman, when his son, Claude Jr., ’83, joined him in practice. When the firm added Brian Davis, ’04, in 2004, and the firm became Berreckman & Davis.

Earl J. Wirthoff, ’61, died on February 16, 2014, at the age of 79. Wirthoff was a former Lancaster County District Court judge having been appointed to the position by Gov. Kay Orr. Wirthoff served as a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Adjutant General Corps as attorney and counselor of the U.S. Court of Military Appeals. In 1964, he joined the Lincoln firm Perry, Perry & Perry and later became an attorney and counselor of the U.S. Court of Claims. He was also an adjunct professor with the UNL College of Business Administration.

Ralph O. Canaday, Jr., ’63, passed away on February 20, 2014, at the age of 82. He worked for the Department of Interior in the Solicitor’s Office in Lakewood, Colo., until his retirement.

Richard R. Wood, ’64, of Lincoln passed away on December 2, 2013, at the age of 76. He served in the U.S. Army, where he achieved the rank of infantry captain. After his military service, he began his legal career that included serving for five years as the city attorney for Lincoln and 29 years as vice president and general counsel of the University of Nebraska.

1960s

Claude E. Berreckman, ’61, died on September 28, 2013, in Cozad. He was 80 years old. He was a member of the U.S. Marine Corps serving for two years in the Korean War. Berreckman opened his own law practice in 1961 in Cozad. In 1983, the firm became Berreckman & Berreckman, when his son, Claude Jr., ’83, joined him in practice. When the firm added Brian Davis, ’04, in 2004, and the firm became Berreckman & Davis.

Earl J. Wirthoff, ’61, died on February 16, 2014, at the age of 79. Wirthoff was a former Lancaster County District Court judge having been appointed to the position by Gov. Kay Orr. Wirthoff served as a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Adjutant General Corps as attorney and counselor of the U.S. Court of Military Appeals. In 1964, he joined the Lincoln firm Perry, Perry & Perry and later became an attorney and counselor of the U.S. Court of Claims. He was also an adjunct professor with the UNL College of Business Administration.

Ralph O. Canaday, Jr., ’63, passed away on February 20, 2014, at the age of 82. He worked for the Department of Interior in the Solicitor’s Office in Lakewood, Colo., until his retirement.

Richard R. Wood, ’64, of Lincoln passed away on December 2, 2013, at the age of 76. He served in the U.S. Army, where he achieved the rank of infantry captain. After his military service, he began his legal career that included serving for five years as the city attorney for Lincoln and 29 years as vice president and general counsel of the University of Nebraska.

1970s

Stanley M. Talcott, ’71, died on December 11, 2013, at his home in Maitland, Fla. He was 71. After several years of private practice, he became director of Continuing Legal Education at the University of Puget Sound School of Law (now Seattle University School of Law) in addition to serving as an adjunct professor. In 1980, he was named assistant dean at the University of Denver School of Law, directing the program of advanced professional development and teaching trial practice. He was then appointed as a special assistant to the general counsel of the United States Equal Opportunity Commission in Washington, D.C. In 1997, he was named associate dean at the University of Orlando School of Law. He became the dean in 1998 and was the founding dean when the school became Barry University School of Law. After his tenure as dean ended in 2003, he remained on the faculty until 2012 teaching Trial Advocacy, Evidence and Opinion and Scientific Evidence.

Michael M. Hroch, ’72, died on November 5, 2013, at the age of 67, in Omaha. Upon graduation from the Law College, Hroch joined his father working at the Bank of Wilber. He subsequently opened a law practice in Wilber, where he practiced law until 1996, when he semi-retired. He then began working at the First Tri-City Bank in Swanson. In 2003, Hroch resumed his law career full-time and joined the Wilbur law firm Steinacher, Vosoba, Hanson & Kuntz. He became a partner in 2002 at the law firm F Hanson, Hroch & Kuntz, where he practiced until his death.

George E. Brugh, ’72, passed away on December 15, 2013, in York. He was 67 years old. He practiced law in York from 1972 to 2013.

David Bush, ’74, passed away on February 9, 2014, in Grand Island following a battle with cancer. He was 65 years old. Bush served as Hall County judge for 24 years after having been appointed to the position by Gov. Kay Orr. He first worked in corporate law in Lincoln and then served for three years in the Lincoln County Attorney’s Office. He was in private practice in North Platte until he moved to Grand Island in 1980 as a defense attorney at Shamberg & Wolf. Bush’s highest-profile case was the defense of Charles Jess Palmer, who was convicted of murdering a Grand Island coin dealer during a robbery.

Helen Kalin Klanderud, ’91, passed away on October 3, 2013, in Denver, Colo., at the age of 76. She was the mayor of Aspen from 2001-2007 and the first female Pitkin County commissioner from 1981-1987. She was actively involved in several organizations, including the Aspen Counseling Center, the Aspen Homeless Center, Alpine Legal Services and The Right Door, which is a drug and alcohol counseling service.

Jeffrey Todd Forrest, ’94, of Black Forest, Colo., died on January 18, 2014, at the age of 45. He was a certified counselor at Hazelden for the treatment of alcohol and drug addiction in Center City, Minn.

John G. Taylor, ’95, passed away on January 29, 2014, in Lincoln from complications of Type 1 diabetes. He was 61 years old. Prior to entering the College of Law, Taylor served as director of ACLU Nebraska. After graduation, he opened his own law firm specializing in wills and estates. He continued his practice until 2004.

Sandra Jo Clark, ’01, died on October 4, 2013, in a vehicle accident near Crawford, Neb. She was 43 years old. Clark was working as a real estate attorney at Phillips County Abstract office in Phillipsburg, Kan., at the time of her death.

Shane C. Siebert, ’03, died on February 20, 2014, at the age of 39. He was a member of Nebraska Diplomats. He suffered a cerebral aneurysm in 2009.

Faculty and Staff

Cheryl A. Lorentzen Graham, died suddenly on January 2, 2014 in Lincoln. She was 61. She worked for the College of Law’s Schmid Law Library in accounting and acquisitions from March 2007 until her death.
We are grateful for the approximately 1,400+ hours that these individuals gave the College between January 1 and December 31, 2013.

Each spring, The Nebraska Transcript recognizes alumni and friends who have given their time to the College of Law during the previous year. This Annual Volunteer Report recognizes the time given to the College between January 1 and December 31, 2013. We are pleased to report that more than 1,400 volunteer hours were given to the College and its students in 2013.

Considerable care has gone into the preparation of this report. Each friend’s time is valued and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the Annual Volunteer Report. Please bring any errors or omissions to the attention of Molly Brummond at 402-472-8375 or molly.brummond@unl.edu.

For this publication, we have honored individual requests from donors as to how they wish their names to appear on annual reports. If you would like your name to appear in a way different from how it appears in this report, please contact Becki Collins at 1-800-432-3216 or bcollins@nufoundation.org.

Alumni Volunteers

1950s
Duane Acklie, ’55  
Deryl Hamann, ’58

1960s
Richard Schmoker, ’64  
A. James McArthur, ’66  
Earl Scudder, ’66  
Kile Johnson, ’69

1970s
Judge Everett Inbody, ’70  
E. Benjamin Nelson, ’70  
Douglas C. Nelson, ’71  
Jeffrey Curtiss, ’72  
David Landis, ’72  
William Austin, ’73  
Kirk Brown, ’73  
Dennis Burnett, ’73  
Doug Curry, ’73  
Justice Kenneth Stephon, ’73  
Edward Tricker, ’73  
Judge Graten Beavers, ’74  
Bill Dittrick, ’74  
Wayne Kreuscher, ’74  
Gregory Stejskal, ’74  
Matt Williams, ’74  
Robin Abrams, ’75  
Kelley Baker, ’75  
Chief Justice Michael Heavican, ’75  
Brian Ridenour, ’75  
Pamela Ridenour, ’75  
Robert Battle, ’76  
Eugene Crump, ’76  
June Edwards, ’76  
Judge Teresa Luther, ’76  
Tim Shaw, ’76  
Justice William Cassel, ’77  
Deborah Gilg, ’77  
Patricia Herstein, ’77

1980s
Debora Brownyard, ’80  
Doug Cuy, ’80  
Ann Larson, ’80  
Ann O’Hara, ’80  
Don Swanson, ’80  
Kathy Bellman, ’81  
Judge James Doyle, ’81  
Judge Robert Otte, ’81  
Jerry Pigsley, ’81  
Susan Ugai, ’81  
David Hubbard, ’82  
Mary Wenzl, ’82  
Sue Andersen, ’83  
Jan Beran, ’83  
Tom Keefe, ’83  
Claudia Lange, ’83  
John C. Hewitt, ’83  
Robert Fargher, ’83  
Joy Shiffermiller, ’83  
Sara Fullerton, ’86  
Tom Huston, ’86  
Mark Krieger, ’86  
Susan Tast, ’86  
John Amann, ’87  
John Anderson, ’87  
Col. Gary Brown, ’87  

1990s
Krista Kester, ’90  
Emily Campbell, ’91  
Michael Pallesen, ’91  
Linda Sanchez-Masi, ’91  
Judge Stephanie Stacy, ’91  
Judge Riko Bishop, ’92  
Mark Fehlerson, ’92  
Sam Holman, ’92  
Kathleen Neary, ’92  
Mark Spiers, ’92  
Gail Stien, ’92  
Laurie Meyers, ’93  
Sally Brashears, ’93  
Dan Alberts, ’94  
Dr. Victoria Weisz, ’94  
Lori Maret, ’95  
Jeff Patterson, ’95  
Jayne Sebby, ’95  
Reginald Young, ’95  
Jon Cannon, ’96  
Carl Eskridge, ’96  
Ben Harris, ’96  
Darren Huskinson, ’96  
Duane Austria, ’97  
Fred Campbell, ’97  
Jim Gordon, ’97  
Jeff Kirkpatrick, ’97  
Jeanette Stull, ’97  
Holly Parsley, ’98  
Dr. Marc Pearce, ’99  

2000s
Damon Barry, ’00  
Jodi Fenner, ’00  

1950s
Mike Klein, ’77  
Judge Laurie Smith-Camp, ’77  
Lynn Hendrix, ’78  
John Jerkin, ’78  
Larry Scherer, ’78  
Barbara Schafer, ’78  
Anna Stehlhik, ’78  
Dennis Weibling, ’78  
Richard Berkshire, ’79  
Patricia S. Peterson, ’79

Michael Dunlap, ’89  
Stephen Henning, ’89  
Robert Kortus, ’89  
Sharon McInay, ’89

Michael Pallesen, ’91  
Linda Sanchez-Masi, ’91  
Judge Stephanie Stacy, ’91  
Judge Riko Bishop, ’92  
Mark Fehlerson, ’92  
Sam Holman, ’92  
Kathleen Neary, ’92  
Mark Spiers, ’92  
Gail Stien, ’92  
Laurie Meyers, ’93  
Sally Brashears, ’93  
Dan Alberts, ’94  
Dr. Victoria Weisz, ’94  
Lori Maret, ’95  
Jeff Patterson, ’95  
Jayne Sebby, ’95  
Reginald Young, ’95  
Jon Cannon, ’96  
Carl Eskridge, ’96  
Ben Harris, ’96  
Darren Huskinson, ’96  
Duane Austria, ’97  
Fred Campbell, ’97  
Jim Gordon, ’97  
Jeff Kirkpatrick, ’97  
Jeanette Stull, ’97  
Holly Parsley, ’98  
Dr. Marc Pearce, ’99

Damon Barry, ’00  
Jodi Fenner, ’00
CORRECTION: Each fall, The Nebraska Transcript features an Annual Giving Report. In the Fall 2013 edition, the following individuals were inadvertently omitted from the report for gifts made during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. We deeply appreciate these gifts and apologize for the inadvertent omissions.

Mr. Frank L. Labrador, ’87
Mr. James Nearthood, ’76
## Calendar of Events

### May 2014
- **May 1**
  - Omaha #Throwback Thursday Coffee, 7:30 a.m., Delice European Bakery & Cafe
- **May 10**
  - Family Traditions Ceremony, 1:30 p.m., Lied Center for Performing Arts
- **May 10**
  - Commencement, 3:00 p.m., Lied Center for Performing Arts Featured Speaker: Terri Minatta, general counsel for NPR
- **May 14**
  - Columbus Area Alumni CLE & Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Duster’s
- **May 14**
  - Norfolk Area Alumni CLE & Reception, 4:00 p.m.,

### June 2014
- **June 5**
  - Omaha #Throwback Thursday Coffee, 7:30 a.m., Delice European Bakery & Cafe

### July 2014
- **July 3**
  - Omaha #Throwback Thursday Coffee, 7:30 a.m., Delice European Bakery & Cafe
- **July 28**
  - Scottsbluff Alumni Reception, TBD
- **July 29**
  - Ogallala Alumni Lunch, TBD

### August 2014
- **August 7**
  - Omaha #Throwback Thursday Coffee, 7:30 a.m., Delice European Bakery & Café
- **August 20-21**
  - 1L Orientation

### September 2014
- **September 4**
  - Omaha #Throwback Thursday Coffee, 7:30 a.m., Delice European Bakery & Café
- **September 5**
  - Annual Institute on the Survey of the Law
- **September 26-27**
  - Alumni Reunions

## Contributors

**Spring 2014, Vol. 47 No. 1**

- **Dean**
  - Susan Poser
- **Editors**
  - Alan H. Frank, Professor of Law
  - Molly M. Brummond, ’03, Assistant Dean of Student & Alumni Relations and Annual Giving
- **Student Editors**
  - Emily Anderson, ’15
  - Ryan Patrick, ’15
- **Contributors**
  - Richard Leiter, Professor of Law and Director of Schmid Law Library
  - Matthew Schaefer, Law Alumni Professor of Law and Director of Space, Cyber & Telecom Law Program
  - Tasha Everman, ’02, Assistant Dean of Career Services
  - Lori Peterson, Alumni Relations Events and Communications Specialist
  - Elizabeth Magillot, ’12, Executive Director of Space, Cyber & Telecom Law Programs and U.S. Legal Studies LL.M. Program
  - Layout & Design
    - Zarulu Design, LLC
  - Photographers
    - Craig Chandler, University Communications
    - Bambi King, Nebraska Law
    - Keri Leece, Zarulu Design, LLC
    - Bob Olson, The Pictureman

Long for your law school days? Wish you could relive those glory days? Or, perhaps that’s a stretch. How about connecting and reconnection with fellow alumni?

**#ThrowbackThursday Coffee**

Join us the 1st Thursday of every month for coffee & connections.

Delice European Bakery & Cafe
Midtown Crossing
3201 Farnam Street Ste 6112
Omaha, NE 68131
Alumni Reunion Weekend
September 26-27, 2014
Huskers v. Illinois
Honor Class Years: 1959, 1964, 1969,
2004, 2009

Details at:
http://law.unl.edu/reunion.shtml