“Engagement”

Message from Dean Rosato

Many of our accomplishments over the last few years have been achieved through engagement and collaboration of many constituencies, including our devoted alumni and friends of NIU. This engagement has made so much possible -- including greater opportunities for our students, for professional development, job placement, experiential education, and mentoring. This year we will continue our focus on engagement in three important areas: the University, the region, and alumni.

The University: the richness of our University gives us opportunities for valuable collaborations in programs, joint degrees, and “pipeline” programs. I have been meeting with each of the University deans this summer to prioritize the collaborations that will have impact and provide benefits to students, the colleges, and the University as a whole. We will build on the joint efforts that already exist, including the JD/MPA and JD/MBA programs, the BS/JD joint degree with the College of Engineering, and the certificate in women’s studies.

The Region: we are proud to be the only public law school in Northern Illinois and to serve this community in a variety of ways. Our engagement with the region will include expanding experiential learning opportunities for our students: in clinics, externships, and pro bono projects. By expanding these hands-on opportunities for our students, we not only provide valuable training and experiences for them, we also improve access to much-needed legal services. We will be building on collaborations, including recent projects with the Illinois Innocence Project, Hesed House, and Hope Haven. Our reach is broad and provides ways to expand access to legal services.

Alumni: our renewed engagement with alumni began with my “sneaker tour” three years ago. We have come a long way since then, especially through our efforts with the Board of Visitors (BOV) and Alumni Council (AC). Those efforts will continue with more engagement of alumni, as the BOV and AC are collaborating on a class agent project that will have all classes well-represented and enthusiastically attending events, mentoring students, and recruiting the next generation of NIU Law alumni.

The engagement of NIU Law with the University, region, and alumni is vital to its success. I look forward to working with you in enhancing NIU Law while remaining true to its core values.

All the best,

Dean Rosato

NIU Law Named a Tuition Winner

NIU Law was named as one of the top law schools in the nation for minimizing tuition inflation according to preLaw magazine in its Spring 2012 issue. The College was represented on a list of “Tuition Winners” based on the lowest tuition increases by dollar amount of all law schools in the United States.

The study tracked tuition figures from 2000 to 2010 and NIU Law was noted for being able to limit tuition increases to less than $10,000 during that ten-year span.

“As the only public law school in the Chicagoland area, NIU is committed to keeping law school tuition affordable to ensure talented students access to a top-notch legal education,” remarked Dean Jennifer Rosato. In 2010, the College was on preLaw’s list of the Best Value Law Schools.

Dean Rosato Receives Impresa Award

Dean Rosato was honored as a 2012 Impresa Award recipient by the Women’s Division of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans (JCCIA). The award honors women from the Chicago Italian American community who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments during their lifetime. The program was held at the world-class Medinah Country Club on August 18, 2012.
NIU Law Launches New Certificate Programs

With the approval of two new certificate programs: Certificate in Criminal Practice and Certificate in Civil Advocacy, students will have the opportunity to focus their legal education toward concentrations that build on existing strengths at NIU Law. These specialized certificate programs will continue the law school’s long-standing commitment to seamless integration of skills throughout the curriculum, and creating strong, “holistically trained” lawyers prepared for any practice setting. The certificates thoughtfully integrate three aspects of the program. Students will need to 1) complete certain required coursework to provide a strong foundation in the area; 2) fulfill a required capstone course such as an externship or clinical experience; and 3) participate in an extracurricular or co-curricular legal skill development activity - including moot court competitions and pro bono service. The programs will be augmented by valuable capstone opportunities, such as an externship with the Illinois Innocence Project and the Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic, which centers on domestic violence/elder law and juvenile justice issues.

The programs will go into effect for the Class of 2014. Students who successfully complete the requirements will receive the certificate notation on their law school transcripts. Plans are also in place to expand the certificate programs to include additional concentrations in the future.

Certificate in Criminal Practice
& Certificate in Civil Advocacy

NIU Law Welcomes the Class of 2015
Justice Kilbride Administers Oath of Professionalism

The Class of 2015 arrived on August 13 and spent orientation week forging relationships with their colleagues, getting to know faculty and staff, attending networking events, and listening to advice from students and alumni on how to succeed in law school. The week was also highlighted by an address from Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride who spoke on the importance of maintaining civility and devotion to the public good in all legal practice, as well as holding up the rule of law as an ideal to be pursued and something in which to take pride. He then administered the Oath of Professionalism, as they committed themselves to moral and ethical constancy in pursuit of their legal degree and throughout their careers.

Murer Professionalism Series Opens With Controversial Alton Logan Case

The Murer Professionalism Series for first-year law students began on September 12 with attorney Harold J. Winston, who addressed attorney-client confidentiality issues with an inside look into the nationally publicized and highly controversial Alton Logan case.

Winston, a Cook County Public Defender, is best known for his efforts which resulted in overturning the murder conviction of Logan who spent 26 years in prison for a murder he did not commit. In 2007, two attorneys revealed that their former client had admitted committing the crime and that attorney-client privilege had kept them from coming forward until the man died.

Winston delivered the first lecture as part of the “Introduction to the Legal Profession” series sponsored by Cherilyn (’78) and Michael Murer. The program for first-year students integrates professionalism into the curriculum by featuring nationally-recognized practitioners and scholars discussing cutting-edge legal issues.
Alumnus Jeffrey Lenkov (‘91) Shares his Secrets of Success

Prominent entertainment law attorney Jeffrey Lenkov (’91), a partner in the L.A. firm of Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez, Trester LLP stopped by his alma mater on September 19, 2012. During his visit, Jeffrey spoke to the Entertainment Law class, had lunch with Dean Rosato and the student recipients of his Abe Lenkov Scholarship, and spoke to the student body. Using his own experiences, Jeffrey’s presentation to the students, “Using Your NIU Law Degree for Success,” was a motivational and instructional call to action. According to Jeffrey, the secret is simple - “Lawyer Math 101: Great legal services equals results and client relations.” In addition to hard work, he stressed the importance of professional networking, getting to know your clients, self-marketing, and creating a brand for oneself.

Bridge to Bar Scholarships Awarded

The Kenneth and Ellen Chessick Bridge to the Bar Scholarship was awarded in May to five outstanding law students. Pictured with Kenneth (‘84) and Ellen Chessick are (from left) Sania Merchant (‘12), Alia Choudhury (‘12), Nareman Abdallah (‘12), Jeffrey Brown (‘12), and Corey Sealy (‘12). They were the first students to receive the scholarships established by the Chessicks. The Bridge to the Bar Scholarship provided each recipient with $5,000 to help defray their costs of living for the summer while preparing for the bar exam. Because of the Chessicks’ generosity, the scholarship fund will continue to expand and the number of scholarships will increase over the next two years.

CLASS REUNIONS
being held for the

Classes of
1982
1987
1992
1997
2002
2007

Friday, October 26, 2012
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Harry Caray’s
Lombard, IL

$25 includes drinks, hors d’oeuvres, dinner, and live music.
Registration and additional details at www.niu.edu/law

Register by October 19th
NIU Law Tees Off with Annual Golf Outing and Awards Dinner

Alumni and friends enjoyed a perfect day on the greens at the 8th Annual Golf Outing and Awards Dinner on Friday, June 8, 2012, at River Heights Golf Course in DeKalb, IL. The outing was a huge success thanks to the golfers and sponsors whose donations will help support the NIU Law Alumni Council Scholarship program and other programming events for students.

Following the golf outing, the NIU Law Alumni Council recognized distinguished alumni and friends of the College of Law who were honored for their career accomplishments, devotion to the public good, and continued service to the law school. This year’s group of illustrious honorees come from the public and private sectors and are all dedicated to the communities they serve.

Alumni Admitted to the United States Supreme Court Bar

NIU Law alumni and guests were admitted to the bar of the United States Supreme Court on May 21, 2012. The amazing day started at the Supreme Court with a private continental breakfast hosted by NIU Law Professor Mark Cordes for the eight inductees and their guests. The unforgettable swearing-in ceremony was conducted by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., and alumnus Abel Smith (’89) served as the movant for the group.

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The 2012 Alumni Council award recipients included (from left): George Shur, Honorary Law Alumnus Award; Hon. Carmen Goodman (’95), Distinguished Service Award; Vickie Gillio, Mentor of the Year Award; John Monical (’94), Outstanding Service Award; Tom Kelly (’05), Young Alumnus of the Year; and Professor Yolanda King, Outstanding Professor Award pictured with Dean Rosato, Alumni Council VP Kenya Jenkins (’01), and Awards Chair Stacey Mandell (’96). Not pictured are award recipients Kenneth C. Chessick (’84), Alumnus of the Year; Ellen Chessick, Honorary Law Alumna Award; and Maureen Josh, Public Service Award.
Ben Roe (‘00) Receives Outstanding Alumni Award

John B. “Ben” Roe (‘00) was honored as the 2012 recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award for the College of Law. Roe is the state’s attorney of Ogle County, Illinois, having been elected in 2004 and re-elected in 2008. As state’s attorney, he has developed and implemented numerous ground-breaking initiatives for Ogle County including a domestic violence response protocol, juvenile diversion and detention alternative programming, an adult drug court, and a juvenile drug court. As a trailblazer in juvenile crime policy, he serves on several state and national commissions, committees, and boards related to juvenile reform including the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice.

Honoring Alumni in the Judiciary

November 7, 2012
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Gibsons Steakhouse
1028 N. Rush Street,
Chicago, IL

Join us as we celebrate NIU Law Alumni in the Judiciary. With the recent addition of several new judges, we now have 79 alumni judges (sitting and retired) across the country.

Congratulations to the following alumni who were elected or appointed in 2011 and 2012.

Hon. Marcy L. Buick (‘90)
16th Judicial Circuit, IL

Hon. Kathryn D. Karayannis (‘88)
16th Judicial Circuit, IL

Hon. Diann K. Marsalek (‘89)
Circuit Court of Cook County, IL

Hon. Jon M. Theisen (‘99)
Circuit Court in Eau Claire County, WI

Hon. John C. Redington (‘90)
15th Judicial Circuit, IL

Hon. Cheryl Traum (‘98)
District Court of Iowa

“Interdisciplinarity: How Can This Approach Help Resolve the Most Complex Health Care Issues of Our Time?”

Monday, October 29, 2012
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
NIU – Naperville Campus
1120 E. Diehl Road,
Naperville, IL

Join colleagues in the disciplines of Business, Engineering, Health/ Human Sciences, and Law to explore important strategies for applying interdisciplinarity to health care issues such as patient safety, compliance, and patient satisfaction.

Designed for health care administrators, health care providers, lawyers, and academics, the keynote for this workshop is Lawrence O. Gostin, Director of the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, University Professor at Georgetown University, and a well-known expert on collaborative approaches. Also featured is Jane L. Holl, MD, MPH, Director of the Center for Healthcare Studies & Center for Education in Public Health at Northwestern University, sharing her expertise on patient safety.

Fee: $50 includes breakfast, lunch, and 5.5 CLE Hours.

Visit www.niu.edu/law for details and registration.
Over 140 runners and walkers participated in Race NIJUdicata: 5K Run/Walk in DeKalb, IL, on April 21, 2012.

Motion for a Speedy Finish takes the top Team prize. Matt Jakobsze ('11), Omar Salguero ('12), Christina Chojnacki ('11), and Phillip Lee ('12).

Mallory Sanzeri ('14) runs away with the overall fastest female and top female student awards.

The Dean's Team included (from left) Professor Mark Cordes, Kenya Wright ('01), Professor Robert Jones, Dean Rosato, and Ed Underhill ('84, not pictured).
NIU Law Events

Illinois Bar Swearing In Ceremony - May 10, 2012
Elgin, IL

NIU Law Reception - May 20, 2012
The Holiday Inn in Washington, D.C.

Class of 2012 Ceremonial Hat Toss

Golf Outing - June 8, 2012
River Heights Golf Course in DeKalb, IL

Dave & Buster’s in Chicago, IL

Golf Outing - June 8, 2012
River Heights Golf Course in DeKalb, IL

Soldier Field Showdown - September 1, 2012
 Soldier Field in Chicago, IL
2012 Calendar of Events

October

16 Peoria Reception, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Jim’s Steakhouse, Peoria, IL

26 Class Reunions  
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Harry Caray’s  
Lombard, IL

29 Interdisciplinary Workshop on Health Care  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., NIU-Naperville  
Naperville, IL

November

7 NIU Law Judges’ Reception  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.,  
Gibsons Steakhouse, Chicago, IL

December

14 NIU Law Board of Visitors Reception  
(held during ISBA Mid-Year)  
4:30 - 6:00 p.m., Chicago Sheraton  
Chicago, IL

Please visit www.niu.edu/law  
for updated event information.  
Be sure to join us on Facebook and LinkedIn!