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Banners hanging in the Keller Hall atrium
express the Marianist characteristics of
mission, inclusivity, community, faith
and Mary.
Making law school worth it

Today, law schools face very serious challenges. Some people—posing tough questions about jobs, starting salaries and the cost of legal education—openly wonder whether traditional legal education offers a good return on investment.

The University of Dayton School of Law is addressing these challenges. Our faculty members consider new ideas and new approaches to legal education. We remain open to change, and we’re doing everything reasonably within our power to prepare our students to take the bar exam and be successful in their job searches. As technology changes the nature of law practice and higher education, creating new demands on how schools prepare students, we will work to ensure that we update how and what we teach to meet these demands.

Change is inevitable, but we must also celebrate what we value and preserve. We have dedicated faculty members working very hard on bar passage, as well as a career services staff working tirelessly with individual students on job placement. Indeed, according to employment data published in a recent issue of The Ohio Lawyer magazine, we rank ahead of six of Ohio’s seven public law schools when it comes to placement of grads in full-time law jobs. In addition, our externship program continues to provide students with practical work experiences and opportunities to network with potential employers.

As I have worked with students, staff and faculty, and met with alumni in Dayton and across the country, I have witnessed a student body. So when I was deciding not just where I would work, but where my family and I would live, it was important to find a place rich in community, a place where we felt comfortable and welcomed. The University of Dayton School of Law is just that place.

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News from Keller Hall

2012 ALUMNI WEEKEND
May 18 & 19

ALUMNI WEEKEND — AWARDS, REUNIONS AND FUN

Four individuals in the School of Law community were honored at Alumni Weekend, May 13 and 14, 2011.

TERRY MILLER ’77 received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Miller, the general counsel of the London 2012 Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympics Games, oversees the legal team that provides guidance for the operations of the games. The Distinguished Alumni Award is given annually to a graduate who exemplifies both professional integrity and a commitment to community service.

HELENA MARCULEWICZ, the executive director of the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project, received the Helenka Marculewicz prize. Marculewicz, who graduated from Boston University in 1967, has helped to provide service to more than 1,600 cases a year. The Honorable Walter H. Rice Honorary Alumni Award is presented to an individual who has not graduated from the University of Dayton.

THOMAS HURNEY JR. ’83 received the Francis J. Conte Special Service Award, which recognizes an individual’s dedication to Marianist values and community service. Since his graduation, Hurney has remained involved with the School of Law and regularly interviews students on behalf of his law firm, Jackson Kelly in Charleston, W.Va.

JEFF REZABEK ’90 was the recipient of the Steven E. Yuhas Alumni Special Service Award. Rezabek, an active member of the School of Law’s Alumni Association, was commended by association president judge Mary Kate Huffman ’90: “He is always there for his community, for the law school and for the students.” The Steven E. Yuhas Alumni Special Service Award is presented to a School of Law graduate for exceptional involvement in the Alumni Association.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

Students Jonathan Hall and DJ Seawright earned the title of North American champions of international space law in a moot court competition in March. … Becky Boright McClennen ’11, who was chosen to be a student member of the American Bankruptcy Law Forum, received a Certificate of Excellence in Bankruptcy from the American Bankruptcy Institute for excelling in the study of bankruptcy law.

Foley, Cole retire

Between them, campus minister Sister Mary Louise Foley, F.M.I., and registrar Linda Cole had compiled nearly half a century of service to the School of Law when they retired this summer. Of the students she served, Foley said, “They help people have a voice.” Cole, who sometimes went to her job as handling cats or counting chickens, said as retirement approached, “This chick is getting ready to leave the nest.”

IN THE NEWS

Theodore Hofmeister, associate professor of law, explained whether the “CSI effect” swayed jurors in the Casey Anthony trial in an opinion article published on CNN.com. He wrote that programs such as CSI, Crime Scene Investigation are thought by many prosecutors and legal analysts to create unreasonable expectations for juries deciding cases in the real world. Within the first six hours of being posted, the article received more than 200 comments and nearly 400 Facebook recommendations.

Dean Paul E. McGreal was interviewed by Voice of America and on CNN and C-SPAN. Muñiz’s website about the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in Brown v. Entertainment Merchants Association, which struck down a California law that criminalized the sale of violent video-games to minors.

Jeff Morris, the Samuel A. McCray Chair in Law, was extensively quoted in an article on ESPN.com analyzing the status of a $1 billion lawsuit against New York Mets owner Fred Wilpon and family to the Bernard Madoff Ponzi scheme.

IN THE NEWS

Thomas Hagel, professor of law, was quoted in a Dayton Daily News article reporting on a controversial billboard People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, or PETA, wanted to put up around Dayton. Hagel commented on the organization’s right to post the billboard, though he described the intended message as being “incredibly bad taste.”

Kloppenberg Award

The School of Law renamed its Public Interest Award the Francis J. Conte Fund for International Studies. The award was established to support community service and academic work and is named for the former dean. Kloppenberg, the general counsel of the London 2012 Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympics Games, oversees the legal team that provides guidance for the operations of the games. The Distinguished Alumni Award is given annually to a graduate who exemplifies both professional integrity and a commitment to community service.

CONTE FUND TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The Francis J. Conte Fund for International Studies has been created to aid law students in international studies and to bring scholars and practitioners to campus for presentations. Conte, dean from 1988 to 2005 and professor of law until his death in 2011, spent the last decade of his career focused on issues of international law, including immigration, human rights and European Union law.

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Tomorrow’s lawyers

The University of Dayton School of Law has joined with 14 other law schools to participate in a new consortium aimed at changing the way lawyers are educated in the United States. The initiative, Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers, creates a platform for law schools to develop and share innovative approaches to education focused on producing practice-ready lawyers. Dean Paul McGreal said that UD was attracted to the new consortium because it will provide a platform to conduct empirical research on the effectiveness of the new teaching methods and help develop assessment models.

“The University of Dayton School of Law,” he said, “has a longstanding commitment to excellence and innovation in legal education.”

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Faculty notes

Susan Brenner, NCR Distinguished Professor of Law and Technology, spoke at a workshop, “Implanted Smart Technologies: Legal and Ethical Issues of ‘Enhancing’ the Standards for ‘Normal,”’ June 9 in Prague. The workshop was sponsored by the University of Edinburgh School of Law.

Eric Chaaffie co-directed the Midwest Corporate Law Scholars Conference at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law June 15. During the conference, Chaaffie also presented “The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act: A Failed Vision for International Financial Regulatory Reform” and moderated a discussion on “Current Topics in Comparative and International Business Regulation.” Chaaffie and his colleagues Barbara Black of the University of Cincinnati College of Law and Steven Davidson of OSU plan to repeat the event as the National Business Law Scholars Conference at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, tentatively scheduled for June 27, 2012.

Maria Cristiana presented “Leadership in a Rocky Boat: Strategies in Changing Times” at the Association of Legal Writing Diné Conference in Sacramento in June.

James Durham and other members of the ABA Commission on Ethics 20/20 finalized a set of proposals for model standards on recognizing and regulating practice by foreign-licensed lawyers in the United States. The commission also recommended that the ABA encourage states to adopt the ABA’s model rule dealing with lawyers’ admission to a state’s bar. Durham also represented the ABA’s Real Property, Trust and Estates Section on the Commission on Ethics 20/20.


Pamela Laufer-Ukoles presented “Cross-Dressers With Benefits: The Role of Women in Combat Units in the United States and Israel” at the University of Baltimore’s fourth annual Feminist Legal Theory Conference March 31. Laufer-Ukoles examined the topic of women in the military.

Sheila Miller, Susan Somek and Victoria VonZandt presented, with Johanna Orekovic of Buffalo Law School, “Guidance from the Bench and Bar” at the Second Colonial Frontier Legal Writing Conference “The Arc of Advanced Legal Writing: From Theory through Teaching to Practice” March 3 at Duquesne School of Law.

Vijal Patel was featured in a Dayton Daily News article commenting on reaction in Afghanistan to the death of Osama bin Laden. Patel, federal prosecutor and the chief of criminal division for the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Ohio, was in Afghanistan this year as part of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Rule of Law program. He served as an advisor to the Afghan Ministry of Justice, judiciary and other governmental and educational institutions.

Denise Platfond-Lacey presented “Self-Assessment, Millennials & Learning Portfolios” at the Institute for Law Teaching and Educational Institutions’ African Descent. Each webinar includes perspectives from a specific firm or practice area.

Adam G. Todd discussed “Effective Advocacy in an Era of ‘Truthiness’: An Examination of Recent Studies Demonstrating That Facts Do Not Always Persuade” at the second annual Empire State Legal Writing Conference on Teaching Legal Writing Effectively to Prepare Students for Practice at St. John’s School of Law May 1.

Julie Zink has been named president of the Dayton Intellectual Property Law Association, a position she will hold until June 2013.

COVERING THE COVER LETTER

Getting a job or switching employers in this economy is hard. Just getting an interview is hard. An applicant needs a cover letter that helps persuade the employer to grant an interview.

Carrie Cope ’90, a regulatory attorney in Park Ridge, Ill., who provides insurance counsel for companies, writes a monthly column, “Coping Skills,” for the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin. With a perspective of what firms are looking for, she summarized for the Dayton Lawyer’s readers what makes an attractive cover letter.

1. Tailor your cover letter to the job you’re applying for. Don’t use a generic letter for job application; specialize it for that specific firm or practice area.

2. “It interests me if you mention something I’m familiar with,” Cope said, “if you’re a UD grad or have done something that involves my practice area.”

3. Have someone else proofread for you. “Cope sees many cover letters with poorly written. ”It gives the impression you are not able to create meaningful change,” Cope said, “unless you work with communities, you are not able to create meaningful change. Lawyers understand how things work. They also know what has to happen to create meaningful change.”

4. “It would catch my attention if someone was indicated awareness of the bigger picture or mentioned business development,” Cope said. “That has sophistication. Nobody’s ever done that; I would think, ‘I have to meet this person.’”

Smart lawyers recognize that serving others is a mission “to develop educational and health programs to help poor rural communities achieve sustainable development and improve the overall health and well being of their residents.”

Wayne Waite ’82 has applied his skills and knowledge—with his commitment to community and service—to the development of a nonprofit nongovernmental organization, Shoulder to Shoulder. Shoulder to Shoulder now serves more than 35,000 people in Honduras through a mission “to develop educational and health programs to help poor rural communities achieve sustainable development and improve the overall health and well being of their residents.”

Waite offers insight on how the knowledge and skills of a UDLS lawyer can be brought to serve others.

1. Lawyers understand how things work. They also know what has to happen to create meaningful change. “Where children live on less than a dollar per day, poverty is urgent and the poor deserve an advocate. Our job is to demonstrably reduce poverty in a meaningful and measurable way.”

2. Lawyers—and UD grads—have a sense of community and how a community works. “Unless you work with communities, you are not able to create meaningful change. Lawyers can heal a patient, but lawyers who work with doctors can clear the way to create a health care delivery system.”

3. Lawyers are at ease with controversy and can handle the uncertainty that comes with international development. “We have to constantly recall that if this work were easy, someone else would have already done it.”

4. Smart lawyers recognize that serving others benefits them. “I encourage all my friends to join me on a trip. Each volunteer who experiences the face of poverty is changed forever.”

Wayne Waite ’82 is a managing partner at Freund Freeze & Arnold and has been volunteer president of Shoulder to Shoulder since its founding in 1996. Shoulder to Shoulder now operates two small hospitals and 10 remote medical centers in Honduras, providing primary care to more than 35,000 patients who live in extreme poverty. The organization hosts volunteers from Dayton and a number of other universities and is conducting research with the Mathile Institute for the Advancement of Human Nutrition. More information about the work may be found at www.shoulderto shoulder.org.
Why do practitioners teach?

To give back. To help the next generation of lawyers. But also, many adjunct faculty say, because in their teaching, they learn.

By Thomas M. Columbus

Photography by Larry Burgess

On Thursday evenings during the fall 2011 term, Montgomery County (Ohio) Common Pleas Court Judge Barbara Gorman ’77 could be found in her courtroom with earnest advocates, unusual juries and a serious matter to be determined.

The serious matter was the education of a group of men and women who this year are law students and next year will likely be practicing attorneys. On these Thursdays in this section of Civil Trial Practice, they were learning what it means to practice law. They were learning by doing. And as they were doing, they benefited from having what they did seen from three perspectives.

One was the perspective of Thomas P. Whelley II ’77, who has team-taught the class with Gorman for more than two decades. A partner in Dayton with Dinsmore & Shohl in its litigation department, Whelley brings to class the perspective of a trial lawyer, an advocate whose goal is to use his knowledge and skills to persuade the jury. So he advised these students, as he does each year, “You can do anything in the courtroom that is not illegal, immoral or unethical.”

He also each year points out to them that Gorman brings a different perspective, that of gatekeeper, of protector of the jury. “I care who wins,” he told them. “She doesn’t.”

And the students, as they practiced their future roles as lawyers, had a jury of their peers, of sorts. The jury box housed other students in the class, so they were definitely peers. But they were not functioning as a jury in deciding who won or lost but rather helping their classmates learn.

In the first week of class, the students make what Gorman called “a sort of opening statement.” Besides gaining information about the students they will be teaching, the two professors learn something of the state of the class members’ skills at the beginning of the term. The last class simulates a trial.

“The transformation is amazing,” Gorman said. As the course develops, students progress beyond their opening statements to direct examination, cross examination, examination of expert witnesses, etc. Other practitioners bring their experience to add to Gorman and Whelley’s.
“There’s not much lecturing,” German said. “We tell them what to read. They do the exercises.

“And the next year, they are in court.”

But unlike German, who taught middle school before her law career, Whelley had no pedagogical training before beginning teaching as an adjunct. In his training work, he said, “We talk about the same things that Barbara and I do. For example, how do I make this case simple?”

The process of a practitioner becoming a teacher can be a bit intimidating. Mary Kate Huffman ‘90, Montgomery County (Ohio) Common Pleas Court judge and president of the School of Law Alumni Association, remembers clearly her first year teaching nearly a decade ago. After the course was finished, she told Kel Dickinson, then assistant dean, “I didn’t know whether she did it right. Finished, she told Kel Dickinson, then assistant dean.”

Part of the process of finding and using the appropriate courtroom style is to become comfortable in the courtroom. “We want them to be comfortable looking toward a jury box,” German said. “We want them to be comfortable with electronic equipment.”

Students are not the only ones who by the end of the course have benefited. “Every year I have to study hard on rules, on my techniques,” Whelley said, noting that law students are proficient at uncovering people who don’t know what they are talking about.

Learning to teach has also helped him in his practice. “A partner,” he said, “I’m responsible to help train lawyers in the firm.”
UD’s innovative two-year program is different.

Scot Ganow’s old office has perhaps the best view in the city of Dayton. A westward-facing wall of windows reveals a panorama including the Deeds Carillon, the Arena Sports Complex and the downtown Dayton skyline. From his desk, Ganow could see raptors soar on massive up currents in front of a backdrop of blue skies and distant green hills.

As senior contracts and grants administrator for the University of Dayton Research Institute, Ganow was among the first Research Institute employees moving into its new home, the 1700 South Patterson Building, where its former owner, NCR, used to have its world headquarters.

Ganow, who joined the Research Institute after graduation from the School of Law in May 2009, found the Institute’s sense of community a wonder even greater than his office view.

“They don’t leave,” he said. “And they don’t
leave for a reason. These folks are great. The Institute provides a unique environment where people can do what they love and work alongside people who share a passion for their work and UD. There is indeed a sense of family. And UD is doing exceptional work that benefits Dayton, Ohio and the world. It really is.

Yet Ganow left. The reason is both simple and complex. Ganow came to the University of Dayton School of Law with a definite goal; he wanted to practice law, specifically in the areas of data privacy and intellectual property. Thus, when an opportunity materialized to build a practice in these areas with Burton Law, he left the University to do so.

The intense focus on a goal is a feature shared by many of Ganow’s fellow graduates of the two-year program. Descriptions of the differences between students coming into the two-year program and those coming into the traditional three-year program are generalizations rather than characteristics universal to each group. And, since the two-year program’s first students graduated in 2008, there exists so far only a small sample for generalizing.

But applicants to the two-year program do seem to have definite characteristics. They are of nontraditional age. (“That is code,” Ganow said, “for old.”) They are highly motivated. They have work experience. And they are particularly concerned about cost, in terms of both money and time. The ability to “get in and get out” was an attraction to Ganow, who when he began law school was 35 and had two children. The intensive focus on an objective was also a selling point to Laura Lynch-German, who before starting law school at age 38 was working as a private investigator. In and as, she said, “a husband who wasn’t portable.” Three years out of college when he began law school, carrying a child student James Kezele was younger; but, also a private investigator and work experience, he found the prospect of “getting back to work a year earlier” an appealing attraction of UD.

Ganow’s path to the practice of law grew out of his work experience. As an undergraduate at Baylor University, he majored in political science and was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. For five years before law school, he served as a corporate privacy and ethics officer. “We didn’t have inside counsel,” he said. “People would act like I was the lawyer.” Aware that he wasn’t a lawyer, he also noticed, he said, “as a privacy officer, I was getting the ball 90 yards down the field and they were putting it in. I realized I could do that.”

One day Ganow had a discussion with the outside counsel with whom he worked — a person who later became a mentor — about the possibility of going to law school. Ganow pointed out, “I’ll be 37 when I get out.”

The reply, “If you don’t go, you’ll be 37, too.”

Recently, Ganow had a conversation with one of his former bosses on the value of an advanced degree. They agreed, Ganow said, “It’s not just the substantive material. It’s the interaction, the collective experience. You’re never too old to benefit from that.”

While Ganow gradually discovered he wanted a career in law, Lynch-German said, “I always wanted to be a lawyer. I got sidetracked.” She majored in journalism, spent 14 years in that field and then worked as a private investigator. With a husband and a career and of a nontraditional age for law students, she decided she still wanted a career in law.

Having done work for Michael Ganzer ’87 of the Milwaukee firm Hodan, Duster & Ganzer, she talked to him about law school. He recommended his alma mater. After learning of Dayton’s two-year program, she was very interested. When she was not immediately accepted but wait listed, she said, “I called and asked, ‘What do you want me to do?’”

The response was helpful. Since her application was five months old, the admissions staff suggested sending a letter for the admission committee about what she had been doing.

“I was doing PR work on serious sexual crimes,” she said. Writing about that — and, like a good journalist, including quotes that she obtained from people saying how valuable she was — got her the attention of the admissions committee. She was accepted. In less than a month, she had to wind down her investigation business, find a place to live and move to Dayton.

“When she arrived, she said, ‘I went to my room and then to the law school and became completely ensnared by the family values attitude.’ She was even asked by a helpful staff member, she said with remembered appreciation, if she knew where the local grocery stores were.

That sense of community persisted through law school and after graduation even though she claims that during her time at Dayton, “I was constantly in trouble.”

Nevertheless, “During my first year of practice, I talked to four or five of my professors,” she said. “They were really impressed and they made a great deal of fun of me. I can still pick up the phone and ask about something like an ethical dilemma.”

She contrasted that experience with those of some people she knows from other institutions: “The first contact they have after graduation is from somebody asking for money.”

It was probably good that somebody from Dayton didn’t come calling right away about opportunities available to her to support future generations of lawyers. Lynch-German was concerned about her own income. When Ganzer offered her a job and named a salary, she called Dayton again, this time asking Tim Swensen, assistant dean and director of the career services office, what she should do about Ganzer’s offer.

His response was succinct: “Take it.” She did.

Of her aspirations before studying law, she said: “I wanted to be the boy in ‘To Kill a Mockingbird.’ Her life, however, is less that of a fictional lawyer than that of a real one.

“I spend half my life doing research on arcane civil stuff,” she said. “And I love it. It has the same adrenaline rush as in journalism with a higher sense of risk. As a journalist, if you make a mistake, you write a correction. If I screw up now, somebody could go to jail.”

And she likes her work environment. Of Ganzer, she said, “He’s my friend; he’s my boss; sometimes it gets silly. I don’t know how to behave like an associate.”

That’s perhaps one reason she got a big raise after her first year.

James Kezele doesn’t know what will happen once he starts his first year in practice. He’s now in his last year of law school. He’s spending his time now studying to become a lawyer and searching for job opportunities once he finishes his education. He’s applying to midsize and large firms. “And working for the government is one of my top choices,” he said.

With a degree in government and legal studies from Claremont McKenna College and three years of postgraduate experience working in the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Section of the Department of Justice under its Honors Paralegal Program, he has formed an opinion of what to expect in such work.

“I loved working for the Department of Justice. It has exceptional attorneys,” he said, “with a lot of mentoring abilities.”

Kezele didn’t hurt his job chances by landing an externship last summer with Chief Judge Susan Dlott, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio. He found the interesting, the writing extensive and the opportunity to observe court proceedings enlightening. And, as for the mentoring, he said, Dlott is “an exceptional legal mind, and her full-time clerks are great attorneys.”

Kezele also works as a law clerk for Richard Skeiton of Skeiton Law in Dayton, which specializes in complex civil litigation and federal criminal defense. “I’m probably the youngest associate,” Kezele said, “has provided more great legal experience and legal mentoring.”

When he spoke to a UD prelaw class, he faced the question, “What is law school like?” His answers: “It’s a different kind of animal. It’s difficult, but definitely double.”

He told them that law school is more work than a full-time job and a lot more work than college. He told them of the large amounts of reading, digesting, analyzing and writing but added that, with proper time management, it can be made a lot less daunting than it may seem.

The starting in May and finishing in May two years later can appear even more daunting than the traditional path of three academic years. That first summer, students have to hit the ground running with a busy academic load.

In their first fall term, summer starts encounter a phenomenon, observed by Swensen, that makes their job search a bit different from students on the traditional three-year path. As the two-year return in the fall, they are suddenly aware that they will graduate with students, the 2Ls, who started 12 months earlier. And they notice that many of those other students are walking around in suits, going to interviews. Without even having received grades for their first term, the summer starts have no record yet to present to prospective employers.

Nonetheless, early data on the two-year as compared to traditional students indicate similar credentials on-entrering, similar performance while here and similar job placement. The summer starts’ job and life experience may give them an advantage.

Another phenomenon that differentiates starting in the summer from starting in the fall is the simple fact that in the summer there are fewer people in Keller Hall. The cohort is smaller; the classes are smaller.

Many of the students have the similarity of embarking on a second career as well as family responsibilities, a sense of being pioneers in a new program, they may resemble those students who graduated in the early years after the School of Law reopened in the 1970s.

Class dynamics also differentiate a summer start from a fall start.

“Sometimes in the fall,” said Lori Shaw, dean of students and professor of law, “a student can go five or six weeks without being called on.”

With the summer classes for the summer starts, each student might be called on several times a week. “That heightens their intensity,” Shaw said. “It keeps them on their toes.”

She also sees an advantage they have in the summer of a greater opportunity to meet with their professors. “Individual attention is important to them,” she said, “many having been out of school several years. And, ‘they take care of each other,’ she said. ‘If a student notices another missing a class he was expected to be in, he’ll inquire about it. Everybody finds a slot in study groups — it’s simply easier with a small group to see if somebody is left out.”

The intense focus on a goal is a feature shared by many of Ganow’s fellow graduates of Dayton Law’s two-year program.

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Most women can share stories about the competing demands of work and family. But the story told when Elizabeth McClanahan was sworn in as Supreme Court Justice of the Commonwealth of Virginia tops most. While in labor with her second child, she conducted a conference call, giving birth 10 minutes after hanging up.

McClanahan, then chief deputy in the Virginia attorney general’s office, had left a midnight message for her boss. When he phoned her the next morning, “I thought they knew I was at the hospital and still expected me to do it.”

Colleagues who spoke at her investiture ceremony on Sept. 1, her 52nd birthday, praised her strong work ethic. “My parents considered it a privilege to work,” said McClanahan, a southeast Virginia native whose parents taught school and later ran a construction business. “It was a point of pride to get your work permit at age 14.” She never vacationed during spring or Christmas breaks from law school or college at William and Mary. “If you came home at midnight after two weeks of exams, you were still expected to be at work at 8 the next morning.”

An expert in natural resources law, McClanahan spent 19 years in private practice in Abingdon, Va., before becoming chief deputy Virginia attorney general in 2002. She joined the Virginia Court of Appeals in 2003 and was serving her second term when the Virginia General Assembly elected her to a 13-year term on the Supreme Court.

In appellate law, “If you enjoy an academic and intellectual challenge, it doesn’t get any better than listening to and reading the briefs of lawyers making their best arguments on both sides,” she said. But she’s looking forward to the more diverse caseload and greater number of civil cases the Supreme Court offers.

An avid runner and a breast cancer survivor, McClanahan has learned to enjoy every day. “I’ve always been a Christian and believed in the hereafter, but when you see your name and the word ‘cancer’ on a piece of paper, you have to embrace the inevitable. Once you’re given a second chance, you do live every day to its fullest.”

—Deborah McCampbell
Then, in the fall, she said, "They blend in."

Canow, Lynch-German and Keesle all pointed to a bond beyond that which tied their starting cohort together in their first summer, to a sense of community permeating not only the school but also the local bar and its relationship with UD. Long gone are local suspicions from the founding days of the law school that Dayton grad edicts of a market — previously the largest city in Ohio without a law school — would provide unwholesome competition with older law schools for local jobs. Present now is a culture of mutual support.

Jobs and salaries, however, are major concerns today as well. The economic crisis that derailed the economy has cross the country hit the legal profession particularly hard. In the boom times for the investment and banking industries, legal services for those industries were in great demand. They competed to hire the best graduates of the nation’s law schools, thus driving up salaries throughout the profession. Then the bubble burst with the aftershock rippling through the market for lawyers.

What the next economic cycle will bring, no one knows. But it is clear that law school is a serious financial commitment including time out of the workforce. By eliminating one year of lost income, Dayton’s two-year program provides a strong benefit to aspiring lawyers.

How many people will take advantage of it? The answer to that question is also unclear.

"Recruiting for two-year students is different," said Janet Hein, assistant dean and director of admissions and financial aid. Since the potential students are generally at least a year out of school and working, traditional methods of recruiting — such as on college campuses — don’t uncover them. For example, Lynch-German said she did not know of Dayton’s two-year program until she applied.

Getting the word out to those who may be interested requires new techniques — perhaps through workplaces or through advertising. In the words of Marianist founder Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, "often quoted by members of the University of Dayton community: "Now times call for new methods."

While the school discovers and perfects new methods to get students to Dayton, the two-year students on their way out of school appreciate an established method to get them from campus to work: the Road to Bar Passage Program.

Of the bar exam, Lynch-German said, "You spend two years cramming, and then you are expected to belch it out." She said she was well-prepared, however, for the bar exam in her home state ("And Wisconsin has some goofy rules") because of Dayton’s bar passage program.

"Becky Cochran," she said, of the law professor who conducts the program, "was value-added, running around, smacking you up, making sure you did the work."

Canow shares Lynch-German’s opinion of Cochran and the program. "She’s as enthusiastic as anybody can be about the bar exam. All you have to do is show up and do the work. And it’s free!"

The two-year program offers a path to becoming a lawyer that has advantages of cost and time. Its success will depend on the interest of prospective students and the results it produces. Pursuing that two-year path requires a person to make a major decision about interrupting what may be a serial life. Canow put into a few words perhaps a major reason for doing that: "To me, law school is an opportunity to build up skill sets but also to gain the autonomy to do what I wanted where I wanted."

"Today I have flexibility. I like that."
Dayton was but a pleasant memory

When Michael and Kathleen Mezher ’84 and their children, Michael ’10 and Christine (3L), realized how much UD had become part of their lives, they did something about it.

When they realized how much a part of their lives UD had become, they established the Kathleen Mezher and Michael Mezher Family Scholarship in the School of Law for Catholic students who exhibit the values and ideals central to the good practice of law.

“It’s a sign of appreciation and gratitude,” Kathleen said. “I was blessed to be successful with a good career and my own law practice. Now two of our kids have come to UD and received excellent educations. My husband is particularly proud of the scholarship and is happy to give back to this institution that gave him his start. Mike believes in the gift of education so that others may achieve success and realize their dreams.”

Suddenly, the Mezhers became UD fixtures. When Kathleen was just out of college, which she’d attended at UD with a whole lot of nothing,” Kathleen said. “Our affection for UD just really rekindled. When Michael and Kathleen Mezher ’84 and their children, Michael ’10 and Christine (3L), arrived here, it was very nice to see how the campus had grown. It was wonderful to see a crucifix in her dorm room, and she received such a warm welcome. That really left an impression on me about how much UD had become part of their lives, they did something about it.

No, the Mezhers are also serving the University as alumni volunteers. In September, Kathleen and Michael, along with son Michael, co-hosted an event at Hyde Park Country Club in Cincinnati to introduce alumni to Dean Paul McGreal and to encourage people to strengthen their ties to the University of Dayton.

“It was a good chance to network with other alumni in the area,” she said, “but it’s also great to see alumni coming to the support of an institution that gave something to them.”

—Maureen Schlangen

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The University of Dayton School of Law is no longer a fledgling institution, but it was when Jerry Madden ’78 arrived here.

“It was a new school,” he said. “So there was pressure to do well.”

He did.

Having edited the law review and graduated first in his class, he served as law clerk to Chief Justice C. William O’Neill of the Ohio Supreme Court. Then he went to Washington, D.C., planning to return to Dayton, a city with which, he said, he had fallen in love. After five years of private practice in Washington, however, he stayed, beginning a career with the Department of Justice and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Through both the savings and loan crisis and the more recent financial crisis, he has served the government as counsel in many trial and appellate proceedings including a number before the Supreme Court. Today he is an attorney in the Appellate Litigation Unit of the FDIC’s Legal Division.

He serves as the senior staff litigator advising the FDIC chairman and senior FDIC management on the foreclosure crisis.

He still professes his love for Dayton — the city, the University and the law school. And, after a long career in the nation’s capital, he can look back and say, “I have litigated with and against attorneys from highly regarded law schools my entire career, and my legal education at Dayton has served me well.”
Clearly proven

When asked about John C. Shea’s role in founding the University of Dayton School of Law, former mayor of Dayton R. William Patterson said in 1965, “In summation, you can record for apodictic assurance that the UD Law School was an efficacious educational facility.” Shea was dean from 1922 to 1932. New dean Paul McGreal now carries on that legacy.

1Otherwise he would not have written “apodictic.”