High Quality Teaching Is Hallmark of Moritz Faculty

Each time Professor Douglas Whaley enters a classroom to teach, he recognizes the importance of what he is about to do. “When I touch the door knob,” he says, “I say to myself, ‘You are very lucky to have this job.’ It helps me focus on what is going on.”

Professor Whaley’s teaching style is renowned for concentrating on students. “I try to see everything from their point of view,” he notes. “If they don’t understand, I ask myself, ‘what are they hearing?’ I’m constantly focusing on that.”

It’s a philosophy that has consistently earned the professor high marks from his students and eight awards for outstanding teaching from three different law schools in 30 years of teaching. (There might have been more awards, but in recent years, Professor Whaley admits to campaigning to not be nominated for recognition.)

It also exemplifies the dedication to high quality teaching that has become the hallmark of the Moritz Law faculty. Professors at the school endeavor to not only teach substantive law, but also to be certain that the students can analyze and solve problems, draft legal documents and communicate clearly, and serve their profession with integrity.

The college nurtures a culture that values learning and supports innovation in both curriculum and teaching. The faculty has worked hard to develop a variety of interactive teaching methods, even though it usually means they spend many extra hours of preparation before each class.

Law school classes are generally taught following the Socratic method, a style of pedagogy that promotes critical thinking. “I love getting into the student’s minds and seeing what they know,” says Professor Whaley. “I try and teach the entire class by seeing it through the minds of the students, and getting them into the process is the best way to do that,” he adds.

He notes that if he spends too much time just lecturing, it becomes the “Douglas Whaley Show, as opposed to the Students Think Critically About the Course Show.”

Those who don’t follow the straight Socratic format, still use some form of discussion. “It gets class interaction while maintaining a positive learning environment,” says Assistant Professor Christopher Fairman of his “soft-Socratic” method. Fairman, a former high school teacher, was named Outstanding Professor by the graduating class in 2003, just three years into his law teaching career, and has spent considerable time helping other faculty members learn the effective use of state-of-the-art teaching technology now available in the recently-refurbished “smart classrooms.” (Just recently, he received one of the university’s 2004 Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching.)

New faculty members without prior teaching experience are encouraged to attend the annual seminar for new professors sponsored by the Association of American Law Schools (AALS). Back in Columbus, faculty get together formally and informally to encourage quality teaching and to explore new methods. In addition, first-year professors teach fewer classes and are not expected to begin their academic research and writing until after the end of that year.

“I’ve been struck by a commitment at all levels to maintaining and even improving the high quality of teaching,” says James J. Brudney, the Newton D. Baker-Baker & Hostetler Chair in Law who was selected as...
And the award goes to...

University Distinguished Scholar Award
The Distinguished Scholar Award, established in 1978, recognizes exceptional scholarly accomplishments by senior professors who have compiled a substantial body of research, as well as the work of younger faculty members who have demonstrated great scholarly potential.

Ruth Colker, 2002-2003
Deborah Jones Merritt, 2001-2002
John Quigley, 1994-1995

University Distinguished Lecturer
The University Distinguished Lecture Series annually recognizes two senior faculty members for their outstanding academic achievement, particularly, but not exclusively, in research, scholarship, or creative activity.

Ruth Colker, 2001-2002
Deborah Jones Merritt, 1998 - 1999

Master's Program Offers Additional Option to Study Law

Individuals who want to study law but don't want to commit to a three-year program that leads to a Juris Doctor degree now have another option at The Ohio State University. Trustees at Ohio State have approved the creation of a Master of Legal Education (M.S.L.) degree in the Moritz College of Law. The degree, an alternative to the three-year, full-time program, will be offered beginning this fall, subject to approval by the Ohio Board of Regents. Both approvals are anticipated early this year.

The new program will offer a non-professional degree and will provide an education in legal principles and methodology for students and professionals in other disciplines who wish to try legal training and should contribute to knowledge of the legal system.

Students interested in the program should contact Kelly in Smith, 98 Director of Enrollment Services, 614-292-5992 or kott@osu.edu. Information is available at http://moritz.osu.edu/admissions/masterprogram.

Allan J. Samansky, the Robert J. Watkins/Enrollment Services, 614-292-5992 or kott@osu.edu. Information is available at http://moritz.osu.edu/admissions/masterprogram.

So you think you'd like to be a law professor?

Have a love for the law? Do you want to share that enthusiasm with hungry young minds? Do you think the place for you might be at the front of a law classroom? If so, you might want to know more about preparing and thoughtful discussion in the classroom, ”adds Dean Nancy H. Rogers. “We look for outstanding scholars.”

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And the award goes to...

Moritz Law faculty have been consistently among faculty who have been recognized within The Ohio State University for outstanding teaching and scholarship. Of this list, all but one continues to teach at the Moritz College.

Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching
The Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching honors faculty members for superior teaching. Recipients are nominated by present and former students and colleagues and are chosen by a committee of alumni, students, and faculty.

Christopher Parman, 2003-2004
Douglas A. Berman, 1999-2000
Lawrence Herman, 1990-1991
Douglas J. Whaley, 1977-1978
John J. Slam, 1974-1975
Morgan E. Shipman, 1970-1971
Albert L. Cloix, 1967-1968

For more information on these awards, see http://www.osu.edu/facultystaff/university_awards/index.html.

Master’s Program Offers Additional Option to Study Law

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The new program will offer a non-professional degree and will provide an education in legal principles and methodology for students and professionals in other disciplines who have to previous legal training and require or could benefit from knowledge of the legal system.

L. Camille Hébert, Carter C. Kissell Professor of Law, spearheaded the Moritz College’s effort to implement the new M.S.L. program. She said the program will provide a great opportunity for students who “need to learn about the law, but don’t need to be lawyers.”

Hébert said the M.S.L. program is targeted at scholars in non-law academic disciplines and professionals who frequently deal with legal issues.

In order to gain admission to the program, a student must hold a doctoral degree in a discipline other than law or must have completed a program of study at least 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours toward a doctoral degree. These educational requirements could be waived for applicants with extensive back-ground or experience whose work would benefit significantly from legal training and who would contribute significantly to the program.

Hébert cited a legal affairs journalist as an example of a professional who might qualify for such a waiver.

Students admitted to the M.S.L. program will be required to complete 30 semester hours in legal courses offered at the Moritz College. Each student will design his or her individual course of study, in accordance with his or her academic or professional interests, subject to approval by the program’s faculty advisor.

M.S.L. students will be permitted to enroll in upper-level elective courses at the Moritz College. In addition, they will be required to complete at least three traditional first-year law courses in order to gain the necessary foundation for upper-level courses in their particular areas of interest.

Hébert said full-time students would be able to complete the M.S.L. program in one year, while part-time students will have up to four years to complete the program’s requirements.

Hébert said she believes the program not only will benefit those who wish to pursue the new Master’s degree, but will provide a benefit to the college’s Juris Doctor (J.D.) students, as well. “For our J.D. students, having people with other (academic and professional) perspectives in the classroom will help (them) realize that other disciplines offer different perspectives,” on the issues they are studying and discussing, in class, she said.

“The new master’s program will make it possible for those in other disciplines to contribute more effectively to the development of law,” added Moritz Law Dean Nancy H. Rogers. “The year of law study will help them understand the legal perspective as they write about public policy related to their own disciplines.”

Individuals interested in the program should contact Kelly in other schools who “could contribute more effectively to the development of law,” added Moritz Law Dean Nancy H. Rogers. “The year of law study will help them understand the legal perspective as they write about public policy related to their own disciplines.”

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Allan J. Samansky, the Robert J. Watkins/Procter & Gamble Designated Professor of Law, will direct the M.S.L. program.
Sarah Biehl ’03 has been awarded a Skadden Fellowship by the New York-based law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.

Biehl is one of 25 young lawyers from across the country to receive the fellowship, a one-year renewable award presented to law school graduates who seek to work full-time with public interest organizations. She is the first Moritz Law graduate to receive the prestigious award.

Currently a law clerk to the Honorable James G. Carr of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Biehl plans to use her fellowship to start a legal clinic for high school students in an impoverished West Side Chicago neighborhood. Beginning in September 2004, she will work with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago (LAFMC) to design and implement a program that will educate and provide legal assistance to students in such areas as domestic and dating violence, immigration law, special education, family law, consumer issues, and school discipline.

The Skadden Fellowship Foundation was established in 1988 in support of Skadden Arps’ commitment to public interest law. The foundation, funded by a bequest from the firm, awards 25 fellowships per year to graduating law students and outgoing judicial clerks. Fellows provide legal services to the poor, elderly, homeless, and disabled, as well as those deprived of their human rights or civil rights. In recent years, Fellows have also worked on issues concerning economic development and community renewal.

To learn more about Sarah’s fellowship, see http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/communications/newsreleases/123003.html.

Class of 1993 Reunion
Getting together for their 10-year reunion on November 7 were members of the class of 1993: (left to right) Heather Geiger, Nancy Dorner, Sharon Regas, Lee Mieseler Staunberg, Peter Staunberg, Michael Collyer, Susan Stinehart Miller, Stephen Ferrell, and Michelle Nedwick.

Class of 1998 Reunion
Members of the Class of 1998 gathered for their five-year reunion on November 7 at the Buckeye Hall of Fame Café in Columbus. Pictured left to right are Paul Goodburn, Julie Rowe Young, Karen Poling, Kathleen Lyon, Kelly Bott Smith, David Graham, Kristine Hayes, Jay Macke, Shawn Judge, Carey Marty Judge, Megan Devoe Foley ’96, Jim Foley, Julie Keller, Brenda Ray, Lynnette Falkowski.

Five Moritz Law alumni were honored by The Ohio State University Alumni Association during ceremonies in November. Left to right are Brian Burns ’97, William Oxley Thompson Award; the Honorable Thomas J. Moyer ’64, Alumni Professional Achievement Award; Brad A. Myers ’80, Josephine Sitterle Failer Award; RonNell A. Jones ’90, William Oxley Thompson Award; and Carl D. Smallwood ’80, Dan L. Heinlen Award. To learn more about these significant awards, see http://www.ohiostatealumni.org/online/article.php3?id=42.

Gilbert and Sullivan Opera to be Staged Moritz College
A jilted bride sues for breach of promise of marriage: her intended, the defendant, has found a new love. The judge and jury are much taken with the plaintiff, while the ladies in the Public Gallery seem enamored of the defendant. What happens next? It all remains to be seen when the Student Bar Association of the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University presents Gilbert and Sullivan’s one-act opera “Trial By Jury,” in March in Saxbe Auditorium, Drinko Hall, 55 West 12th Avenue.

The production, which involves law students, faculty, staff, and alumni, will feature Ted Ramirez ’77 in the role as Counsel for the Plaintiff. He has sung the part four times at Ohio State, including the first, as a student in 1976.

This is the seventh time the production has been staged at the Moritz College of Law since 1957 and the last time before Whaley, the James W. Shocknessy Professor of Law, retires this summer. Professor Whaley has directed the last six productions of “Trial by Jury,” plus two at Indiana University-Indianapolis prior to his arrival at Ohio State.

At-A-Glance Trial By Jury Performances
7:30 p.m., March 13, 2004
Noon, March 16, 2004
4 p.m., March 17
Saxbe Auditorium, Drinko Hall
55 West 12th Avenue, Columbus
Contact Professor Doug Whaley (dglswhaley@aol.com) for more information.

The Skadden Fellowship Foundation was established in 1988 in support of Skadden Arps’ commitment to public interest law. The foundation, funded by a bequest from the firm, awards 25 fellowships per year to graduating law students and outgoing judicial clerks. Fellows provide legal services to the poor, elderly, homeless, and disabled, as well as those deprived of their human rights or civil rights. In recent years, Fellows have also worked on issues concerning economic development and community renewal.

To learn more about Sarah’s fellowship, see http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/communications/newsreleases/123003.html.
Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar for the alumni activities. For more information, check the Moritz College of Law web site at http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/ or call 614-292-2631.

March 4
4 p.m.
Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) Auction and Casino Night, Ohio Union, West Ballroom
1739 North High St., Columbus, for more information, call L. Mackenzie Cohen, 614-297-7656, or cohen.260@osu.edu or see http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/alumni/casino_night.html.

March 13
7:30 p.m.
Trial By Jury
Saxbe Auditorium

March 16
Noon
Trial By Jury
Saxbe Auditorium

March 17
4 p.m.
Trial By Jury
Saxbe Auditorium

March 22-26
Spring Break

April 4
11:45 a.m.
Scholarship Donor Recognition Luncheon
Lou's Café, Drinko Hall, contact Jeff Hilperts, 614-292-5049, or hilperts.1@osu.edu

April 5
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Woodside Speaker Series
sponsored by Pro Bono Research Group, Erin Davies, davies.erin@hotmail.com

April 8
3:30 p.m.
Schwartz Lecture on Dispute Resolution
"Strategic Mediation," Francis McGovern, Professor of Law, Duke University, Reception following lecture.

April 22
Medicaid, Medicines and Malpractice: Issues in State Health Care
Vern Riffe Center and Ohio Statehouse, downtown Columbus. For more information, see http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/legisclinic/conference.htm or contact Professor Steve Huefner, 614-292-1763 or huefner.4@osu.edu.

May 7
2 p.m.
Hooding
Ohio Theatre, downtown Columbus. For more information, see http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/hooding/index.html.

May 13
5:30 p.m.
Moritz Law Alumni Gathering at the Ohio State Bar Association Annual Meeting
Renaissance Hotel, Cleveland. Contact Pam Lombardi, 614-292-8809, for more information.

New Staff

Jeff Hilperts joined the Moritz Law development staff in early October and will focus on building the annual fund for the college, particularly in the Buckeye State.

Jeff comes from St. Jude's Childrens Research Hospital where he was a regional representative covering portions of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. He received an undergraduate degree from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama and will soon receive a master's from Franklin University, Columbus.

In addition to being honored by the university Alumni Association, Brian Burns was recognized by the Law Alumni Society with the Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award. The presentation was made during the tailgate prior to the Ohio State-Michigan State football game on November 8. He is pictured with Moritz Law Dean Nancy H. Rogers.

Dean Nancy Rogers announces that the newly-renovated student lounge is now open during a special celebration on November 18. The lounge, now dubbed Lou's Café after long-time faculty member Louis Jacobs, includes a coffee shop that sells snacks, sandwiches, soft drinks, and, yes, coffee. New comfortable furniture and brightly painted walls complete the project.

Cass R. Sunstein, the Karl N. Llewellyn Distinguished Service Professor of Jurisprudence at the University of Chicago Law School, led off a series of distinguished speakers who looked at Lawrence v. Texas during the fall law journal symposium on November 7. For more details, see http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/communications/newsreleases/120203.html.
Lou Ann Moritz and Charles Warner ’70, chairman of the National Alumni Council, cut the ribbon on the new alumni recognition display wall at the Moritz College of Law. The displays, which include walls honoring William B. Saxbe ’48 and the college’s namesake, the late Michael E. Moritz ’61, were unveiled following the National Council meeting on November 15.

The creation of the J. Gilbert Reese Chair in Corporate Law was celebrated with a reception on October 17, 2003. Participating in the festivities were Pat Oesterle, Dale A. Oesterle, holder of the chair, Dean Nancy H. Rogers, J. Gilbert Reese ’52, and Lou Reese, who made the chair possible.

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