CELEBRATE QUEEN’S LAW!

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“First you have to want it.” That’s how Justice Thomas Cromwell with eager Queen’s Law students. Legal Ethics and Professionalism. For his hour-long talk, “The Legal Services Gap: Professional Responsibility and Access to Justice,” he explored how current regulation inhibits access to legal services and how it can be changed to ameliorate this problem.

“What could be more important to the legal profession than doing what we can to ensure that the public is not shut out of the legal information, services and advice that it needs to meet legal problems?” This is the critical issue the legal profession faces, he said. “Broadening accessibility to information, advice and representation ought to be the number-one priority for the legal profession in Canada.” — Justice Thomas Cromwell

SCC Justice emphasizes access to justice in Queen’s Law talk

“First you have to want it.” That’s how Justice Thomas Cromwell, Law’76, LLD’10 (Mus’73) began his talk with eager Queen’s Law students. On March 11, Cromwell returned to his alma mater to give the McCarthy Tétrault LLP Annual Lecture on Legal Ethics and Professionalism. For his hour-long talk, “The Legal Services Gap: Professional Responsibility and Access to Justice,” he explored how current regulation inhibits access to legal services and how it can be changed to ameliorate this problem.

“What could be more important to the legal profession than doing what we can to ensure that the public is not shut out of the legal information, services and resources it needs to meet legal problems?” This is the central question that Cromwell, Chair of the National Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters, asks of professional regulators. “We have a lot of people who cannot get the services they require,” he said. “Broadening accessibility to information, advice and representation ought to be the number-one priority for the legal profession in Canada.”

Throughout the talk, Cromwell proposed a number of regulatory changes that could be made in order to improve access to justice. One example involves the existing unauthorized practice rules. “Traditionally only lawyers are permitted to provide legal advice, and while this rule is obviously designed to protect the public, it also can contribute to broadening the legal services gap,” he said. “I think the regulatory bodies should closely examine restrictions on non-lawyers and critically assess whether the present rules prevent forms of service delivery that are in the public interest.”

Cromwell stressed how access to justice, the most critical issue the legal profession faces, is particularly important for students and new lawyers. “I would urge you to individually and collectively become more engaged with some of these issues as part of your studies and as part of your conversations with each other in the law school,” he said. “You will need to have a concrete understanding of what the legal services gap is, what your roles and responsibilities are and what opportunities are there to make a good living and contribute to closing that gap at the same time.”

“You role,” he added, “is critical in bringing about change course.”

Watch the full video of Justice Cromwell’s lecture at Queen’s Law. — ANTHONY PUGH

An ‘ecolawgical’ showdown at Queen’s Law

Two distinguished scholars took up Professor Bruce Pardy’s challenge to provide “scathing comments” about his new book so he could then argue they were “off their rockers.” Justice Grant Huscroft, Law’84, of the Ontario Court of Appeal and Professor Jason MacLean of Lakehead’s Faculty of Law participated in a spirited but playful book launch for Ecolawgic: The Logic of Ecosystems and the Rule of Law on Jan. 18. Students jam-packed the event, which gave them an engaging and humorous opportunity to think about law in a different way.

“Ecolawgic is about trying to change course,” said Pardy. “Its purpose is to question what we know to be true.”

The book’s main proposition is that laws designed to achieve social goals or to reflect moral truths actually reflect nothing but preferences. “That’s because the rightness of social goals and moral truths cannot be proven,” he said.

Pardy posed in his remarks that ecosystems and markets share important features: they arise spontaneously, are irresistibly neutral and obey their own innate rules. Government policies and legal regimes are not able to dictate how ecosystems and markets operate. However, ecosystems can provide insight about how the law should work. Legal decisions, he argued, should emanate from a system of governance. Isolated and instrumentalist legal commands are incompatible with the operation of law as a system.

Huscroft’s comments on the book were more complimentary than scathing. Ecolawgic, he stated “challenges orthodoxies and is provocative,” while at the same time is “fun to read and accessible.” He did, however, challenge Pardy’s main proposition, and stated his own view: “The inability to establish a right answer to a moral problem doesn’t mean there isn’t one.”

MacLean agreed with Huscroft that it was rare for an academic tome to be readable and accessible, but that Ecolawgic accomplished just that. However, MacLean didn’t agree with Pardy’s assertion that the idea of a “public interest” is a myth.

“Oftentimes, students are so caught up with questions of how the law operates that they rarely have the time to ask why it operates so,” says Milan Vukovic, Law’17. “Professor Pardy’s book launch provided us with the much-needed chance to challenge the very justifications for the legal system we study and ultimately live within.” — TRISH APPLEYARD

Professor Bruce Pardy (second right) at the Ecolawgic book launch with host Professor Grégoire Webber and commentators Professor Jason MacLean and Justice Grant Huscroft, Law’84.
New academic director brings fresh perspectives to Global Law Programs at the BISC

When Professor Nicolas Lamp took on the role of Academic Director of the Bader International Study Centre’s Global Law Programs this year, he knew that input from former Herstmonceux Castle students would be essential to building on the successes of previous years and further improving the experience for future generations.

...He comes to the role with impressive experience of his own. Prior to joining Queen’s Law, Lamp worked as a Dispute Settlement Lawyer at the World Trade Organization and earned his PhD in Law at the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2013, completing a doctoral thesis entitled “Lawmaking in the Multilateral Trading System.”

...As an instructor, and now as Academic Director, Lamp understands the value of the Global Law Programs at the Queen’s-owned BISC in East Sussex, U.K., for Canadian law students.

...“As I see it, the castle program has three unique strengths,” says Lamp. “First, students are able to get a sense of the whole international legal field, providing the foundation for educating a group of first-rate international lawyers at Queen’s. Second, students are exposed to teachers and speakers who have a great wealth of practical experience in their fields. And third, students are encouraged to imagine themselves working in the international field and learn how one can have a career as an international lawyer.”

...With a view to improving on these strengths, Lamp aims to make the castle courses more complementary to those offered at Queen’s Law so students are able to deepen their studies in specialized areas of international law when they return home. He will also work with instructors and administration to strengthen the practical dimension of castle teaching.

...His goals are to facilitate a better integration between teaching and field trips and to oversee a gradual shift from an exam-based evaluation to one that is more dynamic, practical and closer to that required of international lawyers in practice.

...Not everything will change however. Lamp plans to continue the “Career Options Evening” event and to further strengthen the existing internships often extended to students through connections made with their instructors. One of the greatest benefits of the BISC program for law students is the direct contact students have with practitioners as their instructors and through the field trip visits.

...“I look forward to working with the instructors and to meeting the new students each year,” Lamp says, “and to hearing their suggestions and feedback as we work to implement these new ideas.”

Check out the BISC on Instagram

— NATASHA BEITMAN BRENER
Ontario Court of Appeal judge sits down for Q&A with students

Students got an inside look at one of Canada's key courts on Jan. 18. During his visit to Queen’s Law, Justice Grant Huscroft, Law’84, of the Ontario Court of Appeal, had a Q&A with students and faculty.

Huscroft got started by reminiscing about his time here. “I am a very proud graduate of this law school,” he said. “I cherish my memories at Queen’s.”

As a professor at Western from 2002 to 2014, Huscroft focused his research and teaching on constitutional and administrative law. His work usually had a comparative perspective, coming from his experience in New Zealand, where he received his LLM and was a faculty member at the University of Auckland from 1992 to 2001. The federal government elevated him directly from his academic position to the Ontario Court of Appeal in 2014, the first time this has happened in 50 years.

“I think there is a role for academics on appellate courts, they bring something different,” said Huscroft. However, the two roles are very different. “One of the delights of being an academic was saying whatever I thought and doing research on whatever I was interested in. As a judge, my duty is to resolve appeals based on the submissions of the parties.”

Among the many questions asked, one first-year law student asked about the discussions between judges that form part of drafting a decision. Huscroft’s response highlighted how, in the judicial forum, there are different ways of looking at a problem with different people from different perspectives. “For any decision there is discussion: How should we deal with this? What do we need to do to resolve the case? Do we need to clarify the law? These are all questions that might arise in drafting a decision.”

Throughout the Q&A, Huscroft highlighted the value of disagreement. “The most important thing I learned as an academic is that disagreement is almost always in good faith,” he said. “I think we have to approach disputes about rights or the Charter with a great deal of humility and we have to start with the position that however strongly we may feel, we might be wrong.”

During his visit to Queen’s Law, Justice Huscroft also participated in the book launch for Ecolawgic (see pg. 3).

Queen’s conference explores socio-economic well-being and a better future

Gains in individual, societal and ecological well being have not kept pace with the great economic growth enjoyed in Canada from 1994 to 2008 – that’s what the Canadian Index of Wellbeing’s 2011 national report concluded. This problem was tackled at this year’s International Women’s Day conference hosted by Feminist Legal Studies Queen’s (FLSQ), “Gender, Wellbeing, and the Politics of Imagination: Law, Culture, Compassion.” From Feb. 26 to 27, a diverse group of academics, lawyers, community-members, policy analysts and students discussed the facets of wellbeing and the systemic inequalities affecting women.

“We are always concerned with economic inequalities and were quite concerned this year with welfare declines for women,” says Professor Bita Amani, co-director of FLSQ along with Professor Kathleen Lahey. “Measuring wellbeing is increasingly the focus in both national and international forums, including the OECD. Our purpose with this event was to situate important and thought provoking conversations, spurred by the imaginations of our speakers, within a broader framework for compassion. A more compassionate society, one might expect, will be a more just and equitable one too.”

The facets of wellbeing – food, drugs, climate and land use with particular emphasis on indigenous rights – were the focus of the conference’s first day. Keynote speaker Norah MacKendrick, a sociology professor at Rutgers University, talked about how precautionary consumption of everyday consumer products is itself gendered.

Day two moved to consideration of a wide variety of systemic social inequalities, with such topics as violence against women, sex-work, multiculturalism and reasonable accommodation of cultural and religious practices, and gendered wage-gaps.

Women and Law: Students connect with the judiciary

On March 15, two dozen female students joined four judges, three of them alumnus, for an insightful conversation over dinner at the University Club. Queen’s Law hosted the event, “An Evening with Women Judges,” in cooperation with the International Association of Women Judges.

“It was an amazing opportunity to connect directly with some inspirational figures in the legal profession,” says attendee Natasha Beitman Brener, Law’17. “We got a better understanding of the trajectory of their careers and the unique challenges they have faced as women.”

Participating in the small-group question and answer period were Justice Jean MacFarland, Law’71, (Ontario Court of Appeal), Justice Judith Beaman, Law’75, (Ontario Court of Justice), Justice Anne Trousdale, Law’76, (Superior Court of Justice), and Justice Cheryl Robertson (Superior Court of Justice).

They answered questions about their career paths, their most interesting or difficult cases, and what they like (or dislike) in advocates who appear before them. One memorable story was MacFarland’s detailed account of her work on an African Lion Safari tiger mauling case. In another, Beaman talked about presiding over a newly mandated Commission to investigate what legal remedies, if any, there are for those who were negatively affected by the flawed results of Motherrisk, a clinic that played a key role in a variety of child custody cases but closed recently.

Students enjoyed meeting the judges in a friendly, casual atmosphere. “These women are paving the way for us,” says Beitman Brener, “and for future generations, too.”

Keynote speaker Norah MacKendrick, a sociology professor at Rutgers University

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Fasken Moot Court Room renewal to help the next generation of litigators succeed

Students, faculty and staff joined alumni representatives from Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP on Jan. 20 to celebrate the re-opening of the moot court room in the firm’s name. A vital part of the law school infrastructure, the moot facility has been modernized thanks to generous support from Queen’s Law graduates now with Faskens.

“Students love mooting,” said Dean Bill Flanagan in his opening remarks. “It’s such an important part of the program here at Queen’s.”

The moot court room is where students practice the oral advocacy that is such an integral part of many lawyers’ careers. The re-launch occurred right in the middle of mooting season for students and the amount of time and dedication that law students give to mooting is apparent in the results Queen’s sees at competitions. As one student said to the Dean, who asked what courses he was taking that semester, “I think the only thing I’m doing right now is the Gale Moot!”

Given the school’s dedication to mooting, the recent renovations will go a long way to enhancing students’ training. The room had not been updated for about 12 years so a renewal was necessary to best support student learning. The latest renovations updated the décor of the space with mobile tables and chairs, as well as updating the technological tools available to students. These tools include state-of-the-art projectors and cameras to film mooters as they practice for later review. Also added to the room is a transportable Skype cart, set up to enable connectivity around the world from anywhere in the law school.

The renovation was supported by a gift totaling more than $50,000 from 10 alumni practising with Faskens, one of the biggest law firms in the country, with six offices in Canada, as well as in London and Johannesburg. Flanagan noted that the firm has been very generous and longtime supporter of the law school over the years. Lynne Golding, Law’87, who took the lead on the campaign, Steven Whitehead, Law’78, and John Turner, Law’86, who appeared via Skype, all attended the re-launch.

“We really value a good education in litigation,” Golding said. “We know that if you are in rooms like this, you are going to get great training to be a good litigator, judge or lawmaker in the future. It was our privilege to contribute to the refurbishment of this room.”

The school’s Minute Moot Club has already made good use of the upgraded facility, hosting moots and sessions like one on Jan. 28, featuring special guest Justice David Stratas, Law’84, of the Federal Court of Appeal. Stratas heard nine students, providing valuable feedback on both technique and content, with the profound thanks of the students he came by to help. Video of the sessions will be used to further help students review technique and improve their mooting form.

— TRISH APPLEYARD

Queen’s Law team wins 2016 OTLA Cup

Shayla Stein, Law’16, and Jennifer Cao, Law’17, turned in a triple-crown performance at the 2016 Ontario Trial Lawyers’ Association Moot on March 5-6. Not only did they win the award for Best Overall Team, but they also took top individual honours – Stein as Best Overall Advocate and Cao for Best Cross-Examination.

“Mooting made me realize that beyond the law and our textbooks, being a good advocate is also highly about delivery to your audience,” says Stein. “You need to tailor yourself to your audience, be engaging and grab their attention.”

The team faced off against five other Ontario law schools, presenting a mock civil trial to a jury composed of leading personal injury lawyers. The team was guided by expert coaches from Law’10 – Brian Kolenda of Lenczner Slaght and Julie Lefebvre of Bersenas Jacobson – whose advice was critical to their preparation. “Being able to bounce ideas off Brian and Julia was incredibly helpful to us,” Jennifer says, noting the importance of teamwork in becoming a better lawyer. Another important role was played by Meagan Berlin, Law’16, who gave a strong performance as a witness that was necessary to persuade the jury of their client’s position.

“The OTLA Moot,” says Stein, “is an incredible opportunity to get some hard-to-come-by experience and a feel for what it is like to be in a courtroom, in front of a jury, arguing facts and advocating for a client.”

— ALEXANDER STEELE
When the world’s most prestigious trade law moot concluded in mid-June of this year, four Queen’s Law students were in it right to the very last round. More than 200 students and trade law experts from around the world were part of the WTO trade-dispute simulation; a mooting process that started with regionals around the world and culminated in a five-day event in Geneva, the heart of global trade.

Team members Brandon Chung, Devon Luca, Cameron Rempel and Nathan Ische, all Law’17, and coach Rambod Behboodi, acquitted themselves admirably in the moot, impressing both judges and attendees. They came second in the final round of the competition to their colleagues from the Americas round, from Columbia’s Pontifica Universidad Javeriana, presenting oral submissions to an audience of legal experts at the WTO.

“This is an astonishing success for Queen’s. The team delivered an amazing performance in the Grand Final. It is safe to say that every one of the team members now has the opportunity of a career in international trade law should they wish to pursue it,” says Professor Nicolas Lamp, a former WTO lawyer and organizer of the 2016 ELSA Moot Americas round—hosted at Queen’s, which was the source of both finalist teams.

“The Queen’s team this year set a new standard of excellence, not just in terms of its successes in the rankings (and these were striking), but also because in an international moot, the Queen’s team exemplified Canadian values throughout the regional and final rounds,” says Behboodi. “At once very well-informed substantively and relaxed in presentation, the team combined good humour and strong argumentation to superlative effect. The best line of the Grand Final, ‘Because it’s the right thing to do,’ was delivered impromptu by Queen’s; it brought down the house and became the theme of the rest of the day and the celebrations.”

“The standard of competition has been very high ... I congratulate all of the teams on their accomplishments, welcome them to the world of WTO law, and look forward to seeing many of them in the corridors of the WTO in the years to come,” said Director-General of the World Trade Organization WTO OMC, Roberto Azevêdo, following the moot’s conclusion.

The Queen’s Law mooting program is noted among Canadian universities for its breadth and level of engagement among students; Queen’s Law is represented at almost all of Canada’s national moots.

Queen’s Law takes mooting skills to ELSA finals in Geneva

Queen’s hosts unique Aboriginal law moot

Aboriginal students and scholars from across Canada gathered at Queen’s for the Kawaskimhon “Talking Circle” Moot on March 11-13. An annual tradition for more than 20 years, it brings together Canada’s top minds in Aboriginal law and negotiations.

“The interesting thing about this moot is that there’s no award, no winning; it’s about building a consensus,” says the organizer, Hugo Choquette, Law’05, LLM’10, PhD in Law candidate. The true value, he explains, is in the experience and the perspectives that students gain. “On the one hand you have students learning lawyering skills and how to represent clients; if you are a student representing First Nations, learning how to address the government, negotiate with them, and vice versa for the students representing the government.”

Another part of it is understanding how traditional Indigenous principles and views interact with Canadian law. “Our clients tell us this is what their belief systems are, what their viewpoints are, and this is what they want,” says Choquette, “but these are things that don’t always fit into the framework of Canadian law, and you have to wrestle with that.”

The weekend event also featured a film screening, social events, and opportunities for current and future leaders in Aboriginal law to connect and discuss the pressing issues of the day.

“The moot is the core of the experience, but the benefits also stem from that connectivity. “Students get to meet people who are knowledgeable in these issues across Canada; the coaches are leading Aboriginal scholars. You also get the experience of being immersed in Aboriginal customs and cultures. You have the elders there, directing things, something that students wouldn’t normally find in law school.”

Choquette is looking forward to next year’s opportunity to host. “With the recent Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, this is an exciting time to be examining Aboriginal issues,” he says. “I look forward to being part of that national conversation, and helping provide a venue for it.”

— MATT SHEPHERD
Queen’s Law Journal students memorialize legendary faculty advisor, Bernie Adell

Before a gathering of students and faculty outside the Queen’s Law Journal (QLJ) office on April 21, a memorial plaque was unveiled to commemorate the work of Professor Bernie Adell. As longtime faculty advisor to QLJ and editor-in-chief of the Canadian Labour and Employment Law Journal, he influenced scores of student editors in producing two of Canada’s leading scholarly legal publications.

“This year’s outgoing journal boards are the last to have worked with Professor Adell,” says current co-editor-in-chief Katrina van Kessel, Law’16. “He is the reason both journals exist and it was important for us to ensure future students know who he was and about his contributions.”

Echoing these sentiments is Jason Paquette, Law’16, a student editor who was the impetus behind the plaque. “I thought it was important that his legacy live on for those who come after us.”

Student editors and volunteers learned a great deal under the mentorship of Adell, a former Dean of Law (1977–1982) who was a renowned labour and employment law scholar. “What struck me was the reverence students had for him,” says van Kessel. “Overwhelmingly they commented on his kindness, his eagerness to help students better their own writing, and his confidence that students could engage with and improve legal scholarship.”

“The example he set and his clear passion for the work made me strive to maintain the high standard the journals are known for,” adds Paquette.

Those standards are reflected in the plaque’s inscription: “Bernie’s editing pencil was legendary, and although the experience could be humbling, most authors would agree that their arguments were strengthened by the ‘Bernie-fication’ process. His dedication to and passion for law journals, the Queen’s Law community, and the field of labour law remains unparalleled.”

Under Adell’s direction, the Queen’s Law Journal developed the Canadian Guide to Legal Style, the first of its kind, to set out “best practices in Canadian legal writing, with a view to ensuring clarity, consistency and readability.” The importance of those goals was something he stressed to his students. “What Would Bernie Do?” That’s an old QLJ adage van Kessel still asks herself.

While both journals have published commemorative pieces for Adell, the guide and plaque will be lasting memorials. “Every time a student editor enters the office,” van Kessel says, “they will pass by the plaque and be reminded of the man who had such a large and lasting impact on student editors before them, on the Queen’s Law community and on the legal and academic fields.”

Law Students’ Society salutes excellent teachers and outstanding student achievers

Queen’s Law students, faculty and staff were in a celebratory mood on March 28 as they gathered in the student lounge to cheer on winners of the 2015–16 LSS awards.

Kicking off the festivities was the presentation of the inaugural Stanley M. Corbett Awards for Excellence in Teaching, named in memory of the school’s longest-serving Associate Dean (Academic) and three-time LSS teaching award recipient. Professor Nicolas Lamp, who joined Queen’s Law in 2014, won in the full-time faculty category. “Receiving this award is a great honour,” he said, “particularly because it is named for Stan Corbett, who was an outstanding teacher and a role model for all of us. I feel very privileged to teach at Queen’s.”

Sessional instructor Dhaman Kissoon, Law’89, earned the honour in his category. It’s his third teaching award from Queen’s Law students for the Racism and Canadian Legal Culture course he has taught for 26 years (he even taught Corbett with whom he became life-long friends). “I enjoy the students and community – Queen’s is a great place to be.”

Students from all years were nominated and selected by their peers for their extraordinary accomplishments.

Ian Moore, MD’14/Law’16, Student Senator, received the Gavel Award as the graduating student who has contributed the most to student affairs during his time at the law school. “My involvement at Queen’s has centred around creating spaces for my peers to showcase their wisdom, insight, and boundless talent to each other and the wider world,” he said. “If my contributions have been award-worthy, it is only because each and every person at Queen’s Law has something beautiful and inspiring to offer.”

A full list of awards and recipients follows:

Corbett Teaching Excellence Awards:
Nicolas Lamp (full-time faculty)
Dhaman Kissoon, Law’89 (sessional instructor)

LSS Recognition Awards:
Gavel Award: Ian Moore, MD’14/Law’16
Spirit Award: Sierra Bilyk, Law’16
Millennium Award: Rashmi Kumar, Law’17
Spark Award: Jason Mercredi, Law’18
Mary Alice “Ma” Murray Awards: Jessica Donen, Law’16, and Jordan Moss, Law’16
Dennis Marshall Contribution Awards: Whitney Abrams, Nika Farahani, Courtney Laidlaw, Sheida Rezapour, Jessica Spindler, all Law’16
Camaraderie Award: Aboriginal Law Students’ Alliance
Third-Year Transfer Students
Professional Excellence Award: Queen’s Criminal Law Club
Student Ambassador Award: Ryan Plener, MIR’14/Law’16

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Goodmans’ gift fuels innovative student learning experience

When the new crop of first-year students arrives at Queen’s Law this September, they’ll be introduced to an innovative new way of learning thanks in part to a generous $60,000 donation from Goodmans LLP.

All first-year students are enrolled in Introduction to Legal Skills (ILS), a robust overview of a lawyer’s essential “toolkit,” covering everything from legal research and writing to client management.

The ILS course is vastly different from the typical law school lecture, says Professor Mary-Jo Maur, Law’85, LLM’93, Director of ILS. “The course is taught in blended format, meaning that about half of the information is online, and the other half is delivered in plenary lectures and tutorials. In their small-group tutorials, students will engage in discussions of controversial issues and in role playing exercises related to the work they do online and to the lectures they attend.”

Goodmans LLP is supporting this course through several creative initiatives. First, the Goodmans LLP Foundational Legal Skills Fund will support the Faculty in bringing professionals to campus to lead the plenary sessions on a variety of topics unfamiliar to most first-year students. Such topics may include legal ethics, professionalism and negotiation. Goodmans lawyers will also be a virtual part of the course as well, through videotaped interviews with Maur on a variety of course-related subjects that are part of the online materials.

After the plenary sessions, Goodmans LLP will host a reception at the law school so students can continue their discussions on the topics that arose in class with the firm’s lawyers.

“With Goodmans’ participation, we’re introducing a new and very welcome element of interaction between our first-year students and practising lawyers,” says Dean Bill Flanagan of the new elements added to the course.

“Proper skills fundamentals are essential for success in law, and having that instruction involve practising legal professionals means that material will be developed in a way that demonstrates its relevance and importance.”

The second initiative is the expanded hiring of eight teaching assistants for the ILS course, drawn from the best upper-year students in the JD program. These Goodmans LLP Teaching Assistants in Legal Skills will assist in the weekly tutorials and guide their junior peers while developing their own lawyering and leadership skills. They may also assist the Faculty teaching the course by researching best practices and innovations in blended learning as well as grading assignment and assessing student participation.

Third, two texts essential for any law student — the McGill Guide and Legal Problem Solving — will be bought and kept in a dedicated section of the Reserve area of the Lederman Law Library. These additional 45 books will be added to the library’s collection to ensure that students always have ready access to these indispensable resources.

Finally, there is the creation of the Goodmans LLP Scholarship in Legal Skills, which awards the highest-performing student in the ILS course. The value of this scholarship will be $2,500 per year.

“We are thrilled to support Queen’s Law in the launch of the Goodmans LLP Foundational Legal Skills Program and Fund,” says Dale Lastman, Chair of Goodmans LLP. “Queen’s Law has played a significant role in our firm for many years. From our current Queen’s alumni to incoming summer students who are the future of our firm, we are proud of the relationship we have with the law school and look forward to strengthening these ties and collaborating together. We are pleased to support Queen’s Law students in ways that truly matter to them.”

— TISHI APPLEYARD

Law’s education and equity manager saluted for outstanding service to students

“Helen Connop is a widely-respected pillar of the Faculty’s student support system … a caring and thoughtful listener who’s always there to support students one-on-one.” That’s how Queen’s Law community members describe the school’s manager of education and equity services. On Jan. 27, Queen’s University recognized Connop’s important work as Principal Daniel Woolf presented her with the inaugural Michael Condra Outstanding Student Service Award.

Over the course of her 13 years at Queen’s Law, Connop has established highly effective programs to personally and academically support law students and to foster equity and inclusion. One of these is the Academic Assistance Program, for which she recruits highly motivated upper-year students who have excelled academically to tutor their colleagues in the law school. Sixty-five paid tutors now serve 275 first-year law students and some additional upper-year students.

“Law school has its own set of academic norms and expectations and can be particularly stressful in first year,” said one of Connop’s nominators. “The tutoring program does an excellent job of reducing the stress. Additionally, it helps connect the different first-year classes and contributes to a more cohesive law school environment and a tighter-knit community.”

Much of Connop’s role is to provide individualized and confidential personal support to students experiencing personal difficulties. These difficulties may involve health, accommodation, grief or harassment. Using her insight, empathy and judgment, she helps students handle these problems and refers them to resources across campus when appropriate. According to one nominator, “Helen will listen to concerns with a caring and sympathetic ear. You will never feel embarrassed telling her that you are having a difficult time in school or otherwise.”

Ensuring that resources and assistance are accessible for all students is another priority for Connop. She works with the Law Students’ Society Equity and Diversity Committee to plan programs and initiatives to promote diversity and inclusion in the law school. This has included establishing “Positive Space” hours and helping students contact legal professionals of similar identities.

“Law school can be very challenging and stressful for students and it means a lot for me to be able to help students in their time of need,” says Connop. “I’m fortunate to be working in an environment that is very supportive of the work that I do.”

— ANTHONY PUGH
Queen’s Law Clinics thrive in their downtown digs

It’s been 18 months since Queen’s Law brought together all five of its legal clinics in one central location and there are plenty of reasons to celebrate. Students, who are supervised by full-time directors and duty counsel, continue to serve hundreds of local clients. They have done this in a law office setting, where the benefits to the school and local community continue to grow.

“Students thrive as caseworkers in the professional atmosphere that Queen’s Law Clinics offers,” says Jana Mills, Law’92, Review Counsel for Queen’s Legal Aid (QLA), one of the co-located pro bono clinics.

A significant advantage of the space is that students can now collaborate on client files with their peers involved with legal aid and the older, business, prison and family clinics. Thompson Hamilton, Law’16, who was involved in the clinics for all three years of his law degree, found the student workroom to be one of his favourite parts of the clinical experience. “People are always asking questions, talking through problems out loud, and developing arguments,” he says. “The co-location makes these discussions more vibrant.”

The new clinic space, which features bright and sizable interview rooms overlooking historic Kingston, also led to extended office hours in the evenings. Taking advantage of this new time slot, Queen’s Law has developed an “advocacy club” evening that meets once monthly. At these meetings, a review counsel facilitates moot hearings from which students working for academic credit or for volunteer experience can improve their advocacy skills through practice and feedback from their peers.

The downtown location on main transit routes makes it much easier for clients to get to appointments than it was finding clinics on campus. “Being received in a simulated law office environment gives a certain reassurance to clients at a time they are worrying about their legal problems,” says Mills, noting that this can be especially meaningful for low-income recipients of legal services who don’t have ready access to such professional services.

For Hamilton, he appreciated being close to the courts students most frequently appear in, which is one way they can get out of textbooks and into a real practical setting. “Students generally feel more plugged in to the Kingston community as a whole.”

Space isn’t the only update to the clinics. They now share Time Matters, a new database that will not only greatly enhance efficiencies as the clinics move to a less paper-intensive operation, but also better prepare students for the technology used in modern law offices.

“My clinical experience was the best part of law school for me,” says Hamilton. “When the problem is access to justice, as it is for so many, the co-located Queen’s Law Clinics is an important part of the solution.

For more information on Queen’s Law Clinics, see our Fact Sheet.

—— THRESH APPELYARD

Law and politics panelists encourage students to get involved

It doesn’t matter what political party students are active in as long as they are tireless advocates for what they believe in. Students took away this sage advice from the first annual panel discussion hosted by the Law & Politics Club on Jan. 20. That’s when they met practitioners and politicians, including one of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s legal advisors and a potential Conservative leadership candidate.

The club’s co-presidents, Kailin Che and Stuart Clark, both Law’17, say the panel gave students an appreciation of how law and political participation go hand-in-hand. “While parts of the discussion explored specific policies and the legislative-making process, the panelists really focused on how lawyers can benefit from having honed political instincts and what unique contributions legal minds can bring to the operation of government.

“We were pleased that everyone walked away with a better understanding of why it was so crucial to be politically active, especially in an era of declining political participation,” they added.

Speaking about the intersection between partisan politics and the legal world were five distinguished panelists: Tony Clement, a former federal and provincial cabinet minister, now MP for Parry Sound-Muskoka; Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, Law’10, MP for Beaches-East York; Lynne Golding, Law’87, a partner with Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP and former Chair of the Ontario PC’s Audit Committee; Randeep Sarai, Law’01, MP for Surrey Centre; and Andy Singh, Law’10, Deputy Director of Parliamentary Affairs at the Liberal Research Bureau.

Students met with the guests at a reception prior to the event and asked a number of interesting questions after the panel discussion. These included queries about the ability of courts to override democratically elected leaders, how the panelists determined their own political affiliation and how students can find where they belong politically.

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Che and Clark describe the atmosphere as friendly and informal. “It was great to see students interacting with panelists on equal terms, talking about law school, the October election and politics in Canada.”

—— ANTHONY PUGH
In an increasingly globalized economy, Canada’s domestically oriented labour and employment laws must now adapt to novel circumstances. This topic is a top research priority for the Queen’s Centre for Law in the Contemporary Workplace.

“The Centre is ahead of the curve on internationalization,” says Hugh Christie, Law’81, co-chair of the CLCW’s advisory board and managing partner of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart’s new Canadian operations. “It started out as a project to re-vitalize the practice of labour and employment law, both in the academy and in private practice. It is doing just that. But in the process, through strong recruitment and visiting international scholars, it has changed the way the area of law is perceived.”

The CLCW, he explains, aims to examine the role of Canadian labour relations and minimum standards laws in helping (or hindering) workplaces in their adaptation to global economic integration, and the role of international and transnational law in protecting fundamental rights at work.

According to Christie, “Canada has a good story to tell about the public policy choices we have made around laws governing the workplace. We have a far less adversarial, and therefore less expensive, system of resolving workplace disputes than many countries, and it is exciting to get that message out to the world.”

“The workforce is increasingly mobile, worldwide,” he adds. “Whether it is Canadian companies with operations abroad, or international employers with operations in Canada, borders are becoming less important than they once were, though the law is by and large still a local set of rules.” There is a current trend for international law firms to come to Canada to provide legal services to businesses that are navigating multi-national operations.

As one example, the international labour and employment law firm Ogletree Deakins, which has 49 offices across the U.S., Europe and Mexico, entered the Canadian market in January by opening its first office in Toronto. For Christie, who had previously been part of a large full-service firm, joining Ogletree Deakins was the right move at the right time. Being part of a firm with the singular focus on labour and employment law, he points out, minimizes potential conflicts of interest that can arise in firms that have previously acted for both parties.

— TRISH APPLEYARD

Elizabeth Shilton, Senior Fellow with the Centre for Law in the Contemporary Workplace

Senior Fellow recognized for advancing women’s equality

“Elizabeth Shilton is an enduring feminist . . . Her work is driven by her passion for advancing equality and equity for women, girls and marginalized people.” That’s how the YWCA Toronto describes Shilton, Senior Fellow with the Queen’s Centre for Law in the Contemporary Workplace (CLCW). The YWCA Toronto named her the Law and Justice honoree among its Women of the Year for 2016.

Among her many accomplishments cited by the organization, she has “fought tough cases during the early days of the Women’s Legal Education Action Fund (LEAF); argued before the Supreme Court to uphold the rape shield law; won a pay equity ruling worth many millions of dollars for low-paid women elementary teachers; defended the right of sexual assault survivors to keep their names out of the public eye; and fought to prevent the disclosure of counselling records of sexual abuse survivors.”

Equality issues have always been very much a part of her work. Before joining the CLCW in 2010, she practised for many years as a union-side labour lawyer, co-founded Cavalluzzo Shilton McIntyre Cornish LLP and completed an LLM at Harvard. Her current CLCW research focuses on domestic and comparative employment pension policy and related issues of economic security.

For Shilton, who has also rejoined LEAF and is participating in the Prince Edward Island reproductive rights challenge, law has always been indispensable in pursuing social change. “Law is a critically important tool in the on-going struggle for social justice both nationally and internationally.”

— TRISH APPLEYARD

Elizabeth Shilton, Senior Fellow with the Centre for Law in the Contemporary Workplace

Queens’s is ‘ahead of the curve’ in international labour and employment law

Hugh Christie, Law’81, shown delivering opening remarks for a 2013 conference on privacy law hosted by Queen’s Centre for Law in the Contemporary Workplace

“Borders are becoming less important than they once were, though the law is by and large still a local set of rules.”

— Hugh Christie, Law’81, CLCW co-chair

Upcoming Conference

Frontiers of Human Rights in Canadian Workplaces

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016
ST. ANDREW’S CLUB & CONFERENCE CENTRE
150 KING STREET WEST, 27TH FLOOR, TORONTO

For information and to register, visit the CLCW website.
Mohamed Khimji has been named the inaugural David Allgood Professor in Business Law: The Allgood Professorship, the first privately funded professorship in the history of Queen’s Law, is part of an ongoing strategic initiative by the Faculty to strengthen its business law programming. “I’m honoured to be appointed,” Professor Khimji says, “and also to be given the opportunity to lead the design and development of a business law program that will establish Queen’s Law as a focal point for high-level research activity in this field. I look forward to working with my new colleagues to enrich the academic program by offering an elevated curriculum designed to facilitate long-term student success.”

Khimji, joined Queen’s on July 1, was previously the Stephen Dattels Chair in Corporate Finance Law at Western University. He holds an LLB from the University of Bristol and an LLM from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The Allgood Professorship was created through the generosity of Queen’s Law alumni and other donors who raised a $1.5 million endowment to support the position. “I’m very pleased with the generous support our alumni have shown for this initiative and equally pleased to be welcoming a scholar of Professor Khimji’s renown as the inaugural Allgood Professor,” says Dean Bill Flanagan. “Building on our existing business law curriculum, including the Bader International Study Centre program, the Queen’s Business Law Clinic, and the Law’80 Visiting Scholar in Business Law program, Professor Khimji’s leadership as a researcher, teacher and mentor is going to see our entire business law program vault to the next level.”

The professorship is named for David Allgood, Law’74, counsel at Dentons in Toronto and former Executive VP and General Counsel for Royal Bank of Canada. He is also a member of Queen’s Board of Trustees and its Audit and Risk Committee, continues on the Dean’s Council as past-chair, and has played a tremendous role in teaching and mentoring students at Queen’s Law. “It is an incredible honour to have a professorship named for me at my alma mater,” says Allgood. “I have the utmost confidence that Professor Khimji will help solidify Queen’s Law’s position as a leader in business law education in Canada.”

Mohamed Khimji began his term as the inaugural Allgood Professor in Business Law in July 2016

“Professor Khimji’s leadership as a researcher, teacher and mentor is going to see our entire business law program vault to the next level.” — Dean Bill Flanagan

Mohamed Khimji is pleased to be welcoming a scholar of Professor Khimji’s renown as the inaugural Allgood Professor. "It is an incredible honour to have a professorship named for me at my alma mater," says Allgood. "I have the utmost confidence that Professor Khimji will help solidify Queen’s Law’s position as a leader in business law education in Canada.” — Chris Armes

Queen’s Business Law Clinic collaborates with InnovationXL partners – and a generation of entrepreneurs

For innovators operating in the Kingston area, legal help is now easier to access than ever. A new collaboration between the Queen’s Business Law Clinic (QBLC) in downtown Kingston and InnovationXL partners (QBLC’s services cover everything from business incorporation to intellectual property issues, innovators and startups are very well covered there. Innovation XL incubator and accelerator services – all these startups need legal help," Jarvis says. Since the QBLC’s services cover everything from business incorporation to intellectual property issues, innovators and startups are very well covered there. “It’s a mission that the clinic fits very well with. “The Queen’s Business Law Clinic is an extension of the InnovationXL incubator and accelerator services – all these startups need legal help,” Jarvis says. Since the QBLC’s services cover everything from business incorporation to intellectual property issues, innovators and startups are very well covered there. InnovationXL partners include the Queen’s Industry Partnerships & Innovation Park team, PARTEQ Innovations and Launch Lab. The arrangement will see the InnovationXL partners connecting their clients with the QBLC when the projects and startups in the InnovationXL ecosystem have reached a point where legal assistance is required. Morgan Jarvis, Law’10 (Arts’05, MSc’08), QBLC’s interim director, lauds the collaboration and the initiative of Industry Partnerships director Janice Mady, PARTEQ VP Paul Vickers, and regular clinic director Christian Hurley in establishing it. “I’ve thought that a connection between the Business Law Clinic and PARTEQ would be great since I was a student at the QBLC,” he says. “The fact that we’re collaborating with the InnovationXL partners shows that they – and others – have realized the value QBLC provides in the community.”

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“The fact that we’re collaborating with the InnovationXL partners shows that they – and others – have realized the value QBLC provides in the community.” — Matt Shepherd
Osler’s $100K investment to pay solid returns for Queen’s business law students

Two business law initiatives are beginning at Queen’s Law this fall thanks to a generous contribution of $100,000 from Osler Hoskin & Harcourt LLP. First, a scholarship will support students who are entering the new combined BCom/JD program. Second, a seminar/workshop series focusing on the essentials of business knowledge for lawyers is being created.

“The Faculty of Law is delighted to partner with Osler in these two important initiatives, both of which will greatly enhance our business law program,” says Dean Bill Flanagan. The new BCom/JD scholarship will draw yet more talented students to Queen’s Law with an interest in law and business, and the Osler BizBasics program will introduce more of our students to some of the key skills required of business law lawyers today. It’s a win-win for the Faculty and our students.”

Entrance scholarships, valued at $5,000, will be available for up to four BCom/JD students for each of the next three years. Christina Beaudoin, Osler’s Director of Student Programs says her firm wanted to support the top business-focused students with this award. “By assisting with the financial impact of this highly marketable joint degree, we hope to encourage the efforts of our scholarship recipients who may very well be destined to be Bay Street’s future leaders.”

In Law’s latest combined program, BCom/JD students complete both degrees in six years instead of the usual seven if taken separately. Queen’s already has a successful program that combines law and graduate business degrees. For John Neufeld, MBA’15/Law’17, choosing Queen’s was an easy decision. “I foresaw a career practising business law before coming to law school,” he says. “When chatting with lawyers specializing in that area, Queen’s was always mentioned. The reputations of the Faculty of Law and the Smith School of Business are an obvious draw.”

Queen’s is also launching the Osler BizBasics Series, a workshop series introducing students to business fundamentals. For each of the next five academic years there will be four lunch-hour lectures/workshops, in which Osler lawyers, articling students and administrative professionals will provide students with practical insights into the skills required to be successful in today’s business law environment.

Osler BizBasics will include such topics as demystifying the range of career options in business law; understanding the business of law and the profession’s changing landscape; the increasing importance of soft skills (e.g. emotional intelligence, resilience, relationship building); and business law fundamentals such as “Accounting & Finance 101” for lawyers.

“The practice of law is rapidly evolving and we’re proud to play a role in equipping students with the hard and soft skills that will set them apart.” — Christina Beaudoin, Director of Student Programs with Oslers

ideal for Osler to partner with Queen’s in delivering experiential business law programming that addresses the practical gaps students are hungry for,” Beaudoin says. “The practice of law is rapidly evolving and we’re proud to play a role in equipping students with the hard and soft skills that will set them apart.”

Neufeld, who had approached a summer student at Osler about establishing such a series at Queen’s, has learned an important lesson through his MBA and legal training. “When it comes to clients, business people speak their own language with its own vocabulary. Lawyers must be able to speak this language if they truly want to empathize with their client and understand what their issues and motivations are. The rapidly changing legal market,” he adds, “will require counsel to deliver value to the client as the client defines it.” The new Osler BizBasics program will ensure Queen’s grads do just that.

— TRISH APPLEYARD

Keep up with Queen’s Law Clinics

Our new downtown clinic site hosts all five of our clinics; a bold new initiative for our clinic programs and a fantastic resource for Kingston residents.

Find out all about it at http://queenslawclinics.ca
Saluting our 2016 alumni award winners

BY KEN CUTHBERTSON

Queen’s Law alumni and friends came out in full force at the annual Toronto and Calgary receptions this spring to celebrate four distinguished graduates. In addition to the existing accolades – which are named in memory of founding faculty members H.R.S. Ryan and Dan Soberman, and in honour of Supreme Court Justice and alumnus Tom Cromwell – Dean Bill Flanagan presented the inaugural J.A. (Alec) Corry Distinguished Alumni Award commemorating the Queen’s Principal who spearheaded the school’s re-establishment.

Nominate a fellow grad for a 2017 alumni award!

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Persistence paid dividends for H.R.S. Ryan alumni award winner

Brian Rose, Law’74, recipient of the 2016 H.R.S. Ryan Law Alumni Award of Distinction, enjoys an international reputation as one of Canada’s most experienced and trusted senior corporate lawyers. Yet, as Rose explained while accepting his award at the May 31 Celebrate Queen’s Law reception in Toronto, his legal career almost never happened.

“In August 1971, I was an unemployed, unilingual Anglophone ex-CFO in Montreal,” he recalled. Figuring he had nothing to lose, he made late application to law schools across Canada. All were unsuccessful; first-year classes were full.

Refusing to take no for an answer, he began calling. When he rang Macdonald Hall to plead his case he got through to Faculty Secretary Mary Alice Murray, Law’60, who listened patiently before forwarding his call to admissions head Professor Lyman Robinson. “May I come to see you?” Rose asked him.

“Why?!” came the befuddled professor’s reply.

“Because it’s harder for anyone to say ‘No’ to someone when they’re face-to-face,” said Rose.

He was right about that. Three years later, Rose graduated and never looked back.

Getting his start in the 10-person Toronto office of Stikeman Elliott, Rose went on to a stellar 39-year career as builder of and partner in what is now a leading corporate law firm with more than 500 lawyers in Canada, New York, London and Sydney.

Along the way, the query “Is there anything I can do for you?” became his signature phrase. “That should be printed on Brian Rose’s business card; they aren’t hollow words,” Dean Bill Flanagan has noted.

Indeed, while Rose is renowned for his legal expertise, he also enjoys a reputation as a selfless champion of women and diversity in the legal and business worlds. His dedication to helping others often has been saluted – most notably in 2012 when was a recipient of a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. These days, although he “retired” in 2013 and now lives in New York, Rose still serves as a Senior Counsel to Bennett Jones LLP.

“I received a wonderful education at Queen’s Law. It’s been the basis for whatever has happened in my legal career,” he said. “I’ll never forget what Queen’s Law has done for me.” Those, too, aren’t hollow words. Said Dean Flanagan, “Brian has always been and continues to be a great friend of the school.”
George Bernard Shaw got it wrong when he quipped that “Youth is wasted on the young.” The celebrated Irish playwright surely would have had to reconsider his words if he’d ever met Nathaniel “Nate” Erskine-Smith, Law’10 (Arstci’07), the 2016 winner of the Dan Soberman Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Erskine-Smith has accomplished more in the last six years than many people do in an entire career. “Winning an alumni award when I’m still just 31 seems a bit strange, but I’m honoured to do so, and I’ll continue working hard to earn it,” he said.

After articling, he earned an LLM at Oxford, graduating with distinction. In 2012 he returned home to Toronto, where he volunteered with the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and then began a successful practice as a litigator with the boutique law firm Kramer Simaan Dhillon LLP.

As his five classmate nominators noted, “Nate has always had a keen interest in politics and public service.” In October 2015 he won election to Parliament as the Liberal MP for the Toronto riding of Beaches-East York, beating the runner-up incumbent candidate by a margin of more than 10,000 votes. He had some help from a number of classmates who volunteered on his campaign.

While he’s only been an MP for less than a year, Erskine-Smith has already distinguished himself both in the House of Commons and in his work as a member of two committees: Public Safety and National Security Committee and Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics. In addition, he’s President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union’s Canadian contingent.

Erskine-Smith was unable to attend the 2016 Celebrate Queen’s Law alumni reception in Toronto on May 31, when his award was presented. He was in Ottawa, serving the public in the House of Commons by casting his vote on the Trudeau government’s controversial assisted dying bill. He did give an acceptance speech via Skype, musing that he’s “come a long way” since his first-year of studies at Queen’s Law. “The class of Law’10 is very special,” he said. “I wouldn’t be where I am today without the friendship, loyalty and support of my classmates.

“I’d also like to thank my professors who shared with me a way of thinking and a sense of values and creativeness that help me every day in what I do.”
It would be difficult to imagine a more inspired choice than Justice Harvey Brownstone, Law’80, as the 2016 winner of the Justice Thomas Cromwell Distinguished Public Service Award. After all, Thomas Cromwell, Law’76, LLD’10 (Mus’73) is the first Queen’s Law graduate to sit on the Supreme Court of Canada. And as the three alumni who nominated Brownstone for his award have pointed out, like Cromwell, “Harvey Brownstone has truly been a trailblazer throughout his remarkable and illustrious career.”

A native of Paris, France, he’s a one-time Legal Aid counsel, criminal lawyer, former Director of Ontario’s Family Responsibility Office. He’s also been a television talk show host, and a bestselling author; his 2009 book Tug of War: A Judge’s Verdict on Separation, Custody Battles and the Bitter Realities of Family Court is the first book ever written by a sitting judge in Canada. Oh yes, and let’s not forget that when Brownstone accepted his appointment to the bench of the Ontario provincial court in March 1995, he became the country’s first openly gay judge.

Speaking at the Celebrate Queen’s Law in Toronto reception on May 31, where Brownstone received his award, Justice Cromwell praised him for working to make the courts more accessible and transparent to the public, for “pulling the judiciary into the 21st century in many ways,” and for serving as a “Canadian ambassador for equality rights, which are the foundation of any judicial system.”

Cromwell’s words echoed those of Brownstone’s nominators. “[H]e has made a huge impact in Ontario, across Canada, and internationally,” they wrote. “Justice Brownstone is a wonderful, caring person who combines the courage and conviction to speak passionately and act decisively where there’s a need or a wrong to be corrected.”

In accepting his award, Brownstone said he was “humbled and very honoured” to receive the Cromwell Award. He went on sing the praises of Queen’s Law and Law’80, which he said will always be “a very special class” to him.

Brownstone recalled how in 1976 when he “came out,” he was temporarily estranged from his parents. “But my Queen’s Law classmates were accepting and supportive,” he said. Then, as he smiled at the 23 members of Law’80 who turned out for the event, Brownstone added, “You became my family.”
Leslie O’Donoghue, QC, Law’88

Calgary’s ‘force of nature’ wins school’s first Corry alumni award

Ask her Queen’s Law classmates and legal colleagues, and they’ll tell you no “ifs, ands or buts:” the Dean’s Council Awards Committee couldn’t have chosen a more deserving inaugural winner of the J.A. (Alec) Corry Distinguished Alumni Award than Leslie O’Donoghue, QC, Law’88.

The award celebrates a grad who excels in a career “outside the traditional practice of law.” That’s something O’Donoghue has done in spades. Her longtime friend Blair Yorke-Slater, Law’82, Vice-Chair of Bennett Jones LLP, says, “Leslie has been a leading figure – a force of nature – in the Calgary legal, business and philanthropic community for many years.”

Following graduation, O’Donoghue went on to a highly successful 11-year legal career, rising to become a partner at Blake Cassels & Graydon LLP. She joined Agrium in 1999 as VP General Counsel and since “making the leap from law into business development” in 2009, she has earned a reputation as one of Alberta’s most influential lawyers and most respected business leaders.

O’Donoghue is Executive VP of Calgary-based Agrium Inc., a globally recognized manufacturer of crop nutrients and retailer of agricultural inputs. In addition, she’s a dedicated community leader and a selfless champion of many worthy causes, including the United Way and YWCA. What’s more, she has served on Pembina Pipeline Corporation board of directors and has been hailed as one of the Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers in Canada; one of Alberta’s 50 Most Influential People; and as a four-time honoree, was inducted into the Women’s Executive Network’s Top 100 Most Powerful Women Hall of Fame.

Through it all, she has been a loyal alumna. A past member of the Dean’s Council, she continues to support her alma mater both financially and as a member of the Alberta Alumni Council.

As she was accepting her Corry Award at a May 2 reception in Calgary, O’Donoghue reflected on what “a gift and an opportunity” it was for her to complete her legal studies at Queen’s. “It’s a privilege and a joy for me to be associated with the Alumni Council and with all of the great and exciting things that are happening at Queen’s Law,” she said.

“I’m thrilled to receive the Corry Award. Recognition by my alumni peers is most humbling, and it means a great deal to me.”
Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

On June 3, years of hard work and determination by members of the Class of 2016 in pursuit of legal education were capped off at Convocation. In historic Grant Hall, friends, family, faculty and staff cheered on 176 JD, LLM and PhD students and honorary Doctor of Laws recipient Ron McCallum, LLM '74, as they received their degrees.
Dual clerkships a family affair for Queen’s Law graduates

When Jeremy Butt, Law’16, begins 24 months of clerkship in the fall, he’s not only embarking on a rare opportunity for law grads – he’s part of a family tradition. Jeremy will first clerk at the Ontario Court of Appeal (OCA), and then next September he will move to the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC), where he will work with Justice Michael Moldaver. He’s starting his career with the same two clerkships as his father, David Butt, Law’86 – but Jeremy intends to make his own mark on the courts.

Each of these clerkships will give Jeremy a unique experience. “With a double clerkship, I am looking forward to working in both settings – with different judges at the Court of Appeal, each of whom brings a unique perspective to the appellate bench, and with a single judge of the Supreme Court of Canada,” says Jeremy. “I’m very excited about helping, together with the judges and my co-clerks, provide practical solutions to intellectually fascinating and complex legal and social policy questions.”

David, a Toronto-based barrister who has been lead counsel more than two dozen times in the SCC and hundreds of times in the OCA, reflects on how his own clerkships provided an unparalleled opportunity to learn about both the law and its practical application on the lives of real people. “The training I got was second to none because I was at the two best courts in the country,” he says. “The diversity of legal issues that we handled covered every area of law and they were the most complex issues in each area of the law because they managed to make it so high up the appellate court ladder. Those lessons have stood me in good stead for the last 30 years.”

Having such a huge role model for a dad has been very helpful to Jeremy. “Dad’s advice and support were an integral part of my success,” he says. “It is great to follow his footsteps by clerking for both courts. At the same time, I am excited to forge my own path as I begin my own legal career.”

“I tried very hard to encourage Jeremy to choose whatever path he wanted and to be neutrally supportive, but I am thrilled beyond measure that he has earned both clerkships,” says David. “I’m deeply grateful to Queen’s for having provided both of us these opportunities. Perhaps like every parent I am far more excited about Jeremy’s accomplishments than I ever was about my own.”

Read more about Jeremy and two other recent grads who will also be clerking at the Supreme Court in 2017–18 (see pg. 50).

— ANTHONY PUGH
Influential scholar and champion to persons with disabilities receives honorary degree

As he entered the elevator of Kingston Hall a few minutes before he was to receive an honorary degree, Ronald McCallum, a respected labour law expert from Australia, former dean of the University of Sydney School of Law and past chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, asked a question: “Do they still use the bagpipes during the ceremony?”

After receiving an answer in the affirmative he was literally bouncing with excitement. He honestly loves Queen’s University. There’s a good reason. Coming here changed his life.

Back in 1971 McCallum had earned a pair of bachelor degrees in his homeland but to be accepted for an academic position he would have to find a law school abroad that would accept him as a graduate student. It wasn’t a case of his marks not being good enough. In fact, he was exceptional.

Undaunted, McCallum would turn his search to Canada. What he found was Queen’s and a law school that would accept a blind student. It was the start that he needed.

“In 1971 I received a letter from Bernie Adell and he said that Queen’s would welcome me and he thought I could find enough readers,” he says.

Back then, the books he needed had to be read onto tape and McCallum could then listen to all kinds of legal literature. He did find readers – scores of them. Many were fellow law students. Others were from across Queen’s. Catherine Carter, the wife of his labour law professor Don Carter, Law’66, would read to him while her toddler was asleep, McCallum recalls with a smile.

And then there were his “boys.” During the summer of 1973 the other students returned home. McCallum would have to look elsewhere for volunteer readers. What he got was a group of inmates from Collins Bay Penitentiary. They were happy to help out. They had plenty of time they told him.

Upon earning his LLM, McCallum returned home where he would become a law lecturer at his alma mater Monash University and would eventually become the first blind person to be appointed to a full professorship in any subject at an Australian university.

“At Queen’s I grew up,” he says. “I learned the tools of the trade of academia – teaching and writing – and I think it gave me the confidence, having been successful at Queen’s, to go on and try other things. I taught law in Australia for 40 years. I became dean of Sydney Law School. I wouldn’t have become dean, I wouldn’t have become an academic, had I not done this graduate work at Queen’s. It gave me a foothold on the academic ladder.”

But there would be more heights to reach in his amazing career. Being dean helped propel him to the United Nations where he could help others with disabilities around the world. He has stood up for those who all too often have no voice. The position, he says, has also been an opportunity to continue to learn, seeing how different people from around the world think, and not just about disabilities.

As he received his honorary degree on June 3 from the one university that gave him a chance, McCallum called on the graduating Queen’s Law students to make the most of the time they have, to take chances, to seize opportunities as he did.

“We only pass this way once,” he says. “It’s not a rehearsal. Leave this world better off than when you started.”

— ANDREW CARROLL
On June 3, students, faculty and staff gathered in the Macdonald Hall courtyard with the family of the late Professor Stan Corbett, LLB'95 (BA'66, MA'72, PhD'82) to honour his legacy and his many contributions to Queen’s Law. Members of the Class of Law’16, who graduated later that day, had chosen as their class gift a memorial bench to commemorate their much-loved professor and mentor.

“When the 2016 council met to plan this year’s class gift, we were not sure of the form it would take, but we were sure of the function: to create a permanent tribute to celebrate a very beloved professor,” said Sierra Bilyk, Law’16 Class President, at the ceremony. “When we found out about Queen’s University’s bench dedication initiative, we approached Dean Flanagan for the Faculty’s support, which was enthusiastically given, and then we raised the remainder of the funds as a class. In what is truly a testament to the regard my class has for Professor Corbett, the funds were raised in less than 24 hours.”

Those in attendance smiled as Dean Bill Flanagan shared memories of Corbett and his well-known sayings that reflected his great sense of humour and his generous nature. It was obvious that Corbett made an impact on the lives of his colleagues and students in a truly profound way, which will be remembered by all who knew him.

The Dean concluded by thanking Corbett for his outstanding and unprecedented three terms of service as Associate Dean (Academic), calling him a “pillar of the school.”

— NATASHA BEITMAN BRENER

Law’16 pays tribute to school’s longest-serving associate dean

FAVOURITE MEMORY
- Orientation
- Mooting
- Minute Moot
- LSS
- Lawlapalooza
- Law Games
- Castle Summer 2014
- Cabaret for a Cure
- Tortfeasors
- Stages
- Smokers
- Other

FAVOURITE PROFESSOR
- Corbett
- Cameron
- Walters
- Knutsen
- Robinson
- Pratt
- Pardy
- Other

Law’16 grads ‘define their time’

Thanks to members of this year’s graduating class who completed our Define Your Time at Queen’s Law survey. Here are some popular responses.
**High-flying alumnus honoured as ‘pre-eminent counsel’**

“I was surprised, and flattered,” says **Jim Simmons**, Law’68 (Arts’65), of Weaver, Simmons LLP in Sudbury, on his being awarded with The Advocates’ Society Medal at an April 14 dinner held at Science North.

The medal is the highest expression of esteem bestowed by the Society, Canada’s premier provider of advocacy skills training. “Jim is a consummate advocate,” says Peter Griffin, Law’77, who chaired the selection committee. “He is highly respected as a leader of the bar and has made significant contributions not only to the Society, but to the profession of law and to the well-being of the community at large.”

Simmons, one of the North’s leading lawyers, has had a distinguished and varied career. He’s practised as counsel in civil litigation, insurance, administrative, personal injury, professional negligence and commercial law. “I enjoy doing what I do, and I like to see a client well-served,” Simmons says. “It gives an incredible feeling of satisfaction.”

In 1970, Simmons moved to Sudbury from Toronto, and joined Shea, Mossop, Stoner, Weaver, the predecessor of Weaver, Simmons. The firm has roots in northern Ontario, with many mining industry and First Nation clients. Simmons has worked on scores of high-stakes, high-profile civil litigation cases across the province, mostly involving personal injury, negligence and insurance issues, and did some criminal law early in his career.


In addition, he’s a member of the Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association, and often flies his floatplane to meet with far-flung clients. He got his pilot’s license “to be conversant with what I needed to deal with” after being retained to work on an air crash case in the ’70s, in which several people were killed.

Nowadays, a pilot’s license comes in handy, as his firm’s catchment area spans Ottawa to Kenora and up to Hudson Bay. “Seasonally, I can get up in my plane, fly to Timmins, do a discovery, and be back in my office by two.”

Whenever he takes to the skies, Queen’s travels with him. “My plane has the tricolour stripes painted on the side, and has floats that match,” explains Simmons. “Queen’s is in my blood: I grew up in Kingston, did my arts undergrad there, and Queen’s Law gave me the background I needed to go on and practice law and love it.”

— **KIRSTEEN MACLEOD**
In Kenya, a woman is raped every 30 minutes but the attackers are rarely charged. The “160 Girls” lawsuit was sparked by Kenyan social worker Mercy Chidi. She ran a rape shelter and was frustrated when she would accompany victims to police stations in the town of Meru, but the officers would demand bribes and rarely arrest anyone.

Sampson and Chidi led a team of volunteers who documented the inaction of police and then filed a lawsuit for failing to protect the 160 girls who ranged in age from three to 17. The “160 Girls” project took several years but the case finally went to the High Court of Kenya. On May 27, 2013, the court ruled police must investigate cases of rape against children or the officers themselves could face jail time.

Human rights lawyer Fiona Sampson, Law’93, was the driving force behind a landmark ruling in 2013 that found Kenyan police at fault for failing to protect girls from rape. The successful case, filed on behalf of 160 girls who were survivors of rape, now helps to protect more than 10 million women and girls in Kenya from similar crimes in the future. Sampson and her team are now working with Kenyan police – who rarely investigated rape cases before the lawsuit – training them to better handle sexual assaults, and girls and communities are being empowered to claim their rights under the “160 Girls” law.

“I feel an enormous sense of satisfaction knowing this decision brought justice for the 160 girls who inspired the case, and greater protection for all girls in Kenya,” says Sampson, the founder of the equality effect, a non-profit charity that uses international human rights law to fight for justice on behalf of women and girls around the world. “Our case is making an impact on girls’ rights internationally as other activists and lawyers look at our project as a blueprint for change in their countries.”

The Queen’s University Alumni Association (QUAA) recognized Sampson’s incredible humanitarian work by awarding her the Alumni Humanitarian Award at this year’s Alumni Awards Gala on April 2. The award is presented to a Queen’s graduate in recognition of distinguished work or volunteer service, at home or abroad, which has made a difference to the well-being of others.

“This award feels like a big bonus because I love the work I get to do and I work with amazing people at the equality effect,” says Sampson. “After studying at Queen’s, my interest has been in the experiences of disadvantaged persons and looking for ways to establish a new equilibrium where people on the outside of power can get access to the inside.”

This Alumni Award is not the first time Sampson’s humanitarian efforts have been recognized. The “160 Girls” lawsuit in Kenya has caught the attention of the New York Times, British newspaper The Guardian, and CBC Radio’s The Current. She was named one of the top 25 most influential lawyers in 2014 by Canadian Lawyer Magazine and was awarded the Distinction in International Affairs Award by the New York State Bar Association. In 2015, Sampson was appointed to the Order of Canada.

Dean Bill Flanagan called Sampson a perfect choice for the QUAA Humanitarian Award. “Fiona has dedicated her career to fighting for and promoting human rights, particularly for young women, in Canada and internationally,” he says. “She has been a remarkable leader and role model.”

Read the alumni profile on Fiona Sampson in Queen’s Law Reports 2016.
On April 15, after hearing submissions in *R v Lloyd*, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) struck down as unconstitutional the latest in a series of mandatory minimum sentences. Eric Gottardi, Law’02, played an instrumental role, serving as pro bono counsel for the Canadian Bar Association (CBA), an intervenor in the case.

Gottardi assisted accused Joseph Lloyd’s case that his one-year mandatory drug sentence violated the fundamental tenets of Canada’s *Charter*. Gottardi, with co-counsel Mila Shah, argued that mandatory minimum sentences need exemption clauses, and that they must be sufficient where they already exist.

As was the issue with other mandatory minimums, they did not allow trial judges to take into account the circumstances of an accused. The law “would require the same mandatory minimum sentence for a broad range of conduct and different circumstances of individual offenders,” explained the CBA. In this case, the SCC ruled that the sentence violated Section 12 of the *Charter* (which covers the right to be free from “cruel and unusual punishment”).

“With the Harper government, Canada went from 25 mandatory minimums to over 60,” explains Gottardi. “In two cases, *Nur* and *Lloyd*, the court reaffirmed that the accused and their advocates can test the constitutionality of minimums using reasonable hypotheticals. In *Lloyd*, they said that these sentences would be constitutionally vulnerable unless they are extremely tailored, or if Parliament drafts a general exemption clause into the Criminal Code. The focus of the CBA has been to advocate for the creation of this exemption clause.

Gottardi is no stranger to the Supreme Court, having previously argued in *R v Nur* (mandatory minimums related to guns), as well as *R v Pires* (wiretap authorizations), *United States of America v Ortega* (sufficiency for committal standard in extradition proceedings), *R v H.S.B* (sufficiency of judicial reasons), *R v Sekhon* (expert police witnesses) and *R v Jordan* (unreasonable delay under Section 11(b) of the *Charter*). The focus of the CBA has been to advocate for the creation of this exemption clause.

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It was also his time as a Queen’s Law student that drove him towards his field of practice. “Queen’s was, and still is, a leading criminal law school in Canada,” Gottardi says. “With professors like Don Stuart, a legend in the profession (who has been cited frequently by the SCC), I studied under some of the very best criminal scholars in the world. I couldn’t have asked for a better preparation for my career. One of his favourite memories of law school is interacting with those faculty members in “social settings, as equals” and discussing intellectual and academic ideas with them. Queen’s was unlike any university experience he had ever had, because of the “close family atmosphere,” he adds. “Professors got to know us, and cared about how we did in school and in our careers afterwards.

Gottardi is a partner at the Vancouver-based Peck and Company. The one thing he misses most about his time at Queen’s is the “privileged access” law students in Kingston have to members of the legal community. “The level of interaction between the student body and the professors, local judges and other invited guests was something really special.”

— NATASHA SEITMAN BRENER

Eric Gottardi, Law’02, in the grand foyer of the Supreme Court of Canada
Dean’s Council Chair to help modernize Ontario’s business laws

Sheila Murray praises recent business law oriented initiatives at Queen’s Law that have seen Mohamed Khimji named the inaugural David Allgood Professor in Business Law and the launch of both a new business law scholarship and a lecture series. “I think these are wonderful developments for Queen’s Law,” says Murray. “They demonstrate a renewed focus on business law, and that’s something I applaud. The school has a well-earned reputation for strength in many areas of the law, and these new initiatives will provide opportunities to enhance the reputation and expertise of Queen’s Law in this important area.”

— KEN CUTHBERTSON

Three grads to get the ‘Supreme’ clerking opportunity

It’s a coveted opportunity to experience life in Canada’s highest court, and three recent graduates will be clerking at the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) in its 2017–2018 session. Jeremy Butt, Law’16, will be clerk to Justice Michael Moldaver, while his peers from the from civil law/common law joint degree program, Alexandra Hebert, Law’16, and Francis Lévesque, Law’15, will both be with Justice Russell Brown.

At the SCC, teams of three clerks work with their judge to help the Court reach just outcomes in nationally important cases. “Clerks generally assist their justice in preparing for hearings and conducting legal research,” says Hebert. Lévesque, who has spent the past year clerking at the Federal Court of Appeal, says, “It’s an enriching experience where you have the opportunity of closely collaborating with the best jurists in the country at the very beginning of your career.”

Each of the three Queen’s Law grads is aiming to have a positive impact on the way the Court develops the law in Canada. “What distinguishes Supreme Court clerkships,” says Lévesque, “is that the Court hears a limited number of cases that generally have great importance for the country.” Butt is keen to take on this role. “I’m looking forward to helping provide practical solutions to intellectually fascinating and complex legal and social policy questions with which the Supreme Court is tasked with solving.”

Hebert is anticipating the Court’s famously collegial atmosphere. “Clerks have the unique privilege of working on complex legal issues of national significance in a stimulating environment. I am very enthusiastic about working with Justice Brown, collaborating with the other clerks and engaging in intellectually challenging discussions.”

Butt, who is starting his career on the same path as his father (see pg.39), credits the Queen’s Law community for all its help and support for making his “amazing opportunity” possible. “It has equipped me with the tools which are essential for success in a clerkship role. Throughout my time at Queen’s I have improved my substantive knowledge of the law and ability to research and write. “My time at Queen’s Law has taught me how to think about a legal issue: to critically assess it in order to tackle a problem and ultimately come up with a workable solution.”

— ANTHONY PUGH

Sheila Murray, Law’82 (Com’79)
Dean’s Council member credited for career contributions in Canada and the Caribbean

The OBA award is for Walwyn’s professional contributions and career achievements in Ontario as recognized by his peers. This includes his service as a past President of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers, and as a member of both the Judicial Appointments Committee for the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Greater Toronto Area) and the Ontario Provincial Court.

Fellowship in the ACTL, a premier professional trial organization founded in 1950, recognizes he has achieved the very highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism and collegiality. In becoming a Fellow, which is granted by invitation only, Walwyn joins a select 150 Ontario lawyers in an organization with a total current membership of over 5,700 lawyers in Canada and the U.S. In both Canada and the Caribbean he handles complex multi-jurisdictional litigation and many of his cases have resulted in precedent-setting judgments.

When speaking of his work, Walwyn focuses on the intellectual challenge of problem-solving. “What is consistent in my day-to-day work is not just helping individuals and corporations, but being able to engage in some of the most difficult, but exciting problems that arise in business, and particularly in the context of international business. It is this challenge that interests me every hour of every day, and provides the reward for what are admittedly long days with hard work.”

Reflecting on his legal education at Queen’s, Walwyn says, “It is interesting that no matter how complex the problem, or how sophisticated the financial instrument, I always rely on the basic principles I learned at Queen’s Law. The concepts in Evidence, Business Associations and International Tax continue to serve me well every day in every file.”

Harry McMurtry, Law’89 (Arts’85), a partner at WeirFoulds LLP, has a burgeoning national and international reputation. Now he has added two new honours to supplement his impressive resume. This spring, the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) inducted him as a Fellow and the Ontario Bar Association (OBA) presented him with its Award for Distinguished Service.

Walwyn practises law not only in Ontario but also in the Caribbean, where he is a member of the bar in eight different jurisdictions. He has set high professional standards during the course of his career and has been repeatedly named as one of Canada’s top corporate and commercial litigation lawyers in Best Lawyers in Canada.

Walking 500 miles to fight Parkinson’s

Harry McMurtry, Law’89 (Arts’85), a former Queen’s varsity basketball player, has put up a big fight against the illness he suffers from – Parkinson’s disease. With fellow Queen’s grad Sue Thompson (Arts’87, MA’89) and Dr. Ross Sugar of Baltimore he took part in 500 Miles For Parkinson’s. It was a fundraising walk from New York City to Toronto that started on May 7 and saw the trio travel up to 15 miles a day for 45 days, surpassing their goal of raising $500,000.

“This walk is about promoting ability rather than disability,” said McMurtry prior to beginning his journey. “It is about showcasing people living well with Parkinson’s disease. With great treatment, backed up by great research, people with Parkinson’s can live meaningful lives. People with Parkinson’s do not wish to be identified with the disease. They wish to be viewed and treated as intact people.”

Walwyn says, “It is interesting that no matter how complex the problem, or how sophisticated the financial instrument, I always rely on the basic principles I learned at Queen’s Law. The concepts in Evidence, Business Associations and International Tax continue to serve me well every day in every file.” — ANTHONY FUGH

Harry McMurtry, Law’89 (second from left), and Sue Thompson (left) met a lot of supporters on their walk from New York City to Toronto.
New grad wins national scholarship for women in politics

Kaisha Thompson, Law’16, a long-time advocate for women entering the political arena, caught the attention of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. During her third year of studies, she received its 2015 Mayor Andrée P. Boucher Memorial Scholarship.

“It’s truly an honour!” exclaimed Thompson when she won the award named for the former Quebec City mayor who was a leader in Canadian municipal politics and a role model to women. “I’m excited to continue mentoring young women interested a career in politics and, of course, putting my law degree to good use by working to elect more women.”

The annual scholarship, worth $3,000, is awarded to the female university student who submits the best essay on women in politics. Thompson’s winning paper addressed the ambition gap, a theory that discusses why more women do not enter politics.

“As someone who’s always been interested in politics, I wanted to focus on why other women avoid it,” she said. “I started working in politics when I was in high school. It’s been an important part of my life and, whenever possible, I encourage other women to consider getting involved.”

In campaigns for female candidates over the years, Thompson has taken on different roles, including social media assistant, Election Day volunteer, and senior campaign advisor. Then, in 2014, Thompson herself won an elected position: Treasurer of the Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario). Her election, to the two-year term position, was a remarkable achievement.

At a council meeting on Jan. 26, the City of Kingston recognized Thompson’s achievement. The next day, Mayor Bryan Paterson welcomed her to City Hall, where they discussed her current efforts in helping refugee resettlement in the Kingston community and her future career goals.

“I know the political process and commitments intimately so I’m going to be strategic when, if ever, I run for office,” she said. “My focus right now is on my legal career, which begins with articling for the Attorney General of Ontario.”

Kaisha Thompson, Law’16, accepts the Mayor Andrée Boucher Memorial Scholarship from Mayor Bryan Paterson at Kingston City Hall on Jan. 27.

Law’12 grad’s podcast allows all to get ‘lawyered’

Each episode features a conversation with a different legal professional that provides insight on their specific area of practice. Past episodes have discussed diverse topics including technology, entertainment law, animal law and charity law. The podcast typically receives more than 300 downloads per week, attracting a primarily Canadian audience. The show has also gained a small international following.

“I expected it would be tricky to find guests, but many lawyers have been receptive to the idea and the show has quickly spread through social media and word of mouth,” he says. “To date, I have interviewed an LSUC bencher, the current Ontario environmental commissioner, and several recipients of prestigious legal awards. While most of the guests have been lawyers who I have contacted directly, several of them are people who reached out to me.”

Lawyered has featured several Queen’s Law alumni, such as Addison Cameron-Huff, Law’12, a prominent technology lawyer in Toronto, as well as Scott Maidment, Law’88, a partner at McMillan LLP and Christopher Horkins, Law’11, an associate at Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP.

“When it can be challenging to balance a full-time job as well as a podcast, I remain motivated by the fact that Lawyered is an access-to-justice initiative that is providing important knowledge to a wide range of people,” says Panju. In addition, he notes that hosting a podcast has engaged and honed his legal skills. “As a litigator, I have applied my ‘direct examination’ skills to guide the guests through complicated topics in a way that is understandable to laypeople.”

Check out Lawyered online, or find it on iTunes. The season three premier will air early in 2017.

— DEANNA MILLER
Two from Law rewarded for making a difference

Thompson Hamilton, Law’16 (Arts’13), and Michael Coleman, Law’17, are among five students who were inducted into the Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Society this year for their outstanding service to the Queen’s community. They both earned the top university honour through impressive extra-curriculars that have made a lasting, positive impact.

The Tricolour Award, which is presented at Convocation, is the highest tribute that can be paid to a student for valuable and distinguished service to the university in non-athletic, extra-curricular activities.

“Serving the Queen’s community is a win-win scenario,” says Hamilton. “I’ve contributed but I’ve also learned a lot, and met some of my best friends. Once I got a taste of being involved, there was no going back.”

That taste started in his undergraduate years, when he chaired the AMS Judicial Committee, volunteered with Queen’s Model Court and welcomed prospective students as a campus tour guide.

As a law student, Hamilton served as VP (Professional) of the Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS). In that role, he modernized the organization’s Human Resources portfolio to ensure compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, introduced employment contracts for paid employees, drafted formal anti-harassment policies, and was also instrumental in reaching out to professional faculties that were historically less involved with the SGPS. During that time, he also sat on the Grad Club Board of Directors.

The highlight of Hamilton’s time at Queen’s has been his three-year clinical experience with Queen’s Legal Aid, helping students and low-income residents who are often in very dire straits. “Helping people get the income support they deserve, launching human rights claims, preventing people from getting criminal records – it’s very rewarding to have a chance to make a real difference in someone’s life,” he says. “There is a very real problem with access to justice in Ontario and law students can play an important role in chipping away at it.” He has helped more students do just that, passing on his knowledge and experience by training the next generation of QLA caseworkers.

Co-winner Michael Coleman gets his motivation to give back from his parents, who arrived in Canada with little financial backing and worked long hours, “regardless of how successful you become, you will always be in a better position than many others in society,” he says, recalling the valuable lesson he learned from them. “This makes it your obligation to help your community whenever the opportunities arise.”

Coleman, who only just completed his second year of the JD program, has filled a number of important roles targeting diversity and equity issues on campus. As a member of the SGPS’s Equity-Issues Standing Committee, he organized conferences, workshops and social events. Having been elected President of the Queen’s Chapter of the Black Law Students of Canada and appointed Equity and Diversity Commissioner for the Law Faculty, he has highlighted the continuing need for inclusivity and diversity to remain important elements of the school.

While juggling these important initiatives, Coleman volunteered with Queen’s Legal Aid and also as an English and Math tutor at the Collins Bay Correctional Institution in Kingston. There, he helped inmates improve their reading and writing, sometimes working towards their high school diplomas.

For Coleman, one role stands out above the rest: acting as a Student Peer Advisor for graduate students. “I’m able to connect directly with students completing their PhDs and offer them practical solutions to the academic or social issues they face.” For example, after a two-hour meeting with an academically unmotivated student who intended to drop out the next day, he not only convinced the student to continue studying but also to take stress-reducing and confidence-building fitness classes.

Similarly, Hamilton hopes to have established a career in the criminal justice system, where he can continue to “make a real difference in peoples’ lives.”

Both also intend to stay involved with their alma mater long after they graduate. With students like Michael Coleman and Thompson Hamilton, the spirit of benevolence and generosity is alive and well at Queen’s Law.

— ALEXANDER STEELE

How amazing?

Queen’s Law Communications Manager Lisa Graham is eager for any and all alumni news and notes for this magazine, our website, and more!

Contact Lisa at grahamlp@queensu.ca or 613-533-6000 ext. 74259.
A frequent flyer who has visited more than 50 countries, Avery Campbell, Law’16, can now call himself a published author as well. In January, his paper, “Airline Mistake Fares in Canada and the United States,” appeared in McGill’s Annals of Air and Space Law. In the article, he examines the regulatory systems in both Canada and the United States on mistake fares, making recommendations for regulators on how to manage them in the future.

A mistake fare occurs when an airline fare is posted at an unusually low rate due to human or technical errors, often resulting in extremely reduced prices or first-class fares many times cheaper than the intended rate. Campbell notes, for example, that a fare between Yangon, Myanmar and Montreal was listed for under $1,000 when it should have been many times that amount, while Delta Airlines recently released a series of domestic flights for $0.

“Everyone loves getting a good deal. However, there’s a very thin line separating a good deal and benefiting from a mistake,” says Campbell. “This paper provides judges, regulators, and other interested parties a thorough review of the law regarding mistake fares in both Canada and the U.S.”

Campbell wrote the paper as an independent study project for Professor Martha Bailey, LLM’88. While publishing a paper was never a goal of his in law school, his professor encouraged him to submit it and it was quickly accepted.

“Avery’s paper addresses the important but generally overlooked issue of mistake air fares,” says Bailey. “It will be the ‘go-to’ paper on this issue in Canada, and provide guidance to courts and policy-makers.”

Outside of his travels and studies, Campbell runs a popular blog on the airline industry, as well as a small company, Awarding Canada, which offers consulting services for customers who want to use their frequent flyer rewards while minimizing taxes and fees. He is therefore no stranger to the topic of his article.

“I have benefitted immensely from airline mistake fares,” he says, “so it was a natural paper to write.”

Queen’s Law jet-setter publishes paper on airline mistake fares

Students vote to create aboriginal student entrance award

On March 24, Queen’s Law students voted to use the Law Students’ Society’s $25,000 budget surplus to create the school’s first entrance award for Aboriginal law students. The Law Faculty agreed to match the LSS’s contribution in order to establish an endowed fund that will support an annual scholarship of $2,000 to $3,000 for one student each year. Dean Bill Flanagan has committed to seeking additional donations to maximize the impact of this award.

“The LSS is thrilled to support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s calls to action through the creation of a permanent scholarship specifically designed to help more Aboriginal students access legal education,” said then-LSS executive member Ian Moore, MPA’14/Law’16, when then-award was announced. “The LSS sees this award not only as a small contribution to addressing the underrepresentation of indigenous peoples in the legal profession, but also as a way for Queen’s Law to say to prospective Aboriginal law students: ‘We want you here and we want to learn from you.’”

“The Faculty is delighted to work in partnership with the LSS to create this new entrance award for Aboriginal law students,” said Dean Flanagan. “This generous gift by the LSS will greatly enhance the Faculty’s ability to support more Aboriginal law students at Queen’s, and it reflects the commitment on the part of both the LSS and the Faculty to respond proactively to the TRC call to action.”

The entrance award is the first student-funded Aboriginal law student award offered in Canada. Students voted for the creation of the award through an online ballot setting out options for spending a current funding surplus, including the establishment of a general needs-based bursary. More than 65 per cent of the law student body participated in the vote.

“The award represents an important step in the process of reconciliation and relationship-building,” said Jason Mercredi, Law’18, LSS Aboriginal Student Representative. “Enhanced financial support will enable more Aboriginal students to attend law school at Queen’s, and in turn contribute to the broader legal community and justice system.”

Mercredi was elected in the fall of 2015 as the LSS’s first Aboriginal Student Representative, a new position created to give a voice to First Nation, Métis, and Inuit perspectives within the law school.

The LSS also endorsed the Canadian Council of Law Deans’ response to the TRC calls to action, which had been endorsed by Law’s Faculty Board, and voted to work with the Faculty on implementing it at Queen’s Law.
Alumni celebrate Queen’s Law at spring receptions

Calgary (May 2)
Read the story Queen’s Law Albertans have lots to celebrate.

Vancouver (May 4)
Read the story Queen’s Law spirit is high on the west coast.
Toronto (May 31)

Read the story Record crowd celebrates Queen’s Law in Toronto.
Homecoming 2016

October 14-16

Get ready to return to Queen’s Law!

Alumni from class years ending in 1 and 6 will be celebrating milestone anniversaries this year. Members of the Class of Law’66 will mark their 50th anniversary by being welcomed into the University’s distinguished Tricolour Guard.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14
8:00pm: Law grads meet at the Grad Club (cash bar).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15
10:00am–noon: Enjoy coffee and muffins with clinic directors and caseworkers at the Queen’s Law Clinics at 303 Bagot Street in downtown Kingston.

1:00pm kickoff: Football fans can purchase tickets in the summer to watch the Queen’s Gaels play the Windsor Lancers at the newly revitalized Richardson Stadium.

5:30–7:00pm: Dean Flanagan hosts a cocktail reception for all alumni in Macdonald Hall.

After 7:00pm: Catch up with your classmates at your class’s private dinner at one of Kingston’s finest venues.

Watch your email and our Homecoming web page for further details.