Great Teacher Award

FOR DAVID SONENSHEIN, IT’S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN NEW TRICKS

APRIL 17, 2007

Reprinted from Temple Times

Professor Sonenshein brings a passion and dedication to teaching that is a model for everyone. My only regret is that I won’t get to take another class with him.

—James Wong ’07

Professor Sonenshein’s evidence course is paid one of the highest compliments possible—it is highly recommended from one class to the next.

—Erica A. Serine ’04, Dechert

Although I still remember most of the hearsay exceptions despite not practicing law in three years, his best lesson to me was not about law. I remember thinking during class how wonderful it is when someone finds their true calling, something they enjoy and are really great at.

—Elijah Waterman ’02

Foreign Service Office, U.S. State Department

We have discussed teaching and training in classrooms, courtrooms, and kitchens. I can think of no more deserving candidate for the prestigious Great Teacher Award.

—Professor Edward D. Ohlbaum, Director of Trial Advocacy and Clinical Legal Education

In addition to the quality of his teaching, one must recognize that he is, and has been, a consistent producer of books and articles of real merit. He has made substantial contributions to curriculum reform. A primary field of interest for him is evidence, and he has achieved national prominence as an expert in that field.

—Professor of Law Emeritus Charles H. Rogovin

He is adored by his students and admired by his colleagues. He has sparked the intellectual curiosity of students for more than twenty years and has trained them how to stimulate and satisfy that curiosity as they move through life.

—Professor JoAnne A. Epps, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

PROFESSOR DAVID SONENSHEIN, WINNER OF A GREAT TEACHER AWARD, RECENTLY SHIFTED HIS FOCUS FROM CIVIL PROCEDURE, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE AND EVIDENCE TO INTERNATIONAL LAW

“Teaching abroad and engaging comparative law were new things for me; I really found it exciting,” he said. “At Temple Law, our view is that you cannot be an educated lawyer in the 21st century without some international and comparative law background.”

Like all great teachers, Sonenshein is passing his newly gained insights directly to his students.

“I have added an international comparative component to every course I teach,” he said, “and I created an advanced course called ‘Comparative Civil Procedure,’ which compares the ‘civil law’ systems of Italy and Germany with the ‘common law’ approach to civil justice in the United States.”

Seeking novel ways to engage Temple Law and continuing professional education students is nothing new to Sonenshein, who has been pioneering innovative teaching methods for decades. He designed an evidence course, now used by many of his colleagues, that simulates real-world courtroom experiences.

Along with Law School Professor Anthony Bocchino, he helped develop a civil procedure casebook that allows students to engage in experiential learning through the various stages of a simulated law suit as they argue motions and discovery requests, and perform simulated depositions.

Sonenshein introduced presentations with snippets of actual trials and vignettes to the classroom, and even attended acting workshops for lawyers to seek ways to “teach new dogs—my students—old tricks,” he said.

“You have to be open to new influences and new points of view,” Sonenshein said. “It increases the value of what you do for students, and it keeps your teaching fresh. And in the end, that’s what I do. I’m a teacher.”

—Hilile J. Hoffmann

Editor’s Note: Professor Sonenshein earned a B.A. from Cornell University in 1969 and a J.D. from New York University in 1972.

Great Teacher Award

FOR DAVID SONENSHEIN, IT’S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN NEW TRICKS

APRIL 17, 2007

Reprinted from Temple Times

Professor Sonenshein, professor of law and winner of a 2007 Great Teacher Award, is living proof that it’s never too late to explore new territory and reinvent yourself as a teacher and a scholar.

Already one of the university’s most respected faculty members, Sonenshein—an expert in deposition skills, evidence and trial advocacy—would have been forgiven for taking fewer intellectual risks when he reached his 22nd anniversary as a Temple Law professor in 2006.

He had won the prestigious Francis Rawle Award from the American Law Institute and the American Bar Association for his outstanding contributions to the field of post-admission legal education in 2001. He had earned a Lindback Award in 2004.

And he had won five George P. Williams III Awards for Outstanding Professor, an honor presented by the graduating class to the Law School faculty member “who has made the most significant contribution to [their] law school career.” No faculty member has ever won as many.

Yet after more than two decades of teaching civil procedure, criminal procedure and evidence to Temple Law students and staking out a position as a national leader in educating practicing lawyers and judges, Sonenshein felt a need to try something new.

Following the lead of Law School Dean Robert Reinsteins, who has spearheaded Temple Law’s push to become a forerunner in international law, Sonenshein traveled to Italy to teach comparative civil procedure at Temple University Rome in the Law School’s summer session abroad program.

In the fall of 2006, as a Fulbright Senior Specialist, he taught American criminal procedure to Italian law and graduate students at the University of Parma in Italy. He also traveled to Poland to teach American civil litigation to Polish lawyers. Since then, Sonenshein has been named co-director of a new joint program with the University of Parma for American lawyers, judges and legal scholars who want to earn a certificate in European law.

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—Professor JoAnne A. Epps, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching
ABREU’S LOVE FOR TAX LAW HAS STUDENTS BUYING IN

Reprinted from Temple Times

There are many things that law students dread, but few more than the prospect of taking a course on tax law. So how is it that Temple Law students who end up taking tax law with Professor Alice Abreu, a 22-year faculty member at the James E. Beasley School of Law and a 2007 winner of the Lindback Award for Distinguished teaching, end up liking the subject? It starts with Abreu’s first-hand understanding of her students’ fears.

“When I was in law school, I thought tax law would be the most horrible, boring, pedestrian subject,” said Abreu, now an internationally respected tax law scholar. “I really didn’t want to take the class; I was scared of it.”

Eager to prove herself, Abreu took tax law anyway, and so began an improbable love story. “It’s true, I fell in love with tax law,” Abreu admitted. “I learned that our tax system is vitally important. When we think about whom we should tax and what we should tax, we’re really asking who should pay for the cost of living in a civilized society. It’s a proxy for what we value. Sure, tax law is also a wonderful sort of puzzle. But understanding the puzzle without understanding the underlying policy is meaningless.”

“Taking tax law was a life-altering experience,” Abreu said, “and I owe my career to my professor.” Abreu’s conversion wasn’t the first unlikely twist in her long and winding road to Temple. Born in Cuba, Abreu’s family left for Miami in 1960, then spent much of the next decade bouncing around the Western Hemisphere, following her father’s jobs as a manager of oil refineries and chemical plants in El Salvador, Aruba and Argentina. Her mother and father encouraged her to go away to college—unusual for Cuban parents of girls at the time—and she went off to Cornell University as, of all things, a chemistry major.

It didn’t take long for Abreu to learn that chemistry wasn’t her calling—“I didn’t understand a word,” she said—and she eventually graduated with a degree in psychology. Although she intended to pursue a doctorate in psychology, her boyfriend (and future husband) suggested that law school might be a better match for someone who loved to talk and couldn’t stand losing an argument. After taking time off to work as the executive director of a drug treatment program for adolescents, she attended Cornell Law School, did a federal judicial clerkship and then went into private practice.

“I enjoyed private practice,” Abreu said, “but I always knew I wanted to be an academic. I kept thinking about the effect that my tax law professor had on my life. There were lots of people who could do what I was doing in private practice, but there are fewer people who can really make a difference as teachers.”

It was a decision that would benefit generations of Temple law students.

“Alice has a vivacious enthusiasm for tax law, and she has been able to transmit that enthusiasm to innumerable students—and colleagues too,” said fellow law Professor Jane B. Baron. “It’s infectious.”

Abreu, who teaches taxation, corporate taxation, international tax, tax policy and contracts, acknowledges that it may not be realistic to expect her students to share her unabashed affection for tax law. But given her students’ anxieties, her goals as a teacher are no less lofty.

“Even if I don’t succeed in making my students love tax law the way I do,” she said, “if I can succeed in making them understand the tax system and understand its importance, then I’ve done my job.” For Alice Abreu, year after year, it’s a mission accomplished.

—Hillel J. Hoffmann

Most professors would be shocked to know that their students talk about them behind their backs. It’s true. We do. I would like to disclose the nature of our gossip about Professor Abreu: Professor Abreu is an exceptional teacher.

—R. Olivia Pulley ’08

Before I joined the law faculty in 1991, I was a tax associate at a large Philadelphia firm. Although I didn’t know Alice, I remember the chair of my tax department referring to her as “true quality.” I was honored when Alice recruited me to join the law faculty to teach tax.

—Professor Nancy J. Knauer

I can honestly say I would not be where I am today without her enthusiasm and support.

—Kathryn J. Bixler, LL.M. in Taxation ’02, Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll

Alice’s clear, highly-organized, and concrete teaching style, combined with her animated and energetic delivery (which she attributes to her Cuban roots) and her genuinely warm personality, soon turns hesitant students into engaged students, who look forward to their next tax class with Professor Abreu.

—Professor Robert J. Bartow

PROFESSOR BARTOW RECEIVES ALUMNI AWARD

MAY 19, 2007 Professor Robert Bartow received the Shusterman Faculty Award from the Temple Law Alumni Association in recognition of more than three decades of excellence in teaching and scholarship. A member of the faculty since 1973, Bartow offers popular courses in property, trusts and estates, and taxation, and teaches in Temple’s award-winning integrated transactional program. He was named Laura H. Carnell Professor of Law in 1997, and served as acting dean for that year’s spring semester. He is associate dean for academic affairs, a position he has held since 2004, and previously held from 1989 to 1999.

Bartow has received other awards for teaching excellence at Temple including the Class of 1985’s George P. Williams Award, the Lindback Award, and he was the first recipient of the I. Herman Stern Chair in Law, recognizing faculty members for their achievements as teachers.


The Shusterman Award, presented to Bartow at the alumni reunion weekend in May, honors dedication to excellence and commitment to the law school community, and recognizes the importance of high standards in teaching and scholarship to the continuing advancement and elevation of the law school’s national reputation as an institution for legal education.

The award was named for Murray H. Shusterman ’36, who was an adjunct professor of real estate at Temple for 35 years. Shusterman generously endowed a fund to support Temple Law’s Israel program and made a major contribution to the renovation of the law school’s conference center, which is named in his honor.

SYMPOSİUM EXAMİNES EXECUTİVE POWER

MARCH 23, 2007 Martin S. Lederman was the keynote speaker at the symposium, “Executive Power, Exploring the Limits of Article II.” Lederman, a visiting professor at Georgetown University Law Center, worked for the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel from 1994 to 2002, concentrating on congressional power, federalism, and separation of powers issues, among other topics.

Panelists from around the country discussed the recent U.S. Supreme Court opinion Hamdan v. Rumsfeld and the detention of “enemy combatants,” executive use of the State Secret Privilege and the extent to which national security concerns can prevent the disclosure of information, and President Lincoln’s suspension of the Great Writ during the Civil War. Temple Law Review organized the symposium and published a special issue in conjunction with the event. Brian Neulander ’07 was the symposium and articles editor.
Temple produces BUMPER CROP of law clerks

Next fall, 18 members of the class of 2007 will be starting as law clerks for various federal judges throughout the country. Another two will clerk for a Pennsylvania Supreme Court justice.

“Federal judicial clerkships and clerkships with state Supreme Courts are probably the single best way to end one’s law school career and to begin one’s legal career,” says Assistant Dean for Career Planning Louis Thompson. “They are also among the toughest first jobs to get. As someone who had chambers in the spring of 2006, when they attended the process of litigation than I had in two years at a large firm.”

This bumper crop of clerks-to-be began their journey to chambers in the spring of 2006, when they attended the clerkship panels hosted by the Office of Career Planning (OCP). Members of the faculty clerkship committee, chaired by Professor Craig Green, bring alumni who are current or former law clerks to campus every February to extol the virtues of clerking. At this introductory meeting, the OCP encourages students to apply for clerkships. Individual student meetings are then held to discuss which judges to apply to, how to approach professors for reference letters, and how to navigate the complexities of the application system.

In recent years, the process of applying for clerkships has undergone standardization, simplifying a sometimes confusing array of options. In 2003, a majority of the federal judiciary adopted what has been called the “Hiring Plan.”

The terms of this plan prevent judges from considering applications for clerkships until the Tuesday after Labor Day, a year before the clerkship is slated to begin. Of course, given the speed at which clerkship hiring occurs, this essentially means that applications must arrive by that day or the day after. Furthermore, law schools are encouraged to “bundle” the applications of all their students. This means that law schools are expected to ensure that all applications from their students arrive in one complete bundle by that time. The OCP requires students to provide them with resumes, cover letters, and, where required, writing samples and undergraduate transcripts for each judge they wish to apply to. The OCP then marries these materials with letters of recommendations and law school transcripts and delivers them to judges on behalf of the students. In addition, in 2005, a pilot group of federal judges began accepting applications electronically through a system called OSCAR (Online System for Clerkship Application and Review). For these judges, the OCP uploads these letters into OSCAR on behalf of the faculty.

Last year, a total of 72 students sent 3,115 paper applications to 562 judges. The same number of students completed 3,357 electronic applications to 484 judges on OSCAR. Fifty-seven faculty wrote approximately 178 unique letters of recommendation. The OCP printed a total 7,082 faculty letters for paper applications, and uploaded 6,476 letters into OSCAR for electronic applications.

Moot Court Winners to Represent Temple in National Competition

APRIL 10, 2007 Lila Slovak is the 2007 winner of the Stern Moot Court Competition, and John Risler is the first-runner up. They argued the case of Morse v. Frederick before a distinguished panel of judges: Judge Marjorie Rendell of the Third Circuit, Judge Jose Linares of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, and Professor Mark Rahdert. Next year Slovak and Risler will represent the Moot Court Honor Society at a national moot court competition of their choosing.

NATIONAL TRIAL TEAM AGAIN SUCEEDS IN NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

SEMI-FINALISTS IN ABA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARCH 4, 2007 Temple’s National Trial Team took semi-finalist honors in the American Association for Justice (formerly ATLA) national championships in New Orleans. Temple has won the AAI national championship twice, and finished as finalists twice. The team traveled to the national competition, after successfully defending its regional championship title. It was the team’s seventh regional championship in ten years of competing. The team, composed of Virginia Chentis ’07, Ross Miller ’07, Brad Terbelo ’07 and Marie Trip ’08, was coached by Professor Carrie Cinquanto, Director of the LL.M. in Trial Advocacy Program, and Justin Oshana ’06.

SECOND IN NATIONAL TRIAL COMPETITION

MARCH 30, 2007 The team ended its season as the national finalist in the National Trial Competition sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Texas Young Lawyers Association in Houston. Temple has won the national championship and finished second three times each and has placed in the final eight for the last thirteen consecutive years. Team members John Atchison and Alex Gosfield were coached by Elizabeth Lippy ’03 of Rubin, Glickman, Steinberg, and Professor Maureen McCartney, Director of Trial Advocacy Programs.

FINALISTS IN ABA-CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMPETITION

MARCH 31, 2007 The trial team placed as finalists in the ABA National Criminal Justice Advocacy Competition held at John Marshall Law School in Chicago, a competition won by Temple in 2006. Representing Temple were Leslie Barkemeyer, Nichole Junior, Ali Moghaddam and Nipun Patel. Junior was named best advocate in the competition and best cross-examiner in the final round. The team was coached by Jennifer Bretschneider of the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, and Professor Maureen McCartney, Director of Trial Advocacy Programs.
Yale Law professor speaks at INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

MARCH 13, 2007

Oona Hathaway, an associate professor at Yale Law School, delivered a talk entitled: “International Law and Domestic Sovereignty” at a colloquium organized by the Institute for International Law and Public Policy. Hathaway’s research focuses on the ways in which international law influences state behavior. She is a recent recipient of a Carnegie Scholars Award for her project, “Between Power and Principle: A Political Theory of International Law,” and she is working on a book on the promise and limits of international law.

Hathaway graduated from Yale Law School in 1997 and, following law school, clerked for Judge Patricia Wald of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and for Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. During a fellowship at Harvard University’s Carr Center for Human Rights Policy and at Harvard University’s Center for Ethics and the Professions, she conducted research on the influence of human rights treaties on states’ human rights practices.

Starting in 2000, Hathaway taught at Boston University School of Law before joining the faculty of the Yale Law School in 2002.

The colloquium is an ongoing program sponsored by the Institute of International Law and Public Policy to bring leading international law scholars to Temple to present works-in-progress. As part of the program, law students write short responses to these scholarly works and have an opportunity to engage in discussions with the authors. Discussants at the Hathaway presentation were Professors Henry Richardson and Jaya Rami-Nogales. Law students, faculty and graduate students from Temple’s political science department participated in the dialogue after Hathaway’s presentations.

OTHER SPRING 2007 PRESENTATIONS

Joost Pauwelyn of Duke Law School presented “The Optimal Protection of International Law.” The paper focused on whether full compliance with international legal norms would be optimal compliance.

Distinguished scholar-in-residence David Luban of Georgetown University Law Center presented “The Washington Torture Lawyers.” The session explored the legal and moral justifications, if any, for torture in an age of terror, and of the professional responsibilities of administration lawyers who drafted the “torture memos.”

In “Tinkering with Torture in the Aftermath of Hamdan,” Catherine Powell of Fordham Law School discussed the recent military commissions act, and focused on the role of democratic deliberation in enhancing compliance with international norms, such as the ban on torture.

PUBLIC INTEREST SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED

APRIL 11, 2007

Originally established to recognize the generous gift to the law school by Leonard Rubin ’49, the Rubin-Presser Public Scholars are awarded to incoming students who have a strong commitment to public interest work, exhibit leadership potential and intend to pursue a career in public interest law. Admitted students are invited to apply for these scholarships in the spring preceding their matriculation in the law school. The program was renamed in 2005 in memory of Stefan Presser, faculty member and civil rights advocate, who helped create the Public Interest Scholars Program in 2000.

LAW LIBRARY CELEBRATES NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

APRIL 20, 2007

April in Paris was this year’s theme as the library staff hosted a celebration of National Library Week, complete with a makeshift Café de Beasley, rafters festooned with red and blue bunting, and miniature Eiffel Towers. Library staff and other members of the law school community dressed in period costumes. Law library director John Necci says, “We chose Paris because it is known as the city of light and has always been a center of learning . . . Temple’s Law Library, is also a place of enlightenment.” (Photo by Maryida Reitz)

FOOTBALL TEAM’S COUNSEL VISITS LAW SCHOOL

APRIL 6, 2007

Woodie Dixon (center), general counsel of the National Football League’s Kansas City Chiefs, visited the law school to speak to the sports and entertainment law club. He is shown with Professor N. Jeremi Duru and Associate Dean JoAnne A. Epps.
1959
RAYMOND L. SHAPIRO, a bankruptcy and business restructuring partner at Blank Rome, received the 2007 Distinguished Service Award from the American College of Bankruptcy after delivering the keynote speech at the induction ceremony of the College in March 2007.

1973
CHARLES W. CRAVEN, a shareholder at Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. The Academy consists of over 288 appellate attorneys from around the country, seven of whom practice in Pennsylvania.

1978
The firm of Duane Morris is launching a trust company, DM Trust Company, led by STANLEY JOFFE, a partner in the estates and asset planning practice group in Philadelphia. Joffe will also maintain his role in advising high net worth individuals on international estate planning matters. Temple graduates NORA POMERANTZ ’89 and PETER ROSENBERG ’86 are also directors of the company.

1987
ROBERT W. GUNDLACH, JR., a partner at Fox Rothschild and co-chairman of its zoning and land use group, has been reappointed to the board of directors of the Bucks/Montgomery Counties Homebuilders Association. Gundlach, who has served on the board of the HBA since 2002, concentrates his practice on the representation of developers in the Pennsylvania suburbs with their zoning, subdivision and land development approvals.

PETER J. SCHANKOWITZ has been named CEO of VideoJug America, where he supervises all aspects of the company's website, www.videojug.com, as well as partnerships with web portals, television broadcasters, mobile technology companies and other platforms. For many years, Schankowitz was an executive producer of numerous network and cable television programs, most recently with Vin Di Bona Productions in Los Angeles.

1988
CHERYL HAFT PICKER has started her own firm named Cheryl Haft in Westfield, New Jersey. Previously Haft Picker had a federal clerkship within the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She then moved to California where she worked for Pillsbury Madison & Sutro before returning to New Jersey.

1989
LYDIA GAVALIS writes: "In 2006 I was made director and general counsel of SEI Investments (Europe) Limited. I am currently based in London, England (where) my primary focus is advising on the firm's varied global service and product offerings, specializing in cross-border issues affecting institutional investors, investment intermediaries and high net worth individuals."

MICHAEL PASTON is serving as president of Upper Dublin’s board of school directors. He was elected to the board in 2003 and served as vice president and chair of finance prior to being elected president.

J. KATE STICKLES, a partner in Saul Ewing’s bankruptcy and restructuring department, has been appointed the firm’s new marketing partner overseeing marketing for all eight offices. Stickles has experience in complex Chapter 11 reorganization and liquidation cases, and practices in many aspects of bankruptcy, representing debtors, unsecured creditors’ committees, equity committees, trustees and secured and unsecured creditors. In addition, Stickles is secretary of the International Women’s Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation Delaware Network and the co-chair of CLE/Publications committee of the Delaware State Bar Association bankruptcy section.

CARMEN LINEBERGER, J.D. ’88, LL.M. ’98, a homicide prosecutor and 17-year veteran of the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, received the 2007 Woman of Distinction Award from the Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia in January 2007. Lineberger is the National Black Prosecutors Association vice president of programs.

1990
RAMIRO M. CARBONELL, a shareholder in Stevens & Lee’s tax-exempt finance and tax credit and housing departments, chaired a panel that discussed “Tax Due Diligence” at the fifth annual National Association of Bond Lawyers (NABL) Tax & Securities Law Institute held in March 2007. Carbonell concentrates his practice in tax-exempt finance with an emphasis on taxation and federal arbitrage law.

1991

1992
F. PETER CONATY, JR has joined Richards, Layton & Finger as a director. Conaty comes from Martin, Conaty and Lunger, where he was a founding partner. His practice is focused primarily on estate planning, probate, taxation, tax planning and wealth preservation.

1993
RICHARD S. CANDIELLO has been named a non-equity partner of Meyer Darragh Buckler & Eck. Canciello is based in the firm’s Pittsburgh office and has a litigation practice that centers on civil litigation defense work.

1994
DAVID J. COHEN has joined Saltz, Mongeluzzi, Barrett & Bendesky as a partner and head of its new practice group, class action litigation. Cohen has spent more than a decade in a broad range of antitrust, consumer, employment and securities cases.
2007 ARLIN AND NEYSA ADAMS LECTURE

Come hear Pulitzer Prize-winning author and columnist

ANTHONY LEWIS

Anthony Lewis first won the Pulitzer Prize in 1955 for reporting on the U.S. government’s loyalty program, and specifically on the dismissal of a Navy employee who was not informed of the nature of the accusations against him, nor of his accusers. Lewis’s articles led to the employee’s reinstatement. He won a second Pulitzer Prize in 1963 for his coverage of the Supreme Court. He is the author of three books: Gideon’s Trumpet, about a landmark Supreme Court case; Portrait of a Decade, about the great changes in American race relations, and Make No Law: The Sullivan Case and the First Amendment.

DUANE MORRIS LLP MOOT COURT ROOM • OCTOBER 2, 2007, 4:00 P.M.

WOMENS LAW CAUCUS HOSTS ANNUAL DINNER

MARCH 29, 2007 The Honorable Annette M. Rizzo ’83 (at right), shown here with Catherine Barrett ’08, was honored at the Women’s Law Caucus’ annual reception. Judge Rizzo serves on the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas where she is assigned primarily to civil cases. Prior to her current assignment she spent five years on the criminal bench.
response to the disaster and its aftermath of government at all levels," says Woodward. He goes on to explain why he determined to stay and preserve the heritage of New Orleans that’s been around for hundreds of years. Losing that city would be losing one of the oldest and richest parts of our culture.”

“Before Katrina, New Orleans was like its own isolated world, separated from the rest of the country by its unique culture and carefree lifestyle,” says law student Mackenzie Smith. “It was really inspiring, though, to see residents so determined to stay and preserve the heritage of New Orleans that’s been around for hundreds of years. Losing that city would be losing one of the oldest and richest parts of our culture.”

Some students have already signed up to return to New Orleans in the summer and many hope to spend another spring break there. Student Zach Fanter says: “Katrina was just the first wave of damage to wash over New Orleans, and it was a force of nature. Since the storm, there is a second, man-made wave of devastation that is crippling the people of the region. Although we could only do so much over a few days, I am proud of the contribution Temple students made over spring break, and I am already looking forward to returning next year.”


The lecture reflected Professor Spiro’s work at Temple law, where he focuses on public international law, constitutional aspects of U.S. foreign relations, and immigration and nationality law. Prior to coming to Temple, Spiro was the Rusk Professor of International Law and associate dean for faculty development at the University of Georgia Law School. He served as a law clerk to Justice David H. Souter of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge Stephen F. Williams of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Washington, D.C. Circuit. He also served as director for democracy at the National Security Council during the Clinton administration, an attorney-adviser for the U.S. State Department’s Office of the Legal Adviser, and as a resident associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The Charles R. Weiner Professorship was endowed by a gift from The Barrack Foundation in honor of The Honorable Charles R. Weiner, a senior judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for 38 years.
MARCH 2007  The twenty-three Temple law students who committed to spend their spring break providing pro bono services in New Orleans found a community still devastated by the storm that had passed through 18 months prior to their visit. Spearheaded by Temple Law's director of public interest programs Maureen Olives, the group formed a small part of an army of over 1,000 law students, and many more college students, who opted for public service over relaxing vacations at the beach.

"At last spring's Equal Justice Conference I heard inspiring stories from law students who went to the Gulf Coast to help with hurricane recovery, and knew that our students would be interested," says Olives. "I knew I had to offer them the opportunity."

With no promise of financial assistance, students began to make plans to travel to New Orleans. They organized fundraisers and pooled resources to contain travel costs. Donations from the law firm Stradley Ronon, the faculty, the Student Bar Association, and the law school combined to lessen the financial burden for the students.

Upon arrival, the group found a city desperately in need of their efforts. Eighteen months after the devastation of Katrina, the area still relies to a large extent on volunteer labor to fuel the process of rebuilding. "I was shocked by the squalid conditions and general state of disrepair over a year after Katrina—especially in low income areas and communities of color," says law student Ben Beck-Coon.

"There is still so much to be done."

The overall volunteer effort was coordinated by a group of law students, the Student Hurricane Network, who assigned the Temple volunteers to various work places. Some students did fact-gathering in FEMA trailer colonies, some did mapping for a neighborhood on the verge of collapse, and others worked to salvage books and materials from the upper stories of a school whose first floor had been under water.

"We gathered data on education, employment, and health needs at a FEMA trailer encampment, where almost two-thousand people are still displaced—sixteen months after the levees broke," says Beck-Coon. "Hundreds of families are cramped into RV trailers that were not built for long-term use. Aside from struggling with basic needs, their frustration with government assistance and the lack of communication from service providers was apparent."

Temple Law professor Bill Woodward worked at a law clinic established at Loyola to deal with post-Katrina legal issues. Clinic volunteers assisted with an array of issues, including FEMA recoupment claims, insurance claims, and contractor fraud claims. Woodward describes the daunting legal challenges: "Troublesome FEMA claims result from FEMA determining, long after the victim has spent the grant money and planned her disaster recovery around whatever the amount was, that somebody made a mistake and the money must be paid back. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of these claims."

continued on page seven