



INTO THE WORLD



This is one in a series of profiles about graduating law students and their career plans.

Rowan Smith, who will graduate in May, received the 2007 Steve Lisa Foundation Award in honor of his significant contributions to the Center for the Study of Law, Science, & Technology at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

Lisa, an alumnus of the College of Law and nationally renowned attorney, established the \$1,000 foundation award last year. He cited Smith's significant contributions to the College and the Center of Law, Science, & Technology.

"Rowan stood out as being an excellent student, as well as an individual dedicated to the patent law profession," Lisa said.

Smith, who grew up in Upper Dunsforth in England, has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from ASU.

"I enjoyed the school work -- it was a challenging subject and served as great preparation for law school," the 26-year-old said. "Ultimately, however, it was my computer hobby-turned obsession that won me a position as an engineer at Honeywell.

"At Honeywell, I worked as a software engineer for two years before attending law school. Although my team and I were successful within the organization, it was the politics and a lack of opportunity that became my major motivations to attend law school.

"I hoped the skills I would learn at law school would allow me to participate in making some of the more important strategic business decisions that aren't generally available to engineers."

Throughout his law school career, Smith has focused on intellectual property law and the legal issues surrounding the development of new technologies, taking advantage of programs and classes offered by the Center.

"The Center provides a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about high-tech law and, at the same time, work closely with students in the engineering and business colleges," said Smith, who also worked closely with Professor Eric Menkhus at the Technology Ventures Clinic.

After graduation, he will join the intellectual property group at Quarles & Brady in Phoenix, working in patent and trademark prosecution, licensing and litigation.

"REFLECTIONS ON IMPERFECTION" BY PEDRICK LECTURER



The 12th annual Willard H. Pedrick Lecture drew a crowd of nearly 200 including, (left to right) Patricia White, Dean of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Martin D. Ginsburg, professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, Jo Ann Pedrick, widow of the founding dean of the College of Law, the Pedrick's daughters, Sara and Margo Pedrick, and the Pedrick's granddaughter, Camille Pedrick Chavez.

Imperfection is the natural and inevitable state of our world, Martin D. Ginsburg, a professor at Georgetown University Law Center, told a crowd of nearly 200 faculty members, students and staff this week at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

But learning to anticipate and plan for bad things can eventually result in new opportunities that we likely wouldn't have predicted, Ginsburg said during his address, "Some Reflections on Imperfection," at the 12th annual Willard H. Pedrick Lecture.

"In an imperfect world, it is foolish, indeed irrational, to believe that goodness and merit will reliably achieve a desired outcome," said the Washington, D.C., lawyer. "It is wiser to look around corners, to anticipate what can go wrong and to plan on that eventuality just in case.

"In an imperfect world, serious things do go seriously wrong. Stuff happens. As a rational person, you would not embark on a course unless you had first thought hard about what might go wrong and had planned an appropriate response."

The lecture, which honors the memory of Pedrick, the founding dean of the College of Law, was attended by his widow, Jo Ann, his two daughters, Margo Pedrick, and Sara Pedrick, and his granddaughter, Camille Pedrick Chavez. Ginsburg, husband of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, was introduced by her former colleague, retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

O'Connor said Ginsburg not only is the nation's best tax expert, he also is a superb cook who early in his marriage divided the household duties with his wife -- he prepared the meals, and she cleaned up after.

"The most coveted invitation in Washington, D.C., is to a lunch or dinner cooked by Marty Ginsburg and me," O'Connor said. "We have done that a time or two, and believe me, it's dazzling."

During his address, Ginsburg shared three stories -- all involving his wife and one including O'Connor, too. The women had much in common -- they were well-educated and had graduated at the top of their law school classes, but no law firms would hire them after graduation, he said.

"Was it a good thing or a bad thing?" Ginsburg asked. "If Ruth and Sandra had gone to work for law firms in the '50s and stayed the private-sector course, I have no doubt today each would be wealthy, unknown and long-retired senior partners.

"No one could know that rejection by conventional law firms ultimately would prove for these unique individuals to be an amazingly good thing."

In 1979, Ruth Bader Ginsburg wanted an appointment to the U.S. Court of Appeals in the Second Circuit, but instead she ended up on the bench in the District of Columbia Circuit.

"If Ruth had served on the Second Circuit, I do not know her success would have been so noteworthy as to attract a nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court," he said.

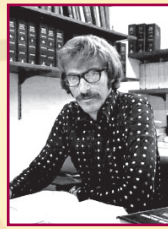
Finally, that unduly lengthy nomination process was far from perfect, involving Ginsburg himself, who lobbied for his wife with national women's groups that didn't support her and with a politician, who doubted her. Ultimately, an old friend in academia sealed the deal with President Clinton, and she joined the high court in 1993.

"It has been said, 'Wisdom should not be denigrated merely because it comes late, because it comes so seldom'," Ginsburg said.

In opening the lecture, Patricia White, Dean of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, predicted Pedrick, whom she called "beloved, innovative and quite extraordinary," would have enjoyed Ginsburg's address. Jo Ann Pedrick agreed.

"It was a lot of fun and so interesting to hear about how Supreme Court justices are nominated," Mrs. Pedrick said. "He (Willard) would have definitely enjoyed it; he was quite a comedian himself."

BERCH CHOSEN FOR LAST LECTURE SERIES



Michael Berch (shown in this 1978 photo) will be part of the ASU Last Lecture Series.

Michael Berch is among three Arizona State University professors selected to speak at the 12th annual Last Lecture Series April 10. The honor is based on students' nominations and the nominees' lecture proposals, and in both categories, Berch's was top-notch.

"Professor Berch is an insane genius," wrote Kolby Granville, 3L, who nominated the long-time professor in the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. "No student who has ever had him forgets him. He rants, he yells, he does at least a half a dozen things per class that you'd think would get him fired, and yet, 30 years later, he's still teaching at the law school, influencing the minds of future lawyers."

The university's Faculty Recognition Committee and three staff members of Memorial Union Programs and Activities, sponsor of the lecture series, waded through 35 nominations and proposals, searching for the most compelling topics and the most fascinating faculty members.

Berch, the first professor to be chosen from the College of Law, stood out, said Megan Pearse, the committee's adviser.

"His enthusiasm shined through," Pearse said. "And his lecture is not something that people will expect. It's different from what we've seen in the past."

Berch's lecture will focus on whether legal method and processes and the rules of law they produce function accountably or whether the rules vary, depending on factors such as race, wealth, accidents of birth and luck.

However, his presentation, *A Defense Plea for Leniency at the Mitigation Hearing -- State v. Raskolnikov*, will have a theatrical flair, as Berch creates a summation based on the trial of Rodya Raskolnikov, the central character in Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*.

"Law and legal principles govern the behavior of all of the participants to this crime: murderer, prosecutor, prostitute, jurors," Berch wrote in his proposal. "In the Last Lecture, the audience members sit as the jurors who convicted Raskolnikov. They must decide the fate of the man: life or death?"

"What factors should the defense attorney canvass; how should she respond to the prosecutor's case; what pitfalls await in rebuttal? How far dare (or should) the defense attorney go in recounting Raskolnikov's life? Is he the worst of the worst?"

Berch declined to provide details about his lecture, other than to say, "It's going to be theatre at its height."

In his nomination letter, Granville said, "Trust me on this one, have him give a last lecture. Assuming he doesn't scare everyone off, it will be a night they will never forget."

Free and open to the public, the event is at 7 p.m. April 10 in the Pima Room at Memorial Union. For more information, go to www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/mu/mupa/last_lecture.htm.

STEVE LISA FELLOWS NAMED



Jeff Jackson



Clark Proffitt

Jeff Jackson and Clark Proffitt, 2Ls, have been named the 2007 Steve Lisa fellows in patent law. The fellowship was created last year by Lisa through the Lisa Foundation and Arizona Technology Enterprises (AzTE).

Jackson and Proffitt are working with Lisa and the AzTE to help identify, prosecute and license patents obtained on Arizona State University's most commercially significant inventions. They are reviewing and analyzing the inventions, preparing and filing patent applications, and helping formulate and initiate licensing and enforcement programs.

Jackson has a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Stanford University and a master's in immunology from the University of Washington. A former biotechnology researcher, he is a Center scholar and plans to practice patent law.

Proffitt graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in biochemistry, and is a Center scholar pursuing a Law, Science, & Technology certificate. He intends to practice intellectual property law and is especially interested in nanotechnology.

Lisa said both fellows are well qualified.

"In addition to exhibiting strong educational credentials, both Clark and Jeff possess significant experience in biotechnology, an area of significant technological growth and investment at ASU," he said.

ROAST TO CELEBRATE MICHAEL GRANT'S RETIREMENT

In January, Michael Grant (Class of 1976) signed off as host of HORIZON, Channel 8 (KAET/TV)'s public affairs program, after more than 25 years at the public broadcasting station.

A benefit roast in his honor is scheduled for Thursday, April 5, at the Phoenix Convention Center. A reception will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and the program. Proceeds will go to support local programming on the station, including HORIZON. Tickets and sponsorship tables are available at www.azpbs.org/events or by calling (480) 965-9614.

"Grant's dedication to Eight and HORIZON has truly been legendary," said Don Keuth, chairman of the Eight Community Advisory Board. "During his 25-year tenure, the program has garnered more than 100 broadcasting and journalism awards and offered Arizonans a thoughtful, in-depth look at the issues that would shape their lives.

"Now it's our chance to celebrate his accomplishments and what's next for HORIZON."

Grant received his undergraduate – summa cum laude – and law degrees from Arizona State University. He was an assistant Arizona attorney general for three years before going into private practice and is currently with Gallagher & Kennedy in Phoenix.

Before HORIZON, Grant worked as an investigative reporter for a local radio station while attending law school.

RECENT LAW SCHOOL GRAD NAMED ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR



The learning curve for Zarinah T. Nadir, new Director of Admissions at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, is shorter than most – she's already familiar with many of the names, the faces and the classrooms that surround her.

Nadir, who started her job March 6, not only holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish from ASU, she also graduated from the College of Law, with high pro bono distinction, in May 2006.

"I know this school, I spent a significant amount of my life at ASU, and I have had an enriching experience here," said Nadir, who was born in Queens, N.Y., but has lived most of her life in Arizona. "I want to add energy and insight into my new role as Director of Admissions as having just graduated from student-status, but I also look forward to gaining insight into and being a part of this vital process that generates the future generations of attorneys."

Law school became part of the Mesa woman's career plans after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and the resulting backlash against the Muslim community, to which Nadir belongs. She said she realized "my responsibility is to educate and be an advocate for not only the Muslims, but all minority people and historically underprivileged people that may unjustly suffer simply because they do not have the legal resources at their disposal as some other groups do."

As a law student, Nadir co-founded and was president of the Muslim Law Students Association, vice-president and treasurer of the John P. Morris Black Law Students Association, a member of the Dean's Council on Diversity and Inclusion, and a participant in the Homeless Legal Assistance Project. She also worked with the Arizona Senior Citizens Law Project and U.S. Immigration Court.

Nadir is a member of the Board of Directors of the Islamic Social Services Association, and she remains active in the Al-Mu'minah Young Women's Association which fosters empowerment and leadership skills in young women. In addition, her face and story appeared in *The Face*

Behind the Veil: The Extraordinary Lives of Muslim Women in America, a book published last year by journalist Donna Gehrke-White.

Nadir said she also hopes to highlight the College of Law's accomplishments on the larger ASU campus and help promote the College's Master's of Legal Studies degree and LL.M. degrees in Biotechnology and Genomics and in Tribal Policy, Law, and Government.

BENDER V. BOLICK

The legal and social merits of school choice in Arizona were the subject of a debate between Paul Bender, a professor at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, and Clint Bolick, president and general counsel of the Alliance for School Choice, a national non-profit educational policy group advocating school choice programs across the United States.

The event was sponsored by the ASU student chapter of The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies.

Bolick also is a co-founder of the Institute for Justice, where he currently serves as counsel for strategic litigation. He worked at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission while Justice Clarence Thomas was the EEOC chairman and has worked on defending the first Wisconsin school voucher program. His most recent non-fiction book is *David's Hammer: The Case for an Activist Judiciary*.

Bender, a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, currently teaches U.S. and Arizona constitutional law and a seminar on the U.S. Supreme Court. He served as a law clerk to Judge Learned Hand of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and as a law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter.

SELSA LUNCHTIME LECTURE

The Sports and Entertainment Law Students Association will host prominent Los Angeles lawyer, Drew Ryce, on Wednesday, April 4. Ryce, who has assembled financing packages for more than 100 films and is a pioneer in the use of investment tax credits, will talk about Film Finance: "The Wildcat, The Gap and The Bundle" from 12:15-1:15 p.m. in Room 105 in Armstrong Hall. Food will be provided. RSVP to scott.seymann@asu.edu.

COMPETITION KUDOS

Congratulations to the following students who are making proud the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law:

•The winners of the 2007 Oplinger Closing Argument Competition are Jalayne Arias, first place; Kristine Reich, second place; Monica Dournaee, third place; and Kaniatarrii Gilbert, fourth place. The judges commented about the difficulty in selecting the finalists because all competitors were outstanding. Thanks to Claudia Prieto and the Executive Moot Court Board Members for their help.

•Erika Mansur, 1L, and Donald Scott, 3L, recently competed in the regional finals of the American Bar Association's Representation in Mediation Competition in Salt Lake City. In the closest regional in recent memory, the judges narrowly awarded the championship to Marquette University Law School. Other Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law students who performed well were Stefanie Peppard, 3L, and Jason Wells, 2L, who were seeded third out of 10 teams. Thanks to Kirk Howell, Kristen Kaleo and Kristine Reich for their help in working with the teams.

IN THE NEWS

Professor Donald Warne provided testimony Wednesday, March 28, at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Tribal Consultation meeting in Washington, D.C. Warne spoke about promoting community participatory research and data coordination through HHS programs.

LIBERTY PROJECT PANEL

A group of distinguished scholars will discuss issues in stem-cell research at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, in the Great Hall. "A Panel on Stem Cell Research: A Modern Perspective" will be followed by a Q&A session and a reception. Hosted by the Liberty Project, the talk is sponsored by Shughart Thompson & Kilroy. For details, go to www.thelibertyproject.org.

BARRISTER'S BALL

The ASU Bar Association is hosting the 2007 Barrister's Ball Saturday, April 14, at the ASU Karsten Golf Course. A social hour with cash bar begins at 6 p.m. in the Trophy Room. Tickets for administration, faculty and the legal community are \$40 each or \$70 for the pair; for students, \$30/\$50. For more information, go to www.asubarassoc.com.

DON'T MISS IT

The general convocation meeting for graduating students is 12:15-1:30 p.m. Monday, April 2, in the Great Hall. For more information, call Sue Callahan at 480-965-4265.