

LOOQUITUR

FALL 2011

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE FOR
Vermont Law School

VLS Walks the Walk



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Styrene Cell Insulation

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Contents

3 Q&A from Dean Jeff Shields

Dean Shields discusses his tenure and what he hopes to accomplish in his last year at VLS.

4 Reunion 2011

A record number of alumni—over 170 from 25 classes—attended Reunion Weekend 2011. Friends, faculty, and family gathered at VLS and helped with the cleanup after Tropical Storm Irene.

8 Class Notes

Here's news from your classmates, including profiles of Keith Dennis MSEL'05 and Diana Vogel '10.

24 In Memoriam

Judge John Joseph Carroll III '86

Bruce Winthrop McShane '77

Francis E. Morrissey Jr. '88

Peter Ryder Neary '82

< Vermont Law School's new Center for Legal Services, under construction at 190 Chelsea Street, will help ensure that every JD student has the chance to practice walking the walk. See the full story at www.vermontlaw.edu/clinicsfeature.

"Every student should have a chance to work in a clinic." —Clare Cragan JD 2011



Left: Laura DeCapua. Cover: Kathleen Doohar



LOQUITUR

Fall 2011
Volume 25, Number 1

President and Dean
Jeff Shields

Executive Director of Institutional Advancement
Matt Rizzo

Editor
Carol Westberg

Production Editor
Jennie Clarke

Contributing Editors
Kimberly Evans
Ariel Wiegard

Special Thanks To
Milo Cutler
Susan Davidson
Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs
Mary Lou Lorenz

Design and Art Direction
Glenn Suokko, Inc.

Printing
Capital Offset Company, Inc.

Published by Vermont Law School
164 Chelsea Street, PO Box 96
South Royalton, VT 05068
www.vermontlaw.edu

Send address changes to
alumni@vermontlaw.edu
or call 802-831-1313

Printed with soy-based inks on recycled paper

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Q&A with Dean Jeff Shields



Dean Jeff Shields sat down with Executive Director of Institutional Advancement Matt Rizzo this fall to discuss the dean's tenure and what he hopes to accomplish in his last year at VLS.

Matt: The law school has made great strides under your leadership, Jeff. What is your primary focus between now and next summer?

Jeff: My main focus is to solidify a sound base of support for the priorities we identified starting in 2004. In the coming months, alumni around the world will begin hearing more about the initiatives that make up The Campaign for Vermont Law School—a \$15 million effort for which we have secured \$12 million to date—already the largest capital fund drive undertaken at VLS. Providing a smooth transition for my successor is critical for continued growth, and the completion of this campaign on June 30, 2012, will give the new dean a solid infrastructure on which to build.

Matt: What kinds of projects do you hope this campaign will make possible?

Jeff: Our key institutional goals are to launch the new Center for Legal Services, strengthen the business models of our centers and institutes, and increase student financial aid. For nearly 40 years, VLS has been fighting to play above its weight. Our peer competitors are older and wealthier, drawing on a larger pool of nearby urban applicants and a larger alumni base. Yet Vermont

Law School continues to stand out in the environmental and clinical rankings. The philanthropic support we've received to date has already provided more opportunities for our students.

Matt: Why do you think these investments are so critical to the short- and long-term success of our school?

Jeff: The new clinics building will allow us to accommodate more students in a space configured to improve the quality of programs that are becoming more critical in the changing landscape of legal education. Financial support for students will permit us to continue to enroll top-tier applicants who otherwise would not be able to choose Vermont Law School.

Matt: Over the next seven months, I know you plan to discuss an investment in our campaign with many alumni, parents, and friends across the country. What does your travel schedule look like?

Jeff: Trustees, faculty, and staff are all pitching in to rally alumni and friends of VLS to the cause. This means a lot of travel and meetings all over the country, as well as a lot of phone calls and letters. I am spending about half my working days on the road, sometimes meeting with groups of alumni and sometimes meeting one-on-one. I always enjoy my conversations with donors; their support for our young institution has already had a significant impact. I'm looking forward to announcing our success and leaving VLS in better shape than when I arrived.

Reunion 2011

Photos by Laura DeCapua



Former Registrar Nina Thomas and Mike Miller JD/MSL'91

Each year, as fall colors spread across the hills of South Royalton, alumni converge on campus to renew friendships, visit former professors, and relive memories across campus. This year, on September 16 and 17, alumni from the classes of 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, and more arrived from as far away as Alaska to reconnect with their classmates and friends.

It was a beautiful weekend for golf, the Chase Race, biking, eating, drinking, and of course, much reminiscing. Reunioners enjoyed a barbecue on the green, a wine and cheese reception on Friday night, and a Vermont microbrew tasting on Saturday, along with plenty of other Vermont fare—all VLS food offerings come primarily from local farms and dairies. Several alumni joined local volunteer efforts to clean up post-Irene, including working with the 1L class for an annual river cleanup project, pulling over 2,000 pounds of garbage from the banks of the White River—four times the usual amount!

Professors Stephanie Willbanks, Cheryl Hanna, Gil Kujovich, Carl Yirka, David Firestone, and others visited with reunioners throughout the weekend. Kids had a great time at Camp VLS making scarecrows, playing games, and making their own dinners at a PB & J bar.

All of us in the alumni office look forward to the end of summer of 2012 when we will again be the grateful hosts of the next Reunion classes: 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007.

Mark your calendars for next year's Reunion Weekend, September 14–16, 2012.



Associate Dean Shirley Jefferson '86 (right) visits with members of the Class of '06 and their children.



Adam Necrason '96



Presenting the 2011 VLSAA Distinguished Alumni Award to J. Scott Cameron '80 (center) are VLSAA board members Mark Sciarrotta '96, Marilyn Bartlett '91, Deanna Mello '96, and Janet Arnold '91.

VLSAA Distinguished Alumni Award

Alumni Association board members presented J. Scott Cameron '80 with the inaugural VLSAA Distinguished Alumni Award. This award is presented to the alumnus who exemplifies and enhances the VLS core values of community, diversity, service, ethics, and justice, and who enhances the reputation of Vermont Law School in the greater community. Through his decades of service to VLS, including 20 years as chair of the board of trustees, Scott truly exemplifies the values of VLS and his fellow alumni.



Jessica Wilkerson '12, Vice Dean Gil Kujovich, Dean Jeff Shields, Mark Sciarrotta '96, and Associate Dean Shirley Jefferson '86 update alumni on current issues and initiatives at the State of VLS panel.



Members of the class of 2006 gather at the Reunion barbecue.



A Reunioner and family enjoy some sun and fun at the barbecue.



Members of the class of 1986 catch up on the past 25 years at the Vermont Microbrew tasting.



Evelyn Marcus '06 and Jehmal Hudson '06 at the barbecue.



Derek Campbell '06 and Ashley Carson Cottingham '06 are among many volunteers who helped with the river cleanup project.



Former dean, Professor Kinvin Wroth watches the Chase Race.



Katheryn Kalogerou (right), wife of Byron Kalogerou '86, was the first-place female finisher in the 24th Annual Chase Race.



Members of the Class of 1991 gather before the Microbrew Tasting.



Mike Miller JD/MSEL '91 and Sarah Buxton '10 discuss plans to volunteer for Irene storm relief in South Royalton.

Class Notes

Notes from the Vermont Law School Alumni Association

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As the fall edition of *Loquitur* goes to press, Vermont Law School, South Royalton, and the state of Vermont are in the thick of rebuilding as a result of flooding from Tropical Storm Irene.

The response from the community has been tremendous. VLS allowed students flexibility in their class schedules to assist in the immediate response, and staff members were assigned to help assist with relief efforts. A relief fund was established to help support affected VLS community members and to provide for the necessary campus repairs to things like the flooded library basement, the damaged parking lots, IT systems, and on-campus faculty housing.

As recovery and rebuilding progress, volunteers will continue to be needed. Most of the affected towns have established Facebook pages or listservs to share requests for assistance with the public. I encourage you to check in with these resources to find out how you may help. I also encourage each of you to make a donation to the VLS Relief Fund at irene.vermontlaw.edu/donate.

Assisting in the rebuilding efforts is one small way the VLSAA helps alumni connect

and interact together, and with the faculty, staff, administration, and the current students. We help forge and strengthen these connections through a variety of events and activities, including regional social events, brown bag lunchtime lectures, and receptions, and we provide assistance to career services by meeting with students and alumni, sitting on panels, and by helping with the very successful annual iL career boot camp. We also work with the development office to help raise funds for scholarships, the Annual Fund, and special projects like the Center for Legal Services building project in addition to the VLS Relief Fund.

The VLSAA also promotes the achievements and successes of our fabulous constituency. At commencement, the VLSAA has recognized an outstanding new graduate by presenting the Alumni Association Award for contribution to the school to the representative of the class by whose thoughtful interest and energy the VLS community has been enriched during his or her three years in residence. In 2011, that award was given to Lisa Campion MSEL'08/JD'11.

In order to recognize the accomplishments of our alumni who have been out making a difference in the world, the VLSAA has just

established the Distinguished Alumni Award to highlight this service and these achievements. The inaugural VLSAA Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to J. Scott Cameron '80 during Reunion and Alumni Weekend (see photo on page 5). Scott was also the recipient of an honorary degree at commencement in May.

The process for selecting a new dean for VLS is well under way. VLS alumni, faculty, and a staff representative sit on the Dean Search Committee, and the VLSAA is working closely with the committee to provide input into the process and selection of our next dean.

We want to hear from you, our constituents, about issues that matter to you, your interests, and your concerns. Please feel free to contact me or any of the board members. We welcome and encourage your input and feedback!

Sincerely,

*Karis L. North '95, President,
Vermont Law School Alumni Association*

knorth@mhtl.com



3M (MSL/MSEL/MELP) Alumni Committee Update

This academic year, two of the 3M Committee's primary goals are to facilitate a sense of community between 3M alumni and VLS and to promote the professional interests of 3M alumni. To accomplish these goals, the committee works through six subcommittees, including the Student Relations and Special Projects subcommittees.

The Student Relations subcommittee was formed to connect MELP-only students to 3M alumni through personal contact and networking events. One idea to accomplish this goal is to sponsor a networking event held in conjunction with the spring 2012 MELP Career Boot Camp.

To help create a stronger 3M student identity and facilitate greater integration within the overall VLS community, the Special Projects subcommittee is considering a project to welcome incoming MELP-only students to the 3M community by providing them with a

useful gift to begin their studies. A gift might include a required textbook or other item. To learn more about any of these subcommittees, visit vermontlaw.edu/3Malumni.

Your input on what we are doing or should be doing to better serve 3M alumni is always welcome. Also, if you are interested in becoming a member of any of our subcommittees or are willing to support our work in other ways, please email 3Malumni@vermontlaw.edu.

VLSAA Board of Directors

Chris Adamo '04
chris_adamo@ag.senate.gov

Samara Anderson JD/MSEL'03
Albany Regional Representative
anderson_samara@yahoo.com

Janet E. Arnold JD/MSEL'91
Vice President and Chair, Nominating Committee
janerold15@comcast.net

Marilyn J. Bartlett '91
Secretary
bartlett.marilyn48@gmail.com

David G. Carpenter JD/MSEL'97
dgcpllc@gmail.com

Carolina T. Curbelo '05
New Jersey Regional Representative
curbeloc@sullcrom.com

Douglas W. Ebeling '97
New York City Regional Representative and Chair, Career Services Committee
debeling@gmail.com

Caroline Fisher '04
Boston Regional Representative and Chair, Communications Committee
caroline.fisher@state.ma.us

Michael C. Formica '98
mformica@gmail.com

Maria E. Gomez JD/MSEL'05
Washington D.C. Regional Representative
m.gomez522@gmail.com

Jason B. Hutt '98
Alumni Trustee
jason.hutt@bgllp.com

Heather Spurlock Kennealy JD/MSEL'02
Chair, Regional Groups Committee
hskennealy@yahoo.com

Stephanie A. Kiefer MSEL'95
MSL/MSEL/MELP Representative
stephkiefer@comcast.net

Gene M. Linkmeyer '95
Delaware Valley Regional Representative
glinkmeyer@jacobslawpc.com

Deanna L. Mello '96
dmello@vermontlaw.edu

Karis L. North '95
President
knorth@mhtl.com

Rebecca Purdom '96
Presidential Appointee
rpurdom@vermontlaw.edu

Fidel R. Rul III JD/MSEL'06
fidelrul3@gmail.com

S. Mark Sciarrotta '96
Alumni Trustee
msciarrotta@velco.com

Allison W. Smith MSEL'07
smith.allisonw@gmail.com

Chase H. Van Gorder '84
chase@vglaw.com

Robert F. Weisberg JD/MSEL'01
rweisber@hotmail.com

VLSAA Regional News

Boston

Boston VLS alums caught up over a pregame beer and a night at Fenway in late July. The outing, as well as the game, was a success (Boston 13/KC 9). The Boston board encourages all local VLSers to share with the board their ideas for future events. Board elections are coming up soon, so anyone interested in running for a position should email alumni@vermontlaw.edu.

D.C.

The DCVLSAA held its annual Summer Rooftop Reception at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. (Thank you to Glenn Berger for donating use of the fabulous space.) This year we kicked off a new mentoring program, pairing about 25 students and recent graduates with alumni mentors. Mentors made a commitment to be available for at least one career-advising session over coffee or, perhaps, a meal. If you are in the D.C. metro area, keep an eye out for announcements about next year's mentoring program.

The DCVLSAA also pioneered a summer

brown bag series for students working in D.C. for the summer. Gracious alumni from all sectors of the D.C. legal world hosted between 5-10 students for a career and job-hunting lunchtime discussion. Sessions were held by Meyer, Glitzenstein, & Crystal, the Ayres Law Group, Crowell & Moring LLP, National Pork Producers Council, D.C. Office of Administrative Hearings, U.S. Department of Justice (Environment and Natural Resources Division), EPA Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, and American Forests.

On November 1, 2011, DCVLSAA presented Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA administrator, with its annual Achievement Award. Dr. Lubchenco is a marine ecologist and environmental scientist with expertise in oceans and climate change. Dr. Lubchenco has made great strides in implementing the 35-year-old Magnuson Act, which gives NOAA the tools to restore sustainability to our nation's fishing practices.

For more information about the DCVLSAA or to sign up for our listserv, please contact DCVLSAA President Heather Dlh-

polsky at HDLhopolsky@linowes-law.com. Also check out our Facebook page (search groups for D.C. Vermont Law School Alumni Association).

Albany



Over 40 VLS alumni, students, and guests enjoyed an exciting day at the races this July at Saratoga Race Track, one of several events sponsored this year by the Albany-Saratoga VLSAA.

1976

Mark Portnoy
mhportnoy@gmail.com

Mark Gruber has been elected president of the New Jersey Divorce Arbitrators Association. Divorce arbitration is a growing alternative dispute resolution process. Also, Mark and his wife Sharon are proud to announce that their daughter, Sarah, is a 1L law student.

Jay A. Scherline is pleased to report that he is still practicing personal injury law and is owner of an eight-lawyer firm in Allentown, Pennsylvania, handling matters throughout Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the greater New York City area. Jay is a life member of the Million Dollar Advocates forum, is past president of the Lehigh County Bar Association, and has been voted Best Allentown Attorney by *The Morning Call* newspaper, as well as several other notable national and Pennsylvania periodicals. Jay has been married to his wife Lorrie for 32 years and has two grown sons: Justin, age 26, a realtor in New York City; and Lyell, age 25, who is residing in Buenos Aires, Argentina, having just completed his MBA at the University of Argentina. Statute of limitations has not run on Jay's sons following in his footsteps, "but it may appear that the first and last Scherline Vermont Law School graduate may have been in the Class of '76. If any alumni are traveling through the Allentown, Pennsylvania, area, please contact me, and I will try to arrange a free horse and buggy tour of the Pennsylvania Dutch country. Please contact me at jscherline@scherslinelaw.com."

1977

alumni@vermontlaw.edu

Charles E. Shafer (Rick) says, "My wife, Judy, and I attended VLS Commencement in May and then traveled to Island Pond, Vermont, to visit **Tom Donnellan** and his wife, Judy. I serve on the Board of Trustees at the law school and was recently selected to serve on the Search Committee for the next president and dean, who will follow Jeff Shields, who will be retiring in August 2012."

Garvey Schubert Barer has added **Harold E. Snow Jr.** as an owner in the Seattle office. Snow, previously with Lane Powell PC, joined the firm's Estate Planning Group with a practice focused on helping families and business owners with a wide range of tax and estate planning issues, including multinational planning.

1978

alumni@vermontlaw.edu
Please email awiegard@vermontlaw.edu if you are interested in serving as class secretary.

1979

Deborah Bucknam
dbucknam@vtlegalhelp.com

1980

Scott Cameron
jscameron@zclpc.com

Michael Kessler writes, "I am pleased to advise that, effective March 14, 2011, I began working as an attorney/advisor at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Energy Policy and Innovation. I began my career in the energy industry working at the commission from 1980 to 1983. After 24 years in the private practice of law, and 3 years in a startup energy company, I decided to return to public service. In my new position at the commission, I will be working on a broad range of energy policy issues, including integration of renewable energy and demand response resources into the grid, development of electric transmission systems and allocation of costs relating thereto, and the development of electric energy and ancillary services markets.



Gail Nichols '80 and Joan Sarles Lee '80 joined an adventurous group of cyclists on a trip to Croatia in July 2011.



Laura DeCapua

Members of the Class of 1981 at their 30th Reunion

On a family note, I'm also proud to announce that my daughter, Sarah, graduated with honors from the University of South Carolina in December 2010 and is now employed with the Marriott Corporation in Washington, D.C., and my son, Adam, received his master's of health administration from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, in May 2011, and is now working for Bayada Nursing in North Carolina. (Nobody followed in their father's and grandfather's footsteps into the practice of law, but both kids are employed in their chosen fields and love their jobs!)"

Gail Nichols and **Joan Sarles Lee** reunited on a fabulous bike trip to Croatia in June 2011. Gail currently lives in Aspen, Colorado, and Joan lives in Yarmouth, Maine.

Jack Thomas Tomarchio reports he recently took an eight-day business/pleasure trip to Israel where he visited the facility of a company in Jerusalem of which he is a part owner and had the chance to climb Masada with his 19-year-old son in 108 degree heat (not recommended), swim in the Dead Sea, and walk throughout the old city of Jerusalem. Jack is a principal at The Agoge Group, a company that does investment and strategic operational work with technologies and companies in the national security and intelligence arena. Jack was recently appointed to the board of directors of SightLogix, Inc., the leader in outdoor video analytics systems for perimeter security applications.

1981

Tim McGrath
timothy.mcgrath@va.gov

1982

Larr Kelly
photolarr@tidalwave.net

Carol Wolff Fallon took her daughter Claire to her first Red Sox game with the Boston VLS

outing in July. A good time was had by all and the Sox won an exciting game. She also writes “I have been working in Massachusetts representing 15 community colleges since 2008 and occasionally run into **Jackie Feldman**. My life is busy commuting from Rhode Island to work and traveling to Stowe in the winter to ski most weekends. I have also been busy making some important case law in Massachusetts labor issues.”

Lisa A. Jacobowitz has formed a new partnership, Resolution Partners, LLP, which is an adjunct to her ongoing law practice, Gilmore and Jacobowitz, LLP.

Scott Johnston and **Marsha Ajhar** '81 celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on August 9, 2011.

1983

Martha Lyons
malyonsesq@hotmail.com

Cece Cunningham Bozetarnik says, “After practicing for 14 years, I gave up my law license to try other things. I now work as a tax professional and am one of the owners of Business and Tax Consultants, Inc. in Brattleboro. I am the treasurer of the newly formed Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Tax Professionals. Because lawyers cannot partner with nonlawyers in this kind of work, I represent clients before the IRS as an enrolled agent having passed a(nother!) two-day long exam given by the IRS. I specialize in personal, non-profit, and fiduciary returns.”

On June 17, **Charles O'Brien** was honored by the New York State Bar Association Committee to Ensure Quality of Mandated Representation for managing projects that enhance the work of public defense programs and attorneys across New York, notably the Public Defense Case Management System and continuing legal education programs.

1984

alumni@vermontlaw.edu
Please email awiegard@vermontlaw.edu if you are interested in serving as class secretary.

After two years in New York City, **Chase Van Gorder** returned to Seattle, Washington, in October with his wife, Susan, who has been transferred on a new assignment with the U.S. Public Health Service. Chase originally moved to Seattle in 1985 after a year's clerkship with the Vermont Supreme Court following graduation.



Jason “Justice” Brandeis '01, Kenneth Covell '85, Bryn Davies '10, Jeff Davis '09, Eric Goldwarg '09, Quincy Hansell '10, Michael O'Brien '02, Rebecca Skinner '01, Katie Summers '10, and Geoffrey Wildridge '78 at the Alaska Bar Convention in May 2011.

1985

alumni@vermontlaw.edu
Please email awiegard@vermontlaw.edu if you are interested in serving as class secretary.

Ken Covell reports that he was one of many VLS alumni at the Alaska Bar Convention in Fairbanks, Alaska, this May. Also in attendance were **Jason “Justice” Brandeis '01, Carolyn Buckingham '05, Bryn Davies '10, Jeff Davis '09, Danielle Foster '01, Eric Goldwarg '09, Quincy Hansell '10, Michael O'Brien '02, Margaret Rogers '01, Rebecca Skinner '01, Katie Summers '10, and Geoffrey Wildridge '78.**

1986

alumni@vermontlaw.edu
David J. Blythe has been appointed an asso-

ciate professor of business law at Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont, where he teaches business and environmental law courses. He continues to be a partner in Blythe & Taylor PLLC (since 1989) with his wife, **Barbara M. Taylor**; their practice focuses on real estate and transactional law. David previously served as chair of the Vermont Water Resources Board from 2000–04 and as a hearing officer for the Vermont Department of Labor, and he is a founding director of Vermont Attorneys Title Corporation. David and Barbara live in Montpelier with their children, Mary and David.

Susan L. Donegan was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Insurance at the Vermont Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities and Health Care Administration in February 2011.

1987

Mark Ouellette
mouellette@gmail.com

Scott Michael Mapes PE, Esq. has been a member of the Burlington Conservation Board since 2000. Both the Vermont Planners Association and the Northern New England chapter of the American Planning Association recognized Scott with the 2009 Citizen Planner of the Year award for his work on the City of Burlington Stormwater Task Force and its rewrite of Chapter 26. The EPA recognized the city of Burlington with a National Environmental Achievement Award 2009 for their Stormwater



Members of the Class of 1986 at their 25th Reunion

Ordinance Chapter 26. In 2010, Scott was the recipient of the Preservation Burlington 2010 Ray O'Connor Award for his significant contribution to the betterment of our community life through his efforts on the Burlington Conservation Board. Scott and his wife, **Stephanie '88**, live in Burlington with their soon-to-be-ro-year-old son, Lennon.

1988

alumni@vermontlaw.edu

Gary Cuchural says, "I have taken a new position with General Electric Healthcare Systems in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as senior counsel, Research and Development. I work with the intellectual property teams and review and formalize research opportunities and resolve legal issues that arise in ongoing research arrangements as well as drafting, reviewing, and negotiating strategic research agreements and advising on good clinical practices, fraud and abuse, regulatory, privacy, advertising/promo-

tional matters and other legal issues that arise in the medical device research context."

Peter McGrath manages a four-lawyer general practice in Concord, New Hampshire. The McGrath Law Firm was voted Best Law Firm in Concord by *Concord Monitor* newspaper's Concord Area People's Preference Award (CAPPIE) award for 2010 and Second Best Law Firm for 2011. The firm also opened an office in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2011 and has a small practice there ("especially in the winter months!").

David Nathanson has been promoted to deputy executive assistant prosecutor in the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, Bergen County, New Jersey. He has been with the office for 23 years and has two children in college.

1989

alumni@vermontlaw.edu

John King is now counsel compliance and liti-

gation support manager at Celanese Corp. in Dallas, Texas.

1990

Mario Galluci
mario@hnglaw.com

Mario F. Galluci was honored by the Italian Club of Staten Island Foundation Inc. at the organization's annual dinner dance on June 11. Mario said it was a distinct honor to be recognized by this organization. "They have had some great honorees in the past and do great work in the community. This means a great deal to me." He is a partner in the Staten Island law firm of Helbock Nappa and Galluci LLP. He is a regular criminal analyst on MSNBC and has made many appearances on several television broadcasts across the country, including ABC's *Primetime* and NBC's *Today Show*. He has also authored a chapter in the recently published law book *Inside the Minds: Strategies for Defending DWI Cases in*

"My parents were the biggest supporters of my decision to attend VLS. They taught me to value family, education, and community. My mother also taught me to either find a way or make one. In her memory, I decided to make a planned gift to VLS. My gift will help future students find a way to carry on our tradition of law for the community and the world.

"This is also my opportunity to thank Vermont Law School for its stand against the discriminatory Don't Ask/Don't Tell law. As a daughter and an alum, I return the love and support of my family and my school. As my mom lives on through me, I will live on through VLS!"

—Alex Manning JD 2006

Join Alex, your classmates, and friends in supporting Vermont Law School by making a planned gift.

To find out more about Planned Giving to Vermont Law School, visit www.vermontlaw.edu/Planned_Giving.

For more information, contact Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs, Director of Principal Giving, at dheinrichs@vermontlaw.edu or 802-831-1267.



Laura DeCapua



Laura DeCapua

Members of the Class of 1991 at their 20th Reunion

New York, 2011 edition. He lives in Marlboro, New Jersey, with his lovely wife, Christine, and their three wonderful children, Jamie, Andrew, and Kevin (16, 14, and 13).

1991

Peg Stolfa
margaret.stolfa@gmail.com

Frank Ramaizel went on to earn an LLM in taxation from Syracuse University after attending VLS. He retired from teaching international tax as professor and associate dean at Golden Gate University in 2005. Frank is the recipient of two Fulbright Legal Scholar awards for research in first Almaty and then Astana, Kazakhstan. While teaching, he actively consulted with global companies on the cross-border transfer of technology. While in retirement he was asked by the White House to help with Iraq reconstruction by leading a \$150 million rule of law effort with the Ministry of Justice and the Iraq Supreme Court from 2005 until 2008. In spite of retiring yet again the State Department asked Frank to go to Kabul, Afghanistan, to prepare the Afghan government for the Paris Talks for donor contributions and finalize a bilateral treaty for mineral extraction between the Peoples Republic of China and Afghanistan; the value exceeds \$30 billion over a 40-year period. Presently, he is principal in the consulting firm of Statecraft International, which represents U.S. government reconstruction efforts in post-conflict countries. His passions are golf, rallying his Corvette, and trekking in exotic regions of the planet; the most recent trip was to a remote area of the Amazon River basin. Frank's wife, Louise, a University of California-Berkeley grad, is also an attorney; she was the editor of the leading value added tax journal and has an LLM from the University of

Amsterdam in European business law. Their three children, who enjoyed many activities at VLS, are now grown. Larissa is a physician at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and recently married a plastic surgeon, Eden leads U.S. contract cancer research at Pfizer Inc., and Jason has a real-estate mortgage and brokerage firm in Tampa and proudly serves his country in the Air Force Reserves.

1992

Margaret Olnek
mlo@olneklaw.com

Margaret Waldock has been named The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation's new environment program director. Margaret, previously the executive director of the Hunterdon Land Trust, joined the foundation in mid-October. Under her leadership, the Hunterdon Land Trust developed a reputation as an effective partner in the statewide conservation community and as an innovative land trust that integrates land preservation and stewardship strategies with citizen awareness and community building efforts. Margaret also established the Hunterdon Land Trust as a leader in farmland preservation, with a commitment to strengthening the local foods movement. Margaret says that it is "an honor to be selected to lead the Dodge Foundation's Environment Program. I am excited to apply lessons learned and experience gained through my involvement with the New Jersey environmental nonprofit community and to continue the foundation's tradition of thoughtful and responsive grant-making."

1993

Lainey Schwartz
geowoman3@aol.com

George Couture has left the Office of the Federal Defender, Middle District of Florida, and moved to Atlanta, Georgia, to become the career law clerk to the Honorable Beverly B. Martin, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Alan W. Strasser married Cristina Cunha on June 4, 2011, on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. The ceremony featured vows in Portuguese, which is Cristina's native language. Alan gave a speech in Portuguese to honor Cristina's family. **Larry Behrens** co-officiated the wedding. Alan and Cristina (a trilingual therapist) live in Kensington, Maryland. Alan also reports that he is installing solar power on their house to reduce his electrical use by 75 percent. Contact Alan at aws11@comcast.net.



Cristina Cunha and Alan Strasser '93

1994

alumni@vermontlaw.edu

1995

Karen Moore
kj.moore@judicial.state.co.us

Roger Belman and **Sabrina Fernandez** have moved from Aberdeen, Scotland, to Stavanger, Norway.

The Vermont Democratic State Committee elected **Jacob B. Perkinson** as party vice chair this past June. Prior to his election to that position, Jake served as the chair of the Chittenden County Democratic Committee and chair and

vice chair of the Burlington City Democratic Committee. In 1995, Jacob began practicing law in the field of class action securities litigation, successfully representing clients against some of the largest corporations in the United States. He now represents individuals and organizations on matters concerning election law and campaign finance and has successfully sued to remedy financial abuses and ballot tampering for clients ranging from gubernatorial candidates to individual voters. Jacob has successfully managed numerous campaigns in Vermont on the local, county, and state level. He resides in Burlington, Vermont, with his family where, among other things, he is on the Burlington Fire Commission and is a coach for the Burlington American Little League.

Karen Villemaire opened her family law practice in Rutland, Vermont, on September 5, 2011.

1996

alumni@vermontlaw.edu

Seth Handy has started up his own practice in Providence, Rhode Island, focused on energy, environmental, real estate, and litigation. Calls or emails (seth@handylawllc.com) are welcome to catch up. “Our family has also just celebrated its first teenager (Ben), who will surely command more respect from his sisters (Lucy, 10, and Alice, 5) and parents. Our best to you all!”



Seth Handy '96 and his family. Teenager Ben is notably absent.

1997

Cheryl Deshaies
cdeshaies@deshaielaw.com



Laura DeCappia

Mark Sciarotta represents the Class of 1996 at his 15th Reunion

1998

alumni@vermontlaw.edu

Tanya Gulesserian writes, “**Stephen Velyvis** and I continue to practice environmental and land use law in California. Steve recently joined Burke, Williams & Sorenson as a partner in their Public Law and Litigation group, and I have been a shareholder at Adams Broadwell Joseph & Cardozo for five years. We are enjoying life on the coast with our two children, ages 4 and 6, and our lovable dog, Barley.”

In 2005, **Shawn Smith-Hoffman** founded the real estate advisory firm Earth Asset Partnership, LP. She writes, “Earth Asset has grown!—and now offers brokerage services specializing in conservation, ecologically significant, green, and luxury properties. The company also has a new office at Teal Farm in Huntington, Vermont, touted as the Camp David of the sustainability movement. If that’s not enough, Earth Asset has a new website—www.EarthAsset.com. This is an exciting time for me, as I grow my company



Stephen Velyvis '98, husband of Tanya Gulesserian '98, and their two children

and respond to new directions in the global marketplace and the call for leadership and excellence in my industry.”



Shawn Smith-Hoffman '98

1999

Joy Kanwar-Nori
joy.kanwar@brooklaw.edu

James Bonsignore says, “For the first time since graduation I actually feel compelled to send in a report for our 1999 class notes. Over the past several weeks I’ve had some exciting news. Staying true to my creative roots from my time as a contributing editor to *Hearsay*, I have continued to write fiction for fun. Just recently, I am very happy to say, I published my first book! Entitled *The Diligent*, the story is a science-fiction adventure that follows a squadron of deep space fighter pilots as they battle for supremacy at the other reaches of the galaxy. It’s very much along the lines of *Star Wars* or *Battlestar Galactica*, with less of a focus on the science fiction than on the characters and their inner turmoil and their relationships. The book is published under the pseudonym J.J. Goodman (Goodman being the literal English translation of “Bonsignore”). I’m very excited and have had good success with it so far! Having been made a partner in my law firm several years ago, continuing to write has been my way of dealing with the everyday stresses that partnership in a mid-sized law firm can bring.”

Diana Combs writes, “I recently left Washington, D.C., and moved to New York City because I wanted a lifestyle change. (I grew up in NYC, so it’s what I’m used to.) I am now looking for work as an experienced corporate communications writer.”

2000

alumni@vermontlaw.edu



Members of the Class of 2001 at their 10th Reunion

Todd and Sara Mikolop welcomed their third daughter in May. Claire Alicia joined big sisters Emily and Hannah. Todd continues to prosecute federal environmental crimes in the Department of Justice's Environmental Crimes Section, which is hosting two VLS 3L interns this fall. His cases span the U.S. but he's constantly on the lookout for new work in New England.

Carson Tucker recently argued a case before Michigan's highest court and won. The Michigan Supreme Court reversed a Court of Appeals decision in a case that will protect private and public employers in Michigan from being held strictly liable for unforeseeable, criminal acts of employees. Tucker represented Wayne County and the Wayne County sheriff in a lawsuit filed by a detainee in the Wayne County jail, who alleged quid pro quo claim sexual harassment under Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.

2001

alumni@vermontlaw.edu

Joel Harrington recently joined the Vermont Law School staff as director of government relations in the Office for Institutional Advancement and is in his first year as a college football official in his spare time. He was also very excited to see his classmates at their 10th Reunion this September.

Tripp Watson took his oath of office as the new assistant district attorney in the Bladen County, North Carolina District Attorney's Office in March. Tripp spent the past seven years in private practice in Wilmington and

prior to that he worked in the Duplin County District Attorney's Office for District Attorney Dewey Hudson.

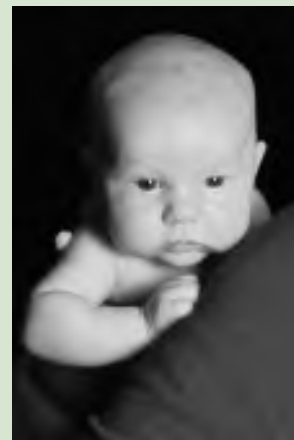
Bob Weisberg completed the Spring 2010 Excellence in Government Fellowship with the Partnership for Public Service. He joined the Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control at HUD as a presidential management fellow in 2001, and is now the Lead Programs Enforcement Division director. He was elected to the VLS Alumni Association Board with a term beginning this fall.

2002

Paige Bush-Scruggs
paigescruggs@comcast.net

Effective September 1, **Dori Harris Jaffe** transferred to the Ecology Division Waste Section of the Washington State Attorney General's Office where she represents the Department of Ecology and works on a variety of issues involving nuclear waste, hazardous waste, and solid waste. She has been with the Agriculture and Health Division for seven years representing the Department of Health Environmental Health Division on issues involving drinking water, sanitary control of shellfish, wastewater management, and radiation protection. Her husband, **Adam Jaffe**, has been enlisted in the U.S. Army for eight years and is assigned to the 112th Chemical Reconnaissance Division in the First Special Forces Group at Fort Lewis, Washington.

On August 7, 2011, **Heather Spurlock Kennealy** and her husband, Brian, welcomed Liam Joseph Spurlock Kennealy. Liam mea-



Liam Joseph Spurlock Kennealy, son of Heather Spurlock Kennealy '02

sured 7 lb., 5 oz., and has a bit of his mama's lovely red hair!

Dan Stafford is living in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is vice president and chief compliance officer at The Christ Hospital, recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top 50 hospitals in the country. Dan spends most of his time protecting medical people—who know little about the law—from themselves while his two Siberian huskies protect him. Dan is pleased to report that he never took a bar exam in any jurisdiction (thus, never becoming a “real” lawyer), but somehow managed to make his JD pay off. Some of his fondest memories and the best three years of his life were those he spent at VLS. Dan regrets he could not make the last Reunion but is looking forward to the next one—even if no one remembers him. “It would be great just to be back in South Royalton.” Dan's email is codyzach@hotmail.com.

2003

Shannon Bañaga
vlsmaher@yahoo.com

Kristen Heinzerling reports, “My husband, Tom, and I welcomed a second child into our family: Reed Thomas Heinzerling Minty was born on April 6, 2011. Reed weighed 10 lb., 7 oz.!!! and was 22 inches long. I'll be returning to the New Jersey Attorney General's Office as a deputy attorney general in the Environmental Practice Group after my maternity leave. My new email is kheinzerling3@gmail.com.”

Kelly McMichael has moved into a newly created role of deputy chief of the trial line in DeKalb County, Georgia, to help lead the Solicitor General's Office in preventing



Big sister Maia (3½ years old) with her little brother, Reed (11 weeks), children of Kristen Heinzerling '03.

crime and prosecuting misdemeanor criminal offenses, and to oversee the development and implementation of new policies and several new programs. Kelly will supervise and support directly the trial line attorneys and their specific needs. She has been a trial line attorney in the Solicitor General's Office for the past four years. She has also served as an animal cruelty special prosecutor in that office, and has served as a public defender and worked in private practice as a family law attorney.

2004

Spencer Hanes
spencer.hanes@duke-energy.com

Foley & Lardner LLP announced that **Brian Potts** has been named a *Wisconsin Law Journal* 2011 Up and Coming Lawyer. According to the *Wisconsin Law Journal*, this honor recognizes individuals who have demonstrated leadership, contributed to their community, successfully achieved legal outcomes early in their career, and have been practicing for eight years or fewer. Brian is senior counsel in the firm's Madison office. He has authored multiple articles on the Clean Air Act and power plant regulation, one of which was cited in two reports to Congress. As part of his commitment to pro bono service, Brian took on a significant pro bono criminal case and was successful in overturning his client's conspiracy conviction while establishing an important precedent for criminal rights. He also provides pro bono service locally to the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance, most recently through negotiating the eventual conversion of a rail line into a hiking trail for the betterment of the community.

David Singer has been reelected president of the Cook College/Community Alumni Association at Rutgers University for the 2011–

13 term. David has also, for a second year in a row, been named a 2011 Rising Star Super Lawyer in New Jersey for Environmental Law. He was listed in April 2011's *New Jersey Monthly Magazine*, highlighting that state's super lawyers, and can also be found in the 2011 edition of *New Jersey Super Lawyer Magazine*.

2005

Meg Munsey and Kelly Singer
vermontlaw2005@gmail.com

Brian Alexander and his wife, Megan, were excited to celebrate the first birthday of their daughter, Eloise Rae Alexander, this summer. They welcomed Ellie into their lives last year, June 8, 2010, and are thankful for a happy and healthy first year together in their hometown of Apex, North Carolina. In March, Brian transitioned from serving as RTI International's export compliance officer to support a DOE-funded demonstration of efficient syn-gas (synthesis gas) cleaning technology and carbon sequestration.



One-year-old Eloise Rae, daughter of Brian Alexander '05

Joseph Andriano was sworn-in as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Armenia on August 16. He will be serving for two years as an NGO/Community Development Volunteer in Gegharkunik Marz, where he will focus on problems facing rural communities in that region. He would love to hear from any current or former VLS PCVs (or those considering applying for the Peace Corps!) at joseph.andriano@world.oberlin.edu.

Maria Gomez writes, "It is with great pleasure that Bjorn and I announce the birth of our daughter, Eva Carmen Gomez Boe. Born on 07/30/2011 (on her due date...punctual little thing) at 6:55 a.m., weighing 8 lb., 15 oz., and



Eva Carmen Gomez Boe, daughter of Maria Gomez '05

measuring 21 inches. We are all doing well. We look forward to seeing you all in the near future! Please keep the emails coming! I love hearing from you. I have submitted a picture to tide you all over until you can meet the little jelly bean in person. Cheers to my wonderful friends, Maria, Bjorn, and Eva."

In February, **Megan Hooker** MSEL'05 was hired as American Whitewater's stewardship assistant. Megan is still living in Portland, Oregon, and teaches yoga on the side.

Steve Kelton and his wife, Emily, are pleased to announce the March 5, 2011, birth of their sons Andrew and Benjamin. Steve works in Washington, D.C., with the District Department of the Environment. Among other things, he settles cases and serves as District Department of the Environment's Environmental Justice coordinator.

In June, **Amy Manzelli** joined the law firm of Baldwin & Callen. Baldwin & Callen is a boutique environmental and land use firm located in downtown Concord, New Hampshire. Amy works a four-day week, saving one day each week for her son, Henry, who will turn two years old in November. Amy is also serving a gubernatorial appointment on the Water Sustainability Commission established



Steve Kelton '05 with his wife, Emily, and new sons, Andrew and Benjamin

Keith Dennis MSEL 2005 At the Center of Energy Policy



Bruce Weller

“I’m at the center of a triangle that has business, science, and law at the corners and energy at the center. This is a unique place to be, and I’m doing some meaningful work in energy policy because of it.”

Keith Dennis says he switched from using one side of his brain to the other when he began the Vermont Law School MSEL (now MELP) program. “I stopped reading equations and started reading books,” he says. “I started researching, analyzing, and writing. Things turned from black and white to shades of gray.”

The payoff for Keith, who had earned three engineering degrees before VLS, is work at the Department of Energy that encompasses legal, political, and regulatory components far beyond the usual technological scope of an engineer. “My work as a lead energy project specialist is very interdisciplinary—analyzing technological issues for policy implications and making arguments that can have a real impact on energy efficiency and, ultimately, climate change.”

Keith’s wife, Allison Dennis, is also a 2005 graduate of the MSEL/MELP program. Sharing his passion for energy, she works as communications director for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Green Power Partnership, a voluntary program that encourages governments, educational institutions, and businesses to use renewable power sources.

Keith Dennis has always capitalized on his interests. Accomplished at math and science in high school, engineering was a natural fit for him in college. After earning undergraduate and professional degrees in environmental science at Dartmouth’s Thayer School of Engineering, he focused on the business side of engineering in the school’s Master of Engineering Management program, with classes taught by faculty of the Tuck School of Business. He was also one of the first students active in VLS’s Institute for Energy and the Environment, which led to his publication of an independent research project in *The Electricity Journal*.

“Now, after studying environmental law and policy at VLS,” he says, “I’m at the center of a triangle that has business, science, and law

at the corners and energy at the center. This is a unique place to be, and I’m doing some meaningful work in energy policy because of it. I love where I am in my career.”

Since joining the Department of Energy, Keith has worked in several major areas, including the Energy Star program, audit and verification of greenhouse gas reduction by private sector businesses, greenhouse gas reduction programs in India and Mexico, energy efficiency, and clean energy—all issues ultimately aimed at mitigating climate change. A lot of the department’s work in this area has been funded by The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009—a.k.a. “the stimulus package”—which provides grants to state and local government to implement energy efficiency and create jobs.

But for Keith, some of the most exciting work is his recent detail working with the White House. “I continue to work for the Department of Energy,” he says, “but a portion of my time is spent providing guidance on greenhouse gas accounting for the Council of Environmental Quality.

“There’s no question that I’ll continue working with emerging technologies in the energy space,” says Keith, “but not in a narrow research environment. My future took a big turn through my experience at VLS. I learned to analyze and envision the policy implications of technology. Because of that, my work will really be more about real-world deployment of technologies, and I expect the results will change the world.”

by New Hampshire Governor John Lynch. For the third year running, Super Lawyers has named Amy a Rising Star in Environmental Law. Amy and her husband, Chad, still hang their hats in Pembroke, New Hampshire, along with their boxers, Cobi and Sally.

Karen Witherell says, "I just wanted to let you know that I received the Ernest M. Had-dad Award from Boston University's Graduate Tax Program at graduation. It is 'presented to the member of the class who best exhibits overall ability, taking into consideration academic achievement, character and potential to serve the public interest.' I was very surprised (OK, shocked) and touched that they chose me. Thank you again to Stephanie Willbanks for all of her support and help with my application to the program. Hope that things are going well and I look forward to catching up in person at some point."

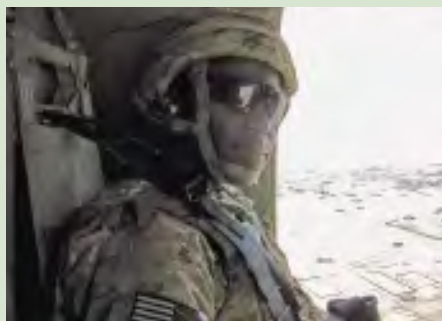
Elizabeth Wohl is still happily practicing health law in Brattleboro, Vermont. On August 23, 2010, she, her spouse, Rebecca, and son Abraham welcomed the newest member of their family, Sarah (Sadie) Balint-Wohl. In July, Elizabeth's article on the Sixth Circuit's decision in *Thomas More Law Center v. Obama*, was published in the *Health Briefs Newsletter* of the American Health Lawyers Association's Liability and Litigation Practice Group.

2006

Ashley Cottingham
ashleybrey@gmail.com
Ebony Riggins
erriggins@gmail.com

Captain **Olaseni Bello**, judge advocate, is currently deployed to eastern Afghanistan for a year with his unit, First Cavalry Division. He is the unit's detainee operations attorney and also serves as an administrative law attorney.

Gavin Boyles writes, "Greetings VLS! I'm writing to report that I left Paul Frank + Col-



Ola Bello '06 looks out of a Black Hawk helicopter while on duty in Afghanistan.



Members of the Class of 2006 at their 5th Reunion

lins at the end of May and started work soon thereafter as an assistant attorney general in the Environmental Protection Division of the Vermont Attorney General's Office. My family and I are still living in Montpelier, which is pleasantly overrun with VLS alums."

David Byer joined PETA in January as a corporate liaison to work with corporations on animal welfare practices and was recently promoted to manager of the Corporate Affairs Department. He is in Los Angeles and is happy to hear from old classmates in the area (byer.david@gmail.com).

Tracy Coppola is now working in the Washington, D.C. campaigns and policy department of Born Free, an international wildlife protection and conservation group. If anyone is working on wildlife issues or wants to chat about wildlife in general, she definitely wants to hear from you! Please email her at tracyc@bornfreeusa.org.

Christopher Curtis and Abby White welcomed Noah White Curtis into their family on June 6, 2011. Noah joins big brother Will, ensuring plenty of family fun, love, and conflict resolution for years to come! Chris is a staff attorney at Vermont Legal Aid, where he has practiced since he graduated from VLS. He continues to enjoy serving low-income Vermonters in a host of civil matters including housing, public benefits, and family law matters.

Nerissa Hamilton-vom Baur and her husband, Gautham Rao, welcomed baby Saskia Rao, who was born on August 16, 2010. "She continues to delight and amaze us." Since 2007, Nerissa has been working at U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of International Trade. She says the work is challenging and interesting. She mainly writes decisions on topics like tariff classification and country of origin issues.



Baby Noah and big brother Will, sons of Christopher Curtis '06

Todd Parker MSEL'06 is actively involved in the 3M (MSL, MSEL, MELP) Alumni Committee as the chair of the MELP student relations subcommittee. The 3M committee works to better connect MSL, MSEL, and MELP-only alumni with VLS and current MELP students. Todd encourages all 3M alumni to visit vermontlaw.edu/3Malumni for more information, or contact him at parkerto@hotmail.com if they would like to get involved in 3M committee activities.

Courtney Queen and her husband, Mathias Rosenfeld, welcomed their son, Mylo Q. Rosenfeld, to the world on April 12, 2011. Mylo decided to keep them waiting an extra 12 days before making his appearance, but he was, of course, worth the wait. They have been enjoying every minute with him, including introducing him to Courtney's VLS classmates at the five-year reunion!

Emma Sisti and **Jeremy Clemans** are still at New Hampshire Public Defender and are realizing firsthand the challenges that come with being full-time trial lawyers and full-time parents. "Spencer is growing every day and



Mathias Rosenfeld and Courtney Queen '06 teach their new son, Mylo, the horizontal hold.



Happy Red Sox fan Spencer, son of Emma Sisti '06 and Jeremy Clemans '06

it is hard to not be there all the time. We are lucky to have **Liz '07** and **Evan LLM'05 Mulholland** and their super-cute twins, Lucy and Sadie, who are only three months older than Spencer, right nearby! **Jason Malone** came for a visit in June, and we saw **Tim Winslow** in Michigan in August. We all enjoyed seeing more friends at Reunion!"

2007

Greg Dorrington
 gregdorrington@gmail.com
 Liz Lucente
 liz.lucente@gmail.com

Stephanie Altman has joined the Office of General Counsel for International Law National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA GC) as an attorney advisor. Prior to joining NOAA GC, Stephanie lived and worked in Liberia, West Africa, where she served as a legal advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture and as a special envoy to the European



Kayla (Smith) Anderson's '07 and Maggie Stubbs's '07 "epic VLS friendship" continues at a recent Lil Wayne/Nicki Minaj concert in Washington, D.C.

Commission on Forestry Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade-Voluntary Partnership Agreements. At the Ministry of Agriculture, Stephanie worked to inform the drafting of Liberia's Fisheries Law and regulations and drafted Liberia's draft Maritime Zones Act. Before Liberia, Stephanie was a law fellow at the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) where she worked with ELI's Oceans Program on various projects, including an assessment that examined the law and policy in place for the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program to deal with potential offshore energy development. Stephanie lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband, Sean, daughter Nora, and dog Oona.

Kayla (Smith) Anderson and **Maggie Stubbs** say, "We have no grown-up news—same jobs, no change in significant others, and no babies (furry babies excluded); they did recently join up for a Lil Wayne/Nicki Minaj concert in Washington, D.C. An epic VLS friendship continues with dancing, drinking, tubing trips, and general ridiculousness still intact (although we miss Crossroads). Hope everyone is enjoying their post-VLS lives."

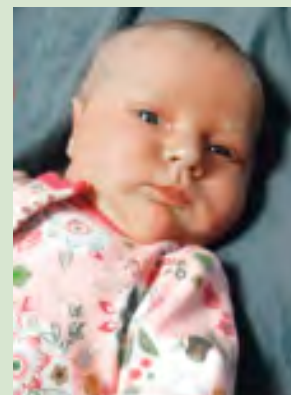
Maureen (Bayer) Hodson and husband, David, are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Lilia Elizabeth Hodson, on June 27, 2011. Lily was 7 lb., 2 oz., and is a happy, healthy baby. Maureen is still practicing CERCLA litigation in the Lafayette, California office of Hunsucker Goodstein & Nelson PC, and is happy to be working alongside fellow alum **Kate Trinward**, who joined the firm's Washington, D.C. office last year.

Chris King writes, "After nearly two years in the land of taxation without representation, I am a poster boy for flying solo. After a year-long bout in federal court pursuing claims on behalf of a California tribe, I am now a gun-for-hire doing various contract work and special projects for a governmental affairs firm specializing in Native American advocacy. Despite such noble interests, I've learned that truly flying solo requires one to check their bleeding heart at the ATM and shill for 'the man' to pay the bills. And by 'shill' I refer to the prestigious title of litigation support contract attorney. To the billable-hour colleagues working for BigLaw LLC, that means I was the guy doing all your document review, printing, and binder assembly for a fraction of what you get paid. I was so glad I had earned a JD, master's, LLM, and a law license, otherwise I might never have figured out how to properly click a mouse. All is fair in love and war, though: I had no BlackBerry, could clock out whenever I pleased, and had no insufferable partners to answer to. Just as in my first class note, I still seek permanent employment with substance, meaning, and benefits. Has it really been four years?"

Michele Maresca and **Peter Royer** welcomed Piper Emma Royer into the world on June 23, 2011. Mom, dad, big brother Peter, and baby Piper, are all happy and healthy.

On July 23, 2010, **Charles William "Bill" White** married Laura Malaga-Dieiguez. They were thrilled to have in attendance the peerless **Joseph Griffo**, **Shannon Vallance**, and **David McCullough** and his wife, Melissa Cosmus. Bill is a litigation associate at the law firm of Kaufman Dolowich Voluck & Gonzo, LLP, in Hackensack, New Jersey, practicing professional malpractice defense. When he is exhausted by his labors, he makes an occasional hummus dip.

Maggie Stubbs is beginning her fourth



Lilia Elizabeth Hodson, daughter of Maureen (Bayer) Hodson '07

year as associate counsel with the Board of Veterans Appeals, although she frequently thinks it's still 2007. She bought her first home in Alexandria, Virginia, in December and has thus far shared it with two cool housemates, three awesome dogs, and a boyfriend.

2008

Samantha Santiago
santiago.samantha@gmail.com
Jamie Williams
willjamie@gmail.com

On July 27, 2011, **Peter J. Abbarno** and his wife, Holly, were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Sophia Theodora Abbarno.

Vic Aufiero is currently a staff attorney for a firm in Albany, New York. She has been training for the Marine Corps Marathon this



Nesha Christian-Hendrickson '08

fall and unsuccessfully trying to convince her lab-shepherd-husky mix, Dakota, to train with her.

Nesha Christian-Hendrickson is currently clerking for the Honorable Julio A. Brady of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

William S. Eubanks II LLM'08 coauthored an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court case *AEP v. Connecticut* on behalf of several conservation organizations—a case that dealt with the application of federal common law nuisance claims to address the impacts of climate change caused by large emitters of greenhouse gases. In addition, Bill is lead counsel on a case challenging the Bush Administration's opening of off-road vehicle trails in environmentally sensitive areas of Florida, resulting in permanent and irreparable impacts to the ecosystem. Bill also taught a two-week summer course at VLS on the public



Jennifer Wlodarski and Michael Stahler '08

health impacts of U.S. agricultural and food policy, which consisted of 30 students from VLS and other law schools.

Laura Furrey is currently an electricity specialist with the Arizona Corporation Commission, evaluating electricity-related projects for the state. She recently bought her first home in Gilbert, Arizona, which she shares with her parrot, Rocky, and her pit bull—boxer mix, Gucci.

Mark Pierce is living in Lebanon, New Hampshire, and working as an assistant prosecutor for the Lebanon Police Department.

Jack Sautter is deploying to Afghanistan this fall as a staff judge advocate for Third Battalion, Third Marine Division. He will be home with his wife and dog by the summer of 2012.

Daniel Schramm writes, "After two years at the Environmental Law Institute, I moved to EPA last October and am now a staff attorney in the Office of General Counsel. I primarily cover issues related to Superfund, RCRA, and brownfields restoration. On a personal note, I married my deepest love, and nonlawyer/gifted artist, Amanda Frayer, in Door County, Wisconsin, on July 30. Thanks to **Winston Miller '09** for introducing me to her so he would have more time to study!"

Roman Sidortsov JD'08/LLM'11 and two coauthors wrote an op-ed in *The Huffington Post* on June 13, 2011, in which they discussed climate change and the vastly different positions of the pope and the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. The op-ed was linked to by *The Wall Street Journal*.

On July 17, 2010, friends and family gathered for the wedding of **Michael Stahler** and Jennifer Wlodarski. Following a wedding

mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Belfast, Maine, a sunset reception was held at the Point Lookout Resort overlooking Penobscot Bay. The newlyweds honeymooned in Quebec City and are in the process of relocating to Salt Lake City, Utah, where Jennifer is beginning her residency at the University of Utah Hospital. **Matt Rohrbaugh** was a groomsman for the wedding. Michael currently serves as an associate in the litigation practice group at Kenlan, Schwiebert, Facey & Goss, P.C. in Rutland, Vermont. The bride is a 1999 graduate of the University of Vermont and a 2011 graduate of the University of Vermont College of Medicine.

Christina Switzer is a staff attorney at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C., where she has been advising the commission on matters related to electricity market regulation for over three years. In March, Christina ran the Virginia Beach, Virginia annual Shamrock 8K for the third year in a row, joined this year by several other VLS alumni. **Jami Westerhold** and **Alison Share** were unexpectedly detained in Washington, D.C., that weekend but were at the beach in spirit. At the time of writing this update in the summer, Christina was training for the Rock 'n' Roll Half-Marathon in September.

Jami Westerhold is currently the special assistant to the CEO at American Forests where she helps develop and advise on new and special projects with the CEO in all departments, including exclusive work on climate change and wildfire policy with **Becky Turner**. She lives in Washington, D.C., with **Alison Share** and their dog, Baily, a professional napper. Alison is an associate at the law firm Crowell & Moring where she splits her time between environmental policy and torts litigation. Alison rejoined Crowell last fall after her one-year clerkship with Judge Peter W. Hall on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.



From left to right: Along with some other friends, Samantha Santiago '08, Christina Switzer '08, Laura Furrey '08, Maggie Stubbs '07, and Victoria Aufiero '08 met up in Virginia Beach, Virginia, to run the annual Shamrock 8K.



Emily Davidsohn '09 and her husband, Ethan, enjoy a day at the beach with their dogs, Dually (left) and Ramona (right).

2009

John Miller
johndmillerjr@gmail.com

Emily (Lewis) Davidsohn and husband Ethan are living in Portland, Oregon, where they bought their first house this August. Emily is the in-house counsel for the Investigations Department at the Oregon Humane Society and Ethan is a sous chef at Bon Appetite Management Company. Ramona is getting older but is still a puppy at heart. Of course, working at the Humane Society meant



Ella Thodal and Jake Marren '09

that Emily had to bring at least one dog home, so Ramona now has a mastiff sidekick named Dually.

Ashley Ivanov writes that her daughter, AdiVera Sophia Ivanov, was born on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2011. Ashley is admitted to practice in Maryland.

Jake Marren married Ella Thodal on Memorial Day 2011 in Fairlee, Vermont. Jake and Ella continue to live and work in Washington, D.C., but are investigating opportunities back in New England. Jake was admitted to the Vermont bar on September 13 and looks forward to returning as soon as possible.

2010

Cara Cookson
caracookson@yahoo.com
Laurie Wheelock
lauriewheelock@gmail.com

VLS was well represented at the 28th Annual EPA Trial Advocacy Institute in Boulder, Colorado, this past June: **Evan Belser**, U.S. EPA Headquarters, Air Enforcement Division; **Ed Kulschinsky '09**, U.S. EPA Headquarters, Office of Administrative Law Judges; **Jay Simpson '99**, U.S. EPA Region 2, Regional Criminal Enforcement Counsel; and **Chris Thompson '98**, U.S. EPA Headquarters, Air Enforcement Division, were all in attendance.

Amanda Bush started working at Boston University as a research safety specialist in the Office of Environmental Health and Safety in March.

Ann Cassie Duong's clerkship at the New Jersey Superior Court ended in August. Following her clerkship, she joined Booz Allen Hamilton as a consultant.

Jeffrey Heinrick says, "I passed the Arizona bar and joined the Scottsdale, Arizona firm of Kielsky Rike PLC as an associate attorney. **Tracey Mackenzie** is moving out to Phoenix so we can start our lives together. I keep in regular contact with my fellow 2010 BROS, **Sadie Spruce**, **Joe Starnes**, **Aaron Charney**, **Dustin Bruscher**, and **Dan Williams**. We are planning a small reunion in D.C. in March 2012."

Peter Norris and **Shelbie Lewman** were married on July 15, 2011. The Honorable Michael J. Hogan, the New Jersey Superior Court judge for whom Shelbie currently clerks, presided over the intimate courthouse ceremony. In other good news, Peter accepted a position as the assistant public defender for the Bradford County Office of the Public Defender in Towanda, Pennsylvania. After



Evan Belser '10, Ed Kulschinsky '09, Jay Simpson '99, and Christopher Thompson '98 attended the 28th Annual EPA Trial Advocacy Institute in June. They are pictured here in front of the Flatirons rock formations in Boulder, Colorado.

Diana Vogel JD 2010 Immigration Law: The Human Story



“Immigration law appealed to me because it deals with the human story—and all the work you’re doing is direct service work.”

Diana Vogel knew early on that she wanted to work face to face with people in need, “but if someone had said to me back then, ‘You’re going to become a lawyer,’ I wouldn’t have believed them,” she says. Fast-forward to today: as a law clerk in the Boston Immigration Court, she writes decisions for judges on complex asylum, torture, and deportation cases. In retrospect, her path to immigration law started in childhood. She grew up in Jamaica Plain in Boston alongside Central American and Caribbean neighbors: “I never really understood anti-immigration sentiment because the community was so enriched by the different cultures,” she recalls. Her father ran a Boston nonprofit that built affordable housing, and her mother, an acupuncturist, treated AIDS patients.

At Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, Diana tutored farmworkers and started moving toward a career in bilingual education. During a semester of study in Morelia, Mexico, “I learned what was comfortable with me in that culture and confronted uncomfortable moments to learn from them.” After getting a BA in political science, she volunteered at the nonprofit WorldTeach and taught advanced English in Quito, Ecuador.

Her “life epiphany” occurred there when she helped two Ecuadorian sisters with the complicated visa paperwork required to visit their sister in the United States. “As I started translating the forms and doing research, I read a couple of amazing books that opened my eyes to immigration policy in the U.S. That’s when I became really interested in immigration law. It appealed to me because it deals with the human story—and all the work you’re doing is direct service work.”

At VLS under the tutelage of South Royalton Legal Clinic (SRLC) immigration attorney Arthur Edersheim, she landed summer stints as a law clerk in the Miami, Florida, Immigration Court; in the U.S. District Court in Boston; and at the Political Asylum/Immigration

Representation Project, a nonprofit. In addition to helping two middle-school children avoid deportation through the Vermont Immigrant Assistance Project, Diana walked a teenage girl through a tough custody arrangement in the Children First! Legal Advocacy Project. She continued to represent the girl afterward on a pro bono basis: “Every week I checked in with her by phone and was reminded that there’s a real world out there and a reason to be suffering through finals.” For her SRLC work, Diana won the Law Student Ethics Award from the Northeast Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel.

After graduating, she was hired through the U.S. Attorney General’s Honors Program and was assigned to the Boston Immigration Court as a legal clerk. Working for six immigration judges, Diana conducts research, writes decisions, and oversees the court’s intern program. “I’m getting a firsthand view of how the laws are administered,” she says. The saddest cases, she says, involve young children separated from their parents; eye-opening ones involve criminals. “Now I have a realistic and practical sense of how immigration laws play out in this country and that immigration law is far from black or white.”

Diana lives again in Jamaica Plain with her boyfriend, Robert Arnell ’10, and skis, hikes, plays with her puppy, and roots for the Red Sox in her spare time. After her time in the immigration court, she’ll be seeking work in a nonprofit representing clients facing deportation. “I love the direct service work—that’s the most personally rewarding and fun for me,” she says. “You see an interesting and unique side of the human condition. You witness firsthand the courage that people have to come to a new country and start a new life—and the minute someone gets a green card and hugs you, well, that’s an amazing experience.”



Peter Norris '10 and Shelbie Lewman '10

her one-year judicial clerkship in New Jersey, Shelbie will begin a judicial clerkship for the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Licensing and Safety Board Panel this fall.

Lindsay Osborne has joined the Tucson, Arizona office of Snell & Wilmer as a member of the real estate, banking, and commercial finance group. Lindsay is a volunteer attorney for Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc., assisting clients on domestic relations issues such as divorce, child custody, and post-decree modifications. She previously interned at a law firm in Maryland where she researched and analyzed state and federal legal issues in order to produce written summaries for projects, including chapters in the *4th Edition of Environmental Issues in Business Transactions*, ongoing client cases, and to keep supervising attorneys abreast of developments in recent law.

Albert Vanderlaan joined the Boston office of Cooley Godward Kronish LLP in September 2011 where he practices venture capital fund formation.

2011

Amanda George
 amandageorge@yahoo.com
 Sarah McGuire
 smcguire@vermontlaw.edu

Michael Cote MELP'11 is now program manager/climate adaptation with the Association of Climate Change Officers in Washington, D.C. His specialty is climate adaptation for cities, but he is now tip-toeing into adaptation for agencies as well as large corporations. Projects include contributions to the National Climate Assessment, helping organize the White House's GreenGov 2011 Symposium, and surveying decision makers on barriers to incorporating climate change science into their respective organizations. "I couldn't have landed this highly visible position," Cote says, "without

the support and encouragement of VLS faculty members. I'm especially indebted to Patrick Parenteau, **Laurie Beyranevand '03**, **Katherine Garvey '10**, and **Rebecca Purdom '96**."

Megan Fowler Myers says, "I married Thomas J. Myers a few months ago! My wedding took place on December 18, 2011, in my hometown of Charleston, South Carolina. A handful of my VLS friends were able to make the long trip to attend the wedding."

Brandon Gillin accepted an offer of employment as an associate attorney at the law firm of Johnson, Gaukroger, Smith & Marchant, PS, in Wenatchee, Washington. His practice will focus on civil litigation, real estate, municipal law, and estate planning. He can be reached by email at brandong@jgsmlaw.com.

Justin Pevnick is working in downtown Burlington, Vermont, as a project associate for White and Burke Real Estate Investment Advisors, Inc.



Pictured at the Fowler Myers wedding reception from left to right are (back row) Theo Fetter '12, David Wheaton '11, Amanda George '11, Sunil Satnarain '11, Laurie Stern '11, Gray Jernigan '11; (front row) Jenna Calvi '10, Keisha Sedlacek '11, and Megan Fowler Myers '11

In Memoriam

Judge **John Joseph Carroll III '86** of Hampstead, North Carolina, passed away unexpectedly on May 25, 2011, after a brief hospital stay. John served in the U.S. Army from 1987 to 1992 and in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1992 to 2005. He was reactivated from 2005 to 2006 to serve in Iraq, where he received the Bronze Star, and continued to serve in the reserve until his passing. From 1996 until present he served as a District Court Judge in New Hanover and Pender County. During that time he served as Chief District Court Judge for several years. He had friends from all walks of life, was an encourager and a mentor to countless individuals, and loved the law and serving those it protected. He was truly a great man and, while serving his country and the people of his community and upholding the laws to which he dedicated his life, he cared that his family had the best of everything. A selfless man, he continued to care for and think of others until his passing. He is survived by his wife, Charlene Hudson Carroll, and his four children, Nancy Nicole, Maura Rosaleen, John Joseph IV, and Barbara Grace. He is also survived by five sisters and one brother and several nieces and nephews.

Bruce Winthrop McShane '77 passed away on August 13, 2011. Bruce volunteered for the U.S. Army draft in 1969 and served in Vietnam for 15 months with the 101st Airborne in the signal corps as a radio telephone operator. In 1972 he was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service. He later attended Castleton State College, earning his BA before earning his JD at Vermont Law School. In 1985 Bruce cofounded the law firm Johnston and McShane in New York City. In 1999 he cofounded a sports marketing firm, Old Iron. The firm represented sports figures in private marketing efforts. He and his wife, Celeste, had two daughters, Jessica Elizabeth and Kelley Tiernan. They moved to Westport, Connecticut, where the seeds of Bruce's interest in sailing sprouted. On a daily basis he would jump into his boat after work and sail until dusk. Bruce kept up his interest and love of boating in the waters surrounding Watch Hill and Newport, Rhode Island, and Bruce sailed his yacht, *Summer Wind*, throughout the western waters of the Atlantic—much



Laura DeCupua

of it solo. His sailing adventures took him as far south as Cartagena, Colombia, to the east and west boundaries of the Caribbean, and down to Bermuda several times. Bruce is survived by his wife, Celeste, daughters Jessica and Kelley, and his siblings.

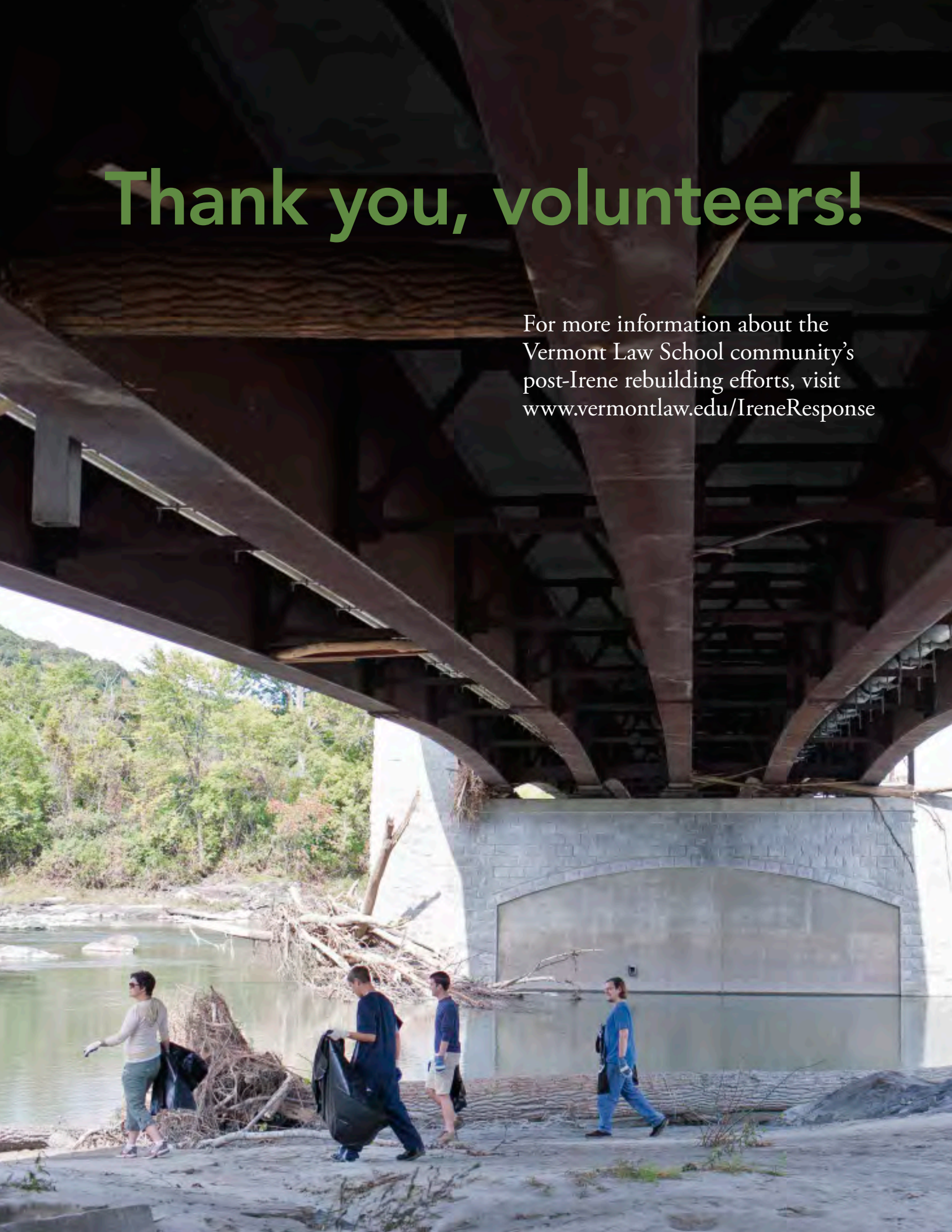
Francis E. Morrissey Jr. '88 died unexpectedly at his home on August 15, 2011. Francis was born in Bennington, Vermont, in 1951 and was a member of the first graduating class at Mount Anthony Union High School. Francis was active in local government and community affairs, served as chair of the District 8 Environmental Commission for many years and was appointed to the commission by three governors. He was also elected to several school boards, serving as chair of the Mount Anthony Union High School Board and the Southwestern Vermont Supervisory Union Board. He coached youth soccer for many years and was a member of the Catamount Rotary Club and Bennington Elks Lodge. He was serving as chair of the board of directors for 1370 WBTV-AM at the time of his death. He also served on the boards at Southern Vermont College and Southwestern Vermont Medical Center. Francis received a bachelor's degree from DePauw University in 1973 and a master's degree in business administration from Tulane University in 1976. He was a practic-

ing certified public accountant between 1980 and 1996 before graduating from Vermont Law School and being admitted to the Vermont Bar Association in 1989. Much of his practice was devoted to probate law. He enjoyed camping, hunting, fishing, and especially playing golf. Survivors include his wife, Barbara (Wilson) Morrissey; five children, Michael, Matthew, Patrick, and Katie Morrissey, and Lisa Gaudette; three grandchildren; a sister; an aunt; a niece and two nephews; and many cousins.

Peter Ryder Neary '82 died unexpectedly on May 22, 2011. Peter was born in 1950 in Burlington, Vermont, and though the Neary family soon moved to Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Peter formed a deep attachment to his native state. After graduating from SUNY Albany in 1976, he moved back to Vermont. He graduated from Vermont Law School in 1982 and began a private practice in Middlebury. Peter worked as a deputy state's attorney in the Rutland County State's Attorney's Office for the past 25 years. Peter's singular joy was his family: his wife, Julie, and their four children. He was also a much-loved uncle and was affectionately known as "Poppy" by his five beautiful grandchildren. In addition to his long-standing law career, Peter was an avid outdoorsman and had a deep connection with the environment. He hunted, fished, and hiked the Vermont wilderness. In later years, he became a prolific cyclist and enjoyed weekly rounds of golf with friends. Peter was an active community member. He served both as a choir member and on the parish council of Our Lady of Seven Dolors Church, and volunteered for organizations such as the Fair Haven Recreation Committee and the Poultney River Committee. In recent years, he was elected as town moderator. Peter's firmly held belief that he was "his brother's keeper" fueled his tireless efforts to improve the condition of his fellow man. Peter is survived by his wife, Julie; his children, Amal Neary Duprey and her husband Benjamin Hamerslough, Eden Ryder Neary and his fiancée Justine Hanrahan, and Devon Ryder Neary; his cherished inlaws; his siblings and their spouses; and many beloved nieces and nephews. He will also be dearly missed by his trusty canine companion, Baba King.

Thank you, volunteers!

For more information about the Vermont Law School community's post-Irene rebuilding efforts, visit www.vermontlaw.edu/IreneResponse



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164 Chelsea Street, PO Box 96, South Royalton, VT 05068

Laura DeCapua

