

SPECIAL CAMPAIGN ISSUE

VERMONT LAW SCHOOL
LOQUITUR

FALL • 2007 • VOLUME 21 • NUMBER 1

This is the story



of wolves,

vernacular greening,



a brother's memory,

Chinese law,



and one bell tower...



Letter from Dean Jeff Shields



Friends, we did it! We exceeded our \$8 million campaign goal with great style, coming in at \$11.2 million. This special issue of *Loquitur* is dedicated to telling you the heartening story of our campaign and the amazing people who made it happen.

This was a terrific team effort, and I thank each of our 3,232 contributors. Everyone listed in this report is responsible—for greatly enhancing the campus, for providing funds that allow us to support and attract extraordinary students, and for adding verve and excitement to the intellectual and practical programs of the law school.

I would like to give special thanks to David Thelander '87, who served as chair of the development committee, and Perez Ehrich, who served as chair of the campaign steering committee; Scott Cameron '80, who served as the chair of the board throughout the campaign; Dean Kinvin Wroth, who shepherded much of the quiet phase of the campaign; Dee Robinson, Michael Healy, Harry Ash, and Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs, who guided Institutional Advancement; Fran Yates, whose ingenious ideas and great generosity led to a matching initiative that stimulated giving; Rick Shafer '77, whose inspiration and leadership led to the successful formation of the Leaders' Circle; and current and former members of the board of trustees, who each made a special contribution to our campaign efforts.

I also want to thank the many friends of the school who reached out to others to spread the word about the value of Vermont Law School and the importance of supporting our students and our mission. This campaign establishes a wonderful base from which we can move forward at VLS to continue to lead in the areas of public service, the environment, and individual legal education.

Thank you for making a difference in this campaign, in your school, and in the educational opportunities you've extended to many Vermont Law School students. You have helped underwrite a legacy that will last for years.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey B. Shields
President, Dean, and Professor of Law

Contents

Letter from Dean Jeff Shields 1



Discovery

From the bell tower and new learning spaces to student scholarships, you are changing the future. 3

The Difference

A campaign for the community and the world 8



The Defining Issue

VLS initiatives on energy and the environment address the defining issue of our time 14

Evening the Odds

The ENRLC is fighting—and winning—against the big guns . . 22



It Looks Good in Green

Our Victorian grande dame goes environmentally sound. 25

Those Who Made a Difference

Letter from Chair of the Board Scott Cameron '80 and a list of campaign donors. 28



Campaign's End Is New Beginning

Letter from Campaign Committee Chair Perez Ehrich and Development Committee Chair David Thelander '87. 49

PRESIDENT AND DEAN
Geoffrey B. Shields

VICE PRESIDENT FOR
INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT
Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS
Anne Janeway

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Jennie Clarke
Anita Warren
Carol Westberg

SPECIAL THANKS TO
Milo Cutler
Jennifer Hayslett
Helen McCarthy

ART DIRECTION
Scuola Group

PRINTING
Queen City Printers, Inc.

Vermont Law School was founded in 1972. With an emphasis in environmental and public interest law, VLS offers traditional legal training and a series of experiential programs. An independent institution, VLS enrolls 600 students in programs leading to the MSEL (Master of Studies in Environmental Law), the JD (Juris Doctor), and the LLM (Master of Laws in Environmental Law and the Master of American Legal Studies) degrees.

Loquitur is owned and published by Vermont Law School and is produced in cooperation with the Vermont Law School Alumni Association. This publication is guided by Vermont Law School's principle of freedom of expression and accepted standards of good taste. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors or the editors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the school.

Published for VLS alumni and others interested in the law school, *Loquitur* is printed with soy-based inks on recycled paper. ♻️



The Bell Tower

When Charles E. “Rick” Shafer ’77 came to VLS, he was barely scraping by. His brother, Robert M. “Mike” Shafer ’79, still in college, offered to help. “Mike said, ‘I can send you \$5 a week.’ He was probably making \$15 a week slinging pizzas,” Rick Shafer remembers. “Every week, the \$5 rolled in with a note of moral support, like, ‘Here’s the five that keeps you alive.’ I didn’t grasp the magnitude of what he’d done until I got older.”

The brothers spent an overlapping year at VLS and later established a thriving upstate New York law practice, from which Rick branched out into financial services. He and Mike share strong feelings for VLS and for the Debevoise family’s dedication to the school in those early years. The brothers have served as trustees and established a scholarship fund, but Rick still wanted to thank Mike for his long-ago generosity.

Rick and his wife, Judy, chose Debevoise Hall’s bell tower. “It’s the signature of the law school. It is VLS,” he says. They also secured the naming rights: a plaque will note their grateful gift in honor of Mike Shafer, and the landmark feature will always remain simply “the bell tower.” ■

Discovery

Case Closed

In October 1995, Jim May, director of the South Royalton Legal Clinic (SRLC) and professor of law, interviewed a young mother who sought to divorce her abusive husband. During the divorce proceeding, which lasted 10 days in 1997, the judge described the husband’s behavior as “malevolent and psychologically terrifying.” The man continued to assault his two boys even after the divorce, and the court suspended his visits. His wife fled with the children to New York.

Over the next nine years, the husband directed his ire at the SRLC, making harassing phone calls and directing death threats at the staff. The Supreme Court rejected his final appeal in May 2007, and today, the woman and her children are alive and well thanks to the hundreds of motions and unwavering devotion of the clinic.

This is one example of the difference the South Royalton Legal Clinic makes. While not all cases last a decade, since its founding in 1979, the SRLC has worked on 2,038 cases, providing high-quality legal services to low-income people while helping law students hone their skills. ■

Passing It On

Earlene Rivera ’07 bore a heavier burden than the average student at VLS. Her mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer, and combining first-year pressures with trips home to Maryland was taking an academic toll. Rivera considered dropping out, but her mother wouldn’t hear of it. “She always said, ‘Don’t ever give up,’” Rivera remembers. “She believed in education.”

Rivera had already pursued successful careers in business and medicine, so her difficulty with law studies caught her by surprise. A professor suggested she visit the Academic Success Program, where tests revealed a language-learning disability. Rivera had moved to the U.S. from Puerto Rico at a time when immigrant students had few language-learning alternatives to “sink or swim.” She was now experiencing the delayed effects of



Earlene Rivera '07

having had to teach herself English. With study help from Academic Success and several class accommodations, she got back on track.

Rivera has helped other VLS students who might need often-expensive tests, tutoring, or technology to perform up to their abilities and pass the bar. She established the Dolores F. Rivera Fund in her mother’s memory. The fund will give those students the help they need to keep going. ■



A River Flows by It

The legacy of the class of 2006 is being written in stone. The class that brought the law school an espresso bar (and that cut a wide academic swath) wanted VLS to have a classroom down by the river. That classroom will be finished this fall—a graceful 24-foot diameter amphitheatre designed by Vermont artists Elizabeth Billings and Andrea Wasserman. The low stone walls built into the bank between campus and the White River will seat up to 40 students and incorporate stone benches given in memory of Kim Colburn '05 and Lauren Salb '03. The tranquil location is also perfect for solo sojourns—an ideal place for kicking back and watching the water flow by. ■

Bestseller

The fourth edition of Professor of Law Stephen Dycus's casebook, *National Security Law*, published in 2006, is selling briskly. More than 30 law schools and universities have adopted the book.

Property Rites

Sprawl is perhaps the signature symptom of poor land-use planning, consuming a million acres of parks, farms, and open land every year and destroying 100,000 acres of wetlands. The VLS Land Use Institute was founded through capital campaign funds in 2005 to address issues such as sprawl, emphasizing the relationship of land-use regulation and planning to environmental protection. Under the direction of Professor and former VLS President and Dean Kinvin Wroth, the institute is building a land-use curriculum for VLS while it develops planning and legal models and provides direct support for governments and communities throughout Vermont and the nation.

To help encourage sustainable communities, the institute has conducted conferences, brought in noted speakers, drafted proposed planning legislation for Vermont, and worked with public and private planning agencies on specific projects. Dwight Merriam, past president of the American Institute of Certified Planners and a teacher of Land Use Law during VLS's summer session, notes that the institute is "exactly what our country needs to bring order and direction to public policy." ■



Kinvin Wroth

Lasting Legacy

Terry Ehrich, former publisher and editor of *Hemmings Motor News*, dedicated years of his time and resources to good causes. Among many other activities, he served on the VLS board from 1995 until his death in 2002; founded the First Day Foundation, dedicated to promoting parental involvement in education; and served on the Vermont Natural Resources Council board and the Vermont Environmental Board.

Just as VLS was important to Terry, he was important to the school. Last fall, VLS renamed its new law center the Terry Ehrich Environmental Law Center, a lasting reminder of Terry's devotion to Vermont Law School, to education, and to the environment. Additionally, a new endowed LRAP—The Terry Ehrich Loan Repayment Assistance Program—will assist graduates entering public service in paying off their debt.

The law center and LRAP were made possible by generous gifts from Terry's daughters, Gillian and Shannon; his brother, Perez; and his sister, Jessie-Lea; and from a bequest from Terry himself. ■



A portrait of Terry Ehrich now hangs in the law center dedicated in his honor. Shown at the dedication ceremony are (L-R) portrait artist Stella Ehrich (no relation) and members of Terry Ehrich's family: grandson Cameron Sloan, daughter Shannon Ehrich Warren, and brother Perez Ehrich. (Missing from photo is Terry Ehrich's daughter Gillian Ehrich.)

Words of Wisdom

Recently, Chris Middleton '06 emailed Associate Professor of Law Jennifer Sargent to thank her for what he'd learned in criminal law class. "Motions, hearings, client counseling—I apply it every day." Middleton, a public defender in Georgia's Eastern Judicial Circuit, wakes up eager to go to work. "It's so satisfying when you can talk and build trust with a client who can't afford a private attorney," he says. "Maybe they're facing serious charges, and you sit down and go through a strategy step-by-step. Once you reach a positive conclusion and they thank you—that's worth more than gold."

Middleton came to VLS from Savannah, Ga., thanks to a Debevoise Family Scholarship. He recalls that "the VLS community felt like a family, and every professor helped make me the person I am today." Fortunately, the LRAP allows him to pursue indigent defense without applying one particular lesson he learned at VLS: "When [financial aid director] Dino Koff taught us to budget, he'd remind us that Ramen noodles were four for \$1." ■

Protecting Consumers

The American Bar Association has named VLS student Siobhan McCloskey '08 a Steiger Fellow, one of only 21 individuals chosen this year from a field of 300. Named after Janet D. Steiger, a former Federal Trade Commission chair known for her commitment to consumer protection, this consumer protection outreach initiative introduces law students to the rewards of legal careers in public service. Fellows serve as interns, providing tangible, meaningful assistance to states and territories that are in substantial need of additional resources to fulfill their consumer protection mission. ■



Crossroads of History

The late Judge Sterry Waterman had a lasting influence on Vermont Law School, serving as president of its board of trustees from 1974 to 1983. During those pivotal years, his leadership saw the law school through its American Bar Association accreditation and first graduation and helped establish VLS's grounding in public service and environmental law. During his long tenure as senior judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, he made a significant contribution to American jurisprudence.

In 2006, VLS's Whitcomb House was renovated and rededicated in Judge Waterman's honor. Much of the financial support came from his former clerks in a fund-raising effort led by VLS Trustee Bob Rachlin. The original 1869 structure and 1980 addition of Waterman Hall were restored and updated and now house pleasant faculty offices, common areas, the Academic Success Program, and a conference room donated by Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC, a firm founded by Judge Waterman in 1930.

Appropriately, portraits of Sterry Waterman and Tom Debevoise share a wall in Waterman Hall; the two men shared VLS leadership as president of the board and dean for eight years. The airy hallway opens to Oakes Hall, the classroom building whose namesake succeeded Judge Waterman on the Court of Appeals. Waterman Hall creates an academic crossroads honoring three remarkable men. ■

Equal-Opportunity Justice

Florence Cornish '08 is passionate about defending the poor. "I'm seeing public defenders during my third-year practice in Atlanta who overlook their indigent clients," she says. "I want to change that mind-set. We're all sworn to the same Constitution, and our clients deserve the best representation we can give them."

Born in South Carolina and raised in Florida, Cornish came to VLS after studying education at Savannah State University. "I love Vermont's sense of peace," she says, "and the community atmosphere was a perfect fit."

Cornish has started her third year in the General Practice Program, emphasizing criminal and family law. Scholarship assistance has allowed her to focus on helping others rather than fret about mounting debt. "I love being able to give to people in my work, and this scholarship was a real gift to me. I'm very thankful." ■





Family Ties

The Yates Common Room is a relaxed, colorful space in Debevoise Hall, where students can hit the books or socialize on the clusters of red sofas and upholstered chairs. This cheerful room remembers an intelligent and principled man, VLS trustee Charles Yates '94, who died in a private plane accident in 2000.

Charles's sister, VLS trustee Dr. Frances Yates, donated this room in his honor. "My brother always said about VLS, 'I came out a better person.' I already thought he was tops, so I knew this must be a special school."

Charles Yates had already been a successful businessman, a New Jersey state representative and senator, and an MIT instructor when he arrived at VLS. "He called VLS 'a school with a soul,'" says Dr. Yates. "Our family grew many ties to the school: my brother met his wife (the late Anya Kwiatkowski Yates '94) there, and our niece went to VLS. When I joined the trustees in 2004, they welcomed me so warmly," she recalls. "I'm thrilled to honor my brother with this gift." ■

Righting Wrongs

David Brown '04 had degrees in biology and ecology when he came to VLS from his native Louisiana. "I realized no matter how much I knew about wetlands ecology, without the right political decisions, everything I loved would be gone," he recalls.

Once here, he dived into the environmental law classes, found mentors in Professors of Law Bruce Duthu and Patrick Parenteau and others, and helped to found the ENRLC.

After graduation, duty called him back to the Delta. "Louisiana has a brain drain," he says, referring to

educated young people who leave the state, "and there's so much work to be done." Brown works as legislative liaison for Louisiana Environmental Action Network. He's currently working on energy cases and on shutting down a private water and sewer business that is selling dirty water to poor, rural people of color.

The Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) makes the difference. "I couldn't have this job if it weren't for the LRAP," he claims. "It's still hard, but I'm able to play a vital role." He hopes to expand that role in November by winning a seat in Louisiana's House of Representatives. ■

Visitors Welcome

Numerous scholars attend VLS programs each summer, and campaign gifts will now enable some to make extended visits. The Environmental Law Center has established a new, semester-long visiting professorship in honor of Douglas M. Costle, who served as VLS dean from 1987 to 1991. Costle has had a remarkable career in public service and environmental law. An architect of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, he served as its administrator during the Carter administration. He founded and is president emeritus of the Institute for Sustainable Communities, which works with grassroots organizations worldwide.

ELC Director and Associate Professor of Law Marc Mihaly calls the visiting position "a match made in heaven.... We discovered when we advertised for our Summer Scholar Program that a lot of prominent people who have commitments elsewhere would love to teach at VLS," he says. "Now they can spend a semester here."

The fund will allow for a visiting professor every fourth semester, with additional gifts enabling greater frequency. Mihaly notes that VLS's reputation in environmental law will attract professors, practitioners, and regulators who can develop valuable ongoing connections to the law school and its students. "There are many exciting possibilities," he says. ■



Douglas M. Costle

Eyeing the Horizon

Jill Reymore '05 recently became the first Saranac Waterkeeper for the Upper Saranac Lake watershed in the Adirondacks. Although she works alone, her ties with the Waterkeeper Alliance give her access to colleagues and information world-wide. "It's a great organization that I'm proud to represent," she says.

Reymore earned a joint JD/MSEL degree at VLS, building on her environmental science and forestry background. Her VLS training equipped her for the wide scope of Waterkeeper duties, which include working with homeowners in this resort area; sampling water quality; monitoring compliance with local, state, and federal laws; and motivating officials to enforce those regulations. In the summer, she can be seen in the Waterkeeper boat, "an extra set of eyes and ears on the lake."

"This has the potential to be a dream job for me," Reymore says. But she couldn't do it without the Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP). Her husband and two children still live in Vermont, and she commutes on weekends. "I have huge school loan payments and expenses for two households," she says. "The LRAP really makes a difference." ■



Jill Reymore '05

Seeding the Future

When Judge James L. Oakes retired after 36 years on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, his former clerks sought a way to express their fondness and respect. Conversations with the judge's wife, Mara, revealed a fitting, living gift.

Judge Oakes had shown leadership and great generosity toward Vermont Law School since its beginnings. His 18 years on the VLS board, followed by active years as an emeritus board member, were invaluable in establishing the law school's prominence in public service and environmental law. Recognizing that many of the most worthwhile legal service positions are among the lowest paid, his clerks and many friends decided to establish a public service payment endowment in his honor.

The Oakes LRAP will enable VLS graduates to serve the people and environment of Vermont while forgiving a portion of their loan debt. Former Oakes clerk, Professor of Law, and former Dean of Stanford Law School Kathleen Sullivan recalls, "The judge calls his clerks the 'children of his intellect.' We were able to establish a gift that could provide for his 'children in public service.'" ■



James L. Oakes

Joint Venture

Rachel Goldwasser '07 and Chris Aslin '07 became VLS's first students to complete the joint program with Yale University School of Forestry, earning the JD from VLS and a master of environmental management from Yale. The program enabled them to complete their degrees in four years instead of five, but as Aslin says, "We couldn't have come here at all without scholarships."



Several VLS faculty became active mentors, including Professor of Law Michael Dworkin, with whom they worked in the Institute for Energy and the Environment. Studying at Yale required an adjustment, but a welcome one. "It was fascinating to look at environmental problems from different perspectives, instead of taking a law- or rule-based approach," says Aslin. "We're now both excited to think as lawyers."

Goldwasser will clerk for a district court in Maine while Aslin works for a firm there. She notes, "Scholarships have allowed us to think more flexibly about our futures." ■

Staying Focused

"I've always been interested in a lot of different fields," says Jill Pfenning '07. She taught English for a year in Korea, where she was born, and has taught high school math. She came to VLS feeling she wanted the greater agency of legal training.

Becoming a student again was a pleasure. "I took a wide variety of classes and had some amazing professors," she says. Her independent research on immigration law with Associate Professor of Law Jackie Gardina led to an article that appears in the summer 2007 *Vermont Law Review*, and a judicial externship at the Vermont Supreme Court with Justice John Dooley had special appeal. "I live in Vermont and intend to practice here," she says, "so seeing how practitioners argue and how chambers work was invaluable."

Pfenning earned a VLS Dean's Scholarship, which helped her concentrate on her studies instead of on mounting loans. "As I look at my debt load, I'm very grateful," she notes. First in her class and a recipient of the Learned Hand Award, she's considering the practice of immigration or land-use law after a clerkship. ■



The Difference

It's about the South Royalton Legal Clinic, our national wetlands, and south China. It's about preserving historic buildings while making them more energy efficient. It's about educating people who are passionate about making a difference in their world. Vermont Law School's Making a Difference campaign was aptly named.

Our five-year campaign wrapped up on June 30, 2007, with a total of \$11.2 million, more than the successful Oakes Hall and Cornell Library campaigns combined. These funds will support students and faculty, renew and refresh the campus, and energize the Vermont Law School community's educational mission. Such generosity has already made a difference across the campus and well beyond Vermont's borders.

Supporting Our Students

The campaign raised a record-breaking \$3.5 million-plus for student support through both annual giving and endowed giving.

The dramatic increase in scholarship funds allows Vermont Law School to attract students with exceptional records and higher LSAT scores, moving toward our strategic goal of increasing the intellectual capabilities of the student body. Our need-based scholarships enable us to enroll deserving students who would not otherwise be able to attend. And merit-based scholarships help encourage top students to choose VLS over other schools.

An impressive 40 percent of Vermont Law School graduates go on to work in public service. This is not by mere chance. Because many public-service jobs pay very little, we provide scholarship assistance to permit our students to take those jobs. We are pleased that over \$1 million has been raised to supplement the endowment for our Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP).



JIM WESTPHALEN

We not only renovated Debevoise Hall, we reenergized it, preserving the best of this historic building while improving its environmental footprint.

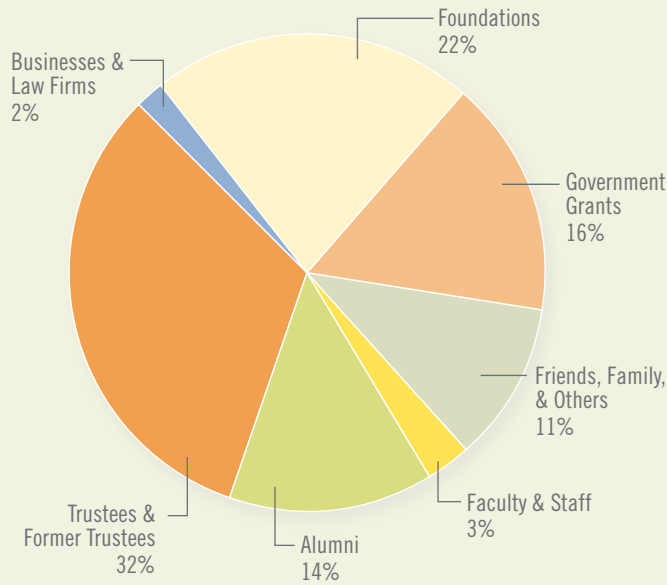
Transforming Our Campus

We not only renovated Debevoise Hall, we reenergized it, preserving the best of this historic building while improving its environmental footprint. We've renovated Whitcomb House and renamed it Waterman Hall in honor of Judge Sterry Waterman. There's a new cottage, Kirsch House, for visiting faculty and an outdoor classroom nearing completion that will help us take advantage of our wonderful setting on the banks of the White River. Over \$2.5 million was raised for these significant campus projects, which have transformed our campus.

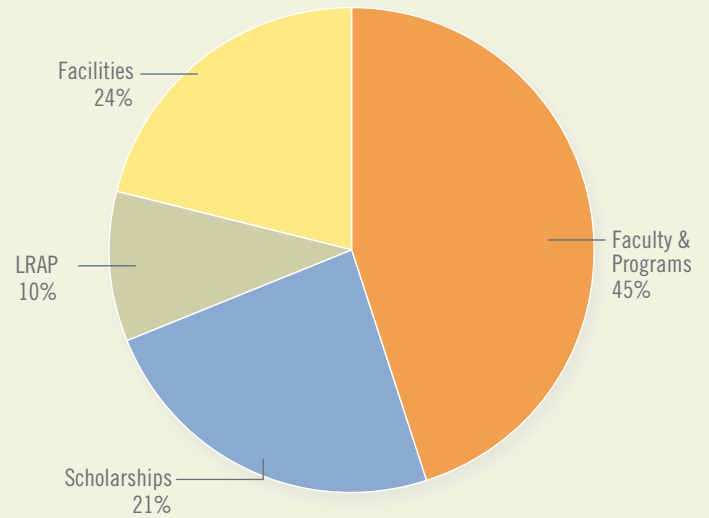
The renovation of Debevoise Hall, the largest of these projects, has changed the old classroom building into a spectacular classroom, administrative, and faculty office building. In the process, Debevoise obtained a new structural steel skeleton, a substantial extension on the back of the building, and the most up-to-date energy-efficient insulation, heating, and air-conditioning systems. At the same time, great care was taken to maintain the building's exterior and interior, including old floors, blackboards, interior wainscoting, and even the squeak in the stairs, staying true to the historic character of this campus centerpiece.

The new Waterman Hall has been beautifully transformed into a modern, efficient faculty office building, counseling center, and meeting space while maintaining its small-town, New England exterior and adding energy-efficient components in keeping with our devotion to green building.

Sources of Gifts



Uses of Gifts



The remodeled Kirsch House has become a wonderful cottage on the river that helps attract world-class visiting scholars to Vermont Law School and enables them to easily participate in activities on campus.

A gift to the law school by the class of 2006, the new outdoor classroom is a work of art designed by the award-winning team of Elizabeth Billings and Andrea Wasserman. It is nestled in a corner of the campus, looking out over the White River, providing an inspirational space for small outdoor classes, quiet contemplation, and easy access to the water.

These projects have brought comment after comment from prospective students, current students, and visitors about the beauty of our campus. As a whole, these subtle and dramatic changes not only set a wonderful tone for education and life at Vermont Law School but also help us recruit new students and faculty.

Our need-based scholarships enable us to enroll deserving students who would not otherwise be able to attend. And merit-based scholarships help encourage top students to choose VLS over other schools.



Professor Marc Mihaly

Expanding Faculty and Programs

Vermont Law School spends significantly more to educate its students than it raises in tuition, a gap that can only be filled through gifts, grants, and endowment income.

The campaign has allowed the school to increase all of its doctrinal classes from two to three sections, and property and torts from two to six sections. While most law schools give short shrift to first-year classes, VLS is able to emphasize the importance of first-year teaching thanks to money raised in this campaign. We have been able to attract a number of exceptional new faculty members to the core curriculum, adding courses and strengthening our capability in business, land use, public policy, property and real estate, and other crucial areas of instruction.

The campaign raised over \$5 million for intellectual and programmatic support at VLS. These gifts have helped fund:

- the Land Use Institute, which has launched programs to help rural New England communities deal effectively with rapidly changing economic, business, and population pressures and to act as a coordinator of land-use efforts
- a new partnership with Sun Yat-sen University in Guangdong Province that is furthering student and faculty exchange with VLS and helping to strengthen China's rule of law in environmental protection
- joint programs with law schools in France and Spain as well as other international programs, as VLS moves quickly to better train its students to deal with the internationalization of legal work

While most law schools give short shrift to first-year classes, VLS is able to emphasize the importance of first-year teaching thanks to money raised in this campaign.



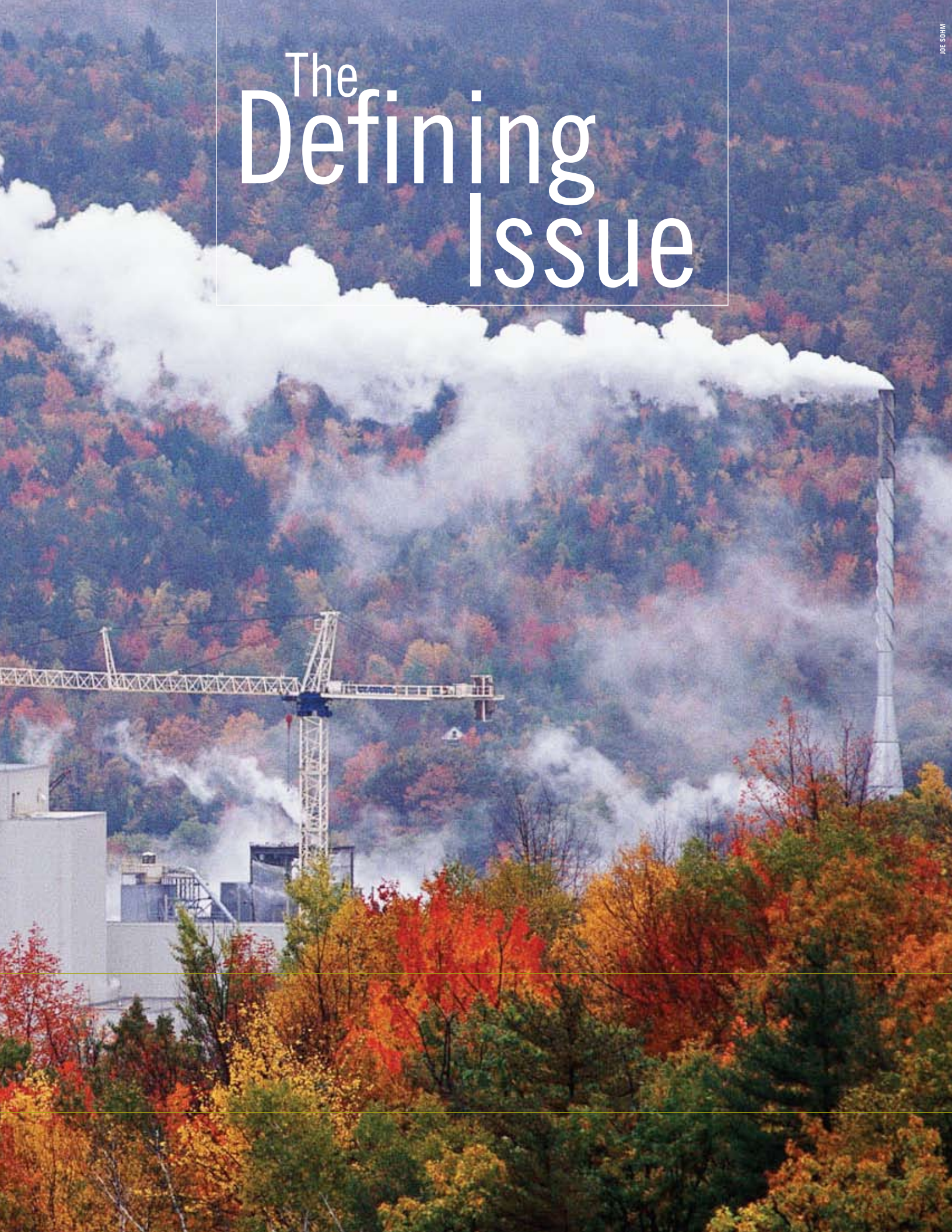
- the Institute for Energy and the Environment (IEE) conferences, outreach, analyses, and courses, which have permitted VLS to assume a leading role in bridging the discussion between energy and the environment
- the DMC Visiting Professorship in honor of Douglas M. Costle, former VLS dean and administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
- Children First! Legal Advocacy and Vermont Immigration Assistance at the South Royalton Legal Clinic
- the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic (ENRLC), which won a case preserving the interpretation of the Endangered Species Act and the lives it protects
- an endowment supporting the *Vermont Law Review*
- the Climate Legacy Initiative (CLI), which is clarifying the legal rights of future generations to a healthy environment

Building for a Better Future

Time after time, the positive transformative power of this small school has moved people to support VLS. The Climate Legacy Initiative, for example, was funded through the efforts of Professor David Orr of Oberlin College, who came to VLS to give a speech. He left believing that VLS is a place that can make cutting-edge intellectual contributions to solve global climate change.

Without question, the Making a Difference campaign has placed building blocks that will mean a brighter future for years to come. Thanks to the generosity of many, Vermont Law School is on the move.

The Defining Issue



Climate change.

It is the defining issue of our time.

Scientific evidence has cleared away naysayers' static, leaving the stark truth that humans have changed the earth's climate and perhaps even the feedback mechanisms that regulate it. Given the scale of consequences, we must act now.

In the past few years, Vermont Law School has strengthened its acknowledged leadership in facing this challenge. An unparalleled environmental law curriculum, a sustainably built campus, talented and committed students, and faculty known for pioneering environmental law have created a natural nexus for significant new programs on climate change. These programs address climate change locally, regionally, and globally. **The Institute for Energy and the Environment (IEE)** researches the environment/energy interface and trains students and working professionals to act from that broader understanding. **The Partnership for Environmental Law in China** works with Sun Yat-sen University to train lawyers in forging legal and regulatory systems that can mitigate the environmental impact of China's burgeoning economy. **The Climate Legacy Initiative (CLI)** explores the legal basis for intergenerational accountability for climate change's impact on future generations' human rights.

In each of these new VLS initiatives, faculty and students collaborate with each other, with other programs at the law school, and with leading experts working in the field worldwide.

IEE Fuels Strong Energy Push
Partnership for Environmental Law in China
CLI Protects Tomorrow



IEE Fuels Strong Energy Push

When it comes to climate change, think vehicles. Think power plants. That's how Director of the Institute for Energy and the Environment (IEE) and Professor of Law Michael Dworkin thinks. "Three quarters of human-caused carbon is from electricity or driving," he says. "Production of electricity accounts for 40 percent of that carbon; gasoline and diesel for vehicles create another 30 or 35 percent. The most effective way to reduce carbon from power plants is to reduce demand—better lighting, better insulation, better chillers—so you don't have to turn on the power. For vehicles, we need more efficient technology, tires, and traffic patterns."

We also need professionals who understand how energy, regulatory law, and environmental issues interrelate, says Dworkin, which is why, when his term as chair of the Vermont Public Service Board ended in 2005, he accepted VLS's invitation to found and direct the institute. Dworkin brings broad and deep experience to VLS. He's been an environmental litigator and a small businessman in addition to his leadership positions with the American

Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, the New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners, and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment.

Vermont Law School is one of a small handful of graduate institutions in the U.S. with a dedicated program to teach an interdisciplinary approach to energy and environmental law and policy, says Dworkin, and yet his experience shows how critical it is. "Substantively," he says, "if you want to teach environmental law and policy, you need a strong energy focus."

The IEE highlights the energy issue year-round, in and outside the classroom. Dworkin notes five ways he and his students are rapidly establishing the institute as a regional, national, and world resource on energy law and policy:

■ **Academics.** Each fall and spring, Dworkin and his Environmental Law Center (ELC) colleagues offer three progressively advanced (and popular) courses, among them Energy Regulation, Markets, and the Environment.

- **Energy Summers.** The IEE offers a coordinated cluster of six courses in which students and professionals can immerse themselves for one or several weeks, such as An Energy Policy for America, Energy Development and Project Finance, and Climate Change Litigation.
- **Conferences.** Three conferences a year—in fall, spring, and summer—gather participants with wide-ranging interests and expertise. One recent conference included physicist Amory Lovins, founder of the Rocky Mountain Institute and a spokesman for alternative energy, and Steven Percy, the former chair and retired CEO of BP America from the traditional energy side.
- **Research.** Each year, Dworkin selects research students to work with him over a two-year period. He and his team of 7 to 10 students, dubbed “the Energizers,” produce commissioned research on such topics as biofuels and small-farm energy generation. This paid research has also brought the IEE to financial self-sufficiency in 18 months.
- **Outreach.** The Energizers take their energy-and-environment message to schools, utility commissions, state legislatures, and municipalities. Dworkin himself is a tireless speaker on energy efficiency, integrating renewable energy into the grid, promoting healthy wholesale electricity markets, and stemming climate change.

While it appears Dworkin has his own hidden energy source, he emphasizes that “what makes it possible for me to sleep at night is this great team.” Dworkin chooses the Energizers—who are JD, LLM, and MSEL candidates—for their complementary skills in such areas as finance, biology, and

engineering. They are “people who can work together to move this issue ahead,” he says. “VLS and, in particular, the ELC are almost the perfect base for doing this. We’ve got talented people who care about these issues. At another school, I wouldn’t get 45 students to attend an institute open house and 20 to apply for four or five positions—and they wouldn’t have this range of backgrounds.”

After only a year and a half in operation, the institute has prepared students for internships at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration. Graduates are in demand, designing efficiency programs for Pacific Gas and Electric, working for the FERC, clerking for federal district court judges, and working for firms with large energy and regulatory practices. Fortunately for everyone who cares about the future, each of these VLS graduates has worked with an energy mentor who believes the U.S. can increase its efficiency and security at the same time it lowers its carbon output. And each is equipped with Dworkin’s rule of thumb: “If you care about the environment, energy policy is the single most important influence. If you care about energy, environmental limits are the single most important constraint.”



“ If you care about the environment, energy policy is the single most important influence. ”

— Michael Dworkin
IEE Director and Professor of Law



Partnership for Environmental Law in China

According to a recent Dutch report, China has now overtaken the U.S. in total carbon emissions—years earlier than recently predicted. Two-thirds of China’s energy derives from coal, and rising industrialization has the country mining and burning more than ever, as well as shopping for other countries’ oil and gas.

“China’s a sophisticated country, but it’s facing a huge challenge: moving a fifth of humanity from poverty to middle class. They’re going anywhere they need to, to get the resources to do that,” notes Michael Dworkin, who, with the IEE, commits 25 percent of his efforts to the China program. Given other developing nations’ growing energy appetites (and many developed nations’ entrenched gluttony), a sober Dworkin axiom bears noting: “Nations tend to resolve energy disputes with either lawyers or soldiers. I prefer lawyers.”

Lawyers it is. In October 2006, the U.S. Agency for International Development granted VLS \$1.8 million, the

school’s largest gift ever, to support a partnership for environmental law in China with Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU). SYSU, which includes one of China’s eight law schools, has its primary campus in Guangzhou, capital of the southeastern Guangdong Province.

Environmental law is in its embryonic stages in China, and SYSU seeks to lead its country in this increasingly critical specialty. VLS Professor Bruce Duthu, who directed the program’s initial stage, notes that “China approaches parity with the U.S. in the economic sphere, but it lags far behind in the legal structures and mechanisms that underpin U.S. environmental law and policy.”

VLS is taking an educational approach in helping SYSU to advance China’s environmental laws and policy. Collaborations have already developed with SYSU faculty and staff and with other Chinese legal educators, attorneys, lawmakers, utility analysts, and regulators in analyzing how China can best improve its environmental law,

“ Nations tend to resolve energy disputes with either lawyers or soldiers. I prefer lawyers. ”

— Michael Dworkin
IEE Director and Professor of Law

especially its energy law. VLS professors are also trying to furnish a fuller understanding of the legal systems and institutions needed to support legal application and enforcement. Dworkin sees great potential. “Sun Yat-sen wants to establish leadership in environmental and energy law, and VLS has the opportunity to train their legal and policy leaders.”

The program’s new director, VLS Professor Tseming Yang, is especially excited about the opportunity for the partnership to create an environmental bar in southern China. Attorneys trained in environmental law are scarce in China, and VLS will work with SYSU to build an environmental law curriculum, including clinical experience, for SYSU’s juris master (JM) program. (The JM degree, a recent development, is modeled after the JD degree in the U.S.)

Training judges in environmental law is another crucial step. As Yang explains, “Most judges in China lack formal legal training. Judicial positions are oftentimes filled with People’s Liberation Army officers who have lost their military jobs.”

High-level Chinese officials are taking note of this legal partnership and are eager to participate, says Yang. When Yang, Duthu, Dworkin, and other VLS faculty traveled to the partnership’s first major conference in China last May, more than 200 representatives of government, education, nongovernmental organizations, and business met to discuss issues raised by the draft laws on energy efficiency and circular economy pending before China’s National



Clockwise from bottom left: Bruce Duthu, VLS professor; Tseming Yang, VLS professor; Huang Bin, SYSU School of Law administrative office director; Liu Heng, dean of SYSU School of Law; and Li Zhiping, SYSU professor of law and director of SYSU’s Environmental Resource and Energy Law Research Center.

People’s Congress. A number of officials from China’s judicial and regulatory bodies have attended workshops on the VLS campus since then.

Students from VLS and SYSU play active roles in this program. This fall, five VLS students will work with their SYSU counterparts on comparative environmental law issues and will visit Guangzhou in December for in-person work and presentations. Yang, who has directed U.S.-China student projects for several years, says, “I am told all the time how these programs transform participants’ understanding and interest in China and international environmental issues.” Addressing climate change will be the work of their generation. The China program is finding effective ways for people of two powerful nations to do that work together.

For more information on the China program, visit www.vermontlaw.edu/china.

CLI Protects Tomorrow

In March 2007, VLS announced the Climate Legacy Initiative (CLI), a two-phase undertaking that will address the intergenerational justice dimension of climate change and seek ways to act on it. First, the CLI will clarify the ethical and legal rights of future generations to a healthy environment. Subsequent action includes precedent-setting litigation, legislation, and administrative regulation to advocate and secure those rights. The theater of action for this second phase could span municipal regulations to international treaties.

The CLI was established by an anonymous gift and is being led by two VLS professors. Burns H. Weston, visiting distinguished professor of international law and policy at VLS, serves as project director and senior researcher.

Internationally known for his work in human rights, Weston is also the Bessie Dutton Murray Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of Iowa, where he is senior scholar at Iowa's Center for Human Rights. Professor Tracy Bach is the institute's associate director and senior research fellow. The multilingual Bach specializes in legal research, analysis, and writing; health-care law; and international human rights and has held visiting professorships in France, Rwanda, and Russia.

Says Weston of the CLI's task, "We take as a given that climate change exists already in threatening ways and that lawyers have a vital role to play in minimizing its harms."

During the initial research phase, he and Bach are searching for the legal bases for action, including whether

““ Could we, in the interest of a stable climate, create a national park of the atmosphere? ””

— Tracy Bach
Professor of Law

current laws already hold us accountable to future generations and whether our descendants have a right to have climate change’s harms prevented or at least mitigated.

Societies have looked beyond their current needs, says Bach, pointing to the establishment of the U.S. national parks as one example. “We took huge expanses of land and had the foresight to say, ‘If we don’t preserve this now, it’ll be gone,’” she says. “Could we, in the interest of a stable climate, create a national park of the atmosphere?”

In Australia last year, a judge for the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales ruled that a coal producer’s environmental assessment must include climate impacts of a proposed mine—down to the emissions created by burning the coal years later. “Australia, the second highest per capita CO₂ emitter after us, has taken a serious look at its environmental and land-use laws and decided that intergenerational justice is actionable,” Bach notes.

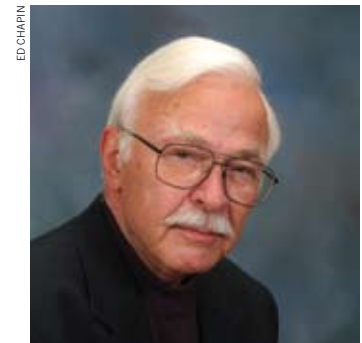
A new generation of lawyers is taking part in this exploration thanks to funding for CLI research assistants—four each at VLS and Iowa. Weston’s fall course on this climate topic involves additional VLS students through their coursework.

There’s plenty of work to go around. Bach outlines some of the possible objections to future-oriented

climate law that would have to be worked out. “How can we legally bind current generations to do, or not do, something? We currently have all kinds of regulations on land, water, and air, in part because we implic-

itly recognize that pollution causes overall environmental degradation that affects our children and their children. But the difference here,” she notes, “is that the Climate Legacy Initiative is taking it one step further to show how explicit recognition of this longstanding principle of environmental ethics is required to impede a disaster 43 years from now, using the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change target date of 2050.”

Carbon already in the atmosphere—27 percent of which was emitted by the U.S.—can be expected to linger for a century. Meanwhile, Arctic peoples are losing their ancestral hunting grounds and homelands as the permafrost melts, and South Pacific islanders are forced to migrate as the seas envelop their homes—and the Atlantic hurricane season is well under way.



Burns H. Weston

Evening^{the} Odds



WOLVES hold an ancient place in North America, predating humans here by hundreds of thousands of years. From their position near the top of the food chain, they exerted a unique pressure that helped shape and regulate the continent's ecosystems. Once Europeans arrived and unpacked their wolf myths, their herding and farming ambitions, and their guns, traps, and poisons, the majestic canid began a downward spiral toward extinction. Only after the gray wolf was listed as endangered in the lower 48 states by the 1966 statute that anticipated the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA) did the wolf population in the United States begin to recover.

When the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service tried to reclassify the gray wolf, ultimately delisting it as an endangered species, Vermont Law School's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic (ENRLC) stepped into the picture. The Henry Luce Foundation granted initial funding for the long-awaited clinic, and cases rushed in as soon as its doors opened in 2003. "We don't have to advertise. They find us," says ENRLC Senior Counsel and Professor of Law Patrick Parenteau about the source of clients. Among the new cases was a chance to challenge the federal reclassification of the gray wolf from endangered to threatened. More than mere semantics, this change meant that the wolf was no longer fully protected from being shot, trapped, or otherwise "taken."

While under that protection, wolf populations had rebounded in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. After downgrading the status of the wolf under the ESA, the Bush administration in 2003 sought to create a new, 21-state region of those upper Midwest states and much of the Northeast, which has seen sightings but no "established" wolf populations. The government would then declare "mission accomplished" for wolves throughout that new region and abandon any further restoration or protection efforts.

That's when a cadre of environmental groups—the National Wildlife Federation, Vermont Natural Resources Council, Maine Wolf Coalition, Environmental Advocates of New York, and Maine Audubon—called on VLS. They knew they'd find in Parenteau a veteran of high-stakes environmental battles intent on teaching the next generation of lawyers how to win. Then Assistant Professor and clinic Assistant Director Julia Huff LLM '03 was also an experienced litigator. And there were the first six of many subsequent students eager for action.

Semesters and summers, changing constellations of students worked the case with their mentors. Finally, on August 16, 2005, Judge J. Garvan Murtha, sitting in the U.S. District Court for Vermont, found that the Department of the Interior had violated federal law in 2003 when it issued the rule saying wolves needed no further restoration. Murtha wrote that the Fish and Wildlife Service "simply cannot downlist or delist an area that it previously determined warrants an endangered listing because it 'lumps together' a core population with a low to nonexistent population outside the core area."

This was a major victory—not just for wolves, but for all the species listed. "The rulings changed the way the law is interpreted," Parenteau says. "Key statutory terms were at issue—endangered, threatened, and range—and Judge Murtha used our interpretation."

Peggy Struhsacker, wolf project leader at the National Wildlife Federation, notes, "The feds haven't tried to delist another species like that since the wolf case. They know they can get slammed now that there's precedent from that ruling and a few others."

“ We don't have to advertise.
They find us. ”

— Patrick Parenteau
ENRLC Senior Counsel and Professor of Law





JASON HEINSE

ENRLC's legal team at the Newfane Courthouse, July 2007. Front row L-R: Nathan Jenkins (ENLRC summer intern), Pat Parenteau (ENLRC senior counsel, lead attorney), David Deen (river steward, Connecticut River Watershed Council), Julia Horrocks (ENLRC summer intern). Back row L-R: David Mears (ENRLC interim director), Conor Brockett (ENLRC summer intern), Justin Kolber (co-counsel), James Garrett (ENRLC summer intern), and Monica Litzelman (ENRLC paralegal)

New Growth, Student Growth

Shortly after the wolf victory, VLS alumnus David Mears '91 returned from the environmental law trenches in the state of Washington, following stints in Texas and Washington, D.C., to join the faculty and ENRLC. Now interim director, he sees the clinic as evidence of a distinctive VLS ethic. "One of the most exciting things about this school is the student body's engagement," he says.

Four years in, paralegal Monica Litzelman joined the clinic, and funding from the Educational Foundation of America allowed the clinic to hire a legal fellow, Ben Rajotte, to succeed the first clinic fellow, Justin Kolber. Thanks to the Tamarind Foundation, Inc. a new staff attorney, Laura Murphy, will supervise cases related to the environmental impacts of factory farms.

Competition remains fierce for each semester's eight student slots (up from six), but Parenteau feels small is good, not least because he and Mears also teach classes. "I can't imagine us having more students," Parenteau says. "These kinds of complex, challenging cases require close mentoring in small teams of two or three. You need daily

contact—lots of back and forth with documents and discussions."

Derek Campbell '06 feels the clinic put him leagues ahead, not just because his amicus brief helped the National Wildlife Federation prevail in a Clean Water Act jurisdiction case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. "Pat and David really empower students to practice what they've studied," he says. "You're working with a mentor, but you're a primary person on the project." Campbell credits that experience with securing a satisfying position in the general counsel's office for international law at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, where he handles fisheries and trade issues.

A case's educational value is one of three criteria Parenteau and Mears examine before signing on. They also ask, would the clients be able to bring the case without pro bono assistance, and is there an opportunity to make good law? The clinic already has challenged Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant's heated water discharges into the Connecticut River, where shad and Atlantic salmon migrate, and is arguing to save a piece of land on Maine's pristine Passamaquoddy Bay, sacred to the Passamaquoddy people, from the environmental, historical, and cultural impacts of a liquefied natural gas terminal.

Recently, the clinic represented residents of tiny Florence, Vt., who sued the primary local employer, mining concern Omya, Inc. Residents say the company disposed of waste into unlined pits and the chemical seepage, including arsenic, threatened their groundwater. "No one else offered legal help," says one Florence resident, adding that without the clinic, "we would have been trounced and dismissed by this behemoth multinational corporation."

The ENRLC has changed the odds for humans, wolves, fish, and habitat. Meanwhile, something more than sheer legal learning takes hold in the students themselves. As Mears observes, "They meet the client, they go to court, and it changes them. They're engaged; you can see it. We have to send them home, or they would work all night."



It
Looks
Good in
Green

Debevoise Hall,

its ornate schoolhouse bell tower visible for miles, has been an architectural and educational landmark since 1893. Following its 2005 overhaul, Debevoise won a new kind of landmark status: this elegant Queen Anne Victorian is now one of Vermont's most resource-efficient buildings of any era. Winner of Efficiency Vermont's 2006 annual design competition, Debevoise is Silver LEED® certified and was only the third building in the state to meet the strict standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council. Teaching "law for the community and the world" in classroom buildings that conserve and protect our shared air, water, and energy is another way VLS puts its money where its motto is.

Four generations of South Royalton children were schooled in the Old Classroom Building, which stood empty once a new school rose in 1964. Bought for Royalton College in 1965, the Victorian grande dame opened her doors once more in 1972 to welcome the newly founded Vermont Law School's inaugural class.



Time and weather had not been kind to the structure, and tearing it down and building a new campus centerpiece would have been the easiest remedy. However, then Dean L. Kinvin Wroth and the VLS trustees believed the schoolhouse deserved yet a fourth educational incarnation. Properly restored and inventively retrofitted, this building could teach students, faculty, the village, architects, owners of historic homes—anyone willing to learn—about new ways old buildings could save resources.

The law school reenlisted the team that had successfully built the “green” Oakes Hall: Truex Cullins & Partners Architects of Burlington, Vt.; award-winning environmental consultant Marc Rosenbaum of Meriden, N.H.; historic preservation consultant Lyssa Papazian of Putney, Vt.; and construction manager H.P. Cummings Construction Company of Woodsville, N.H.

The challenge, recalls Rosenbaum, was “trying to bring a historic building into 21st-century performance, both in energy use and environmental comfort—health, visual, and acoustic quality, and fresh air. We tried to do a job in this old building that would be creditable in a new one, recognizing the value of historic buildings in telling the story of a place.”

Vermont Law School was determined to meet the challenge. Rosenbaum says he has seen many historic

preservation and adaptive reuse projects, but Debevoise stands out. “None of the buildings that I have seen or know of does what Debevoise is doing in meeting modern environmental standards. None.”

Extreme Makeover

How do you transform a four-story, 27,775-square-ft. antique into a 21st-century environmental showplace? Workers kept the building’s original frame, ornate shingles, and trim—and then got serious. “We did open-heart surgery,” says Stephen Rooney, Truex Cullins & Partners project manager.

Workers built a tight envelope, then covered the building with siding that is immune to moisture-driven expansion and contraction and can go twice as long without repainting. Modern mechanical systems too hefty for a Victorian structure required that Debevoise’s floors be reshored with steel beams and columns. Key among those behind-the-walls features is an ingenious system for heating, ventilating, and cooling, which maintains a pleasant indoor humidity year-round while recovering 80 percent of heat in the exhaust air and transferring it to incoming fresh air. Photo-sensitive lights turn off when people leave an area, and energy-efficient lighting illuminates the building’s exterior.

When building the restrooms, the Debevoise designers let nature take its course. First- and second-floor restrooms were converted from conventional plumbing to composting systems that transform waste into odorless potential fertilizer, while third-floor restrooms utilize foam-flush toilets.

The old building’s unsalvageable original materials have long since gone on to other lives thanks to an impressive 80 percent recycling rate. Intact decorative materials, such as wainscoting and doors, were refreshed, and the old plaster blackboard from schoolhouse days stands protected under Plexiglass. For furniture, VLS called on area artisans to craft tables, desks, and chairs from sustainably harvested

woods certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

The overhaul was extensive, and although the initial cost was \$6.5 million, many of the features will pay for themselves before long. Campus records show that even though Debevoise's square footage grew by 35 percent, oil usage has plummeted 65 percent from prerenovation days, and the building's water bills are down 35 percent.

Renovating Debevoise also gave the law school the opportunity to honor many of its own. The Yates Common Room, named after late VLS trustee Charles Yates, is considered "the law school's living room." The bell tower again holds a bell and offers its priceless view from comfortable benches, in honor of alumnus Mike Shafer '79.

Of course, Debevoise Hall itself honors Thomas M. Debevoise, dean of Vermont Law School from 1974 to 1982. Until his death in 1995, Tom Debevoise served in many prominent legal positions, including assistant U.S. attorney and Vermont attorney general. With his guidance, Vermont Law School achieved much of its early growth and academic strength. His wife, Ann, a trustee from 1996 to 2005 and VLS's historian, says, "I'm proud to be a part of VLS's continuing stewardship of its treasured historic buildings," especially this "deeply dedicated seat of learning."

The building that bears Tom Debevoise's name reflects his pioneer environmentalism and his influence in establishing VLS's international reputation in environmental law. The Environmental Law Center and the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic are both housed in this sustainability showpiece.

Giving Debevoise Hall another chance has honored village memories, too. John Dumville, historic sites operations chief for Vermont's Division for Historic Preservation, was among the South Royalton selectmen who toured their old-turned-new classrooms. "I'm so glad they saved this building," says Dumville. "Nobody else would have."



[T]hough Debevoise's square footage grew by 35 percent, oil usage has plummeted 65 percent from prerenovation days.

Those Who Made a Difference



LAURA DECAPUA

More than six years ago, the board and administration began planning Vermont Law School's capital campaign. With a great deal of trepidation, we set the goal: \$8 million. We didn't know where all the money would come from, but we had faith—in our leadership, faculty, graduates, students, and friends, and in ourselves as your board of trustees.

That faith has been rewarded. The campaign raised \$11.2 million. On behalf of the board, I want to thank everyone who shared the vision of what VLS is and aspires to be, and who supported our school by investing time, money, talent, and friendship.

I must first thank my fellow board members, past and present, who contributed in excess of \$3 million. Special thanks go to Perez Ehrich, who served as chair of the committee for the last three years, and to David Thelander '87, who preceded him.

Our loyal alumni stepped up and contributed over \$1.7 million. What a statement of support and gratitude! I am proud to be a member of this special group.

Faculty and staff contributed almost \$360,000, inspiring people who worked on the campaign more than they will ever know.

I must acknowledge efforts by the Office for Institutional Advancement, including former Vice Presidents Dee Robinson and Harry Ash and Interim Vice President Michael Healy, who began the campaign, and Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs, who finished it with the help of her amazing staff.

Finally, I am pleased to acknowledge the contributions of our leadership. The campaign's planning and quiet phase began during the presidency of Kinvin Wroth and provided the platform from which President and Dean Jeff Shields launched the public phase in September 2005. Jeff worked tirelessly throughout and has the results to prove it. Well done!

Our vision is that VLS will be recognized as one of the nation's preeminent centers of law and policy. The resources achieved through the campaign have moved us forward substantially. We will achieve our goals with your continued involvement and support.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank every one of you for your commitment to and support of Vermont Law School.

Scott Cameron '80
Chair, VLS Board of Trustees

'06 and '07 Smash Participation Record

Class of 2007—59%

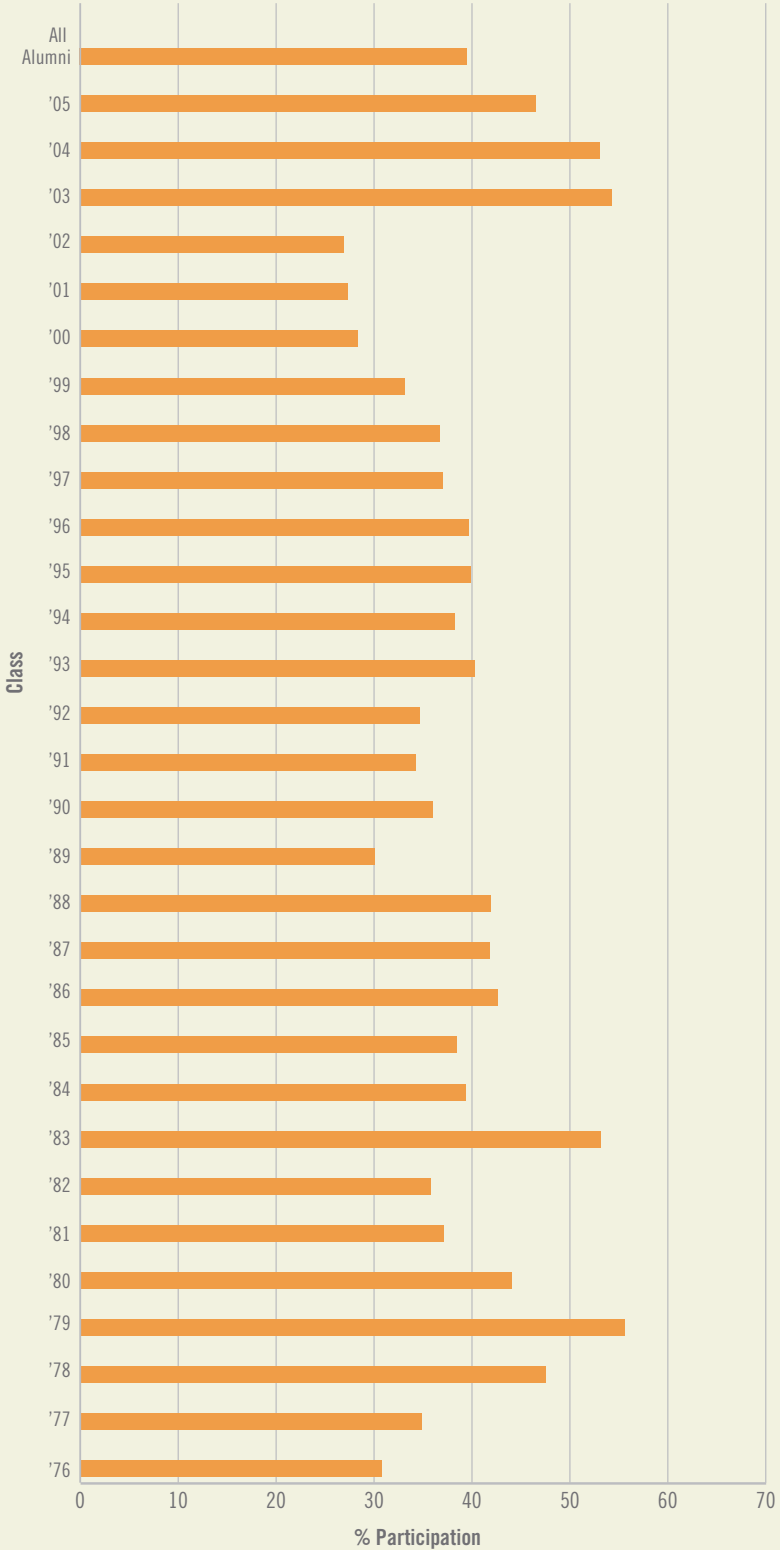
Class of 2006—58%

The past two years have seen unprecedented class gift participation among graduating classes. The class of 2006 set the high bar, with 58 percent contributing to the Class of 2006 Outdoor Classroom. Their successors, the class of 2007, topped that record with 59 percent participation this fiscal year in support of the class's Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) endowment. This LRAP supports VLS graduates in public-service positions with high debt-to-income ratios. Both classes broke earlier participation highs in the 30 percent range.

Alumni Participation Making a Difference

Participation by alumni grew to new heights during the Making a Difference campaign. Cumulative alumni participation over the full five years of the campaign totaled 39.5 percent. Congratulations to the class of 1979, which, at 55.6 percent, enjoyed the highest class participation over the course of the campaign.

In fiscal year 2007, overall annual participation grew to 19 percent from 17 percent in fiscal year 2006. The class of 2005 was the winner in a competition among recent graduates (2000-2005), with increased participation from 13 percent to 28 percent. This trend of rising support among younger alumni is especially heartening.



Vermont Law School Alumni Association

The Vermont Law School Alumni Association (VLSAA), elected by the alumni body, is a dynamic group dedicated to addressing alumni needs. Special thanks are due to the following alumni for their active participation in support of alumni and VLS during fiscal year 2007.

Alexa Cole '98, *President*

Geoff Hand '03, *Vice President*

Tameiko Allen '02

Suzi Black Beck '94

Kelly L. Berfield '01

Andrew M. Carter '99

Colleen H. Connor '85 Esq.

Alumni Trustee

Carolina T. Curbelo '05

Emily E. Epperson '01

Jason B. Hutt '98

Heather Spurlock Kennealy '02

John W. Kessler '88 *Alumni Trustee*

Margaret A. Mangan '86

Professor David K. Mears '91

Karis L. North '95

Mark Sciarrotta '96

David "Max" Williamson '97

Class Notes Returning in Spring

Your class secretary will be in touch to gather news from you and your classmates for the spring *Loquitur*.

You can post and view Class Notes online at www.vlsalumni.org at any time.

Campaign's End Is New Beginning

In 2002, the board of trustees, faculty, staff, and students developed a long-term strategic plan for VLS. We decided it would be best to keep VLS an institution that makes a large difference with a small footprint. Your support enables us to do that.

Here are some of the school's characteristics we value so highly:

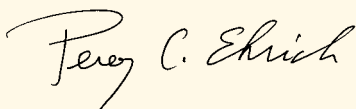
The mutually supportive nature of this diverse community exemplifies the attributes of good citizenship. A broad range of legal training, together with the VLS experience, produces class after class of well-trained professionals. Among many other things, VLS is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in forward-looking scholarship. The South Royalton Legal Clinic, staffed largely by students, provides pro bono advocacy in Vermont for those in need, especially children. That clinic, along with other programs, provides hands-on advocacy experience for VLS students. Continuing this uniquely effective paradigm is our dream for VLS.

We are especially proud of our "stakeholder" involvement—100 percent trustee and faculty participation and significant staff contributions. A special thanks to Trustee Rick Shafer '77, who has inspired more than 130 members to join the Leaders' Circle with commitments to give at least \$1,000 each year to our annual fund. We know that strong participation by an institution's stakeholders is an important validation of our dream.

Through you, the Making a Difference campaign has made a big difference to VLS, as reported in this special issue of *Loquitur*. We are deeply appreciative of the contributions each and every one of you has made and your belief in what VLS is doing. Having so many people join with us in so many ways inspires us to do even better.

If you're in the neighborhood, please visit the campus, sit in on a class, have lunch with students, or lounge in the outdoor classroom by the river. You'll see the great things accomplished by your support. Thank you all!

Sincerely,



Perez Ehrich
Chair
Making a Difference Campaign Steering Committee



David Thelander '87
Chair
Development Committee



VERMONT LAW SCHOOL



P.O. Box 96, Chelsea Street
South Royalton, VT 05068

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Burlington, VT
Permit No. 399

“ No person was ever honored
for what he received. Honor has been
the reward for what he gave. ”

— CALVIN COOLIDGE
Vermont native and
30th president of the United States