VERMONT LAW SCHOOL

FROM THE BELL TOWER

A Monthly Newsletter for Faculty and Staff

June 2009

Vermont Law School | 164 Chelsea Street, PO Box 96 | South Royalton, Vermont 05068

Campus Profile

Leslie Staudinger, Assistant to the Dean of Student Affairs and Diversity

FAMILY STATISTICS: Daughter Nicole (26) was just two years old when I began working at VLS. She lives in Portland, OR, and is an intern in charge of social networking at idealist.org. Renee (21) recently graduated from Keene State College (magna cum laude!) and will be a candidate for JD 2012 at VLS starting this fall. Son Andy (19) is a wilderness lover and shepherd. This winter he'll live off the grid north of the Arctic Circle as an apprentice to an Alaskan dog sledder who came in third in the Iditarod last year. My "wasband" Jeff is the Director of Community Development for Ashville, NC.

FAVORITE MUSIC: Home-grown music is the best and we've got lots of it in Vermont. Contra dancing is my passion and the live music is glorious. My favorite bands are *Nightingale*, *Notorious*, and *Wild Asparagus*. I spend my summer vacations at music camps and festivals where I combine all the things I love best: volunteering in a community, living outside, dozing in the sun while listening to singer songwriters and dancing all night.

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: I combine my vacation with visits to my children, wherever they are living; next stop, Alaska!
My favorite place to visit in Vermont is Brattleboro, where a funky mix of blue collar locals, artists, tourists, old hippies, and political hot heads live in a real downtown—not one franchise. There's ethnic food, thrift stores, antiques, art galleries, an art deco movie theater, a pharmacy in a former church building, shops like "Save the Corporations from Themselves," and a 100-acre wood with walking paths in the heart of it all.

RELAXATION ACTIVITIES: I love starting the day by wandering through my flower garden, coffee in hand, weeding and greeting old perennial friends. Then I walk my dog, Cara, on a two-mile loop through my beautiful Royalton neighborhood.

FAVORITE AUTHORS:
All That I Have by Castle Freemen is a little gem that captures small-town Vermont in a way other authors have missed. The language is sparse and poetic. Whenever I find *Tex & Molly in the Afterlife* by Richard Grant I buy it so I can pass it on -- Tom Robbins meets Edward Abby meets *A Midsummer Nights Dream* in a small Maine town dominated by ancient forests and big lumber. Gotta love it!

FAVORITE FOOD: I love local food and am a founder of The South Royalton Market. Are you a member? Ask me how to join!

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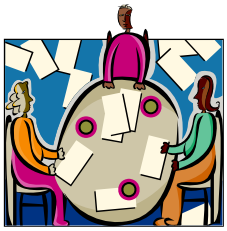

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New Staff Members

Patrick Berry

A 1991 graduate of Middlebury College, Patrick joins the Office for Institutional Advancement as Director of Institutional Support, Environmental Law Center. After college Patrick moved to Montana where he was a fly-fishing guide for four years. Currently he is restoring an old Victorian house in East Montpelier, which he shares with his wife, Brooke, and two small sons, Quinn and Willem, and two dogs. Patrick has a great blend of environmental and fund raising knowledge. He has worked as a lobbyist and head of communications for the Vermont Natural Resources Council. Recently, he was a major gifts officer specializing in environmental affairs at Middlebury College.

Johanna Dennis

Johanna joins the Legal Writing Department from Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, on Long Island, as associate professor of law. She has taught legal writing at Florida A&M University College of Law. She clerked for the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division, after graduating in 2005 from Temple University School of Law. Dennis also has a master of science in biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University School of Arts and Sciences, Advanced Academic Program. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar and a licensed patent attorney who has published articles on patent law.

John Echeverria

John will be joining the faculty in the fall, coming from Georgetown University Law Center where he served as executive director of the Georgetown Environmental Law and Policy Institute. Prior to joining Georgetown, he served as general counsel at the National Audubon Society and was an associate at Hughes, Hubbard & Reed. He has produced several books and numerous articles on private property issues, land use management, and natural resources. He will be teaching Water Resources.

John Miller

John, a '09 VLS alum, Max Kempner Award recipient, and class speaker at Commencement, joins the Admissions Office as a new associate director of admissions beginning August 1. John hails from Albany, New York, and earned a BS degree in law and society from The Sage Colleges. During his time at VLS, he served as an ambassador, a clinician at the SRLC and was barista at the Swan Dive in the Café. John enjoys reading, writing, running, kayaking, and hiking and lives in Bethel with his cat, Samson, and is entertained by Frank, his fish.

Karen Zbikowski

Karen arrived at VLS in March to serve as the executive assistant to the vice dean for academic affairs. Karen is well suited for her new career, having been previously employed at Pace University School of Law where she served as administrator for the pro bono legal services clinics and as executive assistant to the associate dean. Recently she and her husband owned and managed inns in Stowe, VT, and South Fork, CO. Karen currently resides in South Pomfret with her husband, Rod, daughter, Jessica, and two shelter rescue dogs, Jersey and Mocha.

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Benefits Update

from

Clarke Collins, Senior Benefits Administrator

Change in Mail-Order Prescription Benefit

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont is converting their pharmaceutical benefits manager from RESTAT to Express Scripts, Inc. All retail and mail order pharmacy benefits will be now processed by Express Scripts, and the transition will take place on July 1, 2009. There should be minimal impact on members, as calendar year deductibles, prescription history, prior authorizations, and mail order prescriptions with open refills will transfer.

New BC/BS ID cards will be issued in the beginning of June with the new Express Scripts information, so make sure to check your mail for any letters coming from BC/BS. The new cards will become effective on July 1, so please use your current card until that time.

TIAA-CREF: Guaranteed Income in Retirement

You may have heard a lot in the marketplace recently about the importance of guaranteed lifetime income in retirement. TIAA-CREF provides this to their plan participants through their annuities. To help you, as you approach retirement, to learn which of TIAA-CREF's income options can best meet your needs, they've created the "Guarantee Your Income in Retirement" page on their public website. It includes information on selecting an annuity and eliminating the potential risks of annuitization (e.g., the process of creating lifetime income), along with a primer on their flagship account, TIAA Traditional. There are also several online seminars and publications available on their website.

As always, Erik Moreau is also available for one-to-one sessions in his offices in West Lebanon, NH. Please call 603-653-5145 to set up an appointment.

Benefits Paperwork Deadlines

It is that time of year again! There are two benefits deadlines approaching as we get close to our new fiscal year.

Flexible Spending Account forms are due by Friday, June 19, from every employee, whether you are planning on participating or not. The forms can be found on the K: drive, the in personnel forms folder.

June also marks the open enrollment period for changes and additions to your Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage. "Open enrollment" refers to the one time of year that employees can change their health insurance choice without experiencing a “qualifying event,” such as the loss of coverage, birth of a child, or change in marital status. The open enrollment period allows you to switch between the two medical insurance plans VLS offers (i.e., the J Plan or Freedom Plan) and/or add dependents who were not added within 30 days after a qualifying event. The open enrollment period for this year runs from June 1 through June 30. If you do not make these changes during this period, you are precluded from making changes until next year's open enrollment period, or within 30 days of a qualifying event.

Note that you do not need to do anything if you do not want to make changes to your current medical insurance coverage. However, if you do wish to change to another plan, or wish to add dependent(s), please contact Clarke before June 30 to fill out the required forms and get information on cost and plan design.

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Reminder: Employee Review Timetable

June 17: Reviews forwarded to Executive Level
June 22: Reviews returned to supervisors
July 2: Deadline for supervisors to meet with employees to set FY10 goals and review performance form

"Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb."

Sir Winston Churchill (1874–1965)

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Style Q & A

Q: What is the official Vermont Law School logo?

A: The official VLS logo is simply the logotype:

VERMONT LAW SCHOOL

For more details on usage, please refer to the "Vermont Law School Identification Standards" booklet, which was distributed to each department in 2008 and is available on the server at K:\Common\Communications\VLS Identification Standards. Please contact Jennie Clarke in Communications when you need an electronic copy of the logo.

Q: What happened to the bell tower graphic?

A: The bell tower graphic is still in use in limited situations, and it may be used alone or in combination with the logotype. It is used solely for audiences who are familiar with the image and institution, such as alumni, current students, and the local community. Refer to the Identification Standards for specific usage requirements.

Q: When is it appropriate to use the swan seal?

A: Generally, university and school seals are reserved for more formal uses, such as the watermark on official letterhead, invitations to formal events, the commencement program, and academic certificates like degrees and formal citations from the board. However, it may also be used, as determined by the Office of the President and Dean, on other documents or on mementos and gift items such as mugs, furniture, clothing, etc. Refer to the Identification Standards to see both black-and-white and color versions.

Q: So, what is the fighting swan?

A: The fighting swan is the official VLS mascot, which may appear in less formal forms, including various cartoon drawings or as a mascot costume. You have probably seen various fighting swans depicted on items for VLS sports teams and clubs. There is no one, official depiction of the fighting swan.

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IT Corner

Community Website Updates

The IT and Student websites have been redesigned, and we've created a new Faculty-Staff website. These new sites are set up in the Ingeniux content management system, so students, faculty and staff can all edit pages. We'll be adding new content as available (or you can add your own; contact Lori in IT if you are a point person for web content in your area). For example, Julie Holmes will be posting the travel reimbursement forms on the Faculty-Staff site, so it will now be easier to find the latest versions. You can make any of these websites your home page by following the directions at:
http://www.vermontlaw.edu/it/x8556.xml

IT website: http://it.vermontlaw.edu
Student Net website:
http://www.vermontlaw.edu/students/
Faculty-Staff website:
http://www.vermontlaw.edu/admin/

Also new is an updated Classified Ads/Bulletin Board that is available from all of the above sites. This new tool provides more features for ad posters and includes categories for better organization. You can see the bulletin board here:
http://forms.vermontlaw.edu/classifieds/classifiedzone/

Coming Soon to the Public Website:

The International Law Resource Directory, modeled on the Environmental Law Resource Directory, is currently being populated by librarian Jane Woldow and her work study students. The Resource Directory will contain links to websites, articles, and documents and is organized by category for easy reference. It also has a search feature and provides a quick profile for each resource, along with a link to the resource itself. This new directory should be online sometime in August.

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TENDING THE LAWN

"The Grass is not, in fact always greener on the other side of the fence," writes Robert Fulghum in *It Was on Fire When I Lay Down on It* (Villard Books). "Fences have nothing to do with it. The grass is greenest where it is watered. When crossing over fences, carry water with you and tend the grass wherever you may be."

Upcoming Events

Check the campus calendar on the website for times and locations of these events.

Summer Sessions

Term One: May 26 – June 11
Term Two: June 15 – 25
Term Three: July 6 – July 16
Term Four: July 20 – July 30
Term Five: August 3 – August 13

June 25 - Willbanks Walk and BBQ
July 9 - Staff Meeting
July 11 - MELP/LLM Graduation Celebration

Chinese Scholars Presentations

June 24 An Introduction to China Clinical Legal Education: The Case of Environmental Clinic at CUPL
July 8 The Potential Direction for the Environmental Protection Law in China

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Hot Topics in Environmental Law

June 18	Are Conservation Easements Forever?
June 23	Where Wild Things Aren't: The Supreme Court in Review
June 25	The Mass Media and Environmental Policy Work
June 26	Nuclear Power and Climate Change: Is the Sky the Limit?
July 7	Transitions and Trends: The President's Influence at EPA
July 9	Preservation, Conservation, and the New Deal
July 14	Public Trust Doctrines and Climate Change
July 16	Iron Curtain, Green Corridor: Conservation in Europe
July 2	Environment, the First Amendment, the Fourth Estate
July 23	A New Water Paradigm: Water Use for the 21st Century
July 24	*Entergy v. Riverkeeper* and the Clean Water Act
July 28	Mediation Achieves What Litigation Cannot
July 30	New Zealand's Climate Challenges: Kyoto and Beyond

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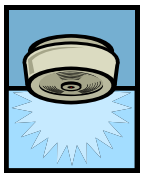
VLS Safety Committee



Did you know that VLS has a Safety Committee? The Safety Committee meets to discuss issues of concern to the VLS Community including reducing the risk of injuries and illnesses on campus, increasing awareness of safety problems and risks, and ensuring compliance with federal and state health and safety standards. The Committee is currently in the process of updating the Emergency Preparedness Plans for each building on campus. The updated documents should be on display in the coming weeks. We are also working on a broader scope comprehensive Emergency Response Plan which we hope to have completed by the fall. As a part of that plan, we plan to have fire drills in the late summer/fall. In addition, we have formed a First Responder Team whose members have volunteered to assist employees, students and on-campus visitors in situations where minor first aid or other medical assistance is required. Most of the members of the team, which consist of staff, faculty and students, have already completed Basic First Aid and CPR training. More information about the First Responder Team and fire drills will be coming. Current members of the Safety Committee include Diane Hayes, Lorraine Atwood, Shirley Jefferson, Clara Gimenez, Peg Trombly, Nina Thomas, Jeanne Eicks, Joan Vogel, and Will Hastings. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding Safety at VLS, please share them with one of the Safety Committee members. We will soon be looking for 2 new members to fill a current and a pending vacancy. If you are interested in being part of VLS' Safety Committee, please contact Diane Hayes.

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