2010

Annual Report: 2009-2010

Osgoode Hall Law School of York University

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Office of the Dean

THE 2009-2010 Osgoode ANNUAL REPORT

Osgoode Hall Law School
York University
It was an honour and a privilege for me to serve as Interim Dean of Osgoode Hall Law School in 2009-10. It was arguably the most difficult year in the Law School's 121-year history – a year of packing and unpacking, hard hats and asbestos abatement – but as this Annual Report outlining the School's major achievements from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010 shows, we came through it with flying colours.

I want to thank the students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the Law School for coming together in a spirit of comradeship, enthusiasm and devotion to the cause during this challenging period of transition.

Maintaining "business as usual" during the past year was no small feat. We pulled off "a logistical miracle" when we managed to vacate our building and move everyone into temporary space in other York buildings in less than three months. (Our building project got the official go-ahead on May 29, 2009 when the federal and provincial governments announced that they would contribute a total of $25 million under the Knowledge Infrastructure Program. By the first day of classes on August 31, 2009, we had moved all of our faculty and staff out of their offices. Fortunately, we were able to keep our classroom wing open during the School year.)

Special thanks go to the members of the Building User Committee, Helen Huang and Peter Lee of the Office of the Executive Officer, and our Information Technology Services (ITS) team. I also want to thank the Osgoode Hall Faculty Association (OHFA) Executive for working with me in managing the relocation, assigning faculty offices and developing an asbestos protocol.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generous support of donors to the Building Osgoode Campaign – the largest fundraising campaign in Canadian law school history. When the campaign, which was publicly launched in May 2007, drew to a successful close on April 30, 2010, more than $38 million had been raised, not just for our building, but for the establishment of our first two academic chairs, a number of innovative new academic programs and 88 new endowed student awards. When you factor in the government funding and York's contribution ($15 million), a total of $78 million was committed to Osgoode. This is a truly remarkable achievement and I want to acknowledge the leadership of former Osgoode Dean Patrick Monahan, now Vice-President Academic and Provost of York University, in the success of the campaign.

Our building project will be substantially completed by the spring of 2011 and I hope you will join us at the opening celebration in the fall of 2011.

I would like to close by saying thank you again to all of the members of the Osgoode community for your valued contributions over the past year. The Achievements section of this report documents many, but by no means all, of our successes in 2009-10. Of particular note is our students' domination in mooting this year with the most competition victories ever.

Best wishes to Lorne Sossin, whose five-year term as Dean starts on July 1, 2010, and all of you for a great year ahead!

Jinyan Li
Achievements

FACULTY

The South Asian Bar Association of Toronto (SABA) presented Professor Aaron Dhir with its 2009 Young Practitioner Award. SABA is the GTA’s premier legal organization dedicated to promoting the objectives of South Asian members of the legal profession.

Professor Roxanne MyKitliuk and Dayna Scott were among the recipients of two five-year Team Grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for the study of environmental and reproductive health. The CIHR grants are for $2,495,000 each.

Professor Stepan Wood published two new books. He also received an $80,000 “knowledge synthesis” grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for the study of environmental and reproductive health. The CIHR grants are for $2,495,000 each.

Professor Benjamin J. Richardson was elected to the prestigious Governing Board of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law. He also won the Award of Research Excellence for his paper at the annual conference of the UN Principles of Responsible Investment (UNPRI) Academic Network, held in Copenhagen, May 5–7, 2010. And he was the successful co-applicant of a grant worth approximately $5 million from the Research Council of Norway for a three-year project on “Sustainable Companies.”

Professor Craig Scott was awarded a 2010 Ikerbasque Fellowship by the Basque Foundation for Sciences, a granting agency established by the Government of the Basque Country in Spain in 2008, with the mission to consolidate the Basque Country as “a European point of reference for excellence in the field of research.”

Professors Giuseppina D’Agostino, Aaron Dhir and Dayna Scott were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure, effective July 1, 2010. Professors Joan Gilmour, Lika Philips and Peer Zumbansen were promoted to the rank of Full Professor. Professor Zumbansen’s Canada Research Chair was also renewed until 2014.

Professors Allan Hutchinson and Sara Slinn were awarded BLG Summer Research Fellowships for 2010.

Professors Giuseppina D’Agostino and Gus Van Harten were awarded Osogood Fellowships for 2010-11. The Osogood Fellowship provides each professor with one term’s teaching release to allow for greater focus on their research.

Professor Poonam Puri was appointed to the National Statistics Council for a three-year term. The mandate of the Council is to advise the Chief Statistician of Canada on matters relating to the current and future directions of Statistics Canada’s policies and programs. She has also received a Walter L. Gordon Research Fellowship for 2010-11. The Canadian Association of South Asian Lawyers (CASAL) plans to recognize Professor Puri, as well as Adjunct Professor Anil Kapoor, with awards for achieving excellence in their respective fields at the CASAL gala on June 25, 2010.

The Federation of Chinese Canadian Professionals (Ontario) Education Foundation awarded its 2009 Award of Merit to Interim Dean Jinyan Li. The award recognizes distinguished Chinese Canadians with outstanding achievements in their fields. Li also received an award from the Education Foundation of the Chinese Professionals Association Canada (CPAC) for Distinguished Professional Achievement.

Professor François Tanguy-Renaud has been awarded a Hart Fellowship, to be held at University College, University of Oxford in 2011. This is one of the most prestigious fellowships in legal theory. The fellowship is for a three-month period, which he has elected to take from June to August 2011.

Professor Obioma Okacher won the 2010 CALT Award for Academic Excellence. He was to be officially recognized at the CALT banquet held in conjunction with the CALT Annual Meeting in Victoria, BC, June 21 to 22, 2010. Professor Shin Imai was awarded the 2010 University-Wide Teaching Award. He was recognized at Convocation on June 11 and his name was engraved on a University-Wide Teaching Award plaque in Vari Hall.

The 2010 Osogood Hall Law School JD Teaching Awards were presented to Professor Gus Van Harten (less than 10 years’ teaching experience), Professor Stepan Wood (more than 10 years’ teaching experience), and adjunct faculty members Robert Forbes, Joseph Di Luca and Enzo Rondinelli.

Two dedicated members of the adjunct faculty – Robert Forbes and the Honourable Justice Paul M. Perell – each received the Adjunct Faculty Distinguished Service Award in recognition of their valued contribution as adjunct faculty members at Osogood for more than 20 years.

In addition, Osogood Professional Development presented Justice Perell with the Award for Outstanding Contribution to Continuing Legal Education (CLE) and Professor Janet Walker received the 2010 Award for Teaching Excellence in the Part-time LLM program.
Achievements

STUDENTS

The Osgoode 2009-10 moot program set a new record for competition victories. Here are some of the moot highlights:

- The Osgoode team of Debbie Asrivatham, Devin Doyle, Christine Kellowan, Kimberly Lawton and Jennifer Wang won first place overall and first place for top facts at the National Corporate & Securities Law Moot Court Competition on March 5 and 6, 2010, triumphing over defending champions, Dalhousie University. It was the first time Osgoode had won the competition since 1995 and the Law School’s best overall performance ever. Eleven law schools from across Canada participated in the moot and Osgoode was the only team to go undefeated throughout the entire competition with a perfect 5-0 record. The coaches were Bruce O’Toole of Crawley Hershey Brush LLP and David Noseworthy of Blake Cassels & Graydon LLP, and team mentor was Professor Ed Walther of Stikeman Elliott LLP.

- Osgoode won the 2010 FMC Gals Cup, Canada’s premier bilingual moot court competition. The four-member team of Christopher Harris, Brent Kettles, Marc Rodrigue and Jesse Sherrett prevailed over 16 other Canadian law schools. The teams Feb. 27 to 28, 2010 at Osgoode Hall in downtown Toronto, arguing their moot before judges from across the country. The team was coached by Osgoode alumni Frank Au ’00, Crown Counsel with the Crown Law Office - Criminal in Toronto, and Najla On Young ’04, Assistant Crown Attorney in Whitby, Ontario. Kettles received the Dickinson Medal as the top oralist for his outstanding advocacy in the final rounds. Becky Walker and Ashley Waye, members of the Laskin Moot team, translated the opponent’s factum into English. This was Osgoode’s fourth time winning the Gals Cup, having won previously in 1994, 2000 and 2007. It was also the fifth straight year that an Osgoode student has received the Dickinson medal as one of the outstanding orals and the fifth year in a row that Osgoode has advanced to the final round in the competition.

- The Osgoode team of Jillian Chuchryk, Lisa Feldstein, Darren Hall and Shaloon Inkhaek, and their coaches, Adjunct Professor Leanne Shaffer and Professor Emeritus Fred Zemans, won the Canadian National Mediation Advocacy Competition. The team then went on to place third at the 5th International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Commercial Mediation Advocacy Competition in Paris, France, February 5 to 10, 2010. It was Osgoode’s first time in the competition, and the first time a Canadian team has placed among the final eight teams. Forty-four law schools from 18 countries participated in the competition, which was won by Nottingham Trent University (United Kingdom).

- Osgoode graduating students are an extraordinarily accomplished group of people who, as Osgoode alumni, will go on to do great things in their careers and lives. This IO Gold Key recipients, who were nominated by fellow students, faculty and staff, received their awards at the Dean’s Third-Year Lunch on Wednesday, March 10, 2010. The awards are given to graduating students who demonstrate exceptional leadership, commitment and enthusiasm through their participation in various activities of the Law School and the University. Congratulations to all of our graduating students including the recipients of this year’s Dean’s Gold Key Awards.

- The 2010 Dean’s Gold Key Award recipients were presented with a special award for “outstanding and inspired leadership.”

ALUMNI

The Law School honored seven distinguished Osgoode alumni, one posthumously, with awards for their exceptional contributions to the legal profession and society at the Dean’s Annual Alumni Reception in May 2009.

- Alumni Gold Key Award - Gordon Kirk ’69 & Alison Youngson ’84 (posthumously)
- Recent Graduate - Lorraine Land ’02
- Public Sector - Doug Exner ’72 & Doug Lewis ’67
- Dianne Martin Medal for Social Justice through Law - Eva Warszewski ’73
- Martyes Edwards ’76 was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) degree at the 2010 Convocation.

STAFF

There was significant personnel turnover in 2009-10 with long-term employees Gina Alexandra (Student Services), Kurt Binne (Information Technology Services), Gillian McCulloch (Advancement) and Chantal Morton (Career Services) leaving to pursue new opportunities.

The Law School moved expeditiously to renew its staff complement and welcomed Ronda Beesner (Assistant Dean, JD Program), Mya Bula (Assistant Dean, Recruitment, Admissions & Career Development), Smriti Kapoor (Manager of Advancement), and Sam Wong (Director, Information Technology Services).

The Legal and Literary Society chose Professor Aaron Dhir, Peter Lee, Assistant Director, Operations, and Cathy Malaisi, Administrative Assistant to the Dean, as the recipients of the 2009-10 Legal and Literary Awards for Faculty and Staff. The recipients of the Wendy Rambo Outstanding Student Award, given annually to Law School staff members who consistently provide a high level of service and make significant contributions to the Osgoode community, were: Gayvin Dyke, Programs & Records Coordinator, Natia Tuccu, Administrative Assistant, Clinical Education, and Paul Wye, Technical Support Assistant, Osgoode Professional Development.

The Louella Sturdy Leadership Award, which is given annually to the Law School staff member who has made an outstanding contribution through his or her leadership and teamwork with members of the Osgoode community, was awarded to Peter Lee, Assistant Director, Operations.

Louise Resends, Recruitment and Admissions Manager, and Professor Jamie Cameron were awarded Distinguished Service Awards for 25 years of service at Osgoode.

Gina Alexandra, former Assistant Dean, Student Services, was also presented with a special award for “outstanding and inspired leadership.”

Second-year JD students Reshika Dhir and Blake Moran won the Matthews Orsidale and Clarke National Labour Arbitration Moot across Canada, which took place on the last weekend of January, 2010. The students prevailed over stiff competition from seven law schools across the country, including a final performance against Queen’s University. Coached by Adjunct Professor Paula Knopf, who teaches the Labour Arbitration seminar, Dhir and Moran were well-prepared, very professional and appropriately competitive.
During the 2009-10 academic year, the Office of the Associate Dean continued with its principal responsibilities for the JD teaching program and for full-time faculty and adjunct faculty matters. This work overlaps with the responsibilities of the Office of Student Services (which are described in the report of the Assistant Dean, JD Program and Assistant Dean, Recruitment, Admission and Career Development) and the responsibilities of the Office of the Assistant Dean, First Year.

THE BUILDING RELOCATION

During the 2009-10 academic year, the Associate Dean’s office worked closely with the Building Project Committee, the Office of Student Services, and the Office of the Executive Officer to secure adequate teaching space for our JD program. A particular challenge was the lack of social space for students. The Osgoode Community Enhancement Forum worked effectively to develop events to help build and sustain a sense of community. The “launch” party for the 2009-10 academic year, to welcome all students to Osgoode, was a spirited event and it seems, enjoyed by all.

THE JD PROGRAM

Notwithstanding the many challenges created by the building renovation and relocation, we were able to successfully offer the full array of courses and seminars that we have offered in past years. We welcomed the addition of a new Mediation Intensive, led by Adjunct Professor Leanne Shafir, and Faculty Council approved a new IP Intensive which will commence in the fall semester of 2011.

With the assistance of several colleagues and through the leadership of the Executive members of the International Legal Partnership (a student-run organization that, both last summer and this, placed over 20 students with NGOs around the globe) we were able to create a “book end” course for students participating in the summer ILPs. We will pilot this model again for 2010-11, with students participating in an intensive pre-departure week of training, and a weekly seminar upon their return. By all accounts, the course, under the leadership of Adjunct Professor Faisal Bhabha, was enormously successful.

STUDENT SERVICES

With sadness we said farewell to Assistant Dean Gina Alexandris in November, 2009. However, we were very fortunate to have the Manager of Program & Records, Nancy Sperling, agree to assume the role of Acting Assistant Dean. Acting Assistant Dean Sperling did a remarkable job in performing both roles for a five-month period, and in continuing to maintain high-quality supports and services to our students. We were delighted to welcome Mya Bulea back to the faculty, first as the Director of Career Services, and then into the new role of Assistant Dean, Recruitment, Admissions and Career Development. We were also delighted to welcome Ronda Besner as the Assistant Dean of the JD Program in late April. In addition to responsibilities for overseeing Programs & Records and Financial Services, Assistant Dean Besner assumes responsibility for new programming for upper-year students in relation to Student Academic Success and Student Wellness. Assistant Dean Besner will be working closely with Assistant Dean First Year, Bruce Ryder, who is responsible for programming for first-year students.

OPIR

The Osgoode Public Interest Requirement (“OPIR”) entered its third year, and was ably directed by Visiting Professor Richard Haigh. The class of 2010 was the first class to graduate with the OPIR requirement. Feedback from students about the discussion groups, and about OPIR more generally, continues to be very positive.

In accordance with the approval of OPIR by Faculty Council, its implementation is to be reviewed by the Clinical Legal Education Committee, together with three representatives from organizations that have hosted OPIR students, three years from the implementation of OPIR. As such, the time for review is upon us. Professor Farrow, Director of Clinical Education in 2009-10, will continue in that role in 2010-11 and will take the lead on the review. Discussions are already well underway regarding the scope and nature of the review.
Academic Programs

CURRICULUM REFORM

The first-year curriculum reforms were introduced three years ago and in accordance with the approval of such reforms by Faculty Council, the implementation of those reforms is now under review. The process began last summer with the Academic Policy Committee subsequently struck a sub-committee, chaired by Assistant Dean First Year Bruce Ryder to review the success of the reforms in relation to the five originally stated objectives. It was decided that the 2008-09 year was not a good year in which to evaluate our success given the lengthy strike, and that rather, further data should be collected at the end of the 2009-10 academic year. To this end, a meeting of first-year instructors was convened on May 10, 2010. The important feedback from instructors during that meeting will be one of the many sources of data utilized by the sub-committee.

Chaired by Professor Oloha Okofita, the Upper-Year Curriculum Reform Working Group (CRWG) continued its work throughout the 2009-10 year, culminating in a report to the faculty meeting on June 7. In that report, the CRWG set out a number of options for possible reforms and solicited feedback from faculty. It was agreed that this year they would pilot the proposed subject areas maps in the syllabus and survey students in the summer for feedback on whether they had found these maps to be a useful tool in planning their upper-year curriculum. While it was not possible to reproduce the graphics of the “maps” in the program syllabus, we were able to include the same information in the form of “subject area concentrations.” The CRWG will be busy over the summer, finalizing a package of proposed reforms to come before the faculty meeting in August, with a view to securing approval of the Academic Policy Committee and Faculty Council in the fall of 2010, so that the reforms can be implemented in the 2010-12 academic year (coinciding with our move back into the renovated Osgoode).

The University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations (UDDLEs) - or learning outcomes - were approved by Faculty Council this spring. To accomplish the goal identified last year of ensuring that the articulation of course learning outcomes can be mapped onto the learning outcomes we have identified for the program overall, we have developed materials for full-time and adjunct faculty. We also addressed learning objectives and UDDLEs in our annual workshop for adjunct faculty members last June and we will do so again this year. The Associate Dean’s office has worked to gather from all instructors their course outlines and these are reviewed to ensure, among other things, the inclusion of learning outcomes.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The process of curriculum reform highlights the continuing focus at Osgoode on teaching and learning and ensuring student engagement in the JD academic program. Consistent with this focus, the fifth Osgoode Course Design Institute was held on June 17, 2010 organized by the Standing Committee on Teaching and Learning and chaired by Assistant Professor Shelley Kierstead. This year’s Institute, “Fostering Reflective Professionalism,” included a presentation by Michelle Leering in a FLQ community leadership in justice fellow at the law school in 2009-09 on her research with faculty members on reflective practice. As well, a number of colleagues shared their innovative pedagogical approaches.

Osgoode’s emphasis on teaching and learning was also demonstrated by the recipients of Osgoode Teaching Awards for 2009-10, each of whom exemplified the commitment to excellence and innovation by faculty to the learning experience of Osgoode students. This year’s recipients were Professor Gus Van Harten, Professor Stephen Wood and Adjunct Professors Robert Forbes, Enzo Rondinelli and Joseph Di Luca.

GRADUES REVIEW, ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT, SAC APPEALS

Review and approval of all JD grades is the responsibility of the Grades Review Committee, consisting of five full-time faculty members and chaired by the Associate Dean. With respect to grade appeals and other petitions from students, the Academic Standing Committee (ASC) retains principal responsibility at Osgoode.

The Associate Dean’s office has principal responsibility for responding to appeals from our SAC to the Senate Appeals Committee (SAC). In the 2009-10 academic year we received a decision on a full appeal as filed earlier in 2009 and we were successful in that appeal. Leave was granted to one student in May 2009, but the hearing has yet to be scheduled as the student was out of the country this past year. In five other matters leave was denied and in one, a reconsideration of a SAC panel decision of a request for leave was also denied. With respect to academic offence matters such as plagiarism, the office of the Associate Dean retains principal responsibility at Osgoode for dealing with academic honesty matters. Arising out of the winter term of 2009 were investigations of possible breaches of academic honesty in two matters involving National Committee of Accreditation Students and three involving Osgoode students. In relation to the three Osgoode students the conclusion of the Associate Dean was that there did not exist reasonable and probable grounds to proceed with a charge. Charges were laid in relation to both NCA students and both matters proceeded by way of an acknowledgment of dishonesty on the part of the students and in both cases, a joint summary of the matter and joint submission on sanction between the Associate Dean and student.

In the fall of 2009, investigations were conducted in relation to two exchange students (no charges were laid) and one Osgoode student (a breach of the policy was acknowledged). In the winter 2010, investigations were conducted in relation to one exchange student (no charge), one letter of permission student (breach acknowledged) and three Osgoode students (a breach acknowledged in all three cases). In 2009-10 York’s Academic Integrity Tutorial was introduced as a required component of the first-year Legal Process course. In addition, a session on expectations regarding student conduct, our academic rules and professional responsibility was offered to all first-year students. Through conversations with the Assistant Dean JD and the Assistant Dean First Year, plans are underway to further efforts at both prevention and detection. In particular, we have identified the importance of providing an introduction to our expectations regarding academic integrity and our accepted conventions regarding attributions/citations to exchange and letter of permission students.

For the 2009-10 academic year, the Associate Dean is the adjudicator for the appeal of a student to the Appeals Committee in regard to a matter of academic honesty. The Associate Dean participated in a meeting with the student and discussed the potential options for the resolution of the matter and the student’s position and the Associate Dean’s conclusion was that there did not exist reasonable and probable grounds to proceed with a charge.

TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES - FULL-TIME FACULTY

A major concern of the Associate Dean’s office is the planning of teaching and administrative assignments of the full-time faculty. We were extremely fortunate to be able to hire Professor Tim Edgar, who will commence his position at York on January 1, 2010.

TENURE AND PROMOTIONS

The 2009-10 year was very busy on the promotions front. Professors Giuseppe D’Astopin, Aaron Dhir and Dayna Scott will be promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure, effective July 1, 2010. Professor Peer Zumbansen was promoted to Full Professor, effective January 1, 2010, and Professors Joan Gilmore and Lisa Phillips will be promoted to Full Professor on July 1, 2010. The Associate Dean’s office continues the task of leading on the management of these files and the assistant to the Associate Dean, Mark Hamilton, does a tremendous amount of work shepherding files through this process.

TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES – ADJUNCT FACULTY

Osgoode has always had as part of its teaching tradition an active role for adjunct faculty drawn from all parts of the legal profession, including distinguished judges, private practitioners and government lawyers and policy-makers. In addition, some Osgoode graduate students with strong teaching qualifications or potential are invited to teach as adjunct professors. The adjunct faculty provides a necessary complement to our full-time faculty, and remains a real strength of Osgoode’s teaching program. As well as the role of the Associate Dean’s office in coordinating the appointment of adjunct faculty, the various administrative offices make an effort to facilitate the experience of adjunct professors in managing the preparation of course materials, the scheduling of classes, and the process of examinations and evaluation. Adequate support and oversight of the adjunct faculty is important to the success of the JD program. In that regard, the Adjunct Faculty Workshop was held again this year on June 23, 2010.

This report was submitted by Janet Mosher, Associate Dean.
Academic Programs

Report of the Office of the Assistant Dean, First Year

This report covers activities from the Summer of 2009 through June 2010. It was a year of transition as I returned from sabbatical to assume the role of ADFY on July 1, 2009 from Professor Soria Lawrence as she went on sabbatical. This report will briefly review the main aspects of the role of the ADFY and my plans for the coming year.

1. ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM

The Academic Success Program is the mainstay of the ADFY program. Its purpose is to provide an effective introduction to legal studies for our students. It has two main components: the Academic Skills Sessions and the Dean’s Fellow Program.

a) Academic Skills Sessions

This past year, as in previous years, the ADFY organized a number of academic skills sessions and is planning an enhanced number of sessions in the coming academic year, including sessions on: Class Preparation, Note-taking and Participation Skills (September), Academic Rules (Grading Practices, Academic Honesty) and Code of Conduct (September), Organizing and Studying Your Materials (time management, preparing summaries) (October), Wellness and Stress Management (October and ongoing), Perspective Option Information Session (November), Exam Preparation, Exam Writing and Learning from Feedback (November), Writing and Researching Perspective Option Papers (January), Course Selection Information Session (March).

b) Dean’s Fellow Program (DF)

The Dean’s Fellow Program provides academic support through peer-assisted group study sessions attached to the first-year classes in Torts, Contracts, Criminal Law, State and Citizen, Property and Legal Process (Civil Procedure component). DF sessions provide an opportunity for students to come together in a relaxed, collaborative, and productive group setting to compare and process the quality and content of their notes, discuss readings, practice problem-solving strategies, and predict test items. DFs may also provide general academic support and advice to first-year students and may serve as a liaison between instructors, students, and the ADFY, for example by helping to communicate and resolve any concerns that arise in particular courses.

Dean’s Fellows are upper-year students who did well in the course (usually taught by the same instructor) in their first year. DFs are selected by the instructor (there is usually no application process), with the “match-making” assistance of the ADFY in some cases, on the basis of their academic performance and suitability as teachers, mentors and advisors.

The DF program was introduced at Osgoode in the 2003-04 academic year to serve as a resource for first-year students dealing with academic, course-related issues and the transitional challenges of adapting to the law school environment, and an opportunity for upper-year students to develop teaching and advising skills. The DF program focuses on facilitating learning rather than teaching the substantive content of courses, although it is left open to individual instructors to determine the precise role to be played by DFs, as well as the number and nature of DF sessions to schedule. Typically first-year instructors had their DFs hold two DF sessions per semester, most commonly to discuss learning and exam preparation strategies or to take up sample exam or review problems.

In the 2009-10 year, 26 upper-year students served as DFs. Only one first-year instructor opted not to appoint a DF. A number of first-year instructors have already appointed their DFs for the 2010-11 year, and I will be contacting others to remind them to do so as soon as possible.

Like previous ADFYs who established the parameters of the DF program, I am an enthusiastic supporter of the program and recommend its continuation in its current form. The DFs themselves, first-year students, and first-year instructors all report positively on their experience with the role. For first-year students, they appreciate the presence and availability of a designated upper-year academic advisor who typically has many useful insights into the kinds of learning expected by the instructor in a particular course and into the learning strategies that will be most helpful in meeting those expectations. For the upper-year students serving as DFs, it is a real honour to be selected for the role and to be treated by the Law School not just as a learner but also as a partner in teaching and learning. Many DFs bring a great deal of enthusiasm to the role. They see it as an opportunity to develop their speaking and teaching skills and an opportunity to “give back” by sharing the successful learning strategies they developed in first year.

Plans for 2009-10: I expect to have a full roster of DFs appointed by July. Training sessions for DFs will be held in early September (mandatory for fall semester DFs) and in early January (mandatory for winter semester DFs). Last year I did not centrally schedule DF sessions; rather, scheduling and room bookings was left to individual DFs and instructors. Given the difficulties that can arise when attempts are made to book multiple DF sessions in the same section at the same time, I plan to act as a mediator to ease the coordination over the timing of sessions in the coming year.

c) Individual Academic Support

In the summer mailing to incoming students, in the summer Webcast and summer open houses, and in the Welcome Assembly on the first day of Orientation, students are introduced to the ADFY and the role of the office, and are encouraged to be in touch with me if they need any help or advice. At least 100 first-year students contacted me at some point during the year seeking advice about a range of issues. A number of the students I met with, and spent extended time trying to assist, were experiencing multiple challenges, including learning/academic issues, financial problems, health issues, or other personal problems. A significant number of students experienced high levels of stress, particularly as exams or other deadlines approached, with symptoms including inability to concentrate, inability to keep up with readings, generalized anxiety or panic, feelings of inadequacy or inability to cope, confusion about learning expectations.

I provided advice to students about study skills, stress management, communication with peers and faculty, and academic support and individual counseling resources available at the University or elsewhere in the community, in some cases in consultation with the Assistant Dean, Student Services and other staff and colleagues. In some cases I urged students to seek help from the counseling services. When students met with me to discuss academic challenges they were facing, I would work with them to identify the source of the problem in order to strategize a solution. Many students met with me in November and June to discuss their choice of Perspective Option and upper-year course selections respectively.

2. CURRICULUM REFORM

We have just completed our third year of experience with the first-year curriculum reforms implemented in 2007-08. A report is due this fall to Faculty Council on the success of the reforms. Brian Slattery, Chair of the Academic Policy Committee, asked me this spring to chair a sub-committee of APC tasked with preparing a report to Faculty Council this fall. The sub-committee will conduct its review of the curriculum reforms over the course of the summer and into the fall. We are preparing a survey to be sent to all members of the Class of 2012 to obtain their impressions of the overall first-year experience and the success of the reforms in achieving their objectives. With the assistance of a summer research assistant, we will be tabulating the results of this survey, as well as reviewing all of the feedback received from students on individual evaluations of first-year courses in 2009-10. We will also be consulting with and seeking feedback from all first-year instructors on their impressions of the success of the reforms and any suggestions for further reforms they consider necessary. The role of the sub-committee is to review the success of the reforms; the sub-committee’s role, as I see it, is
not to make new curricular reform proposals, although it might make some recommendations on modest adjustments that could be made to better achieve the objectives of the 2007 curricular reforms.

I am also serving as a member of the Upper-Year Curriculum Reform Working Group (CRWG), which is developing a number of proposals recently presented to a faculty meeting, including the possible introduction of a “paxium” requirement and a JD Paper (or JD Project) requirement to the upper-year curriculum. While the recommendations of the CRWG will not directly impact the first-year curriculum, some of the CRWG’s proposals may have an impact on how we think about the continuum and development of academic support programs from admission of first-year students through to graduation.

3. CURRICULUM SUPPORT

Another focus for the ADFY this year was providing guidance to first-year students in developing their plans for study law. In November 2009, the Academic Option Selection Session was held and some students thereafter sought my advice on their choice. With Acting Assistant Dean Student Services Nancy Splering, I organized a session on upper-year course selection for first-year students in March 2010. Materials from this session - an audio-recording, worksheet and PowerPoint slides – were posted on the ADFY website. In June, I offered individual sessions with students who are choosing their upper-year courses.

4. SUMMER: PREPARATION AND CONTACT WITH INCOMING STUDENTS

As in past years, the ADFY is busy during the summer planning for the upcoming year and communicating with the incoming class. In early July, a mailing will be sent to incoming students with an autographed copy of Allan Hutchinson’s Law School Notebook and other information. Many students mention the value of having Professor Hutchinson’s book to read during the summer months. The welcome letter from the ADFY included in this package urges students not to worry about law school and aims to stimulate their curiosity about law through reading widely. The letter also suggests that students look at their ability to manage time and to focus, since these will be critical to their success at law school. The letter will also have a list of dates of academic support sessions to be held throughout the 2010-11 academic year. Information about what to expect and how to prepare for law school is available on the ADFY Web site. I will be communicating with a number of incoming students over the course of the summer and participating in the Webcast in early July as well as in the summer open houses for incoming students.

5. ORIENTATION WEEK

The ADFY works with the upper-year students sitting on the Orientation Committee, and overseeing all aspects of the planning process to ensure compliance with Osgoode’s values, policies and aspirations. The committee is also responsible for arranging the academic schedule for Orientation Week and for planning and either delivering or overseeing many of the information sessions held in the early term. The ADFY’s office advocates for and supports an Orientation in which academic events are more prominent, and where the atmosphere is professional (albeit friendly and fun). In addition, the ADFY makes efforts to have a greater faculty presence during Orientation, since this is one way by which the tone of the events can be shifted and community connections created. The role of Orientation Week in creating a sense of a stimulating, inclusive and welcoming community is particularly important during the period of construction.

Orientation events are packed into the first week of semester. They include a Welcome Assembly and faculty BBQ on the first day, 9 hours of instruction in ELGC, 3 hours of instruction in Legal Process, a financial services session, a Clubs Fair, a CLASP BBQ, and a Social Justice Brunch. The number of social events was pared down last year; in part at faculty’s urging, and in part because of funding restrictions. I have started to work with this year’s Legal and Litigation Option Co-Chairs, Emma Duchan and Sakrina Nardone, and with Osgoode staff on planning this fall’s Orientation Week schedule. We expect that this year’s schedule will be very similar to last year’s schedule. We will try to limit the number of evening events to ensure that students have sufficient time to prepare for their ELGC and Legal Process classes. I will be meeting with Orientation leaders in August, as I did last year, to provide a briefing on their role and the importance of creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all incoming students.

6. CONCLUSION

The office of the ADFY continues to develop programs and materials which help introduce students to law school, and which support students in making a deeper commitment to their own responsibilities as students and members of our Osgoode community. The ADFY is also focused on creating a welcoming environment for all students.

This report was submitted by
Bruce Ryder,
Assistant Dean, First Year.

Graduate Program in Law

The Graduate Program’s LLM and PhD research stream enjoyed a productive year following a recent period of significant reform and change to the curriculum. The program is managed by the Graduate Program Director (GPD), Professor Benjamin J. Richardson, with the staff of Lisa Bunker and Rhonda Doucette, who both joined the program in 2008 and 2009 respectively, and the longer-serving Donelda McLean. After several years of rapid growth in student numbers, in 2010 the Graduate Program’s enrollments stabilized at about 140 students. Approximately 35 students graduated from the program last year, having completed research in diverse areas including human rights, environmental law, business law, and many other law subjects.

The current building renovations at the Law School presented some challenges to the delivery of the Graduate Program. A temporary research room with computers and a meeting space were created for students pending completion of the renovations. The Graduate Program Office managed to continue servicing students and meet other administrative tasks to a high standard while relocated in its temporary offices.

In addition to the provision of courses and research supervision, our graduate students benefited from a number of events offered by the law school recently. These included a workshop about applying for research grants and awards, and another about academic careers. The latter event featured a panel of academics including the GPD who provided advice about applying for academic positions and working in law schools in Commonwealth jurisdictions. Both workshops, which were attended by large numbers of graduate students, will become annual events.

The past year was also notable for the successes of many of Osgoode’s graduate students in winning external scholarships and academic prizes. A number of students were awarded highly competitive scholarships from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the Ontario Government, as well as obtaining internal awards from York University. Among several academic prizes awarded to our students in 2009-10, Neil Semple’s article, “The Eye of the Beholder: Professional Opinions about the Best Interests of a Child”, was selected as the first winner of the John E. VanDuzer Scholarship Award for Family Law. Another PhD candidate, Mary Stokes, was the winner of the R. Roy McCartney Fellowship in Canadian Legal History.

The introduction of a new policy allowing students to complete their LLM or PhD studies by publishing a portfolio of articles in lieu of the normal thesis or dissertation has proved popular. A growing number of students have had their articles accepted in esteemed Canadian and international law reviews. Many are also posting their work on the Social Sciences Research Network (SSRN). These developments are helping to raise the profile of our graduate students’ research and to make them a more integral part of the research culture of Osgoode.

The Graduate Law Students’ Association (GLSAs) has also played a seminal role in promoting graduate research. Its annual conference has become not only the main event for showcasing graduate students’ research in Canada, it also attracts considerable participation from abroad. The GLSAs most recent conference held in May 2010 focused on the theme of “Beyond Law,” and explored the importance of legal pluralism as well as interdisciplinary work. More than 50 papers were presented, including the keynote presentation by Professor Francesco Valdes, of the University of Miami’s School of Law. Several Osgoode graduate students also co-organized the Third Annual Conference of the Toronto Group on Study of International, Transnational, and Comparative Law. Convened with University of Toronto graduate law students, this conference explored challenges to the doctrine of state sovereignty, under the banner of “Concerning States of Mind, Disturbing the Minds of States”.

Osgoode’s Graduate Program continues to play a vital role in training and nurturing the next generation of academics. In recent times several of our graduates have been appointed to permanent positions in law schools or other faculties in Canada and other countries, including at the Universities of Victoria and Auckland (in New Zealand), Monash University (Australia) and, in Canada, at the Universities of Manitoba, Ontario, Windsor and Western Ontario. Other graduates in the past year have returned to the law profession, secured jobs in the government sector, or continued with further studies at other universities.

The Graduate Program looks forward next year to moving into the refurbished and expanded facilities available in the new Law School building. It will also have a new GPD, with Professor Ruth Buchanan taking over this position in the near future.

This report was submitted by
Benjamin J. Richardson,
Director, Graduate Program.
Osogoode Professional Development

Despite the slow economy in 2009-10, the non-credit continuing legal education (CLE) arm of Osgoode Professional Development’s business continued to grow, in large part due to the increasing use of distance technologies. Revenues from both the Part-time LLM program and the full-time LLM in International Business Law (IBL) were, however, down from the prior year. OPD’s net contribution before interest expense was down by 14 per cent from 2008-09 due mainly to lower attendances at programs yielding lower margins, and the decrease in credit program revenue. We also elected to reduce net contribution by accelerating the repayment of the amount owing from the 2008 renovations of the facility at 1 Dundas Street West. Final net contribution was $321,258 and OPD’s accumulated carry forward stands at $2,212,954.

THE PART-TIME LLM PROGRAM

The objective of the Part-time LLM program is to provide opportunities for serious, reflective learning which is designed to respond to the increasing complexity and specialization of practice, and to accommodate the lifestyle of working professionals. There are currently 18 specialized two-year Part-time LLM programs which run on varying cycles, as well as a General LLM option.

In 2009-10, a total of 448 students were enrolled in the program, a decrease of 48 students from 2008-09 or 9.7 per cent. A total of 188 new students enrolled, up from 170 new students in 2008-09.

In 2009-10, 190 students (compared to 102 last year and 52 in 2007-08) attended classes via distance learning technology, including students in the USA, Mexico, Bahrain, Cayman Islands and Jamaica. Distance students have added a new dimension and richness to the program and it is anticipated that they will continue to be a major source of growth.

LLM IN BUSINESS LAW FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The LLM in International Business Law (designed for students with an undergraduate law degree from a foreign country) was launched in July 2008 with 17 students. This program combines advanced ESL with courses in Comparative Law, Canadian Business Law, US Business Law and International Business Law. Students also take electives from the JD program and have the option of applying for an unpaid two-month internship in a legal setting. In July 2009, we enrolled 16 students from seven countries including Italy, China, India, Barbados, Cambodia, Nigeria and the United Kingdom.

In 2009-10, we undertook recruiting initiatives focused on China and India to recruit this year’s cohort as well as build relationships for the future. For the 2009-11 cohort, we have received approximately 50 applications – 50 per cent from China, 24 per cent from India and the remaining from various countries, primarily developing countries. We have budgeted for 19 students in 2010-11.

In 2009-10, OPD presented:

• 95 days of non-credit continuing legal education programming (versus 92 in 2008-09);
• 30 days of optional workshops (versus 15 in 2008-09);
• five teleseminars (introduced this year);
• seven rebroadcasts (introduced this year); and
• four Certificate Programs, namely the Osgoode Certificate in Public Procurement Law and Practice, the Osgoode Certificate in Health Law, the Osgoode Certificate in Mental Health Law and the Certificate in Business for Lawyers, a partnership with Schulich Executive Education Centre and the Henrick Centre for Business and Law.

The above offerings allowed OPD to increase the number of delegates attending programs to 3,785 compared to 3,529 the previous year, an increase of 256 or 7.3 per cent. This increase in the number of delegates translated into an increase in revenue of $486,577 or 15 per cent.

New public programs launched in 2009-10 included Expert Forensic Evidence in Criminal Proceedings (partnership with University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine), Search and Seizure in Canada (held in Vancouver), Being Counsel in an International Arbitration, Electronic Evidence, Bill 150: Green Energy and the Environment, Forensic Evidence in Criminal Proceedings (partnership with Schulich Executive Education Centre and the Henrick Centre for Business and Law), Guide to Law, Procedure and Strategy.

From May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010, OPD presented:

• four Certificate Programs, namely the Osgoode Certificate in Public Procurement Law and Practice, the Osgoode Certificate in Health Law, the Osgoode Certificate in Mental Health Law and the Certificate in Business for Lawyers, a partnership with Schulich Executive Education Centre and the Henrick Centre for Business and Law.

OPD’S ROLE IN OSGOODE’S STRATEGIC PLAN

Engagement as a Community

OPD has continued to involve more Osgoode faculty in its programs, particularly in leadership roles in the Part-time LLM. As well, OPD provided the JD class of 2010 with 12 complementary hours of CLE, giving them an opportunity to take advantage of OPD’s offerings.

Engagement with the Community – Making a Difference

During 2009-10, OPD continued to increase its engagement with the broader community by developing more programming which was of benefit not only to lawyers but also to other professionals and executives, particularly in the health care industry. OPD also sought out ways to reach out to a broader clientele by introducing short teleseminars, where convenience and affordability are key benefits.

Engagement in the Global Community

OPD’s ongoing efforts at engagement with the global community are primarily focused on the LLM in International Business Law. The growth of distance learning in the Part-time LLM has also added a new international dimension to that program, and we fully expect that to continue.

THE PLAN GOING FORWARD

Despite the expected continuation of a weak economy into next fiscal, OPD is planning for modest revenue growth. The increased growth is anticipated to come from three to four new certificate programs, a new National Committee on Accreditation exam preparation course for foreign qualified lawyers, as well as an LLM tuition increase.

Four Part-time LLM programs will commence in September of 2010 (Alternative Dispute Resolution, Banking, Family Law, and Labour and Employment) and five are slated for January of 2011 (Constitutional Law, Civil Litigation and Dispute Resolution, Municipal Law, Charities and Not-for-Profit Law, and Business Law).

This report was submitted by Victoria Watkins, Director, Osgoode Professional Development.
Academic Programs

Report of the Office of the Associate Dean, Research, Graduate Studies and Institutional Relations

OVERALL REFLECTIONS

During 2009-10 the Research Office under the leadership of Associate Dean Lisa Phillips undertook a major review of the faculty’s research impact and the supports available for research. The study looked at our performance over time and relative to comparator institutions. The overall conclusions are that (1) our reputation as a premier source of influential legal scholarship is one of the keys to our success as a top law school in Canada and the world; and (2) we face some challenges in maintaining this reputation in the face of competitive pressures from outside, and internal pressures on faculty members’ time and other resources. Developing a clear plan for strengthening our research capacity and reputation should be a priority within the Law School’s broader strategic planning process in 2010-11.

ACHIEVEMENTS, GOALS AND CHALLENGES

1. Research Funding

Achievements: • Collaborative support for faculty preparing SSHRC Standard Research Grant applications • Launched the Osgoode Research Development Grant as a pilot project (with $10,000 to support unsuccessful SSHRC applicants who resubmit) • Supported faculty in securing and/or managing 2 new SSHRC Standard Research Grants (Stephanie Ben-Ishai, Osioma Okator): CURA co-applicant grant (Stephanie Wood); 3 successful Letter of Intent applications for large team SSHRC grants (Travers Farrow, Eric Tucker); 2 CCHR co-applicant grants (Roxanna Mykitiuk and Dayna Scott); and 5 other external grants • Distributed special research funding to 20 faculty members through the Harry Arthurs Collaborative Grant, BLG Fellowship, and Osgoode Research Fellowship programs

Goals and Challenges: • More applications are needed, particularly to SSHRC. A program of supports for grant applicants will be offered over summer and early fall of 2010 (individual meetings; assistance with Web forms and CVs; grant writing ‘retreats’)

2. Publishing

Achievements: • New efforts to increase the visibility of Osgoode research on the Web-based Social Science Research Network (SSRN) paid significant dividends (we delivered a special workshop; gave one-on-one help to scholars; and rebranded the in-house SSRN journal as the “Osgoode-CLPE” Research Paper Series) • these efforts contributed to improved results over the 12 months ending June 2010: • number of Osgoode authors on SSRN increased from 58 to 86 • downloads of our SSRN papers increased from 7754 to 15,077 • ranking among non-US law schools rose from 10th to 6th (out of over 300 schools) • ranking among all law schools worldwide rose from 70th to 38th (out of over 600) • SSRN ranking among Canadian law schools remains 2nd, but we are gradually shrinking the gap between us and #1, and have opened a wider lead over other Canadian schools • 2 workshops on book publishing with reps from Edward Elgar, LexisNexis, U of T Press, UBC Press, and Emond Montgomery were well attended by faculty and graduate students and led to new book contract discussions • a Research Celebration event allowed faculty to share successes and strategies

Goals and Challenges: • by the end of 2010/11, every faculty member should have an SSRN page with clear Osgoode affiliation, linked to their faculty profile, and well populated with research papers • consider whether and how to encourage greater use of SSRN by JD students, OPD students • hold a workshop on publishing in print journals, with a focus on how to access the most influential journals in your field • hold a workshop on scholarly blogging

3. Research Indicators

Achievements: • completed a detailed empirical study of research performance indicators, in collaboration with Law Library staff, including longitudinal and comparative data on: • external funding from tri-council agencies and other sources • number of Canada Research Chairs appointed to law faculties • creation of faculty research in HeinOnline and LexisNexis • number of articles and other publications as reported by faculty, and as found in HeinOnline, LegalTrac and LexisNexis • research release time policies at Canadian law schools The study provides evidence to inform and stimulate discussion about research planning, and a baseline for tracking future research performance. It will be invaluable in responding to the University’s recent Provostial White Paper which envisions all academic units to develop “a culture of evidence-based decision making as part of their coordinated research planning”, with a view to “documenting success, with comparative assessments and performance benchmarking” (page 30). Being able to demonstrate such efforts will help Osgoode to make the case for additional resources in future years. The study also enables us to respond with confidence to other measurement initiatives which may not be as rigorous or appropriate to our discipline.

Goals and Challenges: • communicate study results to the faculty to promote constructive discussion of both strengths and weaknesses • use the study as a platform to develop strategies and targets for research intensification that enjoy wide support within the faculty • improve systems for gathering complete and current information about faculty publications and research activities • develop research indicators that capture the impact of Osgoode research on law reform, public policy, and the resolution of live problems

4. Research Communications/Knowledge Mobilization

Achievements: • obtained alumni feedback on existing research communications • launched Osgoode Knowledge: Research & Ideas, a new initiative to promote current research to a wide audience of alumni, in collaboration with the Advancement Office (3 issues released to date, by Craig Scott, Margaret Bear and Ed Watzer) • created a Graduate Student News page within the Research Web site, to announce publications, scholarships, awards, and other research achievements of our graduate students: http://www.osgoode.yorku.ca/research/grad_news.html • created a Graduate Adjunct Faculty page to profile external appointees to our graduate program faculty: http://www.osgoode.yorku.ca/faculty/faculty_graduate_adjunct.html • worked with IT department to plan modernization of Research Web site with greater knowledge mobilization elements

5. Institutional Relations - International Partnerships

Achievements: • developed new partnership with Jindal Global Law School in India (dedicated to visit Osgoode in October 2010 for several joint research events, with a reciprocal visit being planned for March 2011) • worked with OPD Director and Dean’s Office to initiate discussions with Chinese law schools • reached agreement for a new student exchange with University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law • began review of joint programs with NYU School of Law • initiated discussions with National Law School of India (Bangalore) to strengthen our student exchange agreement

Goals and Challenges: • development of further dual degree relationships will require clear articulation of mutual benefits, and approval through York Senate • explore opportunities to further strengthen the ATLAS network for transnational doctoral education • review Prato summer program and how well it is working for our faculty • work with Assistant Dean (JD Program) Ronda Bessner and International Exchange Coordinator Karen Willoughby to review all student exchange programs, find ways to improve promotion and feedback, and identify which agreements we wish to keep active • with others in the law school, develop plan to improve student awareness of and access to international opportunities

6. Institutional Relations - York University

Achievements: • guided new combined JD/MBA (Philosophy) through all stages of approval; students can apply for the program in 2010-11 • open access policies • with Law Librarian and Director of OP Osgoode, initiated discussion within law school and formed York-wide Working Group on Open Access
Academic Programs

Report of the Office of the Associate Dean, Research, Graduate Studies and Institutional Relations (cont’d)

- worked with Office of Research Services and Office of Vice-President Research and Innovation to obtain support for Osgoode-based research projects and events, and to facilitate research collaborations with others at York

Goals and Challenges
- explore additional interdisciplinary JD/Masters programs that fit faculty and student interest and meet market needs
- assist in organizing a University-wide forum on the topic: Should York University Adopt an Open Access Policy?

Achievements:
- initiated a series of meetings with Research Centre directors and staff to improve information sharing and identify opportunities for cooperation

Goals and Challenges:
- Centres need additional support in a variety of areas to sustain high levels of activity (depending on the Centre this includes funding, access to basic administrative support, Web site development, and access to services such as photography for events)

7. Research Centres

The Research Centres have become vibrant nodes of research activity at Osgoode, promoting collaboration among faculty and students at Osgoode and with the wider University. Collectively they host most of the conferences, speakers, policy consultations and other research events held at Osgoode each year. Research Centre programming has been critically important in building our external profile.

Achievements:
- Osgoode became first Canadian law school to be included in Financial Times special feature on LLMs worldwide
- worked with Graduate Program Director, OPD Director and others to review structure of our various LLM Programs and ways to improve synergies between the research and professional streams

8. Graduate Programs

Achievements:
- Osgoode became first Canadian law school to be included in UN Expert Consultation on Corporate Law and Human Rights (Aaron Dhir et al)

Goals and Challenges:
- continued dialogue with Faculty of Graduate Studies about the need for more flexibility to admit international graduate students, and the need to allow special fellowships for doctoral students without reduction of other York funding
- continuous work is needed to integrate graduate students into the research culture of the law school

9. Faculty Lunch Seminars

Achievements:
- promoted intellectual community through a series of 12 lunch seminars, with a mix of in-house and visiting speakers; attendance ranged between 10 and 30 faculty members and students; to be continued in 2010-11

10. Visiting Scholars

We discouraged visitors in 2009-10 due to the move out of our building and shortage of office space in the first half of the year. We are now beginning to accept visiting scholar applications again and expect several visitors next year, including two Genest Global Faculty (Robert Howse from NYU; Horatia Muir Watt from Science Po, Paris).

Goals and Challenges:
- in 2010-11 the Research Office will take the lead in organizing the joint Osgoode-Jindal Workshop as well as associated events targeted to non-academic audiences
- the 2010-11 year is likely to be a very important one for events and the time to begin planning those events and allocating financial and staff resources to them is now

12. Award Nominations

Prestigious awards are an important means of profiling Osgoode talent and contributions. The ADRGS Office prepared 7 award nomination files during 2009-10.

Achievements:
- continuous work is needed to integrate graduate students into the research culture of the law school

13. Research Accounting

The Research Office and Executive Office have worked closely this past year on budget planning and budget management issues, and continue to seek avenues for smoother coordination of accounting functions.

This report was submitted by Lisa Philips, Associate Dean (Research, Graduate Studies & Institutional Relations).
KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2009-10

Until April 2010, The Offices of Student Services encompassed the key administrative areas of the Juris Doctor (JD) Program: the Career Services Office (CSO); the Recruitment and Admissions Office (RAO); the Student Financial Services Office (SFSO) and the Programs & Records Office (PRO). Most aspects of the academic and administrative life of approximately 900 JD students are impacted daily by these areas.

However, in late April 2010, the Student Services Office was reorganized and became two distinct areas with two Assistant Deans overseeing each area. The first area is the Programs, Records and Student Financial Services area which is now overseen by the Assistant Dean, JD Program. The second area is the Admissions, Recruitment and Career Development offices which are now overseen by the Assistant Dean, RAO.

The office relocation from Osgoode to the Ross Building, class relocation for courses held after 4.30 p.m., the relocation of the exams in both the fall and winter terms and the change in personnel in the Student Services area had a tremendous impact on the entire Student Services staff. Despite these challenges, the Student Services staff continued to work together extremely well and to deliver exceptional professional services to our students.

CAREER SERVICES OFFICE (CSO)

Achievements
- Administered summer recruitment process for first-year and second-year students (on-campus interviews for employers in New York, Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary and East Coast)
- Administered OCA and SCC clerkship applications
- Awarded 10 summer internships of $10,000 each through the Ian Scott Public Interest Internship Program (in conjunction with Student Financial Services Office) for summer 2010
- Conducted environmental scan of career services offices at law schools across Canada to inform administrative changes to the Office (i.e. name change to Career Development Office)
- Developed marketing and communications plan for Career Development Office and introduction of “Career Development for You” brand
- Use and promote the functionality of Symplicity platform (iDE)
- Coordinated and consulted with legal law firms and other law schools on electronic application collection system
- Administered LFD funded Debt Repayment Assistance Program
- Implemented ongoing information sessions, career development programming, and individual counseling, including new session for Graduate students and students in the International Business Law LLM program
- Produced and promoted to employers a “resume book” of Students Available to Article
- Initiated employer outreach through direct mailing of Continuum alumni magazine
- On-Site supervisor to Pro Bono Students Canada and Family Law Project

Future Goals
- Complete rebuild (design and content) of CSO Web site
- Re-design of Career Guide

PROGRAMS AND RECORDS OFFICE (PRO)

Achievements
- Managed the relocation of the Programs and Records Office from Osgoode to the Ross Building including packing and storing 50 years of files and determining storage needs.
- Supervised office location of staff in Admissions and Recruitment Office, Career Services Office, Programs and Records Office and resolved issues that arose from the move in a timely manner.
- Continued developing the Osgoode Chambers program, including hiring two Osgoode Residence Fellows, further developed and amended Rules for the Oel’s Nest, and oversea several community programs hosted by the Residence Fellows.
- Worked closely with faculty and administrative staff to enable all accommodations to continue writing their exams through
Osigoode rather than with York's disability office.
• Successfully managed exams in various locations in fall and winter semesters due to relocation of Osigoode, TEL Building, Accolade West Building and Ross Building.
• Resolved all exam issues relating to relocation from Osigoode in a swift and appropriate manner. Responded to all complaints (i.e. noise, space issues, etc.).
• Worked closely with ExamSoft technical support staff to ensure that all previously reported problems and issues had been resolved satisfactorily. Discussed rising demand for Mac compatible software and discussed changing vendors with IT team and with ESoft administrators. Submitted report to ESoft outlining needs. ESoft has since informed us that they will be Mac compatible for the upcoming 2010-11 academic year. Retrained staff and all invigilators on ESoft and flexibe features.
• Continued support to the Academic Standing Committee throughout various difficult hearings regarding student petitions and grade appeals and provided ongoing counselling to students in academic difficulty throughout the year.
• Provided detailed letters for each student applying to write New York bar exam approximately 40 days before exam.
• Participated in LSSES in March 2010.
• Participated in various pan-York committees, including Access York, New Student Transition Council, Retention Council, Registrarial Roundtable, Student Advising Forum, Faculty steering committee meeting. Accommodation for Students with Disabilities in Practice, Upper Year Curriculum Reform Working Group and Course Evaluation Pilot Project.

Future Goals
• Develop and implement academic support/support programs and wellness programs for students in the JD Program.
• Promote in a concentrated manner the combined, joint, and exchange programs.
• Develop and implement academic support and wellness programs for international students.
• Provide leadership and support to all students during relocation to the Ross Building by providing effective communication and responding to their needs and issues in a timely and decisive manner.
• Provide a sense of community particularly in light of the construction.
• Provide support to the Building Coordination Committee and the Community Enhancement Committee, and their relevant constituencies (particularly students).
• If approved by Osgoode Faculty Council and York Senate, administer new combined programs with other York graduate departments and new combined programs with external partners.
• Research cost and feasibility of imaging of student records from 1982 on.
• Upgrade some of our programs and services with new technology.
• Continues to review and monitor administrative requirements regarding First Year Curricular Reforms, including accurate reflection of first-year curriculum on transcripts.
• Closely monitor and implement all recommendations from the Upper Year Curricular Reform Committee.

RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS OFFICE (RAO)
Achievements
• Successful administration of 2009-10 recruitment and admissions cycle
  - 9% increase in number of applications
  - 7% increase in number of converted first-round offers
  - Approximately 9% increase in number of offers issued this year as compared to same time in 2009
• Improved recruitment efforts and conversion of students to the joint programs (JD/MBA, JD/IMES).
• Hosted 6th annual Osigoode Cup National Undergraduate Mooting Competition.
• Hosted successful Winter Welcome Day.
• Used Facebook and other social networking tools to connect with prospective and newly admitted students.
• Published new Recruitment brochure.

Future Goals
• Strategic adjustment to recruitment events in light of building renovations and budget constraints (i.e. replace Summer Welcome Day with comprehensive Summer Webcast; fall Open House instead of this).
• Develop and implement new conversion events in partnership with Alumni Office.
• Further incorporate social media into communication strategies for prospective and newly admitted students.
• Re-design and improve content of “Future Students” Web site.
• Further improve on the administration of the admissions process, primarily through technology solutions.
• Hire a qualified professional as Sr. Manager, Recruitment, Admissions & Career Development (“job title to be confirmed”).

STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES OFFICE (SFSO)
Achievements
• Successfully negotiated revised processes this past year to deal with the dire effects of the economic downturn on award endowments by adapting our student funding programs to meet the financial needs of our students.
• Funding for all award processes was substantially down in 2009-10 and may be down for this coming year.
• Maintained a fair level of funding by making the most of our internal sources of funding, while dealing with our students in a leaner but fair way; in ensuring that the funds we disburse reach those students most in need.
• Osigoode’s Bursary process at the outset was down almost $500,000; $360,000 in additional TSA funds that for several years we annually negotiated and received from York, and a further $200,000 in lower interest on endowed bursary funds.  
• Took advantage of $60,000 top-up funding offered by York; appreciative that our request for additional funding to Osigoode was granted; a generous $55,000 in Unrestricted Funds to assist in a most difficult year.  
• Additional funding made it possible to satisfy the bursary needs of our students while at the same time working within the strict guidelines of the Ministry’s mandatory Student Access Guarantee.
• Entrance and upper-year scholarship funding was down about 40%, used the funding strategically in the entrance scholarship process so as not to undermine our recruitment of the best students; in the case of upper-year scholarships managed to get the funds to the students with the greatest need where necessary we borrowed some funds from Osigoode’s Unrestricted Funds to be paid back over two years.
• Promissory Notes issued as part of our Emergency Funding Program necessary and low risk; system now in place that allows us to use the funds as advances when needed, and later recover the loans from actual bursary funding at no risk to the Law School.
• In difficult times York’s 100% distribution rate for all awards is a challenge; however we have held our own over the past year despite the distinct disadvantage because of timing.
• The commitment to our entrance and prize funding well before the final eReport numbers from York are available is a continuing challenge; developed new strategy to reduce the risk this year and next by working with York’s Finance Office ensuring that we distribute our funds in a cautious but fair way.

Future Goals
• With the continuation of the economic downturn continuing into 2010-11, continue to be creative in developing new systems that allow a fair distribution of limited funds to the students most in need.
• Plans continue to be developed to utilize our entrance scholarship funds in ways that enhance Osigoode’s recruitment of the best students; to continue to be effective and efficient in the ways we distribute entrance scholarship funds by coupling the process with the Admissions office in ways that allow a more timely, collaborative and personal approach to our prospective best students.
• Communication is the key for all our dealings with students and we are strident in ensuring that our students understand our financial systems and policies in order to take advantage of our programs and the cognizant of the fairness of the processes.
• Committed to a process of substantial revisions to our Web site and all other means of communication in dispersing important financial information to our student body, who understands the information from a student perspective, has as her top priority to make our Web site as welcoming, interactive and interesting a financial Web site as possible; we continue to use surveys for feedback from prospective and current students.
• To move forward with IT with two initiatives; one, to make better use of our various databases (particularly our prior process) to move funding more quickly to students; two, merge our financial Statement database with Admissions database to decrease administrative time of staff.
• With respect to restrictive location and space, improve our personal financial services to both prospective and incoming students; promote open door policy that strongly encourages students to drop by our office and meet with us personally to discuss intimidating and difficult student financial issues.
• In these very difficult economic times of increasing student worries and financial stress, ensure students that their debt loads may remain manageable, in order that they enjoy and are satisfied with their Osigoode experience; Osigoode must remain affordable for all with which to attend.

This report was submitted by Ronda Bissner, Assistant Dean, JD Program

Myla Bulwa, Assistant Dean, Recruitment, Admissions and Career Development
Nancy Sperling, Manager, Programs and Records

The Student Services team continued to show their commitment and dedication to the Law School and its students. The area’s ability to successfully attain the priorities and goals outlined above will be dependent, in part, on the following challenges applicable to some or all areas:
1. The building renovations and relocation
2. University budget concerns (operations) as well as general concerns (available financial assistance for students)
3. Securing an appropriate budget to support Academic Success/Support and Wellness programs
4. Ensuring a correlation of goals with other departments (i.e. Dean’s Office, IT, Communications, Alumni, Executive Office)
This has been a year of new beginnings and endings. Smriti Kapoor joined the Advancement Office in October and, in a very short time, completely organized all the reunions, the Dean’s Alumni Reception and the Osgoode Classic Golf Tournament. Her design skills have already proven to be a tremendous asset to our communication efforts and will make our e-newsletters, invitations and other publications stand out.

The beginning of the building renovation and expansion project is an important milestone for the School and the alumni. It will capture alumni attention and engage them more actively with the Law School. However, our current students (and future alumni) do have a different perspective on the project which may, in future years, dampen their enthusiasm for Osgoode events and fundraising.

In an effort to engage both groups, we created a new event, which will hopefully become a new tradition—the launch of the academic year. To celebrate the beginning of the construction and to create a better sense of community for Osgoode, we organized an event for faculty, students and staff outside the front of the School. The highlight was a photo with everyone throwing their plastic construction hats in the air. This image was then used on the cover of the hard copy Osgoode Brief, which was sent to all alumni along with the 2008-09 Report on Giving. By introducing a hard copy of the Osgoode Brief, we increased the frequency of our alumni communication and by providing the Report on Giving earlier we were able to push back the publication of the Continuum alumni magazine. That, in turn, allows us to include more news about the academic year in the magazine.

Our two other major events, the Osgoode Classic Golf Tournament and the Dean’s Alumni Reception have further established themselves with increased participation.

The winners of the 2009 Alumni Gold Key Awards were:

- Achievement – Gordon Kirka ’69 & Alison Youngman ’84 (posthumously)
- Recent Graduate – Lorraine Land ’02
- Public Sector – Doug Expant ’70 & Doug Lewis ’67

LOOKING FORWARD

Lorne Sossin beginning his term as Osgoode’s new dean is a tremendous opportunity to connect with alumni. We plan to hold events at the various law firms, legal institutions and major cities across Canada to introduce him.

In the year ahead we need to leverage the success of The Building Osgoode Campaign and the opening of the renovated building. Communications and donor stewardship are our top priorities in 2010. The Campaign final report will be sent to alumni and donors in the fall. This is just in advance of our annual fund solicitation so we need to make our appeal relevant just after announcing our success.

We also need to review the viability of the Osgoode Classic. While the event does raise some money, it requires a tremendous amount of volunteer management, which may mean we are missing other opportunities that will engage a greater number of alumni.

This report was submitted by Anita Herrmann, Director, Office of Advancement.
BUILDING OSGOODE’S LIBRARY

As reported elsewhere, the “Building Osgoode” project for the renovation and expansion of Osgoode Hall Law School became reality in May 2009. While most facilities and services in the School are looking forward to considerably expanded spaces in the new building, the library’s footprint will be reduced by 50 percent. We view this reduction in space not as a problem but as an opportunity to redesign our library for the 21st century. With an emphasis on access to services and information regardless of format, we have been able to increase the space available to students and researchers considerably by moving the print collections of primary legal materials to space-efficient compact shelving and reconceiving the library as an active learning and social space. It is a challenge indeed and the results will be rewarding; but before work could begin, the entire library had to be moved out of the Law School into temporary facilities around campus. The library staff spent the summer securing spaces, designing and setting up temporary library facilities, and coordinating the move of the collections into other libraries or into storage.

The “heart” of the temporary library is the “Osgoode Library Services” facility which has been set up in a former cafeteria space in the Health, Nursing & Environmental Studies (HNES) building next door to Osgoode. The facility includes a Circulation Desk (with Reserve collection), a Reference Desk, the Reference collection, 18 PC workstations, 36 study spaces at study tables/carrels, and soft armchairs for four readers. This “library services” space is supplemented by an “Osgoode Reading Room” on the 5th floor of the main Scott Library, with seating for 110 students at study tables/carrels. Access to the reading room is restricted to Osgoode students only by a security keypad on the reading room door. The security code is changed weekly and posted on the Osgoode student portal.

The library’s four professional librarians (Yemisi Dina, Tim Knight, Daniel Perlin, Sharon Wang), who joined the library in 2006, were promoted from pre-candidacy to candidacy for tenure and promotion in June of 2009. We have also hired Marina Morgan as a part-time rare books cataloguing librarian. Marina, a recent graduate of the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Information, is currently working on cataloguing our collection of several thousand 19th-century French and Belgian civil law texts (all in French) acquired by Osgoode many years ago from the Library of Parliament. Again this past year, the library was able to sponsor and supervise a practicum student from the Master of Information Studies (MISt) program at the University of Toronto Faculty of Information. Our student this year was Mohammad Ahmad, who prepared a study of digitization projects relating to law in Canada. This extremely useful study was essential preparation for us as we develop our own plans for digitizing parts of the Osgoode Library’s extensive collections in early Canadian law.
E-RESOURCES

We continue to reduce spending on our print subscriptions and continuations in favour of further developing our text and electronic collections. New e-resources acquired in the past year include:

- Westlaw Canada Litigator
- CCH Canadian Online — All titles (with only a very few exceptions)
  - We have cancelled our subscriptions to all CCH print loose-leaf services
- CCH (US) IntelliConnect — Federal Tax Reporter Online
- CCH (US) IntelliConnect — Federal Securities Law Reporter Online
- Making of Modern Law: Trials, 1600-1926 (Gale Cengage)
- HeinOnline: Philip C. Jessup Moot Collection
- HeinOnline: Selden Society Publications and the History of Early English Law
- HeinOnline: Session Laws Library
- HeinOnline: US Federal Legislative Histories Library
- HeinOnline: US Statutes at Large
- HeinOnline: US Supreme Court Library
- TradeLawGuide
- Constitutions of the Countries of the World Online (Oceana/OUP)
- Constitutions of Dependencies & Territories Online (Oceana/OUP)
- Kluwer Law Journals Online (assumed from central library)

COLLECTIONS AND DONATIONS

The library continues actively to acquire early English, American and especially Canadian law texts, by purchase and by donation. We are also actively seeking replacement sets for some of our older, worn copies of Canadian law reports, statutes and journals. In 2009-10, the library was the beneficiary of a number of significant gifts, including:

- The personal library of the late Justice (and former Osgoode Professor) Stephen Borins (ON CA); the collection will be catalogued as a set piece and kept as part of the Balfour Halévy Special Collections.
- A collection of 80 books from the library of the late Carl A. Stone ’50 comprising 17th- to 19th-century English and American law titles but all with a recorded Canadian provenance, and many quite rare and valuable.
- A large and comprehensive collection of texts and documents on court administration for Canada, the US, the UK and various Commonwealth and European jurisdictions, from Professor Emeritus Carl Bahr.
- A small collection of letters, speeches and correspondence from the late Rt. Hon. Chief Justice of Canada, John Cartwright, PC.

OPEN ACCESS INITIATIVES

In May 2008, the Council of Canadian Law Deans unanimously agreed to support CanLII’s project to build a digital collection of Canadian law reviews. In response to the library’s encouragement and support, the editor of the Osgoode Hall Law Journal has agreed to provide CanLII with digital copy of all issues of OHLJ. Also, with the support of the school’s IT Committee and of the Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Studies, the Chief Law Librarian presented to Faculty Council a discussion paper on Open Access. Our goal is to institute at Osgoode an Open Access and Institutional Repository policy similar to that in place at Harvard.

The report was submitted by Louis Mirando, Chief Law Librarian.
The 2010-2011 Computing Plan continues in the tradition of providing leading edge technology to power the future of Osgoode. Osgoode strives to optimize the use of technology in order to position itself as the leading Canadian law school in the Knowledge Society of today and to represent and connect its staff, students, faculty to both national and international external communities in an innovative, efficient, positive and educational manner.

This summary report outlines, at a high level, the achievements, strategic plans and projects of the Osgoode Information Technology Services (ITS) on behalf of the greater Osgoode community.

**REVIEW OF PAST YEAR’S ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

In the past year, the most significant accomplishment was the relocation of Osgoode Hall Law School to temporary locations across the York University campus. The logistical challenges were significant and were only overcome through the successful partnership of facilities and University Information Technology (UIT). The result was a move done with an aggressive timeline and minimal disruption. As a result of this major faculty relocation, the planned initiatives were scaled back and/or forward to this or the next fiscal year.

**2009-2010 Initiatives in Support of Academic, Research and Student Experiences**

Osgoode Relocation Project  
- This was the most significant event that influenced all IT operations within Osgoode. Only the IT Helpdesk and Materials Distribution Centre (MDC) remained operational in the Osgoode building. In addition, some Osgoode classrooms were no longer accessible and necessitated relocation to various buildings on campus.
- The relocation of some classes also impacted students who found it increasingly difficult to cope with dispersion of their classes to eight buildings across campus.
- As an additional effect of the relocation, the Helpdesk services took on a new dimension, having to provide the majority of its services to faculty, staff, students and classrooms in buildings other than Osgoode. In all, Osgoode IT services are being provided to support various user groups and facilities in eleven buildings across campus.
- The Law Commission of Ontario (LCO) was relocated from the Computer Methods Building to the second floor of York Lanes. The following is a summary list of projects from 2009-10:

**Completed Development Projects**
- OASIS, Grad OASIS Web View and OASIS Application Documents
- Exam Drop System
- MyOPD Web portal
- OPIC Registration and Exit Survey database
- Class Cancellations and Notification System
- Advancement Event Registration and Management system
- Osgoode International
- Osgoode Renovation
- CURL Web site
- Osgoode JD Web site
- Osgoode Alumni and Alumni/Advancement Web site
- Tax Conference Web site
- Credit Card Submission Template
- HR RAWS Module
- Application Inventory database
- CLPE major modifications
- OPD Room booking System

**Completed Infrastructure Projects**
- Computer Labs
- Collaborative Urban Research Laboratory (CURL)
- Significant Infrastructure Enhancements
- Notes roll out to students
- Client smart upgrade configuration
- Doclogic Upgrade
- Domino server upgrades
- ID vault configuration
- Lotus Domino DAODS Implementation
- Barracuda Antivirus and Spam appliance upgrades

**Deferred Projects**
- Digitized Repository Information Vision (DRIV) - Research Repository
- Digital Casebooks
- MyOsgoode Portal - Current Awareness System for Researchers
- Osgoode Centre for Innovation in Dispute Resolution (CDIR)
- Lecture Capture and Live Web casting (OPD) Improvements
- Collaborative Workspaces
- Digitalization
- Helpdesk Ticketing System / Inventory Tracking System
- Virtual Desktop Pilot Project

**ACTION PLAN**

The purpose of the Osgoode Computing Plan for 2010-11 is to guide the ongoing development and evolution of IT in support of the Law School’s goals, strategic directions and the University’s academic plan. It identifies and prioritizes activities of high strategic value to the Law School and the IT-based efforts that will be undertaken to support them.

**2010-11 Planning Methodology**

This year, Osgoode had prepared an Integrated Resource Plan outlining key objectives and strategies, of which this Computing Plan is derived from. Relevant activities were obtained from high-level IT consultations with department and committee representatives, as well as external clients through a series of formal and informal meetings.

In addition to consulting with stakeholder communities within the Law School, Osgoode looked outward to standard methodologies used by IT departments in other organizations. These methodologies are important to increase the quality of services delivered and to improve decision-making frameworks. They are as follows:

1. Project Management
2. IT Service Management (ITSM)
3. Information Management

**SUMMARY OF PLANNED IT INITIATIVES AND EXPENDITURES**

The Building renovation project will continue to be a primary priority for ITS. Planning for the return to Osgoode in August 2011 has already started.

In addition to planning relocation activities, academic equipment fund initiatives, ever-growing desktop and mobile computer replacement, the deferred and new projects will now be grouped under three umbrella themes:
- Web Modernization
- User Experience Analysis
- Content management strategy and social media adoption
- Creation of a micro-site service
- Re-engineering content workflow and tools
- Business Process Improvement
- Internal data workflow and optimization
- Improving database efficiency
- Information, Records and Knowledge Management
- Paper and electronic records management adoption
- Advancing document management for projects

This year also sees Osgoode advance by leveraging new technology such as:
- Audio Recording and AODA Technology pilots
- Apple and Mobile Technology pilots
- Classroom and Creative Space Technologies for e-Learning
- Multimedia (CURL) service development for new research projects
- York Communities of Practice to develop horizontal collaboration
- UIT Common Technology platforms such as Microsoft Active Directory, Microsoft Windows 7 and the BMC Remedy system for change and incident management.
The key accomplishments of the Communications Office in 2009-10 were:

Worked with the Interim Dean and senior managers to develop and implement communication strategies to foster positive community spirit during the Osgoode building renovation

a) Building Osgoode Web site created
b) Sixteen building messages aimed at internal community posted on Building Osgoode Web site between August/09 and April/10
c) Several building stories written for external audiences. YFile stories, for example, included building announcement, move to temporary digs, law students painting hoarding, classroom wing closed for renovations

Continued to work with ITS and department heads to improve the Law School’s Web site

a) Web site home page monitored on a daily basis and content created and posted
b) International (Student Exchanges) Web site developed and implemented, in conjunction with Academic & International Exchange Coordinator
c) Monthly Web Editorial Committee meetings with department heads resumed in January; meetings have been booked through to the end of 2010 and will continue beyond that
d) Training webinars, “Web Writing Boot Camp”, offered to staff, in conjunction with ITS
e) Attended weekly meetings with ITS re. Web Modernization Project
f) Attended a number of training seminars with ITS re. content management systems, Web usability and social media strategy

c) Monthly Web Editorial Committee meetings with department heads resumed in January; meetings have been booked through to the end of 2010 and will continue beyond that
d) Training webinars, “Web Writing Boot Camp”, offered to staff, in conjunction with ITS
e) Attended weekly meetings with ITS re. Web Modernization Project
f) Attended a number of training seminars with ITS re. content management systems, Web usability and social media strategy

Continued to enhance awareness of our people, programs and research centres/units through a variety of means including media relations, publications and the Web

a) Media Guide updated February 2010, will be updated again in July 2010 to include new Dean and faculty promotions.
b) LLB to JD publicity plan developed and implemented, in conjunction with Director of Advancement
c) Various articles on our programs and people written for both Osgoode and York print and online publications
d) Updates made, in conjunction with the Assistant Dean, Student Services, to the ‘York Undergraduate Handbook, Ontario Universities Fair (OUF) Handbook, JD recruitment brochure, Osgoode Cup pamphlet, “staggered sheets” package for prospective JD students, testimonials added to Future Students Web site to make it more engaging
e) 2008-09 Online Annual Report created
f) Eleven Dean’s Ovations issued (five more than last year); 50% open rate (considered very good)
g) Nineteen media releases issued (three more than last year; six with respect to the Hennick Centre alone); proactive media relations outreach undertaken for selected newsworthy events such as UN Expert Consultation, Afghan DATimees Special Forum, Hennick Centre/Blakes Discussion on National Securities Regulator
h) Professional photographer engaged to shoot key events. Also enlisted a talented JD student to take photos of the Black & Blue Tip-off and a Nathanson Centre event for an honorarium of $100 per event. (Will continue this practice in 2010-11 in order to capture at low cost more of our events in pictures and video.)

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2010-11

The top priorities for the Communications Office in 2010-11 will be:

In conjunction with Dean Sossin, senior managers and a communications consulting firm, to develop and implement a Communications Plan that will see us through the fall of 2011 (when our new Strategic Plan will be completed) and that will:

a) outline the organizational issues and corresponding communications issues facing the Law School
b) translate those issues into strategic objectives and communications objectives, respectively;
c) formulate appropriate messages for each of our audiences and the appropriate media for reaching them (message-audience-media matrix);
d) set out the plan’s schedule and budget for implementation.

To continue to work with ITS and department heads on our Web Modernization Project, particularly on content strategy for the Web (how we plan for create, deliver and govern useful, usable content).
The budget of Osgoode Hall Law School is allocated in support of its core teaching, learning and research mission. In 2009-10, Osgoode budgeted $20.7m in Total Revenue and $21.1m in Total Expenses, with a negative Net Balance of $369k.

2009-10 has been an eventful year with the building project, market downturns, budget cuts, personnel changes and other challenges. However, we managed to have an actual Net Balance of $221k, with an actual Total Revenue at $21.3m, 2.8 per cent higher than budgeted, and Total Expenses at $21.5m, 2 per cent higher than the initial budget.

In 2010-11, Total Revenue is budgeted at $21.4m. With Total Salaries and Benefits increasing to $177m, Total Expenses is budgeted at $21.7m. The budgeted negative Net Balance for 2009-10 is $327k.

The negative carry forward accumulated over the past number of years is the result of an investment in complement, alumni and development activity that will be managed over the next few years through plans developed by the School and approved by the Vice President Academic & Provost and Vice President Finance & Administration.

Osgoode administers an extensive student financial assistance program for its students. This is derived from (i) endowment income that has been raised from private donors and the endowment now exceeds $20m, and (ii) a holdback of a portion of the deregulated portion of tuition. In 2009-10, over $31m was provided to law students in the form of scholarships, awards, bursaries and prizes.

With respect to non-degree programs, Osgoode Professional Development (OPD) budgeted a Net Balance of $469k for 2009-10. The actual balance is $382k, only 19 percent down from the projection, despite the effect the negative economic downturn has had on the program enrolment. For 2010-11, OPD is projecting a positive balance of $382k.

The actual 2009-10 combined Net Balance for Osgoode and OPD is $100k, and the projected Net Balance for 2010-11 is $54k.

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### Operating Results by Expense Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue:</th>
<th>2009-2010 Budget</th>
<th>2009-2010 Actual</th>
<th>2010-2011 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Allocations</td>
<td>18,105,413</td>
<td>18,952,639</td>
<td>18,942,034</td>
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<tr>
<td>External Cost Recoveries</td>
<td>973,700</td>
<td>1,132,569</td>
<td>946,188</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal Cost Recoveries</td>
<td>19,709</td>
<td>219,979</td>
<td>207,680</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenues</td>
<td>1,458,300</td>
<td>806,616</td>
<td>1,305,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,729,122</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,306,927</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,401,501</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses:</th>
<th>2009-2010 Budget</th>
<th>2009-2010 Actual</th>
<th>2010-2011 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty – Administration</td>
<td>60,608</td>
<td>64,808</td>
<td>68,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty – Full-time</td>
<td>8,979,255</td>
<td>9,271,179</td>
<td>8,521,387</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty – Contract</td>
<td>397,639</td>
<td>459,455</td>
<td>448,263</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Assistants</td>
<td>193,589</td>
<td>228,552</td>
<td>226,270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Staff</td>
<td>2,022,577</td>
<td>1,734,220</td>
<td>2,479,443</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Staff</td>
<td>5,483,237</td>
<td>5,533,015</td>
<td>5,826,722</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Salaries</td>
<td>113,300</td>
<td>89,484</td>
<td>100,600</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL SALARIES AND BENEFITS</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,250,205</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,440,513</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,670,893</strong></td>
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<td>Operating Costs</td>
<td>3,014,853</td>
<td>3,118,876</td>
<td>3,004,856</td>
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<td>Cost of Goods Sold</td>
<td>445,500</td>
<td>536,007</td>
<td>443,390</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities &amp; Others</td>
<td>144,500</td>
<td>166,052</td>
<td>166,299</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarships &amp; Bursaries</td>
<td>243,504</td>
<td>266,528</td>
<td>443,504</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OPERATING COSTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,648,357</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,057,463</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,058,049</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | **21,098,562** | **21,527,976** | **21,728,942** |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue-Expenses</th>
<th>2009-2010</th>
<th>2009-2010</th>
<th>2010-2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue-Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>-369,439</strong></td>
<td><strong>-221,049</strong></td>
<td><strong>-327,440</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Previous Year’s Carry Forward</td>
<td><strong>-7,750,218</strong></td>
<td><strong>-7,750,218</strong></td>
<td><strong>-7,971,267</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carry Forward to Next Year</td>
<td><strong>-8,119,657</strong></td>
<td><strong>-7,971,267</strong></td>
<td><strong>-8,298,707</strong></td>
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**NON-DEGREE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue-Expenses</th>
<th>2009-2010</th>
<th>2009-2010</th>
<th>2010-2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue-Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>469,347</strong></td>
<td><strong>321,258</strong></td>
<td><strong>381,883</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Previous Year’s Carry Forward</td>
<td><strong>2,212,953</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,212,953</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,534,211</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carry Forward to Next Year</td>
<td><strong>2,682,299</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,534,211</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,916,094</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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This report was submitted by Helen Huang, Executive Officer.
**2009-2010 OFFICERS**

**Interim Dean**
Jinyan Li  
BA (UIBE, China), LLB (Toronto), LLM (Queen’s), DJur (Osgoode), of the Bar of Ontario

**Associate Dean**
Janet Mosher  
BMusA (Western Ontario), LLB (Queen’s), LLM (Toronto), of the Bar of Ontario

**Associate Dean, Research, Graduate Studies & Institutional Relations**
Lisa Philipps  
LLB (Toronto), LLM (Osgoode), of the Bar of Ontario

**Assistant Dean, First Year**
Bruce Ryder  
BA (Western Ontario), LLB (Toronto), LLM (Columbia)

**Assistant Dean, Student Services**
Gina Alexandris  
LLB (Osgoode)

**Chief Law Librarian**
Louis Mirando  
BA Hons (Toronto), MLS (Toronto)

**Executive Officer**
Helen Huang  
BA (Fudan), MBA (UBC)

**Director, Office of Advancement**
Anita Herrmann  
BA Hons History (York)

**Director, Osgoode Professional Development**
Victoria Watkins  
BSc (Toronto), LLB (Toronto)

**Director, Information Technology Services**
Sam Wung

**Executive Assistant to the Dean**
Amanda Wassermuhl  
BA Hons (York), LLB (Osgoode)

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**MEDALS**

- **Gold Medal**  
  Kenneth Grad

- **Silver Medal**  
  James Mingliang Yap

- **Bronze Medal**  
  Kiel Pall Steinthorsson Ardal

**Dean’s Gold Key Award**
Awarded annually to students who demonstrate exceptional leadership, commitment and enthusiasm through their participation in various activities of the Law School and the University.  
Chad Aboud, Daniel Hohnstein, Tamara Maurer, Donald McClean, Sanford Murray, Mohamad Ziad Reslan, Sarah Robicheau, Samantha Scott, Shaneka Shaw Taylor, Gloria Song

**CLASS STANDING AWARDS**

**McCarthy Tétrault LLP Prizes**
Kenneth Grad  
Christy Lee
Mohamad Ziad Reslan  
James Mingliang Yap

**Chancellor Van Koughnet Prize**
Awarded annually to the member of the graduating class who takes first place in the examinations of the final year  
Kenneth Grad

**Christopher Robinson Memorial Prize**
For the member of the graduating class who takes second place in the examinations of the final year  
Barry Steven Stork

**Matthew Wilson Memorial Prize**
For the member of the graduating class who takes third place in the examinations of the final year  
Kostantinos Kalogiannos

**George Graham Sinclair Memorial Prize**
Awarded annually to the Gold Medalist  
Kenneth Grad

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**OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL**

Medals & Class Standing Awards – Spring 2010

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**THE 2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

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