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Members of the Class of 2011, dressed in different coloured shirts representing the four sections of the first-year class, take part in orientation activities on the first day of law school.
Lately people have been asking me two questions, “Why are you wearing a cast on your arm?” and “What happened at Osgoode during the strike?”

The answer to the first question is easy. I broke my wrist playing hockey with my sons and discovered that I may not be as agile on the ice as I thought I was. The second question requires a bit more of an explanation. When the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3903, representing teaching assistants, contract faculty and graduate assistants went on strike, the University decided to suspend classes for the duration of the strike.

Osgoode’s classes were also suspended, but after three weeks the Executive Committee of Senate agreed to our request to permit the resumption of all classes except for the relatively small number of courses taught by instructors who are members of the union. In making its decision the Executive Committee took into account a number of factors, including Law Society requirements for certification of our program and the impact of a continued suspension of classes on the ability of our students to access the licensing process for lawyers both in Ontario and elsewhere.

As a result, our students will complete their courses and graduate on schedule and grades will be available in time for applications for summer jobs and clerkships. Our full-time and adjunct faculty have worked to ensure that we deliver the high quality program for which Osgoode is known. I am grateful to all our faculty and staff for their outstanding efforts and their commitment to our students.

It is now time to look ahead and continue to build Osgoode for the 21st century. Knowledge has become an extremely valuable commodity and is the focus of this magazine. You will read about two very exciting new initiatives at Osgoode: the Jay & Barbara Hennick Centre for Business and Law, and IP Osgoode. Both situate the Law School at the centre of some of society’s newest and most important challenges. You will also find out how we are preparing our students for practice in an increasingly complex legal world and for their responsibility to the profession through the development of our curriculum.

To further demonstrate Osgoode’s commitment to education and research, we are launching a new publication Osgoode Knowledge. This has been created specifically for our alumni, friends and other individuals interested in legal education. It will feature articles by our faculty and will, we hope, provide you with new and interesting perspectives on the law.

I hope you enjoy the magazine and that you share our excitement about the newest developments at the Law School.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Monahan ’80
Following extensive consultation with our students and alumni, including a student plebiscite and an alumni survey that revealed strong support for the idea, the Law School has changed its undergraduate law degree designation from Bachelor of Laws (LLB) to Juris Doctor (JD), beginning with the Class of 2009.

The change in degree designation, which received the support of approximately three-quarters of the students who participated in last year’s plebiscite and 90 per cent of about 500 alumni, who participated in the alumni survey, was approved by Osgoode’s Faculty Council last November and York University’s Senate in January of this year.

Alumni will have the option of converting their LLB degree to a JD degree. Details of the exchange process will be announced this fall.

Dean Patrick Monahan said the move to the JD is part of “a growing trend among law schools in Canada and internationally” to acknowledge that the degree holder has completed a period of post-secondary education prior to entering law school and that law is a second-entry degree.

“We feel that the JD is a clearer reflection of the nature of our degree, particularly for international audiences who may not be familiar with the LLB and who may incorrectly think that an LLB is a first-entry degree,” Monahan said.

Second-entry degree programs in law are increasingly awarding the JD degree, as opposed to an LLB degree, said Monahan, noting that applicants to Osgoode must have a minimum of three full years at a recognized university in a program leading to a degree to be eligible for consideration.

“The JD has historically been associated with an American law degree, but it is becoming an international trend. That is why we are making this change. In Australia, in the Far East, and even in the UK now, second-entry degree programs in law are designating their degrees JD degrees. For example, the University of Melbourne, which is one of the leading law schools in Australia, recently changed their degree from an LLB to a JD. They’re the first Australian law school to move exclusively to a second-entry degree program. Monash is also offering a JD.”

An increasing number of law schools across Canada are also adopting or have already adopted the change in name to JD, said Monahan, pointing to law schools at the University of Toronto, University of British Columbia, Queen’s University and the University of Western Ontario.
The “O.C.” is Officially Opened

Osgoode’s first-ever student residence – called Osgoode Chambers, but otherwise known affectionately as the “O.C.” – was officially opened last September 10 with a barbecue, ribbon-cutting and a flag-raising ceremony.

Osgoode Chambers is located across the street from the Law School and consists of a group of dedicated townhouses in the Passy Gardens student housing complex. The new residence faces onto a courtyard and features 137 units including furnished bachelor suites, one-bedroom townhouse suites and one two-bedroom suite, all with self-contained kitchens and bathrooms along with wireless Internet. As well, there’s the Owls’ Nest lounge, located at the heart of the O.C., where law students can kick back, relax and socialize.

A dedicated residence for Osgoode students had been the dream of Dean Patrick Monahan ever since he became head of the Law School in 2003. Working closely with Mike Markicevic, York’s Assistant Vice-President, Campus Services & Business Operations, Monahan sought input from the Osgoode student body. The students’ overwhelming support for establishing the residence provided the impetus to move forward with creating the O.C. “The creation of Osgoode Chambers is something that all of us at Osgoode have been thinking about for a long time,” Monahan said.

In addition to housing students, the residence serves another strategic purpose – recruiting outstanding students from out-of-province. In the last few years, that has proved difficult without a residence dedicated to law students, but that has all changed with the creation of Osgoode Chambers, said Monahan. “This residence is about a community and I can tell you that it is already working and already a success. We've had a 33 per cent increase in first-year students who are coming into Osgoode and the residence.”

Incoming first-year students for the 2008-09 academic year were guaranteed accommodation at Osgoode Chambers for the full three years of study as long as they hold a continuous 12-month lease. Students also have the option of an eight-month lease if they want the first year only at Osgoode Chambers. Any remaining units after incoming first-year students had their pick were then allocated to upper-year students on a first-come, first-served basis.

Last July, Osgoode laid claim to another first with the launch of the Master of Laws (LLM) in Business Law for International Students, a unique combination of specialized, course-based programming, English as a Second Language (ESL) support and internship opportunities.

Customized for those who hold a degree in law from an accredited institution outside Canada and have both a minimum B average and proof of English language proficiency, the new LLM is teaching students the ins and outs of business law in the United States, Canada, the European Union, China, India, Africa and other countries and regions that play a key role in the international economy. After 12 months (or longer with the optional internship program), participants will graduate with a strong understanding of the expectations of western clients and how western law firms do business.

“We set out to create a world-class program that responds to the issues and needs of students and their prospective employers,” says Elaine Bright, Assistant Director, Academic Programs, at Osgoode Professional Development. “Globally, there is an urgent need for lawyers who understand the nature of legal business in other jurisdictions.”

The inaugural class of 17 students from China, India, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, Nepal and Germany is learning, for example, how to identify and interpret international trade agreements, and about the regulation of trade and competition in the European Union. Using case studies, they are also gaining skills relevant to international business transactions — how to negotiate a contract, financing and payment issues and the legal ramifications of e-business – together with the latest developments in intellectual property law, environmental law and international dispute resolution.

As part of the program that runs from July to June, Osgoode also enrolls students whose first language is not English with an English language course for law and business, along with courses in comparative legal systems and Canadian law, all within the first three months of admission. Post-graduation, the program also includes an optional internship for up to one year at a top tier Canadian or international law firm based in Canada.

“We're thrilled with the first group of students,” Bright said. “We're particularly happy with the diversity of backgrounds of the students. We have students who are recent graduates; we have students who have a fair number of years of experience as a lawyer. That diversity, I think, is where the program’s strength lies, because people learn from each other as well as the faculty.”

For more information about Osgoode’s LLM in Business Law for International Students, visit www.osgoodepd.ca.
When Dr. Patricia Hughes ‘82, Executive Director of the Law Commission of Ontario (LCO), looks back on the Commission's first year of operation, the word “great” keeps popping out of her mouth.

It was “a great year,” says Hughes, because the Law Commission’s recommendations on “Pension Division on Marital Breakdown” formed the basis for a government bill on the issue introduced in November.

Such a major accomplishment right out of the blocks was not lost on Ontario Attorney General Christopher Bentley who paid tribute to the Law Commission in the Ontario Legislature when he introduced Bill 133, which makes amendments to the province’s Family Law Act and the Pension Benefits Act.

“I’d like to make special mention of the great work done by the Law Commission of Ontario in proposing much of what will be found in the reforms,” Bentley said.

The Law Commission, which operates independently of government to recommend law reforms to enhance access to justice, also released a second major report on “Fees for Cashing Government Cheques.” The report made recommendations to address the negative impact of the cost to low-income recipients of cashing cheques at payday loan businesses.

“It’s also been great to have met so many people in the community,” says Hughes, a former Dean of the University of Calgary’s Faculty of Law who left a position as Executive Director of Education (Alberta) and Scholar-in-Residence in the Calgary office of Bennett Jones LLP to take the helm of the newly created LCO in September 2007. “We were able to respond to some pressing needs of real people.”

Needless to say, the Law Commission – headed by a Board of Governors and a partnership among the law deans of Ontario’s six law schools as well as the Law Society of Upper Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, and the Law Foundation of Ontario – is very pleased to be part of the reform process and to have its work credited as a major contribution to legislation.

“Pension reform in family law was one of the first areas we identified in need of reform,” Hughes notes. “Everyone trying to deal with pension division complained that it was confusing, complicated and added stress to an already very stressful situation.”

One of the Law Commission’s key recommendations in the pension division report is the establishment of the “Immediate Settlement Method” as a means of dividing a pension to resolve family property issues on marriage breakdown. This requires the valuation of a pension at the date of a couple’s separation and a transfer out of the pension fund to the spouse who is owed an equalization amount.

The work of the Law Commission is carried out by a relatively small legal staff although additional contract people can be brought in on an as-needed basis. In addition to Hughes, there’s a full-time staff lawyer, a part-time research lawyer and a lawyer on a one-year secondment from the Ministry of the Attorney General. Another research lawyer joined the Commission in January on a one-year contract.

As well, scholars-in-residence (first Osgoode Professor Janet Walker, followed in January by Professor Roxanne Mykitiuk) contribute their own projects or their thinking on existing projects. The Law Commission also hires students from Osgoode, as well as law schools around the province, during the summer and for the fall and winter terms. Osgoode students can also satisfy their public service requirement (40 hours of pro bono service as a condition of graduation) at the Law Commission.

Hughes says the Law Commission, which is housed on the York University campus, is always open to ideas for projects, but they must have a law reform goal. There are currently about six projects on the go including the Older Adults Project and the Persons with Disabilities Project, designed to bring coherence to the law as it affects older persons and persons with disabilities respectively, and the Vulnerable Employees Project, which is looking at the effectiveness of protective employment legislation for recent immigrants and women.

Once a project has been approved, staff develop a paper for consultation, posting it on the Law Commission Web site and distributing it directly to stakeholders. Members of the community are encouraged to contribute their views and experiences through the various stages of the project, whether in written submissions or personal contact.

The Law Commission’s research for its report on “Fees for Cashing Government Cheques” proved the value of the consultation process and really listening to people, according to Hughes.

“We went in to that with certain understandings, and we came away saying our understanding is not complete,” Hughes says. “Having a better direct knowledge of people’s actual experiences affected what we did in that report.”

Admittedly, not every Law Commission report will have an immediate effect. But, says Hughes, the Commission can play an important role in raising awareness of significant issues. “You hope you’re able to advance the discussion in an area. You want people – legislators, academics, the general public – to be part of the process, seeing law reform work now as having impact in the long term.”

For more information about the Law Commission of Ontario, visit: www.lco-cdo.org
A New Look for Osgoode Professional Development

Osgoode Professional Development (OPD) has been operating out of 26th floor office space at 1 Dundas Street in downtown Toronto since 2000. The Professional Development Program, which is unique in Canada, offers more than 15 specialized two-year Part-time LLM programs that run on varying cycles as well as non-credit continuing legal education programming for both lawyers and non-lawyers. In addition to its on-site learning centre, OPD also presents programs outside Toronto and Webcasts the majority of its programs.

Last summer, the OPD facility underwent a major renovation and
Continuum asked OPD Director Victoria Watkins to describe the improvements.

What did the renovation involve?
The renovation included enlarging two of our five classrooms; creating a student lounge, new entrance and reception area; new flooring, lighting, window coverings and paint; improving security; new furniture; and the latest technology to bring in students via videoconference. The renovation improved usability of our existing space and brought the premises from outdated and tired looking to modern and professional.

Why was the renovation undertaken?
We were running out of space both for programs and for staff. Rather than moving to larger space, we were able to accommodate our needs by making some changes to the existing space.

Who paid for the renovation?
It was paid for by OPD, which is self-funded, not the Law School or the University.

What are the benefits of having completed this renovation?
Cutting-edge audio-visual and distance learning technology that keeps us at the forefront; a more professional environment in keeping with our clientele – an all-round better student experience.

Have you received positive comments about the renovation from students, faculty and staff?
Yes, we’ve had lots of positive comments mainly around how much more professional it looks. The new electronic signage and A/V are also hits. We were so crowded before that some staff did not have desks. Now everyone has one, which is much appreciated.

One last question: Where did you get those lovely framed drawings of ‘old’ Osgoode Hall that adorn the walls?
The drawings were kindly donated by Professor Marilyn Pilkington, who founded the Professional Development Program when she was Dean of Osgoode.

In Brief

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The Knowledge Society is a world in which the most highly valued asset is knowledge and the most important activities are those associated with the production, dissemination, and protection of knowledge.

Osgoode is transforming itself to be Canada’s leading law school for the Knowledge Society and this special section illustrates three of our most recent initiatives.
Getting Down to Business

Osgoode and the Schulich School of Business unveil Canada’s first centre for joint business and law scholarship and education

by Christine Ward
Canadian Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty returned to his law school alma mater on February 6 to help Osgoode Dean Patrick Monahan and Dezső J. Horváth, Dean of the Schulich School of Business, welcome the future of education.

The Jay and Barbara Hennick Centre for Business and Law at Osgoode and Schulich is the first Canadian centre to promote and develop joint business and law scholarship and education.

“A business and legal education is a powerful combination for the future,” says Monahan. “The intersection between the two disciplines is critical to where our world is headed. We need more lawyers and business leaders who are able to think critically, analyse every angle and effect practical solutions with the best interests of the stakeholders in mind. There’s no better time for out-of-the-box thinking.”

Made possible by a $3 million gift from Toronto lawyer and entrepreneur Jay Hennick and his wife Barbara, a chartered accountant, the Hennick Centre will be a hotbed for all of York University’s current and future initiatives and programs involving business and law. (See page 5 of the enclosed Report on Giving for more on Jay and Barbara Hennick’s transformative gift.) The Centre’s flagship will be the joint, four-year JD/MBA program, founded in 1972 and the longest running such program in the country with more than 300 graduates since inception.

The Centre will also draw together the teaching and research strengths of the Davies Fund for Business Law, the Advanced Certificate in Business Law and the Jarislowsky Dimma Mooney Chair for Corporate Governance held by Ed Waitzer, former Chair of the Ontario Securities Commission and a Partner at Stikeman Elliott LLP in Toronto.

Waitzer will serve as the Hennick Centre’s inaugural Director.

“This is a marriage between two outstanding institutions with extraordinary resources,” says Waitzer. “We’re drawing on the best from both to provide a leading service to our students, our scholars, policymakers and practising professionals.”

Deans Monahan and Horváth have a vision of a Centre that delivers the competencies professionals need to analyze business and legal problems in a holistic way. “We’re not training business leaders to be lawyers,” explains Monahan. “Rather, we’re giving future business leaders the skills and aptitudes they need to navigate legal issues with understanding and confidence, and helping legal professionals to enhance their understanding of business so they will be of better service to their clients.”

Chief among Waitzer’s priorities is the launch of a business certificate program for practising lawyers, the Hennick Centre’s response to overwhelming feedback from lawyers participating in an Osgoode focus group last fall. The Centre will also host an annual lecture and launch a series of endowed award programs supported by Jay and Barbara Hennick’s transformative gift. The Hennick Scholars Program will recognize top entering students in the joint JD/MBA program, while The Hennick Medals of Achievement will honour the program’s top graduating students and distinguished international leaders in business and law.

“This is just the beginning,” says Monahan. “Over time, the Hennick Centre will serve as a catalyst for other, new initiatives in business and law. We aim to increase the number of students in the joint program and provide opportunities for countless others to gain the competencies they need to succeed as leading lawyers and business leaders.”

“We want to send them out into the world with a more nuanced view of what business law is about,” agrees Waitzer.

His ultimate measure of success, though, is even more ambitious. “We want to change for the better the practices of business and law in Canada and around the world.”

The Jay and Barbara Hennick Centre for Business and Law

When: Launched February 6, the Hennick Centre is a Canadian first and a joint initiative of Osgoode Hal Law School and the Schulich School of Business.

What: The Hennick Centre will house York’s joint JD/LLB program, along with a series of emerging programs and initiatives in business and law for new and practicing lawyers and business leaders.

Why: Globalization, stiffer regulations and a growing focus on governance and accountability means today’s lawyers and business leaders must have the ability to navigate the intersection between business and law with understanding and confidence.

How: A $3 million transformative gift from lawyer Jay Hennick, founder and CEO of FirstService Corporation and his wife Barbara, a chartered accountant, provided the critical seed funding to launch the Centre and establish a series of endowed awards.

www.hennickcentre.ca
IP Osgoode Turns Up the Heat on Intellectual Property Law Debate

by Virginia Corner

Osgoode turned up the heat on the already red hot intellectual property law debate in Canada with the official launch last fall of IP Osgoode – an innovative new Intellectual Property (IP) Law and Technology Program.

Ontario's John Wilkinson, Minister of Research and Innovation, Michael Bryant '92, Minister of Economic Development, and a large contingent from the Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC) were among the well-wishers who crowded into the Windows Room of Toronto's Four Seasons Hotel on October 15 to celebrate the arrival of IP Osgoode, an independent and authoritative voice on intellectual property issues.

"The future is based on ideas and ideas come from people," Wilkinson noted in congratulating the Law School and IP Osgoode on its vision and initiative in helping to frame the intellectual property law discussion in Canada. "We have no other alternative for our children and our grandchildren than to create a knowledge-based, prosperous country in the 21st century."

Osgoode is partnering with five leading law firms – Cassels Brock & Blackwell, Gowlings, McCarthy Tétrault, Ogilvy Renault and Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt – and industry leaders Audio-Video Licensing Agency Inc. and Copyright Collective of Canada/Société de perception de droit d'auteur du Canada in this groundbreaking program.

An impressive IP Osgoode Advisory Board has also been assembled, which includes the Honourable Justice Marshall Rothstein of the Supreme Court of Canada, the Honourable Justice Roger T. Hughes of the Federal Court, the Honourable Justice Karen M. Weiler of the Ontario Court of Appeal, and a group of leading Canadian IP practitioners.

"The reaction to our launch has been overwhelmingly positive," said Osgoode Professor Giuseppina D’Agostino ’99, Founder and Director of IP Osgoode. “Many members of the IP community – experts in practice, government and academia – and even non-experts have told me that IP Osgoode is a breath of fresh air.

I think this enthusiasm is because there is growing recognition that we need many more voices represented in order to ensure that we have more open and balanced discussions on what are becoming increasingly important issues. Our growing number of supporters sees IP Osgoode as an honest, objective and authoritative broker in this ongoing debate.”

Joining D’Agostino on the IP Osgoode team are Professors Carys Craig, Ikechi Mgbeoji and Rex Shoyama. In a real coup for IP Osgoode, Professor David Vaver, an iconic figure in the field of intellectual property law, will also be returning to the Law School in July as Professor of Intellectual Property Law. Vaver has spent the last decade at the University of Oxford as the Reuters Professor of Intellectual Property & Information Technology Law and Director of the Oxford Intellectual Property Research Centre.

"With the launch of this new program, Osgoode will be in a unique position to educate and prepare our next generation of lawyers to compete and succeed in a knowledge-based society,” Dean Patrick Monahan said at the launch event, which took place in conjunction with IPIC’s 82nd annual meeting.

“We believe that there is a need for a much more robust public policy debate on IP and related technology law issues in Canada,” Monahan said. “The creation of IP Osgoode, and our ability to provide useful policy options, will better ensure a balance in policy and law-making processes.”

In addition to a variety of academic courses, IP Osgoode will offer opinion and analysis in the year ahead on such hot topics as net neutrality, online privacy, patentable subject matter, new media CRTC regulation, ongoing copyright reform, domain name changes, and innovation and competition in the pharmaceutical industry. Special features of the IP Osgoode program include a new IP Osgoode Web site (www.iposgoode.ca); an online blog (IPilogue.ca), with high-profile guest bloggers, student editors and daily postings; and a series of special events and presentations by internationally respected IP experts.

Although it is still early days for the program and much more work lies ahead, D’Agostino says it is gratifying to see that IP Osgoode is beginning to have an impact. It is her hope that IP Osgoode will assist in building greater bridges between different disciplines, as well as between academics, governments, industry and the general public, not only in Canada but transnationally.

“Each week our subscription list to IPiGRAM, our weekly newsletter, grows,” said D’Agostino. “Each week we get members of the IP community reaching out wanting to work with us. Each week we get more people visiting our dynamic new Web site and leaving comments as well. This shows that we are slowly making a ripple and encouraging broader participation in the domestic and global community.”

Kudos for IP Osgoode have come from a number of quarters. Jim Balsilie, Co-Chief Executive Officer of Research in Motion, creator of the BlackBerry, wasn’t able to attend the program launch, but he is quoted in IP Osgoode’s introductory video as saying, “IP Osgoode will finally bring a credible and balanced voice to Canada’s most important IP issues.” Susan Abramovitch, a partner with Gowlings, is equally magnanimous in her praise for IP Osgoode. “The work of IP Osgoode will help me be a more effective advocate on behalf of my clients,” she said.

D’Agostino is already seeing more students getting turned on to IP because of IP Osgoode. “We get requests daily from students wanting to get involved and I find this very fulfilling. In truth, my students have been my own source of inspiration in spearheading this initiative. What we do is always with them in mind.”
Reaching for New Heights

Osgoode Reviews and Reforms its Admissions Policy and Curriculum

Over the past four years, Osgoode has embarked on an intensive process of research and reflection about changes in society, legal education and the legal profession.

Uppermost in the Law School’s mind has been how, in a world without borders where the creation, sharing and use of knowledge is paramount, we can best prepare our students for the profession of law and service to society.

The outcome of this examination has been the adoption of major reforms to the School’s Admissions Policy and first-year JD curriculum, and the appointment of a committee that is currently reviewing the upper-year JD curriculum.

“Society is changing and our students are changing,” says Dean Patrick Monahan, noting that the millennial generation is a different generation of students. “Today’s students are more civic-minded. They want to get involved in the community. They’re more engaged with the Internet. Social networking is a huge phenomenon. We have to change to adapt to a knowledge-based society and the needs of our students. That’s why we’re doing this.”

First-year curriculum changes that Osgoode introduced in September 2007, based on the recommendations of a Curriculum Reform Working Group headed by Professor Lisa Philipps, are geared to meeting the needs of this generation. Two new and noteworthy courses that form part of the revamped first-year curriculum are *Ethical Lawyering in a Global Community* that emphasizes legal ethics and professional responsibility, and the *Public Interest Requirement* – the first such program offered by a Canadian law school – that stresses the importance of an ethic of public service by requiring students to perform 40 hours of pro bono service as a condition of graduation.

The Law School is now tackling the next phase of the JD curriculum analysis: a review of the upper-year curriculum.

“We want to have a look at our program and take into account what’s going on in legal education and practice internationally,” says Professor Jinyan Li who chairs the Upper-Year Curriculum Reform Working Group, which is composed of three faculty, three upper-year JD students and five ex-officio members from the School.

“Society and the law profession have changed dramatically in the last three decades and legal education has not,” she says. “There have been questions raised about the quality of the graduate. The Carnegie Foundation’s 2007 report (*Educating Lawyers: Preparation for the Profession of Law*) identifies some of these questions and suggests a number of changes to legal education. We will be looking at these and other ideas carefully to ensure that Osgoode’s reputation as a leader in legal education grows, strengthens and reaches new heights.”

Li says her committee’s first job has been to develop an explicit set of “degree-level expectations” – a baseline standard of knowledge, skills and values that each Osgoode graduate should possess. The next task will be to align degree-level expectations with the Law School’s syllabi, teaching and evaluations, which will entail a review of the upper-year curriculum. The third and final part of the process will be to propose upper-year curriculum reforms.

As Osgoode’s strategic plan (*Plan for the Law School: Making a Difference 2006-2010*) states, the Law School provides both a professional and a liberal education. In first year, Osgoode students take seven mandatory courses and an elective. Second and third-year students, on the other hand, have no required courses and are entirely free to develop their own study plans.

The challenge for Li’s committee will be to bring the right mix of both the professional and the liberal into a newly designed upper-year curriculum. “We are a professional school in a university setting,” Li says. “We aim to train leaders as well as professionals. We have to think of the legal competencies that distinguish an excellent lawyer from an average lawyer. Two key legal competencies are analytical thinking skills and excellent communication skills. You don’t develop those with a trade school type of training.”

The committee has hired KermaPartners consultants to assist in finding out more about legal competencies by conducting an online survey and focus group research with Osgoode alumni and professional development directors of law firms.

“We are looking at where our alumni are, what the important competencies are for the jobs they are doing, what competencies they learned at law school, and what they hope law schools will teach,” Li says.

“Basically, we’re trying to find out what is needed for our students to succeed. We will consider that as one of the inspirations for curriculum reforms.”

Cover Story — The Knowledge Society

Osgoode Reviews and Reforms its Admissions Policy and Curriculum
A Holistic Admissions Process

Following a two-year process of discussion and review that included a report from an independent review panel of three experts (The Honourable Justice Michael Tulloch ’89 of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Marlys Edwardh ’74, formerly with Ruby & Edwardh and Sanford Levinson, a Professor Law at the University of Texas at Austin), the Law School has adopted a new Admissions Policy that addresses its goals of excellence and equity.

The new policy, which took effect this fall for students applying for entrance in 2009, combines the previous five categories of admission (Regular, Special, Access, Mature and Aboriginal) into only two categories of admission into the Law School: a General category and an Aboriginal category. Admission decisions will be based on a holistic set of criteria including undergraduate Grade-Point Average (GPA), the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and personal attainments. A Mission Statement has also been created to guide the School in its efforts to admit the best entering class that it can.

“Instead of the old categorized system, the new Admissions Policy offers a holistic process that more effectively deals with both academic performance and personal achievement,” says Allan Hutchinson, Chair of the Admissions Committee composed of faculty and students that helped develop the new policy.

It is the first major change in Osgoode’s Admissions Policy since the 1980s and it incorporates best practices in law school admissions from leading law schools across North America.

“I am so proud of our Admissions Policy,” says Dean Patrick Monahan who points out that Osgoode will be the first Canadian law school to incorporate interviews with applicants in cases where the School requires more information about their leadership skills, community involvement, undergraduate educational experience and job experience.

“These reforms to our admissions process will add tremendously to the quality of our entering JD class,” Monahan says. “We aspire to train the leaders of tomorrow. This will help us to identify who they are. It will also enable us to present information about Osgoode and why we think it would be the best place for them.”
The Changing Tide

Left to right: Charlotte Bell ’69, Barbara Walker-Renshaw ’99, Deborah Coyne ’79, Martha McCarthy ’89, Stephanie Wychowanec ’59, Romona Gananathan ’09
York University was just a fledgling university in 1959 when 11 women amidst a sea of 251 donned gowns and mortarboards and paraded, heads held high, across Osgoode Hall Law School’s convocation stage. This spring, the Class of ’09 will march to the same end, but with at least one notable difference — Osgoode women graduates today outnumber the men.

That’s not all that’s changed. In honour of York University’s 50th birthday in 2009, Continuum is celebrating 50 years of milestones involving Canadian women in law. We invited one outstanding woman alumna from each of the five decades from 1959 through to 2009 to share memories of life in the classroom, in the courtroom and in the boardroom. Their stories are at once inspiring and humourous, poignant and surprising.

One thing is for certain — we’ve come a long way, baby!

by Christine Ward
Stephanie Wychowanec ‘59 was one of just 11 women to graduate from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1959 and she was one of the first women to hold deputy ministerial rank in the Ontario civil service. But ask her how she cracked the glass ceiling and she’s surprised you’d even ask.

“I never gave a moment’s thought that being a woman was a drawback in the practice of law,” she says firmly.

“That’s not to say others didn’t think about it. By the late 1960s, after her appointment as director of the legal branch for the then Departments of Revenue, Treasury and Economics and, subsequently, Municipal Affairs, Wychowanec remembers women telling her they were inspired by her success. “There was a growing recognition among my male colleagues that women could perform as well as men.”

A Canadian born to Ukrainian parents, Wychowanec wanted to be a lawyer from the age of four or five. Her declaration didn’t faze her homemaker mother or her father, who owned a small hotel in Toronto. “My parents never felt the place of a woman was in the kitchen,” she laughs.

For a time, she dabbled in the prospect of a career in medicine or architecture, but the law was never far from her mind. “I thought it was something a woman could do,” she says. She stuck fast to her ambition, studying social studies and Latin throughout high school and then completing a degree in history at the University of Toronto.

She was accepted into Osgoode in 1955 and in 1961, after two years spent articling and working at a small Toronto real estate law firm, Wychowanec says she “took the bull by the horns” and wrote to the Treasurer of Ontario to ask for a job. He hired her and thus began her rapid rise through the ministry. She was Vice Chair of the Ontario Energy Board in the 1970s before being named Deputy Minister of the Justice Secretariat in 1984 — the third woman to hold deputy ministerial rank in Ontario. By 1988, she was back as Chair of the Ontario Energy Board where she remained until her retirement in 1991.

As impressive as they are, none of these appointments measures up to Wychowanec’s proudest career accomplishment. Ironically for someone who paid no heed to the glass ceiling, she is most proud of the trail she blazed for women.

“ ‘I helped prove that women can succeed in law as well as men.’

Charlotte Bell ’69
Top Job: Senior General Counsel, QC, Department of Justice, 1985-present day
Class Advantage: Among so many men, she regularly got noticed when Osgoode’s professors asked for volunteers for the next class moot.
Toughest Gig: More than 20 years after a stint on the War Crimes Unit, memories of the Holocaust survivors she interviewed still bring tears to her eyes.
Biggest Win: Landing the job as a Vancouver insurance litigator after hearing, “We had one woman here in 1956 and it didn’t work out. We’re not sure we want another.”

“The registrar told me that I was in luck,” Bell says. “There was a class quota of 12 women that hadn’t yet been filled. ‘Besides,’ he told me jokingly, ‘we saw your picture.’”

She laughs at the memory, insisting it wasn’t at all shocking for the time. “It was what it was. We didn’t put a label on it or think of it as sexist, but every woman in law school in the ’60s knew there were inhibitors.”

Indeed. As one of just 10 women law graduates in a class of 172, Bell’s application to article with a Toronto criminal law firm was denied because the firm’s partners believed they couldn’t send a woman into court. She and the only other female lawyer in 1970 small-town Sudbury had to knock before entering the male barrister’s lounge and then disrobe in a corner.

Far more distressing, though, was the prejudice Bell experienced at the hands of other women. “More often than not it was women who would question my competency because I was a woman in a man’s world.”

In 1969, Bell was the first woman from northern Ontario to be called to the bar. She earned a reputation as a strong commercial lawyer specializing in construction litigation before moving to Vancouver in 1981 to join Harper Grey Easton, an insurance litigation specialist law firm. By 1985, she was back in Toronto working for the Department of Justice where she tackled a two-year-long deportation case that she describes as life changing.

“All of a sudden something was possible that I never dreamed of — litigating on an international stage on human rights and conventions regulating the laws of war. It was a dimension of the practice of law that I didn’t know even existed.”

Bell then moved further into international law. She began an emotional two year secondment to the department’s War Crimes Unit. In 1996, she left the War Crimes Unit and embarked on the role that remains her passion today — leader of the Aboriginal Litigation Team, litigating such high profile cases as Chippewas of Sarnia and Caledonia/Six Nations.

“I wouldn’t have done a thing differently,” she says of her career. “The experiences I’ve had, the people I’ve met, it’s all been extraordinary.”
Being a woman, a mother and a lawyer has always been a challenge, but never an issue for Deborah Coyne ‘79. The Canadian constitutional lawyer, professor, author and outspoken critic of the Meech Lake and Charlottetown Constitutional Accords points to the changing role of women in law, family and society as among the most significant advances she has seen over her 25-year career.

“What changed is it simply doesn’t matter anymore. There are so many other challenges out there, the issue of being a woman simply doesn’t matter.”

In a dramatic shift from the decade previous, Coyne’s Class of ’79 included as many as 50 women and Louise Arbour, later the UN High Commission for Human Rights and Supreme Court of Canada justice from 1999 to 2004, was among the School’s star professors.

“I wasn’t even conscious of the fact that I was a woman studying law.” Coyne credits her equal-opportunity experiences, in part, to Osgoode’s progressive teaching. “It opened my eyes to the role of law in society and how to use a legal education to help advance social and economic justice.”

After graduating in 1979 and completing her articling year at Blake, Cassels & Graydon, Coyne landed a scholarship to study international relations at Oxford University in England, where she also organized and captained the first Women’s Ice Hockey Club. By 1982, she was back in Canada, working at Blakes and called to the bar. Two years later, she left the practice of law for her first formal turn at politics as a campaign member and eventual staffer of Prime Minister John Turner. From 1989 to 1991, she served as constitutional advisor to Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells, one of the country’s staunchest opponents of Meech Lake.

Over the years, Coyne has taught at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law; she has also worked for the Business Council on National Issues, the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. She represented the Liberal Party in the electoral district of Toronto-Danforth in 2006, finishing second to New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton. Coyne credits her successes to date, at least in part, to the fact that she is a woman and a family law lawyer.

“Once you have children, you quickly realize that your most important responsibility is raising kids who will be contributing citizens. As a woman, this is the dominant issue that I have to balance all the time.”

The issue of being a woman might not matter anymore, but being a mother surely does.”

Martha McCarthy ‘89 calls herself “an accidental activist.”

Best known as counsel for M. in M. v. H, which recognized same-sex couples as spouses in federal and provincial legislation and as lead counsel in the 2003 Halpern case that legalized gay marriage in Ontario, McCarthy grins when she says she first wanted to be a real estate lawyer. Like all good career stories, she fell into gay and lesbian equality issues when M. strode into her office in 1992.

“At the end of the meeting, I asked for someone to bring me the Charter,” she laughs. “I had no idea the case would change the course of Canadian legal history.”

Until then, issues of equality hadn’t been top of mind in McCarthy’s life. She was part of the first gender-balanced Osgoode class and the feminist movement had already achieved many milestones by the time McCarthy arrived at Osgoode in 1985. Very quickly, though, she saw the connection between the efforts of her female predecessors and the challenges she faced on behalf of her clients.

“Gay equality would be nowhere without the successful claims of women. It all boils down to the issue of equality and challenging the same discriminatory societal norms.”

McCarthy’s first taste of family law came as a summer student with McMillan Binch when she took a break from real estate law to watch a constructive trust trial. The case had all the trappings of a movie, including a Count in a silk robe and slippers, love letters and photos, and lawyers giving press conferences. McCarthy was hooked. She remained with the firm’s family law group until 2000 then moved to Epstein Cole LLP. In March 2007, she launched her own firm, Martha McCarthy & Company. That same year, she was awarded the Ontario Bar Association Award of Excellence in Family Law.

While she didn’t think about it at the time, McCarthy now credits her successes to date, at least in part, to the fact that she is both a woman and a family law lawyer.

“We (with Halpern co-counsel Joanna Radbord ’97) know how to tell emotional stories about other people’s lives, how to write an affidavit that makes the reader really understand the emotional temperature. We also know that appreciating equality claims means being able to pivot the centre, to walk a mile in another’s shoes. That’s originally a feminist concept.”

More than 15,000 same-sex couples have been married in Canada since the Halpern decision, and McCarthy believes there’s still a role for her to continue to play in the equality arena.

“Ontario is now a benchmark, an example of what happens to society when gay marriage becomes a reality. The sky has not fallen. Heterosexuality remains remarkably popular and the Halpern decision continues to have influence internationally.”

That’s no accident.
Barbara Walker-Renshaw ‘99 attended her first day at Osgoode Hall Law School with two degrees, two children, business experience and a revelation that law school can be an apt reflection of women’s diverse life experiences.

“Law is a fantastic degree in that it can build on prior experiences. You bring who you are and the unique work you’ve done to your experience as a student.”

At Osgoode, where female students at the time numbered half the class, gender didn’t matter, but what you brought to the table did.

After earning a Master’s degree in English in 1978, Walker-Renshaw worked as a corporate communicator for a large financial services company. With the birth of her first child in 1983, she turned to volunteer work. She founded a nursery school, and devoted her time and expertise to a local sexual assault centre, a women’s centre and as a member of the Midwifery Task Force lobbying to legalize midwifery in the 1980s. By the time she arrived at Osgoode in 1996, she was eager to explore the challenges posed by both family law and health law.

In 1999-2000, Walker-Renshaw was one of three “very lucky” clerks who served the Honourable Justice Louise Arbour during her inaugural year at the Supreme Court of Canada.

Following the clerkship, in 2001 she became a member of Borden Ladner Gervais’ Health Law Practice Group, focusing on litigation and medico-legal matters in the health care sector. She has represented Ontario’s public hospitals in relation to the 2003 SARS outbreak and last year acted for The Hospital for Sick Children in the Goudge Inquiry into Pediatric Forensic Pathology in Ontario.

“T ined to opportunities and cases involving policy issues that could lead to legislative or administrative change,” she says.

She’s especially intrigued by mental health law in Canada and the challenges presented by the need to balance the autonomy interests of the patient with the public interest in providing treatment to people during periods of mental incapacity.

Such issues, she acknowledges, are gender-blind, both in terms of who they impact and those who are most likely to influence change. Still, she’s found it noteworthy to be in court on days when the judge and the majority of counsel are women. “That would have been rarely the case 25 years ago.”

Her advice to law students, both male and female: “Follow a direction that gives you energy, that makes you look forward to going to work. Law is a demanding and challenging profession. Knowing you have the opportunity to make a difference is what keeps me going.”

If not for the fire that destroyed her home, Romona Gananathan ’09 might well have continued to live a life of violence and discrimination.

The joint Juris Doctor-Master of Environmental Studies student immigrated to Toronto in 1985 to escape the devastating civil war that had ravaged Sri Lanka for 25 years. Seventeen years old and with only limited family support, she fell into a cycle of full-time work and night school.

In 2006, she finally achieved her goal — to attend university. “I spent 15 years working in non-profit management, dealing with policy issues and becoming increasingly frustrated by the lack of systemic change,” says Gananathan. “As a lawyer, I’ll have the potential to carve out a piece of an issue and to position it in a way that might influence policy or practice.”

High on her list of areas in urgent need of change are immigrant and refugee issues, workers’ rights and equality issues affecting women, gays and lesbians.

After graduating in 2009, Gananathan plans to article with Jordan Battista LLP in the areas of family, and immigration and refugee law. She’ll bring to the job extensive community-based advocacy and social justice expertise.

Prior to attending Osgoode, Gananathan was Executive Director of Central Neighbourhood House, one of Toronto’s original settlement houses, charged with delivering community programs for youth, new Canadians, low-income families, women and seniors. She also worked as the Coordinator for the City of Toronto’s Social Development Network and as an advisor to the Settlement Education Partnerships in Toronto, a citywide settlement program with the Toronto District School Board. In 2007, she travelled to a slum community in India to help women fight for basic amenities such as clean water, sewage and electricity.

“Having more women engaged in the practice of law doesn’t necessarily translate into more women’s rights,” she says of her experiences. “It is still a challenge for women to be successful, but especially so for women of colour, lesbians and those with disabilities.”

She credits the women who walked Osgoode’s halls before her for much of what has changed for the better.

“I respect the steps women took at a time when they had no inkling of the possibilities that lay ahead, of the vision and leadership they exhibited.”

“To those women, I say well done and thank you. The work is not over yet!”

Top Job: Executive Director, Toronto’s Central Neighbourhood House, 2009-2006
Career Goal: To launch a practice that straddles the line between labour and immigration. “Focus has never been a question for me; I knew from the get-go that I would do something in social justice law.”
Going Home: “I returned to Sri Lanka once in 2004. There’s no way I could live there again, but there’s no question it influenced who I am today.”
Juggling Family: “The running joke among Osgoode’s mature students with kids is that we put in a full day before we even get to class.”
Faculty News

Special Honours at Convocation

Professor Emeritus Harry Arthurs received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at last spring’s convocation in appreciation of his enduring contributions as a teacher, scholar and leader during more than 40 years of service to the Law School and the University. The Geneva-based International Labour Organization (ILO) also awarded Arthurs and Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz the prestigious ILO Decent Work Research Prize 2008.

Professor Brian Slattery, who is widely regarded as Canada’s leading Aboriginal rights scholar, was inducted as Distinguished Research Professor for his outstanding contributions to York University through research. Since joining the Osgoode faculty in 1981, Slattery has published four books, 21 book chapters and 25 journal articles, which have been recognized for their seminal and original character, both in Canada and in such Commonwealth countries as Australia and New Zealand. The influential nature of his work in the area of Aboriginal rights led to his induction into the Royal Society of Canada in 1995, an elite group of this country’s top scholars and scientists.

Health Canada Funds a Centre of Excellence

Professor Dayna Scott ’01 has been appointed Director of the National Network on Environments and Women’s Health (NNEWH), a Centre of Excellence established through funding by Health Canada and located at York. She leads a team working on various research projects that will contribute to greater understanding of how environments produce and reproduce conditions that create disparities in women’s health. The NNEWH also has an Advisory Board consisting of 10 to 12 scholars, community leaders and policy experts in the area of women’s health and environments.

In conjunction with her NNEWH appointment, Scott obtained funding for a new Doctoral Fellowship in Environments and Women’s Health to be housed in York’s Institute for Health Research. The Fellow is assisting with a gender-based analysis of the government’s proposed new legislation on consumer product safety, and also looking at the government’s recent policy changes in the area of chemicals management as they relate to maternal and fetal health.

A New Director for CLASP

Marian MacGregor is the new Clinic Director of Osgoode’s Community and Legal Aid Services Program (CLASP). MacGregor is a graduate of the University of Windsor Faculty of Law and has considerable knowledge of the community legal aid system, having worked as a staff lawyer at Parkdale Community Legal Services as well as at three other community legal clinics.
What’s New at The Court

The Court, Osgoode’s online resource for debate and data about the Supreme Court of Canada, has been honoured once again. The United States Library of Congress has chosen it for inclusion in its Web capture program designed to preserve important Internet content for future generations.

The Court will be part of what the Library of Congress describes as a “selective collection of authoritative (legal) blogs associated with American Bar Association-approved law schools, research institutes, think tanks and other expertise-based organizations.” The Library of Congress will regularly collect content from The Court, and add it to its research collections. This means that researchers at Library of Congress facilities will have access to material from The Court, as will off-site researchers through the Library’s public access Web site.

A New Faculty Member

Professor Sean Rehaag, BA(UBC) LLB&BCL(McGill) SJD(Toronto), is the newest member of the Osgoode faculty. Prior to joining the Law School last year, Rehaag was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Montreal’s Chaire de recherche du Canada en droit international des migrations. His research and teaching focus on border control and human rights, as well as on the role that legal institutions play in controversies that cross community boundaries.

Award Winning Professor

Professor Poonam Puri has received the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce Female Professional of the Year Award for 2008. A respected scholar and commentator on issues of corporate governance, securities regulation and corporate law, Puri was also a 2005 recipient of Canada’s Top 40 under 40™ award. Puri serves as Associate Director of the Jay and Barbara Hennick Centre for Business and Law at Osgoode and Schulich and in 2008 was appointed Co-Research Director of Canada’s Expert Panel on Securities Regulation, which published its report in January 2009. In 2005, she was Co-Research Director of the Task Force to Modernize Securities Legislation, which released its report in October 2006.
Reunion Memories

Standing from left to right: Gordon Nisbet, Celia Corcoran, Mark Orkin QC, Thomas Plant, S.A. Blake Ward QC; Laura Legge QC; The Hon. Colin S. Lazier; Norman Rogers QC; Adrian Hewitt QC
Seated from left to right: The Hon. John Matheson QC; The Hon. Richard Stanbury QC

“When I received the invitation to our 60th class reunion, I was dubious. On the one hand, I would probably know few of the attendees; the ones I did know would have changed beyond recognition and besides, I am not now, or ever have been, a big fan of reunions. However, I took the plunge and it became an experience worth keeping. I did know all of them, and really they hadn’t changed all that much.”

— Gordon S. Nisbet ’48

2009 REUNIONS
Celebrate, Reminisce, Connect
Come to your next class reunion. You might be surprised at just how much fun you have.

It is the perfect time to get together and relive old memories and see classmates but great reunions are the result of great committees!

The Office of Advancement needs your help and input to plan your reunion. As a member of the Class Reunion Planning Committee, you can play an important role in creating an experience to remember. Your participation is a great opportunity to reconnect with Osgoode Hall Law School and the friendships that began here.

If you would like to get involved in your reunion planning, contact the Office of Advancement at 416-736-5638 or alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca.
Don’t miss the Classic!

Monday, June 8, 2009
Lionhead Golf & Country Club

• Price: Per golfer $400  Foursome $1600
• Register by April 17, 2009 and pay discounted rate:
  Per golfer $360  Foursome $1440

For more information or to register, please email alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca or call 416-736-5638
Dianne Martin Medal for Social Justice Through Law

This medal will be awarded to a member of the Canadian legal community who has exemplified Dianne’s commitment to law as an instrument for achieving social justice and fairness.

Please submit a letter of nomination by April 6, 2009 outlining how the nominee meets the criteria of the medal.

Please send your package to:

Advancement Office, Room 415
Osgoode Hall Law School
Alumni Association
York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3
Tel. 416-736-5638
E-mail: alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca

Alumni Gold Key Awards

The late Justice Archie Campbell ’67 — Public Sector
N. Jane Pepino ’70 — Achievement
Chris G. Paliare ’70 — Achievement
Atul Tiwari ’87 — Service
Sven Spengemann ’98 — Recent Graduate

Dianne Martin Medal
Roger Rowe ’87

L to R, Back Row: Patrick Monahan, Dean; Sven Spengemann ’98 – Recent Graduate; Atul Tiwari ’87 – Service; Madam Justice Karen Weller ’67, Alumni Awards Committee Chair; Roger Rowe ’87, Dianne Martin Medal; L to R, Front Row: N. Jane Pepino ’70 – Achievement; Chris G. Paliare ’70 – Achievement; Julie Poole accepting the award for the late Justice Archie Campbell ’67 – Public Sector


Congratulations to our 2008 Award Winners
2009 Alumni Gold Key Awards

The Board of Directors of Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Association created an award in 2002 known as the Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Gold Key Award presented annually to honour outstanding alumni. Up to 10 awards will be given at the Dean’s Annual Alumni Reception on Wednesday, May 20, 2009.

We seek your help in identifying alumni who qualify for the awards. This is your opportunity to nominate an Osgoode alumna or alumnus for a prestigious Gold Key Award.

CATEGORIES

1. Achievement
This award recognizes exceptional professional achievement. The Awards Committee shall consider the following criteria in making the selection:
- a record of professional accomplishment;
- proven leadership and commitment in a chosen field of endeavour;
- recognizable contribution to the Law School and/or the community at large.

2. Recent Graduate
This award recognizes exceptional professional achievement of recent graduates. The Awards Committee shall consider the following criteria in making the selection:
- graduated in the last ten years (preference will be given to more recent alumni);
- high levels of achievement early in one’s chosen career or profession;
- demonstrated leadership capability;
- recognizable contribution to the Law School and/or the community at large.

3. Public Sector Law
This award recognizes the achievements of public sector or government lawyers. The Awards Committee shall consider the following criteria in making the selection:
- sustained outstanding service or a specific extraordinary accomplishment;
- significant contributions to social justice or public service;
- recognizable contribution to the Law School and/or the community at large.

4. Service
This award acknowledges significant contributions of time and energy to Osgoode Hall Law School and/or the Alumni Association. The Awards Committee shall consider the following criteria in making the selection:
- demonstrate leadership, commitment and support for the Law School;
- support the Law School’s alumni efforts;
- advancement of the Law School’s objectives or goals.

Deadline for receipt of 2009 nominations is April 6, 2009.

To fill out a nomination form, or for more information, visit www.osgoodealumni.ca

Nominations may be mailed or e-mailed to:
Advancement Office,
Room 415
Osgoode Hall Law School
York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3
Phone: 416-736-5638
E-mail: alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca
1970’s

Jim Flaherty ‘73 was elected to the House of Commons for the first time in January 2006. He represents the constituency of Whitby-Oshawa and is Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Greater Toronto Area.

Gregory Mulligan ‘73 was appointed to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice on June 18. His chambers are in Central East Region, Barrie.

Marilou McPhedran ‘76 was appointed to the position of Principal of Global College at the University of Winnipeg in June 2008. The Global College is a community of shared perspectives on issues of global citizenship, human rights and issues affecting the planet. McPhedran is a dedicated human rights activist who has been recognized for her work both nationally and internationally with medals from the Governor General and Queen’s Jubilee and an induction into the Order of Canada.

Sue Van Der Hout ‘78 has developed an interactive platform on the Web that helps women visions, explore and affirm success from conversations on success with hundreds of women in North America, England and Australia. To support this initiative and the work of a number of women supporting women’s economic development, visit www.girlphyte.com

1980’s

Lindsay Brian Swartz ‘81 has been appointed Chair of the Construction Law Section of the Ontario Bar Association. He has also joined the Board of Directors of the Canadian Employers Council.

Jeff Beedell ‘83 celebrated 25 years of marriage to Linda Mathies; they have two sons, Estan and Leslie. Beedell works at Lang Michener LLP (Ottawa) in the Supreme Court Practice Group.


1990’s

Terri-Lynne Devonish ‘95, Joe Johnson ‘94 and Pernille Ironside ‘99, were recognized with the prestigious Canada’s Top 40 Under 40 award in 2008. The recipients were identified for their leadership roles: Joe Johnson for assuming the presidency of his family’s equipment company after his father’s sudden decline in health; Terri-Lynne Devonish for her career achievements and her commitment to volunteerism; and Pernille Ironside for her work with UNICEF helping to reunite Congolese children abducted from their families during the country’s ongoing conflict.

Leeann Beggs ‘96 joined Queen’s University Faculty of Law as the Director of Career Services in July 2008. She and her daughter Autumn are enjoying the move to Kingston.

Jonathan K.M. Jeske ‘98 has been appointed General Counsel of Boston Pizza International Inc. Prior to joining Boston Pizza, he was a partner at Borden Ladner Gervais LLP.

Lisa Raitt ‘96 is the Member of Parliament for Halton, Ontario, where she was first elected in 2008. She was appointed Minister of Natural Resources by Prime Minister Stephen Harper on October 29, 2008. She and her husband, Dave Raitt ‘96, are the parents of two young sons.

Donald Short ‘98 (LLM) has been elected President of the 1,600-member ADR Institute of Canada. Short was listed in the Euromoney Guide to the World’s Leading Experts in Commercial Arbitration, and has also been appointed as Chair of the Construction Panel of ADR Chambers in Toronto.

Bonnie Yagar ‘98 received the Gordon S. Shipp Memorial Award as Mississauga’s Citizen of the Year in 2008. The annual award is presented by the Mississauga Real Estate Board and The Mississauga News to a citizen who epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism.

Colleen Hanycz ‘99 (LLM) was installed as the eleventh Principal of Brescia University College in London, Ontario on November 1, 2008. She is the second lay Principal of the college, which is Canada’s only women’s college and is affiliated with the University of Western Ontario. Before joining Brescia, Hanycz was a member of the Osgoode faculty and served as Assistant Dean (First Year) from 2004 to 2006.

Seann McAleese ‘99 was admitted into the partnership of Hicks Morley LLP. He practises out of their Waterloo office in all aspects of labour and employment law exclusively on behalf of management.

Submit Your Own Class Note

What’s happened in your life since you graduated from Osgoode? We want to hear about it! Share news of your career, family life, and personal accomplishments with your fellow alumni by submitting a Class Note.

Visit www.osgoodealumni.ca to submit on-line or email us at alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca

Photos are welcome.
Warren Rudick '99 and his wife Sari are overjoyed to announce the birth of their daughter Kaitlyn Rose born on January 13, 2008. Rudick was appointed by the Government of Canada to serve on the Board of Directors of Parc Downsview Park Inc. for a three-year term.

2000's

Karen Cooke (now Reynar) '07 and Jason Reynar '07 were married on June 21, 2008 in Innisfil, Ontario. Karen is currently an Associate at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, and Jason is at Lerners LLP.

H. Maura Lendon '00 (LLM) was appointed to the management team at HudBay Minerals Inc. as Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary.

Nicole W.S. Phillips (nee Suen) '00 is pleased to announce her marriage to Patrick Phillips in November 2008. She is currently working as Underwriting Counsel at Stewart Title Guaranty Company.

Matthew Mostyn '04 married Carly Rogenstein in July 2008. He practises at Radnoff Pearl LLP (Ottawa) in the areas of litigation, administrative law, tax litigation, wills and estates, criminal law, corporate and commercial law and environmental law.

Clifford J. Shaw QC '07 (LLM) taught Debtor/ Credit Relations to second and third-year students in the Faculty of Law at the University of Calgary. He continues to practise banking and insolvency law with Faber Bickman Leon in Calgary.
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