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REFLECTIONS ON THE STUDENT BODY
We have welcomed the University of Chicago Law School's Class of 2000. The first graduating class of the next millennium consists of "children of the '70s," born sometime between Watergate and the Bicentennial. They take notes on laptops, they carry cell phones and beepers. They access transcripts through the University's Web Page. They job hunt online. They communicate with faculty and administrators through e-mail. They submit Bigelow assignments via the internet. They participate in on-line class discussion groups. Technology has brought exciting opportunities to the Law School and our challenge is to make use of the technology without losing our personal touch.

Students still come to our offices with ideas, questions, and concerns but they are also able to make better use of their time. I cannot tell you how many e-mails I receive from students between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.

As a relatively recent graduate, I am constantly astonished by the rapid changes taking place here on the technological front. However, in the midst of these changes, some things remain constant—the average Chicago student continues to be anything but average.

We are fortunate that our Law School consistently attracts a more diverse group of scholars. From athletes and actresses to musicians and physicians, Law School students bring experiences and accomplishments that enrich all of us on this side of the Midway.

Approximately 50% of the entering class has taken time away from school after college. As is typical for an entering Chicago class, the Class of 2000 includes a host of former paralegals, investment bankers, and legislative interns. These students are always able to bring a rich perspective gained through their exposure to the inner workings of the financial world, the legal arena, and the government. Their backgrounds are complimented by the many students who arrive with advanced degrees as well as those who are pursuing joint degrees, particularly in the JD/MBA program. We also see an increase in the JD/MD students enrolled at the Law School. In their "off" hours, many of these students work in the hospital and in local clinics to hone their medical skills during their three years of legal education. In addition to Kevin Devaney '00 (Tulane Med.), we have Tim Allen '98 (Baylor Med.) and Roger Wolfe '99 (Harvard Med.). In a more unusual career transition, Leslie Love '98 left her practice of veterinary medicine to practice law. We also have a couple of students who are simultaneously earning JD and MD degrees including:

- Triste Lietau '97 (Harvard Med.) and Becca Brendel '96 (Chicago Med.).
- The Class of 2000 also includes former members of the Peace Corps (Omer Beer), Americorps (Aparna Joshi), and Teach for America (Tom Morel); a few former college professors (Brian Butler, David Graver, and Allyson Newton); a doctor who spent time as an "Undersea Medical Officer" for the U.S. Navy (Kenneth Devaney); a television writer (Debbie Ezer); and a television actress (Kathryn Lucas).

Steven Segaloff, an Olympic athlete, left his position with the Senate Judiciary Committee to become a member of the U.S. National Rowing Team, placing fifth in the 1996 Summer Olympics. He joins fellow Olympian Brian Wanek '98 who captained the U.S. Olympic Speed Skating Team in 1994 (in a previous issue of the Record, we reported that Brian carried the Olympic torch in the 1996 nationwide relay the night before his Criminal Law final).

While the input measures of this equation are greatly impressive, the output measures are as well. So far, six members of the most recent graduating class are clerking on the Supreme Court (Chris Bowers, Dave Franklin, Sandy Glover, Rob Hochman, Howard Neildson, and Bo Rutledge).

While they are here, our students are engaged—inside and outside the classroom. The Roundtable recently sponsored a panel on "The New Chicago School" where professors discussed the study of norms at the Law School. This panel occurred a few weeks after the October 20, 1997, New Yorker reported this as the most significant movement in academia since law and economics. The Legal Forum sponsored its annual symposium "The Right to a Fair Trial." The Law School Democrats brought Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley to campus for a lecture and the Law School Republicans brought author and former Reagan domestic policy advisor Dinesh d'Souza to campus to celebrate Reagan's 87th birthday.

Throughout the year, the Law Students' Association (LSA) meets regularly with the Dean to discuss matters of student interest. In addition, LSA coordinates student liaison groups to the various faculty committees. These students meet with faculty to discuss appointments, curriculum, exam policies, computer policies, the Bigelow Program, and career services.

Students run the nearly forty organizations that serve a variety of interests. The Edmund Burke Society is a conservative/libertarian debate society. Chicago Law and Society was started a few years ago to address interdisciplinary issues. Last year, they hosted an event focusing on lawyers in the arts. Their panel included the directors of the Art Institute, Field
Museum and the Chicago Symphony. The Christian and Jewish Law Students Associations have provided community support to students. Law Women's Caucus sponsors panels on women in the profession and coordinates a big sibling program for all law students. Our intramural teams continue to dominate the University. The women's football team has won the University Championship for most of the last ten years.

In recognition of the importance of fostering strong and loyal ties to the Law School, the family of Don Egan '61 established a scholarship in his honor which recognizes the work of a student who demonstrates "a real interest in the Law School, leadership potential within the larger legal community, and who appears likely to become a loyal and supportive alum." Laura Grisolo '98 is the first recipient of this scholarship. Laura, a mother of two, has been active as the chair of the student curriculum committee. In this capacity, she worked with faculty and students on significant changes in exam and paper policies, credit allocation, and curriculum planning.

In addition to participating in the numerous activities at the Law School, law students continue to contribute thousands of hours to the community each year. In fact, in recognition of these efforts, the ABA named the Law School the Public Service Law School of the Year for 1995-1996. Along with the students working in the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic, the Award honored student volunteers in the Neighbors program (tutoring students, working in soup kitchens), the International Human Rights Law Society, (representing aliens in deportation hearings), Streetlaw (teaching children in local public schools about the law), and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (preparing tax returns for low income workers). In addition, the Chicago Law Foundation continues to raise money to support students seeking summer public service opportunities.

The breadth of experience students bring with them, coupled with the diversity of opportunity available to them once they arrive, makes the Law School a truly unique place. A few years ago, during the Law School's Admitted Students' Weekend, Ed Walters '96 tried to explain the environment to incoming students. I conclude with an excerpt of his remarks which summarize so eloquently, the strength of our student body:

"I never expected my legal education to in-

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volves

to a profes-
sor singing a
chorus from Moz
tart's Requiem at the top of his lungs in Latin to a class of twenty stu-
dents. One of my first upper-class seminars was a class on the historical origins of prop-
erty. For the first class, Professor Epstein's reading assignment deviated from the typi-
cal law school fare: a short Old Testament story, a selection from Aristotle's Politics, and a chunk of the Institutes of Justinian (the ancient Roman code). As far as I could tell, the readings were unrelated at best, and completely random at worst.

"The class began in a small seminar room: 'What does this story from the Bible, which does not mention law, tell us about the property law during the time of the Old Testament?' queried Professor Epstein. I expected this query to be met with some theory about how unformed the law was. I was wrong. The first student to answer had been a priest, and answered with a very rich discussion of the story's context in the Bible, in history, and in place and time. He offered an account of how the King's actions might be seen as a reflection of a certain regime of private property ownership granted by God and against a state. A second student, who had apparently done a good bit of Jewish biblical study, challenged the account and pointed out how the Jewish tradition differed from that of the former priest.

"Fantastic!" Epstein interjected. 'And what does this tell us about Aristotle?' Another student, who had spent much time before law school studying Greek philosophy, offered an account.

Professor Epstein topped him by suggesting an alternative reading of Aristotle. Another student challenged the professor, saying that the professor was not being faithful to the text. Another classicist before law school.

"Wonderful, very good," Epstein encouraged, stoking the class like a fire. 'That reminds me of the second stanza of Mozart's Requiem,' which he then sang in Latin at the top of his voice.

"Of course, there was someone in the class who was able to translate. Flawlessly.

"Now, I'm not saying that every class is like this (and that's probably a good thing). But the class really illustrated to me the resources available among fellow students. This was not a special seminar on Greek philosophy or on Latin. This was a class about history and political theory that was enriched by the students in the class and their diverse backgrounds. That is something I can say of every class at the law school: the students are engaged and interested, and they add to the educational experience both inside and outside the classroom."

Ellen M. Cosgrove '91 is an assistant dean and dean of students at the Law School.