Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends,

There is an old saying that nothing endures but change. Change is an integral feature of the intellectual inquiry, to which the Law School is distinctively dedicated. Our faculty aspire to hatch new ideas, refine them, and share them with the world. In teaching, we expose students to new ideas, alter the way they think about the world, and even elevate the goals they set for themselves.

At the same time, we are fortunate that many faculty and administrators remain at the Law School for many years. Our students, colleagues, and especially the dean value the knowledge and wisdom of these experienced colleagues. Our alumni are heartened to know that the same people who helped them in their transformative educations continue to help students today.

This year, several admired and long-serving administrators retired. It was change of the sort we don’t wish to see. Richard Badger, ’68, retired this summer after nearly a half-century of devoted service to our students. Dick has had an enormous impact on the Law School and on many of you. Over the years, he has led student affairs, admissions, career services, and graduate programs, sometimes all at the same time. We are deeply grateful for his dedication, humor, and compassion. Also, Abbie Willard, who led our Office of Career Services for the past 16 years, retired. Abbie’s contributions to legal career counseling are nationally recognized. The astonishing paths our graduates have forged in all areas of the legal profession, from public service and academia to law firm practice and business leadership, often began with the help of Abbie and her team in career services.

While we will miss Dick and Abbie, superb new colleagues have joined us. This year we welcomed a new dean of students, Charles N. Todd, who brings a decade and a half of experience in student services, most recently as the College’s deputy dean of students. Charles, who holds a PhD in philosophy from the University of Chicago, has already demonstrated a tremendous ability to connect with our students. The Law School’s support for students—both through the work of our student services staff and the guidance of our faculty—fosters our culture of intellectual curiosity. In this issue of the Record, you will read about one way in which this is apparent: the development of independent scholarship by our students.

This summer Lois Casaleggi became our new associate dean for career services. Lois is a dedicated career counselor with a deep knowledge of the legal job market and a veteran of our own career services office. Her leadership and expertise will enable the Law School to continue its record of exemplary career counseling. One of the most sought-after career opportunities for law students are judicial clerkships. In this issue, you will read about our students’ high levels of success in securing these competitive and privileged positions—a track record that is thanks in large part to the tremendous work of two groups, our distinguished faculty clerkship committee and our exceptional Office for Career Services.

I trust that these and other articles in the Record illustrate the new ways in which intellectual inquiry and powerful education endure at Law School.

Warmly,

Thomas J. Miles