Legal Studies Welcomes New Assistant Professor

Gwen Jordan joined the Legal Studies Department faculty this fall. Professor Jordan initially earned her B.A. from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, (1983) and her J.D. from the University of Denver, College of Law (1986). She began her career practicing criminal law as a deputy district attorney for the eighteenth judicial district in Colorado. After prosecuting cases for five years in county, district, and juvenile courts in both urban and rural settings, she left the practice of law to study issues of race and gender in the criminal justice system. Jordan received her M.A. in Criminal Justice from the University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC), with a graduate concentration in Women’s Studies in 1993. At the doctoral level she expanded her studies to the history of race, gender, and women in our legal systems, political institutions, and reform movements. Jordan received her Ph.D. in U.S. History from UIC in 2004. From 2005 to 2008, Jordan was the J. Willard Hurst Legal History Fellow at the Institute for Legal Studies, University of Wisconsin Law School. In 2008 Jordan began a two year position as Visiting Assistant Professor of Criminology at Northern Illinois University. She has recent publications in the Nevada Law Journal and the Akron Law Review. Her most recent article, “‘Them Law Wimmin’: Grassroots Lawyering and the Protective Agency for Women and Children,” will be included in Feminist Legal History: Recovering the Past, Reclaiming the Future, Tracy Thomas and TJ Boisseau, eds., New York University Press, due out Spring, 2011. Additionally, a version of her article “Horror Of A Woman”: Myra Bradwell, The 14th Amendment, and The Gendered Origins Of Sociological Jurisprudence” will be included in Infinite Hope And Finite Disappointment: The Story of The First Interpreters of The Fourteenth Amendment, Elizabeth Reilly, ed., University of Akron Press, also due out Spring, 2011

Professor Jordan’s primary expertise and teaching interests are in U.S. Legal History, Law and Society, Constitutional Law, Woman and the Law, and Social Reform Movements with an emphasis on race and gender and transnational associations. She is currently researching the first generation of African-American women lawyers in Illinois.

Student Reps Elected

During early September, LES students were given the opportunity to nominate and vote for an undergraduate and a graduate representative to serve on the Department Committee.

After calculating the electronic voting records, Jay Barnett and Eric Judd have been elected to represent their peers at the bi-weekly Department meetings.

Contact your representative if you have suggestions or concerns that you would like him/her to submit for discussion.

Brown Bag Scholarship Series Returns!

We are pleased to announce return of the College of Public Affairs and Administration’s Brown Bag Scholarship Series.

The series serves as a forum to promote activities of the scholarly community in the College.

This year’s events will be co-coordinated this by Dr. Kim Furumoto of the Legal Studies Department and Dr. Richard Gilman-Opalsky, of the Political Science Department.

Please watch for future updates about topics, times and locations.
New Legal Studies Online Coordinator

Rebekah Grosboll has been hired as the new Legal Studies Online Coordinator and the College of Public Affairs and Administration Undergraduate General Education Advisor. In her new position, her time is divided equally between being the Legal Studies Online Coordinator and the College Undergraduate General Education Advisor.

In her role as Legal Studies Online Coordinator, Ms. Grosboll supports new and continuing students in successfully completing their Legal Studies Master’s Degree, and assists applicants interested in applying to the Legal Studies Master’s Degree Program. As all Legal Studies Master’s Degree students take online courses in order to complete their degree, Ms. Grosboll will be working with all Legal Studies graduate students and Legal Studies Master’s Degree applicants, both online and "on-campus". In her role as the College’s Undergraduate General Education Advisor, Ms. Grosboll assists faculty advisors, in the College of Public Affairs and Administration, to ensure that their students complete their general education requirements.

Ms. Grosboll has been employed at UIS since 2004. She enjoys working with students and has a strong desire to help them obtain their academic goals. Her professional experience includes: training design and coordination; dispersing information through electronic formats; data collection; and data analysis. She has also served as an adjunct instructor for the Crisis in Environmental Health course at UIS. She earned her bachelor’s degree with a double major in Political Studies and Legal Studies, and with a minor in History (UIS); a Master's degree in Communications (UIS); and a Master's degree in Political Studies (UIS). She has also obtained her Master Online Teacher Certificate from the Illinois Online Network. Ms. Grosboll resides in Petersburg, Illinois, a small rural community outside of Springfield, Illinois. In her free time she enjoys reading, cooking, and fishing. Also, this past summer, she took up gardening; however, she has not yet decided whether this is a past time she will continue to pursue, as her attempt at an organic garden resulted primarily in bountiful harvest of weeds.

To make an appointment with Ms. Grosboll, call 217/206-8545 or e-mail her at rlanp01s@uis.edu.

UIS Professors Publish Book on Same-Sex Marriage

Two faculty members from the University of Illinois Springfield have published a new book entitled Same-Sex Marriage in the Americas: Policy Innovation for Same-Sex Relationships. Jason Pierceson, Associate Professor of Political Science and Legal Studies and Adriana Piatti-Crocker, Assistant Professor of Political Science, are co-editors, along with Shawn Schulenberg of the University of California, Riverside. The book was published by Lexington Books, a division of Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

In addition to editing the book, Pierceson and Crocker authored individual chapters, as well as co-authoring the introduction. Crocker chapter is entitled, “Constructing Policy Innovation in Argentina: From Gender Quotas to Same-Sex Marriage”, and Pierceson’s chapters are entitled, “Deconstructing the Backlash: Same-Sex Marriage Litigation and Social Change in the United States and Canada” and “Juristocracy in the Americas?”

Legal Studies Professor Deborah Anthony Article Published

Professor Deborah Anthony’s article, "A Spouse by Any Other Name,” will be published in December in the William and Mary Journal of Women and the Law. The William and Mary School of Law is the oldest law school in the U.S. Earlier this year, Washington and Lee University ranked its journal at #10 in its list of Top Law Journals, based on the number of citations to the Review in the legal literature and in judicial opinions.

Professor Anthony’s paper investigates current state laws regarding the change of a husband’s name to his wife’s upon marriage. Given that tradition, and often law itself, discourage the practice, the lingering gendered norms that perpetuate the historical tradition will be explored. Components of this paper include a brief historical analysis of the origin of surnames and the law as it has developed on that issue, including an examination of the place of tradition in the law both empirically and normatively. A discussion of the psychological importance of names in the identities of men versus women will be addressed, as will possible justifications for the distinction between the rights of men and women in this regard. Finally, the paper discusses the application of gender discrimination laws and Constitutional equal protection doctrine to current laws that provide differing rights and privileges based solely on one’s status as a wife versus a husband.
Meet Pre-Law Center’s New Graduate Assistant

Daniel Fahl, a first-year graduate student in the Legal Studies Department, is serving as the Graduate Assistant for the Pre-Law Center. Daniel graduated from the U of I Urbana-Champaign in May of 2010 with a Bachelor’s degree in Liberal Arts and Science (History Major and Political Science Minor). During his undergraduate student career, he completed an internship with the Illinois State Police and job shadowed a Special Agent with the FBI. Daniel is also a Sergeant in the Illinois Army National Guard, serving as a member of the 766th Engineer Battalion in Decatur.

Daniel lives in rural Palmer, Illinois which is a small farming community in Christian County, near Taylorville. He enjoys reading, hunting, and playing golf and basketball. He also enjoys watching sports of all kinds, especially his alma mater, the Fighting Illini, and the Cardinals.

Meet the Legal Studies Graduate Assistant

Tracey Jensen is currently serving her second year as the Department’s Graduate Assistant, working 20 hours per week performing scholarly research for and providing other support to the Legal Studies faculty. She also serves on the Department Committee which meets bi-weekly.

Tracey lives here in Springfield and also works in an administrative position at a local not-for-profit organization serving children with developmental disabilities. When not working or studying, she enjoys reading about World War II and comparative theology, spending exciting hours with her stamp collection, and taking care of her very spoiled two dogs and three cats (all rescues).

Spring 2011 Legal Studies Courses

The Spring 2011 Course Schedule has been posted on the Legal Studies website. It’s a work in progress, but here is a sample of the courses being offered.

PSC 201  Introduction to the American Political System
LES 202  Introduction to the American Legal System
LES 303  American Law: The Basics
LES 350  ECCE: The American Jury
LES 352  History of American Law
LES 402  Legal Writing and Analysis
LES 403  Practice Skills: Illinois Civil Procedure for Legal Assistants
LES 416  American Constitution and Constitutional Law
LES 441  Poverty, Law, and Justice
LES 446  Family Law
LES 472  Research Methods for Legal Studies
LES 489  Closing Seminar: Ethics and Current Legal Questions
LES 504  Graduate Seminar
LES 512  Theories of Justice
LES 522  Health Care, Law, Patient Privacy, and HIPPA

Watch for the UIS Registration and Records Department to announce dates on which Priority Registration and Open Registration will begin.

Upcoming Events

September 21
Brown Bag: "American Indians, Race and 'the Enemy' in United States Law"

November 1
Pre-Law Center student trip to Law School Caravan at UIUC (meet with law school admissions officers from dozens of law schools and attend a law school class). For more details, email the Pre-Law Center

November 22-26
Thanksgiving Recess

December 11
Last Day of Classes

December 13-18
Finals Week

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