LES Welcomes New Faculty to Department

The Legal Studies Department would like to welcome its newest addition, Dr. Riaz Tejani, to the University. Dr. Tejani will join the LES team at the start of the fall 2014 semester. One thing that immediately stands out about our newest addition is his background and work experience. Serving as a law clerk in Los Angeles, a consultant at the United Nations Education, Science, & Cultural Organization in Paris, and working with the economic community in West Africa are just a few of the positions Dr. Tejani has held. He received his bachelors degree from the University of San Diego, where he majored in Ethnic Studies, minored in Law & Society, and graduated Magna cum laude and Phi Betta Kappa. After teaching ESL for a year, Dr. Tejani obtained his PhD from Princeton, his JD from the University of Southern California, and worked for two years in Paris among human rights activists. Students can expect frequent class participation, lively discussions, and organized but entertaining visual presentations in power point or Prezi (He also likes to incorporate pop culture references when relevant). Amongst countless other things, Dr. Tejani specifically looks forward to meeting the undergraduate and graduate students of the LES department, testing out the famous bike trails of Springfield, and once again experiencing all four seasons the Midwest has to offer.

Master’s Student to have article published in law journal

Kristen Knotts, a Springfield native and current student in the LES Masters degree program, has accepted an offer from Southern Illinois University Law Journal, to have an article she wrote published in the spring 2014 edition of the law review journal. The article, titled, *FOIA vs. FERPA Scalio vs. Posner*, explores the relationship between public universities and state freedom of information requests. An excerpt from the cover letter:

"The accompanying Article is the first to examine the conflicts that can occur when public universities are subjected to state freedom of information requests in the face of an ongoing obligation to protect students’ privacy under the Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The idea stemmed from two lawsuits filed by Illinois newspapers against both the University of Illinois and the University of Illinois Springfield for alleged violations of Illinois’ Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The universities denied the newspapers FOIA requests citing FERPA as the primary reason why the information requested would not be disclosed. “

Professor Eisenhart of the Legal Studies department, and John Hanlon of the Innocence Project were both instrumental in helping Kristen write this article, which is her first academic submission. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Michigan, a JD from the Denver University College of Law, and hopes to graduate with her LES degree from UIS this Spring."
New Student Worker joins LES Department

The College of Public Affairs and Administration has recently hired a new student worker. MarQuia Green has been hired to assist the Legal Studies, Political Science, and Global Studies Departments, through the Leadership Lived program. Her duties will primarily include office work, and assisting the department in whatever capacity necessary. She is a junior at UIS, and a candidate for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Legal Studies with a minor concentration in Criminal Justice. Her ultimate educational goal is to obtain a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Criminal Justice, and then starting her own business and traveling around the world!

Two Professors to Give Academic Presentations this Spring

Monday, March 10, at 4pm, Gwen Jordan will be presenting "Race, Gender, and the Legal Profession: The Life and Career of Ida Platt, Illinois's First African American Woman Lawyer" at the American Bar Foundation Legal History Seminar in Chicago. Jordan will present the paper again on Friday, March 14, 2014 at the Newberry Library Women and Gender Seminar in Chicago in the program “African-American Women on Screen and in Court”.

Professor Maria Elena Pablo Rivera-Beckstrom will be presenting a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association. It will be held in Minneapolis, MN, May 29 - June 1, 2014. The title of her paper is “Politicization of the Judiciary and Legal Culture: Responding to Power in the Philippine People Power 2 of 2001.”

ENROLL IN LSAT PREP COURSES TODAY

The UIS Pre-Law Center encourages all students who are considering law school to enroll in the LSAT Prep course. Classes will be held on three Saturdays in April: the 5th, 12th, and 19th, from 9am-5pm on the UIS campus. Cost to enroll in the classes is $195, which is much cheaper, and more personalized than commercial courses. Please return a completed registration form with a check payable to UIS by Wednesday, April 2nd to the Pre-Law Center PAC 363. For more information contact the UIS Pre-Law Center at 206-4529 or prelawcenter@uis.edu.
Interview with LES Graduate Student Brad Stephenson

Q: Why did you choose UIS and the legal studies department?
A: I chose the University of Illinois at Springfield due to the ability to obtain my Master’s Degree in Legal Studies either online or in-person, as well as the prestige that is associated with the University of Illinois. I wanted to enrich my knowledge of the legal system while integrating current public policy and social issues. Ultimately, the UIS Legal Studies program provided an opportunity for me to succeed both academically and professionally.

Q: What specifically about this department would you say has had the biggest impact on you? (academic, professional goals, career, etc.)
A: The professors within the Legal Studies department have had the biggest impact on my experience at UIS. They have provided an environment which encourages students to develop critical thinking skills and integrate that with current legal policies and issues. Furthermore, I have been able to develop a personalized relationship with each professor and know they are there to guide me in the right direction.

Q: How have you been able to manage your time between working a full time job and being enrolled in the master’s program?
A: I currently work full-time at a law firm in downtown Chicago and the convenience of being enrolled in an online program has enabled me to balance work and school. The online aspect allows me to work at my own pace – whether it be in the morning, during the day, or after work in the evening. Being able to prioritize my program on my own schedule and navigate through each class with fellow classmates has enriched my learning and enabled me to succeed in both.

Q: What are your career goals after graduating, and how has this department put you on track for achieving these goals?
A: After graduating from the program, I would like to teach Legal and Public Policy studies at the collegiate level. I reached out to the department within my first year of the program and they were able to connect me with Dr. Jordan who guided me as a graduate teaching assistant for my first class. I was able to become both a student and a teacher in the same semester, which is a valuable asset that will hopefully guide me into the start of my teaching career after graduation.

Q: What advice would you give to students who are considering enrolling in the Legal Studies program?
A: I would encourage anyone who is interested in the Legal Studies program at the University of Illinois at Springfield to reach out to either the professors or student representatives and ask as many questions to get a feeling if the program is right for you. Once accepted, take as much from the program as you can – interact with students on a daily basis, develop personalized relationships with the professors and shape your program to coincide with your future goals. There are not many graduate level Legal Studies programs out there and I believe that the University of Illinois at Springfield has all the tools to enable students to succeed both while in the program and after graduation!
Save the Date!

7th Annual
Defenders of the Innocent Awards Dinner
Abraham Lincoln/DoubleTree Hotel
Saturday, May 3, 2014, 6:00pm

Featuring Special Guest Brian Banks, California exonoree and unsigned NFL free agent. Also featuring Justin Brooks, Brian’s attorney and Director of the California Innocence Project.

For sponsorship information or reservations, please call (217) 206-6569, visit www.uis.edu/innocenceproject, or contact Larry Golden at Lgold1@uis.edu.

www.brianbanks.org
5K Run & Walk for Innocence
HTTP://WWW.UIS.EDU/INNOCENCEPROJECT/2014-5K-EVENT/

Illinois Innocence Project

Registration:
Child: $10
Student: $15 (with valid i-Card)
Adult: $25
Day of Race: $35
register online at http://www.uis.edu/innocenceproject/2014-5k-event/
or in person at Illinois Innocence Project
University of Illinois Springfield | Public Affairs Center 429
Springfield, IL 62703

Check-in begins 7:30 am
Run begins 9 am
at the Recreation and Athletic Center
University of Illinois Springfield
### Fall 2014

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>Suzanne Borland</td>
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