



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Welcome from Nick Taylor
- Interview with Steve Wheatley
- School of Law past and current affairs
- Focus on staff
- International students news
- Study abroad news
- New School of Law building
- Extra-curricular activities and careers
- Student prizes 2009-10

Spotlight

The Official School of Law Magazine

Autumn 2010

Welcome from Nick Taylor

I am extremely pleased to announce the re-launch of the School of Law Magazine. Students and staff who have spent any time around me over the previous eighteen months will no doubt have heard me extolling the fantastic achievements of the School of Law.

The School, its students and staff, present an extremely vibrant community that excels academically in learning, teaching and research; plays a fan-

tastic role both internationally and within the local community; shines in its sporting endeavours and provides a welcoming social environment



encompassing all who are a part of it.

We should be enormously proud of what we achieve and

this magazine, which will be a regular publication, will be one of the ways by which we can share those achievements. I am grateful to all the students and staff who have contributed to the re-launch of the magazine and I hope you enjoy both reading it and contributing to future issues.

Best wishes,
Nick Taylor,
Director of Learning and Teaching

School of Law Magazine Acknowledgements

Magazine Team

Madeeha Ahmed
Marika Hildebrandova
Chee Jia Ho
Stanley Lee Wai Jin
Ishaq Mahboob
Ian Marder
Jessica Siddall
Rebecca Wilkinson
Mahalaleel Yawa

Contact information

If you wanted to give us feedback, would like to contribute or for any enquiries, please contact:

Marika Hildebrandova
lawmhi@leeds.ac.uk

Ian Marder
lw08im@leeds.ac.uk

Student Contributors

Rachael Hack
Alice Hewitt
Chee Jia Ho
Stanley Lee Wai Jin
Ian Marder
Chloe Morgan
Rose Muraguri
Nisha Navekar
Jessica Siddall
Rebecca Wilkinson

Interview with Professor Steven M. Wheatley

In anticipation of the move to the new building in January, we sent two students to speak with the new Head of School – Professor Steven M Wheatley.

Professor Wheatley moved to the University of Leeds in 2003 from the University of Liverpool. He was made professor this year and was also elected Head of School, a role he will undertake for three and a half years beginning in January. This will coincide with the opening of the new Law building. The building will be situated next to the current Business school and will be complete with its own moot court room. Professor Wheatley's hopes for the new building include gaining a clearer sense of identity for students and staff within the School. He also believes that the building will provide a lovely backdrop for events within the School, such as graduation.



Professor Wheatley's personal priorities within this role are threefold. Firstly, he will be in charge of balancing the accounts for the School and maintaining the finances and budget. Secondly, he will be managing the welfare of students within the School. Thirdly, Professor Wheatley would also like to maintain the quality of teaching in the Law school whilst providing staff with the time and opportunity to continue to produce the world-class research that Leeds is well known for. Professor Subedi, for example, is currently the United Nations reporter in Cambodia and Professor Wheatley himself is also a specialist in International Law. This specifically includes human rights, democracy and the rights of indigenous peoples. He will be travelling to Oslo before Christmas to discuss human rights and he has previously travelled to Australia, Uganda, Kazakhstan, Croatia and Bosnia. This opportunity for travel is one of Professor Wheatley's favourite aspects of working in the field of International Law. Having always been an academic lawyer, Professor Wheatley has also worked as an expert on human rights and the rights of minority groups for the Council of Europe. His latest research and work into fundamental academic law has been published in the book "The Democratic Legitimacy of International Law".

When asked about what it is that sets the Law school at Leeds apart from the rest of those in the country, Professor Wheatley considered the emphasis on teaching the skill of critical thinking to be of prime importance. He believes that the standard of teaching at Leeds allows students to think critically and this carries further implications for employment prospects after graduation. The university itself is in the Russell Group, meaning that it is research-lead and Professor Wheatley believes that these qualities help students to make the most of their skills in terms of finding jobs later in life. He feels that "Leeds for Life" is also an essential tool in improving employability and careers prospects.

Professor Wheatley believes that the University of Leeds is so popular because of the way that it is part of the city of Leeds, making it a dynamic and exciting place to study. The Law school in turn is considered to be big enough to give students a breadth of education whilst also being small enough to be friendly.

As of January, Professor Wheatley will no longer be teaching in order to fully focus on his role as the Head of the Law School although he has very much enjoyed being a member of the teaching staff. He enjoyed lecturing and working with enthusiastic students, particularly taking them to moots in London. He feels that being Head of the School will not separate him from students, but rather enhance their experience at Leeds.

Professor Wheatley ended the interview wishing to express how much he is looking forward to becoming Head of School and deepening his priorities of quality teaching, critical thinking skills and employability within his role. Most importantly he desires that both staff students are happy within their working environment in the University.

By Rebecca Wilkinson and Jessica Siddall

School of Law Past and Current Affairs

Law Fair November 2010

18 brochures, 2 highlighters, 1 set of post-it notes, 1 stress ball (lemon shaped), 7 pens (one of them a Parker pen...thank you Slaughter and May), 1 pencil, 2 flasks, 2 beer mats, 1 USB stick and a bag of Jelly Babies later and I've successfully made my way through the November Law Fair. Now I want to point out from the onset that I am far from being the outstanding 3rd year Law student who is supposed to have achieved that all important first, whilst running for President, helping charity and being Captain of netball and who knows exactly what to say and the right questions to ask when it comes to approaching those wide eyed, immaculately dressed and expectant trainees who run the Law Fair stands. But I do have a fair idea, having collected several hundred DLA Piper pens, of how to cope with the daunting task.

The first thing to do, when you see the "LAW FAIR" announcement pop up on your Portal page, is to not dismiss it as a complete waste of time and hope that one day you will walk into a high flying city job having never approached a single law firm. Even if you are unsure of what area of law you want to go in to, where in the country you want to be based or even if you want a job as a solicitor/barrister at all, the Law Fair is a starting point. The best thing to do is have a quick scout around on Google to see which firms may interest you, if any, and bear them in mind for the time being.

The second thing to do is prepare a list of questions...trust me, this is not hard. I guarantee everyone will be asking the same questions and the trainees running the stand will no doubt fake excitement, tell you why they are awesome and hand you a brochure. Be careful of the ones asking you for your e-mail, you will regret this more than a hangover for the next few years of your degree when you receive a ridiculous amount of spam from various different countries all over the world. However, some companies are genuinely there to help you make up your mind and give you information on application/vac scheme deadlines and these are the ones which deserve your e-mail address...personally, I find milkround.com and lawcareers.net extremely useful. Anyway, back to the list of questions. Your best bet is to ask the standard: "So what kind of law do you specialise in?"; "Do you take many graduates from Leeds Uni?"; "What's the application process like?"; "What's the best part of working for [insert firm here]?"; "What kind of things do you look for in graduates?" Try not to ask them about their salaries, although it is tempting.

I doubt you will spend more than 3 or 4 minutes talking and by the end of the conversation you may get a feel for the company, what they are looking for and whether they are right for you. It is not always a case of adapting yourself to fit their criteria of a graduate, it is also an opportunity to see whether the firm fits your criteria of an employer you would one day like to work for. Alternatively you may exit the Law Fair still none the wiser as to why you decided a Law degree was the best idea...but chances are you may even broaden your horizons by coming across firms you were not aware of before.

Assuming that you are still interested in Law and the trainees did not bite you when you approached them, you may have received a variety of gifts for your bravery...pens, sweets, USB sticks, stress balls (keep these for 3rd year) and brochures. Make sure to keep the pens, there is something oddly superior about writing with a pen sponsored by Linklaters. Have a flick through the brochures but do not get bogged down by the abundance of information and application deadlines. Do not panic and immediately start writing your first class, outstandingly-different-from-everyone-else application. Just relax. The majority of winter vac schemes have deadlines for November/December time but there are plenty summer schemes and training contract applications open in Spring/Summer. The Law Fair is not there to scare you, but to give you all the information possible to allow you to choose what direction is right for you.

At the end of the day, you are only a Leeds student for 3 years, during which time seems to evaporate. My advice is to make the most of every careers opportunity available to you while you can. Trust me, the worst experience of your life is not working your way through a Law Fair, it is getting to 3rd year and thinking Allen & Overy are a band....

By Chloe Morgan

Background to the Law Fair

The University of Leeds 2010 Law Fair took place on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd November in Parkinson Court. Over 60 companies/organisations took part over the 2 days.

Booking for the fair starts in April each year when details are sent to companies/organisations – the event is usually fully booked by August. We aim to get a good mix of large, medium sized and regional law firms who have training contracts to offer. Approximately 800 students attended this year.

Some companies were concerned that a high number of students had not prepared for the fair and had not decided which route of law to go into i.e. high street or commercial and did not always understand the relevance of obtaining related work experience. However, many also said that the majority were very well prepared and knew exactly what further information they required and the companies are looking forward to receiving applications from Leeds students.

By Caroline Shingles
Careers Centre



Centre for Business Law and Practice Conference

On 20th September 2010, over seventy academics, practitioners and research students attended a successful conference hosted by the Centre for Business Law and Practice on 'Directors' Duties and Shareholder Litigation in the Wake of the Financial Crisis'. The distinguished speakers included Mr Justice David Richards, Vice Chancellor of the County Palatine and a senior Chancery court judge, as well as leading barristers, professors from Durham, Oxford, Queen Mary and representatives from the Centre, Professor Andrew Keay and Dr Michael Galanis. The debate on this highly topical issue was lively and informed and all the participants had a very stimulating day. The panel discussion, which focussed on section 172 and shareholder litigation, will shortly be available on the Centre's web-site.

By Joan Loughrey
Senior Lecturer, Director of the Centre for Business Law and Practice

A Petal for My Thoughts...

The taxi rolls up slowly outside my halls. Sitting inside, I peek outside the frosty window feeling like a kindergartener on my first day of school. With help, I unload the bags and heave the luggage into my room. I turn the key and open the door. Here it is... the place that is my humble abode for the next year. Later in the day, strolling on a beautiful Sunday afternoon as the shadows of the leaves dance on the pavements, I saw a more peaceful side of Leeds. In contrast, the scene transforms by weekday into a bustling hive of activity. Streams of students flow through campus; fast walking, bundled in a mass of scarves, looking as busy as ever! So much to take in at once...

'What matters?' 'What doesn't?' This question kept popping into my head as I tried to make sense of every day that comes along in a bite-size manner.

Quite strange, is it not? It has only been a few weeks but, somehow, it feels like a life time. The sense of settling into a new normal has slowly crept up on me. Lots of the idealistic plans that are such a cliché part of being a fresher have been replaced by a nice, warm serving of practicality. Remember when those dreams used to float around in that big baby head? And we used to say things such as "when I grow up I'm going to be"... It looks like we are one step closer folks. Enjoy the ride.

By Rose Muraguri

Focus on Staff

Linda Asquith, Lecturer in Criminal Justice

I joined the School of Law in September 2010, as a lecturer in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Prior to coming to Leeds, I taught at the University of Huddersfield and I started my teaching career in high schools, teaching PSHE, Citizenship and Religious Education. I'm currently reading for a PhD with a focus on the survivors of genocide and their life in the UK and I am also a free-lance educator for the Holocaust Educational Trust and once a term take students to Poland on a day trip to visit Auschwitz as part of HET's 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project.

When I'm not working, I have a particular passion for stand up comedy and adore comics like Chris Addison, Bill Bailey, Dylan Moran and Mark Thomas. I also love rock and heavy metal and have been known to fly to other countries to see Iron Maiden, one of my favourite bands. I realise that this last statement will destroy any credibility I have built up here in the last two months but in my defence, they put on a brilliant show!

Any students of mine will also be aware of my obsession with all things Life on Mars/Ashes to Ashes and will regularly hear me quoting the wisdom of Gene Hunt. As an ex-student of the department, I'm very happy to be back 'home' and look forward to getting to know you all much more over the coming months. Especially if you're into Iron Maiden!



Dr. Stefan Fafinski, Research Fellow

Dr Stefan Fafinski joined the School of Law in August 2010 from the Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford where he was a visiting Research Fellow. Stefan's areas of expertise encompass cyberlaw and cybercrime and broader areas of Internet policy, culture and technology. At Leeds, he will be continuing his research into cyberlaw and cybercrime which will lead to a monograph under contract to Cambridge University Press entitled *Digital Europe: Policy, Regulation and the Law* and due to publish in 2013. In terms of teaching, Stefan is module leader for the course *Cybercrimes: computers and crime in the information*

age and a contributor to the module in *Cyberlaw: information technology, law and society*. He is well-known to students as the co-author (with Emily Finch) of the best-selling student text *Legal Skills* (OUP) and is pleased to have just completed the manuscript for the third edition, publishing in April 2011. Away from Leeds, Stefan is Chair of the Law Panel and the Charitable Operations Committee of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists, a City of London Livery Company, and a Trustee of the new Hammersmith Academy,

opening in September 2011. He is also a frequently-disappointed but loyal season-ticket holder at Reading FC, and, in what spare time he has left, is working to restore a 1959 London Routemaster bus which he bought in a moment of weakness to fulfil his boyhood dream of becoming a bus driver.



Dr Iyiola Solanke, Senior Lecturer in Law

Iyiola joined the School in 2010. Here at Leeds, she teaches Discrimination Law and topics related to EU Law. Her research interests are broadly focused on EU integration and racial integration. She writes on anti-discrimination law, intersectionality, the EU judiciary and EU constitutional law. Previous research projects have focused on the interaction between social action and legal reform; cause lawyering; and black and migrant women in European welfare states. She won a British Academy Research Grant for an empirical project on the Advocate General in the European Court of Justice and last year published 'Making Anti-Racial Discrimination Law' (2009, Routledge). She is currently writing a textbook on EU law (Pearson 2013) and organising an international research collaboration on racism, colonialism and law under the auspices of the Law and Society Association (LSA).

Away from Leeds, she has been elected an Academic Fellow of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple alongside three other outstanding legal academics. She is one of the first academics to hold this honorary three-year post. Her goal during this time is to bridge the gap between the Bar and law students, especially those from historically marginalised groups. Iyiola was a Visiting Professor at Wake Forest University Law School and prior to this a Jean Monnet Fellow at the University of Michigan Law School. Iyiola presents regularly at international conferences and enjoys learning languages. Since moving to Leeds she has become a keen walker!

Professor Surya P. Subedi, Professor of International Law

In addition to Prof. Surya P. Subedi's teaching and research, he is the UN's Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia. Late in 2009, he presented his research in a report to the UN Human Rights Council. The report can be summarised as follows:

- There have been many important human rights advances in Cambodia in recent years with the passing of legislation, but more concrete action needs to be taken so that the country falls into line with its various human rights duties. This must happen under a stricter timeframe.
- In particular, the Cambodian Judiciary does not always act in a way consistent with the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Cambodia is a party.
- Defamation laws have been used to restrict freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in the political sphere and in the media.



Another major area of concern is access to justice for the population. Within human rights law this is known as "impunity", and is a relevant issue in Cambodia, specifically regarding instances of land eviction.

Human rights in Cambodia continue to be an issue of regional significance. Brad Adams, the Asia director of Human Rights Watch, accused the country of following a "Burmese model" of authoritarian government (2006). We thank Prof. Subedi for his contribution to this debate and for his successes in convincing the Cambodian government to engage with him for the benefit of the population.

By Ian Marder

International Students News

International Students - Transfer Students from Malaysia

Have you ever wondered about the sudden influx of international students who join your class as you enter into year 2 or year 3? Perhaps you may also have wondered why you have not seen any of them in your lectures or seminars when you were in year 1. Well, this article will reveal all about the identities of these mysterious new arrivals!

At the start of every academic term, around 30 students from the Malaysian higher education institutions – namely HELP University College and INTI International University transfer to the University of Leeds to complete their law degrees. This is the UK transfer degree programme where Malaysian students have the options of doing a 1+2 route (a year in Malaysia, 2 years in the UK) or a 2+1 route (2 years in Malaysia, 1 year in the UK). The majority of the students transferring over to the University of Leeds are usually in the 2+1 option due to cost factors. There are, of course, a small minority of other Malaysian students who have actually started year 1 at the University of Leeds itself.

Malaysia (or Malaya in pre-independence times before the merger of the Borneo states of Sabah and Sarawak) is a former British colony in Southeast Asia that lies above Singapore. Like India and Singapore, the legal tradition of Malaysia is derived from the British common law alongside a constitutional monarchy. As such, any Malaysian student who has completed the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) will be eligible to practice law in Malaysia. Malaysia is a plural society where we have many different races with distinct different cultures living harmoniously together. As such, do not be surprised if you happen to see a Malay, Chinese or Indian student who says they are a Malaysian. As a result of our plural society and background, we are also very familiar with each of our fellow Malaysian's diverse culture and have often integrated them together in terms of our food and way of life. One example is the creation of "Manglish" where we mixed our respective ethnic languages with English when conversing with one another and the results usually baffle local British students.

For many of us who have transferred over recently, it is most probably our first experience of living in the UK. If you ever encounter a newly transferred Malaysian student in your seminars or lectures, feel free to introduce yourself because we would love to learn about British culture too and we are happy to share our diverse Malaysian culture in return. So, don't be shy! Come and get to know us better. We promise we won't bite!

By Stanley Lee Wai Jin

International Students' Tea Party

On 18th of October 2010, the School of Law held an International Students' Tea Party in the Great Woodhouse Room, University House. First year students from all over the world such as Singapore, India and Kenya were present and this included 2nd and 3rd year transfer students from Malaysia too. Coffee and tea were served alongside with a wide variety of sandwiches and scones. It was a great opportunity for both the staff of the School of Law and the new international students to interact with each other.

By Stanley Lee Wai Jin

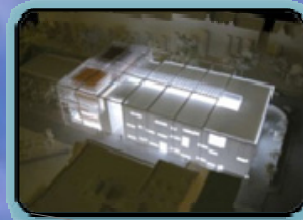


There will be 6 seminar rooms each with a capacity of 25, fully equipped with new audio-visual technology. Hopefully, more seminars will be timetabled into the new law school than is possible at present.



Marks and Spencer archive building. Due for completion in 2011.

Say your goodbyes to a dim and poorly-lit law school. The new law building is designed as a modern glass house with brilliant skylights running along the atrium for natural light to filter through.

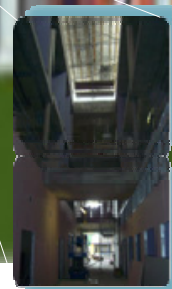


There will be two lecture theatres each with a capacity of 100; smaller lectures are expected to be held here.

A brand new moot courtroom.

The undergraduate and postgraduate common rooms.

Entrance to building. Ground floor, atrium view.



Unless you've been living in a shell, chances are you must have heard about the University of Leeds new law building by now. Costing a whopping £12 million and due for completion by mid-January 2011, students can expect to use the new state of the art facilities fresh from the winter holidays! Expect 3 floors and 4000 sq feet of new space to wander around during those annoying little breaks between seminars and lectures. There will also be lifts to serve all floors and brilliant new plasma television sets around the School. The new law building will also include new facilities such as spacious new law student common rooms, a separate study area with brand new computer terminals and round-the-building wi-fi connection. Facilities for pro-bono, mooting and widening participation will also be much improved, with a brand new moot court and pro-bono centre in the works. Spotlight brings you a first look of what you can expect from our new home.

The New Law Building

The new Law school will be located on the west campus of the University of Leeds, directly opposite the Leeds Business School, and across the road from the Charles Thackrah Building, not too far from the current law school at Lyddon Terrace.



Study Abroad News

Slaughter and May Shanghai Summer School

The Slaughter and May Summer School was organised for the first time this year through our co-operation with the East China University of Politics and Law, Shanghai. This gave ten Leeds students the opportunity to travel to Shanghai for the first two weeks in September, to follow a programme which was a mix of academic classes, legal and business related visits and cultural activities. The students were selected through a competitive application process, where their academic performance was considered alongside their interest and commitment to learning more about China, particularly from a professional perspective. Part of the cost was generously covered by Slaughter and May.

Half of the programmed activities consisted of in-classroom teaching from ECUPL staff on different aspects of Chinese law. The other half of the programmed activities was a mix of legal/financial excursions and cultural excursions. There were visits to the Shanghai Stock Exchange, a local court building and a local law firm, as well as cultural visits to sights in Shanghai. Two opportunities were given for students to meet Chinese students, including a visit to the undergraduate campus at Songjiang (on the outskirts of the city), where we visited the buildings and witnessed the afternoon military drill, compulsory for all first year students in China. An overnight stay at Hangzhou (about 2 hours away) was also organised. In addition, there was sufficient free time to enable us to spend more time visiting Shanghai and to go out in the evenings and experience Shanghai nightlife.

Overall this was an incredible experience. We were able not just to visit Shanghai, but to get to know it from the inside and to learn what makes it tick, and how the law has adapted to fit this ever-changing city and country. The School is currently trying to secure funding to enable the Summer School to become something that we can offer regularly to our students.

By Chloe Wallace



Studying Abroad in Amsterdam

I had been looking forward to moving to Amsterdam all summer, but it was only in the final few days or so that the nerves really started. Was I sure I wanted to leave all my friends and family and a pretty good life to move to a new country where I would not know anyone and would not speak the language? Well it was too late to turn back, so I packed my two suitcases (try fitting your whole life into two suitcases by the way, it is not easy) and got on the plane. I can honestly say I have not regretted the decision once.

I opted for the cheapest accommodation Vrije University had to offer and it is clear why it is the cheapest. However, I have got used to it. I do not really notice the dirt and disrepair any more. I occasionally get jealous when I visit friends' rooms and see how I could be living, but I would rather have the extra Euros in my pocket to enjoy Amsterdam to be honest.

The university itself is quite strange to me having come from Leeds. It is partly because I am taking some masters courses (not by choice, they did not have enough bachelors courses on offer to make up my required credits) and partly just the European way I think, but we are expected to be much more independent than in Leeds. Handouts and practice exam questions are a luxury we do not get here. It is also crazy that you study a module for two months and then get examined in it. The worst thing is the packed elevators though, you need an extra ten minutes to get around anywhere at VU.

The best thing about my study abroad experience so far are the friends I have made. I have never really had friends that are not English before and now I spend all my time with Americans, Canadians, Swedes, Germans, Poles and Italians. A lot of the Europeans only study abroad for half of the year and I already have plans to visit them when they are back in their home countries, which is great. I know it is a cliché to say studying abroad broadens your mind, but it is true.

Two months in and the only thing I would change is the bikes. Everybody cycles everywhere here and I only learnt two months ago so I am still a little nervous and wobbly. Hopefully by the end of the year I will be holding up an umbrella and texting as I ride along like a real Dutch person!

By Alice Hewitt

Studying Abroad in France

As a third year Law and French student, I have to go and study French law in France. Now I am actually in France, I can state one thing for sure; absolutely no amount of preparation, studying or expectations can prepare you for the reality of living and being a student here. One of the things that first struck me is how a lot of the stereotypes are true. Whilst I do not want to generalise, I have seen a lot of people walking around in stripy tops carrying baguettes. Another thing the French are well known for are strikes. As most people in England might know, the French have recently been on strike because Sarkozy wants to reform pensions, and put the retirement age up to - wait for it - sixty-two.

The effects the strikes have had on campus have been really bizarre from an English point of view. Whilst where I am the strikes have been rather tame compared to places like Lyon, we have still had no trams, trains or buses, no cleaning staff in halls, and classes have been 'banalised', which means if you do not go, it will not be counted against you. I think if I did not turn up to my seminar because I felt like going on strike, my tutor would still probably expect my homework done in the UK. One thing that was quite shocking was that for the last three days of term (we got a half term holiday!) we had no classes as the students barricaded all the buildings and lecture theatres.

They were quite extreme about it; they used breezeblock benches, chairs, tables, road works equipment, pretty much anything they could get their hands on. When some of the law students tried to move the blockages, we, the English students, were told to leave as it 'could get violent'. Seeing the students that were on strike coming to try and stop the law students made me think that leaving was probably the wise choice. Apparently they also blocked all the corridors inside with tables and chairs and unscrewed all the screws from the door handles inside the buildings so even if you do get into your building, you still cannot get into your class. From an English perspective, it all seems a little extreme; if David Cameron raised the retirement age by two years, our reaction would probably be 'oh, well, never mind', not to go on strike every day. But then again, I guess that's living in France for you.

By Rachael Hack



Extra-curricular Activities and Careers

The School of Law has a wealth of Pro Bono and Widening Participation activities which are developing all the time. The student input is of paramount importance to the projects and in the current climate offers sustainability to many communities being affected by the cuts:

'With the generous support of people like your students, we are able to help many young people not only to achieve and fulfil their potential, but also to manage and understand their own behaviour. In this way students help the Involve team to provide them with the necessary support and tools to continue achieving throughout their lives.' Involve Centre, Hunslet.

'The level of involvement from your students in the Pathways to Law programme has been of the highest standard. They have always been professional, reliable and very supportive of our students. They have engaged effectively on all levels with them and our students have found them to be a really beneficial resource. The role these relationships have played in forging partnerships with our schools in the wider community has been significant.' Bradford Aimhigher

We have also recently been mentioned in The Guardian:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2010/nov/09/students-advise-charities>

By Herabans Kaur

A short overview of all the activities that the School of Law offers to its students:

School of Law Legal Advice Clinic

The School of Law Legal Advice Clinic has recently entered its second year of operation, having had a very successful opening year. The Clinic was the recipient of two prizes in early 2010: one national award (the Higher Education Academy Outstanding Project Award), and one University award (the LeedsforLife Partnership Award). The Clinic provides free written legal advice to members of University and the wider community in the areas of employment law, family law, debt, housing law and consumer/contractual law. Students work in teams of three during term-time, performing two main roles: an administrative office manager role and an interviewing/letter drafting role. Every student typically performs each role at least twice throughout the academic year. The Clinic provides students with an opportunity to develop numerous transferable skills such as written and oral communication skills, administrative skills, drafting skills or research skills. Students are expected to demonstrate a willingness to research new areas of law.

The Legal Advice Clinic is run by the Clinic Director Lydia Bleasdale-Hill who together with volunteering solicitors from two local firms provides support and guidance for students. Applications to be involved with the Clinic in 2011-12 will be invited in February/March 2011 - please keep an eye out for an email and for posters around the School.

Reading in the Community

Students provide reading support to young people in local primary schools once a week. This scheme helps to increase the children's reading levels and literacy attainment. In addition, this one to one attention helps to develop the children's communication and social skills. The individual support also has a positive effect on their self-confidence, self-esteem and self-image. For various socio-economic reasons, many of the children in the partner primary schools do not receive this individual time and support at home so the time that the students give to the children is invaluable. They are also positive role models for the children, helping to raise their aspirations and showing that working hard can provide opportunities and a bright future.

The scheme is run by Herabans Kaur. Students are recruited at the beginning of each academic year.

University of Leeds Innocence Project (UoLIP)

The University of Leeds Innocence Project (UoLIP) has entered its sixth year of operation. The Project's aim is to investigate real cases where wrongful convictions are suspected and to ensure that such cases are successfully brought to the attention of the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC). Students work in groups, reading and responding to letters sent by prisoners to the project. They advise the prisoners whether UoLIP team can assist them and why/why not. The Project provides students with the opportunity to develop their creativity and improve their skills in communication and innovation; teamwork; negotiation; resource management and networking.

The students have already started to investigate a variety of cases, including some where the client was convicted of murder, sexual offences and fraud offences. One team has received the case files for a client convicted of murder, and will be preparing a CCRC application later in the year.

The UoLIP is run by the Innocence Project Director Lydia Bleasdale-Hill. Applications to be involved with UoLIP in 2011-12 will be invited in February/March 2011 - please keep an eye out for an email, and for posters around the School.

Corporate Social Responsibility Project

Linking with the Leeds Business School, this joint initiative gives students from Law School and LUBS first hand knowledge about the theory and business benefits of CSR and applies them through working alongside local business leaders/solicitors on a one or two-day project once a year. The projects vary each year but they are designed to provide some tangible assistance to members of the local community. Challenges for the last three years have been based at varied community centres/projects in disaffected areas of the city. The volunteering team have to date erected and painted a traversing wall to introduce young people to climbing, built fences, constructed raised vegetable plots to allow for disabled access and cleared hedgerows. Students can volunteer to be team members or to become team leaders.

This scheme is run by Herabans Kaur in conjunction with the Access and Community Engagement Office. Recruitment for this opportunity will start after Christmas.

Streetlaw

Students work in groups and choose a particular legal topic on which they conduct some research and do an interactive presentation. This could be anything from Asbos, advice at police stations, knife crime or drugs and the law. Students research the topic for six weeks before presenting their findings to a group concerned in an accessible and engaging way.

The scheme is run by Herabans Kaur. Students are recruited at the beginning of each academic year.

Involve Centre, Hunslet

Students receive in-house training to provide support to hard to reach young people, many of whom have been excluded from mainstream education. Many of these young people have mobility issues, chaotic family circumstances (i.e. domestic violence and separation issues) whereby continuity to education has been made difficult. Students can perform a variety of tasks within this role.

The scheme is run by Herabans Kaur. Students are recruited at the beginning of each academic year.

Pathways to Law Ambassadors

Pathways to Law Ambassadors work with young people with little or no family/community background in Higher Education and help them answer questions such as "Which University? Why University? Which course? Will I fit in? Will I cope?". The role is to assist in monthly on- and off-campus events during the academic year. Past activities have included mock trials at the Magistrates Court, negotiation skills sessions, debating sessions, trips to The College of Law (York), and many more.

The scheme is run by Herabans Kaur. Recruitment for Law Ambassadors is ongoing.

Career Clinics

The School of Law organises fortnightly career clinics for all students at the School. These are 15-minute, one to one appointments with a careers consultant where you can ask anything you ever wanted to know about your career from “I have no idea what I want to do, help!” to “I know exactly what I want to do but please tell me how”. We asked Steve Carter, one of the careers consultants who come to the Clinics, what the most frequently asked question was:

“The most frequently asked question at the career clinics so far has revolved around, ‘is my CV or application in line with the job or training contract that I am applying for’? The best way for students to address this situation is as follows;

- 1) Do an audit on your experiences over the years that you have been at university, including your studies, societies, part-time work, mooting etc.
- 2) Consider the skills that you have got from these experiences. From your studies this would include subject knowledge learnt, intellectual skills developed such as critical thinking; from extra-curricular activities these would include soft skills such as communication and team work skills.
- 3) Research the company you are applying to and the job role you are applying for.
- 4) If this is a law firm, what area of law do they practice? If another organisation, what do they specialise in? What skills are they looking for? (usually a combination of soft skills and just as importantly, commercial awareness)!
- 5) Start to match up specific examples of the skills and experiences from your university career thus far. If you are making more than one application, make sure they are tailored to the individual employer.
- 6) Avoid silly but easy to make errors. So, when cutting and pasting information from one application to another make sure that you don’t send it off with the wrong company’s name on it (this has been done and is a common employer complaint)!
- 7) Check your spelling and grammar (another common employer complaint)!
- 8) Get your applications checked by the Careers Centre, or a housemate to make sure obvious errors aren’t included.
- 9) Best of luck!”

By Steve Carter
Careers Consultant



Career Clinics Dates and Times — Semester 2

Wednesday 26 January 2011	11.45 – 1.30
Wednesday 9 February 2011	1.00 – 2.30
Wednesday 23 February 2011	11.00 – 12.30
Wednesday 9 March 2011	1.00 – 2.30
Wednesday 23 March 2011	1.00 – 2.30

Venue: Meeting Room G02 next to the Student Support Office

If you would like to attend a Career Clinic next semester, please contact Marika:
School of Law, Student Support Office
Telephone: (0113) 343 5065 or E-mail: m.hildebrandova@leeds.ac.uk

Mock Interviews

I recently attended a mock interview with a graduate recruitment representative from Linklaters. I saw the advertisement on the Careers Centre website and realised that it would be a good opportunity for me to practice my interview skills in a personal setting on a one-to-one basis.

During my interview, the interviewer asked me questions about my degree course (Law), involvement in extra-curricular activities, competency based questions and a commercial awareness question; at the same time the interviewer was also making her own individual notes on my answers. This was followed by a comprehensive feedback session where I was given advice as to how to improve my performance during vacation scheme/training contract interviews at law firms.

Useful feedback consisted of the following; ensuring that you are always thoroughly prepared for interviews by, for example, reading up about the firm via their website and keeping up to date with current affairs to stay ahead of the latest issues and developments, and most importantly to be prepared to answer various competency based questions about yourself. Furthermore, it is important to ask the interviewer questions about the firm, covering aspects of the firm that you are interested in and want to know more about - you are more likely to strike a chord with the interviewers if you show genuine enthusiasm in their firm and the graduate position that you are applying for.

I found the mock interview to be a very beneficial experience as I received useful feedback from the graduate recruiter of a leading global law firm. I am confident that the advice given will help me with my future interviews and therefore, I would encourage anyone going through the application and interview process of applying for graduate jobs, whether that be in the legal sector, finance or business, to take advantage of the opportunities that are on offer at the Careers Centre.

By Nisha Navekar

Walker Morris Mentoring Scheme 2010-11

Local commercial law firm, Walker Morris, has again kindly agreed to provide mentoring support to a selection of our students. The University of Leeds/Walker Morris Mentoring Scheme aims to help those students who are committed to, and enthusiastic for, a legal career but who nevertheless have not yet found a training contract. The Scheme gives each participating student access to a Walker Morris Trainee/Assistant Solicitor whom they can contact personally for advice and assistance on researching firms, completing training contract applications, gaining work experience/vacation placements, improving interview skills, and so on. The Scheme also gives students the invaluable opportunity to ask current practitioners what life in the legal profession is really like: how firms and work-types differ; what the truth is about working hours and different firms' cultures; what is expected of a trainee or what training/career progression is on offer. Through the Scheme, students can find out the whole truth – uncensored by graduate recruiters and marketing departments! Students are selected by an application and interview process.

Successful applicants met with their mentors on Monday 15 November 2010 at an informal drinks event held at the School of Law and both mentors and mentees reported favourably on the event. In particular, mentors commented that they found their student mentees to be engaging and enthusiastic whilst mentees liked the approachability of their mentor and the genuine interest shown in their career aspirations. We fully expect the scheme to run next year as well and you can register your interest now by e-mailing Paul Wragg (p.m.wragg@leeds.ac.uk).

By Paul Wragg

Student Prizes September 2010



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

School of Law
University of Leeds
Leeds, LS2 9JT

T: +44(0) 113 343 5033
F: +44(0) 113 343 5056
www.law.leeds.ac.uk