

Faculty and Students Join For Donuts and Dialogue

How does a law school promote informal dialogue between students and faculty and encourage a sense of community? That was the issue that Professor David Schwartz addressed when he conceived the Faculty and Donuts program in 2003. “The idea was inspired by my discussions with some 2L and 3L students,” Schwartz recalls, “who wanted more opportunity for informal interaction with faculty.”

Held weekly on Thursday mornings, the program invites students to Lubar Commons, the

faculty lounge, for discussions on a variety of topics with free coffee and donuts provided. Students are encouraged to participate or just eat and listen.

Students and faculty suggest topics, and student program planners work with Dean of Students Ruth Robarts to invite faculty as guest speakers. The weekly topics, which provide the framework to stimulate conversations among the participants, incorporate current legal issues, current events, issues about the Law School, and the career interests of students.

The program also provides a forum for students to communicate with faculty about issues that might not otherwise be addressed in the classroom, such as the experience of classroom politics for conservative students, what first semester grades really mean, and technology in the classroom.

Students and faculty have found the program to be a successful method of encouraging interaction and increasing informal dialogue outside the classroom.

Twin Cities Firms Seek More UW Law Applicants

Ten leading Minnesota law firms came to the Law School in March in an effort to encourage more UW students to consider jobs in the Twin Cities. The event drew a strong crowd throughout the afternoon and gave the Minnesota lawyers, many of them UW Law alums, a chance to meet with students informally and discuss the benefits of living and working in the Twin Cities. The ten employers provided information about their own firms and distributed material highlighting the high quality of life and amenities of the Minneapolis and St. Paul area.

Participating in the event were Briggs & Morgan; Dorsey & Whitney; Faegre & Benson; Fredrikson & Byron; Gray Plant Mooty; Leonard, Street &

Deinard; Lindquist & Vennum; Maslon Edelman; Oppenheimer, Wolff & Donnelly; and Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi.

The event grew out of a meeting with Minnesota alumni and recruiting coordinators, who observed that fewer Wisconsin students were applying for positions with Twin Cities employers than in the past, a feeling that was corroborated by statistics on where UW graduates sit for bar exams.

The Career Services Office increasingly receives requests from employers interested in

encouraging students to consider practice in their areas, and the Office is delighted to help. If you and the legal employers in your area are interested in hosting an event to highlight your legal community, please contact Assistant Dean Jane Heymann at jheyman@wisc.edu or 608-262-6413.



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