Law Student Wins Burrill Technology Competition

May graduate Khaja M. Din and his business partner, Brent Newport, a student at the UW School of Business, won first place at the Business School’s 2006 G. Steven Burrill Technology Business Plan Competition on April 21, 2006, sharing a prize of $10,000.

Din is President of IPIC (Internet Privacy & Identity Credential), a young company whose entry in the contest was a preventive solution to identity theft, enabling consumers to use an alias during online transactions.

IPIC was chosen from among the entrants whose business plans were presented to a panel of judges in the competition, named for UW-Madison alumnus Steven Burrill, CEO of the San Francisco-based Burrill & Company.

Din and Newport were also finalists in the Wisconsin State Governor’s Business Plan Competition and the Wake Forest University Business School’s Competition earlier in 2006.

Din attributes much of his company’s success to the business law education he received at the UW Law School. “I know we could not have done this without the help, mentorship, education, encouragement, and support I received from the Law School,” he said.

UW Law School Confers 260 Degrees

The University of Wisconsin Law School graduated 260 students on May 12, 2006. Students, families, and other well-wishers participated in a busy sequence of events, attending the Law School’s hooding ceremony at Madison’s Alliant Energy Center, followed by the UW-Madison Commencement for professional schools at the Kohl Center.

In addition to the 230 J.D. degrees of the Class of 2006, the Law School granted graduate degrees of M.L.I., LL.M., and S.J.D.

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, an alumna of the Law School (Class of 1989), gave the keynote address for the Law School’s ceremony, and Professor Gordon Smith was the faculty speaker.

The three student speakers were Christopher Ochoa, master of ceremonies was Nina McIntyre. All four students were elected by their classmates to serve in these positions of honor on Graduation Day.

The traditionally bustling event was even busier this year, as student speaker Christopher Ochoa was followed by numerous cameras and media organizations covering the nationally publicized story of his relationship to the Wisconsin Innocence Project — first, as the first person exonerated after the Innocence Project proved him innocent of a wrongful conviction, and second, as a new graduate of the Law School that was responsible for securing his freedom.

Among the national and local outlets featuring Ochoa’s graduation was ABC Nightly News, which featured Ochoa as Person of the Week.

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Joyce Chang, SBA president; Chris Anderson; and Michael Carr celebrate their May graduation.