LAPA publishes this series of occasional reports highlighting aspects of its work at Princeton. This issue examines the variety of student programming it sponsors.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAW STUDY AT PRINCETON ARE WIDE-RANGING, DYNAMIC, AND ROBUST

Princeton’s decision not to establish a school of law has not prevented the University from offering many opportunities for students to pursue legal scholarship. Indeed, the absence of a fixed curriculum aimed at preparing legal practitioners, frees professors and students to pursue inquiries unconstrained by the need to provide professional training. Even before the establishment of the Program in Law and Public Affairs (LAPA) in 1999, law had a special place at Princeton. Noted scholars have held the McCormick Professorship of Jurisprudence, while the reputation of the Public Law Program in the Politics Department attracted (and continues to attract) impressive graduate students and scholars. Princeton had several accomplished professors who produced distinguished legal scholarship, mentored students, and taught courses in many disciplines, including legal history, legal anthropology, and jurisprudence. In recent years, Princeton has been enriched by the addition to its permanent faculty of educators with law degrees, law school teaching experience, and eminent reputations as legal scholars. The current undergraduate and graduate course offerings reflect the wide array of faculty law expertise. LAPA is proud that President Christopher Eisgruber was recruited to Princeton to serve as its first permanent Director.

With the establishment of LAPA, Princeton created a magnet that attracts students and faculty across the University and legal scholars from around the globe who all share an interest in exploring law from multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. Although LAPA does not offer courses, it nevertheless considers students among its most important constituents. LAPA offers a wide range of co-curricular and extracurricular programming as well as opportunities for students to engage in and share individual research projects.

In this issue of Law and LAPA@Princeton we highlight LAPA’s contribution to Princeton's students who explore the role of law in politics, society, the economy and culture both in the United States and around the world in co-curricular, extracurricular and individual research settings.
When I went to the LAPA Undergraduate Opening Reception the fall of freshman year, I had no idea how much of a role this group would play in shaping my Princeton experience. I’ve been part of roundtable discussions with incredible legal scholars studying issues from international negotiations to the American death penalty. I’ve spoken with an architect of the South African constitution, the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, and a former chairman of the Federal Election Commission. Most recently, I have had the opportunity to organize a trip for 12 Princeton undergrads to the chambers of Judge Denny Chin ’75 of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. LAPA has also allowed me to engage in conversations about the nuances and intricacies of domestic and international law that have gone far beyond what I would have expected from an undergraduate institution. LAPA Undergraduate Associate events, planned by our Undergraduate Board, aim to supplement scholarly conversations that may not be adequately addressed in Princeton’s classrooms. Our monthly dinner discussions and coffee chats with LAPA’s Visiting Research Scholars offer Princeton students regular, intimate access to professionals specializing in issues like transnational constitutionalism and authoritarian rule of law. Furthermore, this year, for the first time, LAPA co-sponsored a civic engagement trip to Washington, D.C. with Princeton’s Whig-Cliosophic Society to investigate legal and policy debates over American Indian religious freedom, land rights, and commercial sovereignty.

LAPA is one of the great groups for students interested in law, politics, public policy, etc. because it balances the importance of scholarly discussions of legal theory with practical applications of law in fact. There aren’t many groups on campus that can embroil students in a discussion of the theoretical merits of constitutional reform one week and transport students to the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse to argue copyright infringement with an appellate court judge the next week. LAPA, however, manages to do it all.

This spring LAPA implemented a new opportunity for seniors engaged in law research and analysis. LAPA invited students writing law-related theses to discuss their projects with LAPA Fellows and members of the Law Engaged Graduate Students, who are themselves working on law-based dissertations. Six students from three concentrations, including Philosophy, Politics, and WWS presented their projects and research to date and identified areas in which they could use input. Seven legal scholars volunteered as commentators, including three LAPA Fellows: Professors Dan Ernst (Georgetown Law); Tim Lovelace (U. of Indiana Law); and Mark Massoud (U.C. Santa Cruz Political Science); and four graduate students: Brandon Hunter (Anthropology); Ben Johnson (Politics); Tom Pavone (Politics); and Ardevan Yaghoubi (Politics). All participants agreed it was an enjoyable and valuable learning experience.
THE ARTHUR LIMAN FELLOWSHIPS IN PUBLIC INTEREST LAW

Through the generosity of the Liman Family Foundation and Emily Liman ’85, each year four or five undergraduates are selected through a competitive process to spend a summer internship engaged in public interest law. Liman Fellows attend the annual Liman Colloquium at Yale Law School in the spring prior to their fellowship. After their summer experience, they participate in a Roundtable at which they share what they learned and answer questions posed by faculty and students.

THE J. WELLES HENDERSON ’43 SENIOR THESIS PRIZE

A gift to Princeton University by the late Judge Arlin M. Adams to honor his friend, J. Welles Henderson on his 85th birthday, enables LAPA to award a cash prize for the best senior thesis on a law-related subject. We feature here the accounts of three prize recipients who speak to the law-based study and research opportunities provided to Princeton undergraduates.

ANNE COVENTRY
A CLASSICS CONCENTRATOR, RECEIVED THE PRIZE FOR HER THESIS, “HÔS GUNAIKI GAMETÊ: THE REGULATION AND EXCHANGE OF WOMEN IN PTOLEMAIC EGYPTIAN MARRIAGE DOCUMENTS.”

As a Classics major writing about marriage and marriage contracts from Ptolemaic Egypt, I hardly expected to be recognized by the Program in Law and Public Affairs. My thesis discusses the evolution of marital arrangements in Egypt from about 323 – 30 BCE and argues that marriage contracts evolved as a way to safeguard property owners’ economic interests, especially any dowries obtained from a new marriage. This subject is one that has been studied little, and I had to do extensive research about the Ptolemaic Egyptian and Greek law, economics, and societies.

AARON GLASSERMAN
A NEAR EASTERN STUDIES CONCENTRATOR, RECEIVED THE PRIZE FOR HIS THESIS ENTITLED “ACCIDENTS OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION: STATE POLICY, SECTARIAN INTEREST AND THE CHINA ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION.”

My senior thesis examines religion-state relations in the context of Islam since the end of the Cultural Revolution. Having given up the militant atheism of the Radical Period and accepted the long-term existence of religion in China, the government now calls for the mutual adaptation of religion and socialist society and the elaboration of religious doctrine and law in the service of socialism. The China Islamic Association, the non-governmental organization tasked with this exegesis, claims to represent the rich diversity of Chinese Islam, but in fact its central leadership is dominated by members of the modernist Islam movement.

ALISA TIWARI
WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL CONCENTRATOR, RECEIVED THE PRIZE FOR HER THESIS ENTITLED “WATCH WHERE YOU WALK: AN EVALUATION OF STOP AND FRISK POLICY IN NEW YORK CITY,” PRESENTLY A STUDENT IN THE WWS PUBLIC POLICY MASTER’S PROGRAM.

Developing the chapter on the constitutionality of the police practice presented many interesting issues. It was challenging to find a coherent and direct way to explain the major constitutional violations as well as the parts of the policy that allowed such violations to persist. The process involved reading the decisions and documents submitted for multiple court cases, examining scholarly articles in legal journals, and speaking with law enforcement officials involved in executing the policy.

MY LIMAN SUMMER
By DUNCAN HOSIE ’16

Serving as a Summer Undergraduate Liman Fellow was a highlight of my time at Princeton. I used the Fellowship to work on projects relating to voting rights and women’s representation in politics at a D.C. think tank, but the experience was so much more meaningful than a summer of public service work or one particular project.

Through the fellowship, I gained valuable insight into how law can serve as an effective tool for social justice and tangible change. I saw, first hand, the power of law to make transformative change in the lives of marginalized communities. The experience helped me develop a deep appreciation of the many points of intersection between law, politics, society, and justice. I found working directly with public interest lawyers especially useful, and the enriching conversations I had with them influenced my decision to apply to law school and work for Judge Cheryl Pollak ’75 this past summer.

On a personal level, the Liman Fellowship introduced me to the world of fellowships and led me to recognize the value in these opportunities. In my application for the Marshall Scholarship, I wrote about what I had learned through the Liman Program and how it influenced my intellectual and professional development. I doubt I would have applied or would have been selected for a Marshall Scholarship without the Liman experience, and will forever be grateful to the Liman Fellowship for this reason.

For a list of past Liman Fellows and reports on their experience, visit: http://lapa.princeton.edu/fellowships/previous-liman-fellows
GRADUATE PROGRAMS

LAW IN PUBLIC SERVICE: NOT JUST FOR LAWYERS

Recognizing that law is a foundation for policy decisions, LAPA offers Woodrow Wilson policy students an extraordinary opportunity to explore how policy makers consider law and work with lawyers in reaching policy decisions. The co-curricular program, which is now in its eighth year, invites students to convene at the dinner table for an off-record conversation with practitioners and scholars. After introductory remarks by the guest on his or her topic of expertise, a frank and open discussion ensues informed by the experience of both the guest and the student participants. Recent guests have included New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Barry Albin, author of the first case in New Jersey according legal recognition to same-sex couples, the third in the nation; Harvard Law Professor Cass Sunstein, who shared some of his experiences as the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the Obama Administration; District Court Judge Shira Scheindlin, who authored the opinion declaring unconstitutional New York City’s stop and frisk policy, among many others. In a special two-dinner program, students examined the law and ethics of modern asymmetrical warfare with noted ethicist Michael Walzer, Professor emeritus, Institute for Advanced Study, and with Colonel David Wallace, head of the Law Department at the U.S. Military Academy (West Point).

Over the years, students have had the opportunity to discuss how global business can promote human rights with former Undersecretary of State Michael Posner; to explore whether the law adequately protects whistleblowers with Thomas Tamm, a U.S. Justice Department Attorney who disclosed warrantless wiretapping, and Cathy Harris, a U.S. Customs Service employee who revealed illegal racial profiling practices. Law Professor and former LAPA Fellow Michael Herz examined the tensions between the President and the Congress in protecting the environment and the response of the courts. Columbia Professor Dorian Warren discussed and answered many questions about the future of workers' rights. National security issues dominated the dinner with author Karen Greenberg, director of the Center on National Security at Fordham Law School and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author Barton Gellman.

Despite the diversity of the guests and topics, all the sessions share two features: the discussion is lively, and the guest leaves as impressed with the students in attendance as the students are with the distinguished guest. For a list of sessions, see: http://lapa.princeton.edu/event-archive?field_event_type_tid=72

LAW-ENGAGED GRADUATE STUDENTS (LEGS)

LAPA offers a unique space for graduate students from many academic disciplines to share their research with each other and to explore their shared interest in legal issues.

LEGS sessions have long offered students the opportunity to practice job talks or to present works-in-progress. Although a student may have made a similar presentation in his or her disciplinary department, the LAPA forum offers interdisciplinary feedback from colleagues and professors in a variety of fields. Going forward, LEGS is also aiming to facilitate student-originated programming based upon the regular meeting of a committed cohort of students. While each session welcomes everyone interested in the topic, LAPA seeks to enable committed LEGS participants to identify the unique contribution that this coming together can offer. LEGS thus offers feedback opportunities to any graduate student at any stage of a law-related project.

For example, this year participants invited the LAPA Fellows to speak about their research, asking them to focus particular attention on how they made decisions about topics and methodologies. A first year Anthropology student discussed his preliminary ideas for a research project evaluating Washington, D.C.’s “ban the box” law, which prohibits employers from asking job seekers whether they have been convicted of a crime. At another session two fifth-year Politics students wanted to learn from the group about topics that they are planning to outline ideas for a
chapter she has been invited to submit to a book on comparative legal history. In the previous issue of Law and LAPA@Princeton, three graduate students provided first-hand accounts on how the LEGS seminars enhanced their research and their Princeton experience.

For more on LEGS see: http://lapa.princeton.edu/legs

And Still More Opportunities to Present, Participate, Learn, Inquire, and Engage

The Criminal Justice Working Group: Graduate Students Participate and Present
At the urging of former LAPA Fellow Lisa Miller of Rutgers University, LAPA and Rutgers established a collaborative in which faculty and students meet over dinner to discuss research being conducted by working group members and guest scholars. One session each year is reserved for graduate students to present their work and receive feedback from scholars with a wide range of expertise.

LAPA Seminars: Graduate Students Engage
According to former LAPA Fellow Michael Herz, Arthur Kaplan Professor of Law at Cardozo School of Law:

The bi-weekly LAPA Seminars capture much of what characterizes the [LAPA] program as a whole. The room is full; the attendees represent all sorts of intellectual backgrounds and disciplines; (almost) everyone has read the paper; and the questions and comments are of consistently high quality, offer insights of breathtaking variety, and reflect genuine inquiry rather than one-upmanship.

The seminar discussion continues over a dinner at which places are specifically reserved for graduate students.

Research Assistants: Undergraduate Learning
LAPA Fellows frequently hire Princeton undergraduates as research assistants. Students who apply and receive an offer have a unique opportunity to work closely with a distinguished scholar, who is, in turn, willing to tutor and, often, mentor the student during the period of the assistantship. On several occasions, fellows have employed multiple students effectively conducting a mini seminar to familiarize them with the substantive law in which they were working.

Ethics of Reading Seminar: Interdisciplinary Inquiry
LAPA is pleased to co-sponsor a series of seminars over the past six years developed by Professor Peter Brooks for the reading and interpretation of major documents and literary texts in a chosen area of law. Aiming to bring the practices of reading and interpretation in literary humanities into dialogue with those in the law, many of the sessions feature distinguished scholars as guest lecturers. When hosting a guest, Professor Brooks invites members of the Princeton community to attend the first half of the seminar.

Criminal Justice Working Group Poster 2014

Graduate Students and Undergraduates attend a lunchtime talk by Teng Biao, a Chinese lawyer and human rights activist, moderated by former LAPA Fellow Professor Martin Flaherty of Fordham Law School, who teaches a Task Force on China at the Woodrow Wilson School.

Professor Jeff Smith, author of Mr. Smith Goes to Jail, spoke at a LAPA noon book forum after which he and LAPA Director Paul Frymer met with students.

For more information on the Criminal Justice Working Group, please visit:

http://lapa.princeton.edu/legs
LAPA SPRING CALENDAR

CORE PROGRAMMING

LAPA Seminars
February 8, February 22, March 7, March 21, April 4, April 18 (Public)
http://lapa.princeton.edu/lapa-seminars

Law Engaged Graduate Students
February 17, March 2, March 23, April 6, April 20, April 27 (Students and Faculty)
http://lapa.princeton.edu/law-engaged-graduate-students

Law in Public Service Dinners
March 3, April 6 (Public Policy Students)

Law and Technology Lunch Series
February 29, April 11, April 18 (Princeton Community)
http://lapa.princeton.edu/content/law-and-technology-lunchtime-series

Criminal Justice Workshops
February 24, March 30 (Students, Faculty, Visitors)
http://lapa.princeton.edu/criminal-justice-working-group

Case or Controversy Series: The Future of Public Employee Labor Unions
March 28 Panel (Public)
March 28 Student dinner (By invitation)
http://lapa.princeton.edu/content/case-or-controversy-series

SPECIAL EVENTS

Senior Theses Workshop
February 24 (By request)
http://lapa.princeton.edu/content/law-related-senior-theses-progress-workshop

Professor Heather Gerken, Yale Law School
March 31 (By invitation)
http://lapa.princeton.edu/content/heather-k-gerken-yale-law-school

Donald S. Bernstein ’75 Lecture: Emily Bazelon, Yale Law School and Slate.com
April 13 (Public)
http://lapa.princeton.edu/content/emily-bazelon-yale-law-school

Bernstein Symposium
April 14 (By invitation)
http://lapa.princeton.edu/content/emily-bazelon-colloquium

OCCASIONAL GUEST SERIES

The Case of Nepal: Rajju Malla-Dhakal, South Asia Center for Policy Studies
March 1 (Students and Faculty)
http://lapa.princeton.edu/content/politics-disaster-response-and-reconstruction-case-nepal

Accidental Activists: Celeste Arrington, George Washington University
May 12 (Princeton Community)
http://lapa.princeton.edu/content/celeste-arrington-george-washington-university

LAPA-SUPPORTED STUDENT CONFERENCES

American Studies Graduate Student Conference: Life and Law in Rural America: Cows, Cars and Criminals
March 25-26
http://lapa.princeton.edu/content/life-and-law-rural-america-cows-cars-and-criminals

Students for Prison Education and Reform (SPEAR) Conference
April 15-17
http://princetonspear.com/conference-information/

Princeton South Asia Graduate Student Conference: The Natural Worlds of South Asia
April 29 – 30
http://lapa.princeton.edu/content/natural-worlds-south-asia

LAPA CO-SPONSORED CONFERENCES

Landscapes of Law: Trade, Security and Transnational Ethnography
April 8-9

Gender, Violence and Anti-Violence
March 31- April 2
http://lapa.princeton.edu/content/gender-violence-and-anti-violence

Policy students filled the table for a dinner conversation with Professors Dorian Warren (Columbia University) and Paul Frymer (Princeton University) on the future of labor unions.

Rajju Malla-Dhakal, Executive Director of South Asia Center for Policy Studies, Katmandu, Nepal met individually with students following her presentation on “The Politics of Disaster Response and Reconstruction: The Case of Nepal.” She is pictured here with Mae Lindsey (L), first year policy student.