



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Commencement is a special time in the life of a university, and especially for its graduates, their families and friends. Commencement 2008 was another memorable event – actually, a memorable series of events.

Kicking off the commencement season was a program sponsored by the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service, which recognizes students who have displayed

leadership in an area at the very heart of our mission: public service. One highlight is an award given to the graduating student who displayed the greatest devotion to public service. This year's winner, **Wendy Andre**, has a passion for defending the rights of immigrants. She helped to develop a project with the International Institute of Rhode Island for law students to offer rights education and individual counseling to immigrant detainees held at the Wyatt Detention Center in Central Falls, R.I.

In addition, **Michelle Gobin** was awarded the Pro Bono Collaborative Award for her dedication to the Affording Housing project and **Laura Corbin** received the Clinical Legal Education Association Award for her commitment to the clinics and public service.

Next up was an elegant affair at the Glen Manor in Portsmouth, R.I., a stunningly beautiful waterfront estate where a range of graduates were recognized, including the winners of the Dean's Award, which goes to

those students with the most improved grades in their second and third years. This year's winners were **Jillian Beth Carpenter** (Day Division) and **Susan G. Pegden** (Extended Division).

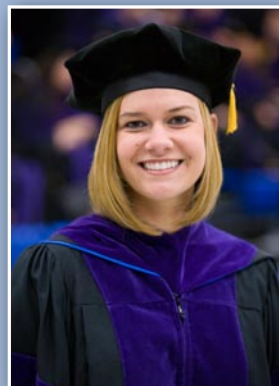
The capstone, of course, is the Commencement Ceremony itself. The tradition of having the graduates' "Professor of the Year" lead the faculty procession continued, with Professor **Keeva Terry** carrying the ceremonial mace. Highlights of the ceremony included comments from the Valedictorians, **Allyson L. Picard** (Day Division) and **Robert Douglas Coulter** (Extended Division).

Another important Commencement tradition is that of awarding honorary Doctor of Laws degrees to leaders whose careers reflect dedication to public service, and who thus are excellent role models for our graduates. Past honorary degree recipients delivering the keynote address have included the **Honorable Shirley Abrahamson**, Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, **Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy** of the United States Supreme Court, the **Honorable Bruce Selya** of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and **Rick West**, founding Director of the National Museum of the American Indian.

This year the School of Law wrapped up its "Supreme Semester" by recognizing **Linda Greenhouse**, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her coverage of the U.S. Supreme Court for the *New York Times*, who spoke on "A Lawyer's Choice." Also receiving an honorary degree was the **Honorable Phillip Rapoza**, Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Appeals Court, a leading jurist and proponent of international human rights.

- 1 Honorary Doctor of Law Recipient, *New York Times* correspondent Linda Greenhouse
- 2 Honorary Doctor of Law Recipient, Chief Justice Phillip Rapoza of the Massachusetts Appeals Court.

- 3 Professor Keeva Terry carries the ceremonial mace.
- 4 Allyson L. Picard, Valedictorian, Day Division.
- 5 Robert Douglas Coulter, Valedictorian, Extended Division.



FIRST-YEAR STUDENT WINS PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP



First-year student **Angela Alexander** was named a law fellow for the summer of 2008 by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Fellows are selected on the basis of academic record, recommendations and a commitment to civil rights. As a fellow, Angela will work in

the NAACP's Baltimore headquarters on a range of civil-rights issues, including voting rights and environmental justice. Angela will also work on legislative matters at the NAACP Washington Bureau, and moderate a panel at the organization's Continuing Legal Education Seminar in Cincinnati.

MRS. MARSHALL ATTENDS THURGOOD MARSHALL MEMORIAL LECTURE



The fourth Thurgood Marshall Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the law firm of **Hinckley, Allen and Snyder**, brought a leading civil rights scholar to Roger Williams University School of Law to speak on the stubborn, and subtle, persistence of racial discrimination in the workplace.

Professor **Devon W. Carbado**, of the UCLA School of Law, delivered the lecture, "What Exactly is Discrimination of the Basis of Race?" on April 15th with the late U.S. Supreme Court justice's wife, **Mrs. Cecilia Marshall**, in attendance.

A dynamic speaker, Professor Carbado writes in the areas of critical race theory, employment discrimination, criminal procedure and constitutional law. He is currently studying African-American responses to the internment of Japanese-Americans, and working on a book on employment discrimination, tentatively titled *Acting White*. He is a former director of the Critical Race Studies Program at UCLA Law and a faculty associate of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African-American Studies.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Law Alumni Association Annual Meeting & Breakfast

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Held in conjunction with the R.I. Bar Association Annual Meeting

Location: Westin Providence
One West Exchange Street
Providence, R.I. 02903

Time: 7:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at (401) 254-4659 or lawevents@rwu.edu

9th Annual Law Alumni Association Golf Tournament

Sunday, August 24, 2008

All proceeds benefit the Law Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

Location: Cranston Country Club
69 Burlingame Road
Cranston, R.I.

Time: 11:30 a.m.: Registration
12:00 noon: Lunch
1:30 p.m.: Shotgun Start
6:30 p.m.: Dinner, Raffle, Silent Auction & Prizes

Registration \$125 per player. For additional information, please contact the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at (401) 254-4659 or email lawevents@rwu.edu.



7th Marine Law Symposium A Viable Marine Renewable Energy Industry: Legal, Economic and Policy Challenges

Thursday, October 23 – Friday, October 24, 2008

Co-sponsored by RWU School of Law Marine Affairs Institute, University of Rhode Island Department of Marine Affairs, Rhode Island Sea Grant.

Location: School of Law
Ten Metacom Avenue
Bristol, R.I.

For more information, please contact the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at (401) 254-4659 or email lawevents@rwu.edu.

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