

Faculty of Law

by Leeane Taylor-Denholm

Where are they now?

To date 323 people have graduated from the Northern Territory University with a Bachelor of Laws and you may be surprised to know that over half of the inaugural Law class of 89 are currently working in the local Darwin community. And, of the twenty-two students who graduated from that historic first intake, eighteen still live and work in the Territory. While some students chose NTU Law for its spatial proximity to the Southeast Asia and focus on indigenous issues, it is pleasing to know that the choice of where to study (and decision to study in Darwin) is also directly related to industry recognition of local talent. The Faculty of Law welcomes the opportunity to keep in touch with graduates and sharing updates with alumni on the various careers that individuals have forged for themselves.

Introducing...

Mae Doyle is in her first year of a Bachelor of Law. The Society caught up with Mae at a recent Women Lawyers dinner. We asked Mae to send an article in on how she came to choose law. Here is Mae's story...

I am a migrant from Victoria who couldn't face another Melbourne winter and watch Collingwood go down-again. I followed several of my siblings who had preceded me to the Territory and arrived in late 1996 when the Commissioner for Public Employment's office was recruiting staff for its industrial relations work. After five years working for the Victorian Government in the same field I was a suitable match for their needs and have remained with the CPE's office.

My decision to study law was sudden in one sense - in late November last year I learnt that the Northern Territory Public Sector supported study at NTU by reimbursing HECS for certain approved courses. I applied to the Law Faculty for a place in their graduate course and was really pleased to receive an offer. Such support from my employer with time off to attend

Electronic Postcards

Pick of the month email addresses comes from out Law Graduate, Phillip McKeiver, who recently responded to our request for ex-law students to share with us their career development.

His current address? The University of Oxford! Phillip completed a combined Bachelor of Economics and Laws in 1993 and continued to be a high achiever in the career stakes. In brief, after graduating with honours he worked in Canberra with the Attorney-Generals's Department, as Justice Mildren's Associate at the Supreme Court of the NT and with the Australian Government Solicitor in Darwin (during which time he also appeared as junior Counsel before the High Court of Australia on behalf of the Common-

wealth Director of Public Prosecutions).

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In 1997 Philip was awarded a Chevening Scholarship from the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office to study a Bachelor of Civil Laws (BCL) at the University of Oxford. This is Oxford's post-graduate masters degree in law. He completed the course in August 1998.

In his 'electronic postcard' Philip said "During my time in Oxford I played rugby and rowed for my college. I was also involved in Oxford's drama scene, playing "Costard the Swain" in Shakespear's Love's Labours' Lost. I was also quite heavily involved in debating at the Oxford Union".

While finishing as a semi-finalist in the Oxford Union's debater of the Year Competition and thriving on the wealth of tradition and history, Philip also enjoyed the intellectually demanding workload which he described as intense! A unique feature at Oxford is the one to one tutorial system which according to Philip, is demanding but rewarding. Equally, seminars were highly stimulating; often with three or four renowned academics present at the one time.

Philip hopes to work in London as a solicitor for a short time and then? He looks forward to coming home to Darwin to practice law.

New Law Courses

The Faculty of Law recently added an external course to the range of programs offered. For support staff who wish to either increase their career opportunities or enhance their understanding of the Australian Legal System, we now offer a Bachelor of Justice Administration through Open Learning (Australia). Having also introduced an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice in 1998, the Faculty is continuing to respond to market demands for programs other than the Bachelor of Laws. This reflects a growing need for legal knowledge in so many roles and professions. And while the Bachelor of Laws is an essential degree for those persons pursuing a career as a solicitor or barrister, staff may benefit personally from a greater understanding of the law in context with their area of specialisation.

Any staff member who wishes to discuss opportunities to study law (be it one of the courses on offer or taking law units as electives) are welcome to phone Leanne Taylor-Dehnolm at the NT University on 8946 6666.



Julie Davis, Peter Tiffin and Mae Doyle

classes makes part-time study in a demanding field feasible. I had considered studying Law for some years but the pressure of full time work, living in a large city and not being a year 12 school leaver with an amazingly high "score" were significant barriers in a city like Melbourne. By comparison Darwin is an easy place to live and the University has such a refreshing attitude towards mature-age students. This is vital for me as the field of industrial relations is becoming more legalistic and I believe part of retaining my employability is about learning the higher level skills of a law degree.

After one semester of First year