New Public Service Initiative launched
HLS to cover third-year tuition for those who pledge five years’ service

Future HLS students who commit to work in public service for five years after graduation will get their final year of tuition free, thanks to a new program at the law school.

The Public Service Initiative, which provides a roughly $40,000-plus grant, will operate in addition to the law school’s current loan repayment program—the most generous in the nation.

“I want all of our students to have the ability to make public service their first choice after law school,” said Dean Elena Kagan ’86, who announced the program during a three-day Celebration of Public Interest (see story, p. 4). “We have tried in many ways to make this choice easier, particularly for students who have accumulated significant debt in college and law school.”

The program, unprecedented in legal education, will cost the law school an estimated $3 million annually for the next five years. The actual cost will depend on the number of students who take advantage of the offer. The announcement received prominent coverage by The New York Times, The Washington Post and other national news media.

Students who take advantage...
FCC comes to HLS for hearing on Internet openness

Berkman Center convenes meeting to explore file-sharing policies

Whether Internet service providers deliberately blocked users from sharing files online was the topic of discussion at HLS in late February as the U.S. Federal Communications Commission gathered on campus for a daylong hearing.

In a packed Ames Courtroom, the FCC’s five commissioners heard from representatives of Comcast and Verizon about their network management practices, as well as from scholars and business owners who urged more freedom on the Internet.

“It is critical that the commission remain vigilant in protecting consumers’ access to content on the Internet,” said FCC Chairman Kevin Martin ’93.

“The commission is ready, willing and able to step in, if necessary, to correct any practices that are ongoing today.”

Martin called on service providers to be more open about policies that might interfere with users’ ability to access legal content online. He said the goal of the hearing was to determine which network management policies are reasonable.

HLS Professor Yochai Benkler ’94 told panelists that the Internet is the primary source for modern innovation and urgent complete and open access. Competition is a key element in achieving broadband infrastructure that expands access, he said.

David Cohen, executive vice president of Comcast Corp., responded to charges that his company has blocked content, explaining why Comcast does not allow some users to upload files during periods of heavy network activity.

“Use of the network is not permitted that would degrade the experience of other users on the network,” Cohen explained. “There is nothing wrong with network management.”

The Berkman Center for Internet & Society offered to host this historic hearing after Rep. Edward Markey (D-Mass.), a key player in the “Net neutrality” movement for more openness of the Internet, pressed the commission to hold a series of hearings across the U.S.
Since its inception, Harvard Law School’s Berkman Center for Internet & Society has helped foster innovation on the Web, especially as the Internet has evolved into a more interactive medium. Executive Director John G. Palfrey Jr. ’01 talked to HLT about the center’s role in developing “Web 2.0.”

How did the Berkman Center help develop blogs and podcasts? It began with Dave Winer, who started as a fellow in 2002-2003. He was an early leader of the blogging movement. We set up the first universitywide blogging server with his help, and within a remarkably short period of time, 500 people across the university—students, faculty, staff, fellows and alumni—began blogging on the server and created a series of communities around ideas in cyberspace. One of the great things about the Berkman Center is how we function in some ways as a laboratory for the fellows who come through. Great things come from their collaboration.

What’s RSS and how did the Berkman Center get involved? RSS is the acronym for really simple syndication. It’s an extremely easy-to-use standard for syndicating and aggregating content. The basic idea is that you create a digital work in one place and you can publish it to any other part of the Web extremely simply. Readers can very easily subscribe to as many sources of info as they’d like. This is a huge innovation. It democratizes the process of publishing even further. Many of us here realized that RSS would be an important piece of infrastructure of Web 2.0. There was a dispute about the standard, and we stepped in as lawyers. The concern was about intellectual property and who owns the standard. We realized this was something that shouldn’t be owned by any individual or company. It should be held in trust for the public. Dave Winer gave the standard to Harvard to hold in trust, and then we in turn gave it back to the world through a Creative Commons license on a nonexclusive basis. Anyone can use it without fear of intellectual property constraints. This was a very easy, informal way of ensuring no one would be sued for adopting the RSS standard. Across the Web you see RSS 2.0 adopted as the standard, and that would not have been possible without taking the fear of litigation out of it.

What is the Global Voices project? Global Voices is a cool project that emerged from a conference we had on the Internet’s effect on politics, attended by bloggers and political theorists. They came up with the idea that we need an alternative Associated Press for parts of the world that are not covered by the mainstream media but are covered by people on the ground. Global Voices has emerged into a powerhouse in the global media space. It is a community on the one hand, but also an aggregator of the most interesting authentic voices around the world, and it puts those voices in context. There are hundreds of volunteers in countries around the world, and there is a small core of regional editors in different regions who are constantly reading what people on the ground are saying, writing up the most interesting stories and putting them in context. When the monks began protesting in Burma, or Myanmar, last fall and the government responded by shutting down the Internet, it was through Global Voices that many people around the world came to know what was happening there. We were deluged with calls from the mainstream press interested in getting firsthand accounts.

What’s percolating now at Berkman? We’re working on the Digital Natives project, which is studying how young people use technologies to be more creative. One of the roadblocks to more people using Web 2.0 tools is a misunderstanding of the copyright law. We’re seeking to understand the motivations of young people doing creative things online and to develop ways to teach copyright to kids to encourage creativity. That’s a way to apply our understanding of intellectual property to promote trends in how young people are learning and expressing themselves.

**PIONEERING WEB INNOVATION:** In the 10 years since its founding, the Berkman Center has been a leader in the exploration of the digital age. Its scholars have been at the forefront of the development of Internet technologies that have changed the way we use the Web.

**FACULTY Q&A**

**Untangling the Web**

**How did the Berkman Center help develop blogs and podcasts?**

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**Sifting through filters**

Palfrey is a co-editor (with Visiting Professor Jonathan Zittrain ’95) of a new book, “Access Denied: The Practice and Policy of Global Internet Filtering,” that explores efforts by foreign governments to control access to online content. “Because the Internet is such a democratizing force, lots of authoritarian states have decided to crack down,” Palfrey says. Targets include everything from dating and gambling sites to YouTube, which Turkey recently criticized because of videos that poked fun at the nation’s founder, Ataturk.

Palfrey traveled to Turkey in February and met with lawmakers, journalists and academics to discuss legislation aimed at limiting online access there. He says lawmakers face the dilemma of how to block specific material—the way Germany limits sites sympathetic to Nazis—rather than impose broader restrictions.

“There is no happy medium for Internet filtering,” says Palfrey. “At the moment, you can’t use technology to achieve a social end without too much collateral damage.”
Celebration of Public Interest draws more than 700

Harvard Law School’s first-ever Celebration of Public Interest brought more than 700 alumni and current and admitted students to campus in March.

“Public service is an integral part of the legal profession,” said Dean Elena Kagan ’86. “This weekend is not only a celebration, but also a demonstration of the law school’s commitment to supporting those who serve the public interest.”

During more than 20 plenary sessions, alumni shared success stories and discussed the challenges of working for the public good. Panel topics included climate change, international justice, predatory lending, work-life balance, and the role of law schools in teaching integrity.

Keynote speakers included the current governor of Michigan and the former governor of Massachusetts, and there were receptions hosted by Harvard clinical and student-practice groups. Some highlights:

○ “The opposite of poverty is not wealth. The opposite of poverty is justice.” Bryan Stevenson ’85, head of the Equal Justice Initiative, discussing his death penalty defense work.

○ “It’s the best job I’ve ever had—you absolutely can translate what you do into the formulation and application and thrust of public policy every day.” Former Governor of Massachusetts William Weld ’70, on his prosecutorial career as a U.S. attorney.

○ “Be doers. Don’t be satisfied. And express your dissatisfaction through action.” Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm ’87, tackling a range of topics—including her protests against apartheid in South Africa while a student at HLS—during a luncheon exchange with Dean Kagan.

○ “One of the challenges that international criminal justice faces is the long length of proceedings. There is a need for greater efficiency while safeguarding the rights of the accused and the interests of justice.” Judge G-O-Gon Kwon LL.M. ’85, during a session on international criminal justice. Kwon is serving his second term as one of the permanent judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

○ “Certainly, from my experience in Legal Services, it is paramount clear that we can’t go at this alone. We continue to turn away half of the people who seek our services and it’s not because they don’t have meritorious cases.” Stefanie Balandis ’93, senior attorney, Greater Boston Legal Services, during a panel on private-public partnerships.

○ “It was definitely the highlight of my public service.” Rachel Brand ’98, former assistant attorney general for the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Policy, during a panel on success stories, on leading the team that prepared Chief Justice John Roberts ’79 and Justice Samuel Alito for their Senate confirmation hearings. According to Brand, her team, which held 16 four-hour moots for each nominee, correctly anticipated, with one exception, every line of questioning that came up in the hearings.

“Think of your career as a 60-year enterprise, more or less, and at any given point, something is going to be right for you. You can be prepared, you should be prepared, but it’s very hard to plan.”

Peggy Kuo ’88, chief hearing officer, New York Stock Exchange, during a panel discussion on career transitions. Previously, she was counsel at WilmerHale.

“Overheard:
Some choice words from the reunion panelists

“What we’re trying to do is change the wind.”

Penda Hair ’78, co-director of the Advancement Project—noting the difference between “putting a finger in the wind” and trying to sway public opinion to promote new initiatives—during a session on new models of advocacy.

Overheard:
Some choice words from the reunion panelists

“Think of your career as a 60-year enterprise, more or less, and at any given point, something is going to be right for you. You can be prepared, you should be prepared, but it’s very hard to plan.”

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Three standouts headed for HLS

Anne Alstott

Alstott has held a tenured professorship at Yale Law School since 1997 and has served as the Jaquín D. Bierman Professor of Taxation since 2004. She has taught federal income taxation, corporate taxation, and subjects related to taxation and social policy—her scholarship is among the most creative, thoughtful and influential in her field.”

From 1992 to 1997, Alstott was an associate professor at Columbia University School of Law, and before that she was an attorney-adviser in the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Tax Policy, Office of the Tax Legislative Counsel. She is the author of a number of books and articles on taxation and social policy. In her 2004 book, “No Exit: What Parents Owe Children and What Society Owes Parents,” she calls for a social policy that gives greater support to child-rearing, specifically in the form of “caretaker resource accounts.”

In an earlier book, “The Stakeholder Society,” Alstott and co-author Bruce Ackerman suggest a plan to address economic inequality in America by giving $80,000 to every high school-educated U.S. citizen on his or her 21st birthday (or earlier to those who go to college). The book helped inspire those who go to college). The book helped inspire the Child Trust Fund Act of 2002, which Alstott says “gives parents on every child a stake in the future.”

Alstott is a 1987 J.D. graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and a J.D. from Georgetown University.

Michael Klarman

Klarman comes to the law school from the University of Virginia, where he is a professor of history as well as the James Monroe Distinguished Professor of Law and Elizabeth D. and Richard A. Merrill Research Professor.

Klarman’s appointment to the HLS faculty, said Kagan, was “like winning a trifecta. [He] is a pathbreaking scholar whose work abounds with new insights into some of the most important moments in American constitutional history. He is an extraordinary teacher, as Harvard Law students discovered when he was a visiting professor here. And, he is a renowned institutional citizen and colleague.”

He is the author of several books, including “From Jim Crow to Civil Rights: The Supreme Court and the Struggle for Racial Equality,” which won the 2005 Bancroft Prize, widely considered to be the most prestigious prize in American history writing. Most recently, Klarman wrote “Unfinished Business: Racial Equality in American History.”

His articles have appeared in leading law journals including the Michigan Law Review, The Yale Law Journal and The Supreme Court Review. Klarman holds a B.A. and an M.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, a D.Phil. in history from Oxford University and a J.D. from Stanford Law School. He was a clerk for Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg ’56-’58 when she was on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Cass Sunstein ’78

Currently a tenured professor at the University of Chicago Law School, Sunstein is the Karl N. Llewellyn Distinguished Service Professor of Jurisprudence, a joint appointment of Chicago’s law school and political science department. Describing Sunstein as “the pre-eminent legal scholar of our time,” Kagan said she was “thrilled beyond measure” to announce his appointment. “His work in any one of the fields he pursues—administrative law and policy, constitutional law and theory, behavioral economics and law, and environmental law, to name a nonexhaustive few—would put him in the very front rank of legal scholars; the combination is singular and breathtaking,” said Kagan.

The most cited law professor in the United States, Sunstein is the author of more than 15 books and hundreds of scholarly articles. His newest book, “Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness,” applies cutting-edge social science to legal questions in a variety of areas, including mortgage markets, the stock market and environmental protection.

Sunstein will serve as director of the new Program on Risk Regulation, which will focus on how law and policy deal with hazards such as terrorism, climate change and natural disasters.

He has provided expert testimony to congressional committees on important issues, including the Supreme Court nominations of Stephen Breyer ’64 and Robert H. Bork, and the impeachment of President Bill Clinton. He has also worked on constitutional and law reform issues outside the U.S. as a legal adviser for many countries, including Ukraine, Poland, China, South Africa and Russia.

Sunstein clerked for Justice Benjamin Kaplan of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and Justice Thurgood Marshall of the U.S. Supreme Court. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and the American Law Institute.

TERRIFIC—AND PROLIFIC!
The faculty’s three newest members are responsible for a shelf full of recent books covering a range of topics, including Jim Crow, designing public policies to promote better child-rearing and preparing for disasters.
HLS supplies legal ammunition in Supreme Court case
Clinical students assist Dellinger on behalf of D.C.’s gun ban

By Seth Stern

When the U.S. Supreme Court took up a landmark case on the constitutionality of Washington, D.C.’s handgun ban in March, a trio of Harvard Law students could claim modest credit for helping shape the argument.

The students assisted lawyers arguing for preserving the ban in the gun-control case—D.C. v. Heller—as part of their work in a new clinical course this year, Supreme Court and Appellate Litigation.

The course is being supervised by Walter Dellinger, the former acting solicitor general in the Clinton administration and a leading Supreme Court advocate, one of the lawyers in the case.

In the yearlong clinical run by Dellinger and two fellow attorneys from the law firm O’Melveny & Myers—Pamela Harris and Jonathan Hacker—a dozen students have gathered every other week for class sessions covering every aspect of appellate litigation, from writing amicus briefs to the art of oral argument, from dealing with factual records to the role and function of the Solicitor General’s Office.

Outside of class time, the students have worked on cases winding their way through the Supreme Court and U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals.

For the D.C. gun case, three students did research to help the lawyers formulate their arguments and write the brief. Matt Perault ’08 examined the evolution of state militias and the National Guard from precolonial times. That assignment took him out of his usual setting in the law school library to Harvard’s Widener Library, where he unearthed works of history that might help the advocates’ cause.

Perault recognized signs of his research in a small section of the brief filed with the Court, addressing the interpretive value of preambles. He and his teammates also helped edit two drafts of the brief. “It’s a fantastic case to be involved in,” he said.

Hacker, one of the O’Melveny lawyers who helped co-teach the class, says the students provided invaluable assistance. “They offered really good thinking, helpful research and, even after the brief was over, [helped] in thinking over questions and argument strategies and new kinds of arguments,” he said.

Hacker may be an experienced appellate advocate but said he, too, learned much from the experience: “In my daily practice, it’s not like I think in a specific way about what is the philosophy behind amicus briefs or what we’re trying to accomplish. It’s taught me a lot in thinking how to achieve results by putting together my class on amicus strategy.”

Not every case, of course, is quite as historic. But students say they’ve also enjoyed working on less prominent cases. Michael Bern ’08 examined the history of the First Amendment’s religion clause in a 10th Circuit case challenging Colorado’s school aid program over its exclusion of sectarian colleges.

Elizabeth Barchas ’08 helped a Texas federal public defender research issues for a brief on the meaning of the concealment element in the federal money laundering statute. And, in a brief for the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, she explored whether an appellate court can sua sponte increase a defendant’s sentence when not pressed to do so by the government.

“It was as if we were part of the firm preparing the brief, going through that process from beginning to end,” Bern said. ♦

Kennedy

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Earlier that day, Kennedy spent time with students in Professor Noah Feldman’s course The Constitution and the International Order.

“Justice Kennedy’s visit was one of the highlights of my 1L year,” said Tony Balkissoon ’10. “His visit was an inspiring reminder that while the Court can be highly politicized at times, it is made up of people who have a great respect for the law and its effects on the lives of real people.”

The following day, Kennedy addressed a larger group of students in Austin Hall’s Ames Courtroom, speaking off-the-record for half an hour and then fielding questions on a broad range of subjects.

Introducing him at the Ames Courtroom event, Dean Elena Kagan ’86 said: “Justice Kennedy has been widely described as the Supreme Court’s most influential member—the critical ‘swing vote’ on a sharply divided Court. But I think this description fails to capture the essence of what makes Justice Kennedy such an important figure: his independence, his integrity, and his unique and evolving vision. Far from swinging between positions defined by others, Justice Kennedy has consistently charted his own course.”

Kennedy received his A.B. from Stanford University and his LL.B. from Harvard Law School. He was in private practice in California for more than 10 years before being appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in 1975. From 1965 to 1988, he was a professor of constitutional law at the McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific.

President Reagan nominated him as an associate justice of the Supreme Court, and he was confirmed by a unanimous Senate vote, taking his seat on the Court in 1988. ♦

Breyer

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rely on statutory “default rules,” he writes, that are designed to maximize the satisfaction of “enactable political preferences,” or preferences shared by enough of the legislature that they would be passed into law if they were up for vote.

Breyer offered a summary of the approach to interpretation that he has taken in his nearly three decades as a judge. When the law isn’t clear, he said, judges generally have six tools for interpreting ambiguous language: the text itself, the history of the text, tradition around the issue, precedent, the purpose of the statute and the consequential values that lie behind that purpose. “If you say, ‘Of those, which is most useful?’ I’d say, the legislature’s purpose and intent,” Breyer said. “What if I can’t figure that out because they didn’t tell me? I can always figure it out—that’s [my] job.”

In addition to Elhaug and Justice Breyer, attendees of the March conference were: Dean Elena Kagan ’86; HLS Professors Richard Fallon, John Manning ’85, Matthew Stephenson ’03 and Adrian Vermeule ’93; Yale Law Professors Ian Ayres, Peter Schuck ’65 and Jerry Mashaw; Columbia Law Professor Thomas Merrill (currently an HLS visiting professor); Professor Kenneth Shepsle of Harvard University’s Department of Government; Northwestern Law Professor Emerson Tiller; and Professor Sam Issacharoff of New York University School of Law.

Breyer, explaining why he had been eager to attend, said: “There are a lot of very good experts here, so I can learn something.” ♦
Six from HLS receive Skaddens

This year, five HLS students and one alumnus were awarded the prestigious Skadden Fellowship, a public interest grant funded by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. The following HLS Skadden fellows will begin their work in the fall:

ELIZABETH CHO ‘08 will provide legal representation for Haitian families in the Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative of the WilmerHale Legal Services Center.

 DANIEL FARBNAN ‘07 plans to promote quality public education and college access for students of color in Baltimore City and Miami, with the Advancement Project.

 LAM HO ‘08 will create a community legal clinic for youths and their families in North Lawendale, Chicago.

 DANIEL KLAF ’08 will work to preserve and expand the stock of affordable housing in the Chicago area, with Business and Professional People for the Public Interest.

 GRACE SPULAK ‘08 will provide legal representation to low-income pregnant and parenting teens, with Pegasus Legal Services for Children in New Mexico.

 BRANDON WEISS ‘08 is joining Public Counsel in Los Angeles, where he will help tenants and owners preserve affordable housing.

In addition to winning six of 30 Skadden public service fellowships for 2008, several students and recent grads have landed other awards designed to encourage public service work:

**Equal Justice Works Fellowship**
Elizabeth Fischer ‘08
Alexis Kuznick ‘08
Andrea Saenz ‘08

**ACLU National Security Fellowship**
Alexander Abdo ‘06

**Human Rights Watch, Alan R. & Barbara D. Finnberg Fellowship**
Fernando Delgado ‘08

**Relman Civil Rights Fellowship**
Brook Hopkins ‘07

**Equal Justice Initiative Fellowship**
Ben Mazynak ‘06

**Health Policy Fellowship**
Kami Kruckenberg ‘08

**Prettyman/Stiller Fellowship at Georgetown Law**
Michael Marks ‘08

**National Center on Philanthropy and the Law Fellowship**
Jennifer Kwong ‘08

**Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship**
Adam Shoemaker ‘08
Teale Toweill ‘08

**Presidential Management Fellowship**
Neena Gullani ‘08
Sarah Marcus ‘08
Lea Mosten ‘08
Caroline Rothert ‘08

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**New public service initiative continued from page 1**

of the program will have to demonstrate their eligibility by participating in public service activities, such as a summer internship and relevant clinical programs, during law school. Those who then pledge five years of qualifying public service—which includes a wide variety of work in government and nonprofit organizations—will receive a grant totaling the cost of their tuition for the third year. Tuition at HLS will be $41,500 next year.

HLS’s Student Financial Services Office will administer the program, which will be fully available to 1Ls arriving this fall—the class of 2011. Current 2Ls and 1Ls will benefit from a phase-in period that makes them eligible to receive third-year tuition grants of $5,000 and $10,000 respectively.

The Public Service Initiative supplements a range of existing HLS programs designed to enable students to choose public service careers. The law school’s loan repayment program—which eases the burden of repaying educational loans—is the most generous of its kind. That program—known as the Low Income Protection Plan—will continue unchanged, even as the Public Service Initiative ensures that participating students will carry less debt at graduation.

The school has recently increased funding for Summer Public Interest Fellowships, which allow students to receive funding for low-paying or unpaid summer public interest jobs. HLS also offers a series of fellowships that support students who go to work in specific public service sectors and academia.

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**Three take endowed chairs**

Scholarly lectures mark occasions

**T**HREE MEMBERS of the HLS faculty have been appointed to endowed chairs. **JOHN C. COATES IV** was named the John F. Cogan Jr. Professor of Law and Economics, **CAROL STEIKER ’86** was appointed the Howard J. and Katherine W. Aibel Professor of Law and **GEORGE G. TRIANTIS** is now the Eli Goldston Professor of Law.

**On being a corporate lawyer**

Coates celebrated his appointment to the Cogan chair with a lecture surveying recent trends in the practice of corporate law—a field that, according to Coates, a majority of graduates from top schools continue to join.

One of the nation’s foremost experts in corporate law, he discussed the relative stability of leading law firms over the past few decades. But he predicted important changes in the field, most notably that market forces will drive up the price for top-end corporate legal work, firms will move away from the billable hour method to new compensation structures, and law firm demand for top-quality entry-level lawyers will lead to a corresponding spike in competition among law schools for corporate law professors.

Prior to joining the HLS faculty in 1997, Coates was a partner at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz.

**The quality of mercy explored**

In a lecture titled “Tempering or Tampering? Mercy and the Administration of Criminal Justice,” Steiker, a noted expert on criminal law and punishment, discussed “whether there is a coherent and normatively attractive conception of mercy that is also consistent with the ideal of the rule of law—the fundamental commitment to treating like cases alike.” After reviewing the theoretical, moral, religious, philosophical and even economic arguments both for and against the value of mercy in criminal justice, she concluded that mercy and the rule of law co-exist. “Given the predictability of an ever-upward tending ratchet of punishment within our current institutional arrangements, we need some counter-ratchet, some way of checking this tendency and working against it.”

Steiker joined the faculty in 1992 after practicing as a public defender in the District of Columbia.

**Transactional practices threatened**

In a lecture marking his appointment, Triantis looked at the future of transactional legal practice.

He surveyed the reasons why major U.S. transactional practices have grown robustly in recent decades, including the fact that they have often provided clients with substantial business guidance in addition to legal advice. But he warned that many of the services they’ve rendered are increasingly offered more cheaply by other business professionals. He said law firms should reframe their understanding of their clients to focus on innovative contract design that does what other professionals can’t do as well: anticipate and plan for what happens if and when a deal doesn’t work out—litigation.

A law and economics scholar, Triantis joined the HLS faculty as a tenured professor in 2006, coming from the University of Virginia.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
Andrew Klaber ’09

Mission for the damned
A young entrepreneur builds a startup to aid the neediest

By Emily Dupraz

Last January, Andrew Klaber ’09 was invited to Davos, Switzerland, to participate in the World Economic Forum with the world’s elite business, political and intellectual leaders. In a panel discussion about innovations in leadership, Klaber brought his message of social entrepreneurship to the world stage.

“Throughout history, the model has been to learn, earn and then return,” Klaber said. “People in our generation want to do these things simultaneously—they want to learn while they are earning and give back at the same time, because they want to feel that sense of mission.”

As an undergraduate at Yale, Klaber began trying to figure out how to balance those three goals in his own life. While spending his sophomore summer in Chiang Mai, Thailand, he was shocked by the prevalence of the sex trade. Since a young girl in Thailand can make 20 times more money as a sex worker than she can working in a rice field, poor or orphaned girls often drop out of school and become prostitutes to support family members. Worse, Klaber learned, the young girls he saw walking hand in hand on the streets with “farang,” or Westerners, had often been affected by HIV/AIDS.

Klaber decided to create a scholarship program that would subsidize the cost of sending children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS to school. Today, that program, Orphans Against AIDS, supports 350 children in seven countries in Asia and Africa every year throughout their primary and secondary educations.

Klaber, a Chicago-area native who earned a master’s in financial economics at Oxford and is currently a joint J.D./M.B.A. candidate at Harvard, envisions a career that connects nonprofit organizations with for-profit businesses—a practice he has already begun to explore with Orphans Against AIDS. He has worked with businesses—including Pfizer, Google and Goldman Sachs—to raise the capital necessary to support his organization. And he’s partnered with Tanda Zulu to sell jewelry made by South African women who have been affected by HIV/AIDS, with all profits supporting Orphans Against AIDS. His experience will put his peers in a position to continue sustaining organizations in Asia and Africa every year throughout.

Klaber also works with volunteers—many of whom are fellow students or others working “day jobs” in the private sector—to raise money in the U.S. and find partner organizations in Asia and Africa that work locally to identify and support affected children. He sees this model as one of the organization’s strengths, and he hopes the firsthand development experience will put his peers in a position to continue sustaining nonprofits throughout their careers.

“It’s kind of a three-pronged mission,” Klaber said. “We want to send these children to school, we want to support and build the capacity of the partners whom we work with on the ground, and third, we want to act as an incubator … for young social entrepreneurs.”

Dropouts, girls who have been affected by HIV/AIDS, have the opportunity to go to school for the first time is what keeps Klaber committed. “One of the beliefs I have … is people generally rise or fall to the level of expectations that you have for them. Even a 6-year-old can sense when somebody believes in her.”

Startup words

Social entrepreneurs have been described as “those who see a problem in society and roll up their sleeves to address it in new ways.” According to Alan Amir Ali Khazei ’87, co-founder of City Year, nonprofits are the fastest-growing sector in our economy. At the Celebration of Public Interest reunion (see p. 4) at HLS in March, a panel of social entrepreneurs offered some insights:

“Go for the big idea and believe in it. What’s the worst that can happen? You fail. And if you don’t try, you’re a failed person.” Janet Benshoof ’72, founder and president, Global Justice Center and the founder of Center for Reproductive Rights

“I think if we had waited for funding, we never would have started.” Jessica Neuwirth ’85, founder and president, Equality Now, an organization that protects and promotes the human rights of women around the world

“Find a partner and build a team. Nobody can change the world by themselves.” Alan Amir Ali Khazei ’87, co-founder (with Michael Brown ’88) of City Year, a national organization that engages 18- to 24-year-olds in yearlong community service projects

“You need a long view to get social change going.” Betsy Krebs ’87, co-founder and executive director of Youth Advocacy Center, which helps young adults in foster care advocate for themselves

“Network, network, network.” Earl Phalen ’93, creator of BELL (Building Educated Leaders for Life), a nonprofit organization that promotes education and learning among children in low-income urban communities

Even though Cambridge seems a world away from Chiang Mai, envisioning the faces of the children who have the opportunity to go to school for the first time is what keeps Klaber committed. “One of the beliefs I have … is people generally rise or fall to the level of expectations that you have for them. Even a 6-year-old can sense when somebody believes in her.”

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