Law School loses profs to rival institutions

BY KIM DREILICH

The University of Chicago Law School is undergoing some faculty turnover, with a number of professors departing for other institutions in 2006 and 2007. U. of C. Law professors Philip Hamburger, Tracey Meares, Alan Sykes, Albert Alschuler, and Adrian Vermeule have all accepted new positions.

Sykes accepted a position at Stanford Law School, Vermeule at Harvard Law School, and Alschuler at the Northwestern University School of Law.

In response, a law professor and director of the Bigelow Program and the Legal History Program, has relocated to Columbia Law School, according to the Columbia Law School website.

Meares will move to the Yale Law School in January 2007, according to the Yale Law School website.

The U. of C. Law School administration was unprepared to confirm these departures at press time.

David Strauss, law professor and chair of the faculty appointments committee, said that the increase in faculty departures will not spark a major change in recruitment.

“It is an unusually large number of departures, but I don’t foresee a dramatic change in our approach to hiring, these things tend to even out in the long run,” he said.

Amu Malani, currently a visiting associate professor of law at the U. of C., will join the University full time in the fall from the University of Virginia Law School, said Strauss.

The U. of C. Law School also hired Alison LaCroix, who received a J.D. and Ph.D. in history from Harvard for an entry-level position for the upcoming year, Strauss said.

Strauss said that he expects an offer currently being made by the U. of C. Law School to be accepted. He anticipates that the faculty appointments committee will make more offers in the upcoming months that will likewise be accepted.

The faculty appointments committee is a group of law faculty who search for both hires from other law schools and entry-level hires. The committee also looks for retiring professors to the Law School, who often become hires.

“We learn about potential lateral hires from people on our faculty.”

Law continued on page 4.

New, improved CTA routes in sight

BY JOEL LANCETA

New transportation proposals— including additional and altered CTA routes—are some possibilities that the University is considering for the growing U. of C. campus.

Transportation and Parking Services held a town hall meeting Wednesday at the Biological Sciences Learning Center for staff and students to discuss new commuting initiatives.

The proposed CTA change would add a Red Line/Green Line shuttle that would provide direct service to the El stations, unlike the #58 bus that continues to Midway Airport. The proposed CTA bus will be open to all and will not be free to students.

Brian Shaw, director of Campus Transportation and Parking Services, said that the CTA is examining this proposed route and determining which stops are viable on the proposed shuttle route and how much money it would cost to operate.

The CTA is also considering altering the #173 bus line in order to improve service.

“The #173 is the lowest ridden route in all of Chicago,” said Deb Garil, transit operations administrator for the University. “But its ridership is heaviest during its first runs when people are commuting to downtown in the afternoon, and it’s only available during the school year.

We’re looking to potentially change the #173 to a commuter route—round that services during peak rush hours, not into the night.”

Citing the construction on the Dan Ryan Expressway and the rise of gas prices, Shaw said that the University is trying to make public transportation a more attractive alternative for staff.

The proposed strategy will provide funding for other.

Traveling continued on page 3.

Children of younger moms see benefits

BY ZACHARY BINNEY

Being a young mother might have at least some benefits, according to a new study from the Center on Aging at the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University.

The study found that children whose mothers were under 25 when they gave birth are approximately twice as likely to reach age 100.

The study, conducted by Leonid Gavrilov, a research scientist at NORC, and his wife, Natalia Gavrilova, a research associate at the center, looked at a wide range of data on about 195 centenarians born in research continued on page 3.

Class of ’06 gears up for future after University

BY SARAH HETHERINGTON

With graduation time for the Class of 2006 drawing near, fourth-year have been faced with the inevitable question: “What are you doing next year?”

Not only does the impending job hunt characterize the next step of this year’s graduating class, but it also indicates how the job market intends to greet those who have studied the life of the mind for the past four years.

According to Meredith Dow of the University’s Career Advising and Planning Services (CAPS), “not much has changed” in the job preferences of this year’s group of graduating four-year, apart from a “definitely more active” interest in government jobs on both state and federal levels.

“Perhaps the interest [in government jobs] stems particularly in relation to the war and Hurricane Katrina, but students want to see how they can help out,” Dow said.

Keri Robertson, a fourth-year English Language and Literature concentrator, is one example or a student taking an interest in community-based leadership and service organizations. Robertson will be teaching secondary English to students in grades 7-12 in lower Manhattan for the next two years as part of the Teach for America program.

Robertson learned of the program, which places recent college graduates in teaching positions in underprivileged schools for a period of two years, during her senior year. She plans to take two years off to volunteer before law school.

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Polish art shows its true colors at Smart Museum

The Colors of Identity: Polish Art at Home and Abroad, 1900-1939, a new exhibit featuring more than 60 paintings, sculptures, and drawings from Polish artists, opened Thursday evening at the Smart Museum. The exhibit will run through September 17.
The ‘young mother’ effect on exceptional longevity is surprising to us because it is a new finding, because it is so strong and statistically significant…and because it explains the ‘first-born order’ effect,” Gavrilova said. She added that she had not expected a single factor—in this case the mother’s age—to nearly double a child’s chances of living to 100; she usually sees an increase or decrease of 20 to 30 percent from a given factor.

The researchers want to investigate the “young mother phenomenon” further to determine why it has such a strong effect on a child’s potential longevity while other factors, like the father’s age, have comparably little impact. The researchers are considering a range of biomedical hypotheses. One idea is that a mother’s best eggs are used early in life, so those children born in her younger years have a biological propensity to live longer. Another theory suggests that younger mothers tend to be healthier and less susceptible to infections that could be detrimental to a child’s longevity. Gavrilov and Gavrilova are also looking at a set of social explanations. One possibility, dubbed the “mothering hypothesis,” posits that children of younger mothers are exposed to maternal care and supervision for a longer time than children of older mothers and so are more likely to live longer. Similarly, the “younger siblings support” theory suggests that children of younger mothers tend to have a greater number of younger siblings who can care for them in their old age.

All of these ideas, however, are simply speculation, said the researchers, and further studies are required to untangle all the possible factors.

“The results of this study demonstrate that childhood conditions are indeed very important in determining the chances of exceptional longevity and justify…large-scale research efforts in this direction,” the report concluded.

Gavrilova noted that this and subsequent studies could have a great impact on perceptions of motherhood.

“This may have important social and actuarial implications, because so many women now decide to postpone childbearing due to career demands,” she said.

So should women be rushing to have children straight out of high school or college? Not so fast.

“This is the mother’s choice,” Gavrilova said. “If she is concerned about child health and longevity, then perhaps she may wish to have a child sooner rather than later. All we can do is help to make the mother’s choice become an informed decision.”

As far Gavrilova herself, the results are encouraging.

“I have a daughter, and I was 22 years old when she was born,” she said. “I have never thought about this biographic fact in this context. But now…I think that it perhaps was not a bad idea to be a young mother.”

—CRIME REPORT—

May 22, 8:18 p.m.—A woman was standing in front of Kent Hall when a man snatched her ID holder containing cash and miscellaneous ID cards. The offender is white, between 24 and 35 years old, between 5-foot-7 and 5-foot-8, 165 pounds, and was wearing a dark turban. Police are investigating.

—Ethan Frenchman

Visit http://ccs.uchicago.edu for details!

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