

The Pre-Law e-Newsletter from Pre-Professional Programs & Advising

Best viewed in HTML

Vol. 2, No. 12

Monday, April 13, 2009 – Sunday, April 19, 2009

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1. MESSAGE FROM ANA L. DROSCOSKI, ESQ.

There are some great programs coming up this month. First, there is the Insider's Guide to Law School panel on Wednesday, where JHU alum/current law students will share their experiences. On Thursday there is a lecture, with reception following, by JHU alum Art Eisenberg, the Legal Director of the NYCLU. For more information on these programs, and the D.C. Law School Admissions Panel the following week, check the Upcoming Pre-Law Meetings and Programs Announcements section below. Hope to see you in attendance!

For those who intend to take time off before law school, be sure to consider as many options as possible. The interview in this edition is with Andrew Joyce who, though matriculating to law school this Fall, is currently in Japan teaching English to high school students!

Finally, with all the depressing economic downturn news, it was refreshing to see the editorial With the Downturn, It's Time to Rethink the Legal Profession recently in the NY Times. Though it references some of the bleak affects the financial crisis has had on the legal world, editorial observer Adam Cohen comments that this may be the perfect opportunity to restructure legal education and the legal profession for the better.

Access this link to read more:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/02/opinion/02thu4.html?scp=1&sq=with%20the%20downturn,%20it's%20time%20to%20rethink%20the%20legal%20profession&st=cse>

2. INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT INTERNS, U.S. SENATOR RUSS FEINGOLD (D-WI)

U.S. Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) is seeking qualified and motivated interns to work in his Washington, D.C. campaign office beginning June 2009. Interns will be given a wide array of tasks and are guaranteed to learn a great deal about fundraising and running a campaign for U.S. Senate. Strong communication, research and organizational skills are required, and knowledge of computers is also appreciated. The schedule is flexible, but requires a commitment of 15 - 20 hours per week. This internship is unpaid.

Primary responsibilities:

- Assist the Campaign finance staff with a variety of tasks and projects including, but not limited to fundraising, event/trip planning, data entry and research

- Perform daily office functions, such as answering phones, sending and receiving mail, and relaying messages
- Occasionally attend and assist with campaign fundraising events

If interested, send resume and cover letter to

Traci Haback
 Feingold Senate Committee
 513 Capitol Court NE, Suite 200
 Washington, DC 20002
 haback@russfeingold.org (Email preferred)

3. LAW SCHOOL RECRUITMENT FORUMS: HOW THEY CAN HELP YOU

Law School Forums are a great way to learn more about the application process, as well as specific law schools. The law school forum in DC, held this June, is traditionally the biggest in the country. If you are around this summer – register to attend!

Law School Forums can help you answer these questions:

- What law schools are best for you?
- How does the admission process work?
- What is the best way to prepare for the LSAT?
- How can you finance your legal education?
- What law school opportunities are available for members of minority groups?

Law School Forums are designed to be helpful and informative to all prospective law school students. They have proven to be particularly helpful to people who have been out of undergraduate school for a year or more. For other events of interest, visit LSAC's Events Calendar.

Forum Workshops

Get first-hand advice about the opportunities and challenges of getting into law school. Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Forum 101
- About the LSAT
- The Application Process
- Financing a Legal Education
- Diversity Information Panel (formerly Minority Information Panel)
- What Do Lawyers Do?

For more information, and to register for a law school forum near you, visit:

<http://www.lsac.org/Choosing/law-school-recruitment-forums.asp>

*For tips on how to make the most of your forum experience, access the following link:

<http://www.lsac.org/pdfs/2009-2010/gettingthemostofaforum.pdf>

4. INTERVIEW: ANDREW JOYCE (JHU '08), JET PROGRAMME HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER

Andrew Joyce currently teaches English to Japanese high school students through the The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. Originally from the Boston area, Andrew graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 2008 with a double major in International Studies and Spanish, and a minor in Philosophy. During the fall semester of his junior year, Andrew studied abroad in Spain through the Hopkins Spanish Department program, an experience that he found “fantastic.” Andrew’s activities while at Hopkins included acting as the director of JHUMUNC (Model UN), a co-coordinator of the Hampden Tutoring Society, and the vice president of the National Hispanic Honor Society. Andrew pursued his

current position in Japan after graduating from Hopkins with the intention of learning about and working within a society which he knew very little. He did not take any classes on the Japanese language or culture prior to arriving in Japan.

A current applicant set to matriculate fall 2009, Andrew Joyce is deciding between Columbia Law School, NYU School of Law and the University of Chicago Law School at the moment.

Describe a typical day as a JET Programme High School English teacher.

I arrive at my high school around 8:00 AM. I go to a morning meeting at 8:10, of which I understand very little. I do not speak Japanese very well, unfortunately, and I came here with no knowledge of the language. My school's English teachers will explain to me anything important that I need to know. Afterwards, my day depends on my class schedule. Typically, I have two or three classes per day of about twenty students of sophomores. Sometimes, I have more classes, and sometimes, I have fewer classes. My students are about fifteen or sixteen years old. I teach whatever lesson I have prepared for that particular week, and my classes vary greatly. For example, I have taught students how to order food in a restaurant, how to play Pictionary, how to understand the lyrics of American pop music, and how to go shopping. A Japanese teacher is in the classroom to help translate what I say if my English is too difficult, and we jointly teach the class. Nonetheless, I am the primary teacher, and I do the main planning of my lessons. I do not leave school until 4:00, and in the time I am not teaching, I make my lesson activities, help students with homework or essays, and assist in correcting the English Department's various papers. I stay after school once a week for my English club. Sometimes, I participate in other school activities after 4:00, such as brass band practice.

What types of opportunities did you research? How did you go about your search?

I researched this opportunity chiefly through the Internet. I am on what is called 'The JET Programme—The Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme.' I read about it on Wikipedia, its main governmental site, and various forums and blogs. I did not know anyone personally who had come to Japan like this, but a lot of the sites, especially forums and blogs, gave some great insights into Japan and teaching here.

What made you choose this particular position, and has it met your expectations?

I enjoy teaching a lot, and I did a tutoring program on Hopkins' campus along with volunteer ESL teaching during my summers. I knew I wanted a year before law school to teach for a bit. Basically, it was a chance decision to come to Japan. As mentioned above, I studied abroad in Spain. I was going to teach in Spain for eight months instead of Japan for a year, originally. However, a friend of mine happened to mention that Japan had really good teaching opportunities, and I looked up 'The JET Programme' online. I liked what I read, and I liked the idea of seeing a country I had never experienced. It would be an adventure, especially because I did not speak Japanese. The program also provided a lot more than the Spanish program, such as flights to and from America, a nice reception in Tokyo, Japanese classes, and housing. I was accepted into both the Japanese and Spanish programs, and I decided in the end that I would prefer to experience Japan for a year rather than Spain for eight months.

I would say that it has and has not met my expectations. I came to Japan thinking I would have a lot more free time to travel, like I did while studying abroad. Unfortunately, that has not been the case, as it is very expensive to travel in Japan, and as I have a fulltime job. Teachers do not get the vacation days off that students have, like we do in America, so I have to go to school during my students' winter and spring breaks. This was surprising to me. However, I do feel I am getting a wonderful experience by teaching, something that I really enjoy doing. It feels good to see my students improve throughout the semester, and I like teaching them about America and English.

What do you think you have gained from this position and from taking time off before law school? Given the choice, would you do it again?

There really is no comparison between teaching in Japan and going to law school—by taking a year to teach, I am experiencing a different society firsthand, an opportunity that I would most certainly have never had as a law student or lawyer. Even if I were to live and work abroad as a lawyer, I would think it would have been for an American firm. I work for the Japanese government, so I get a "very real" experience of what it is like to be a part of this culture. Also, living here allows me to interact with people

who are very different from Americans, an experience that I value. I gain personal enrichment, as I learn how Japanese people view and perceive the world, and how they view and perceive me. I would definitely take a year to do this program again, if I had to repeat my decision senior year.

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about teaching English in Japan, the JET program or have additional questions for Andrew Joyce, you may contact him directly via email at ajoyce3@jhu.edu. Andrew also recommends that anyone thinking about teaching abroad check out governmental sites, rather than the sites of private companies.

5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW MEETINGS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Insider's Guide to Law School: JHU Alumni Panel

Location: Shaffer 3

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Time: 5:30p to 6:30p

Description: JHU alumnae Maria Cirincione (JHU '06/International Studies), currently a 2L at University of Maryland School of Law, and Andrea Dodrill (JHU '08/English & History of Art), currently a 1L at University of Baltimore School of Law, will discuss their paths to and current experiences in law school.

Alumni Weekend Lecture* by Arthur Eisenberg (JHU '64)

Location: Hodson 210

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2009

Time: 5:30p to 6:30p

Description: Arthur Eisenberg (JHU '64), Legal Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, will deliver a lecture entitled: "Judges Who Make the Law: The Supreme Court and the Common Law Tradition."

*A reception will immediately follow the lecture from approximately 6:30p to 7:30p, in the foyer.

Mock Admission Panel: DC Area Law Schools

Location: Shaffer 3

Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Time: 5:30p to 6:30p

Description: Admissions representatives from American University, Washington College of Law, University of Maryland School of Law, George Washington University Law School, Georgetown University Law Center will discuss the admissions process, their respective law school, and answer questions.

Upcoming LSAT Administration for 2009

Location: On campus, Hodson 110 or Remsen 001 - check with LSDAS for additional testing locations

Date: Monday, June 8, 2009

Time: Registration begins at 12:30p - consult with LSDAS for all controlling details

STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING

Ana L. Droscoski, J.D., Assistant Director, who advises Pre-Law students:

Walk-ins: Monday/Thursday 10:00a - 11:30a

Appointments: Monday/Thursday 2:00p - 4:00p

Wednesday 10:00a - 11:30a & 2:00p - 3:00p

David Verrier, Ph.D., Director, who advises Pre-Health students:

Walk-ins: Wednesday/Friday 10:00a - 12:00p

Kirsten Kirby, M.S.Ed., Assistant Director, who advises Pre-Health students:

Walk-ins: Tuesday 10:00a - 12:00p & Wednesday 1:30p - 3:30p

The Administrative Coordinators are available to answer questions regarding your file:
Carolyn Mae Krause, Administrative Coordinator, ckrause@jhu.edu 410-516-6744
For students whose last name begins with A-L, contact Mrs. Krause.

LaTonia Sanders, Administrative Coordinator, ladytee@jhu.edu 410-516-4140
For students whose last name begins with P-Z, contact Mrs. Sanders.

Angie Decker, Office Manager and Staff Supervisor, decker@jhu.edu

Please feel free to use the resource library between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. everyday or visit our website
<http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/> for additional information.