

Is the Meaning of Life Academic?

The following excerpt is taken from a speech given by Tony Kronman, former dean of Yale Law School, to BYU law students on February 13, 2006.

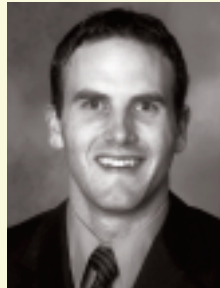
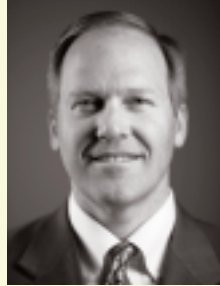
BROADLY SPEAKING, American higher education might be divided into three historical phases. In phase one, every college was the adjunct of a church. College and church belonged together; they were inseparable twins. In phase two, church and college drew apart, but the college continued so long as the tradition of secular humanism retained its vitality and credibility. Colleges continued along with the churches to view themselves as having some responsibility to address the question of life's meaning and to bring their students into a helpful engagement with it. In phase three, the phase that we are now in today, colleges have abandoned that commitment altogether, and the result has been that the responsibility now lies entirely in the hands of our religious institutions. They will never abandon it; how can they? It would be inconsistent with their nature as institutions of a religious kind. But I believe it would be better not just for our colleges but also for the culture at large if the colleges were to reclaim their voice and become again not so much a competitive center of instruction in the meaning of life but at least another and different one. It would make our culture a richer and better place than it is today. So, to the question posed by the title of my talk, "Is the meaning of life academic?" I certainly hope so.



NEW PERSONNEL

Robert T. Smith, '91, is the new managing director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies. Professor Smith previously served as executive vice president and general counsel to CaseData Corporation in Bountiful, Utah, where he specialized in electronic discovery matters. He has worked at the law firm of Kirton & McConkie in Salt Lake City, as well as with large law firms in Chicago and Washington, D.C., and as a CPA for Deloitte & Touche in California and Washington, D.C.

Shawn G. Nevers, '05, is a new research librarian at the Howard W. Hunter Law Library. He and his wife, MaryLynn, and their four children recently moved from Illinois, where Shawn just completed a master of library science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



FACULTY NOTES

Mary Hoagland and Carl Hernandez, '92, have been promoted to senior faculty administrators.

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Professor John Fee has obtained continuing faculty status.

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James Rasband, with James Salzman and Mark Squillace, has coauthored the casebook *Natural Resources Law and Policy 2004*. The teachers manual for the casebook was published this past fall.

Law School professorships have been awarded to the following individuals:

Jim H. Backman	➤ STEPHEN L. RICHARDS PROFESSOR OF LAW
C. Douglas Floyd	➤ FRANCIS R. KIRKHAM PROFESSOR OF LAW
Michael Goldsmith	➤ WOODRUFF J. DEEM PROFESSOR OF LAW
James D. Gordon III	➤ MARION B. AND RULON A. EARL PROFESSOR OF LAW
H. Reese Hansen	➤ HOWARD W. HUNTER PROFESSOR OF LAW
Stanley D. Neeleman	➤ TERRY L. CRAPO PROFESSOR OF LAW
Cheryl B. Preston, '79	➤ EDWIN W. THOMAS PROFESSOR OF LAW
Lynn D. Wardle	➤ BRUCE C. HAFEN PROFESSOR OF LAW
Richard G. Wilkins, '79	➤ ROBERT W. BARKER PROFESSOR OF LAW
Gerald R. Williams	➤ MARION G. ROMNEY PROFESSOR OF LAW
Kevin J. Worthen, '82	➤ HUGH W. COLTON PROFESSOR OF LAW

Law Alumni Fill Church Leadership Positions

Marcus B. Nash, '84, and Stanley G. Ellis, '76, have been called as General Authorities of the Church.

Elder Nash was an Area Seventy in the North America Northwest Area when he was called to the First Quorum of the Seventy. A partner in the Seattle law firm Stafford Frey Copper, he graduated from BYU with a bachelor's degree in international relations before receiving his law degree. He has served the Church as a stake president, bishop, ward Young Men presi-



dent, elders quorum president, gospel doctrine teacher, and full-time missionary. Elder Nash is married to Shelley Hatch Nash, and they have five children.

Elder Stanley G. Ellis was serving as an Area Seventy in the North America Southwest Area before his call to the Second Quorum of the Seventy. He earned a degree in governmental



studies at Harvard University and then graduated with the first class of the BYU Law School. Elder Ellis is the chief executive officer of First Meridian, Inc., an insurance and financial services company in Houston, Texas. He is a former Church mission president, stake president, counselor in a stake presidency, high counselor, counselor in a bishopric, elders quorum president, and ward Young Men president. Elder Ellis and his wife, Kathryn Kloepper Ellis, have nine children.

♦ ♦ ♦

Katherine Pullins, '88, associate dean of Internal and Student Relations at the Law School, has been called as a member of the Relief Society



General Board. Dean Pullins has served as assistant dean of Student and Alumni Relations as well as director of Career Services at the Law School.

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Five alumni of the J. Reuben Clark Law School began three-year services as mission presidents this past July. Called by the First Presidency of the Church, they are accompanied by their wives and, in some cases, their children.

Gary B. Doxey, '84, serves in the Mexico Mexico City South Mission, where his wife,



Deborah, and six children have joined him. Prior to the calling, President Doxey was managing editor of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies at the Law School, where he is a professor of law. He previously served as chief of staff under Utah Governor Olene S. Walker and as general counsel to Utah Governor Michael O. Leavitt. A professor of history as well as law at BYU, he also has taught at the University of Utah. Besides his BYU law degree, he has a PhD from Cambridge University.

Clayton F. Foulger, '77, is president of the England London Mission. He and his wife, Marla, are the parents of six children. Their 17-year-old son, Price, accompanies them.

President Foulger has been active in commercial real estate in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area for more than 25



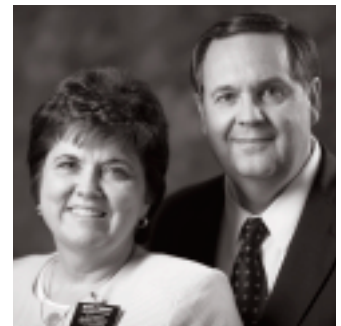
years. In 1978 he joined the Foulger-Pratt Companies in Rockville, Maryland, where he provides management and legal oversight for the development of large building projects. He holds an accounting degree as well as a law degree from BYU.

Michael A. Harrison, '79, presides over the Russia Rostov-na-Donu Mission, and is joined



by his wife, Clyda. They have three children. A retired attorney, President Harrison is a former bishop of a BYU student ward and stake president.

William H. Stoddard, '76, serves in the Illinois Chicago North Mission, with his wife, Carol. They are the parents of



four children. An attorney with Albright, Stoddard, Warnick & Albright in Las Vegas, Nevada, President Stoddard has practiced in the areas of litigation, commercial law, real estate law, and environmental law. He

earned a BA in economics at BYU prior to receiving a JD with the first graduating class of the J. Reuben Clark Law School.

Craig B. Terry, '77, accompanied by his wife, Candice, is president of the Portugal Lisbon



Mission. They have three children, two of whom are married (Tiffany and Travis). Their youngest son, Tyler, just returned from serving a mission and now attends BYU.

President Terry is a shareholder in the real estate, banking, and finance department of Parsons Behle & Latimer in Salt Lake City, Utah. He has concentrated his practice on real property, acquisition, development, financing and leasing, zoning, and land-use law.

SAVE THE DATE

General Conference Reception
October 7, 2006

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Alumni Weekend
October 19-21, 2006

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Orrin Hatch Distinguished Trial Lawyers' Conference
November 11, 2006

Michael R. Dreeben Receives Rex E. Lee Award

Michael R. Dreeben was presented with the Rex E. Lee Advocacy Award at the J. Reuben Clark Law Society Conference in Washington, D.C., on February 17, 2006. ||| An adjunct professor of law at Duke University, Dreeben has served as deputy solicitor general with the U.S. Department of Justice since 1994. His principal responsibility is the review of criminal appellate cases, including briefs filed by the United States in the U.S. Supreme Court. Professor Dreeben has argued more than 45 cases before the Supreme Court since 1988, when he became assistant to the solicitor general. ||| Dreeben holds a BA degree from the University of Wisconsin and an MA from the University of Chicago. He received a JD degree from Duke Law School in 1981 and served as law clerk to Judge Jerre S. Williams of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.



Michael R. Dreeben

Deputy U.S. Solicitor General and 2006 recipient of the Rex E. Lee Advocacy Award



Cree-L Kofford

General Authority Emeritus



Maureen Mahoney

2005 recipient of the Rex E. Lee Advocacy Award

H. Peter Mueller Retires

H. PETER MUELLER'S PROFESSIONAL LIFE AT BRIGHAM YOUNG University has paralleled the planning, completion, and growth of the J. Reuben Clark Law School. After 35 years at the Law School—years of hard work, innovation, and expansion—he retired on August 31, 2006. It was the end of an era.

Peter's life in the West began with his family's escape from East Germany to West Berlin in 1950, when he was six years old. It is a saga of miraculous connections leading them to a new life. They spent a year in a Berlin refugee camp before his parents were flown to West Germany and he and his three-year-old sister were transported by train to a new camp. The family wasn't reunited for four months. In the meantime, Peter found food and shelter for himself and his sister, and he earned money by selling scraps of scavenged brass shrapnel as well as buckets of snails to the French soldiers. In 1952 the children and their parents were baptized by Mormon missionaries in West Germany, the first connection to a new life in the West.

The family left Germany in 1963 for the United States, coming to New York City by ship, under sponsorship of a former German missionary. They arrived in Salt Lake City after a long bus trip, with no money, no jobs, no English, and no place to live. As they stood at the bus terminal, a former missionary from Heidelberg walked past, recognized them, and took them home. Peter got a job driving a truck and met a young woman at a stake dance, Nadine Wilcox Givens, who helped the young German immigrant with English and introduced him to life in the United States.

Peter joined the U.S. Army in 1964 and was sent to Orleans, France, where he met his future wife, Marjorie Farnsworth. They married and came to BYU shortly after Peter was discharged in 1967. Peter earned his bachelor's degree in German literature and his master's degree in library science and was working at the Lee Library in 1971 when President Wilkinson asked him to work on preliminary planning for the law library. He was sent to the Tarlton Law Library in Austin, Texas, to learn the ropes under preeminent law librarian Roy Mersky. Years later Roy and others from major law schools came to BYU to learn from Peter how to automate a law library.

In 1972 Peter began ordering books for the law library to be housed in the St. Francis School, temporary home to the new law school. Receiving a law degree in 1983, he has been assistant law librarian, associate law librarian for technical services, associate law librarian in charge of operations, deputy law librarian, and information systems and business manager, overseeing everything from computer hardware, technology, and support staff to operational budgets. At the time of his retirement, he was manager of information systems/assistant to the dean.

Here are some reminiscences from H. Peter Mueller about his life along the way.



We thought Rex Lee was a Chinese man from northern Arizona. He wasn't afraid to be innovative and to trust his staff. I would go to him with ideas, and he would say, "That sounds great, Peter; where do I sign?"

The Law School was started with a manual Adler typewriter—one I had "borrowed" from the Harold B. Lee Library.

When we started classes at the old Catholic school, St. Francis of Assisi, the students called it "St. Reuben's." The power supply was inadequate, the boiler room leaked, the roof leaked, and the individual heaters leaked.

The first thing the library purchased was the National Reporter System in three sets. Soon the 18-wheelers started to arrive with our new books. We had to set up shelving that we obtained in large part from the navy out of Annapolis. We worked 12 hours on and 12 hours off to set up the shelving.

The Clark Memorandum welcomes the submission of short essays and anecdotes from its readers. Send your short article (750 words or less) for "Life in the Law" to wisej@lawgate.byu.edu.