

FACULTY FOCUS by Kristin E. Etu '91



# 25 a LEGAL LEGACY

THE FRANK G. RAICHLÉ PRE-LAW PROGRAM commemorates  
a quarter century of academic excellence

*"I would advise no student to become only a dry parchment lawyer concerned solely with preparation for the practice of this profession. A rich cultural development through the medium of a liberal arts education, such as Canisius offers, is an essential part of a lawyer's education. Nonetheless, the student's selection of courses within this framework should include those parts of the curriculum that will aid him in the study, and later in the practice, of law. If the establishment of this law center can benefit young men and women who are considering our profession as a career, I will feel well rewarded."*

— FRANK G. RAICHLÉ HON. '68

ABOVE: Frank Raichle and Thomas Headrick, former dean, UB Law School



**S**tacey L. Budzinski '06 was just 10 years old when she realized she wanted to be a lawyer.

"I liked to argue and I could talk for hours on any given subject," recalls Budzinski, a political science/European studies major.

Her parents encouraged her to choose a career that would enable her to positively impact society, so law seemed like a natural choice. Thanks in part to a man she never knew, Budzinski will take a major step forward on her path to practicing law when she enters George Washington University School of Law next fall.

That man is the late **Frank G. Raichle HON. '68** and this spring, the Frank G. Raichle Pre-Law Center at Canisius College, one of the first undergraduate pre-law centers in the United States, marks its 25th anniversary. Although it has been a quarter century since Raichle endowed the center, time has not distorted the original intentions of its founder: To provide pre-professional counseling and advisement; new courses; and extracurricular activities in the field of law that enrich the campus' understanding of the role of law in American society (specifically through the Frank G. Raichle Lecture Series). In addition, the endowment enables eight need-based scholarships of up to \$4,000 to be awarded each year, to juniors and seniors who intend to study law.

"Many pre-law programs may have different aspects of what we do but I don't think very many have the total package" says **Peter J. Galie, PhD**, chair of political science and director of the Frank G. Raichle Pre-Law Center.

Since 1981, several hundred aspiring lawyers have passed through the center's doors, and 120 Canisius pre-law students, like Budzinski, proudly call themselves Frank G. Raichle Scholars. The results speak for themselves. Ninety percent of Raichle Scholars continue on to law school, seven obtained PhDs and three won Fulbright Scholarships.

Frank Raichle was a nationally-recognized Buffalo trial attorney and leader of the American Bar Association. He practiced law for more than six decades and his high-profile client list included General Motors, Paramount Pictures and the Buffalo Bills, among others. But Raichle was probably best known for his brief defense of Roy M. Cohn, the controversial lawyer and close advisor to Senator Joseph R. McCarthy. The 1964 case, in which Cohn was accused of perjury and obstruction of justice, ended in a mistrial (Cohn was later acquitted).

"Frank took unpopular cases from a society standpoint," says Ralph L. Halpern, partner at Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP, and Raichle's close friend and law partner for 28 years. "His theory was that everybody is entitled to the best lawyer they can obtain, otherwise the system breaks down."

Although he never attended a class at Canisius, Raichle clearly understood how a Jesuit education would benefit generations of future lawyers. His admiration for the college was developed during his service on the Board of Regents from 1966-1975. But even after his tenure ended, Raichle remained loyal to Canisius and its values as a Catholic, Jesuit institution.

**Frank A. Sedita III '83** was among the first Raichle Scholars and so grateful for his scholarship

## TOP LAW SCHOOLS WHERE CANISIUS GRADUATES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED:

Harvard • Georgetown • Columbia  
• Duke • University of Virginia •  
UCLA • Cornell • Michigan

Boston College • George Washington  
University • William and Mary •  
Notre Dame



Erin K. Baker '06 takes virtual tours of law schools on the computer in the Raichle Pre-Law Center.



Canisius pre-law students engage in an informal discussion with faculty in the newly expanded Frank G. Raichle Pre-Law Center in Lyons Hall. Pictured (l-r): Eric M. Soehlein '06; Peter J. Galie, PhD, chair of political science and director of the Raichle Center; Stacey L. Budzinski '06; and Robert A. Klump '79, adjunct professor of political science and associate director of the Raichle Pre-Law Center.

## LAW SCHOOL ACCEPTANCE RATES FOR CANISIUS COLLEGE SENIORS:

2000 - 2005 85%  
1995 - 2005 86%



The generous gift from Frank G. Raichle has enabled the college to bring prominent speakers to the campus as part of the pre-law program, including (l-r):

1987 - Hon. *Rudolph W. Giuliani*  
United States Attorney,  
Southern District of New York

1989 - Chief Justice Hon. *William Rehnquist*  
United States Supreme Court

1995 - Hon. *Sandra Day O'Connor*  
United States Supreme Court

1996 - Hon. *Janet Reno*  
United States Attorney General

that he sent a handwritten thank-you note to then Canisius President **Rev. James M. Demske '47, S.J.**

"I received a solid Jesuit education at Canisius that prepared me well for law school and beyond," says Sedita, Erie County Deputy District Attorney and chief of the office's Homicide Bureau. "I especially enjoyed courses taught by Dr. Galie. He taught me a very important skill – how to brief legal cases."

The Raichle Pre-Law Center was in its infancy during Sedita's time at Canisius, as was the pre-law fraternity Phi Alpha Delta (PAD). Today, the club thrives at 60 members. Among its activities is an annual trip to Washington D.C., where members observe oral arguments presented before the Supreme Court, and visit area law firms and law schools. The experience prepares students to commit to the rigors of pursuing a law degree. Beyond commencement, the faculty of the Raichle Pre-Law Center are always willing to serve as advisors.

"It makes sense that we not only assist our students when they are here but help them make important contacts in terms of employment and judicial clerkships," says **Robert A. Klump '79**, adjunct professor of political science, associate director of the Raichle Pre-Law Center and PAD advisor.

Klump helped former Raichle Scholar **Heath J. Szymczak '94, MBA '95** make a contact at the firm of Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP where he is now partner. Szymczak says that Klump and Galie emphasize to students the obligation a lawyer has to the community, a value that was very personal to Raichle.

"They really impress upon students the duty that a lawyer has, first and foremost, to his clients, but also to his profession and to society in a broader sense," says Szymczak, who is a volunteer attorney-coach for the Bennett High School mock trial team. "I think that goes hand-in-hand with the Jesuit principles of service to others."

Public service, law and government were three main interests of **Alisa A. Lukasiewicz '92** while she was a Raichle Scholar. Now corporation counsel for the city of Buffalo, Lukasiewicz says she most values the personal conversations she had with many of the speakers who came to Canisius under the Frank G. Raichle Distinguished Lecture Series.

"I asked Ruth Bader Ginsburg about her experience being a woman practicing law on the Supreme Court," says Lukasiewicz. "That experience, as well as a conversation with (the late) Chief Justice William Rehnquist, has stayed with me."

The Frank G. Raichle Distinguished Lecture Series has featured five Supreme Court justices, as well as former United States Attorney

General Janet Reno, Rudolph W. Giuliani (then U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York) and Fred Graham, CBS News law correspondent. And while the lecture series always attracts a sizeable audience, not all the speakers have been well-received.

"In 1997, John H. Langbein from Yale Law School challenged the entire adversarial system," recalls Galie. "Many prominent local attorneys in the audience were pretty unhappy about his views. But for days after that lecture, it stimulated a lot of questions in the classroom."

In fall 2005, a new and expanded Raichle Pre-Law Center formally opened on the second floor of Lyons Hall. The new center includes an extensive Raichle Law Library, a conference room, faculty offices, a lounge area, a student workspace and a computer area that enables students to take virtual tours of dozens of law schools around the country.

Additionally, a more structured program of new, one-credit courses will be offered beginning in fall 2006 for students interested in law. Those new courses include Getting into Law School: Strategies for Success, Exploring Legal Careers and Basics of Writing for Pre-Professionals.

"During senior year, we work very closely with students to select the right law school, get them through the application process and prepare them for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT)," says Galie.

Budzinski, who hopes to practice commercial or economic law, couldn't agree more.

"I think we reviewed the personal statement for my application 20 to 30 times," she says. "They always made time to speak with me and I also found the resources in the new Raichle Center to be extremely helpful."

The solid foundation of a pre-law education at Canisius College gives students a competitive edge when it comes to getting into law school. According to Galie, national law school acceptance rates are approximately 50 percent. For Canisius students who apply, however, acceptance rates are much higher and students are consistently accepted at some of the nation's top-rated law schools (see page 13).

According to Halpern, these exceptional results bring into sharp focus the vision Raichle had 25 years ago.

"Frank would be absolutely thrilled with the success of the program and the high caliber of law schools that students have gone on to attend," says Halpern, who adds that Raichle practiced well into his 80s because in his day, lawyers didn't retire. "They always had one good case left."

In a way, Frank G. Raichle still has countless cases left because of his Canisius legacy.