‘Tis the Season for Giving!

Here at UofC Law, giving back to the community is central to our faculty’s mandate, and the spirit of giving runs deep within the student body. Although the charitable giving of law students is certainly not confined to this traditionally philanthropic time of the year, anytime is a good time for us to turn our attention toward those less fortunate than ourselves and express gratitude for those who are willing to step up and lend a helping hand. This November we spoke to Jackie Johnson and Owen Clarke about fundraising events that they helped to organize on behalf of the student body. Hopefully reading about their generosity will inspire you to be more generous as well.

Drop-In Centre Winter Clothing Drive

JACKIE JOHNSON, 3L

When we heard that the Drop-in Centre was looking for donations we knew immediately what we had to do. In total, the U of C Faculty of Law donated 230 items of winter clothing. Thank you to all student, faculty, and staff who made Drop-Off at the Drop-In a big success and a special shout out to the people who donated bonus winter items like boots and snow pants!

On Friday November 22nd we dropped off the 76 sweaters, 49 scarves, 37 jackets, 33 pairs of mittens, 32 hats, 3 pairs of boots, and 1 pair of snow pants. All items are sorted by DI Centre Volunteers and placed in their Clothing Store where of course no money is exchanged. Seniors clients will have priority to pick the warmest gear, followed by other clients of the DI Centre.

The DI Downtown is still accepting winter clothing for anyone who missed the clothing drive on campus. In addition, the Centre has a warehouse at 3640 11A Street open 7 days a week that accepts furniture, food, and other clothing. Go to http://www.thedi.ca/donate/di-needs-list/ to see what else you can contribute!

Mustache Cookie Bake Sale in support of Movember

OWEN CLARKE, 1L

For me, Movemeber is an opportunity to have a little fun and support a great cause at the same time. In terms of personal motivation, my dad is a prostate cancer survivor, and as a result my brothers and I have been putting an annual team together since long before I could grow anything that resembles a respectable stache. This year when Trevor Gair approached me with the idea to do a Movember bake sale it seemed like a no brainer.

We raised a total of $192.38 for the day, all of which will be donated to the U of C Law Movember team. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported this event!

Owen Clark, 1L, and Trevor Gair, 1L show of their delicious cookies, which can also double as a sly disguise.
Top 10 Christmas Gifts for Law Students

Are you looking for a thoughtful gift for the law student in your life? Well, look no further. The Moot Times has compiled a list of 10 of the top gifts suited to a legal learner’s lifestyle.

1. Any Carbolic Smoke Ball themed gift - $40 and up
   www.carbolicsmokeball.com
   For the discerning, thoughtful, and possibly nerdy law student. This online store offers items such as Carbolic Smoke Ball key chains, posters, and pen holders.

2. Death Wish Coffee - $19/1lbs
   www.deathwishcoffee.com
   The Strongest. Coffee. In. The. World. Conveniently available in beans, or single serve cups. Put the lead in your friend’s pencil (or maybe even hair on their chest) with this highly caffeinated hot beverage.

3. Portable smart phone charger - $38.99
   http://www.restorationhardware.com/
   Law students are always on the move and need to stay connected. This powerful portable charger can fully charge an iphone in under 2 hours and can extend the life of an iPad for up to 3 hours.

   http://twelvesouth.com/products/bookbook/
   Scotch, the scent of rich mahogany and a leather bound MacBook. Show your law student that they are an important person to you with this hardback leather case for MacBook Pro. Available in Classic Black or Vibrant Red, no two Book Books are alike.

5. Vitamins for Drinkers - $39.95
   www.drinkwel.com
   A healthy student is a happy student. Created by two Berkeley graduates and formulated with the help of several PhD holders, these vitamins help the body to process alcohol-induced toxins, thus improving the general health and well-being of a typical law student.

6. Bed Prism Glasses - $17.79
   www.bedprismglasses.com
   Reading for hours, and hours, and hours, and a few more hours, is a large part of a law student’s life. These cleverly designed glasses allow one to read while lying flat in bed. Excellent for the lazy law student and the strung-out rockstar alike.

7. Whiskey Advent Calendar - $ 299.99
   https://www.kensingtonwinemarket.com
   If you miss the magic of your childhood advent calendars, but not the waxy chocolate pastilles that go with them, we may have something more suited to your grown-up tastes. The Masters of Malt, Whiskey Advent Calendar features 24 different whiskies for you to sample in the countdown to Christmas. Included in the mix is a 50-year-old scotch that normally goes for $600/bottle. Joy to the world indeed!
   Sadly the Kensington Wine Market is already sold out of 2013 calendars, but they are taking preorders for 2014 and if you have connections in Europe or the USA you can still get your hands on a calendar via www.MasterOfMalt.com.

8. Homemade deliciousness - Priceless.
   If you are a law student shopping for another law student, or you just don’t have deep pockets, don’t worry. We understand how tight cash can be at this time of year. Fortunately, the one thing that law students love more than material possessions is homemade food! Cook a batch of something delicious and freeze it in meal sized portions. It will bring tears to their (bloodshot) eyes.

   www.legendarysuitjamas.com
   Law students are a sartorial bunch, so why not give them the opportunity to look polished and professional at all hours of the day? Presenting the Barney Stinson approved suit-pajamas! Unfortunately, these classy suitjamas are only sold in men’s styles (where’s the skirt suit, people?) but it may be just the gift your friend needs.

10. A nickel-plated .45ACP Colt 1911 with a single bullet - $752.00
    Just kidding. Merry Christmas!
Opinion:
Reflections on Andrew Coyne’s “The Alarming State of Canada’s Democracy”

WAQAS IQBAL, 3L

Some six months before the 2013 Merv Leitch QC Memorial Lecture, the event organizers telephoned their lead speaker, renowned journalist and raconteur Mr. Andrew Coyne. “Andrew,” they asked him, “we need a title for your speech. For marketing and promotion.”

As Mr. Coyne recounted the genesis of his talk to a standing room only crowd in the main lecture theatre of Murray Fraser Hall, his main objective at that point, he told us, was to get them off his back. He thought for a moment and replied the lecture would explore “The Alarming State of Canada’s Democracy.”

Fast-forward to the afternoon of November 5, 2013, and his haphazardly concocted title appears intensely prophetic. The happenings at the Senate in Ottawa, at City Halls in Toronto and Montreal, at the National Assembly in Quebec City, among other places, all suggest that he was on to something.

And so, the fuddle duddles of politicians across Canada provided ample fodder for Mr. Coyne’s overarching point: that there is something deeply wrong with democracy in Canada, and we need to do something about it. This clarion call began an engrossing 90-minute lecture that explored the many reasons why, in Mr. Coyne’s opinion, voter-turnout and political participation were at an all-time low.

As the discussion moved from the concentration of power in the hands of the Prime Minister, to the effective neutering of our Members of Parliament, the decline of political civility, the electoral perversions of the first-past-the-post system, and the predominance of corrosive attack ads, one could gauge the effectiveness of Mr. Coyne’s lamentations by watching the audience nod in involuntary agreement, not just knowing but sensing that what they were hearing was important.

By the end of his righteous fury, which concluded with suggestions that Mr. Coyne advanced for fixing our democratic institutions, suggestions that he half-jokingly conceded “would probably never be implemented,” one could sense by the crowd’s mood that these were not the isolated apprehensions of a witty but misguided rabble rouser. It became clear in the ensuing question and answer period that nobody really disagreed with anything Mr. Coyne had said.

But the unanimity is not absolute.

The first matter at issue is Mr. Coyne’s concern about the decline of civility and decorum in Parliament. Civility as a concept is near to us as members of the legal community, and many have commented on its decline in the courtroom. Here, too, the matter is not straightforward. Professor Alice Woolley, an authority on legal ethics, noted at a December 6, 2012, panel discussion in Toronto, “The belief that you can have appropriate zealous representation and also punish lawyers when they don’t say things in the right way is naive and foolish.”

She echoes this position in a forthcoming paper, where she argues, “the civility movement envisages a narrow conception of the ‘good lawyer’ and risks reifying a patrician model of advocacy.” More worrying, “civility regulation has the potential to chill proper advocacy, particularly for vulnerable clients” (emphasis added).

It is by combining Professor Woolley’s insights with Mr. Coyne’s commentary that one can see the faint outlines of a class-based analysis. As Professor Woolley noted at the panel discussion, “If you look at the civility cases, you do not see lawyers from government, you do not see lawyers from the large commercial law firms, you do not see lawyers from the more frankly powerful aspects of the profession.”

It seems, after all, that what the University of Toronto and London School of Economics graduate, and son of the second Governor of the Bank of Canada, is calling for is a return to the golden age when politics was within the exclusive purview of the leisureed classes—to use Aristotle’s terminology. To be sure, vitriolic exchanges would have been très gauche in an environment where Members from all sides emanated from the same stagnant and parochial social circles, and would retire at the end of a long debate to the same clubs and smoking rooms. This is, in my view, the real trade-off implied by Mr. Coyne’s concern over the decline of Parliamentary civility.

Turning from one of Mr. Coyne’s ‘problems’ to one of his ‘answers,’ namely the implementation of mandatory voting, I am reminded of the recent and eloquent ruminations on not voting by comedian-cum-commentator-cum-revolutionary Russell Brand. Is his now viral interview with British journalist Jeremy Paxman, Mr. Brand explained that voting amounted to “tacit complicity” with a ruling class that was so utterly disconnected from the needs of “the people,” there was no point in participating in the ongoing charade of democracy.

It is interesting, then, to consider that both Mr. Coyne and Mr. Brand mourn the same disconnectedness between the political class and the average voter, yet their prescriptions are diametrically opposed. The former would require that every adult step up to the plate and vote, while the latter would have us walk away in the other direction. Both men ultimately sound alarm bells over the state of democracy in the Western world, yet their disagreement on even this basic question suggests how much more work is needed if we are to properly embark on the long, hard road to democratic redemption.
Procrastination is something we all deal with to varying degrees, particularly during exam season. Active procrastination is the best kind of procrastination because in the end at least you have something to show for it – a clean room, a delicious meal...a closet organized according to the Newtonian color spectrum (ROYGBIV ya’ll!). As the good folks at Suvivelaw.com have pointed out, baking is an activity particularly well suited to law students for this purpose, as it has downtime built in – you have to wait for your dough to chill, your bread to rise, etc. – time which you can use for revision.

Not only will you have channelled your restless energy into something physical and therapeutic, you will still get some work done and you’ll have something delicious to eat or share with friends and family. Everybody wins!

**Quinoa Cookies**

**Submitted by Lauren Zaoral**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/3 cup water</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/3 cup quinoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cup butter, softened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1/3 cups packed brown sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 large eggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1/2 tsp pure vanilla extract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 cups whole wheat flour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1/2 tsp baking powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tsp baking soda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tsp ground cinnamon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 tsp salt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1/4 cup quick-cooking rolled oats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cup flaked unsweetened coconut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/3 cup sunflower seeds, unsalted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/3 cup flax (ground or whole seeds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/3 cup sesame seeds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bring the water and the quinoa to a boil in a small saucepan. Reduce to a simmer, cover, and cook for 10 minutes. Turn the heat off and leave the covered saucepan on the burner for an additional 6 minutes. Remove the lid and fluff with a fork. Set aside to cool.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease a large baking sheet, or line it with parchment paper.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cream the butter with the brown sugar in a large bowl. Add the eggs and vanilla and mix thoroughly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt in a medium bowl. Add the oats, cooked quinoa, coconut, sunflower seeds, flax, and sesame seeds to the flour mixture and stir until well blended. Combine with the butter mixture and stir until well mixed. Roll the dough into 1 1/2” balls. Place 2” apart on the prepared baking sheet. Flatten each cookie slightly with the palm of your hand. Bake on the centre oven rack for 8 to 10 minutes, until the bottoms are light brown. Allow the cookies to cool completely on the baking sheet. Store the cookies in a sealed container in the refrigerator for up to a week.</td>
</tr>
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**Chocolate Dipped Shortbread Cookies**

**Submitted by Lauren Zaoral**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2 cup sifted confectioners’ sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 teaspoon vanilla extract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 cups all-purpose flour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 cups miniature semisweet chocolate chips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tablespoon shortening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 cup finely chopped walnuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease cookie sheets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cream together butter and confectioners’ sugar until smooth. Stir in vanilla. Mix in the flour, and then one cup of the chocolate chips. Shape dough into 2.5 inch logs. Place logs 2 inches apart on prepared cookie sheets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bake for 10 to 13 minutes in preheated oven, or until firm. Let cookies cool completely before removing from pan (shortbread is brittle).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melt the remaining 1 cup chocolate chips and shortening over a double boiler, stirring frequently until smooth. Dip one end of each cookie into the chocolate, then into the nuts. Place onto waxed paper until set.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cinneful Buns

**SUBMITTED BY MARCO MADURI**

**Ingredients:**
- 2 tsp yeast
- 1/2 cup warm water
- 5 eggs
- 1/4 cup sugar (white)
- 2 cups sugar (brown)
- 10 tbsp butter
- 6 oz buttermilk
- 4 cups flour
- 1.5 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp cinnamon

**ICING:**
- 1/4 cup cream cheese
- 3 tbsp milk/buttermilk
- 1.5 cups icing sugar

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Let yeast, warm water, and a pinch of sugar sit for 10 minutes to activate yeast.
3. Combine 4 egg yolks and 1 egg with 6 tbsp melted butter, 6 oz buttermilk.
4. Add in yeast mixture.
5. Add 1/4 cup sugar and then flour as needed (~4 cups).
6. Allow to rise until doubled in size.
7. Punch down, allow to rise again (it might try to bite your ear off).
8. While you wait, combine 2 cups brown sugar, 2 tbsp cinnamon, a pinch of salt, and 4 tbsp butter (or more if, you know, you want it to taste even more better).
9. Roll out dough.
10. Paint that mother-$#%@! with butter and sugar!
11. Roll, slice, and place in pan. (If time allows, let them rise in the pan. It makes a difference!).
12. Bake until golden brown (~30 mins)
13. Frost and serve or just take them to the couch and eat them on your own because you don’t need “friends”.
14. Extra filling or icing can be saved for a few days or poured directly into your face hole.

Buttermilk Cluster Rolls

**SUBMITTED BY JULIANA CLIPLEF**

This delicious gluteny treat is a bun-bread hybrid. In addition to looking fancy and tasting great, the style makes it so individual sections can be torn off the loaf instead of being cut, making it a perfect choice for fancy dinners and running-out-the-door-in-the-morning snacks.

Makes 12 to 18 portions depending on roll size.

- 6 - 6 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tbsp salt
- 2 1/2 tsps instant yeast
- 1 tbsp warm water
- 1 3/4 to 2 cups buttermilk
- 1 tbsp honey

**Egg-wash glaze:**
- 1 egg beaten with 1 teaspoon water

**Directions:**

Grease spring form pan and set aside.

Combine flour and salt in a large bowl. Combine yeast and warm water in a small cup and allow to proof for 10 minutes.

Add the yeast mixture, buttermilk, and honey to flour mixture. Mix well.

If the dough too dry, add more buttermilk or water.

If the dough is too sticky to knead, add more flour (1 tbsp at a time).

Knead for about 10 minutes, until the dough becomes soft and elastic.

Place dough ball in bowl and cover with damp cloth, put in a warm place and let rise until the dough doubles in size, approx. 90 minutes.

Divide the dough into 12 to 18 equal balls and arrange them in the greased spring-form pan, so that they look nice.

Cover again and let rise again for approx. 45 minutes to an hour.

After you have set the buns aside for the second rise, preheat the oven to 425F.

After the bun-loaf has risen, brush the tops with the egg wash mixture until completely covered. At this point you can also sprinkle the buns with a topping such as oats, seeds or cracked wheat.

Bake for approx. 30 minutes, until the tops are golden brown and the rolls spring back when tapped.
Elephant Task: Improving Access to Justice in Canada
How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.

Dana Martin, 2L

Twenty years ago, Dr. Buckley and her colleagues would have said that Legal Aid in Canada was in crisis. Today, she argues, it’s worse. It’s hard to marshal statistics to help illustrate the situation, but here are a few:

One hundred percent of Canadians will experience a legal problem in their life, with or without the assistance of competent counsel, and this problem may severely affect their finances, freedom and personal relationships. Twenty percent of the population—typically, those already facing a host of disadvantages—will experience eighty percent of the problems.

For every forty dollars spent on public healthcare in Canada, one dollar is spent on legal assistance. Maybe that’s why we rank 54th out of 66 countries in one study of civil legal services.

Part of the problem is that access to justice is a largely invisible issue. It’s politically low-profile; no one takes ownership for it. Efforts at resolving issues are poorly coordinated; resources aren’t managed properly, and there are no mechanisms in place for measuring change. The result is a system of compounding problems: inability to afford legal services requires a layperson to represent themselves in civil matters; taking time away from their regular employment and family commitments. Self-reps appear in court feeling like the judge and opposing counsel are speaking a foreign language. They achieve less-than-optimal outcomes in court, and describe the experience, overall, as devastating.

Dr. Buckley encourages us to get involved. Think systemically; act locally, she advises. Get involved in A2J initiatives like your student legal clinic (hey, SLA), or the Elizabeth Fry Society. Your expertise, as she demonstrated, is desperately needed. If not us, she asks, then who? If not now, when?

If you are interested in the topic, the Canadian Bar Association has undertaken a study of equal justice. There’s a summary report published online that you can access at the CBA website. The Canadian Forum on Civil Justice has studied access to justice in Alberta specifically through their Alberta Legal Services Mapping Project; also available in full online.

Dr. Melina Buckley is a legal policy consultant with extensive research experience about access to justice worldwide. She spoke at the University of Calgary on Tuesday, November 26th.
**Sports update: a semester in review**

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**Hockey League A**

**Bruce Graham, 2L**

**Team Captain**

Breaking news! The Ambulance Chasers won the A League - again!* Bolstered by a strong contingent of first years, including Quin “I’ll add your little sister to Facebook” Winton, the team got off to a remarkable start this season going undefeated for...well...the whole season. At one point the Chaser’s streak appeared to be lost when the team took a year high 15 penalties in a single game and was slapped with an automatic forfeit by the League for breaching the maximum of 11. But, in this moment of darkness, Co-Captain Jason Haley proceeded the lawyer the shi*t out of them successfully arguing that since this rule was not posted online the Chaser’s win should stand - which it did. But success on the ice came at a price. Patrick “Patty Dangles” Keogh was sidelined with a concussion while co-captain Bruce “Puck Stepping” Graham managed to break his ankle 15 feet away from the play. Looking to the future, the team is really excited to attend the annual Edmonton tournament in January. Veteran Chasers defenceman and renowned puckhog Nigel Behrens was even quoted as saying “they have the best hospitals there!” In the meantime, you miss 100% of the shots you choose not to take...or something like that.

*Authors note: This article was written before the actual championship game on Sunday, December 1st. I really, really hope we won.

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**Hockey League C**

**Jonathon Ward, 2L**

**Team Captain**

The Ambulance Chasers had a lot of ups and downs this year, but we started to get the chemistry going towards the end of the season. Despite goalie controversy, and Alex ‘Goonshow’ Darling’s disregard for off-sides and roughing, we managed to finish just below .500 at 3-4 thanks to a strong 1L recruitment class and Alex Parken leaving it all on the ice in between the pipes. We had a great crop of 1L recruits and built on our already sterling reputation for talent development, sending Paul Reid up to the big leagues and seeing Pete Stransman get his first semi-pro goal in over a decade. If anyone’s interested in playing and can stand the pressure of scout-filled stands we could always use an extra body or two for our championship run next semester.

Cheers,

Jonathon

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**Volley Ball Division A**

**Jason Haley, 2L**

**Team Captain**

Coming off consecutive intra-mural championships, our juggernaut of an A team experienced something very unexpected early this season - we lost! And then we did it again... and again. At 0-3, playoffs were looking like an unattainable goal. However, we finally got our act together and snuck into playoffs, thanks in part to 6'8” first year middle Simon Lidster finally learning how to hit a ball over a girls height net as well as the intimidation factor of almost 5'8” left-side Geoff Costeloe who has taught us that there is no such thing as too much anger. Huge props to Emily Stanhope for learning how to play volleyball in 10 minutes prior to our first game and to call-up ringer Tara Russell, both of whom were instrumental this season. With a strong first playoff game in the books, the A team is poised to continue the string of championships that will one day line the hallways of MFH.

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**Men’s Basketball Division B**

**Jay Wilkins, 3L**

**Team Captain**

It was a difficult start to the season for the Chasers, having lost a few key players to exchange and graduation. With only 2 players returning to the court from previous years, it took a huge turnout from the 1st year class as well as some new additions from 3rd year to fill out the roster. Although it took the team some time to gel considering all of the new faces, the Chasers improved steadily over the course of the season and finished with a respectable 3 and 5 record, falling just short of the playoffs. With the return of some seasoned veterans from exchange and the continued hard work of the newly developed team, the hope is to hit the playoffs running next semester and return to championship glory. One thing is for sure, the future of Ambulance Chasers basketball is safe in the hands of our 1st and 2nd year players."
Believe it or not, there are about 50* people in our faculty who aren’t looking forward to the end of the semester. These people are our friends in 3L, who have been cavorting around the globe for the better part of the last 4 months on “academic” exchanges. As our wayward friends contemplate the imminence of their return home, some of them have been sober enough to share their experiences. Their reflections on the best parts of exchange are compiled below. My envy is palpable.

Reflections from a four-month vacation semester abroad:

Life as a law student in Calgary vs in Hong Kong

**Melanie Pituch, 3L**

1. Toilets:
   Calgary: You avoid the cursed stall on the second floor of MFH.
   Asia: In Malaysia you are forced to use a squat toilet. In Japan you discover the bliss of a 10-setting computerized toilet with a heated seat.

2. Long Weekends
   Calgary: Go skiing.
   Asia: Fly to Bangkok for $100 round trip. Stay at $5/night hostel and enjoy $7/hour street-side massages.

3. Food
   Calgary: You enjoy delicious Alberta steaks, cook at home and enjoy the occasional food truck meal.
   Asia: Hong Kong is a foodie heaven, with over 50 Michelin-starred restaurants, so you eat out every day. It has everything - from greasy street food to fresh sushi and exotic fruit (go durian!).

4. Classmates
   Calgary: You belong to a group of interesting students who work hard, play hard and happily share CANs. U of C is the best!
   Asia: There are no CANs and students are protective of their notes, but they enjoy practicing their English with you between memorizing every word the professor says.

5. Going Out
   Calgary: You spend two hours trying to get into the National, and end the night at Ducky’s.
   Asia: You grab a drink at 7-11 and hang out on the streets in Lan Kwai Fong until around midnight, when you head to an unmarked ‘secret’ French salon-themed lounge, bar hop to a prohibition-themed lounge for $20 cocktails and finish at a 30th floor rooftop bar with a view of the HK skyline.

6. Accommodations
   Calgary: You share a reasonably affordable apartment with a friend.
   Asia: You pay a ridiculous amount for 170 square feet and a ceiling that flakes paint onto your bed. Bonus - you have to walk through a jewelry store to get into your apartment.

**Delna Contractor, 3L**

I’m all about brevity, so here it is.
Look at your 3L year, now look back at mine. Now back to your year, now back at mine. Sadly, you’re not enjoying your year as much as I am. But if you slowed down your pace, traveled across Europe on the weekends and met students from across the globe you could have had my year. Wash away the 3L boredom.

* 50 is a totally random guess.
** Shut up Delna.

Delna Contractor, 3L and Mike Selnes, 3L in Istanbul.
Top 5 things I learned while on exchange

Brandon Rasula, 3L

1. Don’t bother learning to speak the native language of the country you’re in, everyone speaks English. If someone’s response is, “Ich spreche kein Englisch” or “Je ne comprends pas l’anglais”, they’re lying.

2. Notwithstanding number 1, if you meet someone who ACTUALLY doesn’t speak English, shouting what you’re saying helps (NB, over the top hand gestures are also useful). Make sure to shout at the end, “LEARN TO SPEAK ENGLISH”. This advice will be received with appreciation by them and everyone around you, who are all thinking the same thing.

3. Unless Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and a maple leaf are on a country’s currency, it’s not real. It’s Monopoly money. Treat it as such.

4. The courses you are taking, such as “Rule of Law in Northern Africa” and “Differences and Similarities of Tort Law in Switzerland and Austria” are directly applicable to your corporate firm job, and don’t let anyone tell you otherwise.

5. Going on exchange is all about learning and adopting the culture of your host-country. If Gluhwein/Gløgg/Mulled Wine is being served somewhere on campus, it would be disrespectful not to bring a glass to enjoy in your lecture. Same holds true for local beers and all national liquors.

My Favourite Memories from Exchange

Isabel Romeral, 3L

What can be said about exchange, other than it was the best experience of law school! Being able to study law in another country and develop friendships with law students from the United States, France, England and other parts of the world was such a valuable experience.

The ability to travel to 10 countries in 4 months also surpassed anything I could have imagined. There really was an opportunity to experience a bit of everything, in spite of the short amount of time. The lively atmosphere of Oktoberfest, the sobering reality of the Dachau concentration camp and the beautiful mountain scenery around my temporary home in Lucerne, Switzerland, are among my most vivid memories. Some other amazing memories include shopping in the Christmas markets in Paris, going to hockey games in Salzburg, exploring the ancient ruins in Rome, hitting the beaches in Spain and attending the opera in Vienna.

Isabel Romeral, 3L and Reid Yester, 3L in Budapest.
Profile of a 2L

Name: Elizabeth Weisenburger.
Hometown: Nanaimo, BC.

Undergraduate studies: Political Science Major and a Film Studies Minor from UVic. Then a Feminist IR Theory MA at McMaster for grad school.

Pre-law employment/volunteer experience: I worked at the oldest tobacconist in western Canada, as a tour guide at the Parliament in Victoria, as a TA at McMaster, and a support worker at a women’s shelter.

Exam Rituals: I listen to Jay-Z’s “Public Service Announcement” a couple times on the train. If I can be 5% as confident being Beth Weisenburger as Jay-Z is being Jay-Z, I can do anything.

What do you do to keep sane? Stay calm, drink whiskey while watching Netflix in the bath. Law school isn’t real life.

How so? The stresses aren’t real. They’re artificial. An exam is stressful but it’s not real stress...nothing REALLY hangs in the balance. It’s not like you’re wondering if you can make rent or your health is failing. It’s just a test…it’s not that serious.

You should try telling that to the 1Ls. I try all the time.

On to something with “real” consequences. What can you tell us about your upcoming role as the Student Director of SLA? I’m really excited! SLA has been the best part of law school for me and I’m really excited to give back. I’m really empathetic, and that’s a big part of what I want to do.

How do you think clients and students can benefit from more empathy? Empathy is central to advocacy, because if you don’t believe in/care about/understand where your client is coming from you can’t do a very good job representing them. It shows.

For students, I had a really hard time in first year adjusting to law school. So I understand the struggles involved in balancing law school and extra curriculars and your life. I’ll know where SLA members are coming from.

So, on January 1st (your first day in office), students can expect that you will… I’ll probably lie on my couch and question all the decisions that led to my hangover. But after that, I’ll just try to keep things going. SLA is amazing and I think the first little bit will just be me getting my bearings and making sure I can keep what generations of U of C law students built afloat until I am comfortable enough to try to bring more “Weisenburger” goals in.

Good luck! Now, to continue to provide the hard-hitting journalism we’ve come to be known for, I’ve got to ask: Would you rather see a ghost or an alien? The ghost of?

How about Patrick Swayze? From “Roadhouse”?

Great flick! It’s my favourite 80s movie where [CENSORED] … tracheotomy! So GOOD. When he [CENSORED]… jugular!

Anyway, I was thinking “Ghost” might be more appropriate? Probably an alien. I was always on Mulder’s side.

Oh. Ok. Well, this thing isn’t going to censor itself…
Profile of a 3L

Name: Andrew Lau
Hometown: Calgary
Undergraduate studies: Electrical Engineering
Pre-law employment / volunteer experience: Admin assistant at financial planning firm. Volunteered with urban programs in Hamilton and short-term missions in China.
Exam rituals: Stop studying at 10PM the evening before an exam, watch TV and sleep at 11. Winding down and getting enough sleep does wonders. After it’s all over, have some really delicious food to celebrate.
What do you do to keep sane? Head out to a coffee shop / pub with friends and talk about anything that is not law-related. Photography.
What do you do to procrastinate? Oh man, what don’t I do? I’m usually on Reddit and blogs for far too long. I play videogames. I’ve also been known to go on Netflix binges during exam season. My most productive procrastination habit is editing my backlog of photos, which is backed up because I procrastinate.
Plans for the break? Sleep, fattening up at Christmas parties, and skiing.
The world needs more: Selflessness
Book you think everyone should read: The Alchemist
Your biggest fashion faux pas: Socks and sandals in junior high. Yeah I was that guy.
Any advice for 1L’s? Always remind yourself why you came to law school. Keep taking inventory and assessing whether you’re on the path you intended to be on. Be open to change while staying true to yourself. I should start writing fortune cookies.
What’s your idea of a perfect day?

Biking around a new city taking pictures, meeting new people, learning about the place, and eating really good food.

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