



HEART INITIATIVE SPIRIT DRIVE CONFIDENCE SKILL



An Introduction to The George Romney Institute for Law & Public Policy



AT ADRIAN COLLEGE
ADRIAN, MICHIGAN

OUR GOALS

The George Romney Institute for Law and Public Policy will work to weave legal and public policy considerations into the academic fabric of Adrian College. Specifically, the Institute will enhance pre-law and graduate opportunities for students, increase opportunities to study legal and policy issues, bring speakers to campus, promote interdisciplinary exploration of law and public policy and explore the opportunities for practitioners and academics to work together on these issues.



HISTORY

The Institute is named for George Romney, former governor of Michigan, presidential candidate and past Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in President Nixon's cabinet. He had a special relationship with Adrian College. He visited the campus numerous times. During his gubernatorial reelection campaign in 1968 he spoke to 600 Adrian College students who gathered on short notice just to hear what he had to say as it was a defining time in our nation's history.

Romney, who ended up winning reelection in a landslide a short time later, asked those students to "consider doing something valuable for mankind or face the possibility of losing the liberties and values you hold dear."

In 1974 Mr. Romney gave the commencement speech to 245 students. During that address, Mr. Romney stated that it was most important to "take our citizenship seriously, that we work for a better, more responsible government."



2011 – 2012 SPEAKER SERIES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2011, 6PM

Charlotte Black Elk, Attorney and Activist
TOPIC | [What the Constitution Means to the American Indian](#)

OCTOBER 24, 2011, 6PM

Hon. Stephen J. Markman, Michigan Supreme Court
TOPIC | [On the Coming Constitutional Debate](#)

NOVEMBER 14, 2011, 6PM

Hon. Gregg P. Iddings, Lenawee County Probate Court
TOPIC | [Bullying in Schools and Cyberspace](#)

JANUARY 24, 2011, 6PM

Kathryn McCarthy, Assistant United States Attorney & Public Corruption Unit Chief, Eastern District of Michigan
TOPIC | [Contemporary Drug Policy and Enforcement](#)

FEBRUARY 6, 2012, 6PM

Jessica Mehl, Assistant Dean for Admissions, University of Toledo College of Law
TOPIC | [How to be an Ethical Lawyer](#)

MARCH 7, 2012, 6PM

Ryan Dreveskracht, Author and Civil Rights Attorney
TOPIC | [How to Approach Civil Rights in the 21st Century](#)

APRIL 11, 2012, 12PM

Heidi Beghosian, First Amendment Scholar
TOPIC | [Constraints on Dissent: First Amendment Limitations in Contemporary America](#)



MEET THE DIRECTOR

Nathan Goetting, MA, JD

Professor Goetting has a MA in Philosophy from Western Michigan University and taught philosophy at Grand Valley State University from 2003-2008 while earning his law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School with a Concentration in Constitutional Law & Civil Rights.

While in law school he completed (and eventually published) a directed study supervised by Prof. Philip J. Prygoski on the First Amendment jurisprudence of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes titled "A Fate Too Horrible to Contemplate: Justice Holmes and the Perpetual Conviction of Eugene Victor Debs." He has since published more than a dozen writings on legal issues, many dealing with the constitutional rights of American Indians, and has served as Adjunct Professor in Federal Indian Law at his alma mater, Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Professor Goetting's experience with government, law and public policy is not limited to the classroom. While in his last year of law

school he worked as an intern in The Innocence Project, whose purpose is to apply the latest methods of DNA testing to evidence that may exonerate wrongfully incarcerated inmates in Michigan prisons. In this program he worked on eight rape and/or murder cases, studying police and medical reports, drafting legal documents, visiting incarcerated clients, and otherwise immersing himself in the details of this charged legal and political issue. More than just working to set innocent prisoners free, this experience allowed him to consider up close how, even in an enlightened system of justice like our own, people can sometimes be convicted of crimes they have not committed.

Professor Goetting has also worked as a teacher inside the Michigan Corrections System. While a part of The Community Working Classics program at the Muskegon Correctional Facility he and a group of professors from various disciplines at Grand Valley State University introduced a new model of prison reform that sought to reduce criminal recidivism by bringing a classical liberal arts education to inmates convicted of violent crimes. He has taught Plato, Dostoyevsky, classic films and other great works to convicts who have expressed a willingness to improve themselves.

PRE-LAW PROGRAM

Adrian College offers a pre-law program for students who plan to continue their studies in law school. It is generally agreed that future lawyers need to be very broadly educated and that there is no one pattern of undergraduate preparation which is ideal for everyone who is planning to attend law school. Each student should select a major or majors which will encourage development of orderly work habits and which will sharpen the ability to think, to reason and to state ideas clearly.

Students are encouraged to meet early in their undergraduate careers with the Director of the Romney Institute for Law and Public Policy, Professor Goetting, so they can craft a course plan that best meets their needs and helps them learn more about the resources available to pre-law students here at Adrian College. The individual attention provided by our program assures that students will be acquainted with important concepts that will be helpful in law school while allowing students maximum flexibility to select the rest of their studies on the basis of their personal interests and aptitudes.

The two universal law school pre-requisites—good reasoning skills and good writing skills—can be developed in numerous courses in diverse majors across the curriculum here at Adrian College. The best attributes students can bring with them to law school are the ability to think critically, solve problems correctly, and write eloquently.

These attributes can be cultivated by taking the courses listed below.

Recommended courses for all pre-law students include:

- Accounting/Business Administration 203 Principles of Accounting I (3)**
- Accounting/Business Administration 204 Principles of Accounting II (3)**
- Accounting/Business Administration 305 Business Law (3)**
- Criminal Justice 265 Legal Research and Case Analysis (2)**
- Criminal Justice 362 American Courts (2)**
- Criminal Justice 366: Criminal Law (4)**
- Philosophy 105 Logic (3)**
- Philosophy 201 Introduction to Jurisprudence (4)**
- Philosophy 331 Philosophy of Law (3)**
- Political Science 101 American National Government (4)**
- Political Science 102 State and Local Government**
- Political Science 394/Criminal Justice 394 Constitutional Law I: Government Powers (4)**
- Political Science 395/Criminal Justice 395 Constitutional Law II: Civil Liberties (4)**
- Communication 300 Argumentation and Debate (3)**
- Communication 302 Persuasion (3)**

For information on how to join the pre-law club contact www.adrian.edu/institutes/Law-Public-Policy/director.php



Pre-law students Alyssa Allen and Elizabeth Watts with Professor Goetting and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Robert Young

NOTABLE STUDENTS & ALUMNI



MEGAN BOELSTLER, AC CLASS OF 2011

Megan Boelstler graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor of Art in Sociology and Spanish. She will begin law school in the fall of 2011 at Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington, Indiana, where she

earned an academic scholarship.

At Adrian College, Megan was President of Alpha Chi Honors Society, Vice President of Chi Omega, Alpha Chi Honors Society, Vice President of Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honors Society, Vice President of the Pan-Hellenic Council, Public Relations Chair of the Feminist Empowerment Movement, and a volunteer literacy coach at the Adrian Commu

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nity Preschool.

"I have chosen to attend law school because I think it will be the best way for me to utilize my strengths to accomplish my goals," Megan writes.

"My professional goal is to work in the field of international public interest law, an area that will allow me to be an advocate for equality and human rights on the international level."

"Adrian College has helped to prepare me for law school by providing assistance through the admissions process and by guiding me throughout my four years. When I received my letter for admissions from Indiana University, the Assistant Dean for Admissions wrote a note praising my letters of recommendations—a clear demonstration that not only do the faculty of Adrian College care about their students but also that they invest their time and energy as mentors. Their support and guidance have helped to give me the confidence to pursue my goals. Having professors that I truly respect and who know my capabilities has motivated me to work my hardest and to challenge myself to meet their expectations. Taking advantage of the many opportunities at Adrian to get involved, such as participation in student organizations and studying abroad, has helped me to grow as a leader and as a person."



CHRISTINA KUSS, AC CLASS OF 2011

Christina Kuss has been accepted into the Thomas M. Cooley Law School and will begin her course of study there in the fall of 2011. Christina majored in Criminal Justice. She was involved in numerous

student organizations, serving as President for Alpha Kappa Delta, the sociology honors society and Vice President and Historian for Alpha Phi Sigma, the criminal justice honors fraternity. "Law school is something that I have considered since high school...I would love to work at a small law firm. I hope to either practice criminal law or family law as I am currently interested in both. However, my ultimate goal is to help people," Christina writes.

"Adrian College has prepared me for law school in many different ways," says Christina. She credits her AC-sponsored internship with Lenawee County Probate Court Judge Gregg P. Iddings, the challenging pre-law curriculum and sound academic advising with preparing her for the study of law. "[M]y internship with the Probate Judge was a wonderful opportunity. I learned so many things through my internship that I don't think can be taught in a classroom setting. Second, Adrian's pre-law classes were demanding, yet fun. I learned a lot. Also, the faculty were always encouraging and there to help."



HOLLY LOWE, AC CLASS OF 2011

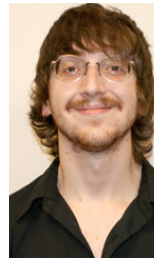
Holly will begin law school at the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law during the Fall 2011 semester. She was a history major, political science minor and a member of Phi Alpha Theta while at Adrian College."

decided to attend law school because I like learning new things...for the excitement of it," Holly writes. "My professional goals are to work in a large firm practicing corporate or international law."

"AC prepared me for law school in many different ways. Starting with the application process the staff here at Adrian has been very helpful in giving advice on how to write a personal statement and what law schools are looking for. The classes that I have taken have helped me improve my public speaking skills and writing skills to a point where I enjoy talking in front of groups of people, and feel comfortable with my writing skills. Throughout various different courses here at Adrian College I have learned how to take a stance on a certain position and defend it. I think this will help me in law school as well."

SEAN MURPHY, AC CLASS OF 2011

Sean Murphy, a double major in philosophy and criminal justice while at AC, has been accepted into the Thomas M. Cooley Law School with a 100% tuition scholarship. He plans to begin his course work there in May, 2012. He hopes to one day be a professor, either in philosophy or law. Sean was involved in multiple honor societies at AC. "After taking Philosophy of Law, I decided I wanted to learn more about how legal systems function in practice. I started taking criminal justice courses and learned a great deal about the law from them," Sean writes.

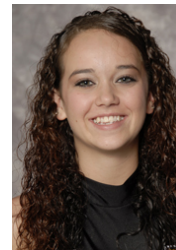


ALYSSA ALLEN, AC CLASS OF 2011

Alyssa Allen has been accepted into the University of Michigan Law School and will begin her course of study there in the summer of 2011. Alyssa majored in

Business Administration with minors in Political Science and Psychology. She was involved in numerous student organizations such as the Adrian College Dance Team, Chi Omega sorority, Circle K, and the pre-law club. "I decided to attend law school because I find the law fascinating, and I knew that getting a law degree would open many doors for me in my future career path," Alyssa writes. She would like learn more about the practice of law before choosing which area of the profession to pursue. "Although I am uncertain of the specific type of law that I would like to practice in the future, I am interested in both corporate and criminal law and I envision myself working for a large law firm after graduation."

Alyssa credits the diverse instruction she received at Adrian for her law school admissions success. "I feel that Adrian College helped me get into law school by emphasizing a well-rounded education. I took numerous writing-intensive courses, and I believe this helped me on the LSAT as well as writing my personal statement. Also, many of my classes emphasized critical and analytical thinking, and I believe that this also aided me during the LSAT application process."



JUSTINE SYLVESTER, AC CLASS OF 2010

Justine graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice with a legal track concentration. She is beginning her first year at Thomas M. Cooley Law School this fall, where

she earned an academic scholarship.

While at Adrian Justine was President of Alpha Phi Sigma (the criminal justice honor society) and Vice-President of the Pre-Law Club. She was also a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Chi and the dance team. "My professional goals are changing as I learn more about the law," Justine writes. "At this point, I know that I hope to become an associate attorney at a firm and eventually share my enthusiasm for the law through teaching."

"Adrian helped prepare me for law school through the courses that were implemented in the curriculum shortly after my first year at AC. The legal track has several courses that dive into some of the fundamental skills that law school requires its students to possess and teaches you how to cultivate those skills. Not only were the courses helpful in preparation for law school, but having professors that have had the law school experience there to help guide and coach you through the application and admissions process was very beneficial. Their experiences gave us trusted testimony of what to expect and what to prepare for."



JENNIFER HOSTETTER, AC CLASS OF '09

Jennifer graduated in 2009 with a degree in Business. While attending Adrian she was a member of Alpha Phi, Phi Eta Sigma, motor board and the dance team.

She is now in her second year at Indiana University Maurer School of Law, in Bloomington, Indiana. She hopes to eventually practice in the area of family law. "I feel family law is one of the areas where you can truly help people. I also would like to work with and/or for the kids one day. I worked with the Department of Child Services for Indianapolis and really enjoyed assisting getting children the help they needed."

"I feel that Adrian College prepared me for law school in a number of ways. First, the professors helped tremendously, especially when it came to prepping for the LSAT, filling out applications, writing letters of recommendations, and writing my personal statements. Without assistance from professors and my advisor I would have been in the dark throughout the application process. They were also very encouraging throughout the entire year. A lot of the pre-law classes taken at Adrian helped during my 1L year by giving me a starting base for all my classes. I also feel that the smaller class sizes at Adrian allowed for better student-professor interaction and was similar to what I experienced my 1L year."

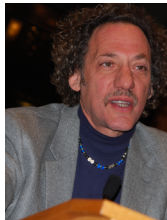


PROFESSOR MICHAEL DEWILDE, Director of the Business Ethics Center at Grand Valley State University

During his April 15, 2011 visit to Adrian College Professor DeWilde shared the story of his bold and widely discussed experiment in prisoner rehabilitation in a talk titled "Race and Education in the Prison system: Teaching the Humanities in the Michigan Department of Corrections."

In 2005 Prof. DeWilde received a \$200,000 grant from the Kellogg Foundation to provide a humanities-based university-level education, which he called the "Working Classics Program," to violent offenders, many of them convicted murderers, at the Muskegon Correctional Facility in Muskegon, MI. One of the hopes of this project was that inmates would come to reform their behavior and lead better lives through academic training in philosophy and the liberal arts. During the course of the program prisoners studied a wide range of subjects over a period of years, including 19th century American and Russian literature, economics, avant-garde cinema, the U.S. Constitution and, of course, ethics.

The project was originally designed with only African-American male inmates in mind. However, halfway through it was shut down on order of the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) until it was reorganized to include inmates of all races. In his talk Professor DeWilde discussed the politics of race in the prison system, highlighting both his original decision to offer the program exclusively to African-American inmates and then to modify it in the face of pressure from the MDOC. He also shared some of the many joys, sorrows, successes and failures he experienced teaching some of the world's greatest books to some of the world's most unlikely pupils.



DAVID GESPASS, President, National Lawyers Guild.

On Friday, March 11, 2011 Mr. Gespass gave a presentation titled "Human Rights vs. The Bill of Rights," which explored the extent to which an 18th

century constitution can bring justice to a 21st century world. Mr. Gespass graduated from the American University—Washington College of Law in 1970 and during the course of his practice has been involved in countless legal cases of great political and social consequence, including the recent highly publicized free speech case of Marc Hall, an Iraq war veteran who was jailed and discharged from the army for writing violent rap lyrics. Mr. Gespass is a prolific author and has published writings on a wide array of legal, political and social issues.

ROBYN GOLDBERG, STAFF ATTORNEY, The Northwestern Innocence Project

On February 4, 2011 Ms. Goldberg spoke to the Adrian College community on her successful effort as a member of the Michigan Innocence Clinic to win the release of an inmate who had served nearly ten years in prison after being wrongfully convicted of murder. Ms. Goldberg prepared and delivered the winning oral argument in this case while just a second-year law student working under the supervision of her professors at the University of Michigan Law School. Ms. Goldberg discussed the subject of wrongful convictions generally, how and why they occur and what is being done to limit their number.



ATTORNEY JEREMY POINDEXTER, The Tousey Law Firm, Greenville, SC.

On January 14, 2011 Mr. Poindexter gave a presentation on the legal rights of those with cognitive challenges and special needs. Mr. Poindexter worked in politics for many years, including service on the staff of former Michigan governor John Engler and U.S. Congressman and Adrian College Alumnus Mike Rogers. However, his life and career changed dramatically in 2006 when his son Calvin was unexpectedly born with Down Syndrome. Mr. Poindexter has since devoted much of his life and legal practice to advocacy and understanding on behalf of those with cognitive challenges.



DEAN JOAN VESTRAND, Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

On November 17, 2010 Dean Vestrand, who presides over the law school's newly opened (and fast-growing) Ann Arbor campus, visited Adrian College to give a presentation on ethics in the legal profession to a packed crowd of students, staff and faculty.

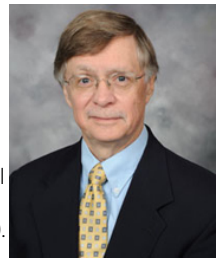


PROF. STEVEN DULAN, Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Professor Dulan teaches a Gun Control Seminar at Cooley where he is also faculty advisor to the Cooley Chapter of the Federalist Society. Professor Dulan is the author of numerous books on standardized test-taking and is an active member of MENSA. On October 13, 2010, Professor Dulan gave a presentation on the Second Amendment and gun policy in light of the Supreme Court's recent controversial decision in McDonald v. Chicago, a case that greatly redefined the right to "keep and bear arms" in America.

PROF. PHILIP J. PRYGOSKI, Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Professor Prygoski delivered the George Romney Institute for Law and Public Policy's First Annual Constitutional Day Address September 17, 2010. The Romney Institute



plans to host a renowned scholar and/or public figure to address the college on a constitutional issue of contemporary concern every year on Constitution Day. Professor Prygoski is a former administrative law judge for the State of Michigan Board of Licensing and Regulation. He has taught at Cooley since 1977 and has written prolifically on legal issues over the years. His constitutional law study guide, Sum and Substance Quick Review on Constitutional Law, is widely used throughout the country and is now in its 14th edition. Professor Prygoski spoke on the First Amendment Rights of Students.



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