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## Greetings from Bloomington

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
Maurer School of Law  
Bloomington

# Greetings from Bloomington



Spring has finally arrived here, and the campus is simply beautiful. The weather matches our mood and the bullish excitement about the school's future. While the national sentiment on lawyers and law schools seems mixed, here no doubt exists about our momentum.

In this issue of *ergo*, we celebrate student accomplishments and show, in a small way, the impact and difference our faculty and alumni are making in the world. Our school is a place for people who want to make a difference, who are fascinated about learning, and who know the benefits and rewards of hard work. That's so clear right now as our students dig in and gear up for the end of the semester and as we extend offers of admission to next year's entering class.

The school continues to attract some of the most talented in the nation. Admissions for this fall's entering class (the class of 2017) are holding steady, even as the number of LSAT takers nationally has fallen by as much as 11% over last year. While we have been inoculated this year from the challenges faced by some schools, we're not resting on our laurels. We have implemented an aggressive new admissions strategy that involves developing deep relationships with select institutions. The [Rose-Hulman scholarship program](#) (see below) is just one example of this.

We also are making gains with our unwavering commitment to ensuring our students get jobs. The last few years have been tough as the recession and changes in the large firm law market have meant that fewer entry-level positions exist. But the investment in our students and programs is paying off. We remain one of the leading examples of a school that prepares students for what law firms, corporations, and public service organizations want, by focusing on professionalism and hands-on learning. It begins in the first year with our nationally recognized legal profession course and continues throughout the upper division in our projects, externships, and clinical programs.

This year, we increased the nine-month employment number in the all-important *U.S. News and World Report* categories by almost 15 percentage points over the class of 2012. We have more to do, but we're moving quickly in the right direction.

In this issue, you'll also get a taste for how our faculty contribute to a first-rate learning environment. We've long been able to boast having some of the most talented professors in the nation -- they are skilled educators and eminent scholars who make a difference in the classroom by drawing on their passion for teaching and the insights gained from their research. Our faculty's work keeps us connected to novel issues of legal practice. Their books and articles influence the laws legislatures write, the decisions judges make, and the way law schools teach students. You can read below about five of our faculty who have excelled in the classroom and see what our faculty are working on in the [Faculty News](#) section.

Lastly, I wanted to thank you. I am grateful for your generosity and your support. Your gifts to the Fund for Excellence, our unrestricted annual fund, are at \$882,000. You will be hearing from your class agent as we move into the home stretch of the fund's annual goal of \$1.1 million by June 30. Your support is essential because it enables us to reduce the cost of education. This year, only because of alumni support, were we able to provide a median scholarship grant of \$20,000 to 91% of our students. These opportunities allow our graduates to do great things. The four distinguished alumni whom we profile below, the most recent inductees into the school's Academy of Law Alumni Fellows, are the best illustration of that.

Since I arrived at the university in January, I have been given such a warm welcome. I have had the privilege of visiting with many of you at receptions and in individual meetings in Chicago, Florida, Indianapolis, New York, Washington, DC, and of course here in Bloomington. I have met with more than 300 alumni in receptions and more than 100 of you personally. The future of the school is tied closely to our alumni, and I look forward to meeting more of you in the months ahead.

[Austen L. Parrish](#)

Dean and James H. Rudy Professor of Law