

Helvidius

after college and particularly older students are advised to also obtain letters from employers. According to Laurretta Tremblay, the first step in the admissions process consists of selecting the most promising quarter of all the applicants. Thus, an applicant would do well to remember Lise's observations.

Yale Law graduates are in high demand and can be found in a variety of fields. The catalog reports that of the 1990 graduates who responded to Yale's survey, 47 percent went on to judicial clerkships, 39 percent took jobs at law firms and business organizations, and eight percent and five percent respectively went to jobs in the public sector and academia.

Yale Law School encourages its graduates to enter public interest and academic fields by offering the Career Options Assistance Program (COAP). COAP assumes students' repayments of law school loans in exchange for their entering low paying academic and public interest fields.

Yale Law School is very impressive, but inevitably has its share of drawbacks. Zina Shaffer, the registrar and director of financial aid conceded that Yale Law suffers from a shortage of classroom space.

In nearly every aspect which one could consider in choosing a law school, Yale Law School has formidable assets. Its prestige and reputation are among the highest in the US. Its faculty and student body are highly accomplished and successful. Yale Law also offers a creative and challenging curriculum. Thus, a prospective law school applicant, aware of the toil and expense, would be well advised to apply to Yale.

Yet, I was struck by other qualities at Yale which were difficult to categorize. I arrived unannounced and late in the day at Shaffer's office to find someone who welcomed me and made herself available to answer my questions. In response to my question about the unique qualities of Yale she offered that "a sense of family and warmth," is an integral part of the experience. The warmth and friendliness of Yale had indeed been a prominent yet virtually unnoticed part of my visit. I had fully expected the members of the administration and Lise to be friendly, but I was impressed by their warmth and candor. The students with whom I spoke at random during our tour were equally enthusiastic and friendly. Yale Law School is an especially compelling choice to anyone considering law school because in addition to its obvious assets, there also exists a sense of community and warmth, qualities which can't be gained through money or prestige.

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Law School Profile: Duke University in North Carolina

By Pamela Yee

After experiencing an undergraduate education at Columbia University, you know what you liked and disliked about it. These preferences should be part of the criteria by which you choose your future law school. Most would probably agree that the prestigious, intellectual atmosphere at Columbia suits their tastes, but you may feel that being part of a large student body in an urban university is no longer appealing.

Duke University Law School, located in Durham, North Carolina, offers an excellent alternative to the student who seeks a slower-paced, rural atmosphere but wants to enjoy the reputation of a great university. Duke's rigorous and intellectually rich environment is augmented by the personal attention students receive as a result of the small student body. This Fall's entering class was composed of 195 students. Bernard Yee, a 1986 graduate of Columbia College and a Duke Law graduate of 1989, agrees that the small student body at Duke "contributed greatly to the learning process because it enabled the faculty to be more accessible."

Competition has been a fixture at the Duke; students entering in the Fall of 1991 had particularly impressive credentials. The mean GPA was 3.65 with a LSAT of 44. Duke Law claims, however, that their small and sometimes informal classes stress academic collaboration rather than competition. One might expect a southern school to have a more relaxed atmosphere than a school in an urban area; Duke is probably somewhere in the middle—not too relaxed and not too cut-throat.

Academic life at Duke is excellent not only due to the intelligent student body, but the distinguished faculty as well. Brian Castello, a 1986 graduate from Indiana University and a 1989 graduate of Duke Law, said, "The faculty at Duke were high caliber and, unfortunately, underrated." Faculty members hold not only J.D. degrees, but degrees in philosophy, psychiatry, economics, religion, political science, and history. A number of faculty are scholars in fields such as federal banking, ethnic conflict, and feminist legal theory. Students are encouraged to take part in this diversity by pursuing joint-degree programs in public policy, business, philosophy, history, and economics.

The Law School is a member of the Research Triangle, constituted of Duke University, North Carolina

State University, and the University of North Carolina. Both Yee and Castello believe that although Duke Uni-

As a whole, [Duke] students were "conservative and very corporate law and big firm minded."

versity is part of the Research Triangle, Duke Law School is "extremely separate" from the Universities. Mr. Castello said that although the Duke administration may boast about its affiliation with the Research Triangle, it is, in fact, "no part of the great University like the brochure said." Contributing to this separatism are the inadequate physical facilities of the school itself. The small law building is sharply contrasted by the beautiful surrounding architecture of Duke University. "There are plans for expansion and renovation in the next couple of years," says Barbara Sheridan, acting assistant director of admission for Duke Law. "We are currently raising the money to do that," she said.

The lack of on-campus housing for law students also isolates them from the rest of the University. Students often live with the locals in Durham and find housing in apartment complexes, while others rent houses with their classmates. The proximity of these accommodations helps to alleviate the alienation that graduate students often feel from one another.

Law students, while noted for their studiousness, must have some life away from academics. They have the opportunity of mingling with the undergraduates of Duke University, but may not always want to avail themselves of that option. Castello found that many undergraduates are "pretentious, obnoxious people with a lot of money." Similarly, Yee found the social life unsatisfying, saying, "The social scene was lousy. It consisted of frat boys and sorority girls." "It can sometimes become very high school-ish," contended Castello. Yee agreed saying that it often times students were "cliquish and immature."

The Duke brochure asserts that the law students are a heterogeneous group from many different states and colleges. This claim seems specious: 47 percent of the students entering this Fall were from the South, 59 percent of students were male, 41 percent female, and only ten percent minorities. When asked how a Columbia University undergraduate education was valued in the admissions process, Barbara Sheridan replied, "We really like Columbia," although less than three students from Columbia University were accepted this Fall. Duke sent 24 undergraduates this Fall, while other Ivy League schools, such as Harvard, Princeton, Cornell, Yale, and Pennsylvania, matriculated more than three students each.

Admissions standards are high at Duke. The

admissions staff considers the student's LSAT score, GPA, and undergraduate institution attended to be the most important criteria. In addition, they consider extracurricular activities, volunteer work, internships, and recommendations.

In considering what he or she wants to do after law school, the student should consider Duke's solid reputation. "The education you get there is wonderful, and you have a great ability to go places from Duke," Castello said. Most graduates from Duke Law end up working in the Northeastern section of the United States. "They seem to encourage a profession that is corporate law oriented," stated Yee. As a whole, he found the students were "conservative and very corporate law and big firm minded." There are, of course, other options, such as judicial clerkships and public service. Although 70 percent of the students who graduated from Duke Law in 1991 went into private law firms, almost 20 percent were employed in federal and state judicial clerkships.

Every law school has its flaws, and Duke definitely has its share. What is ultimately important in law school, however, is how your mind will be shaped. Duke's excellent faculty, great reputation, and small student body more than compensates for its poor physical facilities. Duke is a great school that should seriously be looked into.

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Review of the Law School Forum

By Kim Abraham

Don't know what to do with your life? Feeling that your undergraduate Pre-Professionals-R-Us institution has left you with limited career possibilities? With actual employment opportunities looking grim (recession) and no chance at entry into medical school (no sciences), you seem faced with one obvious choice: Law School.

You are floundering in a sea of possibilities as your mind swims with questions. What do you do? You could have done what many other people floundering in the same sea do: attend the Law School Forum at the Vista Hotel, recently held in mid-September of this year.

You enter the large double doors that may possibly contain the answers to your questions and prayers. The prelude to the forum is an open room full of tables, behind which lurk Law School Admission Services (LSAS) agents ready to accost you with questionnaires