Thursday, June 17, 2021

11:00-11:50 AM    Mindfulness Start

Crafting a Positivity Portfolio
Need a positivity recharge after a challenging academic year? Join Professor Heidi K. Brown in a creative activity: Crafting a Positivity Portfolio. In this activity, suggested in the book Positivity, by psychologist Barbara Fredrickson, we each will choose one positive emotion to focus on, such as joy, gratitude, serenity, interest, hope, pride, amusement, inspiration, awe, or love. Next, we will collect physical items from our personal space that invoke the chosen emotion (like postcards, photos, bookmarks, thank you notes, etc.), creating a “portfolio.” Professor Brown will share how this “positive psychology intervention” can help enhance our mental, emotional, physical, and social well-being. If interested, please check out this blog by Heidi K. Brown that describes the process: Conscious Minute #2. A Jolt of Positivity (and Awe) | by Heidi K. Brown | Medium.

Tai-Chi
Led by Sam Machado of Machado Martial Arts

Guided Meditation
Led by Shailini George

12:00-1:30 PM    Plenary II

Irma Herrera performing “Why Would I Mispronounce My Own Name?”

2:00-2:50    Concurrent Sessions

Maize & Blue Track (250 minute presentations)
Confronting the Non-Neutrality of Law to Create a More Inclusive Classroom
Margaret Hahn-Dupont

When we fail to identify the legal system’s complicity in creating racist structures, we risk alienating our students of color. Raising the law’s racist history helps to create a more inclusive and critical classroom environment, giving voice to the lived experiences of our students of color and paving the road to reform.
From Aspiration to Action: Teaching in a Pre-Law Outreach Program
Liz Frost & Megan McAlpin

This presentation will discuss two professors' experience designing and teaching a legal writing course for a prelaw undergraduate program. They'll share what they taught, what they learned from students and will do differently next time, and how you might get involved in a PLUS program.

Victors Track (25 minute presentations)
Depression in Law Students: What Can You Do? What Should You Do?
Joan Rocklin

Law students suffer from depression. In a class of 40 first-year students, 13 will suffer from depression. You don’t know who they are, but they are there. This presentation will provide basic information about depression in law students and provide an open forum to discuss how we can help.

Ensuring the Wellbeing of BIPOC Students While Addressing Issues of Racial Justice in the Classroom
Stevie Leahy & Carol Mallory

Well-being, equity, and inclusion of law students are currently being impacted by twin pandemics: the global COVID pandemic and the effects of systemic racism. This presentation will consider how to advance the well-being, equity, and inclusion of BIPOC students in light of these challenges.

Leaders & Best Track (50 minute presentation)
Confronting Our Culture: Transforming a Culture of Caste to a Culture of Leadership
Debra Austin

This presentation examines culture, organizational effectiveness, and the neuroscience of leadership; critiques legal education practices that preserve hierarchy and perpetuate systemic inequalities that pervade the legal profession; and recommends innovations to transform our mission into the education, preparation, and development of the diverse leaders society needs.

Big House Track (50 minute presentation)
A Different World? Culture, Professional Identity Formation and Authenticity in the “Antiracist” Law School
Renee Nicole Allen, Tiffany Atkins, & Danielle Tully
Law students and professors negotiate their intersectional identities within law's white spaces. Traditional law school curriculum and culture perpetuate white dominant norms and place uneven and often stifling burdens on members of the law school community to conform. This panel explores these barriers and the opportunities to reshape the cultural norms perpetuating them by consciously fostering and supporting authentic professional identity formation.

*Law Quad Track (50 minute presentation)*
**Dinosaurs Get Schooled: Tips and Tricks to Improve Online Teaching and Ensure Equity in the Online Classroom**
*Katherine Brem, Catherine Cameron, Ericka Curran, Erin Donelon, Joy Herr-Cardillo, & Allison Martin*

Join members of the ALWD Online/Distance Education Hy-Flex Subcommittee to discuss tips and tricks to teaching successfully in a virtual (or Hy-Flex) world. Come and chat with us about what we love and what we love to hate!

**3:00-3:50 Concurrent Sessions**

*Maize & Blue Track (50 minute presentation)*
**Healing Interventions: Disrupting the Legal Writing Canon**
*Elizabeth Berenguer, Lucy Jewel, & Teri McMurtry-Chubb*

This presentation previews the authors' book project on comparative and critical legal rhetoric. We will explain how comparative rhetoric and critical rhetoric can be used to understand how the law perpetuates and reinforces systems of privilege and power. We can then deploy this new form of rhetorical knowledge to interrupt and disrupt existing systems.

*Victors Track (50 minute presentation)*
**A Culture of Well-Being: Helping Students Be Well and Do Well**
*Heidi Brown, Olympia Duhart, Shailini Jandial George, & Rosario Lozada*

This panel will discuss the need to create a culture of community, connection, and well-being in legal education as well as specific, concrete steps to help build that overall well-being in your law school and in your classroom.

*Leaders & Best Track (25 minute presentations)*
**Empowering Women to Make Rain: The Advocacy Course as Catalyst for Authentic Business Development**
*Torree Randall*
Women remain underrepresented in equity-partnership roles at large firms, in no small part due to perceived inability to develop business. Join our discussion about methods for skill transfer from an advocacy course (which teaches authentic persuasion) to the often-intimidating task of business development (which requires—you guessed it—authentic persuasion).

Hierarchies of Elitism and Gender: The Bluebook and the ALWD Guide
Steven Homer

The choice between The Bluebook and the ALWD Guide to Legal Citation is a choice that gives effect to hierarchies of gender and elitism. It may seem like a small choice, but it has a synecdochical relationship to the academy and the profession’s general devaluation of expertise developed by women.

Big House Track (25 minute presentations)
Creating an Upper-Level Research and Writing Lab
JoAnne Sweeny

This presentation details the creation of an online asynchronous research and writing skills "lab" to be used in conjunction with any course that satisfies the upper-level writing requirement. It also provides examples of successes and setbacks, as well as specific assignments and exercises.

How to Engage Non-Traditional Students in the Legal Writing Classroom
Jane Grisé

This presentation will discuss the challenges and barriers faced by student veterans that are typical of challenges faced by non-traditional students. It will offer suggestions for best practices in working with these students in the legal writing classroom.

Law Quad Track (25 minute presentation)
The Goetz Case: Lawyering about Race and Crime
Howard Bromberg

We will examine excerpts from the appellate briefs in the case of People v. Goetz (1986). Goetz, the “subway vigilante,” alleged self-defense in shooting four African-American men on the New York subway. We will discuss the rhetorical and jurisprudential strategies the briefs employ to treat this racially charged case.

4:00-5:00 PM    Social Activity

ALWD Guidebook Launch Party
LWI’s Global Legal Writing Skills Committee invites colleagues to engage in an informal conversation about the challenges and benefits of teaching an increasingly global student body, especially in the context of adjusting to a pandemic and expanded online teaching. If your students include international JD or LLM students, and you are interested in sharing ideas, please join us!

6:00-7:30 PM    Conference “Gala” Comedy Night

*The performers have requested that you please turn your camera on if you are comfortable.

Featuring:

Andrea Coleman, Senior Trial Attorney, Comedian, and Actress & Liz Glazer, Comedian, Writer, Actress, & Former Law Professor