The Career Development and Law Practice Center continues to transform into a stronger department. Director, Monique M. Garsaud, J.D. ’97, hit her one year mark in late February 2013. Long-time counselor, Amy Schwarzenbach, departed recently and Kendra Glazer, J.D. replaced her. Kendra obtained her juris doctor from Southern Methodist University and has 7+ years of experience in tax litigation. Another long-time counselor, Heather Lambert, transferred to the Skills Department assist with externships. She was replaced with Diana Mercer, who obtained her juris doctor from Loyola and has almost 10 years of private practice experience. In addition, long-time receptionist, Li Seghers relocated to the main campus. She has been replaced by long-time employee, Kathleen Bertin, who is welcoming to our students and has contributed many new student-centric ideas to the Center.

The theme for this academic year remains the same as last - the Center’s success and the students’ success are interchangeable. Through one-on-one relationships with students, and the 1L convocation, we seek to engage each student early in his/her law school career time to begin the discussion about how to develop a career. We view our roles not only as resource providers, but as good listeners tasked with asking probative questions as each student is unique with individual needs.

Last year, the Center streamlined our approach to counseling students by assigning counselors to individual students, such that each student has the same counselor throughout the student’s duration at the law school. This has led to a deeper and more meaningful relationship between the student and his/her counselor. As a department, during the school year, we meet weekly to review protocol, discuss student challenges and address any issues that have been brought to our attention by the administration or students.

We continue to utilize the CSO Interfase system (“CSI”), a web-based product that enables the Center to streamline and automate processes, including student/employer data, resume building, employment listings, important employment deadlines, mass emailing, and surveys. Ms. Bertin just completed a week of intensive training on CSI in Austin, Texas and has brought back many ideas to utilize the system further. In CSI, we have created student profiles for each student that contains notes regarding each counseling session. This enables us to track the career development of each student.

We are also returning to old fashioned methods of communication by erecting bulletin boards in the Broadway Activity Center and the main law school building, on which we will post employment and scholarship opportunities.

The Center is continuing to create a protocol of “what to do” and “available opportunities” for each year in law school. For 1Ls, this is accomplished through the convocation. We hope to partner with the Student Bar Association to sponsor similar programs for second and third year students.

Our student traffic has picked up. Last year, we created a student lounge within the Center that provides coffee/snacks, a comfortable location to study and printed resources for career building.
We continue to monitor employment statistics as posted by the ABA, NALP and other entities for the local area and nationally. The entry level job market continues to shrink. We continue to support the administration’s efforts to produce practice ready students by developing as many relationships with potential employers, both legal and non-legal, who can provide our students with meaningful work during their law school tenure.

Last, we have implemented several cost-cutting measures in the office. We have canceled subscriptions to many books, publications, etc. that are no longer relevant or available on-line. We also encourage each other and our students to utilize available electronic means, in lieu of hard copies, to review materials and communicate. Also, we have reduced the number of conferences and fairs that each counselor attends, limiting it to 1 or 2 per year. In addition, the counseling staff has been reduced in hours. Ms. Glazer is part-time, working 30 hours a week. Misses Douglas and Mercer have been reduced to 10-month employees.