1. Enrolment for the academic year 2007-2008 reached 319 and has been the largest in the history of the College of Law. This was caused by my decision to make a number of extra offers in May in anticipation of losses that might be cause if a serious storm occurred during the summer. It turned out that there was no storm and nearly all the extra offers were accepted.

2. As with the previous year we experienced a very low attrition rate. The combination of a large class and a low attrition rate lifted the total school enrolment over 800 students.

3. During the fall of 2007, the College of Law prepared for the ABA-AALS sabbatical site accreditation visit. A vital part of this preparation is the production of a self-study prepared by the faculty and staff. From a decanal point of view the highlight of the self-study was the enormous difference between its tenor and that of the previous self-study. Overall, the faculty and staff expressed considerable satisfaction with the operation of the college, and the de-briefing by the site team reiterated this fact. The final report has not yet been received. The tone of the de-briefing indicated that re-accreditation is not in doubt.

4. 2007-2008 saw the introduction of our LLM program with four students enrolled. Two students came from Venezuela, one from Serbia and one from the Philippines. Two completed their degree requirements in May and the other two will complete in December.

5. Following a request from the State Attorney General, the College of Law submitted an application to receive funds in order to establish a Construction Dispute Mediation Center to solve disputes between householders damaged by Katrina and builders who carried out reconstruction work. Our bid was successful, two mediators were hired, and students were able to use their classroom training to solve real problems. There was insufficient space at the law school to operate this clinic so it has been housed on the first floor of the Dominican Conference Center.

6. The past year has seen the various Moot Court teams achieve outstanding results. Out of the fourteen teams that competed in various categories there were two national champions, one international champion, and four division winners. It appears that the direct consequence of our national success has been an improved reputation among judges and the practicing bar as measured by the U.S. News and World Report.
7. The improved general reputation of the school has made for an exciting hiring year. Two tenure track hires were made, both with outstanding credentials and both were sought by highly ranked schools.

8. Throughout the year the College of Law has hosted a number of national conferences. An Environmental Law Conference, Indigent Defender Conference, Property Law Conference, Civil Law Conference, Entertainment Law Conference and an international conference of Association Henri Capitant. Guest lectures were presented by the Greek Ambassador and professor .......Moneger........

9. The association with Georgetown Law Center continued through the joint course on disaster response whereby Georgetown students spent time in New Orleans and Loyola students spent time in Washington DC. The course is an outstanding example of mixing the theoretical with the practical.

10. The annual national conference of law librarians was hosted by Loyola University College of Law led by our librarian professor P. Michael Whipple.

11. Consistent with previous years I visited individual alumni and groups of alumni throughout the country. I visited Chicago, Tampa, Miami, New York, Denver, Los Angeles, Houston, Monroe, Shreveport, and Alexandria. Fundraising this year to date has not been quite as successful as in the past although very serious negotiations are afoot for donations amounting to nearly $2 million.

12. As at the time of writing 2008-2009 enrolment is extremely exciting. Contrary to the national trend, our applications are up nearly 20% from last year, and our LSAT has improved two points to a figure almost back to where it was pre-Katrina. Similarly, even with the extremely large first year class, it appears that our attrition rate will be limited to about ten students although final figures will not be available until all grades are submitted, petitions heard, and other schools have made their decisions regarding the acceptance or otherwise of transfer applications.

13. At my urging the president actively pursued the possible purchase of the Dominican Conference Center when it became apparent that the Sisters could no longer manage its operation. I propose to move the entire law clinic into the building and give it the appearance of a regular law firm. This makes it look more professional and provides a better atmosphere for students who are serving the clinic’s clients.
14. It is proposed that the purchase of the Conference Center building will be made from funds raised by the College of Law and the necessary renovations from the same source.

15. The movement of the clinic to the Conference Center will free up first-floor space in the law school and it is proposed to move the Westerfield Fellows into the vacated space. This in turn will return valuable work space to the library that had been taken from them.