

Gears of Law

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Provided by the Paralegal Student Association and sponsored by Student Life.

PLSA Halloween Party 2013

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By Chrystal Grates

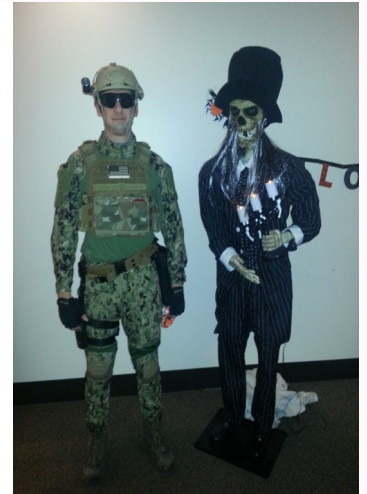
If you didn't get a chance to partake in this year's PLSA 2013 Halloween Party, you missed a lot of haunting excitement, costumes, and tasty treats.

Don't fret, however, we have a few pictures of the festivities for you to live vicariously through, including those of "Frank" the talking Ghoul. This year's party was a success and included spooky Halloween-themed games, fabulous prizes, cupcakes, goodie bags, and the chance to socialize with both paralegal program alumni and NHCC college students

alike.

The goal of the party was to meet and network with fellow cohorts throughout the college and spread the word about some of our fantastic upcoming PLSA organizational events. We hope many students can now put a face to a name with those on the PLSA Board and are encouraged to attend future meetings and events.

Thank you to all who volunteered to help out and a big shout out to "Frank" our Halloween PLSA mascot. We look forward to meeting and getting to know you at upcoming



Frank, the PLSA Halloween mascot, and the winner of the PLSA Costume Contest.

events.

Student Senate Update

By Jennifer Swenson

During our last Student Senate meeting, we covered a lot of ground. During this meeting two critical positions were filled: our Vice President of the Student Senate (Charles Kingsley) and our Legislative Coordinator (Michael Flannery)!

Both Charles and Michael bring an extensive history of leadership, and we were very excited to have them sworn into their new roles. Please extend your con-

gratulations to Charles and Michael!

All Student Senate Representatives, as well as the Executive Chairs of the Student Senate, were asked by B. David Gault, Director of Student Life, to anonymously provide feedback on ways to improve the services provided by Student Life, as well as the overall perception of Student Life by all NHCC students.

The intention is to combine our feedback along with

comments collected by various other college groups, and to enhance the ways that Student Life can reach and attract more students in new and innovative ways.

The Student Senate is still looking to fill some of their committee openings and whoever is interested should submit a letter of interest to the Student Senate, or contact them directly to inquire and ask specific questions. Only a few hours per month are



Former PLSA Chair Megan Jachim and her Scarecrow

Student Senate Update Cont'd

required for these positions, and these are great opportunities to provide input and help make necessary changes for several college committees and the student body.

Dr. Landon Pirius, Vice President of Student Affairs, spoke during our meeting regarding several topics such as: the Tobacco Policy, student conduct policy, student stipends, and election activity on campus. NHCC is hoping to receive

as much feedback as possible about the Tobacco Policy. Dr. Pirius reinforced that NHCC does not have an agenda with this policy, but that the comments and concerns of students will greatly shape the future of this much-debated topic. Please take the time to give input when you are asked, as this is a topic that affects each and every student, and our comments are taken seriously.

As always, the Student Senate meetings are open to all students. Please feel free to stop in anytime to observe our incredible Student Senate in action. Meetings are scheduled for Thursdays in room CBT210 and the schedule is located on the NHCC website, under Student Life/ Student Senate. This is a fantastic opportunity to observe our leaders, and also a great chance to become involved. We hope to see you soon!



Paralegal Program Director, Mary Fenske, and Vice Chair, Chrystal Grates

So What is the Legal Studies/Seminar Course?

By Mary Fenske

Every semester, students visit me to ask questions about the Legal Studies Seminar course, PLEG 2930, which is a course I teach both semesters and during the first summer session. The Legal Studies Seminar is a capstone course. Everything you have learned in your paralegal education comes together in this course. It is designed to be taken in the final semester of your education, so that you can apply what you have learned in an office setting. All students complete a portfolio that includes essays on the paralegal career and ethical situations, a resume and cover letter, revised legal research memos from

Legal Research & Writing I and II, work samples from either student internships or practicum assignments, and six samples of coursework completed within the program as a whole, including at least one PowerPoint presentation.

Students in PLEG 2930 have the option of pursuing the internship tract or the practicum tract within the course. The internship choice requires students to obtain an internship on their own through networking opportunities, cold calling, and research. I offer suggestions to those looking for an internship, if

needed. However, it is up to the student to send in a resume, complete the interview process, and obtain acceptance with the internship host site. Be aware that most internships do not turn into permanent jobs. However, you will be gaining valuable experience for your resume and, hopefully, an excellent reference for your job search.

Practicum students are those students who either have difficulty finding an internship or whose schedule or finances won't permit them to commit to the 150 hour, typically unpaid, internship requirement. The practicum tract requires students to complete assignments similar to those in a law office in the Paralegal Learning Lab. In

“On Friday, November 22, 2013 at 2:30 p.m. in CLA 139, there will be an orientation for students who plan on enrolling in the Spring 2014 session of the Legal Studies Seminar.”

addition, practicum students also benefit from hearing the experiences of those completing internships during joint class sessions.

The course consists of two types of classroom activities. We hold joint classes that include internship and practicum students where we discuss topics that relate to

Legal Studies Seminar Cont'd

both groups. We also discuss what happens in a law office, so that internship students can benefit from comparing their situations with other internship students. Practicum students benefit from hearing about the office experiences of the internship students. I also frequently bring in speakers on the various topics we discuss in class.

The other type of classroom activity is only for practicum students. During that time, we discuss

various assignments that are similar to assignments students would receive in a law office and students complete the assignments while working in the Paralegal Learning Lab in CBT 101B.

On Friday, November 22, 2013 at 2:30 p.m. in CLA 139, there will be an orientation for students who plan on enrolling in the Spring 2014 session of the Legal Studies Seminar. An email on this was sent out last week. At that time, we'll discuss how to obtain an intern-

ship, I will distribute the packet and syllabus, and I'll answer any questions. Please plan on attending if you registered for the Spring 2014 course. **If you can't make the orientation session, please email me after the session and I will email you the packet. It will not be available before November 22.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at mfenske@nhcc.edu or 763-488-0294.



NHCC students enjoying the PLSA Halloween festivities, which included Halloween movie trivia and treats.

Did You Know...?

It is illegal in Minnesota to do the following:

- In Minneapolis, red cars may not drive down Lake Street.
- In Minnetonka, driving a truck with dirty tires is considered a public nuisance.
- In Minnetonka, any person who persuades another to enter a massage therapist business after 11:00 PM is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- In St. Cloud, hamburgers cannot be eaten on Sundays.

“Good men must not obey the laws too much.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Upcoming Events

MPA Family Law Sectional

When: Thursday, November 21, 2013

Where: Walling, Berg & Debele, P.A.
121 S. Eighth Street, Suite 1100
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Topic: Critical Considerations when a case has international aspects

MPA Litigation Sectional

When: Friday, November 22, 2013

Where: Nilan Johnson Lewis
120 South Sixth Street, Suite 400
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

Topic: Hamline eDiscovery Certification Program.

2014 Minnesota Paralegal Association Membership

Minnesota Paralegal Association is a great place to meet other paralegals, attend informative sectionals at no cost, attend mixers, and more! Please visit mnpa.org for more information.

Write for Gears of Law!

If you would like to write for the Paralegal Student Association's newsletter, contact Amber Cotton, rosellasweet@gmail.com, for more information.



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LEGAL STUDIES SEMINAR INFORMATION SESSION

There will be an informational session for students interested in learning more about the Legal Studies Seminar/Internship (PLEG 2930) on **Friday, November 22, 2013, from 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm in Room CLA 139**. All students planning on enrolling for Spring 2014 are encouraged to attend.

Information on obtaining an internship for Spring 2014 Session will be discussed and the internship packet will be distributed.

Questions? Contact Mary Fenske at mfenske@nhcc.edu or 763-488-0294.

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Paralegal Courses Summer Session 2014

These courses are offered during the eight week summer session that runs June 9 – August 1 **unless otherwise noted.**
Each course meets as indicated below:

MEETS MONDAYS/WEDNESDAYS	MEETS TUESDAY/THURSDAYS
<p>PLEG 2510 Contracts and Business Organizations 3:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. (3 credits), Instr.: Carrie Vaia Late Start Session – 8 weeks Session Runs: 6/9 – 8/1/2014</p>	<p>PLEG 1411 Litigation I 6:30 p.m. – 9:50 p.m. (3 credits), Instr.: Bor Yang Summer Session I – 6 weeks Session Runs: 5/19 – 6/27/2014</p>
<p>PLEG 2930 Legal Studies Seminar 6:00 – 9:20 p.m. (3 credits), Instr.: Mary Fenske Summer Session I – 6 weeks Session Runs: 5/19 – 6/27/2014 ** See Note Below **</p>	<p>PLEG 1210 Computer Applications in the Legal Profession 3:30 – 5:50 p.m. (2 credits), Instr.: Shawn Woodbury Summer Session II – 6 weeks Session Runs: 6/30 – 8/8/2014</p>
<p>PLEG 1111 Introduction to Law and Paralegal Studies 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. (3 credits), Instr.: Carrie Vaia Late Start Session – 8 weeks Session Runs: 6/9 – 8/1/2014</p>	

Note: This schedule is subject to change.

Revised Sept. 2013

******Both Internship and Practicum Students meet on Mondays; Practicum Students only meet on Wednesdays. Any student who has not submitted an Internship Learning Contract signed by their host site supervisor is considered a practicum student and must attend on Wednesdays.

PARALEGAL COURSES FALL SEMESTER 2014 – REVISED SEPTEMBER 2013

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>PLEG 2212-01 Legal Research and Writing II 3:30 – 6:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Lattimore</p>	<p>PLEG 1111-01 Intro to Law and Paralegal Studies 12:00 -2:40 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Vaia</p>	<p>PLEG 2211-01 Legal Research and Writing I 12:00 – 2:40 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Fenske</p>			<p>PLEG 2930-71 Legal Studies Seminar 9:00 – 2:00 p.m. 3 credits Every other weekend Instr: Fenske</p>
<p>PLEG 1210-91 Computer Applications 4:30 – 6:10 p.m. 2 credits Instr: Woodbury</p>	<p>PLEG 2510-01 Contracts/Business Organizations 3:30 - 6:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Yang</p>	<p>PLEG 2310-01 Criminal Law 3:30 – 6:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Yang</p>	<p>PLEG 1330-01 Family Law (Hybrid) 3:30 – 6:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Yang</p>		
<p>PLEG 1210-92 Computer Applications 6:30 –8:10 pm 2 credits Instr: Woodbury</p>	<p>PLEG 1412-91 Litigation II 6:30 – 9:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Yang</p>	<p>PLEG 1411-91 Litigation I 6:30 – 9:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Yang</p>	<p>PLEG 1430-91 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) 4:30 –6:10 p.m. (first 8 weeks) 1 credit Instr: Vaia</p>		
<p>PLEG 2211-91 Legal Research and Writing I 6:30 – 9:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Fenske</p>	<p>PLEG 1111-91 Intro to Law and Paralegal Studies 6:30 -9:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Vaia</p>	<p>PLEG 2710-91 Wills, Trusts, Estates 6:30 – 9:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Lattimore</p>	<p>PLEG 2620-91 Property 6:30 –9:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Vaia</p>		
<p>PLEG 2212-91 Legal Research and Writing II 6:30 – 9:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Lattimore</p>					