

Professor Anzivino Receives University Award



Marquette University recently selected Professor Ralph C. Anzivino of the Law School as a recipient of the University's John P. Raynor, S.J., Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. Professor Anzivino had been nominated by several of his colleagues at the Law School, and his nomination was supported by letters from alumni, students, and colleagues.

The award was presented on May 3, 2007, at the University's annual Père Marquette Dinner, an end-of-the-year gathering of faculty and administrators from across the University. Dr. Madeline Wake, then Provost of the University, asked Dean Joseph D. Kearney to present the award on behalf of the University.

Remarks of Dean Kearney in Presenting to Professor Anzivino the University's John P. Raynor, S.J., Award for Teaching Excellence

It is a privilege this evening for me to speak not just on behalf of the Law School, but for the entire University. This would always be so, but especially is it the case here, because of my high regard for the individual whom we now collectively honor, my colleague Ralph Anzivino, Professor of Law.

Let me elaborate. To begin, this is Ralph Anzivino's thirty-first year on the law faculty of Marquette University. Yet the length of this tenure is relevant, if at all, only because it makes the excellence that marks Ralph's teaching all the more impressive for his having sustained it across three decades. And so it is to this excellence that I wish to speak.

The most powerful words are not my own. Nor are they those of the former award-winners who wrote in support of Ralph's candidacy, including my colleagues Dan Blinka, Tom Hammer, and Jack Kircher, and my former colleague (soon to be Provost at Loyola University) Christine Wiseman. The most powerful words come from Ralph's former students.

Several common themes emerge in their letters of support. First, students recall Professor Anzivino's unusual combination of being both demanding and not overbearing. Ralph is from the old school, in the sense of asking students to stand when called upon and of using the Socratic method. This is not for sport. As recounted by a member of the Class of 2005, "Professor Anzivino would call on a student at random, ask him to stand, and pepper him with questions on a specific case. The process was terrifying, but Professor Anzivino had the ability to impart just enough fear in students to force us to be well-prepared. Still, when it came time for us to stand on our given day, he treated us with respect and gently tugged the relevant information out of us with probing (and sometimes leading!) questions."

Second, there is Ralph's sense of humor, which students have noted for years to be related to and in fact to be part of his teaching abilities. As one student related to the university committee that selected Professor Anzivino for this award, "his quick wit makes class even more interesting and keeps students engaged and attentive throughout an entire class." How much humor value there is in courses on creditor-debtor relations and Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code, I personally could not say—but apparently quite a bit, to judge from the students' comments on Ralph's teaching.

Then there is the somewhat less funny matter of Ralph's exams. I thought the comment of a member of the Class of 1996 to be notable: "His exams were extremely tough, and they turned out to be excellent preparation for both the bar and the practice of law itself. In my law practice, the only legal questions that come across my desk are the hard ones. Professor Anzivino's exams, which many of my classmates thought were quite diabolical, were nothing more than realistic predictors of the kind of questions we would all be living with quite soon enough."

I wish to underscore that, whether it is the excellence in preparation that Professor Anzivino demands, the humor with which he leads a student, or his rigorous exams, it is evident to me that these lessons "take" with our students. I know this because I have the responsibility as dean to go out and minister to our alumni. When I ask a group of alumni at lunch, as they go around the table to introduce themselves, to tell us who their favorite professors at Marquette University Law School were, two names come up more than any other: Jim Ghiardi, Class of 1942, now marking as professor emeritus his sixty-first year on the faculty of the Law School, and Ralph Anzivino.

And the lessons our graduates recall concern more than the law. I shall quote one alumnus, among the many possibilities available to me. Charles Constantine is a Racine County Circuit Court Judge and the Chair of the Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners. Judge Constantine was one of Professor Anzivino's first students; he summarized his former professor as "dedicated, intelligent, with an intellectual curiosity," combined with "great communication skills." Judge Constantine remarks that, both in his own teaching

and even in aspects of his judging, he has to a great extent "tried to emulate Professor Anzivino's style: be prepared, have a sense of humor, engage the students, but don't be condescending." This is yet more evidence of the lesson imparted to me by a great teacher of English, my mother, who used to tell teachers concerning their students, "It is *you* they are studying most."

In this regard, I wish to say something about Ralph Anzivino, the man or colleague, as opposed to the teacher (to the extent that such a distinction can be made). Ralph is not long on words, and so on this particular point I will try to emulate him. I will simply say that he is a man of considerable humanity.

Dear Boden,
The students who
wrote to Mr. Anzivino
were TREMENDOUSLY
impressed. He has
our total endorsement
as a potential faculty
member!

Note from 1976

I should like finally to be able to tell you that Ralph developed all of these skills and attributes since his arrival here in 1976. The problem is that yesterday I reviewed his file, back to the beginning, and I now know that such a statement would be untrue. In fact, I have brought along with me a note from 1976, on a 4" x 6" scrap of paper, that pretty well demonstrates it. "Dean Boden," the note says, "The students who spoke to Mr. Anzivino were TREMENDOUSLY impressed. He has our total endorsement

as a potential faculty member!" This is the sort of succinctness that Ralph would appreciate.

Ralph, please come to the podium. For, simply stated, your accomplishments in teaching at Marquette University, it is my privilege, on behalf of the Provost and the rest of the University, to present you with both this note from 1976 and, from 2007, this All-University John P. Raynor, S.J., Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. •

Remarks of Professor Ralph C. Anzivino in Accepting the Raynor Award

Can you imagine how much money it cost me for him to say all those things?

As our dean indicated, my first year at Marquette was the fall of '76, the spring of '77. That was certainly a wonderful year to be here at Marquette. Some of you will remember how in the spring of that year the men's basketball team won the NCAA championship. I remember the students flooding out into Wisconsin Avenue, running down Wisconsin Avenue to the lake, yelling and screaming. The remarkable thing was there was no damage done. They actually knew how to win with class—I was so impressed by that.

Now some might say that, in winning that championship, there was perhaps some divine intervention involved. Perhaps for the basketball team, that may have been true. But hiring me that year—I would have categorized that as more of a giant leap of faith.

One of the concepts that we teach students at the Law School is a concept we call the benefit of the bargain. You are probably all familiar with it. A contract is struck, and each side of the transaction would like to get the benefit of the bargain. One person would like the new car, the other the \$30,000. Now, if that car is defective in some way, the new car buyer is certainly denied the benefit of the bargain. In 1976, I made a bargain with Marquette University, and I can say, with the highest degree of certainty and clarity, that I have received, over the years, much more benefit of that bargain than has Marquette.

Marquette, for example, over the years, has put food on our table, as it did tonight. My family is here with me, and Marquette literally did it again tonight. It has provided the means for us to care for ourselves when we were injured or ill. It has educated almost all of my children, here at Marquette. It has contributed to my wife's and my retirement account. And it has permitted me to do that which I love to do the most, and that is to be a teacher.

Father Wild, in a recent interview in the *Marquette Lawyer* magazine, commented on teaching. In reading through the article, I noticed that he indicated that this is "where the rubber meets the road." I agree with the good Father (and would even if that were not obviously a prudent thing to do). My spin on the concept is that we, the faculty, are really the face of Marquette as it relates to our students. My dean no doubt would say "*in loco parentis*"—and even those of you who are not Latin scholars, as he is, appreciate that essentially this means "in the place of the parent." We, as the faculty, are in the place of the parent.

Indeed, I have heard it often said that a faculty member, or a teacher, is a child's third parent. I am happy to say, and very proud and thankful to say, that Marquette has given me the opportunity to be one of those third parents. Truly, in my lifetime, Marquette has been, for me, the gift that has kept on giving. I am deeply grateful for everything Marquette has given to me and my family—including, now, this Raynor Award. And I can say, from every part of my heart, that I thank you, Marquette. Your generosity to me and my family has really been overwhelming. Thank you. •