

vita with vada

During the spring semester 2005, Marquette University Law School embarked on a new service project as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program established by the Internal Revenue Service 30 years ago. The IRS started the VITA program to offer free assistance to elderly and low- to moderate-income people who cannot afford professional tax assistance.

The Marquette Law School site relied on law student volunteers and on-campus technology to assist members of the community with tax preparation and electronic filing of tax returns to the IRS and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. Marquette Law School maintained the site every Saturday from the beginning of February 2005 to the end of the filing season.

The slogan for the Marquette Law School VITA site was "VITA with Vada," in reference to Professor Vada Waters Lindsey, the site coordinator. Professor Lindsey had two basic objectives in opening a Marquette Law School VITA site. First, she was concerned that a void had been created by the closure of 13 VITA sites in the Milwaukee area during the previous year. All of the library sites, including the one located at the Central Library, were closed as a result of budgetary constraints. She feared that many members of the community would have difficulty in

completing their income tax returns and claiming all their allowable tax benefits for the taxable year.

Second, Professor Lindsey was interested in using the VITA site to help Marquette law students develop practical skills and a service ethic.

Joshua Roever, now a third-year law student, served as a VITA volunteer. "It seems to me that the Marquette Law School VITA site gave students the opportunity to grapple with practical aspects of the tax laws, provided those served with valuable pro bono assistance, and demonstrated to the larger community that the Law School and Marquette lawyers not only value but act with compassion, dignity, and respect," says Roever.

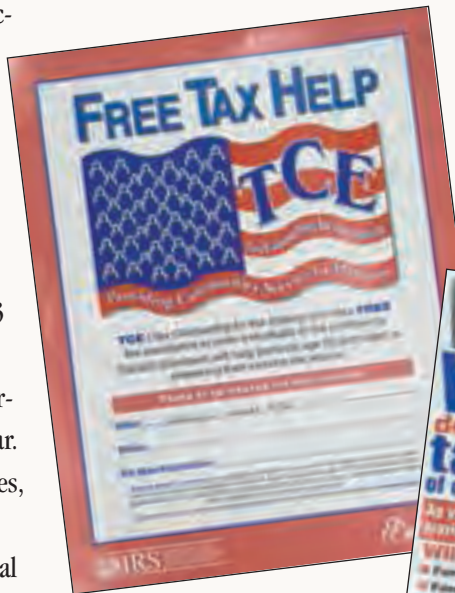
The Marquette VITA site even committed to completing nonresident alien returns. Many sites choose not to complete the nonresident alien returns because of the complicated nature of these returns.

Professor Lindsey trained and certified

the 35 students who participated in the program. Everyone involved at the Marquette VITA site worked as a valued team member. Carrie Lerand had the



Professor Vada Waters Lindsey



admissions report

important task of handling site-scheduling and equitably distributing the weekly tasks of setup, intake, and return preparation. Stephen Nelson, a Marquette law librarian, was a de facto—and invaluable—team member, handling the technology responsibilities.

Professor Lindsey designated one student (now an alum), Jenny Jedrzejewski, as her deputy site coordinator. Jedrzejewski assisted Professor Lindsey with the requisite quality review of the tax returns and helped to answer student questions. Jedrzejewski had completed almost every tax course offered at Marquette Law School and had accepted a position as an estate planning associate.

The IRS Coordinator of VITA reported that the rejection rate of returns from the Marquette Law School VITA site was well below the average rate of rejection of other VITA sites. Professor Lindsey credits the low rejection rate to the professionalism and aptitude demonstrated by all of the student volunteers.

Professor Lindsey has plans for a VITA site beyond this initial year. The students completed several hundred state and federal tax returns, including approximately 20 nonresident alien tax returns. Professor Lindsey expects that the number of taxpayers relying on the Marquette Law School VITA site will increase substantially in future years, and she is determined to provide Marquette law students the opportunity to volunteer in this worthwhile endeavor for many years to come. •

Marquette University Law School received 1,913 applications for Fall 2005 entrance, the Law School's largest applicant pool on record. This represented an increase of more than 4 percent from the previous year, even as the number of candidates applying to law schools nationally was down about 4.5 percent.

The median undergraduate grade point average (GPA) and Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score of this year's entering class were among the strongest for any entering class in the Law School's history.

This report sets forth certain basic admission information.

A brief statistical profile of the Fall 2005 entering class:

- 215 first-year students (166 full time, 49 part time)

GPA

- Median Undergraduate GPA: 3.41
- 75th percentile Undergraduate GPA: 3.65
- 25th percentile Undergraduate GPA: 3.14

LSAT

- Median LSAT score: 157 (73rd percentile nationally)
- 75th percentile LSAT score: 159 (79th percentile nationally)
- 25th percentile LSAT score: 155 (66th percentile nationally)

Diversity

- 40% women
- 14% students of color
- Residents of 26 states plus the District of Columbia and 3 foreign countries (Germany, Jamaica, Zimbabwe)

Age

- Average age of full-time students: 23 years, 7 months
- Average age of part-time students: 30 years, 8 months

Degrees

- 94 undergraduate schools represented
- 58 undergraduate majors represented
- 10% hold graduate or professional degrees