100—and counting

During his first year on Marquette’s faculty, back in 1980, Professor Jay E. Grenig published a book with West Publishing Co., directed at California education law. He had no doubt that there would be a second and a third—and even recalls that he “thought it might be nice to fill a bookshelf”—but even Grenig did not expect that, a quarter century later, he would find himself publishing his 100th book.

Grenig focuses on reference books for lawyers, and his topics range from alternative dispute resolution to worker’s compensation to federal jury practice and instructions. According to Associate Dean Peter K. Rofes, Grenig has served—and has expanded upon—a Marquette Law School tradition. “The legal academy has at times been criticized for producing too many publications not likely to be of interest or use to the bench and bar,” noted Rofes. “Whether or not that it is a fair criticism in general, no one would doubt that Jay’s books are of considerable use to many practitioners in their daily professional undertakings.”

Reaching out to other disciplines

On April 20, the Law School hosted “The Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit: The Good, the Bad, and the Confusing,” a daylong interdisciplinary conference held in Sensenbrenner Hall. In attendance were over 60 attorneys, pharmacists, physicians, and other health and social services professionals concerned about elders and people with disabilities eligible to enroll in the many new federally approved plans. The Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Pharmacy collaborated with the Law School to provide a trifecta of continuing education credits. The Law School’s Public Service Administrator for 2005–06, Beth Conradson Cleary, L’05, created the conference with the guidance of Professor Alison Barnes.

The conference gathered speakers and audience to assess the progress and problems with implementation of the first major new Medicare benefit in the program’s 40-year history. Private drug plans administered by insurers and HMOs compete for selection by offering Medicare beneficiaries varying benefits at different monthly costs. Beyond the fundamental difficulty of identifying the best plan to meet an individual’s needs, low-income elders and nursing home residents faced complex changes in their existing drug coverage. Most would experience financial penalties for failing to choose a plan by May 15, 2006.

Among numerous speakers, Washington-based Dr. Juliette Cubanski, Senior Policy Analyst at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, presented detailed information about experiences nationwide; a panel on the front lines of implementation, including a beneficiary whose long-term disabilities create critical pharmacy needs, assessed difficulties the panel members have faced; and Law School Adjunct Professor Jay A. Gold, M.D., J.D. (who also teaches at the Medical College), reviewed the feasibility of the underlying policy as a means to successfully help with drug costs. A health care analyst from Senator Herb Kohl’s office took audience concerns back to the Senator.

Conference proceedings will be published in the Fall 2006 issue of the Marquette Elder’s Advisor.
Excellence in University Service Award

Carol Dufek, the Law School’s Facility and Event Coordinator, received this spring one of the two 2006 Excellence in University Service Awards for support staff. In announcing the award at a ceremony on April 18, the Provost of Marquette University, Dr. Madeline Wake, quoted one of the several letters in support of Dufek’s nomination: “‘Try to imagine being responsible for the welfare, comfort, and general happiness of nearly 700 law students, 100-plus full-time and adjunct faculty (remember we are talking about lawyers here), several dozen librarians, administrators, and support staff, in addition to the vendors, maintenance staff, delivery people, and guests who enter Sensenbrenner Hall at any time of the day or evening, seven days a week.’” The Provost continued: “I have just described Carol Dufek’s job and, by all accounts, it’s a job she does with unparalleled excellence.”

As another nominator wrote, “The success of our great university depends on the accomplishment of thousands of small daily tasks. Carol Dufek performs many of these essential tasks in a quiet, professional manner.” The Law School is fortunate in its association with Carol Dufek and congratulates her on receiving the 2006 Excellence in University Service Award.

Marquette law student at the Grammys

Marquette law student Caz McChrystal found himself far from Milwaukee on February 8, 2006. He was a guest at the 48th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. This was part of McChrystal’s prize as a finalist in the Eighth Annual Grammy Foundation Entertainment Law Initiative Writing Contest. His paper, “The Dissonant Tune of International Harmonization,” written as part of his International Intellectual Property class at Marquette Law School, earned McChrystal a $1,500 scholarship, a trip to Los Angeles, and an invitation to the Grammy Awards ceremony and other Grammy and record industry events in California. McChrystal’s paper has been published in the *Vanderbilt Journal of Entertainment and Technology Law* (available at http://law.vanderbilt.edu/jetl/articles/vol8no3/McChrystal.pdf).

“Caz demonstrated a very deep understanding of the law and the critical thinking skills of a future Marquette lawyer in his paper,” said Professor Irene Calboli, who taught McChrystal International Intellectual Property during the fall semester of 2005.