

MEET THE NEW DEAN George Bunn—Front and Center



Associate Dean Orrin Helstad's face fell when he learned that George Bunn had been selected Dean. It is the responsibility of the Associate Deans to establish the class schedules. Professor Bunn leaves a big hole in the 1972-1973 schedule.

Professor George Bunn became Dean on September 1, when Dean Spencer L. Kimball left the Law School to become Executive Director of the American Bar Foundation in Chicago and Professor of Law at the University of Chicago.

A search and screen committee appointed by the Chancellor and headed by Prof. Willard Hurst conducted a nation-wide search, which ended right here at home, when the Regents appointed Bunn on July 14.

No stranger to the readers of the *Gargoyle*, (Spring, 1970; Summer, 1972) Professor Bunn is a distinguished, relatively recent addition to the Faculty. Although he is a Columbia Law School graduate, his connections with the Wisconsin Law School span several generations. His father, Charles (Bob) was a long-time Faculty member, and his great grandfather, Romanzo, who was Federal District Judge for the western district of Wisconsin, was a lecturer in the Law School for many years.

To his colleagues in the Law School, it was an eminently logical and proper choice. Dean Bunn joined the Faculty in 1969 after 18 years in private practice and government service, during which he served (among other important assignments) as General Counsel to the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and Ambassador

to the Geneva Disarmament Conference.

During his years on the Faculty, he has acted as Advisor to the Chancellor and the President on matters relating to student disorders. He has, however, been primarily concerned with legal education and its problems. He was honored by the Student Bar Association at the Spring Program with the Teacher of the Year award because of his innovative and challenging teaching methods.

At 47, Dean Bunn is no idle dreamer. He plans no magic solution to the Law School's problems. He understands fully the obstacles, and that progress will be slow—but continuous.

In a recent interview with the *Gargoyle*, Dean Bunn cited the recent progress in meeting the needs of students for practical experience in the problem-solving techniques which are the heart of successful law practice. The central problem as he sees it, is the size of the staff. The ratio of teachers to students has dropped markedly at Wisconsin in recent years, as the enrollment has grown dramatically from 650 in 1969-70 to about 950 in 1972-73, with little increase in the size of the teaching Faculty. Classes have grown in some cases to almost 200.

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The Clinical Program, the courses in legal writing, Trial Advocacy, the General Practice Course, which has now become part of the curriculum during the regular school year, all have helped. But, in his opinion, they need to be expanded to include a larger number of the second and third year students, if they are to serve the Law School's mission—which is to educate people, and to train lawyers. The use of problem-solving as a learning experience in courses, whether or not they are practice-oriented, motivates students and, when successfully accomplished, makes law school teaching a fulfilling career, he said. He described some of the pressures he himself encountered in his Federal Jurisdiction course. In the spring of 1970, in a class of 18 students, he used a series of problems. Each student wrote a weekly paper on a problem. Each paper was submitted on Friday and returned fully criticized on Monday, when the problem was thoroughly discussed. In 1971-72, there were 80 students in the class, necessitating division into teams of 4 for the weekly papers. Since each paper, if it is to be thoroughly evaluated by the teacher, requires at least an hour, his weekends had to accommodate to at least 20 hours of correcting time. There were almost 200 students who wanted to take Federal Jurisdiction in 1972-73, although all could not be admitted.

Clearly, he says, the present staff is too small to permit the kind of educational experience which students crave, and which the profession requires.

Many members of the Faculty are now experimenting with various methods of problem-solving in the traditional courses. Arguments in class, legal memoranda, and some briefing experience all are being used to supplement the traditional case book, lecture, class

recitation methods of teaching and learning. But until there is substantial increase in the size of the staff, the number of such experiences must be severely limited. For example, he notes, the number of seminars, in which 15-20 advanced students work on specific problems under the close supervision of a Faculty member, is less this year than last. More Faculty time must, of necessity, be devoted to the large courses, with case-books and lectures, and an examination that comes too late in the course to serve any educational purpose.

"The large lecture, with its standard format, results in a third year class which is present only in body, not in spirit," he says, noting the one important and notable exception in the Law School—perhaps the exception that proves the rule. Students have to arrive early to get a seat in Professor Willard Hurst's large course in Legisla-

tion, which is heralded by all students as the crowning touch to the Law School experience.

Dean Bunn intends to devote his time and talents to this central problem of legal education. It is a budgetary problem, of course. He notes that some improvements have been made in the Library budget during the past year, making possible some important and necessary additions to the collections. The staff problems are more difficult, but must be solved. Five new teachers were added this Fall, but as many left to retire, to take leave or to join another faculty.

Dean Bunn supports the recommendation of the Chancellor's Committee on Legal Education that another law school be established within the University of Wisconsin system.

Whatever Happened to What's-His-Name?

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Your Classmate, Enemy, or
Friend?**

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The Law School,**

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