Dear Members of the Legal Studies Community:

This is a special edition of our student newsletter about Graduation. It is often very difficult while you are in classes to think far into the future about the end of your educational process and graduation. Kaplan University just held its graduation in Miami and the faculty and administration of the College of Legal Studies wanted you to share in the joy and happiness we shared with the graduates at that event.

From the beautiful processional where the faculty and platform guests march in to formal music wearing their multicolored robes to the award of honors and the degrees, it was a splendid event designed to formalize the achievements of our students. The wearing of the robes and the colors are determined from each institution and from each degree earned by the faculty. Students marched in wearing the cords and sashes of their honors earned and the tassels in the color of their discipline (Legal Studies wear purple tassels). One can hear the audience react to the colors and to the arrival of the graduates who are their sons, daughter, parents, and grandparents. First student honors are awarded for the students who achieve a perfect 4.0 average – quite an achievement! Then students’ names are read and the student marches across the stage to receive his or her diploma and congratulations from KU President Andy Rosen. Students who achieved membership in Gold Key Honor Society or who are graduates with special honors (e.g. summa cum laude) are also recognized.

The night before, students and the guests were treated to a gala reception held this year at the outdoor pavilion of the imposing Bank of American Building in Miami. For those of you who are Miami Vice fans, you might remember the tall building with stripes – that is the Bank of America Building. A buffet dinner and refreshments were provided and a table was set up for each of the schools at the University. At the table were the Deans,
Academic Chairs and some of the faculty from each of the schools as well as some Academic Advisors. For some of the graduates, this was the first time they saw these individuals face to face and the greetings were tremendous.

You can be part of this joyous event when you complete your plan of study. You might have heard the expression, “keep your eye on the prize”. Nowhere is that phrase more applicable than your education at KU. Keep your eye on graduation and we will be with you every step of the way to help you achieve success. There will be some bumps; whether it is a problem with financial aid, or a personal, health, or job problem, you should know that we want to know about your problems; we want to help you deal with them and most of all I want to be there to congratulate you when you receive your diploma; your success means a great deal to me personally. You and I both have a lot at stake in your success and commitment to your graduation, so we must not let each other down. Graduation awaits you and your family!

If you have questions or concerns, don’t forget to write to our special email for students: asklegalstudies@kaplan.edu

One of us will answer your question and help you resolve your problem.

Dr. William I. Weston,
Dean, College of Legal Studies
Pictures from the Graduation Reception

(From left to right) Full Time Faculty Member, John Berube, student Kristina Gutierrez, and Full Time Faculty Member Jane McElligott

Academic Chair Martin Connor and President of KU, Andy Rosen

Dean Bill Weston and his wife, Ellen, and Legal Studies Graduate

Student Helen Carmasko and Adjunct Professor, Monique Chiacchia

Adjunct Professor Monique Chiacchia, and Academic Chair, Penny Lorenzo

Adjunct Professor, Sherry Olsen, and an excited student
Master of Science in Legal Studies (MSLS)

If you are nearing the end of your bachelor’s program and you have interest in graduate education, don’t forget Kaplan Universities very own, Master’s in Legal Studies (MSLS). This program is very much “hands on” with complex situations for student engagement. The curriculum is current, relevant, and engaging. There is an extremely wide variety of jobs where a Masters in Legal Studies will be very beneficial. You will also have the advantage that a Master’s brings to any job application in terms of salary and experience. There are few jobs today where the knowledge of law and legal institutions would not be useful. This is a wonderful alternative to law school especially if you do not intend to practice.

If you are interested in the MSLS please contact Jeff O’Kelley at jokelley@kaplan.edu. Or direct your questions to our own email address: asklegalstudies@kaplan.edu.

We look forward to having you in the program.

Program Goals

---Provide an Engaging Learning Experience
---Demonstrate the Interrelationship of Law and Societal Institutions
---Provide Fundamental Skills
---Emphasize Writing & Analysis
---Hands-On Learning

Components

Core Courses:
- Legal Method & Process
- Legal Ethics & the Professional
- Legal Research, Analysis & Writing
- Jurisprudence & Legal History
- Applied Action Research

Substantive Core Courses
- Understanding Civil Liability
- Understanding Criminal Liability
- The Family & The Legal System
- Contracts as Private Law

Each Student takes all Core Courses, one Substantive Core Course & at least One Intensive Study Area and finally the Field Thesis

School of Legal Studies | Special Edition: Graduation News 4
**Intensive Studies**

Designed as Bundles of Electives around a topic
Taught in Reality Environment
Product Focused
Guided Rather than Mandated
Three Courses in a Bundle
Intensive Areas
State & Local Government
Health Delivery System
Music, Media & the Legal System
Sports and the Legal System
Family & the Legal System
Education & the Legal System

**Thesis**

Applied Action Research
--Student Chooses Interest Area
--Student Develops Project
--Site Selected
--Project Implemented
--Student Writes Thesis based on Experiences