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As much as we'll miss Father Morrison, we're all very excited with the choice of Father Schlegel.

In closing, I extend a word of personal thanks to all of our alumni and friends. It has been a top priority of mine to try to meet as many of you personally as I can. Although I have many more of you to meet, it has been one of the most positive experiences of my life to see all of the goodwill that exists towards our School. Many of you have also done a great deal for me personally to ease our transition to Omaha. It has been a year of great change in the Borchers household. Aside from moving here to Creighton and to Omaha, we celebrated the birth of our fifth child, Kyle Andrew. Neither Judy nor I can imagine a nicer place than here to have come, nor a nicer, more committed group of people with whom to be associated.

I look forward to working with you in the coming years.

Sincerely yours,

Patrick J. Borchers
Dean and Professor of Law

Amy Longo is at the helm as President of the Nebraska State Bar Association. This is cause for celebration for two reasons. Longo is a 1979 graduate of the Law School and follows in the footsteps of other great alums who have held this post. The additional cause for celebration is that Longo is the first woman president in the 100-year history of the association.

Longo's journey to the position, and indeed her professional journey generally, has been anything but routine. She graduated from Creighton in 1970 with a B.S.N. and worked as a practicing nurse before she took a position in Creighton's Nursing School where, as she puts it, she "worked all the way up to the title of Assistant Instructor."

As nursing schools began to require advanced degrees to teach, it became clear to Longo that she would have to go back to school. Instead of heading for an advanced nursing degree, however, she decided to apply to the School of Law. She recalls that she applied a bit after the deadline, but she was admitted and began classes in fall of 1976.

Longo remembers her fellow students as a mutually supportive and likeable group. She also recalls that many students brought different life experiences to bear. For example, State Senator Ernie Chambers, '78, was in a couple of her classes, and she enjoyed hearing his perspective. Both Longo's class and the class ahead of her had a fair number of women. The class of '79, for instance, graduated 30 female students, including Michaela White, who is now on Creighton's faculty.

As a returning student, Longo relished her legal education. She found that having been out of
Longo '79
FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT OF THE NEBRASKA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

She hopes that inclusiveness will help to mitigate some of the negative perceptions of lawyers. She disagrees with the commonly held view that lawyers are a less civil group than they were many years ago. She notes that lawyers are a generally collegial group, and that most clients have a high regard for their personal lawyer, even if they hold a negative perception of the profession generally. Some of this, she says, is inevitable because clients often hire lawyers during the most difficult periods in their lives and may generalize their frustrations.

Longo believes that bar functions are important to maintaining civility in the profession. She observes that it's much more difficult to be uncivil to someone whom you have met face-to-face. In an age of electronic communications, she thinks that there is a risk that lawyers won't invest the time to get to know each other personally.

Overall, Longo is optimistic about her profession's future. With NSBA in the hands of Amy Longo, progress and optimism somehow seem, well, routine.

Longo's theme as President of NSBA is inclusion. By inclusion she means not only improved gender balance, but inclusion of more minorities, newer lawyers, and lawyers from diverse practice areas.

school for several years gave her a fresh perspective on the learning process. She recalls the Creighton faculty as both demanding and encouraging. Former Dean Rod Shkolnick, she noted, was always offering encouragement; and she is still amazed by Professor Dick Shagru's ability to seemingly know all the students' names after just the first day of class.

After graduation, Longo became an associate at a six-lawyer Omaha firm that today bears her name as a partner: Ellick, Jones, Buekt, Blazek & Longo. She and her partners have intentionally kept the firm small, finding that it offers the right mixture of friendship, flexibility, and sophisticated work. Longo emphasizes employment discrimination and representation of academic institutions in her practice.

Some of the best professional direction she received came from her partners. Al Ellick, she remembers, always told her that a young lawyer should never be afraid to admit that she doesn't know the answer. "It's always acceptable to tell a client that you don't know right now, but you'll find out," he advised her.

It was Ellick and another partner, Robert Spire (for whom Creighton's Internship program is named) who urged her to participate in Bar Association activities. Some of Longo's strongest advice for new attorneys is to become involved with the local or state bar association activities. "Even if you meet just one person at an event," she emphasizes, "it's time well spent, because that person will help you in your practice."

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