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Tribute to Fredric Tausend

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TRIBUTE FOR DEAN TAUSEND

Fred Tausend loves good food—the spicier and more exotic, the better. A similar capacity for delight has served him well as dean. He has enjoyed the job day by day, perhaps even hour by hour (with an exception or two I know about). His enthusiasm produces enormous energy. He can take a red-eye flight from Tacoma to Chicago, nap for an hour, conduct fourteen lively interviews with faculty candidates from around the country between 9 and 5, pausing for lunch with old friends, and then plow through a fat briefcase full of paperwork in the evening before stepping out in the wee hours with his brother to hear some jazz. He lets you know when he is enjoying himself and when he is pleased. He likes to tell a group he has carefully put together for one project or another, “This is a good group.” There is also no mistaking it when he is displeased.

Fred’s exuberance is feisty. He has put this personal trait into the service of the law school, making no apologies for its youth. He shows the spirit of the old John Wayne line, “Never apologize—it’s a sign of weakness,” although in exceptional circumstances he *might* make an exception. He has demonstrated that the best way for us to make progress is to set and work hard at achieving high standards, proceeding with a realistically positive opinion of our accomplishments and potential.

His positiveness is nothing like the simple-minded approach of Dale Carnegie. He believes in doing a first-rate job and confidently takes reasonable risks to do so. He has humored and prodded an adolescent law school into surprising itself by its achievements. The Tausend style cannot be separated from substance.

My perspective on Fred Tausend’s deanship is different from that of the others writing in this issue because he was dean before I got here. This is not an unusual perspective, however. With faculty expansion and turnover in the last five and one-half years, more than a third of the career faculty has come here during his tenure as dean. During the same period, five classes have entered and many key staff members have been added or promoted. One part of Fred Tausend’s contribution to the law school will be achieved through the many people he has drawn here and encouraged. For many of us who have not known UPS without Fred as dean, it is hard to picture what it was like before. On the other hand, I know he did not turn the place

upside down. His vision of this law school as a strong teaching institution is based on the strengths he found and the tradition of the university as well as on his own prior experiences and beliefs. He has helped us achieve a remarkable unity of purpose in seeking to build a rich and diverse educational environment. This contribution is more likely to endure because it has not been his exclusive work. It is the essence of effective leadership.

I find it hard to imagine the law school before Fred Tausend, and I admit to an occasional glimmer of difficulty imagining it after him. He would not approve of this tendency, so I should say that I have no trouble imagining the law school carrying on without him. He likes to say that he is an easy act to follow, which is true in the sense that he has put the school in a very sound position. The future looks good, and this is the more so because we do not have to prepare ourselves to miss Fred Tausend. He will be with us as a teacher and a booster-at-large. He will continue to inspire us to, in the words of the song lyrics he likes to pass out, "accen-tchu-ate the positive; eliminate the negative."

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