School hosts auction for scholarship

By Alison Petty
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By the time Matt Lash graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 2007, he had battled bone cancer for six years.

Lash, who had been involved with the Student Bar Association and the student newspaper, died in April 2008. His influence on the campus continues through the Matt Lash Memorial Scholarship, which was awarded to a student for the first time this year.

“He was a student leader. ... He had a lot of friends here,” said Lisa Turley, assistant dean for institutional advancement at Chicago-Kent.

Many of those friends helped raise money for the scholarship. They have collected $23,000 so far, but Turley said their goal is $50,000.

To continue the fundraising efforts, the university joined Lash’s friends and family to organize the “Lash Bash,” which will take place on Saturday and include an open bar and silent auction.

The event, which also took place last year, is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. at LaSalle Power Co., at 500 N. LaSalle. Admission is $40 at the door.

Participants in the silent auction could win gift cards or Chicago baseball tickets (White Sox and Cubs), Turley said.

Daniel D’Addario, a 2012 J.D. candidate, received the scholarship this year. D’Addario, a student in Chicago-Kent’s intellectual property law certificate program, contracted a virus when he was 11 that caused his spinal cord to swell, paralyzing him below the neck. He uses crutches, but hopes one day to be able to walk without them.

“Essentially, Friday night I went to sleep completely fine and by Sunday I was completely paralyzed,” D’Addario wrote in an e-mail.

After seven months of intensive physical therapy, he was able to use a wheelchair. Now D’Addario uses crutches, but hopes one day to be able to walk without them.

D’Addario said he is passionate about technology and hopes to become a patent attorney.

He will attend Saturday’s event and encouraged others to join him, saying people should celebrate “Matt’s life, accomplishments and zest for life, by taking time to appreciate what we have in our own lives and having a great time.”

Donations to the scholarship fund can be made at www.kentlaw.edu/give.

Students v. faculty trivia contest

Students at the University of Chicago Law School recently taught their professors a lesson — actually, 60 of them.

The student-faculty trivia contest, which was on April 9, resulted in the faculty team’s 60-26 defeat.

The questions ranged from Supreme Court cases (participants had to identify the case by a single quote from the opinion) to popular culture.

“I do recall that there was one ‘Lord of the Rings’ question, and I’m glad that was all — it’s better for my street cred that everyone thinks I’m knowledgeable about Supreme Court history rather than dwarf genealogy,” wrote first-year student Ross McSweeney in an e-mail.

McSweeney scored 43 of the student team’s points. The team, which named itself “Ayn Rand McNally’s World Atlas Shrugged,” also included fellow first-years Neal Sarkar, Nathan Viehl and Chris Wall.

The first-years beat 22 other student teams for the privilege of facing the faculty team, “Cert. Denied.”

That team’s members included M. Todd Henderson, assistant professor of law; Marsha Perziger Nagorsky, assistant dean for communications and lecturer in law; Daniel Abebe, assistant professor of law; and Douglas G. Baird, the Harry A. Bigelow Distinguished Service Professor of Law.

Michael Coppersmith, a third-year law student who hopes to focus his practice on litigation or regulatory work, organized the competition.

Coppersmith said he wrote the bulk of the trivia questions used in the student-faculty match as well as the matches between the 23 student teams. It took a lot of time, he said, and other tasks sometimes got put on the back burner.

“I put the trivia competition in its rightful place at the top of the priority list,” he said.

Student trivia superstar McSweeney said he is too busy formatting his first Table of Authorities to think about next year’s competition.

“Chances are my teammates and I will compete again, but there is something to be said for stepping aside and preserving the mystique,” he said.

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