This issue of the *Washington University Law Magazine* highlights, in various ways, the school’s deep commitment to interdisciplinary education and research. Our Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, ably led by Professor John Drobak, has long taken the lead in exposing faculty, students, and the world to the best research that bridges traditional academic disciplines. Our clinical programs, including our Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic led by Professor Maxine Lipeles, have also long been well-integrated into all parts of Washington University.

This year, we welcome exciting new developments that will keep us at the forefront of interdisciplinary work. Our new Center for Empirical Research in the Law (CERL) brings together excellent social scientists and legal scholars for transforming analysis of legal institutions. The methodology of empirical research on law has not always been rigorous in the United States, leading to statistically suspect findings and the creation of misleading knowledge. CERL is helping to change that, and to make Washington University known for both high standards and useful results. Andrew Martin, CERL’s director, is a world-renowned political scientist and a key new member of our law faculty.

This year also marks the first time that professional and graduate students at Washington University benefit from a “free-trade” agreement among schools and colleges. A law student now can take graduate and professional school courses anywhere in the University without paying (and without the law school paying) extra tuition. The same arrangement holds true for modern language classes. The law school now offers an array of courses that bring the best of learning in other disciplines to law, including law and economics, law and politics, and courses related to medicine, social work, business, and psychology. We have even aligned our academic calendar—and our class schedule—with most of the rest of the University, so that students can easily take courses in other schools.

All this together means that Washington University Law students and faculty have many more opportunities to sample the best learning across the University, and to be exposed to students and faculty from other disciplines.

Nothing symbolizes this progress more than Harry and Susan Seigle Hall. This wonderful new facility, located directly south of Anheuser-Busch Hall, is a joint building shared by Arts & Sciences and Washington University Law. It will house social science departments as well as new classrooms for the law school and an array of law school interdisciplinary centers. Our important student-led publications—the *Washington University Law Review*, the *Washington University Journal of Law & Policy*, and the *Washington University Global Studies Law Review*—also have all new offices in the building.

Interdisciplinary work is at the heart of what we do at Washington University Law because of the insights it brings to our mission to train great lawyers and to contribute to knowledge of legal issues. As you read this issue of the magazine, I hope you will learn about our exciting interdisciplinary work—as well as about the dedication of our faculty, students, and community to the vital discipline and profession of the law.