

## Law School Rallies around One of its Own

Talk to Jimmy Anderson, and there is a good chance that the first things you'll notice are his optimism and sense of determination. That's not surprising, given his achievements; the son of a truck driver and a Mexican immigrant, Anderson came to Madison on an Advanced Opportunity Fellowship after graduating summa cum laude from the University of California—Monterey Bay. But it is nonetheless striking, given recent events.

On August 24, 2010, while Anderson was driving to dinner with his parents and younger brother to celebrate his twenty-fourth birthday back home in Patterson, California, a white van ran a stop sign and slammed into the family's SUV. Anderson alone survived the crash, and was left paralyzed from the chest down.

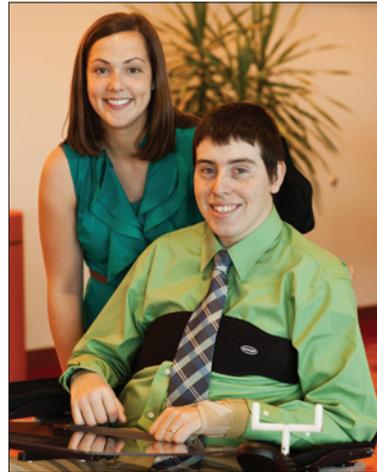
Equally striking is the fact that Anderson does not talk about how difficult his recovery period must have been ("pretty intensive," is all he will say), or congratulate himself for having gotten through it. Instead, he talks about the people who have helped him: his wife, Ashley, who recently completed her Masters in cellular and molecular biology and now plans to pursue a degree at the School of Veterinary Medicine; and the students, faculty, and administration of the University of Wisconsin Law School.

While recovering at UW Hospital, Anderson began to worry about how others might see him now that he was a quadriplegic. "You look a little different when you're rolling around in a wheelchair," he says. Ashley didn't seem to notice. "She's been nothing but kind, supportive, and loving," Anderson says. "She never looked at me differently."

Nor did any of the visitors he received from the Law School. "A lot of them just came and tried to bring up my spirits, which is what I needed at that time," Anderson says. Among

the first to appear were Anderson's friend and fellow Latino/a Law Student Association member, Kate Frigo; director of student life Mike Hall; and Irene Katele, associate director of the legal studies program. Hall and Katele came not only to offer their support, but also to help explain what Anderson could expect when he returns to school part time in the fall — as did Michael Mohr JD'09, who suffered a similar injury in high school and now practices law in Madison. "You don't know what to expect when you're in 24-hour nursing care, and you're stuck in this ward where everyone else is also injured," Anderson says. "You tend to forget about the outside world. Being able to talk to people who have been through it about the ups and downs is really helpful."

Frigo, who received a 2011 Outstanding Public Interest Law Student Award in June, quickly began organizing Law School volunteers to help address the couple's immediate needs — like moving the contents of their two-story duplex into a storage



NICK WILKES (2)

Kate Frigo and Jimmy Anderson

unit while Ashley moved into the hospital to be with her husband 24/7. More than thirty students answered the call, and within two days, the job was done. "It was really the law students who cared about the situation who made it happen," Frigo says.

Anderson's fellow students also opened their wallets to establish a recovery fund. The Student Bar Association donated the proceeds of

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Jimmy Anderson with students from his small section.

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last year's Dean's Cup and charity date auction. The LLSA held a taco sale, the Sports and Entertainment Law Society ran a silent auction of signed athletic gear, and law student Don Olsen, co-owner of Sweet Impressions bakery, sold 525 cupcakes on Anderson's behalf. According to Anderson, the grand total currently stands at somewhere between \$13,000 and \$14,000. And it has already made a difference.

"A big part of law school is reading, and with the injury, I've lost the use of my hands," he says. "It's difficult to turn the pages of a book when you can't use your

fingers." But the McBurney Center is prepared to convert all of his textbooks to digital format, and Anderson has already purchased an Amazon Kindle whose buttons he can manipulate even with limited mobility.

Meanwhile, Anderson has his eye on a larger purchase: a wheelchair-accessible Honda Element. At the moment, Anderson is limited to using Madison's paratransit service, which must be booked twenty-four hours in advance. "With this vehicle, my wife and I will be able to go where we want to go, do what we want to do, and it'll make our lives a lot easier."

While the accident prevented Anderson from graduating with his classmates in May, he was invited to speak at the Hooding Ceremony. In his presentation, Anderson focused largely on the support he has received from the Law School community, citing the kindness of those who helped him afford the tools necessary to come back to school in the fall.

Said Anderson, "It has been through this ordeal that I have come to find the true strength and generosity of my friends, my family, and even of complete strangers."

— Alexander Gelfand

**Melissa S. Kampmann '03** has been promoted to shareholder in the Wausau office of Ruder Ware. Kampmann practices in the area of Trust & Estates, Estate Planning, Family Business Succession Planning, Fiduciary Services, and Probate & Trust Administration. Kampmann also serves on the board of directors for the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce and the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, and as the secretary for the Paul and Ruth Schultze Foundation.

**Leticia Smith Evans '03** was selected as one of thirteen alumni to receive the Forward under Forty Award. This honor is given by the Wisconsin Alumni Association to recognize young alumni who are making a tremendous impact in the world by living the Wisconsin Idea. Dr. Evans was recognized for her work as a civil rights advocate as an Assistant Counsel with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

**Joseph Kirgues '08** has joined the Milwaukee office of Quarles & Brady, LLP. Kirgues will practice in the Corporate Services group. Prior to joining the firm, Kirgues served as a law clerk for Magistrate Judge William Callahan of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern Wisconsin.

**Emily Hynek '09** has joined the La Crosse County District Attorney's Office as an assistant District Attorney. Hynek previously worked in private practice at Johns, Flaherty & Collins, S.C. in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

### 2010s

**Brandon R. Gutschow '10** has joined the Milwaukee office of Quarles & Brady, LLP. Gutschow will practice in the Commercial Litigation group.

**Courtney F. Kissel '10** has joined the Lansing, Michigan office of Dykema. Kissel's practice focuses on government policy, including administrative law, Indian law and public utility law.

**Jessica E. Ozalp '10** has joined Axley Brynson law firm in Madison, Wisconsin. Ozalp will serve as an associate in the firm's Litigation group.

**Lindsey E. Smith '10** has joined Swift Collins & Smith, P.C. Her practice will be primarily commercial litigation.

*Please stay in touch! Send your news to Jini Jasti, Assistant Dean of Alumni Relations, at [jjasti@wisc.edu](mailto:jjasti@wisc.edu).*

