On December 11, 2008, the University of Belgrade Law Faculty organized a commemorative meeting to honour the memory of Slobodan Jovanovic (1869–1958), one of its most reputable professors, who died 50 years ago. Prof. Dr. Mirko Vasiljevic, Dean of the Faculty of Law, opened the meeting by presenting most significant details from Slobodan Jovanovic's biography. He was followed by Academician Prof. Dr. Cedomir Popov, Dr. Milo Lompar, Associate Professor at the University of Belgrade’s Faculty of Philology, Dr. Danilo N. Basta, Full Professor at the Faculty of Law and Corresponding Member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and Dr. Ratko Markovic, Full Professor at the Faculty of Law.

Commemorating 50th anniversary of the death of Professor Slobodan Jovanovic
A scholarly discussion about the Proposed Statute of the Autonomous Province (AP) of Vojvodina was held at the University of Belgrade’s Law Faculty on December 1, 2008. The conference was designed to re-examine thoroughly the Proposal of the Statute of AP of Vojvodina, recently approved by the Assembly of AP of Vojvodina with insignificant alterations in spite of the fact that the Draft of the Statute had been widely criticized in public and even thought to be contrary to Serbia’s Constitution and legislation. Introductory speeches were delivered by Dr. Tamas Korhec, Secretary for administration and regulations in the Executive Council of AP of Vojvodina, Dr. Zoran Loncar, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Novi Sad, and Dr Ratko Markovic, Full Professor at the University of Belgrade’s Faculty of Law. Critical tones prevailed
in the discussion during the second half of the conference. The papers presented at the conference were published in “The Proposal of the Statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina”, edited by Prof. Dr. Ratko Markovic.

Doc. Dr. Zoran Loncar, Prof. Dr Mirko Vasiljevic, Prof. Dr. Miodrag Jovanovic, Dr. Tamas Korhec and Prof. Dr. Ratko Markovic delivered introductory speeches at the Conference about the Statute of the AP of Vojvodina

Day of the Patron Saint of education in Serbia celebrated at the Faculty of Law

On January 27, the Law Faculty of the University of Belgrade celebrated the Feast Day of St. Sava — the Patron Saint of education in Serbia. The celebrations began with a solemn meeting, followed by awards and degree presentation, and a student competition in oratory skills. A “Word about Saint Sava” by Prof. Dr Zika Bujuklic gave a particularly festive tone to the celebration. Though St. Sava could be widely talked about as the first archbishop of the Serbian Orthodox Church, a writer, a diplomat and a founder of a number of Orthodox monasteries, Professor Bujukic decided to put an accent on his contribution to the development of law in Serbia. He reminded us that St Sava, after obtaining independence for the Serbian Orthodox Church in 1219, set rules for secular and religious life in the Serbian state. Following the formal program, awards and recognition certificates were presented to the students of the Faculty of Law. Nina Krsljfanin, a 20-year-old student, was granted the

Prof. Dr. Mirko Vasiljevic, Dean of the Faculty of Law with Nina Krsljfanin, the best student in the graduating class.
Best Graduating Student Award as a student who achieved the highest academic average in her graduating class.

The 15th Law Students Oratory Competition, organized by the Faculty of Law and the Oratory Centre Instituto Oratoria, also took place on the same day. Filip Bojic, a fourth-year student, was voted the winner both by the jury and the audience in the category of elective topics. Milos Jankovic, a third-year student, won the first prize for the assigned topic, while Aleksandar Jovanovic, a first-year student, won the same prize in the category of improvisation. (This year assigned topics were “Justice or the Law” and Socrates’ thought “One who marries will regret – one who does not will regret, too”).

Celebration of the Day of St. Sava

Participants of the XV law students oratory competition
Video-conference on “Legal education and the Internet”

The first video-conference at the Law Faculty, in which representatives of our Faculty and the Suffolk University Law School took part, was held on December 11, 2008. The conference was moderated by Professor Thomas Koenig, who visited our Faculty of Law during the winter semester as a Fulbright scholar, and gave a course in the Internet Law. Professor Stephen Hicks, Director of the Graduate Law Program in Global Technology at the Suffolk Faculty of Law, and Professor Chris Gibson, a leading American expert in international disputes concerning intellectual property, addressed our legal experts directly from Boston, which was enabled by most advanced technology used at the Faculty. Members of the Faculty's teaching staff also took part in the conference.

Ceremonial opening of doctoral and specialized studies

Doctoral studies in the academic year 2008/2009 were solemnly inaugurated on December 4, 2008. Forty-five students were accepted and could opt for one of 12 doctoral study courses: Public Finances and Financial Law; Legal Theory, Sociology of Law and Philosophy of Law; Legal field of the Economic Analysis of Law, Microeconomics and Macroeconomics; International Law; Constitutional Law; Administrative Law; Labour Law; Legal History; Business Law; Private International Law; Civil Law and Criminal Law.
Specialized studies of “Terrorism, organized crime and corruption” commenced on February 11, 2009. Thirty students who entered this course were welcomed by the Vice-Dean, Prof. Dr. Miodrag Jovanovic, and other Law Faculty Professors – Prof. Dr. Zoran Stojanovic (“Punitive and legal reaction to serious crime”), Prof. Dr. Djordje Ignjatovic (“Organised Crime”), Prof. Dr. Goran Ilic (“Corruption”), and Dr. Dragan Simeunovic, Professor at the University of Belgrade’s Faculty of Political Sciences (“Terrorism”).

Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Internal Affairs

On February 25, 2009, the Faculty of Law Dean, Professor Dr. Mirko Vasiljevic, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Ivica Dacic, signed a Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia and the Faculty of Law of the Belgrade University. This Agreement is aimed at improving legal regulations concerning activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as the Police Force reform. The Ministry employees will attend specialized courses at the Faculty of Law in order to enhance their education and work. Apart from that, this agreement will enable the best Law Faculty students to find employment in the Ministry of Internal Affairs after their graduation.

Honors and awards

On the occasion of December 14 – the Archives Day in Serbia, Dr. Zoran S. Mirkovic, Associate Professor at the University of Belgrade's Faculty of Law, was awarded a prize for the best book in the field of archives and history for his monograph “Karadjordje’s Code – Criminal, Family and State Law in Serbia’s Uprising”. It was stressed out that in the awarded book a wide array of original sources and broad scientific and specialist literature was used to analyse the Code dating back from the First Serbian Uprising, thus contributing to a wider understanding of this very important period in modern Serbian history.

The Supreme Court of Serbia embraced a fine tradition to present eminent legal experts and scholars, as a special reward, with a guest membership card for the Supreme Court Library. The Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Dr. Mirko Vasiljevic, was awarded this honor on December 24, 2008. On the occasion, he delivered a speech on “Social Corporate Responsibility”.
In memoriam

Đorđe Lazin
(1951–2009)

Full Professor of the University of Belgrade Law Faculty, Dr. Đorđe Lazin, passed away in Belgrade on January 25, 2009. He was born in Vrsac on September 10, 1950. He graduated from the Faculty of Law in Belgrade in 1975. He obtained his L.L.M. degree in 1978 with the thesis “Apparent Ideal Concurrence of Criminal Offences”, and a Ph.D. degree with his dissertation “In dubio pro reo in criminal procedures”. From 1976 to 1978 he worked at the Institute for Criminal and Sociological Research. In 1978 he started his career at the University of Belgrade Law Faculty, where he went through all academic teaching positions to become a Full Professor of Criminal Procedure in 2006. As a holder of Alexander von Humboldt scholarship, he spent the academic year 1991/1992 at the Institute for Criminal Law Science at the Faculty of Law in Munich. He was involved in a number of research projects. He was also an editor-in-chief of the “Balkans Law Review”, an international law journal published in English, a secretary of the Association for Criminal Law and Criminology of Serbia, and a secretary-general of the Balkans Criminal Law Association. He took part in a number of scholarly discussions at home and abroad. Professor Đorđe Lazin was one of the most eminent experts in the Criminal Procedure Law and his bibliography contains dozens of scholarly and expert works.

Library news

The Faculty of Law library is the finest academic law library in the region, occupying the area of around 2,000 sq. meters, with 600 sq. meters of reading rooms, one of which is reserved solely for researchers and teachers. The outstanding collection of materials covering all branches of law, as well as other social sciences, in Serbian and foreign languages, comprises 143,150 monographs, 2,820 titles with 33,158 years of serial publications. The Library also includes a collection of reference books with over 400 encyclopaedias, lexicons, dictionaries, etc, and a priceless collection of 91 rare publications (featuring several 17th and 18th century editions of Justinian’s Code, a singular edition of Corpus Iuris Canonici, etc.). During the year 2008, the Law Faculty library filed 1,761 copies of monographs, 223 of which were for the deposit fund, and 172 titles of periodic publications, while the author and subject catalogues contained 1359 monographs.

Publishing activity

The Faculty of Law boasts well-developed publishing activities. Each year the Publishing centre produces dozens of books within thematic libraries (“Udžbenici” /“Textbooks”, “Priručnici” /“Manuals”, “Monografije” /“Monographs”, “Zbornici” /“Collections of papers”, “Prevodi” /“Translations”, “Naučno naslede Pravnog fakulteta u Beogradu” /“Scholarly heritage of the Faculty of Law in Belgrade”, “Izabrana dela” /“Selected works”, “Strana izdanja” /“Foreign editions”, “Posebna izdanja” /“Special editions”, “Tragovi” /“Traces” and “Bibliografije” /“Bibliographies”), and editions (“Srbija pravna država” /“Serbia, the Rule of Law”, “Crimen”, “Retorika” /“Rhetoric”, “Zivotopisi” /“Biographies”, “Varia”). The titles can be found at the Faculty Internet site. The Publishing centre has been enriched with two new libraries “Argументи” (“Arguments”) and “Антика” (“Antiquity”). The “Arguments” library has an aim to critically comment present or future normative solutions proposed by governmental authorities. On the other hand, the goal of the “Antiquity” library is to gather the most eminent authors in the areas of classical legal, political and cultural issues at home and abroad.
Students activities

A humanitarian event “Osmeh na dar” (“A Smile as a gift”) was organized for the third year in a row by the Law Faculty students prior to the New Year’s Eve of 2009, and it was the most successful so far as it gathered also students of other faculties of the University of Belgrade. Around 40 students traveled to Kosovo and Metohija on December 27. They visited a number of sites in the Province and handed over 2000 presents to the children there. The success of the event encouraged students to establish a foundation of the same name on January 27, 2009 with an aim to assist children from Kosovo and Metohija, as well as sick children and those with special needs. The Foundation “Osmeh na dar” is aimed at promoting culture and education, and developing cooperation with other humanitarian organizations in order to achieve these goals.

The Faculty of Law hosted The 8th International Competition in Student Parliamentary Debate, “Belgrade Open 2009”, on February 21 and 22. It was organised by the Law Faculty Debate Club within the student “Open communication” debate network. Forty teams from Croatia, Slovenia, Greece, Great Britain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Macedonia took part in it together with 20 home teams representing the faculties of Law, Political Sciences and Organizational Sciences. About 50 judges from Serbia and abroad also took part in the competition. The topics were miscellaneous, ranging from international criminal law to economics to social policy. The ceremonial finals took place in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.

Students with children from Kosovo and Metohija
On December 27 and 28, the 10th Student Parliamentary Debate Tournament took place at the Faculty of Law with the participation of thirty-two teams, the best eight of which continued to semi-finals. The Law Faculty was represented by 12 teams made up of debate beginners who attended a preparatory course during the winter semester. Four of them were placed amongst the top 10, three passed to semi-finals, while one of them ("Little Stars") competed in the finals.