Trending @ RWU Law: Dean Yelnosky's Post: Why I Tweet Every Day

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I know that lots of people hate Twitter, and I know many of the reasons.

Too many tweets are inane (“I am having an awesome grilled cheese for lunch”); there are too many abbreviations and symbols used on Twitter (what do @ and # mean anyway?); the 140-character limit makes it impossible to convey anything meaningful; and Twitter is accelerating the destruction of written English. Young people cannot write elegant prose, and they would not be able to recognize it if they saw it. #OMG!

Nevertheless, I tweet. Enthusiastically. Every weekday (and often on the weekend). Prior to becoming dean in July 2014, I had only the slightest familiarity with Twitter. My nephew, who is much younger and cooler than I, told me a few years before that it was a great way to get interesting and real time information from countless sources. So I began to “follow” some Twitter feeds. My nephew told me to “curate” the kind of information I wanted to receive. I did, but I did not tweet anything out. I was listening, but I was not talking.

That all changed when I became dean because I suddenly had a lot to share. In fact, I recall telling someone during the run up to taking on my new role that RWU Law was such a dynamic and innovative institution that “I could tweet something meaningful about the law school every day.” I was right. In fact, after almost a year and a half, I have averaged more than two tweets a day.

My tweets fall roughly into five categories. I tweet about:

1) the accomplishments of our students, alumni, faculty, and staff;

2) the numerous events that take place at RWU Law that enrich our students’ experience here -- events that are planned by the law school faculty and staff, and events planned by our students;

3) the law school’s new programs and other initiatives;

4) media coverage of the law school; and
5) occasionally, something that catches my eye on our campus in Bristol or Providence.

Here are some examples from each category:

**CATEGORY 1**
Michael J. Yelnosky
@MichaelJYelnosky
@RWULaw alum Ashley Ham Pong describes how her career as an immigration lawyer began @RWULaw Immigration Clinic. tinyurl.com/py7kq9y

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Almost 15% of 2015 graduates of @RWULaw start judicial clerkships in September for courts in RI, NV, NJ, CT, and Hawaii.
Michael J. Yelnosky
Dean and Professor of Law, Roger Williams University School of Law
JANUARY 2012

Students @RWULaw get rare opportunity to hear from First Circuit.

Michael J. Yelnosky
Dean and Professor of Law, Roger Williams University School of Law
JANUARY 2012

Senator Reed, Senator Whitehouse, and Representative Langevin @RWULaw
Cybersecurity Symposium.
Bryan Stevenson, Judge Thompson, Judge Savage and @RWULaw students. Bryan is signing copies of Just Mercy.

Scenes from last night’s Santoro Business Law Lecture. Gigi Sohn from FCC. @RWULaw
CATEGORY 3
Michael J. Yelinsky

@RWULaw Alternative Spring Break. NOLA, NYC, and Providence.

@RWULaw Interested in Cybersecurity and Law? Consider the J.D./M.S. joint degree program. @RWULaw
New York Times article features steps we are taking @RWULaw to make law school more affordable. tinyurl.com/pkr9dij

Law School is Scary? Market, With Top Schools in Brewed Law schools, facing declining enrollment, are trying to attract students by cutting tuition and increasing financial aid. tinyurl.com/2j8c6z

Pre-law Magazine @NationalJurist recognizes @RWULaw in "Top Ten Innovations in Legal Education." tinyurl.com/qd5ohz
I never imagined that I would engage in a real time Twitter conversation with a group of prelaw advisors and students considering law school. Karen Graziano, prelaw advisor at Villanova University, is a prolific and influential tweeter. This July she invited me to participate in a Twitter chat group about legal education and the program at RWU Law.

The questions I answered during that chat allowed me to describe many of the details of our program, including, for example, our clinical guarantee.
The chat was a most interesting exchange because prelaw advisors are intimately familiar with law school costs and programs. They are a well-informed and discerning audience, and I found them on Twitter.

Put simply, I will continue to tweet every day because it is one of the best ways I have found to spread the word about the leadership role of RWU Law in legal education.