Daniel Lahaie, Thomas Parisi and Brian Daniel Strouse and that we’re going through this experience together,” said Braithwaite, who “I feel very blessed that two of my classmates will be in the same class as me, Each had visited Arizona just once before moving to Tempe for law school. The young men are close friends and roommates, but they have very diff er -

“IT takes a special person to want to go through the rigors of a dual profes-

“THREE MED STUDENTS TAKE ON J.D. PROGRAM

Most students come to law school to learn to become attorneys, or pre-

“I always knew I would go into some sort of service field, helping people,” he said. “As I grew up, I realized being a doctor was the best way, and it seemed natural because I grew around health care.

“As a doctor, you have to have a legal background today or you’re going to be taken advantage of by people who see you as deep-pocketed,” Braithwaite said.

“Later on in my career, I may be able to defend doctors against malpractice.”

At 28, Lahaie is the oldest of the trio, and he enjoys traveling, cooking, painting and, especially, the Boston Red Sox. He grew up in Medfield, Mass., but considers himself a Bostonian, and is looking forward to living in a big city, despite the heat.

“I like Phoenix is a large metropolitan area, where Rochester is very small, 100,000 people,” he said. “I’m an urban individual, and I want to come back to that kind of environment.

Since his youth, Lahaie has been interested in biology, science and medicine, but he also developed a pull toward human interactions. His interests are re-

“Any combination of the three fields of study is appealing to me,” he said. “I feel very blessed that two of my classmates will be in the same class as me, and that we’re going through this experience together,” said Braithwaite, who is athletic, loves 80s music and is the most extroverted of the three.

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TRIBAL LAWYER LEADS INDIAN LEGAL CLINIC

An accomplished lawyer known for her careful approach to legal issues and commitment to serving tribal communities is the new director of the Indian Legal Clinic.

Patty Ferguson-Bohnee is supervising the continued development of the rapidly growing clinic, which provides students with important training and skills in the research and application of tribal law. Ferguson-Bohnee, a former associate in the Indian Law and Tribal Relations Practice Group at the Scottsdale law firm of Sacks Tierney P.A., also is a visiting clinical professor at the law school.

Ferguson-Bohnee’s approach to legal issues and commitment to serving tribal communities is the new director of the Indian Legal Clinic.

Patty Ferguson-Bohnee, Director, Indian Legal Clinic.

"I’ve always been interested in academia, but I couldn’t really see myself not practicing law," she said. "As director of the Indian Legal Clinic, I can still practice law, while being in the environment of teaching. It’s also exciting to be able to work with the professors in the Indian Legal Program, who are nationally known."

Rebecca Tossie, executive director of the College’s Indian Legal Program, said she was delighted by Ferguson-Bohnee’s decision to leave her private practice.

"Patty brings a wealth of talent and expertise to this position," Tossie said. "Her stellar credentials and commitment to professional service have earned her the respect of members of the State Bar and law faculty alike. Patty is known for her abundant energy and positive approach to law practice, and she immediately immersed herself in the life of the College’s outstanding clinical program and began to organize the Indian Legal Clinic for this year’s classes."

Ferguson-Bohnee, a member of the Pointe-au-Chien tribe, recently helped four hayon tribes, including her own, obtain recognition from the state of Louisiana. She currently is seeking federal recognition of the 700-member Pointe-au-Chien, of which she is the only attorney.

"I feel a responsibility to my community, because it has been ignored and disenfranchised," she said. "If I don’t help them, who will?"

Ferguson-Bohnee grew up in a rural community in Louisiana where her dad worked in a paper mill and her mother was a stay-at-home mom. She became hooked on law and politics while competing in a mock trial as a high school student. After receiving her undergraduate degree in Native American Studies with an emphasis in Policy and Law from Stanford University, she earned a J.D. from Columbia University Law School with a certificate in Foreign and Comparative Law.

After law school, Ferguson-Bohnee clerked for Judge Betty Binns Fletcher of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and then joined Sacks Tierney, where she served as an assistant professor at the University of Oklahoma College of Law, teaching legal research and writing. Most recently, Sperling took a year-long leave of absence from teaching to clerk for the U.S. Senior District Judge Jerry Buchmeyer in the Northern District of Texas. She has also served as a law clerk to U.S. Magistrate Judge Paul D. Stickney.

Carrie Sperling joins the College as visiting associate clinical professor. Sperling graduated cum laude from the University of Houston Law Center where she served as a student editor on the Houston Law Review.

Carrie Sperling.

Tribal lawyer leads Indian Legal Clinic.

Patty Ferguson-Bohnee.

Diane Murley.

Cindy Kelley.