The species that discovered fire, invented antibiotics and sent a man to the moon, all to control its environment, now is looking inward to modify itself, using technologies that are changing what it means to be human, according to an author who will give a public lecture in November at the College of Law.

Joel Garreau, a reporter and editor at The Washington Post, will present the seventh annual Hogan & Hartson Jurimetrics Lecture, sponsored by the Center for the Study of Law, Science, & Technology at the College of Law. The event, which is free and open to the public, is at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 15, in the Great Hall. A reception and book signing will follow.

Garreau is the author of Radical Evolution: The Promise and Peril of Enhancing Our Minds, Our Bodies—and What It Means to Be Human (2005, Doubleday), which takes an unprecedented, always fascinating, some- times alarming look at the hinge in history on which society is perched. He reports about the changes to our minds, memories, metabolisms, personalities and progeny that already are taking place, from allegedly enhanced super-athletes such as Barry Bonds to a exoskeleton suit that the U.S. Army hopes will ultimately enable soldiers to literally leap tall buildings in a single bound, to male mouse cells being transformed into egg cells in a lab.

“We’ve tried to transform human nature for a long time now,” Garreau said. “We’ve tried Socratic reasoning and Buddhist enlightenment and Christian sanctification and Cartesian logic and the New Soviet Man. We’ve tried to transform human nature for a long time now.”

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“The Heaven Scenario, in which pain, suffering, disease and even death is conquered, and technology is in control, while humans ride the wave of accelerating changes, is real,” Garreau said. “That long history of futile attempts to change our fundamental natures, whose book cites numerous examples of technology, both in development and existence, which is rapidly reshaping our lives. His message is that these changes are real, not science fiction, that they are coming much faster than we think, and that there are three scenarios for how this will shape society and the law:

• The Heaven Scenario, in which pain, suffering, disease and even death is conquered, and technology is in control, while humans ride the wave of accelerating changes.

• The Hell Scenario, which, in this generation, is characterized by the irreversible destruction of the human race and the biosphere. According to this view, technology lands in the wrong hands, and it overwhelms its practitioners.

• The Prevail Scenario, in which the future isn’t predetermined, but is
chosen by people who collectively and effectively tame the technologies that they view as harmful and speed up advancements that seem positive.

Garreau will expound on these scenarios, in addition to presenting “The Law of Unintended Consequences,” a law-school-taught example of what could happen if some of the engineering currently being funded comes to market. The story is about a law student whose “enhanced” peers are fast, creative thinkers with photographic memories, total recall, and stunning looks who have been vaccinated against pain. They also don’t sleep for a week or more at a time, thanks to medication that shifts off the human trigger to sleep. That medication is already today.

The Hogan & Hartson lecture honors the late Lee OConnor, a former partner at the Washington, D.C., law firm that has provided an endowment to the college for a lecture series on jurisprudence, the scientific study of the law. Paul’s history with ASLH members was quite deep. She mentioned her history with several ASLH members, not just the state’s history is relatively brief, but its land is ancient and rooted.

Her accomplishments and her enduring role, the Justice is now the first

Justice Sandra Day O’Connor spoke about her love of history, and she Chatting in the Great Hall are, from left, ASLH president Donald Jr., plenary speaker Paul Brand and retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. Before Brand’s lecture in the Great Hall, retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor spoke about her love of history, and she touched on her own role in it, taking a cue from Patricia D. White, Dean of the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law.

“Her enduring role and place in history is assured, and because of her work in recent elections and her role in the book of the 11th-century courts as quite often noisy places, where it would be difficult to hear what was said,” said Brand, noting that, while the official record of the court was published in Latin, the language used by the justices and the lawyers was a variety of French.

Religious freedom and the role of religion in schools is one of the most controversial issues in Spain today, he said. The Spanish Constitution of 1978 renounced Catholicism as the official state religion, which had been the case for nearly 500 years, and prohibited discrimination based on religion.

It also guaranteed religious education to any student in public school whose parent requests the education. Through cooperation agreements with the churches, instruction is provided in public schools by Catholic, Islamic, Jewish and Evangelical churches. Instructors are chosen by the churches and paid by the school. At least 10 students in a school must request instruction in one of the designated religions before the school is required to provide a class.

“The social demand of Catholic instruction in school is high,” said Masferrer, noting that 75 to 80 percent of all students – in public and private schools – receive Catholic instruction.

Two conflicts exist in the system: first, less demanding courses are offered to those who choose not to take Catholic instruction, which Bishop think deviate Catholic instruction and encourage students to take the less-demanding course; and second, although the schools pay the teachers, they are hired by the church and have been removed for behavior deemed contrary to Catholic morals rather than lack of competence.

SIGN UP FOR SPRING TVC

The Technology Ventures Clinic is now accepting applications for the Spring 2008 semester. Please go to http://law.asu.edu/techventures or e-mail Professor Eric Menkhuis at eric.menkhuis@asu.edu to learn more and to obtain an application form.

STUDENTS HOST POKER TOURNAMENT

The Small Business Law Students Association will host its first annual Texas Hold’em Poker Fundraiser from 6-10 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 1, in the Peck & Johnson Rotunda. Cost is $10 for students, $20 for faculty, and $50 for companies. Proceeds will help pay for the renovation of the student organization room and fund a business and law symposium. Prizes were donated by Swistar Watches, RA, Dos Gringos, Westlaw and Southern Wine and Spirits.

For more information, contact Jason Rosell at Jason.Rosell@asu.edu.

FINALS PREP

Get ready for finals by attending the ExamSoft SoftTest training workshops which will be held at 12:15 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 5, and Wednesday, Nov. 7, in Room 116. Before attending, you must have ExamSoft installed on your laptop. For instructions, go to www.law.asu.edu/interactive. Once the software is downloaded and registered, you will be able to take a mock exam to familiarize yourself with the program. If you have a Mac, you must run SoftTest through Bootcamp/Windows.

DON’T MISS

Daniel O. Bernstine, president and chief executive officer of the Law School Admission Council, will speak at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 30 in the Great Hall. Bernstine, president emeritus of Portland State University, is the keynote in the Diversity Scholar Lecture Series sponsored by the ASU InterGroup Relations Center and the College of Law.

Bernstine will speak on “The Continuing Need for Affirmative Action.”