

Dean: dedicated to family

From A1

As a past graduate of the University of Kansas, Tacha returned to the university from 1974-1977, serving as associate professor of its School of Law. Then from 1977-1979, she served as associate dean. She later became associate vice chancellor for academic affairs in 1979 until 1981, when she was appointed vice chancellor for academic affairs between 1981 and 1985. After years of committed work to the university, Tacha received both the KU Alumni Association's Fred Ellsworth Medallion and the Distinguished Service Citation for her extraordinary service.

Throughout her career, Tacha has received a number of impressive awards ranging from judiciary work to academic achievements to civil war preservation. But when asked about the accolade that she values the most, she was almost speechless.

"They are all so meaningful to me. I don't think I could pick one out," Tacha said. "All of them have added an enormous amount to me."

When speaking with Tacha it is clear that she has achieved a great deal in her life. Though, despite all of her accolades, she still remains as humble as ever.

"I always feel that I accept

[awards] on behalf of a lot of people, as a lot of people have helped me along the way and been great inspirations and mentors to me," Tacha said. "When you think about what our president's values are, humility has to be among the top of them."

To name a few, she received the John Marshall Award from the American Bar Association for her positive impact on the justice system. In 2007, Tacha received the Devitt Award for her lifetime service, the highest honor a federal judge can earn. In that same year, she was selected to represent American judges in the Canadian-American Legal Exchange.

In regard to civic work, Tacha has worked as chair of a national heritage area along the Kansas-Missouri border called Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, which commemorates the Civil War stories in that area as designated by Congress. She is also involved with an organization called American Inns of Court Movement, for which she is excited to establish a chapter at Pepperdine. The organization is a mentorship program among lawyers to learn and develop from one another.

Among other aspirations, Tacha plans to work closely with law stu-

dents during her time as dean. As well, she will continue her emphases of ethics, civility and professionalism in the legal profession.

"[I'd like to] build upon a tradition of excellence in the context of a Christian law school, to give our students a first-class legal education enhanced by discussions of value and of the broad aspirations of each student as an individual," Tacha said.

Even though she isn't in Kansas anymore, Tacha's new Pepperdine family is ready and excited to embrace their newest member. With her help, the School of Law plans to build upon their already established legacy of excellence.

University President Andrew K. Benton further justified Tacha's appointment in a recent press release.

"As a former professor and associate dean at the University of Kansas School of Law, Judge Tacha also possesses a keen mind for legal education and practice, coupled with solid academic experience that will enable her to lead our Law School's continued pursuit of excellence."

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