

Webdrips migrated Stanford Law School's proprietary content management system (CMS) to Drupal 6. This provided a significantly improved content editor experience, while preserving the look, feel, and functionality of the original site.

### Overview

Stanford Law School (SLS) wanted to migrate their existing website from a custom, unsupported, outdated, unwieldy, proprietary legacy CMS to an open-source, scalable, extendable, robust CMS that would meet SLS web needs now and in the future. The Drupal CMS was selected for the following reasons:

- Drupal has become the de facto standard at Stanford, with hundreds of Stanford sites now built on Drupal and more added daily.
- The desire to move away from an unsupported legacy CMS that was bulky to update (think CakePHP) to a open-source, scalable, robust CMS that meets their needs now and in the future.
- The need for content managers spanning several departments and students to easily add, edit, and manage content and event workflows.

### Goals

The primary goal of this project was to migrate SLS from a legacy CMS to Drupal. Migration was comprised of two parts:

1. Conversion of a set of complex layouts and proprietary PHP code into a Drupal-based site that uses modules (mostly contributed and custom where needed) and a custom theme.
2. Migration of approximately 10,000 pages stored in the database, and around 5000 HTML or text-based pages.

The look of the site was to be preserved, so no graphical design changes were made. The secondary goal was to make improvements where possible. Also, with more than 300,000 page views and 80,000 unique visitors per month, we wanted to be sure the performance wasn't diminished.

### Requirements

The primary requirements of the site were as follows:

- A home page (see Fig. 1) that provided a central hub for the school's latest social activity, such as real-time tweet updates and a carousel view displaying the latest news, events, blogs, and articles.
- Five information portals (see Fig. 2): provided both a mega menu with links related to the portal (e.g. alumni), and news, events, publications, blogs, and other information related to the portal.
- Person and department directory: a filterable, sorted list of all people and departments associated with SLS.
- Events section: a searchable, filterable list of events and mini calendar broken down by event type, audience, etc.
- News Center (see screen shot): a hub for displaying latest



Figure 1: Stanford Law School Website Home Page

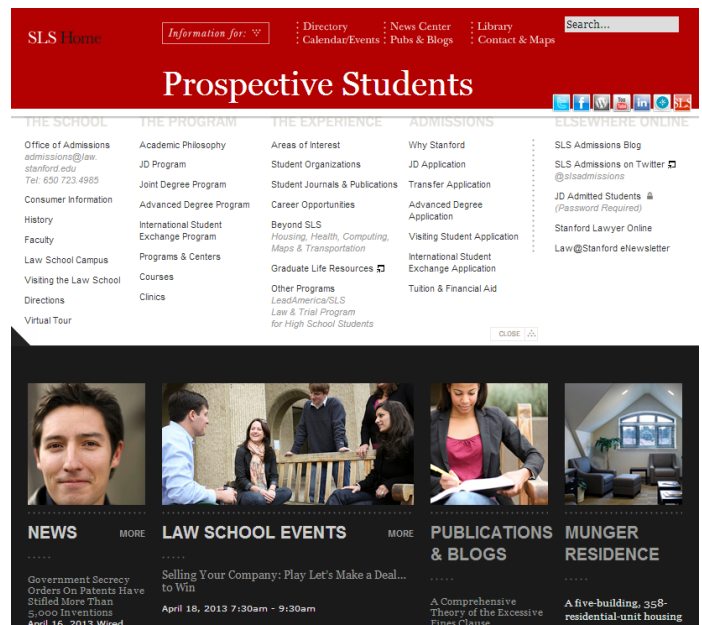


Figure 2: SLS Prospective Students Portal

tweets, news, press releases, and publications. The page was also a launching point to all of the school's tweeters and bloggers.

- Library section (see screen shot): a collection of pages, news, events, and other information related to the Robert Crown Law Library.
- Complex bread crumbs: the breadcrumb navigation is used on pages within the site buried several levels deep, and the algorithm for how they're generated became so complex, it wound up requiring over 100 lines of code.

## Primary Page Types

The Drupal-based SLS website provided several page types:

- **Areas of Interest:** SLS provides six primary areas of study, so these pages provided a primary description, links to more detailed description by subject within an image carousel, an automated menu with links to related listing pages for faculty, news, departments, publications, events, etc. The primary challenge for this page type was in building the automated menu such that the links to related listing pages were only displayed if the listing page had at least one valid item. For example, we only wanted to show the "News" link if at least one news page had been associated to that area of interest with the proper tag.
- **Child page:** several content types, including areas of interest, needed to have the idea of a page hierarchy. Child pages of any depth needed the option of inheriting a parent page's title, banner, and left/right sidebar content so that content managers needed only edit information in one place. Child pages also needed to be optionally inserted into an automated context navigation menu. The primary challenge with child pages was providing the optional inheritance of one or more parent assets.
- **Courses:** included basic information such as title and description, tagging, related person who taught the course, and the departments the course was related to. Course content is imported from a separate Stanford site using an XML feed.
- **Events:** the most complex page type featured typical fields like title, description, and from/to dates, location, related department, and several fields to help the facilities department decide on the best location. Events also included a workflow that's described in the Modules/Themes section below.
- **Landing page:** a page type mainly for students explaining the school, program, and experience. These pages included title, banner, right/left sidebar content, related person quote, and the ability to insert automated content using a view. Providing content managers the capability to insert a view was somewhat challenging in that we needed to generate a list of views, their associated displays, and any optional arguments. This implied writing some custom code as no existing Drupal module provided this capability.
- **News, publications, and press releases:** media page types included basic information such as title, author, date, source, article link, related faculty, and related organization.
- **Organizations:** this page type allowed for creation of office, department, program, and clinic pages. Organizations included location/contact information, left/right sidebar content, relationships to other organizations, etc. Organizations presented two primary challenges: 1) if the content manager chose a particular taxonomy term, the layout needed to be altered to accommodate an image carousel (which was accomplished with the Panels module (see below)); 2) If the organization had the proper flag set and at least one news, publication, or press release page related to the organization existed, SLS wanted



Figure 3: SLS News Center Page

to display the news/press release/publication in place of the organization's description as the landing page for the organization. In Drupal terms, this implies displaying either the node or a view when the path of the node was accessed.

- **Person:** a page type for adding faculty, staff, and other people to SLS included their name, contact information, photo, CV (Resume) file, biography, awards/honors, education, areas of expertise, and website links.

## Outcome

With over 17,000 lines of custom CSS, PHP, and Javascript code, the project was delivered in the desired time frame, and is a major upgrade to the prior CMS for both content creators and administrators. This site now provides a path to the future that will scale with their needs.

For a detailed description, refer to the complete case study on Drupal.org.

## About Webdrips

From back of the napkin to production, Webdrips has your back. We turn complex business logic problems into sophisticated, yet easy-to-use sites. Whether you're starting a new website, giving your website a facelift, or converting a legacy site to Drupal, we'll help you get it done quickly. Don't know Drupal? Don't worry. Our goal is to leave you with a website that exceeds design expectations while allowing content managers to focus on creating brilliant content.