

FlaLaw

University of Florida Levin College of Law Newsletter • Vol. 6 No. 21 • April 14, 2003

• DEAN'S MESSAGE •

Two recent surveys — Leiter and *U.S. News & World Report* — confirm the UF College of Law's status as a top law school in America and among the very best in the Southeast.

This is good news, though I have always felt — and still do — that we are underrated in national rankings. I am optimistic, however, that the synergy created by our hiring this year of an extraordinary group of new faculty, the continuing excellence of our current faculty, and the possibilities soon to be presented by new, state-of-the-art facilities will help our reputation catch up to our reality.

For now — thanks to your combined efforts and the superior quality of our faculty and student body — we are firmly in the top tier and getting better each year. To summarize:

- Brian Leiter of the University of Texas has posted the 2003-04 Ranking of Law Faculty Quality online at www.utexas.edu/law/faculty/bleiter/rankings/rankings03.html. It rates law schools according to “faculty quality,” as measured by a survey of 150 leading legal academics (including UF law professors Christopher Slobogin and Barbara Bennett Woodhouse). The Levin College of Law is listed among five other “runners-up to the top 40.”

- Our *U.S. News* numbers continue to improve. We were ranked 13th in selectivity (acceptance rate) — the fourth most selective public law school nationwide — 23rd in GPA, 39th both in student/faculty ratio and peer reputation, and 45th overall.

- *U.S. News* ranks us first in diversity among other top tier schools — 15th overall — in the Southeast, and 30th in the nation.

- In the eight states comprising the Southeast, law schools ranked in the top 50 both in Leiter and *U.S. News*



Dean Jon Mills

are UF and North Carolina — the only two public institutions — Tulane, Vanderbilt, Duke and Emory.

Rankings of educational institutions are not always reliable, regardless of formulas used, but they do help measure our progress. They also point to areas where we need to work harder, such as in our bar passage rate.

Efforts to improve other statistics — our student/faculty ratio, expenditures for students and “at graduation” hiring rate — are underway. The first two should improve with additional faculty hires and more resources.

Lower numbers in the third are primarily due to the UF College of Law being one of the few schools in the country with two graduating classes, since employment figures for December graduating classes typically don't catch up to those for fall graduates until 6-9 months after graduation. Our strategic plan calls for eliminating the spring class after 2005, which should dramatically improve this rating.

The bottom line is that the Levin College of Law is firmly in the top 25 percent of the nation's 185 ABA-accredited law schools, and at the very top in the Southeast. We are proud of this accomplishment and national recognition of the quality of our diverse student body and effectiveness of our faculty and programs. It assures us that we are progressing toward our goal of becoming one of the nation's top 10 public colleges of law, and helps us focus on what we need to do to make this happen.

Finally, please note that rankings are not the only indicators of our progress and success. Applications are up, students and faculty are excelling at national levels, and our alumni are more active than ever before in their support.

We all can take pride in these accomplishments, and what they promise for the future.

— Dean Jon Mills

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Grad Tax Ranked Second in Nation

The UF College of Law's Graduate Tax Program continues to rank second in the nation in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual ranking of the country's best graduate schools.

Other law schools in the top five in taxation are New York University, Georgetown, Harvard and Yale.



Parking Decals

Parking restrictions will be lifted in UF commuter lots during the last week of exams (April 26-May 2).

Remember to renew your decal for summer and/or next year, since decals expire May 1. Sandy Tyson will sell decals in the Dean's Suite 9 a.m.-4 p.m., April 29-30.

Shands and UF faculty, TEAMS and USPS employees can order decals online at www.bsd.ufl.edu/decal/decIntro.asp. Orders will be processed and billed through payroll deduction, and the decal mailed to your home.

Note: Those with delinquent parking citations or outstanding decal balances from the previous year must pay balances due before their order may be processed.

Cafeteria Hours Change April 28

Hours for the college's Litigator Lunchbox (cafeteria) will be 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, April 28, through Thursday, May 8. It will be closed May 9, the last Friday of exams.

• CENTER FOR CAREER SERVICES •

2003 Externship Registration Numbers

Students who turned in acknowledgement forms — complete and signed by all parties — can get registration numbers for 2003 externships in Career Services.

Interested in Pro Bono? Create Your Own Opportunity

If you haven't made plans for summer, consider volunteering in Gainesville or your hometown. Career Services can help you create your own pro bono opportunity if it meets the following criteria:

1. Work that is legal in nature;
2. With a government agency, court or non-profit agency;
3. Supervised by an attorney;
4. For which you receive no compensation or academic credit;
5. That benefits the underserved, underrepresented or those with limited resources.

Just put your idea in writing and bring your proposal to Career Services.

Job Fair Meeting Thursday

A mandatory job fair meeting will be held Thursday (April 17) at 11:30 a.m. in 290 Holland Hall for students wishing to learn about job fairs the UF College of Law participates in. Discussion topics will include the application



Career Services staff (clockwise from back left) Donna McDavid, Mary-Ellen Cross, Laura Jeanne Conway, Edrene Johnson and Jessie Howell encourage students to stop by the center for assistance in their job search.

process, deadlines and job fairs in general.

If you cannot attend, please make an appointment to speak with a Career Services representative.

Working This Summer?

Students working this summer are asked to stop by Career Services to fill out a 2003 Summer Employment Questionnaire.

Pro Bono Certificates Available

Students who did not attend the Pro Bono Awards Brunch can pick up their certificate in Career Services.

SALSA Race Judicata Now April 19

SALSA's Race Judicata has been rescheduled, and now begins at 8 a.m. Saturday (April 19). Funds raised will be used to send care packages to UF law students, family members and friends on duty overseas. Sign up on the law school course 10 a.m.-2 p.m. weekdays.

ELULS Meeting, Earth Day Celebration

The Environmental and Land Use Law Society (ELULS) will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday (April 16) in 290 Holland Hall for elections.

The society will sponsor an Earth Day Celebration 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, April 22. The theme is sustainable consumption, and activities will include tabling, a silent auction and refreshments. Auction proceeds will help remove pollu-

tion by buying emissions credits for sulfur dioxide — a leading cause of acid rain.

Graduation Reception May 17

Graduating seniors and their guests are invited to a Spring 2003 Graduation Reception Saturday, May 17, 10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m., at the College of Law. Invitations will be distributed in student folders. R.S.V.P. by Friday, May 9, to **Julie Barnes** (392-9238 or barnes@law.ufl.edu).

Bowlers, Sponsors Needed

The annual "Big Brothers, Big Sisters Bowl for Kid's Sake" is noon Saturday, May 10, at Alley Katz, and the law school community is encouraged to once again help raise money for
(Announcements Continue Page 3)

Changing Your Attitude Helps Reduce Exam Stress

As exams approach, the stress and pressure of this environment become more palpable. The choices we make in how to deal with tension have a remarkable impact on our state of mind, happiness and success in our endeavors.

Psychologists have identified modes of thinking and behaving that are likely to create excessive stress — which is ultimately counterproductive — and those likely to create healthy motivation balanced with perspective and relaxation.

Modes of thinking and behaving that lead to unhealthy, excessive stress include:

1. **Low self-esteem** may push individuals to gauge their value and success by constantly comparing themselves to others, and need to “get ahead” of everyone else. They may feel if they aren’t “on top,” they are without value.
2. **Lack of confidence** in one’s abilities in times of evaluation causes a panic reaction in which one cannot decipher what is important and what is not. In the case of exams, this lack of discrimination can lead to frantically studying all information with equal urgency.
3. A **constant sense of urgency** – everything is done in a rush to beat the clock.
4. **Constant multi-tasking** (polyphasia) – this easily leads to sensory overload and compromises the quality of each task that’s done.



Contact Kane for free, confidential assistance and counseling.

5. A **need to control or intimidate** others.
6. **Hyper-aggressiveness and free-floating hostility** (underlying anger that can erupt upon slight stimulation).

These behavior and thought patterns are correlated with higher health risks and lower life satisfaction.

On the other hand, individuals who maintain self-esteem and perspective during stressful events not only tend to be healthier and happier, but can often be more successful. To nurture this approach:

1. **Challenge the negative**, critical voice inside of you that says you can’t do it, aren’t good enough, or other variation of this themes.
2. **Reward yourself** for hard work and remind yourself of your strengths and positive qualities.
3. **See challenges as opportunities** to learn and grow, rather than catastrophes.
4. **Trust that you will do your best** in each situation, without the need for extreme panic reactions.
5. **Surround yourself with supportive friends and family** – socializing with those who you care about and who care about you can be a great stress reliever.
6. **Learn to have patience, forgiveness and kindness** towards yourself and others.

— By Resource Counselor Ali Kane (alikane@ufl.edu).



MacKay Speaks at Graduation

Kenneth H. “Buddy” MacKay, Jr. (UF JD 1961, with honors), former U.S. Special Envoy for the Americas and Florida Governor, will give the commencement address at law school graduation ceremonies (May 17, 9 a.m., Stephen C. O’Connell Center). A reception at the law school for graduates, family and friends immediately follows.

MacKay (above, in his official “governor’s portrait”) was Florida Lieutenant Governor from 1990-1998, and served briefly as governor following the death of Governor Lawton Chiles while in office.

MacKay was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1982 for the first of his three terms, and was a member of the Florida State Senate from 1974-1980 and Florida House of Representatives 1968-1974. He was an U.S. Air Force Pilot 1955-1958.

(Announcements, Continued)
Alachua County’s kids.

“This year is bigger and better, with some serious challenges and payoffs,” said Associate Professor **Danaya Wright**. “We have a new category of ‘constructive bowler’ for those leaving town or who can’t bowl for other reasons. And **Aubroncee Martin** of the Public Defender’s Office and I are organizing a challenge to the student body to field a bowling team from each recognized student group to win a networking reception for the student bowlers. Students in turn have challenged the local Bar to raise \$10,000. If they succeed, 20 law students will each do five hours of pro bono research or other work for any law firm or lawyer raising at least \$500.”

Contact Wright (wrightdc@law.ufl.edu or 392-5004) to participate or for more information.

FJIL Write-Ons

The *Florida Journal of International Law* congratulates the following write-ons for the Spring 2003 comment writer competition: Dana Gasser, Paul Ghiotto, Carly Baetz, Vidal Cardova, Eyal Berger and Christine Derr.

JLPP Case Comments Available

Students who submitted *Journal of Law and Public Policy* case comments may pick up their submissions — with feedback — in the JLPP office any time prior to April 25. (Only JLPP submissions will be returned.) For information:

(Announcements Continue Page 6)

“It is important to note we are in good hands. Howie Ferguson and others in Facilities Planning & Construction have handled numerous similar projects, and completed them professionally and well. Their competence ensures the safety of our people and success of our project.”

— Dean Jon Mills

Project Factoids

■ Augmenting four existing 20-seat seminar rooms, the project will provide 16 new classrooms, including five with 115 seats; five with 75 seats; and six with 35 seats. Larger rooms will be tiered with fixed tables, while smaller “seminar” rooms will be flat with moveable furnishings. Audio-visual components will allow multi-media presentations in all rooms, and some will include full power and data to all or many seats. One room designed as a “ceremonial” room for functions and presentations will be large enough to accommodate 150 people.

■ The expanded LIC will meet and exceed programmed space goals, and will position the college to be at or above its peers in terms of space per student and volumes per square foot.

■ About two-thirds of construction monies will be used to renovate or infill space — such as the concourse — in Holland Hall. By concentrating new construction between existing buildings, the college’s “footprint” remains basically the same, allowing for development of new green space at the northwest “gateway” to campus.

■ The project will be designed in compliance with standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

■ Other space or functional needs quantified during programming were deemed less operationally vital than library and classroom spaces, so their development awaits future funding.

Law Facilities Construction Schedule, Logistics Analyzed

— By Howie Ferguson, University of Florida Project Manager

Plans for an expansion of the College of Law have been discussed for many years, and ABA representatives noted during accreditation inspections seven years ago that the college lacked adequate space — both in terms of quantity and quality — in its Legal Information Center (LIC).

Research and planning efforts intensified in 1999 following a collaboration with the College of Architecture to begin “programming” the college’s future facility needs. In 2001, a major fundraising effort raised \$6.3 million in private support — which was supplemented by state and UF monies — to fund construction.

UF Facilities Planning & Construction then developed a formal program for expanding the Legal Information Center and adding state-of-the-art classroom space. The program — used both as a means for approving the project and as the basis of design by the selected Architectural/Engineering (A/E) team — is a detailed narrative and outline of all planned spaces, with corresponding budgets, schedules, justifications and utilities impact analysis.

“The solution chosen and now being further developed includes extensive renovation of the first two floors of Holland Hall, infill construction between and connecting Holland and Bruton-Geer Halls, and development of the western side of campus as an open green space.”

Since the LIC currently occupies the west half of Holland Hall, expansion was logically planned to the west in an area currently occupied by a staff parking lot. A second program was developed for new classroom space and other functions, but with far less detail and certainty than the LIC project. Since funding for the LIC project seemed more likely, the intent was to use the A/E who would design the LIC expansion to help the college and UF plan the classroom addition in more detail.



The first phase of construction will renovate/convert Holland Hall’s first two floors into library space and provide new classrooms on its third floor and as “infill” between Holland and Bruton-Geer Halls. The site west of both buildings will be developed as a plaza area and new staff parking.

However, since both projects were funded in the same fiscal year, the programs were combined into a single \$22.5 million project to allow for consideration of all the college’s facilities needs.

The A/E selection process was structured to favor team-oriented, flexible design practices that would include an extensive pre-design period to get designers “up to speed” on the college’s needs before beginning. The team, which includes both a Gainesville architectural firm, Ponikvar & Associates, and a Boston architectural firm, Tsoi/Kobus & Associates, spent its first three months benchmarking, researching and programming to understand exactly what the law school has, what it needs now and what it will need years from now.

Data was collected on the facilities assets of peer institutions to allow for comparison with UF, and faculty, staff, students, and alumni were surveyed to gain a sense of the intangible needs of the college. Words like “light,” “open” and “community” were noted by many of those

(Continued Next Page)

(Construction, Continued)

surveyed as the sort of terms that do not, but should, describe the physical buildings that comprise the UF College of Law. Structural, engineering, systems and materials studies were conducted to gain a thorough understanding of the constraints and conditions of the two existing buildings and surrounding site.

Armed with this background information, the team began working with the college, construction manager and other UF entities to develop a design that would best solve the first priority issues of LIC and classroom space for the given construction budget of \$19 million.

The solution chosen and now being further developed includes extensive renovation of the first two floors of Holland Hall, infill construction between and connecting Holland and Bruton-Geer Halls, and development of the western side of campus as an open green space.

Classrooms will be equipped and sized to allow for state-of-the-art teaching and communication, the LIC will enjoy greatly improved efficiency, expanded seating and stack capacity, and circulation between the two existing buildings will be enhanced with the infill and atrium space.

The “new” entry to the college will be from the west, with a 4,000 square foot atrium that allows secure entry to the “new” LIC, to new classrooms that will surround the atrium space, and to existing Bruton-Geer Hall.

The design concept was developed interactively, and has been presented to the college’s faculty, staff, students and trustees; the UF administration; and the UF committees that review and comment on all facility projects on campus.

This collaborative approach provided great buy-in to a concept that now will be refined and detailed over the next few months. Certainly, there were other design solutions that might have been easier to construct and less intrusive, but the concept selected will offer the most appealing and logical blend of old and new, will bring the LIC and instructional spaces up to or above the standards of peer institutions, and will create community space that is dynamic, light, and open.



Images like this of the law school’s proposed “new look” are in Facilities Planning & Construction’s online Power Point presentation: www.facilities.ufl.edu/projects/br150/LandUseASD.ppt.

Top Construction Questions

■ When will logistics decisions be made?

Intense planning efforts are underway now with the design team, construction manager and a variety of “user groups.” The goal is to develop the most efficient, least disruptive and most economical strategy, but certainly the project will create logistical challenges. The general plan should be developed by the end of this term, with details to follow as they are known.

■ Will the law school be closed — or classes cancelled — this year due to construction?

No. If noise levels become disruptive, classes and/or staff may be temporarily relocated to other campus facilities in the future, but those affected will be notified in advance.

■ Will parking become more difficult?

No. (How could it?) The staff parking lot west of Holland Hall will be re-constructed south of the existing U-shaped driveway, and the commuter lots east and south of the college will remain as is. The staff lot and driveway will be converted into green/plaza space, and loading/receiving relocated to the east end of Bruton-Geer Hall. The new staff lot will include about the same number of spaces now available in the lot and driveway, though the walking distance will be slightly increased.

■ Will there be a schedule of when construction will occur in specific areas?

Yes — as soon as plans and details solidify.

■ How can I stay updated on the status of construction and how it may impact me?

FlaLaw suspends publication for summer, but we will convey construction updates and other news of interest through *UF Law E-News*, a text-based newsletter e-mailed at least monthly to law faculty and staff and — as needed — to the student list-serve. (Others may subscribe at www.law.ufl.edu/lists/flalaw or by e-mailing flalaw@law.ufl.edu.)

Information also will be available on the library electronic message board, and on the UF Facilities Planning and Construction website: www.facilities.ufl.edu/.

What We Know Now

■ The existing auditorium and “Alpine” classrooms in Holland Hall will be completely demolished from the roof down to the ground. The re-constructed floors will house LIC functions on the first and second floors, and three 75-seat classrooms on the third. This demolition is expected to take place during Summer 2004.

■ Most new classrooms will be built on three levels between Holland and Bruton-Geer Halls. This will create a large atrium space and help promote horizontal and vertical circulation in and between buildings.

■ While some relocation of resources and personnel may occur this summer, actual construction and renovation will not begin until Fall 2003. The first area likely to be affected is the library (west half of Holland).

■ Scheduled classes and courses will continue through next year. Students should be able to continue to attend class on the law campus this fall and next spring. Classes after Spring 2004 negatively impacted by intensified construction will be held elsewhere at UF.

■ The vast majority of the interior of Bruton-Geer and most faculty/staff offices on the third floor of Holland will not be physically affected.

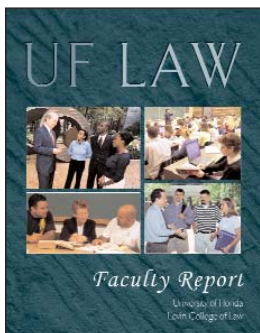
“We are investigating options and developing strategies for getting this work done in the most efficient, cost-effective way possible, while minimizing potential problems for our faculty, staff and students. Please contact me if you have suggestions or areas of special concern.”

— Associate Dean for
Administrative Affairs
Patrick Shannon

Bar Exam Lunch

The law school has arranged for a boxed lunch from Hattrick's for students taking the Bar exam in Tampa in July.

The lunch is available at the reduced cost of \$5 per day, since the Tampa firm of Zinober & McCrae underwrites its cost each year. To sign up, see Sandy Tyson or Yolanda Mickle in the Dean's Suite.



Faculty Report Now Online

UF College of Law faculty are internationally renowned. Read about their progress and how they are transforming their school into one of the nation's top 10 in the 2003 *UF Law Faculty Report*, now available on the Web. Go to www.law.ufl.edu, click on "Publications," then "2003 Faculty Report."

• SCHOLARSHIP & ACTIVITIES •

☐ Publications & Presentations

- Stephen C. O'Connell Professor **Jeffrey Harrison**'s book, *Law and Economics in a Nutshell*, has been published in Japanese (copy available in Faculty Lounge).
- Assistant Professor **Sherrie Russell-Brown** published "Labor Rights as Human Rights: The Situation of Women Workers in Jamaica's Free Export Zones," in *24 Berkeley J. Labor & Employment Law* 179 (2003).
- Affiliate Professor **Paul Magnarella** recently gave two invited lectures — "Women in Islam," and "The Causes of Genocide" — at Warren Wilson College in North Carolina.
- Cone, Wagner, Nugent, Johnson, Hazouri & Roth Professor **Juan F. Perea** was invited to present his work and moderate a panel April 11-12 at Harvard University's Latino Law and Policy Conference: Latino Leadership and Collective Power.



Harrison



Magnarella



S. Russell-Brown



Perea

☐ In The Spotlight

- *The Boston Herald* (3.26) — Chesterfield Smith Professor **Fletcher Baldwin** quoted on Saddam Hussein's likely method of hiding illicit money transactions.
- *Richmond Times Dispatch* (3.31) — Stephen C. O'Connell Chair **Christopher Slobogin** quoted on the civil commitment of sex offenders.
- *Tallahassee Democrat* (4.01) — Dean **Jon Mills** quoted on minority enrollment in state law schools.
- *Palm Beach Post* (3.31) — Professor **Diane Mazur** quoted on dual-military marriages and resulting childcare issues.
- *Gainesville Sun* (3.25) — Professor **Magnarella** quoted on possible U.S. breaches of international law when dealing with captured Taliban fighters.



(Announcements, Continued)

JLPP Student Works Senior Lisa Achrekar (lacharekar@msn.com).

JLPP also has elected its Fall 2003 Editorial Executive Board:

- Editor-in-Chief Steve LaSota
- Managing Editor Miriam Dillard
- Articles Executive Editor Danielle Burns
- Articles Executive Editor Paul McDermott
- Research Executive Editor Kristen Davis
- Research Executive Editor Jessica Black
- Student Works Executive Lisa Acharekar
- Senior Board Assistant Editor-in-Chief Amanda Reid
- Assistant Managing Editor Matthew Carson
- Articles Senior Editor Allison Landgraph
- Articles Senior Editor Chris Garrett
- Research Senior Editor Laura Minton
- Research Senior Editor Rachel Yff
- Student Works Senior Editor Lisset Gonzales
- Notes Editor Sheena Thraker
- Interdisciplinary Senior Chris Roper

- Policy Senior Karen Persis
- Production Senior Miguel Collazo
- Bylaws Revision Chair Joel Feldman

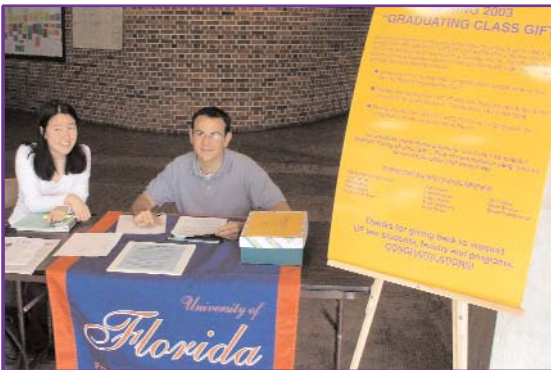
Criminal Clinic Jury Selection

UF law Criminal Clinic students will conduct voir dire Wednesday (April 16). There will be two rounds: one 4-5 p.m. and the second 5-6 p.m. E-mail Professor Michelle Jacobs (JacobsM@law.ufl.edu) for information.

Georgia Bar Exam BAR/BRI Course

Students planning to take the Georgia Bar exam this July who would like to participate in a BAR/BRI course at the UF College of Law this summer may be able to do so. BAR/BRI will provide the official course for the Georgia Bar exam (as opposed to the audio/home study course), to UF law students if just five more sign up.

To participate or for details, e-mail Shireen Hormozdi (Shireen997@hotmail.com) or call Georgia Bar/BRI (1-800-360-7277).



Students "Give Back" Though Gift

Third-year law students Minh Han (left) and Todd Herberghs are among those urging their fellow soon-to-be graduates to "give back" to the college upon graduation through participation in a Class Gift.

Thanks to enthusiastic efforts by student members of the law school's Alumni Council, a record 31 percent of the Fall '02 graduating class participated in their Class Gift, and were able to present a check for \$14,320 to Dean Jon

Mills at December commencement. Leading efforts on the Spring '03 Graduating Class Gift are student members of the Alumni Council, including Nicole Kibert (class chair), Debra Geiger, Susan Mikolaitis, Tomasz Bartosz, Leslie Press, Todd Herberghs, Kelly Daoud, Gisela Then-Caceres, Sherri Stinson, Robyn Mandel, Chris Hand, Shawntoyia Grier and Cecil Rolle.

Race Conference Explored Influence of Literature, Language & Lyrics

The Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations (CSRRR) hosted its fourth annual conference, "Rhyme, Rhetoric and Race: Exploring the Influence of Language, Literature and Lyrics on Race Relations" March 27-28. Harvard Law Professor Lani Guinier was keynote speaker, and sessions focused on legal aspects of hate speech, censorship and literature promoting "emotional segregation." The event also included discussions on legal rights and responsibilities and roles of educators, legislators, litigators and parents, as well as interdisciplinary presentations on history and the development of racialized literature and expressions.

Keynote speaker Lani Guinier (seated) speaks at a signing of her book with former CSRRR Director Rahim Reed, now associate executive vice chancellor for campus community relations at the University of California, and current Associate Director and conference organizer Desta Meghoo-Peddie.



O'Neal and Nunn Honored During BLSA Alumni Reunion Weekend

UF law student Christopher O'Neal (*see page 8*) was honored as Student of the Year, and Professor Kenneth Nunn received the faculty award in recognition of his many efforts at the Black Law Students Association's (BLSA) 14th Annual Alumni Reunion Weekend March 27-30. The weekend offered students and alumni the opportunity to network at a "power breakfast" and wine and cheese reception, be entertained at a Café Espresso poetry reading, and learn valuable information through CLE's and workshops. It concluded with the Virgil Hawkins Awards Gala, which featured Ava Parker, president of the Virgil Hawkins Chapter of the National Bar Association.



Nunn

Westlaw Summer Associate Training

Westlaw Summer Associate Training can help you prepare for your summer job. Sign up for classes on campus during April by registering at www.lawschool.westlaw.com (click on "Training"), stopping by the Westlaw Bulletin Board outside the Media Lab or contacting a Westlaw student representative. To set up individual training, contact

Lizzie Johnson
(ljjohnson@hotmail.com).

Yoga & Meditation Reduce Stress

The following stress-reduction classes are open to students, faculty and staff:

Yoga

6:30-7:30 p.m., Mondays, April 14, 21 & 28 in the Auditorium, May 5 in the Faculty Dining Room.

Meditation

6:30-7:30 p.m.,
Thursdays, 350 HOL

For information:
Resource Counselor Ali Kane (alikane@ufl.edu).

Stay in Touch This Summer

FlaLaw suspends publication for summer, but you can stay updated on construction and other news of interest through *UF Law E-News*, a text-based, e-mail newsletter. Subscribe at www.law.ufl.edu/lists/flalaw or by e-mailing flalaw@law.ufl.edu.

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Get FlaLaw via e-mail each Friday. Send your request to amirin@law.ufl.edu.



FlaLaw is published each week school is in session.

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Editor: Debra Amirin
Photography: Jennifer Piascik, Kristen Bartlett

Deadline: 10 a.m. Tuesday for next week's newsletter. E-mail news to flalaw@law.ufl.edu, or bring disk (PC format, text in WordPerfect or Word, include contact information) to 288 Holland Hall. (Submit news for *The Docket* to the John Marshall Bar Association.)

UF Law Student Christopher O'Neal Heads National Black Law Students Association

Honors — and responsibilities — are piling up for second-year UF law student Christopher O'Neal. He was just appointed executive director of the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) — the first UF student in that role — after serving as special assistant to its board in 2002-03. He also was just elected president of BLSA's local chapter, and plans to volunteer at the regional level.

"BLSA represents students of color in ABA-accredited law schools across the nation, including Harvard, Yale and Stanford," O'Neal said. "The appointment of a UF student to the national board will bring even more prominence to UF."

O'Neal noted that the UF College of Law has been very supportive of his BLSA activities. "I think of students as customers," he said. "And our administrators — from the top down — work hard to achieve a high level of customer satisfaction."

BLSA offers students a number of opportunities to voice their concerns. NBLSA students contributed an amicus brief on the Grutter case — which involved affirmative action at the University of Michigan — and held demonstrations outside the U.S. Supreme Court in support of school diversity. Four participants were from UF: Venessa Gordon (3L), Alero Afejuku (3L), Daria Dawson (3L) and Kasmyene Hayes (3L).

In April 2003, O'Neal was awarded the Clifford W. Crandall Memorial Scholarship, and in March he was voted BLSA's Male Student of the Year during its annual alumni reunion.

"It was a tremendous honor to be recognized by my peers," said O'Neal.

In February 2003, he was selected for the law school's formidable Trial Team, which recently placed second in national competition.

"I am looking forward to working with and learning from some of this country's best litigating minds," O'Neal said.

A former policeman with more than eight years' experience, O'Neal came to UF's law school in Spring 2002. He still occasionally takes assignments for the Gainesville Police Department, and recently helped arrange a sting operation — on a volunteer basis — to help a fellow law student who was being repeatedly robbed at his home.

O'Neal enjoys criminal law, but is uncertain which legal area he would like to specialize in. He interned for the Commercial Litigation Section of the National Bar Association, which represents more than 20,000 African-American lawyers, judges, educators and law students.

"I enjoy public service, which is why I stayed in police work for so long," O'Neal said. "If I'd given up the uniform, someone else would have taken it — maybe someone who didn't care as much about people."

— *By D. Cupples (2L)*



Law student Chris O'Neal, shown here in his Gainesville Police Department uniform at last year's ceremony honoring "Victims and Heroes of 9/11," now heads BLSA's national organization.

• COLLEGE OF LAW CALENDAR •

See academic and event calendars — and add your events online — at www.law.ufl.edu.

April

- 14 • "Legal & Policy Issues in the Americas" Conference
- 17 • Mandatory Job Fair Informational Session, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Center for Career Services
 - Moot Court Team Meeting, 7-9 p.m.
- 19 • SALSAs Race Judicata, 8 a.m.

- 22 • ELULS Earth Day Celebration, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Concourse
- 23 • Federalist Society Judicial Confirmations: Panel Discussion, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 25 • Classes End
 - Faculty Enrichment: Professors Steve Willis and Pedro Malavet, "Using A Website in a Law School Course," Noon, Faculty Dining Room