

Chemerinsky: Crucial Moment for Court

Erwin Chemerinsky finds it hard to believe that people could think of the Rehnquist court as liberal.

The court has racked up an impressive record of “activist” conservative rulings in the past two decades, the Duke University law professor says – and with the appointment of two new justices, the nation’s highest court could shift further right.

“What is in the balance is the future of Constitutional law for most of our lives and the rest of our careers,” said Chemerinsky, Alston and Bird Professor of Law at Duke.

Chemerinsky, a veteran litigator who has argued a number of cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, spoke to a standing-room-only crowd in the Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial

Continued on Page 6



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U.S. Senator to Speak to Students Friday

U.S. Senator Mel Martinez (R-Fla.) will be on campus Friday, Oct. 21, to discuss foreign policy, international law and other issues with law and political science students. Martinez will speak at 1:30

p.m. in the Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom (room 180A). The event is expected to last one hour.



Martinez

Apply Early for Bar Admission

BY REBECCA MARCI BROWN (2L)

So you just started law school, and are struggling to get through the first-year crush. Registering as a student with the Florida Board of Bar Examiners is a worry for another day. Right?

Maybe not. Knowledgeable students and UF administrators say there is a distinct advantage in registering within your first six months of law school. Filing within 180 days can save

you \$475 in application fees. Even if you miss the 180-day deadline, there are still savings for filing within 195 days or even 250 days. If you want to be in a clinic, you will also need to complete the character and fitness section so that you can be a certified legal intern.

While the application process can be daunting, collecting the necessary information can be much easier if you start early.

When you are ready to fill out

Continued on Page 5

Finishing the Mile

The Center for Career Services and PMBR are co-sponsoring “Preparing for the Final Mile: Part II, Complete the Application and Prepare for the Exam,” Wednesday, Oct. 19, at noon in the Bailey Courtroom. This program, designed for 3Ls, will help you convert your application and prepare for the Bar exam.



Sculptures Arrive

Vermont artist Jim Cole began installing “Separation of Powers,” a group of sculptures funded through the Art in State Buildings Program, at the law school on Oct. 13. Cole, an assistant professor at the Rhode Island School of Design, will return in January to install the final piece, titled “The Jurist.” For more information on this public art project, check the next issue of *FlaLaw*.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Career Services
- 4 Events and Opportunities
- 8 Calendar

Discover
Environmental
Law

7

Student Helps
Develop Tool for
Translation

8



CAREER SERVICES

Hints to help you in the legal profession

Register for Spring Through ISIS

Final Spring 2006 registration appointments may now be viewed in ISIS. If you checked your appointment time prior to Oct. 11, please check it again, as it may have changed.

The spring schedule should be available for viewing today, Oct. 17, and registration for all students will begin Oct. 24. Please note that ISIS is designed for the entire campus, and law classes do not necessarily meet at the times listed in the system. For the exact time your classes meet, check the "course schedules" link on the Student Affairs website.

As a matter of integrity, students are asked not to register for courses with the intention of "holding" them for other students. Circumventing established procedures is a violation of the Honor Code.

Deadline Nears for Soros Fellowship

Nov. 1 is the deadline to apply for the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship Program. For more information, see <http://www.pdsoros.org/>.

On Practicing Law... Without a License

While gaining legal experience provides a meaningful way to enrich your legal education and enhance your legal credentials, it is critical to recognize that there are limits to the work law students legally can perform without violating Florida Bar rules prohibiting the unlicensed practice of law. Law students, as well as law graduates yet to be sworn in to the bar, may not practice law or provide legal advice.

Law students should be mindful that Chapter 10 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar regulates the unlicensed practice of law. These rules caution that, while nonlawyers can "engage in limited oral communications... reasonably necessary to elicit factual information ... to assist a person in the completion of blanks on a legal form approved by the Supreme Court of Florida...and inform the person how to file the form," the nonlawyer preparer/assistant must include on the document a signed, written disclosure as stated in Florida Bar Rule 10 2.1(a).

A law student or law graduate who is certified by the Supreme Court of Florida as a certified legal intern (CLI) pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, may represent certain individuals in limited circumstances while performing under the supervision of a Florida licensed attorney in good standing. The *only* mechanism for becoming a CLI is to register for and participate in certain clinical programs offered by the law school.



UF law students and alumni showed up in force for the Second Annual Minority Mentoring Picnic in Hialeah Oct. 1. Shown here are (front, from left) Judge Shirlyon McWhorter, Karen Darby, and (back, from left) Adrian Chandler, Beejal Patel, Jontavia Cobb, Veniese Smith Wilkerson, Alicia Phillip, Sabina Frederick, Carnelia Craft, Rhonda Stroman and Jessica Anderson.

The Florida Bar has the authority to investigate UPL (Unlicensed Practice of Law) complaints and to prosecute these cases. **Please ask before you act.** You can reach the UPL Division at (850) 561-5840 or check with your professor about whether an act you are considering would constitute the unlicensed practice of law.

Reception in Jacksonville

Interested in the Jacksonville employment market? Attend the "Beat the Dawgs" alumni reception in Jacksonville Oct. 27 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the River Club, at the top of the Modis Building. Space is available for 20 students only, so interested students should send an e-mail indicating class year to careers@law.ufl.edu by Thursday, Oct. 20.

Work with Attorney General

The Florida Attorney General's Honor Program for 3Ls and recent graduates provides opportunities for aspiring law school grads to begin their careers in an active and diverse practice environment benefiting both the graduate and the state. This is a two-year, paid position. Selected honors attorneys will be placed with a mentor and will work for about six months each in the Antitrust Division, the Criminal Division (Appeals), the Economic Crimes Unit and with the state's lead litigator, the Solicitor General. The application deadline is Dec. 31; applications are available online at <http://myfloridalegal.com/honorsapp.pdf>.

ABA Judicial Intern Opportunities

The American Bar Association Section of Litigation will begin accepting applications for its 2005-2006 Judicial Intern Opportunity Program Nov. 1. The program is a full-time, six week minimum summer internship program open to all first- or second-year minority and/or financially disadvantaged law students. Selected students will receive a \$1,500 summer stipend and will intern with state or federal judges in either Chicago, Central or Southern Illinois, Houston or Southern Texas, Miami or Phoenix.

This program is a partnership with the ABA Section of Intellectual Property Law. Therefore, in addition to the litigation internships, internships for students with an intellectual property law focus will be offered in Chicago and Houston. Students can indicate their interest on their applications.

Screening interviews will be done on a rolling basis, so students should apply as soon as possible after Nov. 1. The application deadline is Jan. 31. For additional information, go to www.abanet.org/litigation/jiop or pick up an application packet in Career Services.

Diversity Scholarship in Pacific Northwest

The law firm of Lane Powell is offering the George V. Powell Diversity Scholarship for 2006

for 2Ls. The George V. Powell Scholar will be a 2006 summer associate in the firm's Seattle or Portland offices and will receive a \$6,000 scholarship toward tuition and expenses during the third year of law school. All application materials must be post-marked by Nov. 1. Additional information on the summer associate program is available at www.lanepowell.com/recruitment.

ABA Offers Career Advice

Be sure to check out the American Bar Association's Career Counsel website at <http://www.abanet.org/careercounsel>. The site offers job search Q&A and more than 300 profiles of attorneys in 57 practice areas and alternative careers.



Careers with FBI

The Center for Career Services and the Criminal Law Association are co-sponsoring "Career Opportunities with the FBI" on Tuesday, Oct. 18, at noon in the faculty dining room. Field agents from Jacksonville and Gainesville will speak about general career paths as well as the FBI's Office of General Counsel

Volunteer Internship Program and the Honors Internship Program. Applications for the FBI's 10-week paid summer program in Washington, D.C. are due Nov. 1. Before you apply, you must first talk to the local applicant recruiter, who will be on hand for this presentation.

Just Ask!

Career Services staff will be on hand for One Quick Question, Thursday, Oct. 20, from 10:30 a.m.-noon outside the former Media Center on the second floor of Bruton-Geer Hall.

Upcoming Deadlines:

Nov. 1:

- FBI: Paid Summer Honors Internship Program (1L, 2L, 3L)
- Federal Reserve Board: Paid Summer Law Clerk Program (2Ls)
- Securities & Exchange Commission: Paid Summer Honors Program 2Ls (1Ls)
- U.S. Dept. of State, Office of the Legal Advisor: Paid Summer Intern Program (2Ls) & Law Clerk Program (3Ls)

Nov. 5:

- Federal Election Commission: Paid Law Clerk Honors (3L & 2L) Summer 2006 Intern Programs



LIC to Host Law Librarians

Law librarians from around the state will converge on the Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center Friday, Oct. 21, for a conference and tour of the law school's new library.

UF Hosts South African Professor

As part of Professor Winston Nagan's "International Comparative Law in Development Perspective" program, Professor Dieter Welz recently offered a series of lectures entitled "Democracy and Good Governance in Africa Today: An Appraisal Based on Recent Fact-Finding Missions and Legal Findings in Sudan, Zimbabwe and South Africa" on the UF campus. Welz is a senior research professor in the Nelson R. Mandela School of Law at the University of Fort Hare, which is Mandela's alma mater.



EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Journal Seeks Submissions

The American College of Civil Trial Mediators is now seeking short articles (no more than 30 pages in length, including footnotes) that deal with current issues relevant to mediation for its new *Journal of Mediation*. Professor Don Peters, a member of the college, is participating in this journal as a law school collaborator. Contact him before Nov. 1 if you are interested in submitting something for possible publication. Selection of participants will follow, with final drafts due no later Jan. 26.

Loans for Bar Exam Expenses

A number of private companies will make bar exam loans to students in their final year of law school. Contact the lenders directly at:

Access Group
800-282-1550
www.Accessgroup.org

Key Education Resources
800-539-5363
www.Key.com/educate/grad

LawLoans
800-984-0190
www.Salliemae.com

ACS to Meet

The American Constitution Society will hold a general meeting Tuesday, Oct. 18, at noon in the Bailey Courtroom.

JMBA Meets Today

The John Marshall Bar Association will meet at 7 p.m. today, Oct. 17, in room 355B.

Join Phi Delta Phi

Today is the first day students can submit applications for membership in the Cockrell Inn of Phi Delta Phi, an international legal fraternity established in 1869 to promote a higher standard of professionalism and ethics in the legal field. Criteria for membership include academic achievement, community involvement and demonstrated high ethical standards.

Applications will be available at a table in the courtyard today, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, e-mail Xavier Balderas at Xavier_Balderas@bellsouth.net.

Speak Easy

Meet new people and find balance in your life at "Speak Easy," a social event planned for 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, at Sky Bar and Lounge. Organized by law student Suzette Maylor (2L), the event is designed to give busy young professionals and graduate-level students a chance to unwind and socialize. Admission is \$5 and proceeds will be donated to Three Rivers Legal Services.

Think Pink

The American Bar Association/Law School Division will be tabling the week of Oct. 24-28 in the courtyard as part of the National ABA's Work-A-Day event. This year's theme is "Law Students Think Pink," an effort to educate law school communities on breast cancer and help promote research to find a cure.

Look for the ABA table and help support the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation by purchasing pink ribbons and pink bracelets in support of survivors. For more information, contact ashhop@ufl.edu.



Send Info for Commencement

The Office of Student Affairs is now collecting information for the program to be used at commencement in December. The program includes background information on every student who graduates, whether they walk or not. If you are graduating this semester, please download the commencement program form at www.law.ufl.edu/students/pdf/commencement_fall05.pdf and return it to Student Affairs by Nov. 4.

CLA Hosts State Attorney

The Criminal Law Association will host State Attorney Bill Cervone Oct. 26 at 5 p.m. in room 285B for a discussion with students and faculty. For more information, contact CLA President Bryon Carroll at bryon322@ufl.edu.

They Served; Serve Them

Would you like to do pro bono work on behalf of our nation's veterans? The Military Law Students Association is pleased to announce the creation of the Veterans Outreach Clinic. This project is sponsored by MLSA and Three Rivers Legal Services. For more information, contact Alex Hadjilogiou, MLSA President (hadjil31@ufl.edu).

LAW Auction

The Law Association for Women will hold its annual auction Oct. 18-20 in the law school courtyard. Proceeds from the auction will go to Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network and victims of Hurricane Katrina. The event is co-sponsored by the Association for Law and Business.

Supreme Court Openings

Applications for positions on the UF Student Supreme Court are due Oct. 27. If you are interested in sitting on the court, send a resume and a brief statement on why you want to become a justice to president@sg.ufl.edu.

Bar Application from Page 1

the application, Associate Dean for Student Affairs Gail Sasnett warns that candor – “being forthright and honest to a fault” – is the abiding rule.

“Students should disclose past conduct even if they don’t have to, are embarrassed, or think the Florida Board of Bar Examiners won’t find out when they investigate.” The board will generally be satisfied, she said, if the student candidly admits “yes, I did it, I know it was wrong, and I’m not going to do it again.”

One of the biggest mistakes you can make is reporting something in your bar application that you did not report in your law school application. If this happens to you, make sure you meet with Interim Assistant Dean Jennifer Cope and petition to amend your law school application.

Because the board evaluates

the applicant’s fitness of character to responsibly serve clients, it is concerned with untreated substance abuse or significant mental health issues, and with past actions that demonstrate lack of financial integrity. Don’t let the mental health requirement keep you from seeking stress-related or couples counseling, Sasnett said. Students can seek additional support and obtain confidential assistance by calling Florida Lawyers Assistance, Inc. at (800) 282-8981.

In addition to submitting the electronic registration, when you mail the printed version, you need to include a check payable to the Florida Board of Bar Examiners and have the application notarized (several staff members are notaries public).

When you convert your registration to an application, you will need to submit a fingerprint

ing card. The University Police Department comes to campus several times each semester to fingerprint law students. Nov. 15 is the deadline for submitting your application (or converting your registration to an application) for the February exam.

Be sure to keep your copy of the application in a safe place. If any of your circumstances change, you must amend your application within 30 days using a form available online at www.floridabarexam.org/. For example, you need to amend if you get a speeding ticket, start a job or internship, move to a new apartment or just live somewhere else for the summer without changing your official home address.

For more information, read the Florida Bar Exam FAQ section online, or call the Florida Board of Bar Examiners at (850) 487-1292.



1Ls : Learn to Self-Register

Are you a 1L getting ready to register yourself for classes for the first time? The Office of Student Affairs will hold an Academic Open House at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, in room 355B. Several faculty members will be available to discuss course options, certificate programs, and other offerings. For example, Professor Stephen Powell will answer questions about the International Trade Law Program, Associate Dean George Dawson will discuss the Intellectual Property Certificate Program, and Associate Dean Michael Friel will talk about the Graduate Tax Program. Student Affairs staff will explain ISIS and the registration process. Attending this session will help you reduce your registration anxiety and plan your law school career.

The Bar Application: What You Need

1. **Residence information** (dates and addresses for the past three years; dates and city/state since your 16th birthday).
2. All **undergraduate, graduate, and law schools you attended**, including community colleges attended for dual enrollment during high school.
3. **Employment information** for the last 10 years or since your 16th birthday, whichever is shorter. Include self-employment; association with any occupation, business, enterprise or profession; employment as a law clerk; and positions in clinics, internships, externships, or other similar non-paid positions.
4. **Financial information** (delinquent credit, defaulted credit, unfiled tax returns, checks returned for insufficient funds and delinquent student loans).
5. Information about all **arrests, charges or accusations** (including traffic violations) reporting dates, law enforcement agency, explanation of event and final disposition. If your arrest records are sealed, you must petition the appropriate court to unseal those records. For lawsuits in which you are personally named a defendant or counter-defendant, include an exact and complete copy of the complaint or other initial pleading, answer, counterclaim, if any, and the disposition of each action, or a letter from the court verifying that the documents are not available.
6. Information about all **prior bar admission or registration applications** filed in Florida or elsewhere.





PEOPLE SCHOLARSHIP & ACTIVITIES



McMahon



Jordan



Peters



Davis



Peterson

Scholarship & Activities

Clarence J. TeSelle Professor **Martin McMahon** spoke on the topic “Recent Developments in Federal Income Taxation,” jointly with Professor Ira Shepard, at the 40th Annual Southern Federal Tax Institute on Sept. 26.

Associate Professor **Cally Jordan** has been invited to present her recently published paper, “The Conundrum of Corporate Governance,” at the London School of Economics Oct. 24, and at Cambridge University Oct. 25.

Chemerinsky from Page 1
Classroom during an Oct. 11 visit to UF. Invited to campus by the American Constitution Society, Chemerinsky delivered a 45-minute speech on the current and future direction of the court. “History will remember the Rehnquist court as a conservative court that moved the court to the right,” he said. “My sense is that this is not the popular opinion of the court.”

While the Rehnquist court sparked angry protest from social conservatives for upholding earlier rulings on abortion, school prayer and other issues, Chemerinsky said, the court has proven consistently conservative in the vast majority of less-celebrated cases. He said the Rehnquist era could even be described as a period of conservative “activism” on the court.

“I’m skeptical of the term ‘judicial activism,’” he said. “It’s a phrase we usually apply to decisions we don’t like. But I

Professor **Don Peters** presented “Changing Habits and Opening Minds: American Experiences Helping Judges Lawyers and Law Students Understand and Value Mediation” at the UF-sponsored international conference titled “Mediation – A New Method of Dispute Resolution in Civil Cases,” held in Warsaw, Poland, on Oct. 7. Peters also participated in a panel with Polish and British mediators who critically evaluated video vignettes from the mediation of a complex international business problem.

In The News

Professor **Jeffrey Davis** was interviewed by WCJB-TV on Oct. 11 for a story on recent amendments to the Bankruptcy Code, which go into effect today.

Assistant Professor **Christopher Peterson** was quoted in an Oct. 8 *Peoria (Ill.) Journal-Star* story about new federal rules that increase the minimum payments credit card customers must make on their monthly balances. He said the rule would likely increase the number of people who turn to fringe lenders.

think it’s fair to say that a court is being restrained if it upholds precedent and active if it overrules precedent.”

Over most of the past 20 years, Chemerinsky said, the court has consistently issued rulings that broaden police power, extend government aid to religious schools and limit Congressional power under the interstate commerce clause.

Chemerinsky said the replacement for Associate Justice Sandra Day O’Connor will determine the future direction of the court. O’Connor has often rejected the label of “swing voter,” but Chemerinsky says lawyers have learned that on most issues, only O’Connor and sometimes Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy are in play. He cited his own experience in arguing *Van Orden v. Perry*, the Texas Ten Commandments case, earlier this year.

“My brief in that case was a shameless attempt to pander to Justice O’Connor,” he joked.

“I did everything but put her picture on the cover.”

If Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers votes consistently with the court’s conservative wing, Chemerinsky said, the court may ban affirmative action in college admissions, strike down much of existing campaign finance law, allow more restrictions or outright bans on abortion and potentially “obliterate separation of church and state.”

Chemerinsky said Miers seems to have enough experience for the job, and described much of the criticism of her as “sexist and elitist.” Even so, he said, given Miers’ lack of a paper trail, the White House should be willing to release Miers’ internal memos, to give Congress a glimpse of her legal opinions.

“It should not be (possible) that a nominee can be approved on nothing but faith in the President,” he said.

Discover Environmental Law

The Environmental and Land Use Law Program (ELULP) offers many opportunities for you to become involved and learn about important areas of law. There will be an informational meeting on **Wednesday, Oct. 19, at noon in room 285D**. The meeting will provide more details about these opportunities, including the Conservation Clinic, summer externships, summer study abroad in Costa Rica and detailed information about the curriculum. (You also can download the program's new brochure at www.law.ufl.edu/publications.) This is a mandatory meeting for all students currently enrolled in the program.

If you are interested in the **Environmental and Land Use Law Certificate Program** and haven't signed up yet, now is the time to enroll. Once you enroll, you will receive help in registering for the courses you need and planning for the semesters ahead. Applications and a "Frequently Asked Questions" document are available on our website at www.law.ufl.edu/elulp or from Marla Wolfe in the ELULP offices in room 319.

The **Capstone Colloquium** is a one-credit course that all certificate students are required to take once before they graduate. The colloquium provides a chance to meet with ELULP faculty and other certificate students in an informal setting to discuss cutting-edge environmental law scholarship. In Spring 2006, the colloquium will feature five nationally known scholars who will present their work.

The law school's **Conservation Clinic** is a unique non-litigation program that provides students the opportunity to work on real world projects with a conservation goal.



Study Law in Costa Rica

The Levin College of Law offers a unique study abroad program in comparative and international environmental law with a special emphasis on skills training. Students can earn up to six credits over a six-week period beginning June 18, 2006. The program includes optional and required field trips to tropical forests, rivers and beaches, a cultural immersion homestay program and clinical opportunities for students with language skills and an interest in the field of conservation and development assistance. Interested students are encouraged to visit the Program's website at http://conservation.law.ufl.edu/summer_costarica and contact Program Director Tom Ankersen at ankersen@law.ufl.edu or Student Affairs Coordinator Noemar Castro at castro@law.ufl.edu. An interest meeting will be scheduled in early November.

The **Environmental and Land Use Law Society** provides students an opportunity to get involved with other students interested in these issues in organizing and participating in activities, including a speaker series, field trips, the Pace University Environmental Moot Court Competition and the Public Interest Environmental Conference. For more information, contact ELULP's co-presidents Adrienne Dessy (adessy@ufl.edu) and Ryan Baya (ryanbaya@cox.net).

If you haven't attended or participated in organizing the **Public Interest Environmental Conference**, you're missing a great op-

portunity to learn about current environmental issues, meet and work with environmental lawyers and other professionals, and work with a fun and committed group of law students and students from other disciplines. In addition, this spring, law students from around the country will participate in the conference because the National Association of Environmental Law Societies will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the PIEC. To find out more, contact this year's co-chairs, Heather Halter (halterh@ufl.edu) and Christina Storz (casper4@ufl.edu).



Clinic Selections Announced Today

Clinic selections are expected to be announced today, Oct. 17. Please note that if you applied for a clinic, and were not chosen, you may still be considered at a later date should someone decline or drop the clinic.

Attend Research Workshops

Electronic Services Librarian Maryellen O' Brien is offering a series of workshops on legal research this week in the Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center. These classes meet at the library's reference desk. Topics and dates are as follows:

Secondary Sources

Oct. 18 – 3 p.m.
Oct. 19 – 2 p.m.
Oct. 20 – 11 a.m.
Oct. 23 – 2 p.m.

Finding Case Law

Oct. 17 – 3 p.m.
Oct. 18 – 2 p.m.
Oct. 19 – 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 20 – 3 p.m.
Oct. 21 – 11 a.m.
Oct. 22 – 11 a.m.
Oct. 23 – 7 p.m.

Finding Statutes

Oct. 17 – 4 p.m.
Oct. 19 – 3 p.m.
Oct. 20 – 3 p.m.

For more information, e-mail O'Brien at: obrien@law.ufl.edu.

College of Law Administration

- Robert H. Jerry, II, Dean
- George L. Dawson, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- Stuart R. Cohn, Associate Dean for International Studies
- Lyrisa Barnett Lidsky, Associate Dean for Faculty Development
- Michael K. Friel, Associate Dean & Director, Graduate Tax Program
- M. Kathleen "Kathie" Price, Associate Dean for Library and Technology
- Gail E. Sasnett, Associate Dean for Students, Professionalism and Community Relations
- J. Patrick Shannon, Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs
- Linda Calvert Hanson, Assistant Dean for Career Services
- Jennifer Cope, Interim Assistant Dean for Students
- Adrian Jones, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Community Relations
- J. Michael Patrick, Assistant Dean for Admissions
- Donald J. Hale, Senior Director of Development and Alumni Affairs
- Debra D. Amirin, Director of Communications

Send Us Your News

FlaLaw is published each week school is in session by the Levin College of Law Communications Office. Submit news of interest to the law school community by 10 a.m. Tuesday for the following Monday's issue to lockette@law.ufl.edu or 273-0650.

- Tim Lockette, Editor, *FlaLaw*
- Linda Johns, Graphic Designer
- Kristen Hines, Photographer



Student Helps Develop Translator for Military

In the days after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, many Americans felt paralyzed, wondering what they could do to help.

Law student Mike Geers (2L) didn't just wonder. He temporarily walked away from his law school career to work on technology that helps the military fight the war in Afghanistan.



Geers

Geers went to work for SRI International, a California-based technology company that developed a small, portable device that translates spoken English into speech in various Afghan dialects.

"At the time, as now, there was a serious shortage of people trained as translators," Geers said. "With increasing numbers of people going into Afghanistan, there was an increasing need need for some way for soldiers to communicate with the locals."

Formerly known as Stanford Research Institute, SRI had been producing computerized translation devices for years, but most of those machines translated English into Western European languages. The company needed native speakers of Afghan dialects to help them develop a device for Afghanistan, and in the post-Sept. 11 environment, bringing native speakers into the country became more difficult than ever. That's where Geers came in.

"My job was to take care of government compliance and security issues in regards to obtaining appropriate visas for Afghani citizens who were working on the project," he said.

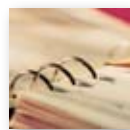
SRI's device has been used successfully in the field in Afghanistan, Geers said. While the device doesn't allow for complex conversations, he said, it is extremely useful in helping soldiers express their intentions to Afghans they meet.

"The reports back from the field indicate that it has enabled some on-the-spot mediation that wouldn't have taken place otherwise," he said.

Geers said he device, now being sold in a slightly modified civilian version known as the Phraselator, has been used in humanitarian efforts in the region, including the response to the recent earthquake in Pakistan.

After three years with SRI, Geers is back in law school. While the break may have delayed plans for his legal career, he said he is grateful for the opportunity to work on a project that helps the United States in its efforts in Afghanistan.

"If you look at the friendly fire incidents and accidental shootings that have occasionally happened, you can see how important good communication can be," he said.



CALENDAR

October

17 **Family Law Certificate Program Informational Meeting**, noon, Bailey Courtroom

John Marshall Bar Association, 7 p.m., room 355B

18 **Career Opportunities with the FBI**, noon, faculty dining room

Academic Open House, 11 a.m., room 355B

American Constitution Society Meeting, noon, Bailey Courtroom

19 **Environmental and Land Use Law Program Informational Meeting**, noon, room 285D

Preparing for the Final Mile, Part II, noon, Bailey Courtroom

20 **One Quick Question**, 10:30 a.m.-noon, second floor, Bruton Geer

Speak Easy, 9:30 p.m., Sky Bar and Lounge

21 **Sen. Mel Martinez**, 1:30 p.m., Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom

More Dates Available on Web

For more information on the dates and locations of upcoming meetings, check the calendar on the law school's website at: <http://www.law.ufl.edu/calendars/>.