Stetson receives ABA Student Bar Association of the Year Award

The American Bar Association Law Student Division honored Stetson’s Calvin A. Kuenzel Student Bar Association with the 2002-2003 SBA of the Year Award in August. Stetson also won the 1999-2000 award.

“We are tremendously honored to win this award. We know that the ABA looks at student bar associations that promote diversity on campus, community service and professionalism,” said Dean Darby Dickerson. “Our students work very hard to present interesting programs on campus and to serve the greater community.”

According to 2002-2003 SBA president Bryan McLeod, Stetson’s Student Bar Association expanded its activities and leadership opportunities to integrate new part-time students, hosted successful pro bono and bar preparation programs, and had record-high membership in the SBA Legislative Council and its committees.

“This award means that the national governing body of SBAs has recognized Stetson’s efforts in non-academic areas such as community service, campus leadership and on-campus activities that appeal to student interests,” McLeod said. “By nurturing these areas of student life, we are adding to the value of each student’s law school degree.”

Also during the 2003 ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, third-year student Lauren Hosie was re-elected to the ABA House of Delegates by the Law Student Division. She is one of only three students from across the country elected to represent the 49,000-plus members of the ABA Law Student Division.

In other ABA news, Dean Gary Vause was posthumously inducted into the ABA’s College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. His nomination had been approved just days before his death. Dean Emeritus and Distinguished University Professor Lizabeth A. Moody became the first female chair of the Senior Lawyers Division.

American Red Cross Tampa Bay chapter honors Stetson Law with “Good Neighbor Award”

The Tampa Bay chapter of the American Red Cross awarded Stetson University College of Law a Good Neighbor Award at its annual meeting in Safety Harbor.

The award was presented to organizations that “made a significant humanitarian contribution to the local community in support of the American Red Cross.” Stetson supported the Tampa Bay chapter’s Speakers Bureau by providing facilities, equipment and staff support for its volunteer training sessions.

“Stetson is proud to offer assistance to the American Red Cross,” said Dean Darby Dickerson, who is also a board member for the organization’s Tampa chapter. “Many Stetson students and professors have participated in chapter events.”

Professor Richard Graves accepted the award on behalf of Stetson on June 26.
Two new administrators join Stetson Law

Stetson University College of Law appointed two new administrators this summer.

Dr. Phebe Kerr joins Stetson as Associate Dean of Students from East Carolina University, where she served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success. Dan Orie comes to the College of Law as Executive Director of Information Technology from Stetson University’s main campus in DeLand.

“Dean Kerr will provide the leadership training and co-curricular development that will help our students prepare for their responsibilities to their profession and their community,” said Dean Darby Dickerson.

With more than 20 years of experience in student affairs, Kerr earned her doctorate in higher education from the University of Virginia, a master’s degree in guidance and counseling and a bachelor’s degree in special education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and has completed post-doctoral studies at Harvard University. Dean Kerr is a member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, the Southern Association of College Student Affairs and the Florida Association of Women in Education.

Dan Orie worked at Stetson University in DeLand for nearly 15 years, most recently serving as Director of Information Systems. Orie has started to renovate the College of Law’s technology, reconfiguring the aging infrastructure on campus.

Plans are underway for wireless networking, information kiosks, document imaging and integrated technology in the classroom, which will allow for new multimedia systems throughout the campus. According to Orie, the Information Technology department aspires to become a “first-rate service organization,” taking steps to improve service and become a national model of technology and the law in the 21st century.

ADVOCACY BOARD NEWS

Client Skills Board trains students in advocacy skills outside the courtroom

The Client Skills Board, formed in fall 2001, has become a vital part of the Advocacy Board, which also includes the Trial Team and the Moot Court Board. The program emphasizes client interaction and teamwork among colleagues. The Client Skills Board combines client counseling, mediation and negotiation, to promote the skills essential to successful lawyering inside and outside the courtroom. The Client Skills Board provides students with “the essential skills that lawyers use in their daily activities before they ever step into a courtroom,” said Professor Kelly Feeley ’95, the board’s faculty advisor.

This past fall, the Client Skills Board worked with the Moot Court Board and Trial Team to hold its first joint tryout. This joint venture provided students with the opportunity to try out for one, two or all three advocacy board teams.

The Client Skills Board is designed to be a rigorous and challenging preparation for the real world. Students selected for this board attend a weekly class and practice three to five times per week before competitions. During the class, students critique past competition videos and discuss counseling, mediation and negotiation techniques. Local attorneys and board-certified mediators also visit the class as guest speakers. Students are challenged to formulate ethical solutions and problem-solving strategies in a variety of client-attorney scenarios, and to resolve clients’ problems by negotiating or mediating a settlement, contract or lease agreement.

During competitions, students travel to different schools to compete against other law students. Each competition focuses on a different skill: client counseling, mediating or negotiating. The competitions require students to work in pairs and reward teamwork and rapport.

In addition to becoming very popular on Stetson’s campus, the Client Skills Board is already gaining a national reputation. Last spring, Stetson hosted the ABA National Client Counseling Competition, and has been requested to serve as host again in 2004.
Community leaders celebrate ongoing progress of Tampa Law Center and Campus construction

Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio and Dean Darby Dickerson led a “Topping Off” ceremony for Stetson’s new Law Center and Campus on June 20 to commemorate the symbolic halfway point in the construction schedule. The completed building will be formally dedicated on Feb. 21, 2004.

“What a tremendous asset this Law Center and Campus is going to be for the city of Tampa,” Mayor Iorio said at the event. “Its outstanding design will contribute greatly to the fabric of Tampa Heights ... and we believe that what will be good for Stetson will be good for the city.”

High above North Tampa Street, crews set in place the steel framework for the building’s tower. Welded into the tower frame was a time capsule containing writing materials, newspaper articles and images of Stetson’s late dean, Gary Vause, who spearheaded the college’s efforts to build a Tampa campus.

Before the final section of steel was lifted into place, attendees signed their names on the steel framework.

The three-story, 73,500-square-foot building will reflect the same Spanish-Mediterranean architecture of Stetson’s Gulfport campus, including a tower that will overlook downtown Tampa. The first and second floors will house classrooms, a state-of-the-art courtroom, a law library and other law school space. The third floor will house chambers and offices for the Florida Second District Court of Appeal.

An inside look at the Tampa Law Center

In October, members of the Stetson community and the Second District Court of Appeal were given a special “Insider’s Tour” of the Tampa Law Center and Campus, set to open in January 2004.
Professor Beane inspires teens to set new goals

Middle and high school students from St. Petersburg’s YWCA gathered on the Stetson Law campus Aug. 23 to hear professor Dorothea Beane present the seminar “Preparation for College and Beyond.”

Professor Beane is a strong advocate of early planning for college and graduate school. “It’s never too early to plan for success in college,” said Beane. Her seminars provide information about resources to help finance college. The seminars also encourage parents, relatives and students to partner in the college admission process. “We hope these sessions will inspire students to excel in high school while learning effective tools to pave the way for academic pursuits.”

Ninth grader Da-Niedre Tigg said the seminar helped reinforce the value of getting good grades. “I will study harder,” she said.

Professor Beane teaches Pre-Trial Practice, International Human Rights Law and Civil Procedure. She also has worked extensively in The Hague on matters involving international criminal law and human rights.

In-house counsel internship program connects students, corporations

Students can now work in corporate legal departments at organizations in Tampa Bay through Stetson’s new in-house counsel internship program.

Forty-six students have already participated in the program, which has grown from one to 13 corporations over the past year. Students are required to work at least eight hours per week over the course of a semester, in addition to attending a weekly class on campus. Students are also expected to submit at least 30 pages of work product.

“Few students have ever worked in a corporation, let alone with an in-house counsel department,” said Professor Theresa Radwan, director of the program. “The in-house counsel internship makes students stand out because it is a different experience, unlike anything else we offer.”

Keith Harmon of Washington Mutual has enjoyed working with Stetson interns. “I approached Stetson knowing if I could find a student from there, I’d be happy with the results,” he said. “When I was in law school, I would have loved an opportunity like this, and I believe this program is a win-win situation for our firm and the students as well.”

Sally Stubbs of Market Street Mortgage has also praised the program. “Our Stetson law students have been eager to make contributions to our legal department, and with the strong academic skills and professional maturity they bring to the table, they have.”

Other corporations participating include AEGON Financial Group, Eckerd, Home Shopping Network, Outback Steakhouse, Pasco Beverage, Progress Energy, Raymond James, Suntasia Marketing, Superior Uniform Group, Tampa International Airport, Tech Data and TECO Energy.
Memories, photographs wanted for 50th Anniversary

In the early 1950s, Stetson University President Ollie Edmunds looked past the weeds and decay of a former military school and one-time posh hotel and saw tremendous promise. Established in 1900 on the DeLand campus, the law school had outgrown its post-World War II barracks outside of DeLand. President Edmunds and university leaders felt the time was right to move the law school closer to a large legal community.

2004 marks the golden anniversary of Stetson’s relocation to the city of Gulfport. The campus, with its Spanish-Mediterranean architecture and golden tower, is one of the most distinctive law campuses in the United States.

To help with our planning, alumni who attended school at the Gulfport campus in the 1950s, and their families, are asked to send their memories, stories and photographs (not originals) from life at this campus to the Stetson Lawyer.

A section of the magazine will be devoted to this golden anniversary. The editors will make every effort to publish as many submissions as possible; submissions may be edited for space. Please send your contributions to Stetson Lawyer, 1401 61st St. S., Gulfport, FL 33707. Materials will not be returned, so please do not send original photographs.

Sebring Courtroom remodeled with state-of-the-art legal technology

This summer, the Sebring Courtroom underwent a much-needed face lift, making it one of the most technologically advanced teaching courtrooms in Florida.

The redesigned courtroom features a distinctive showcase of multimedia technology, including two video setups for either courtroom or classroom environments; network access at almost every seat in the courtroom; touch-screen control panels for DVDs, CDs or VCR tapes; five digital video cameras for viewing attorneys, judges, audience and jury; and a media control desk that manages the entire operation.

The renovated facility was re-dedicated on Dec. 3 at 4 p.m.
San Diego law students win International Environmental Moot Court Competition at Stetson

A team from the University of San Diego School of Law won the Eighth Annual International Environmental Moot Court Competition at Stetson University College of Law on Oct. 31-Nov. 1.

Megan Godochik and Autumn McCollogh of San Diego defeated 25 international and U.S. teams. Students appeared before a panel of judges and pleaded a hypothetical international law case.

Stetson's teams also performed well, as the team of Dawn Hewitt, Stan Kinnett and Susan St. John reached the semifinals and received the runner-up memorial (brief) award. Another Stetson team reached the quarterfinals, and Stetson students won runner-up, third and fourth place best oralist honors in the preliminary rounds.

“This competition attracted some of the world’s best student advocates who have a particular focus on environmental issues,” said Associate Dean Royal Gardner. “Stetson is proud to sponsor the only moot court competition that addresses international environmental issues.”

This year’s problem concerned issues associated with large-scale driftnet fishing and whether obligations flowing from treaties and international customs apply to a newly independent state. Twenty-six teams from Australia, Costa Rica, India, New Zealand and 12 different U.S. states competed at Stetson. Other teams participated in regional rounds.

Three renowned attorneys served as final round judges:

- **Lakshman Guruswamy**, an author of a leading international environmental law course book and University of Colorado law professor
- **Anne Rowley**, an attorney specializing in international matters with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- **William Thomas**, a Washington D.C. attorney, who is former chair of the ABA’s International Environmental Law Committee.

Associate Dean Gardner and Interim Dean Darby Dickerson created this competition in 1996 to increase awareness about international environmental challenges. In its inaugural year, 12 teams competed. The event has grown to include the Indian National Rounds and the Australasian Rounds, where foreign teams compete for the right to advance to the finals held on Stetson’s campus.

Prior to the competition, Stetson also hosted the International Environmental Law Conference in conjunction with the ABA Section on Environment, Energy and Resources. Leading scholars from law schools, firms and agencies around the nation spoke about climate change; human rights, national security and the environment; protecting marine wildlife; and career opportunities in international environmental law.

International legal scholars visit Stetson

Stetson has continued to welcome legal scholars from around the world. In October, Stetson hosted the annual conference of the American Society of Comparative Law, which brought professors from throughout North America.

Other professors from Europe also have visited Stetson for more extended academic stays. These scholars have included Dr. Udo Kempf from the University of Freiburg, Germany; Professor Bruce Carolan from the Dublin Institute of Technology in Ireland; Dr. Katarzyna Gromek-Broc from the University of Hull in the United Kingdom; Dr. Christoph Ann from the University of Freiburg, Germany; and Professor Juan Manuel Ayllón Díaz-González of the Universidad de Málaga in Spain. Hon. Arnljótur Björnsson, former Supreme Court Justice of Iceland, will return in March 2004 to study at Stetson and speak to law students and faculty.

Several domestic speakers also visited the campus, including Dr. Gary Solis, who discussed the use of military commissions to try Al Qaida operatives after Sept. 11, 2001. He is the U.S. Marine Corps’ Chief of Oral History.

U.S. Army Col. Kathryn Stone ’80, commanding officer of the Judge Advocate General office at Southern Command, spoke at Professor Luz Nagle’s international law class about the role of SouthCom in addressing U.S. policies.

“Colonel Stone’s expertise and experiences are invaluable. We are excited to have her on campus and to hear her perspectives on legal issues facing our country,” Professor Nagle said.

In addition to being a decorated officer and graduate of various military graduate programs, Stone is an alumna of both Stetson University and the College of Law. Stone currently serves as the Staff Judge Advocate for U.S. Southern Command in Miami.

Associate Dean Royal Gardner presents trophies to the University of San Diego team of Megan Godochik, left, and Autumn McCollogh, right.