

Stetson University loses great scholar, leader, friend



Dear Members of the Stetson University College of Law Community:

On May 9, 2003, an outstanding leader, treasured colleague and friend of Stetson University, W. Gary Vause, passed away. We at Stetson

mourn his death and celebrate his many achievements. University Vice President and Dean W. Gary Vause will be remembered by Stetson and the greater community as a visionary, statesman, teacher and scholar.

Gary Vause joined the Stetson University College of Law faculty as Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor of Law in 1975. During his 28 years at Stetson, he became a renowned legal scholar who authored many books and articles, was elected as a member of the American Law Institute, and served as a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar in China. As Associate Dean for International Programs, he played a leading role in establishing the Center for Excellence in Dispute Resolution, Stetson's LL.M. program in International Law and Business, Stetson's Scandinavian/Baltic Institute on Emerging Markets, and Stetson's Summer Program on International Dispute Resolution in Granada, Spain.

Gary was selected to serve as Stetson University Vice President and Dean of the College of Law in 1999. He fulfilled his position with great distinction by enhancing the College of Law academic program, international programs and partnerships, financial position, student diversity, community and government relations, and fund-raising program. His vision to provide a legal education to working and non-traditional students led to the College of Law part-time program and the establishment of the new Stetson University Law Center and Campus in Tampa, Fla. The Tampa

program will become one of the most important strategic initiatives for Stetson University in the 21st century. Gary also rendered significant service to the National Academy of Arbitrators, the American Arbitration Association, the State of Florida, The Florida Bar's Sections on International Law and Labor and Employment Law, and many other organizations.

Under Dean Vause's leadership, Stetson University College of Law attained the highest standards of excellence in the legal profession and within the field of higher education. His vision, ethics and selfless devotion to Stetson, our students, alumni, faculty and staff are an inspiration to all.

Gary Vause was a close friend and trusted colleague. He was a true gentleman, a man who has always served his country, his legal profession and his school with honor and integrity. It has been a privilege to work with this outstanding individual and his wife Celia. We will miss him greatly.

A College of Law University Vice President and Dean's Search Committee will be appointed during the summer of 2003 with a goal to fill the permanent position by spring 2004. To ensure the continuity of Stetson University College of Law, I have appointed Vice Dean Darby Dickerson to serve as Interim Vice President and Dean during the next academic year. Dean Vause had great confidence in Dean Dickerson and in the current administrative team. We are confident that the team will lead the school competently in the months to come. Please join me in giving them your full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "H. Douglas Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

H. Douglas Lee
President