

Stetson community mourns loss of Dean Gary Vause

Administrative team, faculty, staff, students and alumni to continue legacy of excellence

Dean Gary Vause died the way he lived every day — with dignity and concern for the well being of others. On May 9, Stetson lost a great dean, a great leader and a great champion. We will sincerely miss Dean Vause. We will, however, continue the forward momentum that he created for Stetson University College of Law. He would have wanted that; he would have expected that.

Dean Vause, over his last few months, planned for a smooth transition. He did an outstanding job building a talented administrative team capable of moving the College to even greater heights.

Stetson also has an exceptional faculty of dedicated teachers and gifted scholars. The faculty care deeply about the school and our students, and they work hard to fulfill the school's mission. In addition, we could not ask for a more committed and qualified staff.

Our student body for the 2003-2004 academic year is among the best we have ever had. Their credentials are the highest in the school's history. They have unique backgrounds and talents, and a strong desire to practice law and become leaders within their communities.

Our alumni base is growing, with an increasing number becoming more involved in the College of Law. Alumni support is critical to our continuing success and to building Stetson's reputation as one of the finest law schools in America.

Given these strong human resources, I know that Stetson will gain even greater national and international prominence and will continue to excel in our traditional strengths — such as Advocacy and Elder Law — and in new areas such as Elder Consumer Protection and Science and Technology in the Law.

We will meet the challenges that lie ahead. We will build a Tampa campus that will be a true legal center and serve as a model for other metropolitan areas. We will continue to improve our Gulfport facilities so that our students have the best learning atmosphere possible. We will continue our strong tradition of excellence in advocacy, and we will strengthen the business side of the curriculum. We will continue to train leaders who are consummate professionals. We will continue our Cornerstone Campaign, which will allow us to continue investing in our key resources — our students, faculty and staff. We will continue to be a school of which you will be proud, and of which Dean Vause would be proud.



During this period of transition, I hope that the Stetson family will unite to continue our mission of preparing students to be the best lawyers possible. Each member of the Stetson community has an important role to perform, and I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Darby Dickerson
Interim University Vice President and Dean