How Stetson law professors are using creative teaching methods to improve legal education
The Docket

JANUARY 2008
14 First Day of Classes
16 Alumni and Friends Reception, Florida Bar Midyear Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Hyatt Regency, Miami
22 Inns of Court Banquet featuring Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center, 6 p.m., Mirror Lake Lyceum
25-26 ABA National Arbitration Competition, Gulfport Campus

FEBRUARY 2008
2 Equal Justice Works Auction, 6 p.m. reception, Mann Lounge; 7–9 p.m. live auction, Great Hall, Gulfport Campus
2 BLSA Alumni Brunch, 9 a.m., Gulfport Campus
17–19 29th Annual National Conference on Law and Higher Education, Sheraton Sand Key Resort, Clearwater Beach

MARCH 2008
12 Nichols Foundation Lecture featuring Professor David Wilkins of Harvard Law School, 12 noon, Great Hall, Gulfport Campus

APRIL 2008
4 Media Law Seminar, Tampa Law Center
12 Admitted Students Open House, Gulfport Campus
16 Carlton Fields First-Year Oral Advocacy Competition, Gulfport Campus
18 Spring SLA Advisory Council Dinner, Mann Lounge, Gulfport Campus
19 Spring SLA Advisory Council Meeting, Eleazer Courtroom, Gulfport Campus
26 Board of Overseers Meeting, Gulfport Campus

MAY 2008
9 Spring Honors and Awards Ceremony, 4:30 p.m., Great Hall, Gulfport Campus
10 Spring Commencement Ceremony and Reception, 9 a.m., Courtyard, Gulfport Campus
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On Dec. 31, 2007, Professor Thomas C. Marks, Jr. is retiring from full-time teaching. As a 1963 Stetson Law alumnus, Tom has devoted a significant portion of his life to the College of Law. Although we wish Tom and his wife Nancy the best for the next chapter of their lives, we will miss Tom’s daily presence on campus and in the classroom.

Tom joined the Stetson faculty in 1973. As his colleagues and former students know all too well, he is, among other things, a John Wayne fan, a Star Trek devotee, a staunch Republican, and, in his own special way, a fashionista. To this day I vividly remember my initial interview in October 1994 for a faculty position at Stetson: Tom was wearing a patchwork-quilt vest with a brown corduroy jacket. But, his interesting fashion sense aside, Tom is a Stetson icon, an asset who can never be replaced.

Tom is a passionate teacher. He loves working with students. He regularly agreed to teach extra classes as needed, and insisted on teaching even when he experienced severe damage to his vocal cords. Tom is also a dedicated scholar, having co-authored five books and written more than 50 law review articles over his career. Tom was also a sought-after mentor. He has a long list of students he guided through the maze of law school. He also helped so many of his faculty colleagues that everyone has lost count. And, as is his style, his help is always offered sincerely and quietly. His primary goal was to help and improve the College of Law.

I would also like to share Dean Emeritus Bruce Jacobs’ tribute to Tom on the occasion of Tom’s induction into the College of Law’s Hall of Fame this past October:

When I came to Stetson as dean, there were some faculty who went way out of their way to improve the law school and to assist me. Tom Marks was one of these for whom I will always owe a tremendous debt of gratitude. He did not automatically agree with everything I said or did. If he disagreed with me, he would let me know and on several occasions he convinced me to move in a different direction.

He always was loyal, above-board, completely honest, and totally unselfish in all of his dealings with me and other faculty, staff, and students. He never thought of himself or his own personal advancement. It was always the good of the law school he had in mind.

Since I left the deanship, Tom has been the best of faculty colleagues. He and I disagree on almost every current political issue, but that fact makes no difference whatsoever in our friendship. He is a great friend. I and many others are very sorry to see Tom retire from full-time teaching. His contributions to the school through the years have been immense. His retirement is an enormous loss for all of us who remain.

Ditto.

Tom Marks, we salute you, your passion for the law, and your impact on thousands of College of Law alumni over the past 34 years.

Darby Dickerson
Vice President and Dean
Stetson offers JD/MD, JD/MPH dual degrees with USF Health

Stetson University College of Law students have many options to tailor distinctive, personalized law school experiences. Typically, students choose areas of emphasis certificates of concentration, but the truly driven can enroll in a dual-degree program, such as Stetson’s JD/MBA program. Now, Stetson is partnering with the University of South Florida to offer two programs for those interested in the legal and medical professions.

Through these new programs, students can earn the Master of Public Health or Doctor of Medicine degrees from the University of South Florida concurrently with their Stetson Juris Doctor degree.

The J.D./M.D. and J.D./M.P.H. programs encourage collaborative teaching and research among professors to take full advantage of the overlapping areas of study. These programs will prepare students to serve the greater good through solving public health problems using legal tools, understanding how public health policies are expressed in laws and regulations, and developing skills to advocate changes in health care policy among many other situations.

“The dual-degree programs provide an exceptional opportunity,” said Professor Michael Finch, who coordinates the programs. “Students will be able to integrate their study of law and health and, upon graduation, make a unique contribution to their profession and to their community.”

In addition to the benefits of seeing the interplay between the two disciplines, students enrolled in the dual-degree programs will have the advantage of reducing their total course loads than if they pursued the Stetson and USF programs separately. Students should be able to complete the J.D./M.P.H. degrees within five years or the J.D./M.D. program in six-and-a-half years.

Interested students must apply to both Stetson and USF separately. Students applying for the J.D./M.P.H. degree program must take both the LSAT and GRE tests to be considered for admission; students applying for the J.D./M.D. degree program must take both the LSAT and the MCAT. Both the Stetson Law and USF public health programs accept undergraduates with bachelor’s degrees in any subject area from accredited institutions.

For more information, contact Stetson’s Office of Admissions at (727) 562-7802.

Stetson receives ABA/LSD Award of Excellence

Stetson was awarded the ABA Law Student Division Award of Excellence at a special ceremony Aug. 10 in San Francisco, Calif. Stetson has received the recognition twice in the past three years.

“Every student member on campus should feel responsible for helping bring this award home to Stetson again,” said Michael Farley, assistant dean of student life.

A delegation of Stetson students, including Louis Brown, Michael Davis, Davina Eads, Annessa Kalloo, Allison Markee, Shanda Moyers, Chris Sprowls and Callie Weed, traveled to the annual meeting of the ABA Law Student Division to accept the award.

Farley credited Stetson student involvement with the ABA and Student Bar Association, along with the outstanding student leadership of ABA Representative Melody James ’07 and former SBA president Tracey Sticco ’07.

Student Chris Sprowls was elected to national office as division delegate for the ABA House of Delegates, and recent Stetson graduate Brian Redar ’06 completed his term as student representative for the ABA Board of Governors.

Students Shanda Moyers and Annessa Kalloo display the ABA Law Student Division Award of Excellence.
Stetson’s Hispanic Bar Association honored for work with national mentoring program

Stetson’s Hispanic Bar Association was recently honored for its work with the Hispanic National Bar Association’s minority youth outreach and mentoring programs.

The group received the American Bar Association’s 2007 Partnership Award for its National Mentoring Program and its Youth Convention Law Day Program on Aug. 10 at the joint annual meeting of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, National Association of Bar Executives, and the National Conference of Bar Foundations in San Francisco, Calif.

Stetson’s HBA partners with the Tampa Bay Hispanic Bar Association, pairing law students with practicing attorney-mentors to encourage professional development. The Tampa Bay mentor program was launched this February.

“Stetson’s HBA is honored to be part of the HNBA’s mentoring program and will continue its efforts in uniting more law students with practitioners,” said HBA president Clara Rodriguez Rokusek. “Attorney-mentors have provided students with vital information regarding particular fields of law, career advancement and networking.”

The local mentor program is sponsored by national, state and local Hispanic bar associations, foundations and firms.

Moot court team wins prestigious international human rights competition

Stetson defeated teams from across the U.K., India, and the U.S. to win the International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition in White Plains, N.Y., on Oct. 28. This is the first time that a Stetson team has entered the competition.

Stephanie Ciechanowski, Chris Winkelman and Ahmad Yakzan progressed to the final round in the competition and argued against teams from Louisiana State University and New York Law School for the victory. Winkelman was named Best Oralist, the highest individual award in a moot court competition. Professor Ann Piccard ’85 coached the winning team.

“Our team’s performance at this competition places our moot court team among the best in the world’s key competitors in international human rights issues,” said Professor Stephanie Vaughan ’91, Stetson’s moot court advisor.

Each team wrote and submitted three written memorials and argued a case before a simulated International Criminal Court.

Team takes home best brief

Stetson’s information technology and privacy moot court team was awarded Best Respondent Brief at the 26th annual John Marshall Law School International Moot Court Competition in Information Technology and Privacy Law Oct. 18-20 in Chicago.

Team members Stacy Appleton, Adam Butkus and Nick Mutton wrote the brief. Professor Darryl Wilson coached the team, which advanced to the semifinals in this international competition.

“The best brief award is one of the top three awards given in any moot court competition, and is the highest award given to the team’s written work. We are thrilled,” said Professor Vaughan.

Two Stetson teams win regional competition, advance to national arbitration event

Two winning teams from Stetson will compete at the ABA Law Student Division National Arbitration Competition in January on Stetson’s campus.

Stetson’s two teams took both first and second place on Nov. 17 at a regional arbitration competition sponsored by the ABA Law Student Division and the National Arbitration Forum at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Teams from 30 law schools competed.

First place at the regional competition went to the team of Shannon Clancy, Sheryl Clark, Ben Ladouceur and Lee Pearlman. Second place went to Arianne Buchanan, Jossy Dieguez, Ashley Jones and Jason Martell. The teams prepared and presented an arbitration case on employment law.
Student life office expands

Stetson University College of Law has promoted Michael Farley to assistant dean of student life. In addition, Stetson has hired Nicole Snelling as associate director and Morgan Battrell as assistant director of the department.

Farley joined the law school in 2005 as associate director of student life. Before coming to Stetson, he was assistant dean of student services at the University of Florida, director of alumni services at Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity headquarters and coordinator of student affairs at the University of South Florida.

Nicole Snelling, a native of Kentucky who received her law degree from the University of Arkansas and her Master of Laws in international law from Stetson, is the new associate director of student life.

Morgan Battrell, also a native of Kentucky, received his master's degree in higher education administration from the University of South Florida.

Public service award recipients honored

Stetson University College of Law presented this year’s William Reece Smith Jr. Public Service Award to Richard C. Milstein and William L. Penrose on May 11. Penrose ’66, a Florida Bar certified family law mediator and certified matrimonial arbitrator, has practiced in St. Petersburg for more than 40 years. A past guest lecturer at Stetson, Penrose was on the founding board of the Little Harlem Council and served on the board of Pinellas United Way. He has served on the legal panel of the Pinellas chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union since 1975.

Milstein, a shareholder at Akerman Senterfitt in Miami, focuses his practice on the private client services, including trusts, estates and guardianship litigation, and family and marital law. Milstein was appointed guardian ad litem to Anna Nicole Smith’s five-month-old baby Dannielynn in the highly publicized case surrounding Smith’s death.

The William Reece Smith Jr. Award, established in 1990, honors the award’s namesake and first recipient, William Reece Smith Jr., who is past president of the American, International and Florida Bar associations.

Smoky conditions drive spring graduation indoors

A record number of 252 Stetson University College of Law graduates walked in commencement ceremonies on May 12. The event was relocated to nearby Pasadena Community Church due to smoky outdoor conditions caused by wildfires in central Florida.

Twenty-two students graduated with a JD degree from the part-time class, nine students with master of laws degrees and 26 students with both an MBA and a JD degree.

William LaForge, national president of the Federal Bar Association and a senior congressional policy advisor in Washington, D.C., for 14 years, delivered the commencement address.
Recent publications, presentations, awards and activities by Stetson faculty

Kristen David Adams  
Professor of Law  

Professor Adams published “The American Law Institute: Justice Cardozo’s Ministry of Justice?” in the *Southern Illinois University Law Journal* and presented the paper “Do We Need a Right to Housing?” as a faculty exchange speaker at the Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis in October. She presented an Executive MBA lecture at Stetson’s Celebration campus in June and was a panelist on the topic of “What Do Lawyers Do?” at the Law School Admissions Council’s Law School Recruiting Forum in Atlanta in October. Professor Adams was named chair of the ABA Business Law Section’s General Scope and Provisions Subcommittee and The Florida Bar’s Public Interest Law Section Homelessness Committee. She also served as a mentor to a Southeastern Association of Law Schools New Scholar, moderated a New Scholars Workshop for the association, and was appointed to serve on the SEALS “Call for Papers” committee.

Michael P. Allen  
Professor of Law  

Professor Allen received Stetson University’s Excellence in Teaching Award for 2006–2007. He published “Of Remedies, Juries and State Regulation of Punitive Damages: The Significance of *Philip Morris v. Williams*” in the *New York University Annual Survey of American Law* for 2007. Professor Allen also spoke on the same topic at the 4th Remedies Discussion Forum at Emory Law School in May and at the Levin College of Law at the University of Florida in October. In December, he spoke at the 3rd First Amendment Discussion Forum at the University of Louisville on his paper, “The Underappreciated First Amendment Importance of *Lawrence v. Texas*.” Professor Allen was a panelist for a discussion on military commissions at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools annual meeting in August at Amelia Island, and in September he was the featured speaker on habeas corpus and military commissions at the Temple Beth-El Social Action Forum in St. Petersburg. He also served as a SEALS New Scholar mentor, and his previously published paper on the veterans court was a top-10 download on procedures on the Social Science Research Network.

Jerry Anderson  
Visiting Professor of Law  

This summer, Professor Anderson published “Britain’s Right to Roam: Redefining the Bundle of Sticks” in the *Georgetown International Environmental Law Review* and “Comparative Perspectives on Property Rights: The Right to Exclude” in the *Journal of Legal Education*. In the fall, he published “Countryside Access and Environmental Protection: An American View of Britain’s Right to Roam” in the *Environmental Law Review*.

Linda Anderson  
Assistant Professor of Legal Skills  

Professor Anderson presented “What Do You See? Understanding Your Audience” at the Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference at Nova Southeastern University in September.

Robert Batey  
Professor of Law  

Professor Batey has published “Truth, Justice, and the American Dilemma” in the *San Diego Law Review*, “Can Trading Drugs for a Gun Constitute ‘Using’ a Gun?” in *Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases*, and opinion pieces on Florida’s drug trafficking statute in the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* and the *Tampa Tribune* this fall. He was a speaker at the “What’s Happening to the News Business” seminar presented by Stetson in June and presented on Edgar Allan Poe to Stetson’s Honors program in October. He continues to serve as academic master and group leader for the Judge John M. Scheb American Inn of Court in Sarasota.

Mark D. Bauer  
Associate Professor of Law  

Professor Bauer published “Whither Dr. Miles: After 95 Years, Is a *Per Se* Rule on Resale Price Fixing Still Necessary?” in the *Loyola University Chicago Consumer Law Review* this fall, and participated in a panel presentation on the same topic at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools annual conference in August. He also presented “Give The Lady What She Wants’ — As Long As It’s Macy’s,” at the Canadian Law and Economics Association annual meeting at the University of Toronto in September, and has been interviewed by the *New York Times* on the Macy’s merger. Professor Bauer also conducted presentations on antitrust law and consumer fraud prevention in Brazil and Georgia, and to groups in the Tampa Bay area.

Dorothea Beane  
Professor of Law and Co-Director, Institute for Caribbean Law and Policy  

Professor Beane has been appointed special magistrate for the City of St. Petersburg, handling code compliance issues.
Joan Catherine Bohl
Assistant Professor of Legal Skills
Professor Bohl presented “Generations X and Y Go to Law School: Learning Styles and Practical Strategies for Class Management” at University of California, Davis, in August, the Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference at Nova Southeastern Law School in September, and at Southwestern University Law School in October. Her paper “Gay Marriage in Rhode Island: A Big Issue for a Small State” was a top-10 download on the Social Science Research Network for state constitutional issues.

Paul Boudreaux
Associate Professor of Law
Professor Boudreaux moderated a panel on “Scholarship from a Career Perspective” at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools annual meeting this fall.

Brooke J. Bowman ’02
Assistant Professor of Legal Skills and Special Assistant to the Dean
Professor Bowman presented “Just-in-Time Learners Learning Revising Skills Just-in-Case: Revising—Creating a Checklist That Can Be Used Beyond the LRW Class” at the Southeastern Regional Legal Writing Conference at Nova Southeastern University in September. She co-directed Stetson’s 12th annual International Environmental Moot Court Competition with Professor Royal Gardner in November.

James J. Brown
Attorneys’ Title Insurance Fund Professor of Law
Professor Brown presented “Accommodating Disabled Parties in Mediation: Perceptions and Practices” at a Dispute Resolution Conference hosted by Marquette University Law School, Milwaukee, Wisc., in October.

Stetson establishes Institute for Caribbean Law and Policy
Stetson has created the Institute on Caribbean Law and Policy to foster academic, scholarly and professional exchanges with the Caribbean legal community. Professors Dorothea Beane and Darryl Wilson co-direct the new institute.

Stetson created the institute to help build meaningful partnerships with law schools and professional legal organizations throughout the Caribbean, including the Caribbean Council on Legal Education and the Caribbean bar associations.

The institute’s mission is to provide a scholarly, professional foundation that will help coordinate beneficial activities for law students, faculty and the bar associations in the U.S. and throughout the Caribbean. The institute also will seek to develop new programs for law students at Stetson and at Caribbean law schools.

Planned activities include educational exchanges, training, development, certifications and employment opportunities. Stetson also is planning to offer a two-week intersession program each January in the Caribbean.

The institute will oversee Stetson’s participation in the American Caribbean Law Initiative, a consortium of schools from the U.S. and the West Indies that Stetson hosted in fall 2006. Both Beane and Wilson are board members of the American Caribbean Law Initiative.

Stetson establishes exchange programs in Spain, Mexico
Stetson University College of Law has added semester and year-long foreign exchange programs in Spain and Mexico starting in fall 2007.

Students enrolled at Stetson Law will have an opportunity to study abroad at either the Universidad de Granada in Granada, Spain, or at one of several TEC de Monterrey campuses in Mexico City, Mexico State, Monterrey, Puebla, Chihuahua, Guadalajara, Saltillo, San Luis de Potosi or Toluca, Mexico.

Likewise, students enrolled at law schools in Spain or Mexico will have an opportunity to study law at Stetson. These exchange programs have specific language proficiency requirements.
Catherine Cameron  
**Assistant Professor of Legal Skills**  
Professor Cameron co-presented with Professor Jeffrey Minneti on “Bridging the Gap: Designing a Class that Helps Students Transition from Legal Writing Assignments to Writing for Final Exams” at the Southeastern Legal Writing Conference at Nova Southeastern in September. She published “Not Getting to Yes: Why the Media Should Avoid Negotiating Access Rights” in *Thomas Cooley Law Review* in December 2007.

Kirsten Davis  
**Associate Professor of Law and Director of Legal Research and Writing**  
Professor Davis’ essay, “Commenting and Conversation,” was published in the fall 2007 issue of *The Second Draft, A Publication of the Legal Writing Institute*, and she published “The Rhetoric of Accommodation: Considering the Language of Work-Family Discourse” in the *University of St. Thomas Law Journal*. She presented “Classical Legal Writing Style” at the Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference at Nova Southeastern University in September.

Darby Dickerson  
**Vice President and Dean**  
Dean Dickerson has been elected as a member of the American Law Institute. She has published “Professor Dumbledore’s Advice to Law Deans” in the 2008 Dean’s Symposium of the *Toledo Law Review*, “Building Bridges: A Call for Greater Collaboration Between Legal Writing and Clinical Professors” in the *Journal of the Association of Legal Writing Directors*, “Lessons in Collaboration: Learning from the Post-Virginia Tech Task Force Reports” in the October issue of *Campus Activities Programming*, and “Mandatory Withdrawals and Leaves of Absence” in the September issue of *NASPA Leadership Exchange*. She served as a featured speaker at the Senior Administrators Forum at the U.S. Department of Education’s 21st annual National Meeting on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention in Higher Education in Omaha. She also has given presentations on higher education law and policy issues at the National Association of Campus Activities Western Regional Conference in Spokane, Gonzaga University in Spokane, the Texas College and University Symposium in Austin, Murray State University in Kentucky, NASPA/ACPA annual meeting in Orlando, Stetson/NASPA Student Affairs Law and Policy Conference in San Antonio, and the University of Tampa. She spoke on stimulating scholarly activity at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools annual conference in August. Dean Dickerson co-presented with Professor Peter Lake at the Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention national conference, a NASPA workshop in Columbia, S.C., on “Managing Off-Campus Behavior,” and the University Risk Management and Insurance Association southeastern regional conference. She was elected chair of the board for the Tampa Bay Chapter of the American Red Cross, re-elected secretary of the Pinellas County Education Facilities Authority, and elected secretary of Scribes–The American Society of Legal Writers. She was re-appointed chair of the ABA’s Law School Administration Committee within the Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar and is completing a term as chair of the Association of American Law Schools Part-Time Division Section.

Stephen M. Everhart  
**Professor of Law**  
Professor Everhart gave a presentation on “Doing Business in China: A Short Primer” at Sun City Center in Hillsborough County and spoke on “The Contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to the United States: A Statistical Study” at Holland + Knight’s Tampa office in April as part of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. He is a member of the steering committee of the American Bar Association International Law Section’s China group.

Kelly Feeley ’95  
**Assistant Professor of Legal Skills**  
Professor Feeley moderated the “Roundtable Discussion on Teaching Negotiation” panel at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools annual conference in August.

Michael Finch  
**Professor of Law**  
Professor Finch was instrumental in forming the Association for Scientific Advancement in Psychological Injury and Law. The association is dedicated to improving the scientific rigor of psychological expertise used in civil litigation. The association will publish a new peer-reviewed journal, *Psychological Injury and Law*, for which Finch will serve as law editor.

Peter Fitzgerald  
**Professor of Law**  
Professor Fitzgerald’s article “Smarter ‘Smart’ Sanctions” has been published in the *Penn State International Law Review*, and his paper “Compliance Issues Associated with Targeted Economic Sanctions” was published by the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee in *The Impact of Economic Sanctions, Vol. II: Evidence*. He also was recently licensed as a solicitor and member of the Law Society of England and Wales.
Academic News

Rose named advocacy center director

Professor Charles H. Rose has been named as the new director of Stetson’s nationally recognized Center for Excellence in Advocacy.

Rose’s new duties include sponsoring national advocacy programs for attorneys, law professors and law students, and coordinating the activities of Stetson’s award-winning advocacy competition teams.

Rose, a former U.S. Army major, teaches professionalism, trial advocacy, criminal procedure and evidence. He is the author of *Fundamental Trial Advocacy* and co-author of *Military Crimes and Defenses* and *Fundamental Pretrial Advocacy*.

Furlow directs Tampa Law Center

Stetson has named Associate Professor Clark Furlow as the associate dean of its Tampa Law Center.

Furlow will manage the Tampa Law Center and work with the 2nd District Court of Appeal and the Hillsborough County legal community. Furlow joined Stetson in 2002 as an adjunct professor. He was previously a partner with Smith, Katzenstein & Furlow in Wilmington, Del., where he litigated stockholder class and derivative actions. Furlow co-authored a guide to Delaware takeover law.

Morgan appointed to direct state task force on adult protection

Department of Children and Families Secretary Bob Butterworth has appointed Stetson professor Rebecca C. Morgan ’80 to chair the Select Advisory Panel on Adult Protective Services. The goal is to review all aspects of the department’s adult protection system and identify areas that need improvement.

“It’s critical that we address the needs and issues of caring for the state’s most vulnerable adults,” said Secretary Butterworth. “The Task Force on Child Protection is currently working to improve Florida’s child welfare system, but we need to make a similar effort to properly protect and provide for our adult population, especially the elderly and disabled.”

Butterworth has asked the panel to provide the department’s leadership with advice and counsel on services to Florida’s adults, including guardianship, as well as to identify statutory, policy or procedural problems with state programs and make recommendations for improvement.
Placido G. Gomez  
Visiting Professor of Law  

Professor Gomez presented “Contemporary Issues and Research Concerns for Land Grant Communities” at the Workshop on Community Research for New Mexico Land and Water Issues at New Mexico Highlands University in the spring and taught at the Pre-Law Summer Institute for the American Indian Law Center at the University of New Mexico School of Law.

Cynthia G. Hawkins-León  
Professor of Law  

Professor Hawkins-León was certified as a Family Court and County Court Mediator by the Florida Supreme Court. She moderated the “Roundtable Discussion on the Law School of the Future,” featuring four law school deans, at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools annual conference. Professor Hawkins-León was an invited speaker at the University of Akron Law School’s “Women and Legal History” Symposium, where she presented her paper “Slavery, Anti-Miscegenation Acts, and Real Property Reclamation Suits: Implementing White Mater Privilege.” She has been elected secretary for the Florida Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts for a multi-year term beginning January 2008.

Carol Henderson  
Professor of Law and Director, National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law  

Professor Henderson co-edited the 5th edition of Scientific Evidence in Civil and Criminal Cases. She spoke for Louisiana judges, the National Academy of Sciences Forensic Science Commission meeting, a Web conference for Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government’s ASH Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation, the National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts, the National Institute for Justice Focus Group on Forensic Science Education for Judges, a group of more than 300 death investigators at St. Louis University, the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, and the ABA meeting in San Francisco. Professor Henderson organized the NIJ Community Acceptance Panel regarding Calmative Agents as a Less than Lethal Technology in Washington, D.C., in April. Professor Henderson was appointed vice-chair of the committee on scientific evidence and the co-chair of the future of evidence committee for the ABA’s Science and Technology Law Section. She has been interviewed by New Yorker magazine, LA Weekly, Wall Street Journal (online), National Public Radio, CBS/48 Hours, and the Montel Williams Show.

New, visiting faculty announced

Professor Jerry L. Anderson joins Stetson as visiting professor from Drake University, where he is the Richard M. and Anita Calkins Distinguished Professor of Law. After law school, he clerked for Judge Alex Kozinski on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, and practiced environmental law in Kansas City. He began his teaching career at the University of Oklahoma. He is the co-author of a course book, Environmental Law Practice, and numerous articles on environmental and property law issues. Anderson serves on the board of editors of Environmental Law Review, an international journal. With degrees from University of Kansas and Stanford, Professor Anderson has taught at Drake since 1991, serving as associate dean from 1996–2001.

Assistant Professor of Skills Linda Anderson joins Stetson’s faculty after serving one year as a visitor. She previously spent four years as a professor of legal skills at her alma mater, Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, N.H. After practicing law for several years in northern New Hampshire, Professor Anderson returned to teaching as the director of the legal skills program, and later as the academic dean at Woodbury College in Montpelier, Vt. Her research interests focus on educational theory, parenting rights of non-traditional parents, and the intersection of reproductive technology and the law.

Professor Kirsten K. Davis joins Stetson as Associate Professor of Law and Director of Legal Research and Writing from the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, where she taught legal research and writing for the past seven years.

Davis regularly presents at national and regional legal writing conferences. She has completed coursework for her Ph.D. and focuses her research on legal method and writing, law and rhetoric, and the work/family balance. After completing bachelor and law degrees at the Ohio State University, Professor Davis’ legal career began as a judicial clerk for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia; she later practiced in the areas of litigation, employment and taxation.
Professor Placido Gomez comes to Stetson as visiting professor of law following service as vice president for academic affairs and provost at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, N.M. Previously, he was a tenured faculty member at St. Mary’s University School of Law in San Antonio and Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston. He also has taught for the American Indian Law Center at the University of New Mexico School of Law in Albuquerque.

Professor Gomez is the former chair of the property section of the Association of American Law Schools. In April 2001, he was honored at the University of New Mexico School of Law with the Fighting for Justice Award for his commitment to the legal education of minority students and his work with indigent and under-represented groups in the criminal justice system. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Adams State College, his law degree from University of New Mexico, and the master of laws degree from Yale University.

Professor Darryll K. Jones joins Stetson’s faculty after serving one year as a visiting professor. He teaches Federal Income Tax, Partnership Tax and the Taxation of Exempt Organizations. From 1993–2006, he taught at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where he also served as associate dean for academic affairs from 2003–2006. He has published textbooks and articles on partnership taxation and tax exempt organizations. He is the author of “K-Rations,” a monthly column on tax issues published by Tax Notes Magazine. His scholarship on federal taxation has appeared in Florida Tax Review, Virginia Tax Review, Brigham Young University Law Review, University of Pittsburgh Law Review and several other publications. Professor Jones has been consulted by members of Congress, the Senate Finance Committee and the Internal Revenue Service on issues relating to individual income tax, partnership tax, and the tax laws of exempt organizations. Before becoming a tax law scholar, Professor Jones served as general counsel at Columbia College Chicago and associate general counsel at the University of Florida, where he earned B.A., J.D. and LL.M. degrees. He began his legal career with the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps.

Professor Louis J. Virelli III joins Stetson as an assistant professor, teaching civil procedure and pretrial practice. Before joining Stetson, Virelli served for five years as a trial attorney in the civil division of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. While in law school, he taught legal research and writing, was named best oralist in the law school’s Keedy Cup moot court competition, and served as an articles editor on the Journal of Constitutional Law. Professor Virelli clerked for Judge Franklin S. Van Antwerpen of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and Judge Leonard I. Garth of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Duke University and master’s and law degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Legal Skills Barbara Voglewede previously served as assistant professor at the University of North Dakota School of Law, where she co-directed the legal writing program and taught courses in torts, evidence, sports law, trial advocacy, contracts and administrative law. She also served on the North Dakota Supreme Court Gender Fairness Implementation Committee, directed the Carrigan Cup Interschool Competition, coached the student trial competition teams, and coordinated the American College of Trial Lawyers professionalism Series. Professor Voglewede was a contributing editor for the North Dakota Domestic Violence Benchbook, and her research includes the admission of digital evidence and the use of Native American names and images in intercollegiate athletics. She earned her undergraduate and law degrees from University of North Dakota.

Professor Candace Zierdt joins Stetson’s faculty after serving as a visiting professor. She was the Alan Gray Professor of Law at the University of North Dakota and served as interim dean. She has served as an Academic Specialist in Slovenia and Macedonia.

Before teaching, Professor Zierdt practiced law for 11 years with Legal Aid of Western Missouri and was a law clerk to Judge Doris Smith of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court of Appeals. She has received the Lydia and Arthur Saiki Prize for Excellence in Graduate/Professional Teaching and the Missouri Association of Social Welfare Award for Outstanding Legal Services. Professor Zierdt has been a North Dakota Commissioner on the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and has served on its Committee on Liaison with American Indian Tribes and Nations, joint editorial board for Tribal Code Development, and task force on Implementation of The Model Tribal Secured Transactions Act. She also is an elected member of the American Law Institute. With degrees from the University of Kansas and an LL.M. from Temple University, Professor Zierdt lectures and publishes about issues relating to children and the law and commercial law.
Bruce R. Jacob ’59
Dean Emeritus and Professor of Law

Dean Jacob spoke about the case of Gideon v. Wainwright at the Bruce R. Jacob Criminal Appellate Inn of Court, of which he is its namesake and a member. He also is working pro bono on an appeal for a first-degree murder case. Dean Jacob served on the board of directors of the Suncoast Symphony Orchestra and plays in its first violin section.

Marco Jimenez
Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Jimenez moderated a panel on “Whither Dr. Miles: After 95 Years, Is a Per Se Rule on Resale Price Fixing Still Necessary?” at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools annual conference. He presented his paper “A Utilitarian Critique of Wealth Maximization Theory in Contract Law” at Mercer Law School in Macon, Ga., in October and a Stetson Honors Colloquium and the Florida Junior Faculty Forum in November.

Darryll Jones
Professor of Law

Professor Jones testified as a witness before the U.S. Senate Finance Committee on July 31 concerning “Carried Interests” and before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means regarding “Tax Fairness” on Sept. 6. His article “Third Party Profit-Taking In Tax Exempt Jurisprudence” was published in Brigham Young University Law Review in the fall. In September, Professor Jones also presented “Taxing Hedge Funds, Private Equity Funds and Their Managers: What’s Fair? What’s Feasible?” in Washington, D.C., at a Tax Analysts conference, and he was a panelist on “Taxing Matters: How laws in Congress will change the game for venture capitalists, private equity shops, entrepreneurs, investors and life as we know it in Silicon Valley” in Menlo Park, Calif., at a Fortune Magazine conference. He presented “Service Partners: From Rough Diamonds to Carried Interests” in November at Capital University in Ohio.

William Kaplin
Distinguished Professorial Lecturer and Senior Fellow, Center for Excellence in Higher Education Policy


Timothy S. Kaye
Professor of Law

Professor Kaye spoke on a panel titled “Law Schools with a Religious Mission: A Sceptical View” at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools annual conference. He published “Aim Higher: Challenging Farrington and Palfreyman’s The Law of Higher Education,” in the spring edition of the Journal of College and University Law, and gave a presentation on “Managing the Risks Associated with Study and Travel Abroad” at a law school risk management workshop held at the Tampa Law Center in June.

Peter F. Lake
Charles A. Dana Chair and Director, Center for Excellence in Higher Education Law and Policy

This summer, Professor Lake presented at the American College Health Association’s annual meeting in San Antonio, a law school risk-management conference held at Stetson’s Tampa Law Center, a meeting of Florida community college presidents, the annual meeting of the international association of campus law enforcement administrators, the annual meeting of the national association of college and university attorneys, a regional workshop for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and National Association of Campus Activities, and the national meeting of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in Orlando. He was the featured speaker at the Medical University of South Carolina Trustees Leadership Academy in Charleston in September. Professor Lake’s essay “Colleges and the Law after Virginia Tech” appeared in a June issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Thomas C. Marks Jr. ’63
Professor of Law

Professor Marks received Stetson University’s Homer and Dolly Hand Award for Excellence in Faculty Scholarship for 2006–2007 and was inducted in the Stetson University College of Law Hall of Fame in October (see article, page 23). He is retiring from full-time teaching as of December 31, 2007.
Janice K. McClendon  
Professor of Law

Professor McClendon authored “The Death Knell of Traditional Defined Benefit Plans: Avoiding a Race to the 401(k) Bottom,” which appears in the fall 2007 issue of the Temple Law Review. She spoke at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools annual conference and the fall 2007 Tampa Bay Pension Council Luncheon. Professor McClendon also was appointed to the executive committee for the elder law section of the American Association of Law Schools, co-edited the Journal of International Aging Law and Policy, and organized a cooperative volunteer effort with AARP to provide tax assistance to the elderly in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. She also volunteers as a Big Sister for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization in Pinellas County.

Jeffrey J. Minneti  
Director of Academic Success

Professor Minneti co-presented with Professor Catherine Cameron on “Bridging the Gap: Designing a Class that Helps Students Transition from Legal Writing Assignments to Writing for Final Exams” at the Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference at Nova Southeastern in September. In November, Professor Minneti presented “Oral Advocacy from Paper to Word” at La Escuela de Negocios del Tecnologico de Monterrey in San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Rebecca C. Morgan ’80  
Boston Asset Management Faculty Chair in Elder Law and Director, Center for Excellence in Elder Law

Professor Morgan has published updates to Tax, Estate and Financial Planning and its companion forms book, and she was featured on the cover of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys News magazine. She presented at the National Judicial College Current Issues course, the National Guardianship Association fall meeting, National Center for Juvenile and Family Court State Judges Elder Abuse Training program, the NAELA Institute, the 3rd annual Canadian Centre for Elder Law Studies International Conference on Elder Law, and co-presented with Professor Roberta Flowers on ethics for the Pinellas Guardianship in San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Joseph F. Morrissey  
Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Morrissey spoke at Samford University’s Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Ala., on “Rhetoric and Reality: Investor Protection and the Securities Law Reform of 2005” in April and presented on the same topic at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools annual conference in July. He also was appointed to the SEALS Internationalization Committee and serves as an executive officer for the New Law Professors section of the American Association of Law Schools.

Luz Estella Nagle  
Professor of Law

In the spring, Professor Nagle went to Nigeria, where she gave a keynote address on “Impact of Globalization on Human Trafficking: An Era of Globalized Servitude” for the Human Development Initiative’s 10th anniversary conference and made a presentation to officials of UNICEF and the Nigerian government regarding child trafficking. She also served as committee co-author for the white paper “Corruption and the Rule of Law” for an ABA working group of the same name. She was a panelist at the ABA International Law Section meeting in Washington, D.C., in May, and the ABA’s conference in San Francisco in August. She was a panelist on a program coordinated by Professor Royal Gardner titled “Wetlands in War: International Environmental Law and Damages to Aquatic Resources during Conflict” at the ABA International Law Section Fall Meeting in London in October. She became Academic Function Committee co-chair for the ABA Section of Criminal Justice in August. She was a speaker and session chair at the International Bar Association annual meeting in Singapore in October. In the Tampa Bay area, Professor Nagle was a panelist on the “Immigration in America Forum” at Temple Beth-El and a speaker on “Speak Out Tampa Bay,” discussing human trafficking for the Tampa Bay Cable Network.

Ellen S. Podgor  
Associate Dean of Faculty Development and Electronic Education

Journal of Business and Technology Law. She co-authored the lead article “Corporate Deferred Prosecution Through the Looking Glass of Contract ‘Policing’” in the October issue of Kentucky Law Journal, and “The Most Underrated Criminal Procedure Case: United States v. Bowman: From the High Seas to the Internet Highway” in the August/September 2007 issue of the San Diego Law Review. In June, she spoke at the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law conference in Vancouver, a Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction conference in Las Vegas, Nev., and a Stetson/Florida Bar event at the Tampa Law Center. In August, Dean Podgor gave the keynote speech at the 42nd annual Minnesota Criminal Justice Institute and spoke at a distance learning conference in Wisconsin and at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools conference. In October, she was a speaker at the ABA 2007 Administrative Law Conference and ABA National Institute on Securities Fraud, both in Washington, D.C. She continues to serve on the board of directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and co-sponsored a motion to the American Law Institute related to the death penalty.

Theresa J. Pulley Radwan
Associate Dean of Academics and Professor of Law

Dean Radwan received Stetson’s Homer and Dolly Hand Award for Excellence in Faculty Scholarship for 2006–2007 and was elected secretary of the Ferguson-White Inn of Court. She presented “Roman Catholic Churches in Bankruptcy” at the University of Houston in April, and helped organize the AALS debtor-creditor section meeting in conjunction with the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges annual meeting in Orlando in October.

Charles H. Rose III
Assistant Professor of Law and Director, Center for Excellence in Advocacy

Professor Rose co-authored Fundamental Pretrial Advocacy: A Strategic Guide to Effective Litigation, which was published in November. In April, he presented “The Death Penalty, Necessary or Unlawful?" for the National Paralegal Association’s Tampa Bay chapter, and in May he taught an advocacy training program for Greenburg Traurig in Dallas. Professor Rose taught a NITA Public Service Fellows Course in August. He presented “Seeking the Grail: Is Student-Centered Education Combining Doctrine, Skills and Practicum Possible?” “Contractors, Soldiers and Terrorists Oh My!: Developing an Effective Legal System Designed to Properly Handle the Global War on Terror,” and taught an intensive trial advocacy program at Washburn School of Law as its Advocate in Residence in October. He also published “Caging the Beast: Formulating Effective Evidentiary Rules to Deal with Sexual Offenders” in the American Journal of Criminal Law in December.

Wm. Reece Smith Jr.
Distinguished Professorial Lecturer

Professor Smith delivered the keynote address at the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Bay Area Legal Services and received their Champions of Justice Award. He was honored with the Fellows Award for distinguished service to the public and the profession from the Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association.

Rebecca S. Trammell
Law Library Director and Associate Professor of Law

Professor Trammell presented “Integrating Research into Research and Writing Programs” at the Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference at Nova Southeastern in September and served as a New Scholar mentor at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools annual conference.

Stephanie A. Vaughan ’91
Associate Director of International Programs, Associate Director of Legal Research and Writing, and Moot Court Advisor

Professor Vaughan was a panelist speaking on “Wearing Many Hats: What are the Best Practices for Managing Multiple Jobs?” at the Association of Legal Writing Directors’ Conference this summer. She also was appointed Associate Director of International Programs at Stetson.

Louis J. Virelli III
Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Virelli presented “Scientific Peer Review and Administrative Agencies” at the Florida Junior Faculty Forum in November.

Candace Zierdt
Professor of Law

Professor Zierdt co-authored with Dean Podgor the lead article “Corporate Deferred Prosecution Through the Looking Glass of Contract ‘Policing’” in Kentucky Law Journal, which was published in October.
Faculty Viewpoint
by Professor Mark Bauer

In 2005, Macy's acquired its largest competitor, May Department Stores, and retired its famous brand names, including Marshall Field's, Filene's, Foley's and Hecht's. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission reviewed this $17 billion merger and found that the creation of a 1,000-store behemoth would not substantially lessen competition because traditional department stores compete with discount stores, upscale stores and the Internet. To evaluate whether the FTC was right, I compared thousands of department store newspaper ads before and after the merger. My research suggests that Macy's customers are now paying much more than they did before the merger.

Macy's department store embodies the American Dream. Rowland Hussey Macy was born on Nantucket Island to a Quaker family in 1822. He left on a whaling ship at age 15 and returned with a red star tattooed on his hand — the red star that now serves as the corporate logo of Macy's. After whaling, Macy tried careers in retail, the stock market and real estate, before opening a store in Manhattan in 1858.

Macy's first small store was located in a then-unfashionable section of Manhattan, 60 feet deep with a 20-foot front. With dreams greater than his existing bank account, he financed the store with loans of $20,000 and instituted the basic policies that made the store famous: selling at fixed, marked prices; selling at lower prices than other stores; buying and selling for cash only; and advertising vigorously. The store was a success and soon grew to occupy 11 storefronts.

Macy's descendants were unable to maintain his legacy and sold their interests to Lazarus Strauss, a recent immigrant to the United States and Macy's china and glassware vendor. The Straus family lived the American Dream by building Macy's into a beloved brand, immortalized in A Miracle on 34th Street and headquartered in the world's largest store.

Macy and Straus had long-lasting impacts on American retail, but they were not alone. John Wanamaker of Philadelphia was the first to institute no-haggle pricing and gave his employees health insurance and pensions. Marshall Field of Chicago endowed two of Chicago's legendary museums and donated the land upon which the University of Chicago sits. Filene's bargain basement was so famous that it was eventually spun-off as a separate chain.

Every city in America had its own merchant-prince who enlivened downtown, made retail an adventure and supported local philanthropies. And while it is sad to see an important chunk of our history disappear in favor of Macy's national brand name, my research considered whether Macy's immense size led to higher prices for consumers in violation of antitrust law's Clayton Act.

I picked 13 cities, representing every region in the country. Included in this group were cities where Macy's competed against other middle-market department stores, like Dillard's; cities where Macy's competed against a May store, like Filene's; and cities where Macy's had no middle-market competition. Assisted by Stetson's outstanding reference librarians and a fantastic student research assistant, we reviewed 3,924 newspapers and at least 10,000 department store ads. The results were startling.

Today, in cities where Macy's faces no middle-market competition, coupons are issued on 31.03 percent fewer days than in cities where Macy's faces middle-market competition. In all cities surveyed where Macy's acquired a May store, the number of coupons issued by Macy's has declined by 62 percent and the average monthly face value of the coupons that Macy's does issue has decreased 13 percent.

Macy's acknowledged that it has substantially reduced the number of coupons it issues, but it maintains that it is trying to change the way people shop, and that it is not taking advantage of the fact that it eliminated its largest competitor. The FTC found that department stores face competition from myriad entities, including Wal-Mart and Internet stores, and that it found no proof that department stores engaged in price competition with one another.

There may be many explanations for Macy's pricing policies, some even completely lawful. But the most obvious explanation for such a radical change after buying its largest competitor is that Macy's is eliminating discounts because it can — and because nothing can stop it.

The FTC is charged with protecting American consumers. It is in the best interests of consumers for the FTC to revisit this merger and Macy's conduct.

Mark Bauer is an associate professor of law at Stetson. Before entering academia, he worked for the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Competition and practiced antitrust law with two Chicago law firms. He wrote and edited a treatise on State Unfair Trade Practices Law and taught at Chicago-Kent College of Law before joining Stetson in 2004.

The ideas presented in this Faculty Viewpoint section are the personal opinion of the author as an academic expert, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Stetson University College of Law or its leadership.
by Shannon Tan

Amy Rigdon and Michael Davis both lived in the same residence hall their freshman year.

After graduating from Stetson University, both decided to attend Stetson University College of Law. And both have followed parallel paths from college to law school.

Rigdon was news editor for Stetson's weekly newspaper, The Reporter. Now she's editor-in-chief of the Stetson Law Review.

Davis was president of Stetson's Student government association. Now he's president of the Student Bar Association.

Davis stumbled upon student government at Stetson University. After serving as chair of the community relations committee, he decided to run for president. He won in a landslide.

After Davis was elected SGA president, a dean told him that he was a great politician. “What do you mean I’m a politician? I’m not a politician,” Davis retorted. He later apologized to the dean — and eventually acknowledged his love for politics.

But when Davis started law school, he decided not to run for a position on the Student Bar Association.

“In undergrad, I put my life toward student government,” he said. “In law school, I wanted to place my studies ahead of extracurricular [activities].”

Davis was selected for both the Stetson Law Review and Moot Court Board. But at the beginning of his second year of law school, he started to rethink his decision.

“I realized that all I had done in law school was about me, me, me,” he said.

Davis’ pastor also began to preach about “helping the least.” His sermons helped convince Davis to run for SBA president.

“As an African-American male, I thought I needed to make sure that I was being a good example,” said Davis, who also directs his church’s homeless ministry.

Davis says he has taken a completely different approach in his role as SBA president.

“As SGA president, I was very anti-administration because I did not understand the structure of higher education,” he said.

“This second time around, I recognize they are here because they love students, and I maintain an open and friendly dialogue regarding student concerns,” said Davis. “So far, it has worked. Dean Dickerson and her staff have genuinely considered all of our suggestions.”

As SBA president, Davis has expanded the number of committees in an attempt to make the SBA more issue-oriented. The newly formed diversity committee, for example, will organize a diversity week next semester. Groups such as Lambda Legal Society and the Black Law Student Association will hold different events each day of the week.

After graduating in May 2008, Davis will clerk for U.S. District Judge Virginia M. Hernandez Covington in Jacksonville.

His dream job? Becoming a member of Congress and serving as a youth minister. “I am not sure what the future holds, but I do hope to continue serving the community.”

While Davis did not initially intend on becoming involved with SBA, Rigdon knew she wanted to join Law Review when she started law school.

“Journalism was the one thing that pulled at me, in addition to
law,” said Rigdon, who professes a love for writing and editing.

Rigdon says that the skills she learned as news editor helped her in her role as editor-in-chief of Stetson Law Review.

“The things I learned about managing people and knowing the inner workings of how a publication functions — those skills have translated to Law Review and have been very beneficial and helpful,” she said.

Rigdon said she enjoys being part of the publication process.

“You see the behind-the-scenes of a product,” she said, “and when that product is finally published, it’s just such a joy to know that you put so much of yourself in that.”

As news editor for The Reporter, Rigdon managed about six writers until school administrators shut down the paper for several weeks in 2003.

The Reporter had published an April Fools’ Day issue that included racist jokes, profanity and a sex column advocating rape and domestic violence. Rigdon said she was unaware of the column, as it was in a separate section of the paper. But the incident made national headlines.

“My uncle in Alaska heard it on the news,” Rigdon said.

After submitting an apology, the student newspaper was allowed to continue publishing. Rigdon declined an offer to become the paper’s editor-in-chief so she could study abroad in France.

When Rigdon decided to attend law school, her love of Stetson’s core values led her to choose Stetson University College of Law.

“I looked at various law schools, and decided that if this one was anything like undergrad, then it was going to be the place for me,” she said. “I think both schools have been great, and I believe in green and white.”

Rigdon initially planned on pursuing a career in media or international law. Instead, she will work at Holland + Knight in Orlando as a mergers and acquisitions lawyer upon graduation.

“Life just goes one way and you go with it,” she said.
Alumna clerks for International Criminal Court
Emy Mondesir ’06 started a judicial clerkship at the International Criminal Court in The Hague this July.

Mondesir, who graduated from Stetson Law with a concentration in international law, is clerking in what is arguably the legal capital of the world.

As a student, Mondesir received the Carlton Fields Diversity Fellowship and was a Student Bar Association class representative. While pursuing her law degree at Stetson, she studied at The Hague during Stetson’s Summer Institute in International and Comparative Law, which travels every year to Germany and the Netherlands.

“Stetson’s presence at The Hague through the summer abroad program has enhanced our profile as a leading American law school and has helped make the International Criminal Court familiar with Stetson University College of Law,” said Professor Dorothea Beane, an international criminal law and human rights expert who founded Stetson’s summer abroad program in The Hague.

Home to more than 150 international legal organizations, including the International Criminal Court, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Court of Justice, The Hague was founded in 1899 during the world’s first Peace Conference as the “international city of peace and justice” in the Netherlands.

The International Criminal Court, established in 2002 as a permanent tribunal to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression, has the power to prosecute crimes committed on or after July 1, 2002, when the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court entered into force.
Starry-eyed college students often say they want to change the world.

Three colleagues who met while attending Stetson University College of Law are actually doing it.

Gus Bilirakis ’89 was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in November 2006 by voters in Florida’s 9th District. He took two of his Stetson classmates, Elizabeth Hittos ’91 and Collin Vause ’89, to Washington with him to serve as his legislative counsel.

“I will tell you that Stetson lawyers are second to none,” Bilirakis said. “Both Collin and Liz had successful law firms, but came up to work for me. It’s not just the intelligence, but it’s where the heart is.”

Bilirakis’s heart certainly has always been in politics; it’s even in his blood. His father, Michael, served as the 9th District’s representative for 23 years until his son’s election last year. His grandmother was active helping the Greek community in the family’s base of Tarpon Springs, Fla.

From an early age, Bilirakis knew politics was his calling.

“I’ve always been fascinated with the political process, and helping people was instilled in me by my whole family,” he said.

Not that he was pushed into politics—if anything, the opposite. Bilirakis can remember watching the 1972 Republican National Convention one Saturday morning, and his dad told him he should be watching cartoons instead. His father also discouraged him from running for Congress because of the time it takes away from a politician’s family.

Bilirakis couldn’t be dissuaded. He served the maximum eight years in the Florida House of Representatives before making the move to Washington, D.C., and he is still disappointed when he misses one of his four children’s soccer games in Tampa Bay.

But the freshman Republican is busy. He serves on the House Homeland Security, Veteran’s Affairs and Foreign Affairs committees. Bilirakis has visited Fallujah, Iraq, and has met with world leaders to be more informed for his votes and committee work.

“I have my heart in this job and in this position,” Bilirakis said. “I just do the best that I can.”

Among their duties, Hittos and Vause help Bilirakis develop legislation and watch for judicial developments in assigned areas.

One year after the election, Hittos is impressed with what they have accomplished thus far.

“I feel like we’re actually doing something that could affect foreign policy, to the extent that a freshman member in the minority can,” she said.

“It’s sort of what I’ve aspired to, and I can’t believe it’s happened this way. It’s a long road from prosecuting DUIs in the state attorney’s office to getting here, but it’s been fascinating.”

Hittos credits Stetson with establishing a strong foundation for her work in Washington, D.C. “Professor Gary Vause (later dean of the law school) had this great international law program with fascinating people and international leaders from overseas to talk with Stetson students. To have that in law school was a rare opportunity.” Hittos says her classes with Professor Tom Marks had a
profound impact on her career. “He was one of my favorites. I took constitutional law from him and absolutely fell in love with it.”

Collin Vause has seen the value in taking a step away from the traditional career path to work with the congressman. It’s moved him to recommend that all lawyers should work for the greater good, even within their own communities.

“Sometimes it might be a good idea to take a break from your everyday law practice, if it’s possible to do so, and get involved in public service,” Vause said. “An attorney who does that may find that it gives them some perspective on what’s important.” Vause maintains his law practice in Clearwater, Fla. By design, he has fewer clients due to his congressional responsibilities.

Congressman Bilirakis believes that it is critical to look at the “big picture,” such as improving homeland security, as well as the things that affect people on the local level. His office recently sponsored an information session in his home district with Stetson on consumer fraud.

Bilirakis gained a sense of the difference he can make locally after some terminally ill children visited his office. After the visit, he challenged chapters of the American Cancer Society around Hillsborough County to raise at least $750,000, with the incentive that he would shave his head if the goal were met. The chapters topped $960,000, so in August Bilirakis stayed true to his promise and shaved his head.

“If I were a regular citizen, I wouldn’t have that kind of impact,” Bilirakis said. “I can lend a hand to the awareness, how this disease affects so many families.”

These three Stetson alumni are working hard to better the lives of as many families as possible, and it all started from the public service lessons that Bilirakis observed from watching his own family.

“I’m just contributing,” Bilirakis said. “There’s nothing special about me. God has been good to me—I’m just trying to give a little back.”
Stetson University College of Law inducted eight new members into its Hall of Fame during a ceremony on Oct. 13 on its Gulfport campus.

William F. Blews ’66

William F. Blews has continually practiced law for the last 41 years in St. Petersburg, Fla. During his illustrious career, he has held numerous positions of leadership, including the presidency of The Florida Bar.

Early in his first term as Florida Bar president, Bill Blews convened the first-ever criminal justice summit, bringing together a cross-section of state policy makers to address the crisis in funding for the criminal courts, public defenders, state attorneys and related agencies. His hard work paid off with increased funding for the justice system.

Susan C. Bucklew ’77

U.S. District Judge Susan C. Bucklew took the oath of office on Dec. 8, 1993. She presides in the Tampa Division of the Middle District of Florida. Judge Bucklew taught high school writing and literature for five years before earning a law degree from Stetson in 1977.

After completing law school, she was in-house counsel for the Jim Walter Corporation. In 1982, she became Hillsborough County’s first female county judge, serving until 1986 when she set yet another precedent, becoming the first woman appointed as Circuit Court Judge in Hillsborough County’s 13th Judicial Circuit.

Her professional activities include service as chair of the Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules for the Judicial Conference of the United States, the Florida Supreme Court’s Gender Bias Study Commission and the high court’s Bench-Bar Commission.

Dolly Hand ’49

Dolly graduated from the College of Law during its years on the DeLand campus, and she was truly a pioneer. She was the only woman in her class, and she graduated at age 20 as the youngest person to ever complete the program.

Dolly and her husband Homer Hand have given generously of their time and resources over the years. They established an awards program at Stetson for excellence in faculty research that has provided more than 174 grants to professors, including many faculty at the College of Law during the past 20 years. They have funded more than 70 student scholarships since 1989.

Thomas C. Marks Jr. ’63

Dr. Thomas C. Marks Jr. has been a part of the Stetson community for over 45 years. This legendary Stetson law professor’s fascination with law and politics began at an early age. He first earned a bachelor’s degree from Florida State University, then headed directly to Stetson University College of Law.

Upon graduating from law school, he clerked with a local law firm for six months before changing his reserve military status to active duty in the U.S. Army Jag corps. He served in Vietnam, and remained in the reserves for another nine years, leaving the military with the rank of major.

Dr. Marks earned his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Florida and taught at the University of Alabama before joining Stetson’s law faculty in 1973. Professor Marks has been actively teaching federal and state constitutional law since that time.

Alexander L. Paskay

Born and educated in Hungary, Judge Alexander L. Paskay has distinguished himself as a leader in international bankruptcy law.

After earning his law degree in 1944, Paskay served the British
Army and the French Occupational Forces until 1949, when he immigrated to the United States.

Paskay earned his American bachelor's and J.D. degrees from the University of Miami. He was appointed bankruptcy judge for the Middle District of Florida in 1963, serving as chief judge for the court from 1979 to 1999. He has lectured for CLE programs throughout the U.S. and nine foreign countries, including five international symposia coordinated by Stetson. He has served as an adjunct professor at Stetson since 1973. He has authored or co-authored five books, and he serves on the law school’s Board of Overseers.

**Joseph J. Reiter ’68**

Having grown up in the slums of Chicago in a neighborhood shared by gangs, Joe Reiter came from a family of 10 children and was an orphan until he was two. He learned early on that the only way out of poverty was through education and hard work.

He began his career as a civil trial lawyer in West Palm Beach, where in 1985 he co-founded the firm of Lytal Reiter. Recognized by the publication Best Lawyers in America, Reiter’s work in the courtroom has resulted in judgments totaling in excess of $100 million.

Reiter has served as president of The Florida Bar, chair of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, lecturer on ethics and personal injury law, among many other roles. He has made significant contributions to Stetson and has served on the Board of Overseers.

**Christian D. Searcy ’73**

At age 30, Chris Searcy became the youngest lawyer in the United States to achieve a million-dollar verdict for a single personal injury lawsuit. Since 1985, he has led the firm of Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart and Shipley P.A. in West Palm Beach.

The recipient of many major awards, Searcy is a member of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and is listed in The Best Lawyers in America. He is a past-president of the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers, and is a member of the International Society of Barristers, American Association for Justice, American Board of Trial Advocates. He has given back to his alma mater as a member of the Board of Overseers, co-chair of the Cornerstone Campaign, and generous donor.

**Thomas E. Stringer Sr. ’74**

Judge Thomas E. Stringer Sr. of Florida’s Second District Court of Appeal has always made time to guide, counsel, encourage and inspire countless young people.

After becoming Stetson’s first African-American law graduate, he worked as an assistant state attorney and later in private practice. In April 1984, he was appointed to the Hillsborough County Court. In December 1987, he was appointed to the 13th Judicial Circuit bench. He was a member of the Executive Council of the Family Law Section and the Bench/Bar Liaison Committee of the Hillsborough County Bar Association. In February 1999, he was appointed to the 2nd District Court of Appeal.

The annual Judge Stringer Youth Pre-Law Conference draws countless children seeking his wisdom and guidance. In 2005, the Black Law Students Association at Stetson dedicated the name of its chapter to honor Judge Stringer. He has served Stetson Law as an overseer, trustee, philanthropist and role model.
The traditional vision of law-school teaching involves students sitting in a classroom answering professors' questions or listening to a lecture. At Stetson, professors are preparing students for the complexities of law practice through a wide variety of innovative teaching techniques, including computer animation, courtroom simulations and concept combinations.

Innovation is an integral part of the professor's role. “One thing any educator does is constantly assess what is the most effective way to communicate information and engage the students with whatever task is at hand,” Professor Peter Fitzgerald said, “particularly when we’re dealing with law students and the analytical skills you want them to develop.”

**Stetson Storytellers**

The generation of law students who are beginning to fill Stetson classes grew up playing video games, surfing the Internet and multitasking multimedia applications. So it seems fitting that in his contract courses, in addition to using clips from popular movies to illustrate various points, Professor Fitzgerald shares the spotlight with an up-and-coming star, a virtual character named “Contract Man.”

Through the help of a few computer software tools, Fitzgerald creates 3-D animated videos to illustrate different aspects of contract law, often starring Contract Man and other characters that interact in a virtual world.

“The students look at that as a very different experience, and they’ve taken very well to it,” Fitzgerald said. “It’s a different way of having the students interact.”

But for all the visual pizzazz of the video clips, Fitzgerald said the biggest benefit of creating new animation is his ability to tweak a clip to explain a specific issue using Contract Man. One small change can twist the outcome and result in a new lesson.

“This gives the instructor complete control, but still is something that is visual, and still relates to the student experience in terms of real-life interaction,” Fitzgerald said.

While not taking a seat in the director’s chair like Fitzgerald, Professor Paul Boudreaux is also using storytelling techniques to improve his Real Property II course, which primarily focuses on real-estate issues.

Rather than brainstorm new
outside the book

“Finding new ways to try new things and keeping the material fresh and challenging is a big part of the fun of teaching.”

— Professor Peter Fitzgerald
situations to fit each hypothetical that he presents to his students, Boudreaux reuses the same two properties: the rural Green Acre and the urban Olds House. He has developed back stories about the properties and their owners, so students can begin to have a vested interest in the properties' fates.

“I think they’ve found it interesting,” Boudreaux said. “When I say, ‘Let’s talk about Green Acre again,’ I’ll get a smile or a glimmer of recognition with students because I’m talking about something they’re familiar with. I think they appreciate that.”

But for each professor, telling tales is merely a tool to supplement the traditional case method that makes up the foundation of a legal education.

“I certainly think that novel things like using visual images are useful and captures young people’s attention more quickly sometimes than typical written word,” Boudreaux said. “I’m a firm believer that visual images — whether they are pictures, diagrams, etc. — are useful, but useful merely as a supplement to the good old verbal language.”

Practice Makes Perfect

Other Stetson Law professors use simulations to reach beyond the limitations of the Socratic Method.

For the 17 years she has taught at Stetson, Professor Dorothea Beane has run her classroom like she would run a law office; her primary philosophy is that students benefit most from “learning by doing.” In her pretrial practice course, for example, students work in two-person law firms and litigate a civil case against another two-student firm from the beginning to the point of trial. Students learn to interview witnesses, draft pleadings, prepare and answer discovery requests, conduct and defend depositions, and draft and argue motions. Beane often invites sitting judges to hear the students’ motion arguments and uses certified mediators to critique a mock mediation.

“You can read a book, and I can lay out on a piece of paper what happens from the beginning to the end, and you will learn how a case moves in an academic way,” Beane said. “But there’s a lot that happens in the middle that you couldn’t learn any other way except by doing it.”

As a result, former students have thanked Beane for enabling them to be more prepared immediately upon entering the workforce.

“My job is to impart to law students exactly the relationship between what they’re learning in the classroom and what they’re going to do to serve others in the future and make sure they do it with a kind of honor,” she said.

Experiential Education

As successful as simulations can be, sometimes there’s no substitute for the real thing.

Professor James Fox has brought the realities of living on public assistance to his Poverty and Public Benefits Law classroom with the Food Stamp Challenge, an optional assignment that restricted students to the spending limits and those goods outlined in the federal food stamp program.

“The experience of poverty is such an important part of understanding both how to be a lawyer for someone who is poor and also understanding the public policy behind the poverty and public benefit laws,” Fox said.

About 25 of the 35 students in class took the challenge. Those who didn’t opt to watch their spending presented more traditional research projects to provide the class with details about the operation of food stamps and similar programs.

“In a way, what I’m trying to do
is combine what we do inside of the academy with what they can learn outside the school walls,” Fox said.

All students produced better work than a typical assignment, regardless of which option they chose, Fox said.

“They exceeded my expectations in a lot of ways,” Fox said.

Stetson students also exceeded expectations in an experiential education opportunity in Professor Royal Gardner’s International Environmental Law course.

A globally recognized wetlands expert, Gardner works with various arms of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, an ongoing international treaty that works for wetlands conservation.

Gardner’s students were able to help the convention’s Scientific and Technical Review Panel by writing summaries of actual environmental water flow cases. The students presented their findings via videoconference from the Gulfport campus to Ramsar headquarters in Switzerland.

“It was a unique opportunity to allow the students to actually participate in the inner workings of an international environmental treaty,” Gardner said.

The panel’s secretariat was “very impressed” with the students’ work, and Gardner said he would like to continue with similar efforts.

The same class also visited the Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa to add an experiential element to learning about the conservation of animals through class reports and discussions with zookeepers.

**Integrating Doctrine and Skills**

An innovative legal teaching method doesn’t have to include live animals or cartoon characters. It can be as simple — or significant — as applying approaches or knowledge from two seemingly unrelated areas of the law.

Professor Darryll Jones took a concept from the legal writing track and applied it to Federal Income Tax II. Traditionally in the course, concepts are presented in the same order as they appear in the U.S. Tax Code.

However, Jones adopted a method he named “tax across the curriculum” to present issues in a way he deemed more logical. Jones will focus on one area of the law and then examine how tax code applies regardless of where it lies sequentially in the code.

“The students don’t have the sense that we’re just hopping around the tax code,” Jones said. “Typically, early in the semester you might contend with a statute that deals with real property and then late in the semester you might deal with another. In a ‘tax-across-the-curriculum’ course, you do all those statutes at one time, so the student feels, ‘OK, this is a concise little tight ball that makes sense.’”

Jones’ approach also goes against the grain in making the entire class a cooperative effort, which is sometimes tough to achieve in a curve-based grading system.

“What you’re trying to achieve is a collaborative effort amongst the...
students, the way they would collaborate if they were in a law firm or if they were in the tax department of a law firm,” Jones said.

Students in Professor Joe Morrissey’s International Sales and Arbitration course also get healthy doses of collaboration. That course integrates the doctrine of international sales and arbitration with a practical component focused on international law research, writing and oral advocacy. When the students turn their attention to the practical component of the course, they are strongly encouraged to work collaboratively to achieve the best possible results for both their written and oral submissions.

The course prepares the students to compete in the annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot competition in Vienna, where students from over 50 countries compete. This year, Stetson also plans to send a team to the Vis (East) Moot in Hong Kong. The teams are chosen from among the best performers in the class, providing great motivation for Morrissey’s students.

The class had an added dimension this year, as the students used a draft of a casebook that reflects the integrated nature of the course and is being written by Professor Morrissey, former Stetson Professor Jack Graves and Professor Stephanie Vaughan ’91.

“The integration of doctrinal and practical approaches to legal education is something that is being discussed at a national level but is not often implemented,” Morrissey said. “This class is a great example of that integration, and the results have been terrific.” Stetson’s performance in the Vis moot attests to the fact that the integrated approach works. Stetson’s team has won awards in the Vis competition every year it has participated, including first place in 2005 and second place in 2006.

Student Reaction

Despite workloads that are often many times that of a standard course, professors who are trying new methods have generally found student reactions to be positive.

“Students, especially in second or third years, really enjoy doing something in addition to reading more legal materials or writing about that,” Fox said. “I think they like being able to take some of the skills they’ve learned and start applying them in a number of ways.”

Some of Fox’s students, such as Rebecca A. Nelson, found realizations about themselves — and not only the law — through the Food Stamp Challenge.

“It was quite an awakening to simulate some of the challenges an impoverished person may face in my own privileged life,” Nelson said. “By the end of the week-long challenge, I internalized the recurring theme in some of our readings that being poor is ‘a full-time job.’”

Jones also had a more involved student base when he implemented his “Tax Across the Curriculum” concept. Students would actively speak up and correct the professor while the study group-style class went through statutes.

“I don’t see that in traditional tax courses,” Jones said.

The Challenge of Teaching

Innovative teaching requires more than creative ideas; it requires commitment and hard work for professors to make those ideas reality.
For Jones to develop the new method of teaching tax, it took the extra push of having to prepare for a course that he had never taught previously. “It takes the opportunity of a new class to do it because when you have your old, familiar classes, you’re sort of wed to those, and you don’t have the impetus to change because it’s more work, at least the first year,” Jones said.

Similar to students’ dilemma of these extraordinary classes meaning extra work, Fox sees a growing trend among faculty at Stetson and across legal academia to try techniques beyond the norm. The challenge of creating these innovative courses helps lead to better prepared students and professors.

“Thinking of new ways to engage the students forces me to think about other aspects of the same program so I don’t get stuck teaching the same material over and over or just adding a new case,” Fox said.

“I find that I end up making myself do a lot more work to prepare, but that means I engage with the students in a better way.”

The constant challenge for professors to be learning, to be innovative, and to try new things is in itself a facet that keeps instructors engaged.

“Finding new ways to do that and keeping the material fresh and challenging is a big part of the fun of teaching,” Fitzgerald said.

As Stetson, professors demonstrate innovative teaching, they set a strong example for their students to think creatively in their own work. “We strive to teach students that being a great lawyer requires them to draw from many sources and to use a wide variety of tools to solve clients’ problems,” said Dean Darby Dickerson.

So even though they may break with tradition on the method of delivery, professors who take an innovative approach in the classroom are keeping with Stetson’s longest tradition — a tradition of preparing students who will be outstanding lawyers.

Electronic Learning @ Stetson Law

In addition to new teaching methods inside the classroom, Stetson also is expanding educational horizons through electronic learning. “Stetson is on the cutting edge of electronic legal education,” said Ellen Podgor, associate dean for faculty development and electronic education. Stetson offers an online LL.M. in Elder Law, Advocacy Training Modules and select summer courses, which allow students away from campus at their summer employment the opportunity to take a class from the law school.

In Fall 2007, Stetson welcomed its first class of 17 students into the LL.M. in Elder Law degree program, which is entirely based online. Students from as far away as Colorado watch video presentations by professors, research course topics, and interact with professors and students entirely online.

Stetson also plans to launch a series of Advocacy Training Modules online this spring. These modules are short video presentations designed to assist law students and attorneys from around the country to learn trial advocacy techniques through videos broadcasted online.

Online learning isn’t completely new to Stetson classrooms, as many professors have supplemented the in-class experience with materials available through course Web sites and e-mail discussions.
Building on a great foundation

It is great to be at Stetson University College of Law. I arrived here in June, coming from Knoxville, Tenn., and though it took my blood several weeks to thin out enough to go outside, it is fantastic to be here! During my interviews, a special quality of commitment in the Stetson folks quickly became evident to me, and that was a major factor in my decision to join the team here. I want to express my thanks to Dean Dickerson and to all of you in the Stetson University College of Law community for welcoming me so warmly, and for allowing me the opportunity to be here in this role.

There are numerous successes to point out over the past decade for the College Relations Office. I applaud the efforts of my late predecessor, Dotti Bressi, for the great work she and the College Relations staff did on behalf of the institution. Though I did not have the privilege of knowing her personally, Dotti was obviously a person of great character and love. She is missed by everyone who knew her.

I also appreciate the work that the College Relations staff has done, under the leadership of Karen Griffin, for the past year. It has been a tremendously hard year, and they have managed to keep a great program of support running in the face of tremendous adversity.

Building on the foundation that has been set, there is much we will do. We will work to continue a variety of successful activities, like networking events for alumni, to enhance our online presence through a web site redesign and an online community with improved interactivity, and to encourage all Stetson constituencies to consider gifts in support of the institution. The relationship between the institution and its alumni and supporters is the most important component to the sense of family that characterizes Stetson University College of Law.

Again, it is my pleasure and honor to be serving this law school. The college is strong — together we will make it stronger. I will welcome the opportunity to get to know you all as time goes on.

Best regards,

Aldon Knight
Associate Vice President for College Relations
Chantel Wonder can be classified as an academic overachiever. Still, she says it came as a surprise to learn that she had been selected to receive a full scholarship to Stetson Law. Wonder is the inaugural recipient of the Edward D. Foreman Scholarship, the largest scholarship available to full-time law students at Stetson. The scholarship funds tuition and fees, as well as the cost of books and bar preparation courses.

The new scholarship rewards outstanding academic merit and leadership. Wonder was on Stetson University’s Dean’s List and the National Dean’s List for all four years of her undergraduate career. A member of the National Scholars Honor Society and the Stetson University Honors Program, the philosophy major spent the fall of her junior year studying at the University of Oxford in England. She became a member of the Oxford Law Society and later did a summer internship in a law office.

Wonder, who has traveled extensively, aspires to a career in international diplomacy after completing her studies. She hopes to return to Oxford to obtain a Master of Laws in human rights after finishing her Stetson law degree.

“I know where my interest is — in human rights,” Wonder said with enthusiasm. She worked on a research project on nonviolent resistance to wars while scouting for a summer job before starting law school in August.

The scholarship was established by Bonnie Foreman in honor of her late husband, Edward D. Foreman BA ’67 JD ’71, a criminal defense attorney known for his honesty, generosity and commitment to excellence.

“It is Mrs. Foreman’s hope that the recipient of this scholarship will make it a personal priority to serve people in need and demonstrate the importance of ‘paying it forward’ during one’s lifetime,” said Karen Griffin, director of development.

Regional update

The Office of College Relations is always looking for ways to reach out to its alumni across the nation. If you are interested in helping us host a reunion, networking event or alumni gathering, or if you just want to connect with Stetson graduates in your area, contact Todd Marrs, director of alumni and annual giving, at dmarrs@law.stetson.edu.

South Florida — Cory Strolla ’97, along with the offices of Career Development and College Relations, hosted a networking lunch for law alumni in West Palm Beach on July 24. The event was so successful that the Career Development and College Relations offices teamed up with Yunior Pineiro ’00 to host a similar networking event for Miami-area alumni on Oct. 30. The two networking events attracted more than 30, ranging from recent graduates to seasoned alumni.


Orlando — More than 40 Stetson law alumni in central Florida gathered on Oct. 4 at the home of Judge Gail Adams ’80 in Orlando. This was the second consecutive year Judge Adams hosted the event.

Washington, D.C. — In our nation’s capital, Dean Darby Dickerson hosted a reception for Stetson alumni at the Hotel Washington. The reception on the hotel’s rooftop terrace drew more than 30 alumni and dignitaries from the Washington, D.C., area.

Tampa Bay — On Sept. 6, the more than 70 alumni and friends gathered for a College of Law reception during the General Meeting of the Florida Bar.

In October, more than 100 Tampa-area Stetson alumni gathered for an after-work networking event hosted by the Trenam Kemker law firm in downtown Tampa. This was the second networking event in the last six months hosted by a Tampa-area law firm; Phelps Dunbar managing partner Larry Ingram ’90 hosted the first event at his firm in April.
A simple way to leave your legacy

When Eunice Luke ’66 began her final year of law school at Stetson, her father’s business went into a slump, making it impossible to pay tuition. A Dana Scholarship allowed her to complete her legal education.

“My whole lifestyle I owe to Stetson for letting me finish law school,” said Luke, who went on to a 34-year career as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s regional office that covered the south-east, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Eunice Luke is one of many alumni who have chosen to give back to their alma mater through the powerful gift of a bequest. By naming Stetson as a beneficiary in her will, Luke is able to leave a legacy of giving that will last for generations.

Including a bequest in your will is one of the simplest ways to make a substantial gift to Stetson, while allowing you to enjoy your assets during your lifetime. Charitable bequests reduce the amount of your taxable estate and can include cash, stocks or other personal assets. Naming Stetson as a retirement plan beneficiary can lead to even more dramatic tax savings of up to 80 percent of the plan’s assets, which are subject to both estate and income taxes.

Leaving a bequest to Stetson is a meaningful way of ensuring that future students will experience the same life-changing education that you experienced. “Whether they have several heirs or none, I would recommend that all alumni leave something to Stetson,” said Luke.

For more information on how you can use charitable estate planning to make a gift to Stetson, please contact the Office of College Relations at (727) 562-7818.
Greetings, alumni!

I hope this message finds you healthy and prosperous. This has been a very exciting year for me as the newly elected president of the Stetson Lawyers Association.

At the SLA Advisory Council’s Fall meeting, we inducted Jenay Iurato ’00 of Shumaker, Loop, & Kendrick, LLP’s Tampa office as our newest SLA Advisory Council member. Iurato joins nearly 50 other graduates who serve as leaders of your alumni association.

Also at the fall meeting, Associate Dean Ellen Podgor gave a fascinating presentation on Stetson’s electronic education offerings, Admission Director Laura Zuppo and Professor Michael Allen presented on the competitive process of law school admissions, and Dean Dickerson gave an update on the state of our law school. In her update, Dean Dickerson announced that 87.6 percent of Stetson students passed the July 2007 Bar exam, ranking Stetson second in bar passage rate among Florida law schools.

As fellow alumni, you should be proud of your alma mater for advancing its distance learning programs, increasing its bar passage rate and maintaining its reputation as one of the best law schools in the nation.

I encourage you to get involved as alumni by mentoring our students and encouraging your colleagues to hire Stetson graduates. A new mentoring initiative of the SLA is the “Dinner with Students” program, where alumni can sign up to treat a small group of law students to dinner for interaction and career mentoring. If you want to participate in this program, contact College Relations at alumni@law.stetson.edu.

There is much we can do to support our alma mater and improve our law school. If you have ideas for the alumni association or want to get involved with the SLA Advisory Council, do not hesitate to contact me at aweintraub@icardmerrill.com.

Every best wish,
Anne L. Weintraub ’03
Leslie Reicin Stein ’76 has joined Publix Supermarkets Inc. as Special Projects Counsel.

J. Brent Walker ’76 was named a panelist on the online forum On Faith, a joint project between Newsweek magazine and The Washington Post. On Faith is an online conversation on the topic of religion and its implications. He published a guest editorial, “A Primer on Governmental Accommodation of Religion” in the summer 2007 issue of the Journal of Church and State.

Edwin M. Boyer ’77 of Boyer & Jackson P.A. in Sarasota chaired the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys Symposium on Elder Law in Cleveland. Mr. Boyer was elected secretary of the academy’s executive committee.

J. Allison DeFoor II ’79 has joined the board of the South Florida National Parks Trust, a fund of the National Park Foundation. Mr. DeFoor is state coordinator for EarthBalance, an environmental-services company and is vice chairman of the Republican Party of Florida.

Rhea Law ’79 was named one of the Top Managing Partners in Florida Trend’s Florida Legal Elite survey. Ms. Law also was named to the Florida Legal Elite in the area of Environmental and Land Use law.

1980s

Joshua Magidson ’80 was named the 2007 recipient of the Richard T. Earle Jr. Professionalism Award by the Barney Masterson Inn of Court for his practice in the county and circuit courts. Recently elected to Stetson’s board of trustees, Mr. Magidson is a shareholder in the Clearwater office of Macfarland Ferguson & McMullen and practices in the area of business litigation.

The Honorable Clyde Wolfe ’80 was the keynote speaker for the May 2007 meeting of the Marketplace Christian Professional Resources Luncheon in St. Augustine.

Luis Prats ’81 was named by Law and Politics Magazine as one of Florida’s Top 100 Lawyers, listed in the area of Construction Law in the 2007 Chambers USA Guide to America’s Leading Business Lawyers, and was chosen for Florida Trend’s 2007 Florida Legal Elite.

Catherine Peek McEwen ’82, a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division, has been appointed chair of The Florida Bar’s Federal Court Practice Committee by Florida Bar President Henry M. Cote III, and also was appointed judicial chair of The Florida Bar’s Business Law Section Bankruptcy/UCC Committee.

Thomas S. Edwards Jr. ’83, a partner at Peek, Cobb, Edwards & Ragatz P.A., was installed as president-elect of the Florida Justice Association at the organization’s annual convention in Palm Beach in June 2007.

Robert L. Lord Jr. ’83 has earned fellow status from the American College of Healthcare Executives. Mr. Lord is vice-president of legal services and chief legal officer at Martin Memorial Health Systems in Stuart.

Caroline Kapusta Black ’84 of Sessums Mason Black & Caballero in Tampa was named one of Florida’s Top 100 Lawyers, listed in the area of Construction Law in the 2007 Chambers USA Guide to America’s Leading Business Lawyers, and was chosen for Florida Trend’s Florida Legal Elite.

Catherine Peek McEwen ’82, a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division, has been appointed chair of The Florida Bar’s Federal Court Practice Committee by Florida Bar President Henry M. Cote III, and also was appointed judicial chair of The Florida Bar’s Business Law Section Bankruptcy/UCC Committee.

The Honorable Rand Hoch ’85 retired from the bench, but continues to mediate labor and employment disputes. He also is active in the Palm Beach community, serving as president of the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council and as vice chair of Florida Stage. Judge Hoch was elected chair of the Community Advisory Committee for the Office of the Supervisor of Elections of Palm Beach County in June 2007.

ALUMNI EVENTS

CLASS OF ’97 REUNION – Heidi Imhof ’97, Jose Estrada ’97, Robyn Estrada and Jeanine Cohen ’97.

CLASS OF ’97 REUNION – Michael Butash ’97 and Lisa Butash.

CLASS OF ’97 REUNION – Richard Millian ’97, Luis Martinez-Monfort ’97, Amy Martinez-Monfort and Sam Bookhardt ’97.
Edward J. Garcia '86 has been named vice president and deputy general counsel of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida’s legal affairs division.

Joan M. Vecchioli '86 was recently elected president of the Clearwater Bar Foundation. Ms. Vecchioli is a shareholder with Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns LLP.

Mark Bentley ’87 of GrayRobinson’s Tampa office was appointed to the Amicus Curiae Committee by the American Planning Association’s board of directors.

John F. Bradley ’88 was co-chair of the 9th Annual Legal Symposium on the World of Music, Film and Television in Hollywood, Fla., in March. Mr. Bradley presented panels including negotiating record and music publishing deals on the new millennium and representing talent to maximize revenues from new sources.

Wendy Loquasto ’88 of Fox & Loquasto P.A. completed her term as president of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers at the end of June. Ms. Loquasto was also named one of Florida Trend’s Legal Elite.

Karen M. Morinelli ’89 was named a partner at Ruden McClosky of Sarasota. Ms. Morinelli concentrates her practice in employer/employee relations.

Gail Sasnett-Stauffer ’89 has retired from her position of 13 years as associate dean for student affairs at the University of Florida’s Levin College of Law. Retired only in title, Ms. Sasnett-Stauffer continues her work as a county court mediator and dependency mediator.

The Honorable Tracy Sheehan ’89 of the Unified Family Court Juvenile Dependency Division presented at a Judicial Brown Bag event sponsored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association on Sept. 4, 2007, to discuss recent developments in Florida’s juvenile dependency laws and Hillsborough County’s response to the growing child abuse case load in the community.

Sandra Spoto ’89 retired in April 2007 after 17 years with the Hillsborough State Attorney’s Office.

Gus Weekley ’89, senior counsel at Holland + Knight, has been named to the 2007 edition of Chamber USA — America’s Leading Business Lawyers.

1990s

Robert S. Freedman ’90 was recently appointed chair of the Condominium and Planned Development Committee of The Florida Bar’s Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section. Additionally, Mr. Freedman serves as a member of the sec-

In Memoriam

Sincerest condolences are extended to the families and friends of alumni who are no longer with us.

Emmett McNulty Ferguson ’41
May 5, 2007, St. Reverend, France

Bert A. Davenport ’48

I. Maurice Miller ’48
June 10, 2007, DeLand

Willoughby T. Cox Jr. ’50
Sept. 12, 2007, Winter Park

Vincent P. Nuccio ’51
May 9, 2007, Tampa

John H. Leathen ’52
Aug. 25, 2007, St. Augustine

H. Eugene Johnson ’57
Sept. 10, 2007, Tampa

Mercury Kavouklis ’60
Aug. 11, 2006, Micanopy

Ralph Doak McKinney ’60
May 16, 2007, Santa Fe, N.M.

James H. Seay ’65
March 29, 2007, Sarasota

David W. McKay Sr. ’66
Sept. 22, 2007, Delray Beach

John S. “Jack” Andrews ’67
July 17, 2007, Dunedin

Gary Bert Lane ’68
April 23, 2007, Pensacola

Thomas K. Riden ’68
April 17, 2007, Advance, N.C.

Kathleen Campbell Freeble ’78
May 26, 2007, St. Petersburg

Pamela J. Woolley, ’94
Aug. 18, 2005, St. Petersburg
Mr. Shulman has served as the mediator in almost 1,800 matters. Christopher M. Shulman '91 of Florida Department of Education.

Loretta Comiskey O'Keefe '91 was recently selected as a grant evaluator for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Association of Florida for the 2007–2008 funding year. She will be working with the largest statewide program grant for BBBSAF, “Bigs in Schools and Sites,” which is funded by the Florida Department of Education.

Christopher M. Shulman '91 of Tampa conducted his 1,000th mediation. Taking into account several hundred arbitration and equal employment opportunity investigations, Mr. Shulman has served as the mediator in almost 1,800 matters. Nora Riva Bergman '92 spoke at a Hillsborough County Bar Association presentation on Sept. 20, 2007, about “How Good Attorneys Become Great Rainmakers.”

Robert Blank '92 was recently named one of Florida’s 2007 Super Lawyers in the area of personal injury defense. Mr. Blank is a shareholder with Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell, where he represents clients in the automotive, retail, amusement park, health care, industrial equipment and power tools industries.

Jorge Cruz-Bustillo '92 has been named a partner at the firm of Diaz, Reus, Rolf and Targ in Miami. Mr. Cruz-Bustillo concentrates in international and domestic commercial litigation and arbitration. He also serves as chair of the firm’s telecommunications practice.

Gregory K. Showers '92, a criminal and personal injury lawyer with Kwall, Showers, Coleman & Barack of Clearwater, was sworn in as president of the Clearwater Bar Association in April 2007, making him the first African-American to lead the group in its 70-plus-year history.

Carol Ann Kalish '93 presented “The Law, Your Health and Your Family’s Future” at the 5th annual “Speaking of Women’s Health” conference in Sarasota.

Hunter Brownlee '95, a shareholder at Fowler White Boggs Banker in Tampa, was recognized by the 2007 Chamber USA — America’s Leading Business Lawyers edition as an “Up and Coming” lawyer.

Sheri D. McWhorter '95, a partner in the Tampa office of Foley & Lardner LLP, has been named to Florida Trend's “Legal Elite” list for 2007.

David Sampedro '95 of Panter, Panter & Sampedro P.A. in Miami recently presented “Truck Accident Litigation from Start to Finish” and “Tackling Advance Medical Malpractice Issues” on behalf of National Business Institute in Miami. Mr. Sampedro continues to practice in the areas of general negligence, premises liability, automobile negligence and medical malpractice in Miami.

Rebecca Harrison Steele '95, director of the West Central Florida regional office of the American Civil Liberties Union, spoke at Spirit of Life Unitarian Universalists in Tarpon Springs. Ms. Steele is an appellate attorney and serves on the boards of the Hillsborough County Bar Association and the Trial Lawyers Section of the Hillsborough County Bar Association. In addition, Ms. Steele has been named president-elect of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers.

Ronda Storms ’95 served as Hillsborough County Commissioner for eight years.
and was elected to the Florida Senate in November 2006.

Lee-Anne Perkins ’96 was re-elected historian for the 2007–2008 year for the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Palm Beach County Chapter.

Eric C. Ragatz ’96 was promoted to partner at Peek, Cobb & Edwards P.A. of Jacksonville. An associate of the firm since 2000, Ragatz has steadily built his specialty around personal injury, products liability and complex civil litigation.

Stephenie M. Biernacki ’97 works for GrayRobinson P.A. and lives in Tampa.

Karen M. Kelly ’97 accepted the position as head of the legal department at Macquarie Mortgages USA Inc. in Jacksonville. Macquarie Mortgages USA is a subsidiary corporation of Macquarie Bank Ltd. headquartered in Australia.

Tabatha A. Liebert ’97 was named shareholder in the firm of Allen Dell P.A. in Tampa.

Johnny A. Pineyro ’97 was promoted to partner at Toral, Garcia, Pineyro & Franz P.A. in Fort Lauderdale.

Eric Romano ’97 of the Romano Law Group in West Palm Beach was re-elected to the board of directors of the Florida Justice Association.

John Rudy III ’97 recently spoke at a Hillsborough County Bar Association presentation on identity theft.

Eddie Stephens ’97 participated in the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s “Executive Lockup” and raised $4,000 to send children afflicted with muscular dystrophy to summer camp.

Kim Hernandez Vance ’97 has become a shareholder with GrayRobinson P.A. in Tampa. Ms. Vance practices commercial litigation in both state and federal courts.

Katherine Earle Yanes ’97 of Kynes, Markman & Felman in Tampa was named shareholder.

Maria D. Hale ’98 of Fisher, Rushmer, Werrenrath, Dickson, Talley & Dunlap was honored at the gold level for the Orange County Bar Association’s 2006 Pro Bono Service Awards for devoting more than 100 hours to pro bono.

Mark Chancey ’98 of the 6th Judicial Circuit’s child support hearing office has been named a team winner for the 2007 Prudential Financial-Davis Productivity Award, which recognizes state employees whose innovation significantly improves the delivery of state services and saves money for Florida taxpayers.

Billboard recognizes grad among top music executives

Jason Turner ’04 was recognized by Billboard Magazine in its “30 under 30” list of the most influential young executives in the music business. “It is an amazing honor to be named side by side with some truly talented individuals within the industry,” said Turner. “It has certainly opened many more doors.”

An associate with Lassiter, Tidwell, Davis, Keller & Hogan PLLC in Nashville, Turner represents several recording artists and producers, including the Backstreet Boys in the group’s legal battle against Lou Pearlman and Trans Continental Records. Turner has worked in various capacities within the music industry since 1997, and has practiced entertainment law and corporate law since graduating from Stetson.

Todd S. Aidman ’99 was named a partner at Ford & Harrison in Tampa. Mr. Aidman will concentrate his practice on employment litigation, including harassment and discrimination cases.
Tammi Bach ’99 was selected by the Fernandina Beach City Commissioners to become the city’s new attorney.

Megan (Lubozynski) Bittakis ’99 is a visiting assistant professor at Barry University School of Law in Orlando. Ms. Bittakis is teaching Legal Research and Writing.

Stephanie M. Vann Brown ’99 has been named a shareholder of the law firm of Fowler White Boggs Banker in Tampa. Ms. Vann Brown practices in the firm’s litigation department, concentrating in employment and workers compensation practice.

Neil D. Overholtz ’99 has been named a partner in the firm of Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis & Overholtz PLLC in Pensacola.

Patti Phillips ’99 presently serves as director of the paralegal program at Pasco-Hernando Community College. Mrs. Phillips also writes a local history column for the Tampa Tribune.

Drew Ross ’99 won his third consecutive gold medal for Canada in the men’s water skiing event at the Pan American Games in July 2007. Mr. Ross is traveling the world competing on the professional World Cup water ski circuit.

2000s

Kimberly Benner ’00 was recently admitted to try cases at the Supreme Court level and had the opportunity to meet Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Ginsburg at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Michael Cahill ’00 was sworn in at the U.S. Supreme Court on May 21, 2007, in Washington D.C.

Brian R. Denney ’00 has joined Searcy Denney Scarola, Barnhart & Shipley P.A. as an associate in the firm’s West Palm Beach office.

Patricia Dockery ’00 joined Battaglia, Ross, Dicus & Wein in St. Petersburg. Ms. Dockery will chair the firm’s wills, trust, estate planning and probate department.

Scott Fitzpatrick ’00 and Daniel Hartzog ’02 have merged their individual practices and are operating out of one office in Sun City Center. Mr. Fitzpatrick specializes in real estate and corporate law.

Joanna Garcia ’00 was recently appointed to the board of directors for the Tampa Bay Hispanic Bar Association. Ms. Garcia is an associate at Carlton Fields P.A. in Tampa.

Colette E. Kitchel ’00 recently served on the faculty of the Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School, U.S. Army, as editor of the Military Law Review. She remains a reservist in the Corps.

Andrea M. Kurak ’00 was named partner at the Law Offices of Cobb & Cole in Daytona Beach.

Lance Leslie ’00 passed the Arizona Bar examination in February 2007.

Kelli (Salo) Beal ’00 and her husband opened a private practice in April 2007 specializing in family, county and civil mediation, as well as real estate and corporate matters.

Maritza (Silva) Jones ’00 was naturalized as a U.S. citizen on July 2, 2007, in Indianapolis. She works with the NCAA.

Amy D. Singer ’00 was named Shareholder in the firm of Allen Dell P.A. in Tampa.

Carla Turner-Hahn ’00 joined Battaglia, Ross, Dicus & Wein in St. Petersburg. Ms. Turner-Hahn practices in the areas of business, commercial and civil litigation and appellate law.

Thaddeus West ’00 was a featured speaker at the University of New England’s Political Science Department Career Day in April 2007. Mr. West is assigned to the Superior Court in Alfred, Maine, and is teaching a political science course at UNE.
Stetson Lawyers Association awards, officers announced

Stetson honored several individuals at its annual Stetson Lawyers Association meeting in conjunction with the annual Florida Bar meeting this summer.

**Dr. Carl M. Kuttler ’65 and Judge Irene H. Sullivan ’77** received the Ben C. Willard Award for distinguished humanitarian achievements that have benefited Florida citizens and people throughout the world. Dr. Kuttler has served as the president of St. Petersburg College since 1978 and has been an education advisor to the U.S. President and U.S. Secretary of Education. He has led St. Petersburg College into a new era as a four-year school that offers baccalaureate degrees, the first community college in Florida to be given such a privilege.

Since beginning her service on the 6th Judicial Circuit in 1999, Judge Sullivan has adjudicated in the areas of family law, domestic violence and the Unified Family Court, which handles delinquency and dependency cases and related family and truancy matters. She is a member of steering committees created by the Florida Supreme Court and the Conference of Circuit Judges to address issues relating to children and families.

**Prakash I. Khatri ’83 and Judge Catherine P. McEwen ’82** received Distinguished Alumnus Awards. At age 22, Khatri became the youngest attorney in Florida’s history. During nearly 20 years of practicing immigration law, he has served as manager of immigration and visa processing for Walt Disney World in Florida and was appointed the first Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman for the Department of Homeland Security. He also serves on the law school’s board of overseers. Judge McEwen is the first female judge to serve for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court’s Middle District of Florida’s Tampa Division. She is also a former shareholder at the Akerman Senterfitt firm in Tampa.

**Brian P. Deeb ’85, Wilfried H. Florin ’80 and Thomas D. Roebig ’86** received the Paul M. May Meritorious Service Award for continued support of the College of Law. Deeb is the managing shareholder at Deeb & Brainard P.A., and he was the first attorney in Pinellas County to become board-certified in construction law by The Florida Bar. He has been a long-time donor and outside general counsel for the College of Law. Florin and Roebig, both partners of the firm Florin Roebig, have given generously to Stetson over the years. Florin has served as an adjunct professor, and Roebig has lectured numerous times on campus. Thanks to a generous gift from these two men, Stetson was able to renovate and re-dedicate the Florin Roebig courtroom on its Gulfport campus.

**Jennifer J. Card ’01 and Ying White ’97** received Outstanding Alumni Representative Awards. Card clerked for Judge Virginia Covington on Florida’s 2nd District Court of Appeal before joining the Abbey Adams firm in St. Petersburg. She has regularly coached Stetson moot court teams since graduation.

After graduating first in her class, White served the World Bank as Counsel in the Legal Vice Presidency/Corporate Finance Group before joining Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in Washington, D.C., specializing in representing institutional investors and in the formation and operation of hedge and private equity funds. She recently relocated to China to open Akin Gump’s Beijing office as senior counsel.

**Connie P. Evans** and **Justice Peggy A. Quince** received Distinguished Service Awards for significant, meritorious and continuing contributions that have benefited Stetson Law. After nearly 25 years of service to Stetson, Evans retired in 2006 as director of faculty support services, a department that continues to serve as a model for other law schools. A member of the board of overseers, Justice Quince practiced in Washington, D.C.; Norfolk, Va.; and Bradenton, Fla., before being appointed to the 2nd District Court of Appeal and the Florida Supreme Court. Justice Quince was inducted into the 2007 Florida Women’s Hall of Fame by Governor Charlie Crist.

**Aubrey Dicus ’74** received the President’s Award in recognition for serving as president of the Stetson Lawyer’s Association Advisory Council.

The new officers for the Stetson Lawyers Association are **Anne Weintraub ’03** of Sarasota as president, **Charlie Roberts ’81** of Rockledge as president-elect, and **Lori Baggett ’02** of Tampa as secretary.
S.R. Farling ’01 has been awarded the CSX Chairman’s Award of Excellence for her work on a system labor agreement governing the working conditions and wages of locomotive engineers. Ms. Farling is a director of labor relations for CSX Transportation in Jacksonville.

Leslie Bissinger Golden ’01 has been named the director of institutional advancement at Barry University’s Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law in Orlando.

Craig Hill ’01 was named a shareholder at Clark, Campbell & Mawhinney P.A. in Lakeland. He focuses his practice in the areas of real estate and business transactions.

Nina (Mings) Ferraro ’01 was named president-elect of the Justice Major B. Harding Inn of Court for the 2007–2008. Mrs. Ferraro also has been re-elected as the representative for the 19th Circuit on The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division board of governors.

Mac Richard McCoy ’01 was named a recipient of The Florida Bar’s Young Lawyers Division Pro Bono Service Award. Mr. McCoy was recognized for contributing more than 670 hours of legal services to the poor, primarily through the ABA Death Penalty Representation Project, Bay Area Legal Services Volunteer Lawyers and the American Civil Liberties Union. Mr. McCoy was named recently to the Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts and elected vice-president of the festival board.

Jessica Paz Mahoney ’04 joined Shumker, Loop & Kendrick in Tampa as an associate in the real estate practice group.

Katherine Schnauss Naugle ’01 joined the Jacksonville firm of League & Jesperson. Ms. Naugle’s practice will focus on estate planning, probate, guardianship and commercial litigation.

Daniel Hartzog ’02 and Scott Fitzpatrick ’00 have merged their individual practices and are operating out of one office in Sun City Center. Mr. Hartzog specializes in criminal and family law.

Michele Leo Hintson ’02 joined Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick as an associate in the firm’s litigation practice group.

Robin Petronella Keener ’02 has joined the firm of William, Schifino, Mangione & Steady P.A. in Tampa as an associate. Mrs. Keener will become a member of the insurance coverage practice group.

Brian Lambert ’02 joined Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick as an associate in the litigation practice group.

Jennifer Reh ’02 has joined Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns in Clearwater as an associate practicing family law.

Celeste Sharpe ’89 married Peter Brown on April 22, 2007, at the Don CeSar Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach.


Kelli Salo ’00 married Jason Beal in March 2007.


Andrew Rosin ’02 married Sasha Carp on May 27, 2007, at the Congregation Rodeph Sholom.


Anthony Martino ’04 married Dr. Amy Zaccaria in a ceremony at Blessed Marie Rose Durocher Chapel at Academy of Holy Names in Tampa on May 19, 2007.


Kristine Ciganek ’97 and husband William proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Grace. Grace also is welcomed by her big brother Matthew.

Nicole M. Cameron ’06 welcomed son Robert into the family on Sept. 2006.

Maritza Jones ’00 and husband James K. Jones ’01 announce the arrival of Alexander on July 2007.
Chelsie Joy Roberts ’02 was elected to serve a two-year term for The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors Seat 3 in the 19th Judicial Circuit. In May 2007, Ms. Roberts was also sworn in as president-elect of the Orange County Bar Association.

Ty G. Thompson ’02 was named a shareholder at the firm of Mills Paskert Divers P.A. in Tampa. Mr. Thompson practices business and commercial disputes and all aspects of complex construction and surety litigation.

Scott M. Weaver ’02 joined Bryant Miller Olive in Tampa. He will work in the real property division.

Erica S. (Rogan) Chutkan ’03 has joined Kitson Babcock, LLC as an associate. She will assist with the permitting and approvals for Babcock Ranch.

A. Courtney Cox ’03 joined WellCare Health Plans Inc. as corporate counsel for litigation in Tampa. WellCare is a leading provider dedicated to government-sponsored health plans such as Medicare, Medicaid and State Children’s Health Insurance Programs.

Rebecca Heist ’03 joined Johnson Pope Bokar Ruppel & Burns in Clearwater as an associate attorney. Ms. Heist’s practice areas include taxation, corporate law, tax controversies and estate planning.

Harley S. Herman LLM ’03 of deBeaubien, Knight, Simmons, Mantzaris & Neal LLP received the National Bar Association’s Heman Marion Sweatt Award for his efforts in the area of civil rights.

Ethan J. Loeb ’03 was named shareholder at Bricklemyer Smolker & Bolves in Tampa.

Alyssa A. Ruge ’03 has opened her own law firm with partner Rhonda Bessing in Port Richey. Bessing & Ruge P.A. specializes in personal injury and nursing home abuse cases.

Kira Scott ’03 recently transferred to the Division of Appeals, Rules, and Mediation with the General Counsel’s Office at the Florida Public Service Commission. Ms. Scott will practice in the areas of utility, administrative, employment and contract law.

Joyce Sison ’03 joined the law offices of Roberts, Reynolds, Bedard & Tuzio in West Palm Beach as an associate. Ms. Sison will practice governmental liability law.

Lindsey Trowell ’03 joined Fowler White Boggs Banker in Tampa as an associate attorney. Mr. Trowell practices in securities and financial services.

Luis Viera ’03 of Walton Lantaff Schroeder & Carson LLP in Tampa was appointed to the Hillsborough County Commission’s Children’s Services Advisory Board.

Justin Zinzow ’03 was honored by Florida Trend as one of Florida’s 2007 “Up & Coming Legal Elite.”

Julia G. Baginski ’04 opened a private practice in Fort Pierce, specializing in criminal law.

Tara Carroll ’04 joined Trenam Kemker in St. Petersburg as an associate. Ms. Carroll will focus on all aspects of commercial real estate financing, acquisition and development.

Joshua Ferraro ’04 works with the Ferraro Law Group P.L. in Stuart.

Edward M. Fitzgerald ’04 joined Holland + Knight LLP in spring 2006 and practices in the firm’s bankruptcy and creditor’s rights practice group.

Stephanie (Martin) Freeman ’04 accepted an executive position with Atlanta-based InfraTrust Management and Development LLC as vice president of operations. The corporation handles land and infrastructure development.

Erin L. Kelton ’04 has joined the law firm of Smith, Hood, Perkins, Loucks, Stout, Bigman, Lane & Brock P.A. as an associate.

Sheada Madani ’04 is an attorney at the law firm of Johnson, Auvil, Brock & Wilson P.A. in Dade City.
Anthony Martino ‘04 is an attorney with the firm of Clark & Martino P.A. in Tampa.

Rachel R. May ‘04 has joined Carlton Fields P.A. in Tampa as an associate. She will practice in the firm’s white collar crime and government investigations group. In addition, Ms. May has been appointed to the editorial board of the ABA’s Criminal Litigation Committee Newsletter, Criminal Litigation. Ms. May was recently named to Tampa Bay Business Journal’s 30 Under 30 Class of 2007.

Victoria Nast ‘04 is an attorney with the law firm of Guemmer and Seymour in Victoria, N.S.

Laura Snell ‘04 has joined the Wagstaff Law Office P.A. in Largo.

Jason Turner ‘04 was named one of the music industry’s most powerful young executives by Billboard magazine. An associate at Lassiter, Tidwell, Davis, Keller & Hogan PLLC in Nashville, Tenn., Mr. Turner is the only attorney named to Billboard’s “Power Players, 30 Under 30” list (see page 37).

Liz Alpert ‘05 opened Alpert Law P.A. in Sarasota, specializing in the areas of marital and family law.

Ryan S. Burke ‘05 has joined the law firm of Abbey, Adams, Byelick, Kiernan, Mueller & Lancaster LLP as an associate.

Amy L. Carstensen ‘05 has recently been elected co-chair of the Hillsborough County Bar Association’s Community Liaison Committee for the 2007–2008 year. Ms. Carstensen is an attorney at Carlton Field’s corporate, securities and tax practice group, and the wealth preservation and estate planners subgroup.

Satyen D. Gandhi ‘05 has joined the law firm of Abbey, Adams, Byelick, Kiernan, Mueller & Lancaster LLP as an associate.

Cory B. Kravit ‘05 has joined Sachs & Sax in Boca Raton as an associate and will practice community association and real estate law.

Melissa D. Lum ‘05 has joined the law firm of Abbey, Adams, Byelick, Kiernan, Mueller & Lancaster LLP as an associate.

Grace S. Santos ‘05 owns and operates the Law Office of Grace S. Santos in St. Petersburg, specializing in the areas of entertainment and property law.

Paul V. Suppicich ‘05 serves as the co-chair of the Hillsborough County Bar Association’s Community Liaison Committee, which purchases and distributes books to children throughout the county.

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**Childhood aspirations lead student to roles with ABA, GOP and DHS**

By Tressa Gill

Growing up around political candidates in his hometown of Tarpon Springs, second-year student Chris Sprowls has been interested in law and politics since childhood, and that interest has blossomed into work with the ABA, GOP and Department of Homeland Security.

Chris started running campaigns when he was 16 years old. At age 17, he attended the U.S. House Page School in Washington, D.C., where attended class in the mornings and worked on the floor in the afternoons — sometimes working until 4 a.m.

At the University of South Florida, Sprowls continued to run political campaigns in addition to serving as president of the West Pasco Republican Club. He remains involved with the GOP, and he recently was elected chair of the Florida Federation of Law School Republicans. In this capacity, he helps law students get involved with the Republican party and develop interest in careers in government and politics.

At Stetson, Sprowls serves on the trial team and moot court board, and he is one of only three student representatives from all the U.S. law schools elected to the ABA House of Delegates. Through his position, he focuses on advocacy and educating law students about the recent loan repayment bill Congress passed. “Law students are riddled with student debt, and they do not think they can afford to go into public service,” said Sprowls. “This bill allows them to do that.”

The federal government reduces students’ monthly payments, and after 120 payments, the government pays off the remaining debt. Anyone in public service qualifies, whether working for the government or for a non-profit organization.

This past summer, Chris worked with the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C. This job interested him because of the relevant national security issues faced by the agency. He researched a wide range of current national security issues, including wiretapping, how to handle national emergencies, and who is in charge in those times. On his last day of work, a bill he had worked with was debated on the floor and voted on favorably. The bill provided a John Doe immunity provision to protect the identity of people who report potential threats to national security.

Chris suspects he will end up in public service upon graduation. He said, “The Department of Homeland Security really emphasized working as a team… and how to produce a product that really helps people.”
Bill Wildhack ’05 joined the central staff of the 2nd District Court of Appeal in Lakeland in August 2007. Mr. Wildhack’s current Navy Reserve assignment is Deputy Fleet Chaplain of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. In December 2007, he will become the first chaplain assigned to the headquarters staff of the 3rd Naval Construction Regiment in Marietta, Ga.


Nicole M. Cameron ’06 recently opened her own law firm in Apollo Beach.

Jennifer Cowan ’06 has joined Lewis, Longman & Walker P.A. in Bradenton as an associate. Ms. Cowan will represent public and private clients in environmental, land use, local government and litigation matters.

Terry J. Harmon ’06 joined Sniffen Law Firm P.A. in Tallahassee. Mr. Harmon will focus his practice in labor and employment law, commercial litigation and administrative law.

Melissa A. Haas ’06 has joined the firm of Allen Dell, P.A. in Tampa as an associate.

Courtney L. Milam ’06 joined Shuffield Lowman in Orlando. Ms. Milam practices in the areas of real estate and lender representation.

Stephanie Libbey ’06 has joined the Palm Harbor firm of Kantaras & Andreopoulos P.A.

Michael R. Rocha ’06 has joined Bricklemyer Smolker & Bolves P.A. in Tampa as an associate. Mr. Rocha’s practice will be focused in the areas of real estate transactions, as well as real estate and commercial litigation.

Casey Reeder ’07 joined Hill, Ward & Henderson in Tampa as an associate. Ms. Reeder will focus her practice on commercial litigation.

What’s new in your life? Tell us.

Any news? What’s going on in your life? A career change? Opened your own firm? Recently married? New additions to your family? Took a trip around the world? Keep your classmates posted! We want to hear from you! Just fill out this form and send us your news clippings, photos, news releases, etc.

Current Last Name_________________________ Graduation Month/Year_____________________

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First Name_______________________________

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Name of Spouse_____________________________

Children’s Names and Ages___________________

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Firm/Business Information

Employer Name_________________________________________

Street_______________________________________

City_______________________________________ State__________ Zip_____________________

County______________________________________

Firm/Business Phone Number_________________________

Fax Number_____________________________________

E-mail Address_______________________________

Your Title____________________________________ Area of Practice or Specialty_________________

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Send Us Your News

Any other information you would like to share with us would be appreciated. Return this to the Office of College Relations, Stetson University College of Law, 1401 61st Street South, Gulfport, FL 33707. Fax (727) 347-4183. You may also e-mail this information to alumni@law.stetson.edu, or visit the alumni page of Stetson’s Web site at www.law.stetson.edu.
Carol Masio McGuire ’85
 Member, Board of Overseers

Tell us about your current job.
Partner in the Tampa office of Holland + Knight, where I focus on land use law and litigation. I’ve been a partner with Holland + Knight for eight years, and I was previously a partner in the McGuire Pratt firm for 10 years.

What professional achievement are you most proud of?
Pride is not a good word for me. Even after 22 years of practice, I continue to have a tremendous sense of humility with respect to the privilege and responsibility of membership in The Florida Bar. I feel as though I did make a professional contribution by serving on the Judicial Nominating Commission for the 2nd District Court of Appeal. During that period, five vacancies occurred on the 14-member court. It was an honor to have served in this capacity during such a significant period for the court.

What would people be surprised to know about you?
I am the outgoing board chair of the Manasota Association for Retarded Citizens. My involvement with the ARC began years ago through friends whose son is developmentally disabled. It overwhelmed me to learn that there are adult retarded citizens with no family or no living family members. Their reliance upon such charitable organizations struck me as the most fundamental aspect of human need.

How has Stetson influenced your life?
Very positively — although I would have never admitted that it would be [during law school]. I have to say that the quality of education I received at Stetson was extremely good. We have many roles to play in life, but Stetson transitioned me from a person into a lawyer. That is what I was then and that is who I am today — plus the seasoning. I am most grateful.

What do you want to do next?
Hopefully, what it is that I am supposed to do and at the right time.

Board of Overseers (active members)

S. Sammy Cacciatore BA, JD ’66
Chair of Board
Nance, Cacciatore, Hamilton, Banger, Nance, Cacciatore
Melbourne, Fla.

Joshua Magidson ’80
Vice Chair of Board
Macfarlane Ferguson & McMullen P.A.
Clearwater, Fla.

Leo J. Govoni
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President, Boston Asset Management
Clearwater, Fla.

Robert “Robin” E. Doyle Jr. ’75
Executive Committee
Doyle Conflict Resolution Inc.
Naples, Fla.

Alexander “Zander” Clem ’90
Morgan & Morgan P.A.
Orlando, Fla.

Bonnie Foreman BA ’68
Retired Educator and Community Volunteer
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Richard A. Harrison ’86
Allen Dell P.A.
Tampa, Fla.

Lawrence P. Ingram ’90
Phelps Dunbar LLP
Tampa, Fla.

Prakash I. Khatri BA ’81, JD ’83
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C.

Wendy S. Loquasto ’88
Fox & Loquasto P.A.
Tallahassee, Fla.

Bernard J. McCabe Jr. BA ’69, ’72
State Attorney, 6th Judicial Circuit
Clearwater, Fla.

Carol Masio McGuire ’85
Holland + Knight LLP
Tampa, Fla.

Hon. Peggy A. Quince
Florida Supreme Court
Tallahassee, Fla.

Marsha G. Rydberg ’76
The Rydberg Law Firm P.A.
Tampa, Fla.

Wm. Reece Smith Jr.
Carlton Fields P.A.
Tampa, Fla.

Hon. Raphael Steinhardt ’63
North Miami Beach, Fla.

The Hon. Thomas E. Stringer Sr. ’74
2nd District Court of Appeal
Tampa, Fla.

Gary R. Trombley ’73
Trombley & Hanes
Tampa, Fla.

Paul A. Turk Jr. ’79
Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart P.A.
West Palm Beach, Fla.

Robert G. Wellon ’74
Attorney & Counselor at Law
Atlanta, Ga.

William S. Williams ’87
Lytal, Reiter, Clark, Fountain & Williams LLP
West Palm Beach, Fla.
Tell us about your current job.
I run a litigation practice primarily focused on family law issues. I am also the lead adjunct professor for a trial advocacy class at a local law school in Atlanta.

What professional achievement are you most proud of?
I founded and was first president of the Charles Longstreet Weltner Family Law Inn of Court, an association of family law practitioners, judges — both trial and appellate — and law students from one of our local law schools. Several of the students have gone on to family law careers with lawyers they met during their year with the inn. The inn has been credited with instilling a higher level of professionalism within the family law bar, and with an appellate initiative for processing and granting appeals to the Supreme Court. Due to the large number of applicants now seeking membership, the inn has been forced to establish a set number of members, and to finally begin to rotate out members. The inn is modeled after the English Inns of Court established in the 14th century, which for 700 years held regulatory powers over the rights of lawyers to be admitted to practice in the courts, and provides mentoring, education and collegial professional associations with family law practitioners in a convivial atmosphere.

What would people be surprised to know about you?
While serving in the ABA House of Delegates during the London sessions, we were honored to have tea with the Queen of England.

How has Stetson influenced your life?
The education I received at Stetson was more of an entire change in my way of thinking and approach to reviewing problems. I have learned an intellectual discipline that has enabled me to be more discerning, probing, exploring and far more objective. This methodology has not only permeated my law practice, but assisted in my everyday living as well. However, I must confess that my wife had me beat on cross-examining our children while they were growing up!

What would you like to do next?
Explore legal/religious issues in a formal organizational setting.
Cory C. Strolla ’97
Member, SLA Advisory Council

Tell us about your current job.
I have my own law firm, so I am pretty much the “founding partner.”

What professional achievement are you most proud of?
The professional achievement I am most proud of is my continued acceptance into the “Who’s Who” both in “American Law” and the “World.”

What would people be surprised to know about you?
People would be most surprised to know that my greatest achievement of all is raising my two-year-old son, and the fact that I was the kid in criminal procedure class who raised his hand when the professor asked, “Who would never be a defense attorney?” Ironic, huh?

How has Stetson influenced your life?
My Stetson education and experiences greatly influenced my life, as it taught me to honor my reputation as a trial lawyer, respect the judicial process even in the lowest of moments, and most of all, never be intimidated by anyone so long as you have out-prepared them!

What do you want to do next?
“Next” for me is a tough question, professionally ... I am hoping to add another associate in the next year to my firm, and personally, I am just looking forward to my next ride on my Harley Davidson. Best form of meditation I have found yet!

Jodi Leisure ’99
Carey & Leisure
Clearwater, Fla.

Michele L. Lieberman ’97
Inverness, Fla.

Steven R. Loewenthal ’99
Tampa, Fla.

Jeffrey A. Maine ’93
University of Maine School of Law
Portland, Maine

Richard B. Mateer ’75
Boca Raton, Fla.

David G. Murray ’72
Murray Simmons & Ziegler LLP
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Clinton Paris ’00
Riverview, Fla.

Meredith A. Phipps ’04
Phelps, Dunbar LLP
Tampa, Fla.

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<td>A. V. surf hat (pink, lavender, sand, tan or white): $15</td>
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<td>B. Mousepad: $10</td>
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<td>C. Large tote bag: $15</td>
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<td>D. Stetson Law t-shirt (white or ash, S-XL): $12</td>
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<td>E. Ornament (tree, wreath or stocking): $9.95 each</td>
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<td>F. Camo hat (adjustable): $18</td>
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<td>G. Large sweatshirt blankets (pink, green or ash): $30</td>
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<td>H. Florida’s First Law School, A History of Stetson University College of Law: $29.95</td>
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<td>J. Baby sweatshirt blankets (pink, blue or yellow): $20</td>
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<td>K. Girl’s baby dress (6 or 12 mo.): $18</td>
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<td>L. Infant bodysuit (6 or 12 mo.): $12</td>
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