Past Biodiversity Lecture Presentations

Dr. Tony Abbott, Stetson University, "Wind Power's Many Shades of Green"

Azzam Alwash, Director of the Eden Ragan Project, "Restoration of the Mesopotamian Marshlands"

Jim Anderson, Seaglass Recovery, Inc., "Seagrass Restoration and Mitigation"


Dr. Luiz Barbieri, Florida Fish and Wildlife Institute, "Wetlands and Fisheries: A Florida Perspective"

Dr. Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, "Ramsar: A Convention from the Past, for the Future"

Dr. Noel S. Brown, Former director of the U.N. Environment Programme, North American Regional Office, "Global Environmental Sustainability: Why Should We Care?"

Marcyln Burke, University of Houston, "Green Peace? Protecting Our National Treasures While Providing for Our National Security"


Keith Costa, Partner, Sidlowitz, Dotter, Moran, & Arnold LLP, "Prospective Legal Careers in Climate Change"

Martha Collins, Collins & West, "Surfrider Foundations A Palm Beach"

Dr. Thomas L. Crisman, Director and Dr. William R. Wise, Associate Director, Howard T. Odum Center for Wetlands, University of Florida, "Environmental Expert Witnesses: Their View of the Experience"

Alex Damou, Lexpoint, LLC, "Nature or Nutrition? The Challenges of Eco-Tourism in Cameron"

Dr. Allison DeFeo, former Everglades Center, "The Everglades Restoration: $13 Billion Reasons Why You Should Hear This Lecture"

Craig Denisoff, President, National Mitigation Banking Association, "Environmental Markets: Wetland Mitigation and Conservation Banking"

Dr. George Dennis, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "Endangered Species and Conservation Banking"

Professor John C. Denbigh, Widener University School of Law, "Sustainable Development: More Than Ever"

Alex Glenn, Progress Energy Florida, "Florida's Energy Future"

Bob Hearn, Partner, Phelps Dunbar LLP, "The Infamous Phragmipedium Kovachii Orchid Case and the Application of CITES"

Dr. Joel Heinen, Florida International University, "International Endangered Species: A Case Study from Nepal"

Keith Costa, Partners, Sidlowitz, Dotter, Moran, & Arnold LLP, “Prospective Legal Careers in Climate Change”

Martha Collins, Collins & West, “Surfrider Foundations A Palm Beach”

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Dr. Joel Heinen, Florida International University, “International Endangered Species: A Case Study from Nepal”

Sheri Lewis, Environmental Resource Marketing, “The Business of Wetland Mitigation Banking”

Ambassador Jamshed Marker, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and special advisor to the United Nations, “Reflections on Rio”

Dr. Frank Muller-Karger, Director for Marine Remote Sensing, University of South Florida, “U.S. Ocean Policy”

Craig Pittman, St. Petersburg Times, “Paving Paradise: Florida’s Vanishing Wetlands and the Failure of No Net Loss,” and “Vanatee Insanity in Indonesia”

Dr. Howard Schiffman, New York University, “Antarctic Conservation Law and Policy: Are We Moving Up or Down the Food Chain?”


Interim Dean Royal Gardner serves as the institute’s director and is past chair of the U.S. National Ramsar Committee, which supports the goals of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

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J.D. Certificate of Concentration

Stetson now offers a Certificate of Concentration in Environmental Law for select J.D. students. To earn the certificate, students must complete an approved experiential learning opportunity, participate in a mentoring component, fulfill pro bono service and writing requirements in environmental law, and complete at least 21 hours of prescribed environmental law courses with an average grade point average of at least 3.0. Certificate students also support the Stetson International Environmental/Most Court Competition, International Wildlife Law Conference and other Biodiversity Institute activities.

“The Stetson armed me with the technical and practical legal skills to succeed by providing me with the confidence and ability to bring a holistic view to the world of environmental regulation.”

Michael Stephenson ’97
Senior Director of Environmental, Health and Safety Compliance, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Former Managing Enforcement Attorney for the Southeast Region, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Using innovative methods to teach environmental law

James Choate ’09
Attorney (Honors Program), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Featured courses

Ecosystem Banking Workshop: In this voluntary enrichment program, students learn about market-based approaches to restoring wetlands, conserving endangered species habitat, improving water quality, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Students prepare case studies on a specific project and interview representatives from regulatory agencies, companies, environmental groups and other stakeholders. The workshop is designed to serve as a feeder program for internships with regulatory agencies, mitigation companies and environmental groups.

Environmental Law Internship: Students work on environmental and land use issues under the direct supervision of government and NGO attorneys. Placements include the National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration, Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission, and the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast.

Environmental Law Seminar — Natural Resources: This seminar addresses the law of natural resources — wildlife, animals, parks, wilderness, water rights, oceans, timber and minerals. Because these resources cannot, for the most part, be created by human effort, they pose special challenges for law. As students research and write a paper on a topic of their choosing, they read and discuss in the seminar thought-provoking articles and essays on natural resource management and regulation.

International Environmental Law: This course is an introduction to international legal principles and the application of those principles to specific global environmental problems. The course focuses on current issues in international environmental law, including ocean resources, stratospheric ozone depletion, global climate change, nuclear energy and weapons, biodiversity protection, and the environmental effects of trade agreements.

Wetland Law and Policy Seminar: This interdisciplinary seminar examines wetland issues from both the scientific and legal perspective. The scientific portion of the seminar — which is taught by Dr. Melanie Riedinger-Whitmore, an aquatic biology professor at the University of South Florida — introduces students to different types of wetlands, their functions and values, and delineation issues. The legal and policy portions of the seminar focus on the history of wetland regulation, the permit process, mitigation banking, enforcement and regulatory takings.


International Cooperation: Ramsar Secretariat

In February 2010, Stetson became the first law school in the world to sign a memorandum of cooperation with the Ramsar Secretariat, assisting the international group that works to protect wetlands. Two Stetson Law students worked with the National Audubon Society on the application for the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Naples, Fla., which was designated as a Wetland of International Importance in October 2009.

Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy

Stetson is home to the Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy, produced in conjunction with Stetson’s Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy. Dr. Wil Burns serves as editor-in-chief and he is a Stetson adjunct professor. His research focuses on climate change and international wildlife law, examining the potential of legal institutions to govern the deployment of climate-generating options and the role of microinsurance as a climate adaptation mechanism. He has authored more than 75 articles and edited six books.

International Wildlife Law Conference

Stetson sponsors the International Wildlife Law Conference, bringing together experts from around the world. The most recent conference was held in Granada in June 2011, and featured a keynote speaker from the Environmental Governance Research Programme of the Institute for European Environmental Policy.

International Environmental Moot Court Competition

Stetson will host the international finals for the 16th Annual International Environmental Moot Court Competition in March 2012 at its Gulfport campus. The competition now spans five continents through its regional and national rounds.

Student Service

Stetson environmental law students actively contribute to the academic knowledge of the field. Students Andrew Cefalu and Joseph Graham, both editors of the Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy, presented a white paper on “Advocacy in the Joint Venture Context” for a North American Waterfowl Management workshop in Winnipeg for U.S. and Canadian government agencies and environmental organizations. Student Michael Drema, a Stetson biodiversity fellow, worked with Professor Anne Hallinan to develop a carbon sequestration model that measures the contribution of the Alliance for International Reforestation’s efforts in Guatemala. Students also helped prepare 12 case studies on conservation banks for The Conservation Fund through Stetson’s Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy.

“Stetson offers the ability to intern at government agencies, work closely with the secretariat of multilateral environmental agreements such as the Ramsar Convention, and edit for the Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy. I have discovered an entirely new world of opportunities that I didn’t know were available.”

Marcela Bonells, Candidate for Juris Doctor, 2012
Seminars with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, Switzerland President, Environmental Law Society, and Student Editor, Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy.

“Stetson’s environmental faculty, willing to both teach and mentor students, provided more than just a legal education, and this distinctive approach to education is what sets Stetson Law apart.”

James Choate ’09
Attorney (Honors Program), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Producing scholarship that makes a difference

**Recent Environmental Law Publications**

**Recent Books and Book Chapters**


Blake Hudson, *Commerce in the Commons: A New Conception of Environmental and Natural Resource Regulation Under the Commerce Clause, 35 Harvard Envtl. L. Rev. (forthcoming 2011)).


**Recent Articles**


Royal C. Gardner & Theresa Pulley Radwan, *Corporate Shell Games: LLPs, LLCs, and Responsibility for Mitigation Sites*, 31 Nat’l Wetlands Newsletter 6 (Nov.-Dec. 2009)) (reprinted in *The Environmental Forum* (Summer 2010)).


**Recent Books and Book Chapters**


Blake Hudson holds a law degree and master’s degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Duke University, where he was a staff editor and the submissions editor for the Duke Environmental Law and Policy Forum. Professor Hudson’s research considers how property, land-use, and natural resources law and policy intersect with environmental and constitutional law, with specific focus on the Takings Clause, Commerce Clause and Treaty Power. Much of his research is inspired by the unique problems posed by the “tragedy of the commons,” and the complicated role of private property rights as one solution to those problems. Professor Hudson’s research assesses how a system of private property rights can Gestav more successfully with regulation of natural resources. He also examines the impact of federalism and constitutional structure on land use and natural resource management issues, with particular emphasis on forest law and governance.

Lance Long serves as faculty advisor for the Stetson Law Go Green committee and teaches Research and Writing II – Environmental Law, which focuses on persuasive writing and oral advocacy in the environmental law context. He taught legal research and writing for nine years at Brigham Young University and the University of Oregon before joining the Stetson faculty, and he previously practiced law in California and Utah in the areas of intellectual property, contract and construction law. He is a professional in writing and preparing a legal research paper, intensive use and recycling programs, voluntary simplicity, and creating a sustainable, low- or no-growth, economic model for the United States.

Jeffrey J. Minneti serves as director of academic success and has taught U.S. legal research and writing for foreign LL.M. students. Professor Minneti’s scholarship focuses on the intersection of environmental regulation and behavioral economics. Specifically, he has written about whether the regulation of environmental marketing claims is necessary, and if so, what forms of regulation of the environmental claims is appropriate. His latest work considers the effects of non-state environmental regulations such as private and international environmental standard setters on developing countries’ environmental regulatory schemes.

Wanita Scroggs is the foreign and international law librarian for Stetson University College of Law. Her research interests include environmental law and bioethics. She is a member of the American Association of Law Libraries, where she serves as a mentor to new law librarians. Scroggs also is a member of the American Society of Law Librarians. Scroggs also also is a member of the American Society of Law Librarians, where she serves as a mentor to new law librarians.

Rhea F. Lue,”79 CEO and Chair, Board of Directors, Fowler White Boggs Practices in the areas of government, environmental law and land use

“Stetson University provides the highest quality in legal education in a unique and stimulating learning environment. The focus on professionalism ensures that Stetson graduates are highly regarded in the practice of law.”
Ken Feinberg to visit Stetson

Ken Feinberg, administrator of the BP oil spill escrow fund and past administrator of compensation funds for the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and Virginia Tech victim donations, is scheduled to speak at Stetson Law in spring 2012 as the Nichols Foundation Prominent Speakers Lecturer. Visit www.law.stetson.edu for more details. Photo courtesy of BP/Flickr.

Environmental Law Programs at Stetson University College of Law

- Institutes for Biodiversity and Caribbean Law and Policy
- International Environmental Moot Court Competition founded at Stetson in 1995
- J.D. Certificate of Concentration in Environmental Law
- Home to the Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy
- Co-Sponsor of the International Wildlife Law Conference
- Ample opportunities for student service for international, regional and local efforts that impact the environment
- “Go Green” committee of students, faculty and staff cooperate to reduce the environmental footprint of Stetson Law
- Active Environmental Law Society student organization
- Interdisciplinary courses that bring together legal, scientific and policy perspectives on environmental issues
- Internships with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission, the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, and other organizations
- Frequent biodiversity presentations by speakers from around the world
- Faculty scholars who are prolific writers in the areas of environmental law, land use and natural resources
- Student externship opportunity with the Ramsar Secretariat