

Alumni Activities

A Message to Alumni from the Board of Visitors



The 2001-02 Board of Visitors members are: (front row, l. to r.) B.J. Bernstein ('87), George Carley ('62), Felton Jenkins ('65), Buddy Darden ('67), Steve Jones ('88), (back row, l. to r.) Charlie Hunnicutt ('75), Chairman Read Morton ('73), Emmet Bondurant ('60), Nat Hansford ('68), Patrick Millsaps ('00) and Robb Howell ('98). Not pictured are: Jerry Blackstock ('69), Ruth Knox ('78) and Charlie Tanksley ('78).

Your Law School Needs Your Help

As I am sure all of you have read, state revenues have been declining and the Governor has mandated significant budget cuts. For the University of Georgia and the School of Law, this means a budget cut of five percent for the 2002-03 academic year. There are additional budget reductions currently scheduled for the 2003-04 fiscal year as well and it could take several years to return to the level of state funding the school has enjoyed during the previous 10 years.

The bottom line for the law school, absent increased assistance from the private sector, are cuts in programs, reduction in administrative support positions for student and faculty activities and the inability to fill vacant positions. These cutbacks could very well threaten the law school's ability to maintain the superior quality of legal education that alumni, prospective employers, future students and top faculty have come to associate with the UGA School of Law.

Our prominence in law school rankings could be lost in a short time, if the law school does not retain adequate financial support to not only maintain its current programs but to enhance and create additional programs. It is the stated goal of the law school to be ranked in the top 20 overall and among the nation's very best public law schools by 2010. This can, and will, happen but only with the help of alumni, friends and other private sources.

The law school's strategic plan, 2000-2010, was published in full in the fall 2000 *Advocate* but let me remind you of the four strategic priorities adopted and how we can all assist in making them happen.

Priority 1: "To recruit, admit, educate and support highly qualified and diverse students ..." In order to accomplish this goal, the total amount of scholarships given annually to students must increase substantially. We can all assist in this effort by increasing our annual giving and contributing to existing or new scholarship endowment funds.

Priority 2: "To sustain and enhance the UGA School of Law's strong faculty ..." While base salaries of the faculty will, of course, come from university funding, the law school will need to supplement them with endowed professorships and chairs which must be funded by the private sector. Again, we, as alumni and friends, need to increase our giving to existing or newly endowed faculty positions.

Priority 3: "To provide the finest physical and technological facilities necessary for the study of law and for service to students, faculty, staff and alumni as well as to the bench, the bar and the university." In order to accomplish this objective, a substantial part of the school's facilities needs to be upgraded. Additionally, the law library needs funds to build a special collections library. Funds, primarily from increases in annual giving, will be required to accomplish this priority.

Priority 4: "To identify and develop areas of the curriculum for enhancements ..."

This initiative will primarily involve curriculum changes, additional interdisciplinary courses including joint degrees and expanded international opportunities for faculty and students. While a significant portion of the funding for this strategic priority will come from the public sector, additional annual giving will enhance the opportunities available.

You and I can make the difference between the School of Law remaining stagnant or sliding backward on the one hand and accomplishing the goals set forth in the strategic plan on the other hand. Your gifts, for the annual fund or endowment, no matter how large or small, make a difference. As you consider your level of commitment, stop a moment and think of what opportunities have been afforded to you as a result of your exposure to the law school. Your contribution could substantially enhance opportunities for those who follow in your footsteps and who will become our future leaders in both the public and private sectors. It is extremely important for us to help the law school attain the stated goals. I hope that you will rise, together with me, to the occasion.

Sincerely,

C. Read Morton Jr. (J.D.'73)
Board of Visitors Chair



*A Message to Alumni from the
Younger Law Alumni Committee*

The 2001-02 Law School Association Younger Law Alumni Committee members are: (front row, l. to r.) Doug Kertscher, treasurer; Marcy Gonzalez, at-large representative; Jeremy Lynch, district 2; Amy Loggins, district 5; Melisa Anderson, chair-elect; Ian Matthes, at-large representative; (back row, l. to r.) Paul Threlkeld, district 1; Ansley Bell, at-large representative; Michael Sullivan, district 9; Josh Moore, at-large representative; Clem Doyle, at-large representative; Jake Maurer, at-large representative; Tracie Johnson, chair; Jeffery Monroe, district 3; Kevin Gonzalez, at-large representative; and David Gruskin, at-large representative. Not pictured are: Craig Bertschi, immediate past president; Kendall Butterworth, at-large representative; Daniel King, district 8; Laurel Landon, district 10; Leslie Pickett, at-large representative; Bonnie Smith, district 6; Daniel Snipes, secretary; and Chris Twyman, district 7.

What is YLAC?

That was the question I asked four years ago when former chairperson B.J. Bernstein (J.D.'87) called and asked me to be a part of this committee. B.J. explained that YLAC is the acronym for the Younger Law Alumni Committee of the Law School Association. Though not quite sure what all of this meant, I nonetheless agreed to join. It is now four years later and I currently serve as chairperson of this dynamic committee. Still, you may ask, "what is YLAC?"

YLAC originally was developed as an ad hoc group to provide a forum for younger alumni to voice their ideas and concerns to the LSA. Over time, the committee has evolved into an active service committee of the LSA, providing assistance to the law school, its students and other alumni. In the last few years, for instance, YLAC has strengthened its partnerships with the Office of Legal Career Services by providing mock interviewers, mentors and speakers for the LCS career series. We have co-sponsored, with Dean Kurtz, a "fear buster" program for incoming 1Ls titled "If I Knew Then What I Know Now." We have assisted the admissions/recruiting team in their efforts to recruit top candidates to the law school. Plus, we have tried our hands at development (a/k/a fund raising). YLAC also knows how to have fun! YLAC has hosted a private viewing at the High Museum of Art, sponsored an annual Law Dawgs tailgate party, and, most recently, YLAC co-chair Melisa Anderson (J.D.'98) coordinated "Thirsty Thursday," a networking opportunity for younger alumni.

As you can see, the committee has been busy in its efforts to strengthen the connection among and between younger alumni and the law school community. We encourage you to do the same and suggest the following:

Admissions – The profiles of Georgia's incoming classes have gotten stronger every year. These candidates, however, are being recruited heavily by a number of our peer schools. Georgia has fared well in landing some of these candidates in two simple ways: personal phone calls from alumni with similar backgrounds and hearing positive comments about the law school from its alumni. Let YLAC know if you would be interested in participating in recruiting efforts and, as importantly, continue to speak highly of your experiences at Georgia.

Career Services - As many of you can imagine, the recent downturn in the economy has had an impact on placement efforts. You can help in a couple of important ways. First, anytime you become aware of employment opportunities, please contact the placement office so they can follow-up and alert those seeking legal employment. Second, educate the decision makers you know on the increasing academic strength of Georgia's students. As many of you will recall, Georgia's median grade curve historically has been tougher than the median curves at a number of our peer institutions. While students have never been particularly enamored with the curve, employers should understand that they will find quality candidates deeper in the ranks of our classes compared with other institutions. You should educate

those who make the hiring decisions in your workplace that Georgia has top quality students all around.

Students – Through our projects and one-on-one contact with students, we have learned that students are really interested in what practicing attorneys do on a day-to-day basis. Your help in this area can be tremendous and can be accomplished in any number of (non-time consuming) ways. For instance, you can volunteer as a mentor, allow a student to shadow you for a day or agree to speak at one of the many seminars and panel discussions on varying practice areas.

Fun - Have some fun and reconnect with your favorite classmates! Join younger alumni at Manuel's Tavern in Atlanta on the third Thursday of each month for Thirsty Thursday or have a mini-reunion at YLAC's annual tailgate party (scheduled this year for November 9).

On behalf of YLAC, we sincerely thank those of you who continue to support our efforts with your time and resources. If you have not done so already, we invite and encourage you to find ways to reconnect with the law school, its current students and other alumni.

Sincerely,

Tracie Johnson (J.D.'96)
YLAC Chair

Alumni Activities

Kirbo and Noell Receive LSA's Highest Honor

Bruce Kirbo (J.D.'51) and John Noell (J.D.'65) have given generously of their time, leadership and financial support throughout their long and distinguished careers. This past June, the Law School Association gave a very public thank you to the two alumni leaders by presenting them with the association's highest commendation, the Distinguished Service Scroll Award.

The award is given each year to two individuals whose services to the legal profession and to the UGA School of Law are worthy of special recognition. The awards were presented during the LSA's annual breakfast held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia meeting at Kiawah Island, S.C.

Bruce W. Kirbo

Bruce Kirbo, an attorney in Bainbridge, is the senior practitioner in the south Georgia circuit. He entered the University of Georgia at the age of 16 and earned a law degree in 1951 at the age of 21. While at UGA, Kirbo made a mark as a student leader. He was a member of Blue Key and Gridiron, president of Demosthenian and served two terms of service on the law school's honor court. He was admitted to the Georgia bar just a few days after his 21st birthday and, after two years of service in the military, began his successful private practice. During his distinguished career, Kirbo has served as a member of the board of governors and other committees of the state bar, a special master for the Supreme Court of Georgia as well as a member of the School of Law's Board of Visitors. He was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1979 and is now a fellow of the organization.



2001 Distinguished Service Scroll Award winners: (l. to r.) Dean Emeritus Ralph Beard, presenter; Bruce Kirbo (J.D.'51) and John Noell (J.D.'65), recipients; Callaway Professor Emeritus Verner Chaffin, presenter; and Dean David Shipley.

Kirbo has also led a lifetime of leadership, service and philanthropy to his local community. He has represented the Decatur County School Board since 1979 and served as a member of the executive board of the Bainbridge College Foundation, president of the Kiwanis Club, chairman of the First Christian Church and Sunday school teacher. In addition, he and his brother, the late Charles H. Kirbo (LL.B.'39 and a Distinguished Service Scroll recipient in 1978), were named chairmen of the Thomas M. and Irene B. Kirbo Charitable Trust in the 1980s. That fund, named for his late uncle and aunt, has benefitted numerous educational institutions, including the University of Georgia School of Law, where a total of more than \$2 million presently endows the Charles H. Kirbo Professorship of International Law.

Dean Emeritus Ralph Beard, presenter of Kirbo's award said, "Today we honor

Bruce, but in honoring Bruce, we must honor the entire Kirbo family. I cannot think of another group who, as a family, has served the university and its law school as this family has."

Upon receiving his award, Kirbo said, "I have been practicing law for 50 years. I have had some good times and some hard times, but I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I appreciate the university. I appreciate the law school, and I appreciate every one of you."

John S. Noell Jr.

John Noell, a native of Thomaston, Ga., also earned both his undergraduate (1963) and law degrees (1965) from UGA. He was a distinguished military graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps and secretary/treasurer of his first-year law class. Noell served as a captain in the U.S. Army with the 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam from 1967-68 and received numerous

commendations for service: a Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal and Republic of Vietnam Medal with Gold Star. He returned to Athens in 1968 and continues to practice there today with the law firm of Cook, Noell, Tolley, Bates & Michael.

Noell's excellence as a litigator has led to his election to membership in the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association and Association of Trial Lawyers of America. He served as president of the Athens Bar Association in 1976-77 and taught trial practice as an instructor at the UGA law school from 1973-74. Noell's service to the law school also includes leadership as president of the Law School Association (1992-93), chairman of the Board of Visitors (1999-2000), ex-officio member of the Dean Search Committee (1992-93), member of the Law School Bicentennial Celebration Committee, fund-raising class agent for four years, and chair of his Class of 1965 reunion on five occasions. He is also a member of the Presidents Club, UGA Partners, Heritage Society and Joseph Henry Lumpkin Society – all among the most prestigious designations for financial support of the University of Georgia and its School of Law.

Noell gives of his time and energy to the local community as well. He has served as president of the local Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club and American Cancer Society chapter.

“For the past 36 years, John Noell has been what a good alumnus should be – a lawyer generous with his time, generous

with his leadership skills and, yes, his financial support,” said Callaway Professor Emeritus Verner Chaffin, Noell's former law school professor who presented him with the award. “[The law school] has not hesitated to place responsibility on John Noell and to let him know that we trusted him. He has always been faithful to that trust. John has done honor to the law school and all his fellow alumni by rendering service back to our community of scholars and the legal profession.”

“You don't know what you're missing as alumni until you get involved with the institution,” Noell said in his acceptance remarks. “I encourage all of you to take away from this meeting of the state bar a renewed dedication to your law school. And it is your law school, and you have an investment in it. You need to make sure that you don't lose the opportunity to participate.”

Alumni Reception & Breakfast

A total of 100 alumni and guests attended the scroll ceremony and breakfast meeting on Kiawah, and 125 enjoyed the reception the previous evening. At the breakfast, Dean Shipley briefed alumni on the law school's progress in devising a plan for facilities improvement and on the opportunity to hire several new faculty in the upcoming year. “We have a great school,” Shipley said, “and our potential for being an even better law school is superb.”

– Kathy Pharr

A Tribute to James Woodrow Curtis, Alumnus and Former ICLE Director

In July 2001, the School of Law lost one of its alumni, James (Jim) Woodrow Curtis (LL.B. '40).



James Woodrow Curtis
April 15, 1917 –
July 9, 2001

Curtis is perhaps best known to the law school community for his contributions as head of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. He served as director from September 1967 to December 1982. During this 15 year period, ICLE grew to

become a nationally-recognized, quality legal education program. Curtis was once quoted as saying one of the most important concepts in adult education is that of maintaining professional competence. “Our problem in law has been the great expansion of legislation, court decisions and the mass of information put out for lawyers in journals, ‘advance sheets’ and other publications. ... At the institute, we utilize the variety of legal resources in the state to present a program through which attorneys can improve their abilities,” he said.

Prior to joining ICLE, Curtis was a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and legal attaché in the American Embassy in Nicaragua and Peru.

Born in Oklahoma, Curtis grew up in Toccoa, Ga. He attended the University of Georgia earning his bachelor's and law degrees. He received the Law School Association's Distinguished Service Scroll Award in 1978.



Incoming LSA President Dana Miles (J.D. '80) (l.) presented Past-President Jim Smith (J.D. '81) (r.) with a plaque of appreciation. Smith, who joked that he had served on the LSA Council “since the beginning of man” (1991, actually) offered many words of thanks to deans, alumni and staff and gave a special word of gratitude to “the two constants” over his decade of service: Alumni Programs Director Jill Birch and his wife, Ann.

Alumni Activities



At a breakfast gathering in Albany, Judge Loring Gray Jr. (J.D.'76) (l.) shares a few words with another alumus in front of a display commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Law School Association.



In Columbus, it was standing room only to hear the dean speak. At the Chattahoochee River Club, over 60 alumni and friends came to learn about current law school activities.

On the Road Again

This year, Dean David Shipley continued his popular city visits to speak with alumni and friends throughout the state of Georgia. These trips provide the opportunity to keep those interested abreast of the activities and goals of the law school. During the 2001-02 academic year, Dean Shipley and senior administrators visited: Albany, Atlanta, Augusta, Brunswick, Columbus, Dublin, Gainesville, Macon, Marietta, Rome, Savannah and Statesboro. In addition, the Dean also made trips to Washington, D.C., the city where the most alumni work outside the state of Georgia, and Jacksonville, Fla.

LL.M. Alumni Meeting Postponed to November 2002

Due to the events of Sept. 11, the LL.M. Alumni Association decided to postpone its reunion meeting originally scheduled for November 2001 to November 2002. However, the event will still be held in New Delhi, India.

Association President Christof Siefarth (LL.M.'86) said reunion planner Priti Suri (LL.M.'89) and her event team in India had planned for a superb and unique meeting for LL.M.s. "However, we do not at all cancel this year's meeting but we merely postpone it! A meeting in India is very important for the future



Young alums, (from l. to r.) Sue Ellen Bergman (J.D.'96), Chris Sinclair (J.D.'00) and Angie Hitch (J.D.'98), enjoyed the chance to meet with the dean during his trip to north Fulton County.

of our association and I am very confident the November 2002 meeting will become a success with even more participants than the 15 alumni, plus guests, who originally registered for this past fall's meeting. Judging from our e-mail exchange and telephone conversations in the last few months, I feel that this has brought us a step closer together, despite this rather disappointing announcement."

Siefarth said the next meeting, after New Delhi, will be held in May or June 2003 in Madrid, Spain. More details on LL.M. events can be found on their Web site, www.it-careernet.com/ugallm.

New Alumni Directory

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Law School Association, the School of Law will release a new alumni directory in December 2002.

Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company Inc., which will compile all of the alumni data, will start phoning alumni in late June to verify the information to be included in the directory. Much of the information to be verified on each individual's listing will be included in the directory. In particular, this includes current name, undergraduate college, work and home addresses, work and home telephone numbers, preferred e-mail address and practice area(s). The directory will sort this data by name, class year and geographical location in separate sections of the book. In addition, an overview of the history of the LSA, with photos, will be included in the directory.

Soon, locating fellow alumni will be as easy as turning a page with the new UGA School of Law Alumni Directory. You may reserve your personal copy when your Harris representative contacts you. Please note you should reserve your copy at this time as only pre-publication orders received during this phase of the process will be guaranteed.



At the reception, (from l. to r.) LSA District 10 Representative Jim Ellington (J.D.'87), former LSA President Randy Nuckolls (J.D.'77) and LSA Treasurer Robert Freeman (J.D.'72) pose for a picture.



Gathering in front of the LSA 50th anniversary display are (from l. to r.) Judge Marion Pope (LL.B.'53), Judge John Smith (J.D.'62) and Dean Shipley.



At the breakfast, (from l. to r.) Judge Charles Mikell Jr. (J.D.'76) and Frank Butler III (J.D.'75) enjoy coffee before the meeting starts.

Midyear Bar Meeting

Once again, the Law School Association held a cocktail reception and breakfast in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia's midyear meeting in Atlanta during January. The reception, held at the offices of Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP, and sponsored by Miles, McGoff & Moore, LLC, was attended by over 100 alumni and friends.

The breakfast meeting, which was held the following morning at the Swissôtel, was enjoyed by approximately 80 alumni. During the meeting, Nominating Committee Chair James Smith (J.D.'81) presented the slate of officers for the 2002-03 year. They include: President Paul Painter Jr. (J.D.'74) of Savannah, President-Elect Julie Lumpkin (J.D.'90) of Columbus, Treasurer Robert Freeman (J.D.'72) of Jacksonville, Fla., and Secretary Eleanor Banister (J.D.'79) of Atlanta. This slate of officers will be voted on at the LSA meeting to be held in June, in conjunction with the state bar's annual meeting. Dean David Shipley also presented his "state of the law school" report in addition to providing a brief history of the LSA in honor of the association's 50th anniversary.

Law School Cofounder's Biography to be Published

Written by a relative, Paul DeForest Hicks, *Joseph Henry Lumpkin: Georgia's First Chief Justice* will be published in May 2002. It is the first biography of a prominent antebellum southern judge and reformer.

This biography of Lumpkin (1799-1867) details the life and work of the man whose senior judgeship on Georgia's Supreme Court spanned more than 20 years and included service as its first Chief Justice. Hicks portrays Lumpkin as both a civic-minded professional and an evangelical Presbyterian reformer.

Exploring Lumpkin's important contributions to the institutional development of the Georgia Supreme Court, Hicks reviews Lumpkin's opinions in cases ranging from family conflicts to slavery. He also illustrates how Lumpkin cleared a path through the thicket of antiquated laws that threatened to strangle the growth of corporate banking and business in Georgia.

Covered in depth as well are the evolution of his views on slavery and secession in addition to his involvement in social and economic reform including temperance, education, African-American colonization and industrialization.

Hicks also covers Lumpkin's undergraduate days at the University of Georgia and Princeton, his experiences as a state legislator and successful lawyer, and his family life. Among the family members portrayed are Lumpkin's older brother Wilson, a two-term governor of Georgia, and Lumpkin's son-in-law, Thomas R. R. Cobb, cofounder with Lumpkin and William Hope Hull of the UGA School of Law.

Paul DeForest Hicks is the son of Mathilde Lumpkin Upson (LL.B.'26), the great-great-granddaughter of Joseph

Henry Lumpkin, and nephew of Stephen Lumpkin Upson, the great-great-grandson of Joseph Henry Lumpkin, who was awarded a law degree from the School of Law in December 2000.

- Adapted from *University of Georgia Press*



Enjoying a refreshing beverage are (from l. to r.) Cleveland Professor Ron Ellington, Judge Bill Fleming (LL.B.'50) and Hosh Professor Dan Coenen.

Back By Popular Demand

Based on the success of last year's reception for superior court and senior judges who are law school alumni, another gathering was held in January at UGA's Georgia Center for Continuing Education in conjunction with the Superior Court Judges Winter Seminar in Athens. It was attended by over 40 judges who enjoyed cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres with law school faculty and senior administrators. After the reception, several took the opportunity to cross the street to cheer on the Bulldogs' winning basketball team.