Cook retires after nearly 20 years

Alan A. Cook (J.D. ‘84), the leader of the law school’s Prosecutorial Justice Program since 2001, retired in June. Cook also taught trial practice and served as the coach of the school’s William W. Daniel National Mock Trial Competition team for approximately 15 years. He said one of his greatest memories was watching the “William Daniel mock trial team beat South Texas in the final round of the 2007 competition” to become national champions.

Cook is the author of Cook’s Field Guide to Prosecution in Georgia and CMBrief, A Comprehensive Trial Brief for Prosecuting Child Sexual Abuse Cases in Georgia. The latter resource is a free publication, which has been “an important tool in the successful prosecution of child molestation cases in Georgia for almost a decade.” He is also the co-author of Inside Adjudicative Criminal Procedure: What Matters and Why.

Since 2004, Cook has been a faculty member of ChildFirst – Georgia, an interdisciplinary training program for forensic child abuse interviewers and other child abuse professionals sponsored by the National Child Protection Training Center.

Cook said he would like to be remembered as “a professor who put teaching first and who truly cared about his students” and “for creating a comprehensive three-semester lecture series to supplement the externship component of the Prosecutorial Justice Program.”

He proudly shared that more than 170 of his former students have been employed as prosecutors and many have become career prosecutors, including one elected district attorney and two elected solicitors-general.

In retirement, Cook plans to spend time traveling with his wife, Dr. Debra Cook, and visiting his son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren in Tennessee.

Cahill leaves mark on library

The Alexander Campbell King Law Library has said goodbye to longtime librarian and leader Maureen A. Cahill (J.D.’79), who retired in May. Cahill worked at the library for more than 20 years, most recently as the associate director for instruction, access and outreach. In this role, she oversaw the library’s circulation department, assisted faculty and students with research and technology, taught a number of research classes and coordinated library services for students. A frequent presenter on topics such as technology and law library management, her course load included Legal Research, Advanced Legal Research and Research & Technology Skills for the Georgia Lawyer.

Cahill contributed significantly to the law student experience over the years by providing advice and guidance to many law students, according to Director of the Law Library Carol A. Watson (J.D.’87). “She has been an outstanding colleague and friend to all.”

Of note, Cahill’s relationship with the School of Law actually began in 1976, when she enrolled as a first-year law student. After she earned her J.D., she worked in the school’s Prisoner Legal Counseling Project for 16 years as a staff attorney and clinical instructor. When the PLCP lost its support from the State Department of Corrections, the law library hired Cahill and she earned her M.L.I.S. from the University of South Carolina.

STUDENTS HONOR THREE FACULTY

Three faculty members were honored by the 2018–19 School of Law student body. Stembler Family Distinguished Professor in Business Law Christopher Bruner (left) and University Professor & Caldwell Chair in Constitutional Law Dan Coenen (center) jointly received the Ellington Award for Excellence in Teaching, while Coenen was also honored with the O’Byrne Memorial Award for Significant Contributions Furthering Student-Faculty Relations. Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism Lonnie Brown was given the Student Bar Association Professionalism Award. Additionally, Brown and Coenen were selected to serve as graduation class marshals.