The History Issue

Take a trip down Pre-Law Memory Lane

Fall 2009 Edition

Pre-Law Program, University of North Florida
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Important Upcoming Dates

Pre-Law Day  October 22, 2009
Building 58 West, Room
Guest Speaker: Henry Coxe
Event begins at 11:00 am

LSAT Test Dates
December 5, 2009
February 6, 2010

PLSS Meetings*
October 5, 2009 at 5:30 pm
October 22, 2009 at 6:00 pm
November 18, 2009 at 5:30 pm
November    TBA
December 2, 2009 at 5:30 pm

*The PLSS is a student organization who works with, but is independent of the Pre-Law Program. By joining PLSS, you are not automatically a member of the Pre-Law Program. For more information on the PLSS, contact Kristen Schanze at schk0038@unf.edu.

The UNF Pre-Law Program is located in Building 51 Rooms 2117 & 2118
(904)620-1069
www.unf.edu/coas/polisci-
Loving husband, caring father, passionate guitarist, successful lawyer and respected judge, for those who did not have the honor and pleasure of meeting Judge Peter Fryefield this was the quintessence of his life.

Sadly the world and the community of Jacksonville lost a great man and friend to many. Judge Fryefield passed on Saturday September 5, 2009, at the age of 60. He had an autoimmune disease known as scleroderma, which took his life as he awaited a lung transplant at the Mayo Clinic Jacksonville.

Judge Fryefield was born in Massachusetts and grew up in Jacksonville. He received an undergraduate degree and law degree from the University of Florida. After attaining his education he worked as an Assistant Public Defender in Jacksonville eventually branching out to the world of private practice where he specialized in medical malpractice and personal injury.

His calling came in 1995, when Governor Lawton Chiles appointed him as a Circuit Judge filling a vacancy. He spent the remainder of his life serving the people and the great justice system of our county. In an interview given to the Daily Record, Judge Fryefield said that he credited his wife and children for him becoming a judge because he spent too much time away from home, this was the kind of man he was.

Tom Fallis, a local and respected attorney who has practiced in Jacksonville for many years, has litigated numerous times before Judge Fryefield and has this to say after losing a him as a friend. “He was the embodiment of someone that all law students should strive to be. As far as legal temperament and knowledge he was absolutely one of the finest judges in the world. He was the same from the day he took the bench to the day he left it, courteous to all parties. When you visualize in law school what a judge should be he was it and he played a hell of a guitar.”

So often we deify the judge and miss the person. Many accolades have been lavished on Judge Fryefield, and deservedly so, but he was much more than this to his family, his community, and UNF. – UNF Pre-Law Program
Pre-Law Forum IV

Pre-Law Forum IV entitled “What Lawyers Do” was the most recent in a series of spring semester forums in which law school representatives or members of the legal community are invited to speak and answer student questions on a variety of law-related topics. The event held on Friday, February 27, 2009 included four guest speakers each of whom are attorneys in various fields of law. Brandy Darwin, John Leombuno, Hank Sorenson and Jo-Anne Yau discussed their respective legal careers and personal experiences in law school, as well as offered students advice on choosing a field and succeeding in it.

Pre-Law Luncheon

The spring 2009 on-campus luncheon was well-intended by both board and faculty members, as well as students. Guest speakers, including Political Science Professor Dr. Henry Thomas, History Professor Dr. Carolyn Williams, Student Body Vice President Michael Saathoff and former Pre-Law Assistant Angel Kalafatis, discussed the significance of Obama’s 2008 election and what it meant personally to them. These four guest speakers represented the varied perspectives of age, gender, ethnicity, personal experience and philosophical ideology that informed much of the nation’s response to this historic election.

For more information or to join our mailing list, please contact prelawprogram.unf@gmail.com or call the Pre-Law Offices at (904)620-1069.
As the Program Assistant who has worked with you since the first day you came nervously to the Program offices, I am extremely proud to have known this class of Pre-Law Students. You have exceeded our expectations and achieved a wide variety of accomplishments during your tenure at UNF. Many of you have undertaken interesting and diverse internships including ones with the United Nations World Food Programme, the Hillary Clinton Presidential Campaign, various United State Senators, AIPAC and local law firms including the City of Jacksonville Office of General Counsel. I was even more impressed by the enthusiasm many of you had for your community and the degree of involvement each of you took in making your time here at UNF and in the Program a success. In my five years of working for the Pre-Law Program, I have never been so excited to watch so many of you graduate and begin your professional careers.

As I too leave UNF and head to law school, I am grateful for the opportunity to have met and worked with each of you. I wish you all the luck in your future careers and hope that your successes here are an indication of the greater successes for your lives still ahead. I look forward to keeping in touch with all of you and hearing about the many adventures and accomplishments you will inevitably have. Good luck and thank you for letting me be your Pre-Law Assistant for the past five years.

-Catherine Moore
American University Washington College of Law, Washington D.C.

Grad Party ’09

At the close of last semester, the Program Director, Martin Edwards, and his wife, Betty, hosted a celebration for the Pre-Law Program’s many active students who recently graduated or will be graduating this semester. Over thirty students were in attendance, enjoying the BBQ, refreshments and company of fellow Pre-Law students. For many, this was the last opportunity to say goodbye to each other before leaving for their respective law schools, graduate schools or professions.

Above, left to right: Dustin Keeney, Meredith Hough, Lauren Barnes, Mike Buscemi, Erika Wilson, Edgar Alvarez, Ben Young, Trisha Ramirez, Jordan Coley, Paydon Broeder, Brian Bercaw and Adam Rowley

“Mr. Edwards’s Mock Trial course helped me realize that law is what I wanted to pursue. It also helped me become friends with many other Pre-Law students.”

-Brian Bercaw,
Graduates in December 2009 & will take the LSAT in September

"The UNF Pre-Law Program hosted countless events throughout the year. In attending these events, I realized law school was the right choice for me. I was able to talk with law school representatives, law students and lawyers. These resources answered any questions I had about the LSAT, applications or what it means to be a law student. Each event was fun and I learned so much that I couldn't pick a favorite one."

-Mike Buscemi

“My experience in the Pre-Law Program, though not over, have been some of the best of my life. I am learning so much from Mr. Edwards, and have been inspired to be the best that I can.”

-Kristen Schanze
Pre-Law Student Society President, graduates in the Fall of 2009

“Through the Pre-Law Program I found people that had the same interest and goals as me. To work as a team to get through the confusing process of getting into law school is priceless.”

-Ben Young
M.A. Public Administration, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida

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Above, from left to right: Former Pre-Law Student and current Board member Jenna Strom sits with former Pre-Law Scholarship winner Erika Wilson and fellow Board members Jim Porter, Jo-Ann Yau and John Leombruno during the spring 2009 off-campus Board meeting.

Above: Padraig McCoid testifies as Batman’s sidekick Robin during the final trial of Mr. Edwards’s summer Mock Trial course before guest Judge Russell Healy and jury of Pre-Law students and guests.

Above: Pre-Law Seniors and Graduates celebrate their achievements during the 2009 Pre-Law Grad BBQ hosted by Pre-Law Director, Martin Edwards and his wife, Betty Edwards at their home. Back row, from left to right: Pre-Law students Brooke Geiger, John Barnes, Dustin Keeney, Lauren Barnes, Mike Buscemi, Catherine Moore, Michael White, Padraig McCoid; Front row, from left to right: Pre-Law Director Martin Edwards, Jeffery Shaw, Betty Edwards, students Edgar Alvarez, Brandy King, Kylee Shaw, Andrea Farah, Ben Young, Meredith Hough, Brittany Hobbs, Loren Ellis, Chelsea Schuster, Erika Wilson, Jordan Coley, Paydon Broeder, Kristen Schanze, Adam Rowley, and Brian Bercaw.

Above, from left to right: Former Program Assistant Angel Kalafatis sits with Program graduates Michael White and Erika Wilson during the 2009 Grad Party. Michael White and Erika Wilson will be attending law school in the fall.

Left: Pre-Law Student Society (PLSS) Vice President Meredith Hough (pictured on left) and President Kristen Schnaze (right) visit with former PLSS Vice President Ben Young (center) at the 2009 PLSS Officer Retreat in Interlachen this summer.

Above, from left to right: Pre-Law students Kristen Schanze, Dustin Keeney, Ben Young, and Trisha Ramirez discuss law school brochures during Pre-Law Day 2008.

Above, from left to right: Pre-Law Board members Peggy Baldt (a former Pre-Law Assistant) and Kate Shonina Mestic (a former Pre-Law student) listen as Pre-Law Scholarship finalists speak during the spring 2009 off-campus Board luncheon. Baldt.

Judge Eleni Derke kick starts the Mock Trial class each summer as the course’s first guest speaker. She also serves as a member of the Pre-Law Board.
Meet the Director

University of North Florida’s Pre-Law Program Director, Martin Edwards

For over fifteen years, Martin Edwards has worked at University of North Florida serving in a variety of roles including Pre-Law Program Director, Senior Instructor in the Political Science & Public Administration Department, Mock Trial Team Coach and Pre-Law Student Society Faculty Advisor. Before joining UNF, however, Edwards was a practicing attorney in the Jacksonville area for nearly twenty years. Edwards graduated with a Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida Law School and first began working in the Public Defender Office for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida. Edwards also worked in the State Attorney Office and eventually, opened his own practice. In addition to experience in the legal community and his distinguished career at the University of North Florida, Edwards has also served as an instructor at the Florida Coastal School of Law.

Edwards enjoys working with students and the creativity possible by working at UNF, “I am able to creatively design a number of new and interesting courses which are regularly taught and enjoy introducing students to the law and watching many of them eventually become lawyers.”

In addition to many professional experiences over the years, Mr. Edwards is also very close with his family. Edwards and wife, Betty, with whom he has two children, have been married for over thirty-five years. Betty graduated as an undergraduate from Agnes Scott College, then earned a Masters in counseling from UNF. His daughter, Angela, earned her B.A. in Studio Art from Wake Forest University and a Computer Graphics degree from UNF. Edwards’ son Joshua graduated with a degree in vocal performance from the Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music and now lives in New York City. Edwards added, “I am most passionate about family. I consider winning the heart of my wife the greatest achievement of my life, and the birth of my two children the proudest. My passion extends beyond my immediate family, however. When each of my sister's three children graduated high school, my wife and I took each of them on a trip outside of the country.”

If you have ever visited Edwards’s office or come to his home for a Pre-Law gathering, you would also know how passionate he is about UF football and basketball. “I worked in the Sports Publicity Department while a student at UF and later graduated from law school there. I am a past president of the Jacksonville Gator Club” explained Edwards.

There are many other things that would surprise you about Edwards, however. In 1969, for example, Edwards sold snow cones at the Woodstock Festival, saw Duke Ellington play live as a small boy, and enjoys opera. Edwards also loves to travel and attempts to visit a different country every summer. “This summer it's China,” explains Edwards.

Edwards on Topics in the News:

During a July 12, 2009 WJXT Channel 4 News interview, Edwards discussed the Supreme Court confirmation hearings of Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Edwards discussed what should be expected in the hearings and what to expect from conservative critics, “The key is going to be how the Republicans handle her questioning... She is tough to attack because her academic background is very impressive [and she has] four years as an Assistant District Attorney prosecuting criminal cases, so on that side, she has a sort of conservative record. Where the Republicans tread on thin ice, but can perhaps attack her is on statements she made about the broad compassion of women and Hispanics and maybe her vote in the famous firefighter case.” Edwards added that if confirmed, “she is not going to change the basic nature of the ideological balance of the court.”

Edwards also discussed the legality of teaching intelligent design in the classroom for First Coast Forum in April of 2009. According to Edwards, “The problem, as seen from the law, is that intelligent design is a theory that relies on supernatural religious beliefs which automatically brings in the First Amendment which deals with separation of church and state.” He further discussed case precedent on the subject and an 1802 letter by Thomas Jefferson discussing a wall of separation between church and state, “The question becomes how tall or how small should this wall be.”

During March of 2009, Edwards also participated in a panel discussion sponsored by the American Democracy Project and UNF’s Office of Undergraduate Studies on the future of the Supreme Court. Issues discussed included the controversial Roe v. Wade case, the future of Guantanamo, the role of executive power, the gay marriage debate and privacy rights.

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Brittani Raulerson, class of 2008

While at UNF student, Raulerson served as Assistant Director of the African American Student Union, Treasurer of the Pre-Law Student Society and participated in the Mock Trial Team, Pre-Law Program, Presidential Envoys, Student Conduct Judicial Panel, and UNF College Democrats. She also sits on the Black History, Equity and Civility, Undergraduate Studies, and Unity in Diversity committees.

Raulerson now attends the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

Who is your favorite faculty member and why?
Dr. Edwards is my favorite faculty member. He has provided me with numerous opportunities, such as law courses, as well as an internship with the General Counsels Office of Jacksonville, Florida, to better prepare myself for law school.

What is your favorite class and why?
Mock trial was my favorite class because students were allowed to actively participate as attorneys and witnesses. Students also prepared their own opening and closing arguments, direct examinations, and cross examinations. They experienced firsthand what it was like to step into the legal arena.

Do you have any advice for future students?
I advise future students to become actively involved on campus. By doing this, students increase an awareness of their own campus community and build relationships with other students and faculty members.

Eric Roberson, class of 2001

So much time has passed since I was a student in UNF's Pre-Law Program but the friends that I made and the support that I received stay with me to this day. After graduating from UNF in 2001, I briefly taught AP European History at my old high school, Stanton. In the Fall of 2002, I began my legal studies at the University of Florida. I was an active member of UF's trial team. I was also privileged to intern with Justice Charles Wells of the Florida Supreme Court and be named to the Order of the Coif.

Following graduation, I began my legal career as a prosecutor in Jacksonville. In nearly 2 years with the State Attorney's Office, I conducted several jury trials and gained "hands-on" courtroom experience - far more than I would have received with any other job. In March 2007, a tremendous opportunity presented itself and I joined McGuireWoods as a commercial litigation associate. This move allowed me to practice not only with a firm with a tremendous nation-wide reputation, but also with several close colleagues from law school. As I enter my fourth year of practicing law, I handle commercial disputes for the firm's business and banking clients.
Meet the Board

University of North Florida’s Pre-Law Program Board of Advisors

Dr. Maldine (Beth) Bailey
UNF/Criminology & Criminal Justice

Peggy Baldt, Esquire
Coplan Baldt, P.L.

Michael Bateh, Esquire
Assistant Public Defender-Duval Co.

The Honorable Tyrie Boyer
Judge of the Circuit Court-Duval Co.

Thomas Brown, Esquire
The Brown Firm

Dr. Andrew Buchwalter
UNF/ Philosophy

Jason B. Burnett, Esquire
Becker & Poliakoff, P.A.

Alan Chipperfield, Esquire
Assistant Public Defender-Gainesville

Christopher M. Cobb, Esquire
Tritt & Franson, PA

Dr. Matt Corrigan
UNF/ Political Science

Dr. David Courtwright
UNF/History

Howard Dale, Esquire
Dale Bald Et Al.

The Honorable Brian Davis
Judge of the Circuit Court-Nassau Co.

The Honorable Eleni Derke
Judge of the County Court-Duval Co.

Kelly Douglass

Thomas G. Fallis, Esquire

Michael R. Freed, Esquire
Brennan, Manna & Diamond, P.L.

Roger Gannam, Esquire
Lindell and Farson, PA

Stephanie Gramling

The Honorable Russell Healey
Judge of the County Court-Duval Co.

Lawsikia Hodges, Esquire
Office of General Counsel (COJ)

Dr. Harriet Howe
UNF/Sociology

The Honorable Maria Keebler
General Magistrate/Hearing Officer

Jeremy Kespolh, Esquire
Bromagen & Rathet, P.A.

Cindy Lasky, Esquire
The Lasky Law Firm

John Leonbruno, Esquire
The Arnold Law Firm, LLC

Rutledge R. Liles, Esquire
Liles, Gavin & Costantino

Dr. Deborah Luyster
Florida Coastal School of Law

The Honorable Gregg McCaulie
Judge of the Circuit Court-Duval Co.

Marsha McCoy, Esquire
Gunster Yoakley & Stewart, P.A.

Lesley McKinney

Janet Owen, Esquire
UNF/Office of the President

Jim Porter, Esquire
Fowler White Boggs, P.A.

Nicole Dawn Raines, Esquire
Rubin & Debski, P.A.

Casey Ratchford, Esquire
Durant and Schoeppel

Eric Roberson, Esquire
McGuire Woods

Edward Sarnowski, Esquire

Chris Schwing, Esquire
Holland & Knight LLP

Mitzy Shon, Esquire
Social Security Administration

Yekaterina “Kate” Mesic, Esquire
Joseph & Marees, P.A.

The Honorable Brent Shore
Judge of the County Court-Duval Co.

Hank Sorenson, Esquire
Law Offices of Henry T. Sorensen II, P.A.

Ali Tedrick, Esquire
Ford, Miller & Wainer, P.A.

Greg Williamson, Esquire

Melissa Williamson-Nelson, Esquire
State Attorney’s Office

Chris Wrenn, Esquire
Office of the General Counsel

Jo-Anne Yau, Esquire
Wood, Atter & Associates, P.A.

Elizabeth Yerington, Esquire

Get to know the 2009-2010 Pre-Law Board of Advisors at the Luncheon November 4, 2009 Building 58 West, 3rd Floor Ballroom 12:00
I can honestly say that I am proud to call myself a former Pre-Law Program Assistant, because, as you all know, I am in great company. Every one of the amazing people that have worked for the program have contributed in fantastic ways and gone on to do great things. I feel honored to be among them.

I worked for Mr. Edwards and the PLP during my senior year in 2005 and I can honestly say that my experience had a strong hand in shaping my goals for my post-college life. The part of my job there that had the greatest effect on me was working with students and seeing first-hand what goes into the administrative and instructional side of university academics. Being such a hands-on part of what the Pre-Law Program is to UNF was fascinating. My favorite part was helping Mr. Edwards plan for courses, interact with students, and see such an in-depth view of university politics. There is so much planning; such an incredible amount of time, money, blood-sweat-and-tears that go into making the Pre-Law Program such an integral and influential part of the UNF student experience for so many people, and being a part of that awoke a passion for teaching and academics in me that I hadn’t recognized before.

I graduated in August of 2005 with a degree in English with a minor in Political Science. Since my time as assistant, I have maintained an active relationship with the Program. Every summer I work with the students from the Mock

“I am very happy to be back at UNF as the current Program Assistant. I was the program assistant from 1998 to spring 2003. The summer of 2003 was spent studying for the Florida Bar, which I passed and was sworn into the Bar October 2003. Having gone through the law school application process, struggled through my first year in law school, graduated from law school and now practicing law, I feel that I can assist the students and Director Edwards far better than I did years ago. Much has changed at UNF, the campus is more beautiful and the Pre-Law offices are much nicer and brighter. The campus may have changed but students still need guidance with the life changing decisions such as whether and where to attend law school. The Pre-Law Program Director Edwards, and I are here to assist you reach your goals.” —Peggy Baldt

I served as the assistant to the Pre-Law Program Director for approximately one year, during the 1996-97 school year. The program has always focused on students and assisting them in the transition into law school or other law related fields. The Pre-Law Program was quite diverse and provided many areas of support during my tenure. For example, the program supported other activities such as Moot Court competitions. The program maintained an extensive library which provided information on law schools, law school entrance exams, and even sample tests. The program also fostered a close relationship with Kaplan and other organizations that assisted students in their preparation for law school entrance exams. Lastly, the program began hosting a Pre-Law Day which is now an all day event. Administrators from law schools visit campus for this event and they make themselves available to answer questions and to provide information to the students. That particular activity has since grown and now hosts law schools from various states, including highly rated schools. During my time as assistant, I am proud to say that I was a founding member and the first president of the Mock Trial Organization. I am an attorney today in great part because of my involvement with the Pre-Law Program and the mentoring I received from Marty Edwards. I owe a great deal to Marty and the program.
Pre-Law Scholarship

Scholarship Winners, Past & Present, Reflect
By Andrea Farah, Arielle Schneider, and Erika Wilson

Despite the fact that the competitiveness among pre-law undergraduate students is a necessity, there are too many cases of students losing themselves to their unrealistic ideals. Many lose the good qualities of their personality under the pressure of being the best of the best. Under this pressure, they try to catch a stream that will take them to law school, no matter if they can keep up with its speed or not.

With this in mind, I find introspection that leads to an honest and deep knowledge of one’s own goals, desires, attitudes and morals incredibly important in my journey to law school. Being able to maintain both a good reputation and a consistency of character in all situations is a valued principle when it comes to my relationship with others.

When I came to UNF in the spring of 2008, I had no idea which direction to go, who to talk to, what clubs to join, or even that there were clubs on campus. After speaking to more people than I can name, I finally found my two most precious mentors who opened my mind to an incredible numbers of opportunities with respect to campus life and my field of study, Pre-Law Program Director Martin Edwards and Dr. Herkov from the Department of Psychology.

After speaking to Mr. Edwards, I chose political science as my minor and became involved in many campus activities and clubs. His office became a secure base which I have been visiting ever since. He advised me to start writing for the Spinnaker, the school’s student newspaper, and to get into leadership positions on campus. Since my initial visit, Mr. Edwards has helped me get an internship at the Office of General Counsel and enroll in his Mock Trial course, which have both been insightful and educational experiences.

I chose Psychology as my major primarily because of my passion for understanding the human mind and delinquent behavior. With my other mentor, Dr. Herkov, I conducted research on psychology and the law; an interest I want to maintain throughout my criminal defense career. Dr. Herkov provided incredible insight and support for my work at the Public Defender’s Office where I conducted jail interviews with inmates.

I am determined not to let the pursuit of the law transform into a competitiveness that would cost me my personality and belief system. I realize that honesty to myself and with others is both a great force and motivator. The idea of standing up for my ideals and defending a position in which I believe is what the criminal defense is ultimately about.

Pursuing a legal career, experiencing a variety of legal opportunities and being awarded the Pre-Law Endowed Scholarship, would not be possible without the help of some of the best faculty at UNF, my mentors, who were willing to share their knowledge with me. Finding the right people and getting the right assistance is absolutely crucial for a student’s success. Don’t be worried about being rejected or denied something you desire. There is not always a different opportunity, but there is a different way to get what you want.

-Andrea Farah

The Pre-Law Endowed Scholarship was one of the most exciting scholarships to win. Although I was competing with my friends, they are all people I deeply respect and are equally as deserving of the award. The experience of applying for the scholarship, presenting to the Pre-Law Program Board of Advisors, and writing my essay was invaluable. The assistance I received from this award has also been essential. Although it has become a struggle to fund school on my own while being involved with extracurricular activities, the monetary award of this scholarship definitely eased my situation significantly. I am incredibly grateful to Mr. Edwards, the Pre-Law Board, and Catherine, Pre-Law Program Assistant, for making it all happen.

-Arielle Schneider

UNF’s Pre-Law Program enriched my focus to go to law school since I entered as a freshman. It’s hard to believe four years ago when I first walked on campus, I found the door that would open an abundance of advising, networking, and friendship opportunities. Before college, I was known to most of my friends as the odd one, the one who always knew I wanted to be an attorney. To my surprise and luck, I found a group of young adults just like me that shared the same dream. I was fortunate to make friends who competed with me on Mock Trial Team, cried beside me while studying for the LSAT and walked across the stage with me at graduation. In Pre-Law, I felt my peers understood how much energy, time and work it takes to achieve success. After four years of intense studying, countless advising sessions, and plenty of fun along the way, I will finally be attending Stetson Law School. Receiving acceptance to law school causes a mixture of inexplicable emotions. Although many people have influenced my four years in this program, two in particular deserve special thanks. First and foremost to the Pre-Law Assistant Catherine Moore, thank you for your constant dedication to the Program members. The contributions that you made to the program, including your support and kindness, will never be forgotten and are appreciated more than you know. Finally to Mr. Edwards, as advisor, professor, and attorney wrapped into one person, you are a role model for Program students. The students who have the privilege of taking your classes understand the impact you have on your students’ dreams and goals. Thank you for pushing students to reach their full potential and for not giving up on them. Most importantly, thank you for giving us the tools and opportunities to reach our dreams. For me, winning the Pre-Law Scholarship was one such tool. I consider it my most important academic achievement. I am honored to have won it and grateful for having the opportunity to compete for it. Now, when I look back on my four years at UNF, I will always remember how proud I was to be an Osprey and how fortunate I was to be a member of the Pre-Law Program.

-Erika Wilson
Hello Pre Law Students! I would like to welcome everyone back to a new year at UNF! I am your new President of Pre-Law Student Society for the year 2009-2010, Kristen Schanze. I want to fill everyone in about the upcoming year for PLSS.

First, I would like to introduce our new officers. I, myself, am a Political Science major hoping to go to law school within the next two years. I would like to attend the University of Florida, or somewhere up in Boston, MA. I eventually would like to be a Prosecutor. You can get a hold of me by emailing me at schk0038@unf.edu or calling me at (904) 923-6928. I am so excited to hear from you all, and I am always available for any questions or concerns you may have about PLSS! I want everyone to know that I take my new position as President very seriously and I look forward to taking PLSS to the next level. Next, we have Meredith Hough as our new Vice President, and you can get a hold of her through email: n00476918@unf.edu. Our new Secretary is Brian Bercaw. His major is Criminal Justice with a minor in Spanish. Right now, he is working as an assistant paralegal at a law firm here in Jacksonville, and he is planning on also attending law school in the near future. Paydon Broeder is our new Treasurer. He can be contacted by cell phone number (941)400-2723, email: paydon.broeder@unf.edu, or through facebook. His goals for right now are to prepare for the LSAT and get at least a 160 on that in order to attend the University of Florida Law School. Then, he would like to work for the DA's Office. Loren Ellis is our new Events Coordinator. She is a double major in Criminal Justice and Political Science. Her career goals are to work at a federal agency such as the FBI or the US Marshals after Law School. You can contact her through email: n00593327@unf.edu or through phone (904) 504-8711. We have created a new position this semester for the Mock Trial Liaison, Mock Trial is a great thing for us to get involved in. This person will be Adam Rowley. He is a Political Science major with a minor in Mass communication and Business Administration. He is planning to attend Law School in order to become a litigation lawyer. Lastly, we have Ben Young as our new Director of Post Graduate Studies. He will be taking care of getting LSAT study groups together and providing study materials for them, as well as being available to everyone for help with the Law School application process. He is currently getting his Masters Degree in Public Administration, and plans to attend law school to become a corporate lawyer.

I would like everyone to be aware of some of the events that we are planning for this year as well! We are planning on having many socials for networking, which is of the utmost importance to law students. We are also planning to do some volunteer work including working for Legal Aid and taking part in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk this year, and there will be some field trips to see trials downtown. Most importantly, our meetings will have a new setup where we will have different series of meetings where we learn different aspects of Law Schools, the Application Process, making resumes, and things that are very important for us to know on our journey to be lawyers. These meetings will include guest speakers as often as possible. Lastly, we will be at Club Fest, which will be held on August 26th from 10am -2pm on the Green, so be sure to come out and see us at our table!

I am so excited to be a part of such a great organization, and I cannot wait for all of the fun times ahead for us this year! Thanks so much everyone!

Kristen Schanze

PLSS Meetings:
When: October 5, 2009 at 5:30 pm
October 22, 2009 at 6:00 pm
November 18, 2009 at 5:30 pm
November...TBA
December 2, 2009 at 5:30 pm
Where: Bldg 53West, Room 3805
Above the bookstore
When someone asks me, what was the best part of being a UNF student, I always say the same thing: “I was lucky, I joined the Pre-Law Program.” That also meant that I would try out for the Mock Trial Team. Two years later, I was still on the Team, but this time we were going to the National Mock Trial Competition in Lexington, Kentucky. I remember that most of the team flew out before Professor Edwards. He joined us the next day. The competition was to start around one o’clock in the afternoon. By about 9am, Prof. Edwards was knocking on our hotel doors to make sure we did not waste the day. Where were we going? Kentucky Derby! He was going to make sure we did not miss it.

So, imagine two cars full of mock trial students in suits, fully dressed for the competition, going to the Derby. As the President of the organization that year, all I remember doing is calling the competition headquarters to make sure they did not start without us, because we were running late. We made it to the start of the competition and by then, we did not care whether we won or lost, we were going to have fun, no matter what.

The competition that year was going to be tougher than ever but with Professor Edwards’ help we were as prepared as we could be and were getting more creative and confident. For one of the witness roles, I sprayed my hair white to look older, Jennifer Santana played a pregnant witness and she was so convincing that judges actually thought she was pregnant.

To be honest, I don’t remember much about the actual competition. I vividly remember preparations before and discussing strategy in the hallways during the competition. But I don’t remember being in front of the judges. Being on Mock Trial Team has always been about the people and not about the competition. Because we were friends, we were able to pull together and that year we left with two awards for a Best Attorney and for a Best Witness.

Now, as a trial attorney, everyday I practice the skills that I have learned at the Pre-Law Program and as a member of the Mock Trial Team.

—Eddie Sarnowski, Esquire
Mock Trial is definitely not your typical UNF class! When I first looked at the syllabus and saw that I had to read “Batman” and “Lone Ranger” I thought what does this have to with trials and law? But at the end of the semester it all made perfect sense. Each class I attended was unique and energetic; we never did the same thing twice. At the conclusion of Mock Trial I had presented an opening argument, participated in a trial; I had the opportunity to meet and listen to some great guest speakers as well.

The semester went very quickly and our class jumped right into presenting and preparing for opening arguments for either the prosecution or defense. The legal arguments we created for our “clients” (Batman, Bruce Beemer, and Marshal Will Kane—just to name a few) drew from details found in the clever plots developed and included in our coursework. It was nerve wracking at times to present in front of the class, as trial practices and arguments were new to most of the students in the class. But putting nerves aside, the experience was great. The class provided feedback and tips for improving legal arguments and our presentation to the class. Not only did I learn about the trial process, but I also learned a lot about the psychology that goes into trial work and the impact that a lawyer’s image and tone can have on the jury’s verdict.

Although most of the class was spent learning and perfecting the art of presenting to a jury, we did spend a lot of time understanding how the trial process works. In other words, how and when to object to a motion and how to enter evidence into a court proceeding. The textbooks we used are also used in classes at some law schools. To help digest all the material we read through chapters as a group during class time; the principles learned in the book combined with mock presentations made the material very easy to learn and remember.

When we were not presenting to the class or reading assigned materials, the class was able to enjoy some great guest speakers. Lawyers from the district attorney’s office, public defender’s office, private practice and even judges attended our class to talk about their career paths and candid remarks about the day-to-day life in a courtroom. They were very helpful in answering questions that we had not only about trial preparation, but also about what is the “best path” to take to become a lawyer or judge. (The short answer is that there isn’t one and really it comes down to hard work, passion and timing.)

One of my favorite speakers was Judge Derki, who invited members of the class to observe the criminal proceedings in her court; a few of us in the Mock Trial class took her up on the offer and went downtown to watch her morning cases. Afterwards we were able to speak with her at the bench and ask questions about the cases presented. It is an opportunity that I will not soon forget and one that I would not have been able to experience had I not been in the course.

Finally, what would Mock Trial be without a trial? At the end of the semester our class chose a trial to perform. Our class was divided up into witnesses, lawyers and clients. A jury deliberated and came to a verdict while a local judge oversaw the trial proceedings; the trial was performed in front of friends and family and there even was a reception for invited guests. It was a truly great event and I am glad that I participated. Just as an FYI, not everyone is a lawyer in the final trial! I found myself playing the part of a witness named Tonto and I dressed up in a Native American costume and headdress. Overall, the class is a great experience and I learned a lot about the trial process and the work that goes into presenting in front of a jury.
The Pre-Law Program maintains a Resource Center for Program members.

With a wide array of resource materials including a variety of study aids and advice materials on everything from LSAT prep, letters of recommendation to information on the first year of law school, the Pre-Law Program Resource Center is a great way for students to learn about law school and to prepare for all aspects of law school admission for free.

Take the time to practice and prepare!
Email the Pre-Law Program at prelawprogram.unf@gmail.com to borrow study material from the Program’s Resource Center. It’s free and is a great starting point for your law school preparation needs.
You can also get in touch with the Pre-Law Student Society to see about upcoming LSAT study groups.

Do I need to take a LSAT Prep Course to do well on the LSAT?
“Should a student take one of the commercial LSAT preparation courses? “Arizona State University Pre-Law answered this question: “Approximately 40% of law school applicants have taken a commercial prep course. Students who have taken them report that such courses do familiarize you with the format of the test and reduce your test anxiety. These students also report significant improvement in test scores. If you choose to take one of these courses, take it as near to the time of the actual test as possible. Commercial prep courses are not going to harm you. On the other hand, if you have real discipline, they do not do anything for you that you cannot do for yourself.”

Boston College discusses EIGHT COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE LSAT, the second misconception is “The LSAT is biased against test takers who cannot afford expensive coaching courses.” In rebuttal, it is stated that “the difference in mean LSAT scores between those who did and those who did not take a commercial course is about 1 point on the 120-180 LSAT score scale.”

Some of the commercial LSAT prep courses available *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kaplan LSAT Programs</td>
<td>1-800-KAP-TEST; <a href="http://www.kaptest.com">www.kaptest.com</a></td>
<td>$1149-$4,499</td>
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<tr>
<td>TestMasters</td>
<td>1-800-696-5728; <a href="http://www.testmasters.net">www.testmasters.net</a></td>
<td>$1450.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knewton LSAT Prep</td>
<td>1-888-563-9866; <a href="http://www.knewton.com">www.knewton.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Princeton Review</td>
<td>1-800-2review; <a href="http://www.preincetonreview.com">www.preincetonreview.com</a></td>
<td>unable to determine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Power Score</td>
<td>1-800-545-1750; <a href="http://www.powerscore.com">www.powerscore.com</a></td>
<td>$350-$1195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blueprint Test Prep</td>
<td>1-888-4bp-prep; <a href="http://www.blueprintprep.com">www.blueprintprep.com</a></td>
<td>$1099.00</td>
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* The Pre-Law Program does not endorse or recommend any commercial LSAT prep course.
How to Choose a Law School

For some people, the choice of which law school to attend is an easy one. Applicants tend to select the schools they perceive to be the most prestigious or those that offer a program of particular interest, or the greatest amount of financial support. Some need to stay in a particular area perhaps because of family or job obligations and will choose nearby schools with part-time programs.

However, the majority of applicants will have to weigh a variety of personal and academic factors to come up with a list of potential schools. Once you have a list, and more than one acceptance letter, you will have to choose a school. Applicants should consider carefully the offerings of each law school before making a decision. The quality of a law school is certainly a major consideration; however, estimations of quality are very subjective.

You should consider the size, composition, and background of the student body as well as the location, size, and nature of the surrounding community. Remember that the law school is going to be your home for three years. Adjusting to law school and the general atmosphere of a professional school is difficult enough without the additional hardship of culture shock. Don’t choose a law school in a large city if you can’t bear crowds, noise, and a fast pace. And, if you’ve lived your entire life in an urban environment, can you face the change you will experience in a small town? You also may want to ask yourself if you are already set in an unshakable lifestyle or if you are eager for a new environment.

Other significant factors are the particular strengths or interests of the faculty, the degree to which clinical experience or classroom learning is emphasized, the nature of any special programs offered, the number and type of student organizations, the range of library holdings, and whether a school is public or private. You may wish to consider a school with a strong minority recruitment, retention, and mentoring program, or one with an active student organization for students of your particular ethnic background.

At any rate, you should actually select more than one law school where you think you could succeed. Last year, about half of all applicants applied to six or more schools. — 2010 Official Guide to ABA Approved Law Schools—LSAC

Have you considered these law schools?

Using the following criteria, these law schools hit the mark.

- Schools in the Southeast
- Full time tuition <$30,000
- Bar exam passage rate for first time takers >80%
- % students employed nine months after graduation >90%

<table>
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<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>FEE</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>RES FULL-TIME</th>
<th>NONRES FULL-TIME</th>
<th>1ST TIME BAR PASSAGE RATE</th>
<th>% STATE BAR PASSAGE RATE</th>
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<td>The University of Alabama School of Law</td>
<td>$40</td>
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<td>Sanford Law School</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<td>University of South Carolina School of Law</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>$17,718</td>
<td>$35,490</td>
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<td>94.1%</td>
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Plan it Out
The Pre-Law Timeline

Junior Year
- Attend UNF Pre-Law Day in the Fall
- Attend UNF Pre-Law Forum in the Spring
- Begin studying for the LSAT (study for at least 3-5 months in advance of test)
- Register for June LSAT, if ready
- Request letters of recommendation (LOR)
- Begin researching law schools, asking about each school’s median LSAT score, important application dates, and requirements for LORs, and the personal statement.

Summer after Junior Year
- Take LSAT in June, if ready
- Check the status of your LORs
- Begin writing Personal Statement; speak to Pre-Law Program Director, M. Edwards, about help with Personal Statement
- Review law school choices once LSAT scores come in
- If necessary, register for October LSAT

Fall of Senior
- Order official transcripts
- Make sure LORs are submitted
- Finalize personal statement
- Take October LSAT if necessary
- If possible complete & send applications at the beginning of the application cycle or no later than Thanksgiving to take advantage of rolling admissions & early decision

Spring of Senior Year
- Contact law schools to see if applications are complete
- Complete and submit financial aid information
- Evaluate admissions offers
- Thank your letter writers and inform them of your plans

Personal Statement
- **Personal Statements vary according to law school:** The University of Florida, for instance, requests students submit an “Academic Statement” in addition to a short “Diversity Statement.” Other schools like students to tell unique personal stories. Check with each law school for specific guidelines.
- **Ask for help writing and editing your statement:** Ask the Pre-Law Program Director about Dr. Luyster, a Pre-Law Board member with a PhD in English and a JD, who helps students brainstorm and edit their statements.

Letters of Recommendation
- **Ask early:** Students often ask too late into the semester for letters of recommendation, long after professors have already agreed to write letters for other students.
- **Ensure good letters:** Ask professors who have instructed you in multiple classes and ones who know you academically. A professor from a class in which you performed poorly would not necessarily be the best writer of your letter regardless of their prestige.

LSAT
- **Pick a goal:** Find out from law schools their LSAT ranges to help you decide what you goal should be
- **Study Effectively:** Create a weekly/daily study plan and stick to it.
- **Stay Calm:** Don’t let nerves hurt your performance

Resume
- **Get involved:** Volunteer, work or join a club and stick to it; law schools know when you’re really interested and when you’re just filling a resume
- **Talk to the school:** some law schools look favorably on certain extracurricular activities; figure this out early in your academic career

17 UNF Pre-Law Magazine
May I help you?
By Angel Kalafatis
Trial course, I have written several articles for the newsletter, I offer assistance to students studying for the LSAT, I have been a guest speaker for a number of program courses and functions and I am a member of the Pre-Law Program Board of Advisors. I am the mother of two fabulous children, Johnny who is 3 years old and Lorelai who is 3 weeks old, and a proud navy wife. Though I currently work full time as a Wireless Communications Consultant for a telecom expense management firm in downtown Jacksonville, I recently took the LSAT and am currently working on law school applications. My game plan is to attend law school next year, spend some time as trial attorney, and eventually end up teaching pre-law and law school courses in a university setting much the way Mr. Edwards does now. I am fortunate to have had such great experiences with the PLP up to now, and I intend to stay as involved as Mr. Edwards, UNF, and all the students will let me be for as long as I can.

Remembering Judge Peter Fryefield
By Andrew Fredrickson
What did Judge Fryefield mean to the UNF community? He has been one of the opening guest speakers for the Mock Trial course for the past ten years. This dedication not only to the law but the future students of law showed the pride he had for his place in the justice system. He always arrived early to chat with students and answer questions even though this was never asked of him, once again a portrayal of his compassion and care for the future of law in our nation and its students.

What many have not known is the person who loved life, music, and Jacksonville. He inspired many students right here on campus to further themselves through a legal education and career. He inspired and achieved great respect throughout the legal community. Judge Fryefield’s presence will be sorely missed at UNF and throughout the Jacksonville community.

Stetson University College of Law $100,000 Scholarship
Brooke Geiger, UNF Class of 2009, is attending Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Florida. While at UNF Brooke was active in student government serving at Deputy Chief of Staff. Brooke was active in the Pre Law Student Society (PLSS), and was a member of the Pre-Law Program. She was in the Summer 2008 Mock Trial course and graduated Valedictorian of her class. Brooke’s dedication to her studies and involvement in student activities at UNF not only enriched her life at UNF but also helped her receive a $100,000 scholarship to attend Stetson Law. Congratulations Brooke!
"I would certainly take the LSAT exam less seriously. I know that sounds crazy, but my score increased dramatically when I did just that. I took the June LSAT on a whim this summer and scored a 165! I then asked myself why could I not have done that last October. Two words say it all: stress management."

-Mai Tran

“If I could start my college life all over again, I would have joined the Pre-Law Program a lot earlier, because the Program as well as PLSS is ensuring that I will be successful in any law career that I choose.”

-Kristen Schanze