Pre-Law Day Set for October 19th
Noted Trial Authority Roger Dodd to Speak

On Thursday, October 19th, 2006, the Pre-Law Program along with Career Services will cosponsor UNF’s annual Pre-Law Day in the Robinson Student Life Center (building 14). The event will commence at 11:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. Noted trial attorney and media commentator Roger Dodd will be the featured guest speaker. Dodd, who appears regularly on local television as an authority on trial practice, is featured on the national recognized film series, “Effective Cross-Examination” and “Killer Cross.”

“Dodd’s films are regularly shown in UNF’s mock trial class every summer,” according to Program Director Martin Edwards, who also teaches the mock trial class. “Dodd is very humorous and delivers an incisive series of factual presentations on how to conduct cross-examination,” Edwards observes. “He is nationally recognized as an expert on trial strategies and we are quite fortunate to have him speak in person to our students.”

Pre-Law Day was started ten years ago and has grown into a major campus event.
Some Law Schools in Attendance at Previous Pre-Law Day Events

Above: Former Student Government Vice-President Jared Callahan shakes the hand of a University of California representative.

Above: Former student Jenny Santana looks over an Emory School of Law information pamphlet.

Above: New York School of Law representative greets a student.

Above: University of Miami School of Law speaks with former UNF student Megan Shuman.

Right: Stetson College of Law representative answers a student’s question.

The UNF Pre-Law Program is located in Building 51 Rooms 2117 & 2118

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UNF Pre-Law Newsletter

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Former Speakers at Pre-Law Day

Left: Stan Katz, noted legal historian, author, and Professor at Princeton University, was the guest speaker in 2004.

Above: Dr. David Courtwright, UNF Professor of History & author speaks to a Pre-Law Day crowd.

Above: Frank Beytagh, former Clerk to Chief Justice Earl Warren of the United States Supreme Court, with Director Edwards at 1999 Pre-Law Day.

Above: Major Harding, Former Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, was the featured guest speaker in 2001.

Above: Morris Dees, Co-Founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center and author of the best-selling book *A Season for Justice*, was the featured speaker in 2005.

Above: Peter Goplerud, Current Dean of Florida Coastal Law School addresses a Pre-Law Day audience.

Above: Don Moran, Chief Executive Judge of Duval County, was the guest speaker at the 1998 event.

Righ, Below: Former Florida Bar President John DeVault III, was the Pre-Law Day major speaker in 2000.

Above: Former Mayor & Current UNF President John Delany listens as Dr. Katz speaks to a Pre-Law Day audience.
Roger J. Dodd,
Featured Guest Speaker for the 2006 Pre-Law Day

Roger Dodd, an internationally-known trial attorney, author, lecturer, consultant and recognized expert on cross-examination techniques is of counsel to the firm of Spohrer, Wilner, Maxwell, & Matthews. Dodd focuses on serious or catastrophic personal injury, wrongful death, trucking cases and medical malpractice. Mr. Dodd is Board Certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy in both civil and criminal practice and is a member of the Florida Bar and The State Bar of Georgia.

Listed among the nation’s most elite lawyers in The Best Lawyers in America, he is co-author of the best selling title ever published by the Lexis-Nexis publishing company: Cross-Examination: Science and Techniques. For both 2004 and 2005, Mr. Dodd was named a Georgia “Super Lawyer”—the prestigious professional achievement recognition based on peer nominations.

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Announcements:

The Pre-Law Program Office Has Moved!
The office is now located in the new Social Sciences Building #51 Rooms 2117 & 2118. The new building is situated behind the bookstore building. Our offices can be found on the second floor, right of the elevators, about halfway down the hallway. To contact the office and/or schedule and appointment please feel free to call us at (904) 620-1069 or email Mr. Edwards, the Program Director, at medwards@unf.edu.

On-Campus Luncheon Scheduled!
Our annual on-campus Fall luncheon for new program students and board members is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8th. Students must RSVP for this event so that we can arrange for enough food and adequate seating. With questions or to RSVP, please call Catherine, the Program Assistant, at (904) 620-1069.

Tutors Now Available!
Two new tutors are available for assistance in studying for the LSAT. The tutors are former students who scored extremely well on their LSATs and are willing to tutor Pre-Law students on an hourly basis for much less than other test prep programs. For those students not interested in tutors, but are still in need of study materials, as always the Program maintains a extensive resource library available to Pre-Law students for free.

Pre-Law Scholarship!
The Pre-Law Program is planning on awarding another scholarship for the fall semester. Eligible students to apply must:

- Be currently enrolled as a full time undergraduate UNF student (at least 12 credit hours)
- Be enrolled in the Program for at least two consecutive semesters
- Have and maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25

Please contact the office for information regarding the scholarship or for applications.
Every month during the academic year, the Pre-Law Program Board of Advisors hosts a luncheon. Every other month the luncheon is held at a downtown law firm, and during the other months, it is held on campus, in the Robinson Student Center. The Board consists of local circuit and county court judges, lawyers from large and small firms and the public sector, and representatives from UNF’s faculty.

“The downtown board luncheons are generally more business-like,” says Catharine Moore, the Program assistant. “It is at the downtown luncheon that the board votes on the recipient of the Pre-Law Scholarship, and that’s a very formal occasion.” Moore, who is a senior majoring in English, has been the Program assistant for over a year, and has the responsibility of planning the luncheon. “The board members enjoy meeting students and learning more about UNF and the Pre-Law Program.” Moore says.

Program Director Martin Edwards points out that the on-campus luncheons are student oriented. “Every fall we invite all the new students who have joined the Program to attend the on campus luncheon,” he points out. “Last Fall we have over sixty people at our luncheon. It’s a great opportunity for new students to meet each other, and network with potential employers, and learn more about the practice of law.”

A record number of Pre-Law Program board members, faculty guests and students jam into the Robinson Student Life Center meeting rooms to attend the monthly Pre-Law Board Luncheon.

Founded over a dozen years ago, the Pre-Law Program Board meets on a regular monthly basis, sometimes at a downtown law firm and, on other occasions, on campus. The informal buffet luncheon, affords students an opportunity to meet with members of the local judicial and legal communities, and discuss a variety of matter with a varied group of faculty members.

“The on-campus board luncheons affords our students an opportunity to network with potential employers, and meet each other in an informal setting,” Martin Edwards, Program Director points out. “It also gives them a chance to meet informally with a variety of faculty members,” he adds.
Mock Trial: A Class Full of Character

A visitor to UNF during the early summer months might be surprised to find an assortment of Broadway show and movie characters walking around campus, studying sheets of papers and talking to themselves. UNF faculty and students aren’t surprised though; they know UNF’s popular Mock Trial class is in session.

“We created the mock trial class from scratch,” says Martin Edwards, UNF’s Pre-Law Program Director and instructor of the class. “Eleven years ago, we decided to create the course, and have a good time in the process. So I wrote some skits as learning tools, and they have seemingly taken off and become popular with the students.”

Edwards believes that learning can be fun, and that pre-law students can learn the fundamentals of trial techniques and strategies by practicing on well-known plays, shows, and films.

Each class begins with instruction from guest speakers, coming from the local judicial and legal communities. One such speaker, Melissa Williamson-Nelson, an assistant state attorney who prosecutes homicide cases, among others, usually lectures from life experience. She explains to the students how she puts an opening statement together based upon the facts she has to work with.

UNF students then practice delivering opening statements from a Batman crime scenario. “It is a short sketch,” Edwards wrote, “in which the famous caped crime-fighter, believing he is off-duty, hosts a cocktail party, but through the course of the evening finds himself arrested and his car slammed into a tree.”

The convoluted story of this fictitious criminal circumstance begins with Batman hosting a cocktail party and ends with a legal dilemma that the student must present in a mock courtroom setting. During the cocktail party, Batman is informed by his butler, Kespolh (named for an original mock trial class member), that the Bat-Signal has been spotted. Kespolh does not realize that the Joker has stolen the signal. Consequently, Batman excuses himself, dresses, and drives the Bat-Mobile toward the signal. On his way, Batman avoids hitting a pedestrian, but unfortunately crashes his vehicle into a tree. Seeing Batman’s crash, Officer Ratchford (another former student) assumes the worst. Because he is a rookie, the police officer doesn’t realize who the caped character is. As Batman staggers out of his car, the officer investigates and decides to arrest the masked, strange-looking driver for a variety of offenses.

That’s the fact pattern students must deal with. They have three minutes to deliver opening statements on why Batman should have been arrested and prosecuted, or, on the other hand, why Batman is exempt from prosecution under these circumstances.  

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Saying Farewell
By Lesley McKinney

This is the last pre-law newsletter I will receive as a student here at UNF. I guess that the whole point of having a “pre-law” program is that eventually you should move on to a “law” program but after the nearly year long application process it seems almost as if things should be winding down rather than amping up. Alas, there is no rest for the weary. The best part is that I know I’m prepared. I’m ready. I’m not even scared a bit (well, maybe a little bit). Why? I was a member of the pre-law program.

I’ve had lunch with judges. I’ve spoken with 1L’s and people who have graduated law school at the top of their class. I’ve cross-examined classmates and relished watching them squirm. I’ve seen what the program has had to offer and done everything I could to take advantage of it. After all, there is no way that I could rationalize ignoring such a resource. It would be like using an abacus when there was a calculator in my pocket. Perhaps I’m a tad biased, but I’ll argue to anyone that the pre-law program and what Mr. Edwards has done with it makes it the most valuable asset at UNF for an aspiring lawyer.

Sadly, it is also one of the most underutilized programs at UNF. For example, the Pre-Law Endowed Scholarship was just awarded for the second time (Congratulations, Megan!) but I posit that it is easier to find delicious fast food on campus than it was to find people to apply for the money. Why? Why wonder what classes will help prepare you for law school when an appointment with Mr. Edwards is never more than an afternoon away? Why sweat out an application process when there are hundreds of books in the office to answer any possible question about the LSAT, school choices, application essays, funding, or even just to hide behind when it all seems a bit much? Why feel like you are the only person in the world trying to prepare for law school at the same time devote enough time and effort to your current classes to keep your grades high enough to keep law school realistic? There are no dues, no initiation, and no requirements other than a desire to learn and an appreciation of the effort. What else at UNF offers so much and asks so little in return?

I’m going to miss the big, comfy chair in portable 839. I first sat in it a few days before my classes at UNF started. It was the interview that Mr. Edwards gives to people joining the program. The term “quick-fix” is more accurate that interview, though. It is when you think you are getting to know Mr. Edwards, but in reality, he is getting to you. At the end of the ten minute talk, he has cleared up what law school you are going to aim for, what classes he suggests that you take, and other students to get in touch with that are going to end up be your friends and confidants through the whole process. It is uncanny and you are never alone at UNF again.

I’ve also sat in that same chair as I’ve gotten a well-deserved (though not seen that way at the time) talking to from Mr. Edwards. Either I was trying to take the path of least resistance when I should be striving for more or I was just being a bonehead but I was firmly yet kindly reminded what track I was supposed to be on. In fact, I’m fairly confident that Mr. Edwards will tell you I am still a bit of a bonehead. But there is no one else at this fine institution that I will allow that assessment of me – no one else has earned it.

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Unf Student Mock Trial Organization

By Dr. Glenn Coffey

Mock trial is a forum for students that aspire to participate in, and gain an understanding of, the litigation process. Students at the University of North Florida are invited to participate in the organization regardless of discipline of study, class standing, or experience. In the fall, the team holds weekly meetings on Wednesday nights to discuss organizational considerations, and conduct lectures and discussions on trial skills and strategies. The team also participates in intramural trials, and prepares for performance in intercollegiate competitions. During the spring semester, the team meets twice weekly and competes in invitational, regional, and national competitions conducted by the American Mock Trial Association.

The 2004-2005 team consisted of approximately 30 members from various disciplines throughout the College of Arts and Sciences. In October 2004, the team participated in staging the Domestic Violence Mock Trial at the Robinson Theater, which was sponsored by the Women’s Center in honor of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In January 2005, the team competed in the University of Miami 2nd Annual Invitational Tournament and placed second. Team members also garnered individual awards as David Thompson and Kristin DiFrancesco won Best Attorney honors and Dominique Scalia won Best Witness for her portrayal as an expert medical witness. The team also met Janet Reno and engaged in a question answer session with her after she detailed her storied career.

The team participated in the Regional Tournament at Florida A & M University and won a bid to the national tournament. Team Captain, Kristin DiFrancesco won an award as the top attorney in the region. At the national competition in St. Petersburg, which hosted forty-eight elite teams from around the nation, the team garnered a trophy for eighth place. Kristin DiFrancesco again won an award as one of the tournament’s top attorneys. Team members, David Thompson and David Galan are presently attending law school. David Thompson has been named to the Mock Trial Team at Coastal Law School this upcoming year earning one of sixteen slots, which saw 100 potential Mock Trialists competing for a place on the team.

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Mock Trial
Organizational Meetings are open to all students:
Wednesday – September 06 – 6:00 to 7:30
Wednesday – September 13 – 6:00 to 7:30
Meetings will take place in the Criminology & Criminal Justice Department Conference Room (Building 51/2nd Floor/Room 2121)
For more information, please contact either the faculty Advisor, Dr. Glenn S. Coffey [Building 51/Office 2120] [gcoffey@unf.edu] [Phone: 620-1660] or Acting President, Chris Carson [brainmatter4021@hotmail.com].
Outsourcing Law
By Kunal A. Mirchandani

Within our generation, we will see a great shift in economic power towards India and China. With combined populations of over two billion, and rapidly changing government policy, they can sustain astronomical amounts of growth and industry. For this reason, I spent my summer with the top International Corporate law firm in India.

Advani & Co. is located in Mumbai (Bombay), the US equivalent of New York. Mumbai has been the financial backbone of India and is a center of immense growth. I spent three months as an intern researching case law and statutes. Actual legal work is not nearly as glamorous as it is on “Boston Legal” or “Law and Order”. However, I gained a wealth of experience and contacts that will serve me long into my professional career. As you may have heard in the news, a lot of the computer related industry has been outsourced to India. What you may not know is that there are a wealth of other professions being outsourced as well. The law firm I worked with specialized in European and South Asian contract disputes.

With the advent of Westlaw, they have access to case law, statutes, and hundreds of different law reviews. Since 90% of law is preparation, they are able to keep costs down by paying attorneys and staff in Indian wages. For some perspective, the average partner in a large American law firm earns well into six figures, in India they would make under thirty thousand. This might not seem good to our standards, but it is actually a very good amount of money for Indian standards. It can support a family, and pay rent for an apartment in the most expensive city. There are a few luxuries it cannot buy, like a new car or a big house. But these are things most people in the world live without.

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Sitting with UNF’s recently elected Student Government Vice-President, Dorrell Briscoe

By Catherine Moore

Every semester the Pre-Law Program hosts an on-campus Board luncheon open to students, faculty, and the local legal and judicial community. These luncheons offer a great opportunity for the Board members and students to interact face to face.

At our most recent on-campus meeting in March, I sat at the door greeting all the students and Board members as they arrived. Some faces I recognized, some students I was meeting for the first time. By the end of the afternoon, it was standing room only.

After walking through the door and receiving a name tag, each person made their way to the food, grabbing a plate, then pulling up a chair to chat with those sitting near by before the meeting began. I noticed in the center table a group of some recognizable faces. Sitting at the table was Tom Foran (UNF’s former Student Body President), Jared Callahan (former Vice-President), Steven Horne (Senate President), Luis Montiel (another former Vice-President), and Dorrell Briscoe who was running for Vice-President at the time.

Dorrell, a junior hoping to make a difference here at the University, described how supportive and helpful both his fellow students and the Pre-Law Program has been to him over the years and in regard to his campaign. Of the Program’s Director, Martin Edwards, Dorrell explained, “Marty makes himself incredibly available to all his students and that has been extremely helpful. He is a testament to the overall quality of UNF.”

But it is not only the faculty support but also to the students that Dorrell expressed his thanks. In particular, one of the students who shared a table with him during the March luncheon was Luis Montiel. Having served as Vice-President under former President Jeremy Waterson, Luis offered his very pertinent advice to Dorrell as he began campaigning. According to Dorrell, Luis was extremely helpful and encouraging both personally and spiritually. He gave Dorrell advice on dealing with people and facing the inevitable criticism of any campaign. “Luis is a great guy and an outstanding student. He is definitely a role model.”

Before the polls opened and the students cast their votes to determine UNF’s next Student Body President and Vice-President, I asked Dorrell what the position of Vice-President means to him. According to Dorrell, he sees the Vice-Presidency as an “opportunity to impact students’ experience for the better.”
Child Advocacy—The “Course” for My Future

By Becca Burleigh

During the last couple of weeks before graduation, I have been filled with a bittersweet mixture of emotions. On one hand, I am thrilled to have completed my English degree and can hardly wait to begin a future legal education. On the other hand, I already feel a little “homesick” for UNF, an institution that has provided me with an excellent education through some really outstanding professors. I have learned so much through people I highly respect and I have many fond memories of the time that I have spent here.

Over the years, a variety of political science classes have imparted unto me a great deal of legal knowledge, yet, there is one course particular that has especially motivated me to pursue a career in law. Child Advocacy, a three credit-hour course endowed through the Pre-Law Program, is taught by Dr. Harriet Howe and is a “must take” for anyone who has an interest in family law, the juvenile court system, or the general welfare of our youth.

In Child Advocacy, I not only learned of the severity of abuse that some children experience, but how our legal system can intervene on their behalf. Our child welfare laws are designed to protect our young and provide a remedy in cases of maltreatment. For many Duval County’s young, these laws represent the key to a future free of emotional, physical and sexual abuse.

According to the Department of Children and Families, there were 1,087 new child abuse cases in Jacksonville opened during the 2004-2005 fiscal year. However, in light of the magnitude of this problem, our society, for the most part, remains ambivalent towards crimes against our young. We must recognize that child abuse is a serious judicial problem, as our most vulnerable are harmed, and their abuse will eventually affect our public health and social welfare. Studies have shown that their private pain will develop into public problems.

In Child Advocacy, I also learned that legal aid for children is not limited to cases of abuse and neglect. Our young need representation in a variety of other areas including education, discrimination, health care, and sibling access. Dr. Howe also addresses the emergence of nontraditional families, an entity that will pose interesting new problems in family law courts. New child cases will also be formed as technology advances. For example, over the years, our youth have become increasingly exposed to sexual predators through various internet activities such as personal websites and blogs. In other words, there are many avenues through which attorneys can act on the behalf of the young.

One of the most important roles of an attorney is to speak for those who are unable to speak for themselves. Child Advocacy has taught me that children are our more defenseless victims, and that there is a need for compassionate attorneys who will represent their interests. One day I hope to be one of these attorneys who will defend them zealously and champion their causes.
Success “Your Way”
According to the Honors Student Director & Pre-Law Student
By Joe Medearis

When I meet high school seniors at Open Houses they often ask me "Is there anything to do on campus?" This always amazes me that people don't realize how easy it is to get involved. I know what you are thinking who is this to tell me how to "get involved" in college? If there is one thing that I have done well, it is that I have "gotten involved". The first key is to find a topic that you feel passionate about. Once you have discovered your passions, find a group, which supports those things that you feel strongly about. For me, I have many passions forcing me to decide which will present the most satisfaction through my activity in them. I am passionate about seeing people reach their full potential. As a result, I became active in the Honors Student Union my freshmen year. The HSU plans and carries out a 5 day orientation, designed to help ease the transition into college. Currently, I hold the office of Student Director of the Honors Program meaning that I am in charge of not only this weeklong orientation, but I am also in charge of making sure that it does indeed help to give these students skills that will allow them to succeed in college and the professional world. How did I get appointed to this position in which I am given free reign to a sizable budget and control over a week of in lives of 200 freshmen? I applied. That is all it takes folks...I guess the lesson to take from me an Introvert that also happens to be an officer in several clubs on campus is simple. Life is what you make it! Engage the present...

"The tragedy of life is not that it ends so soon, but that we wait so long to begin it."

Student Profile: Brennan Grogan
By Jenna Strom

Brennan Grogan excels on and off the field as a member of the University of North Florida baseball team and senior maintaining a 3.3 GPA. Grogan, a political science minor, describes himself as a laid-back, liberal, utilitarian thinker and hopes to become active in a field related to political administration. His biggest aspiration after graduation includes attending law school. Grogan has applied to six out of seven schools, including Florida State University and Florida International University. He is preparing himself for the transition by enrolling in classes such as American Legal Systems and by taking an interest in politics and monitoring national affairs.

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Pre-Law Day Speaker
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Mr. Dodd is a frequent guest and commentator on Court TV and other legally oriented programs. Since 1990, he has published numerous articles in *Trial*, the American Trial Lawyers Association’s monthly magazine. Mr. Dodd has lectured and testified as an expert witness in all fifty states. Speaking to standing room only crowds at state bar association meetings and to other legal organizations, his international schedule includes approximately 30 appearances.

Mr. Dodd was born in a small steel mill town outside Pittsburgh. He graduated from Pennsylvania’s Bucknell University in Economics and then completed law school at the University of Pittsburgh. After graduating with his law degree, Mr. Dodd joined a firm in Valdosta, Georgia, where he took a burglary case to trial in his first month in practice. This was to be the first of hundreds of courtroom experiences in his over 30 years of practice. In addition to taking on and winning a wide variety of civil and criminal cases, Mr. Dodd has long been a strong proponent of pro-bono work and has served on boards of organizations that work on behalf of underprivileged children.

Mock Trial Team
(continued from page 8)

The 2004-2005 team consisted of approximately 22 members, mostly freshmen and sophomores that will return to Court this upcoming year. They participated at the AMTA Regional Tournament in Tallahassee where one of the teams fell one place short of a bid to the national tournament. We look forward to building on the present core of “experienced” mock trialists and are seeking to recruit additional personnel. There is no limit to the amount of teams that can participate in AMTA tournaments and each team consists of eight members to play the roles of attorneys and witnesses. There are no pre-set teams as the students work together to develop rapport with one another and as a group, virtually self-selecting their positions based on the team’s needs and the members’ individual strengths with guidance from the Educator-Coach.

There are plenty of positions available and no one will be turned away at the door, although it is expected that student members respect the process and put the team ahead of their personal aspirations. We will have informational and strategy sessions beginning September 20 and intramural scrimmages where local attorneys and UNF professors sit as jurists to provide feedback to the participants. In January, we anticipate attending an invitational tournament to further prepare for the regional tournament generally held in late February. We also will elect new officers for the 2005-2006 year. If you are interested in becoming an officer, please notify Dr. Coffey at your earliest convenience. Otherwise, we will see you on Wednesday(s). If you are not available on Wednesdays this fall semester, please contact us about joining in the spring.
Program Luncheon
(continued from page 4)

The luncheon is a buffet, usually featuring small sandwiches and shrimp, and Keebler cookies. “Maria Keebler” is the donor who endowed our Child Advocacy course,” Edwards says, “and she has contributed generously towards our Pre-Law Scholarship fund. “We couldn’t have Nabisco or Nestle products could we,” Edwards winks. “Seriously,” he points out, “it’s people like Maria, a local lawyer, who help the Program thrive and grow. We are especially proud to be awarding scholarships.”

The luncheons also afford opportunities for students to hear guest speakers talk about interesting topics. “Assistant Professor Wheeler recently spoke about changes in the Supreme Court,” and “Adjunct Professor David Simon spoke about his new book, Tony Soprano’s America, at a luncheon last year. “This is a wonderful opportunity for UNF students,” Moore observes. “When I check them in and give them their name-tags, you can tell this is one event they are generally pleased to attend.”

On-Campus Luncheon
(continued from page 4)

Faculty members represent a broad spectrum of departments. For example, Dr. Andrew Buchwalter, Chairman of the Philosophy Department, serves on the Board, along with Professor David Courtwright, who served numerous terms as chairman of the History Department. Associate Professor Matt Corrigan from Political Science/Public Administration serves, as does Visiting Assistant Professor Harriet Howe from Sociology, and Visiting Assistant Professor Lisa Bates-Lester formerly of Criminal Justice. Associate Professor Glenn Coffey from Criminal Justice is a newly installed board member.

More than a half-dozen Circuit Court and County Court judges from the local judicial community serve on the board including Circuit Court Judge Gregg McCaulie, who attended the Program’s Spring on-campus luncheon. Other board members include local lawyer Howard Dale, who served several terms on the Jacksonville City Council, General Master Maria Keebler, who endowed one of the program’s courses, and was a founder of the $25,000 pre-law scholarship, Tom Brown, whose firm endowed the first pre-law course, and Rutledge Liles, who endowed another pre-law course, and is past President of the Florida Bar.
Mock Trial Class  
(continued from page 6)

When the subject of direct witness examination arises, a new witness is introduced to the Batman scenario. Police Commissioner Baldt (named after a former Program assistant & current Board Member) takes the stand and testifies that after meeting Batman, and determining he was “for real” the commissioner introduces the “Batman Exemption Bill,” which passes the City Council. Baldt indicates Batmen has special law enforcement authority. He further indicates they have a “special agreement” wherein Batman agrees to answer the Bat-signal promptly. On the night in question, the commissioner testifies that he was unaware that the special signal had been stolen and unnecessarily displayed in the sky.

“Students really involve themselves in these mini-trials,” Edwards observes. When the course ends, the students conduct a full trial, including opening statements, direct and cross-examination of witnesses, and the delivery of final arguments. The final trial is usually based on a fact pattern involving the Lone Ranger and Tonto who appear in a saloon after a hard day’s ride on the range. “Students in the final trial are obtaining the experience of being involved in all the dramatic tension of a real-life trial,” Edwards says, “and they prepare for the trial in the same manner as veteran trial lawyers do. It is amazing to watch students develop and enhance their trials skills in the short span of one undergraduate course.”

Students flock to play the parts. Each year, over a hundred students sign up to take the course, but only thirty-five are allowed to register. Those students who do take the mock trial course enjoy the experience. No wonder such an assortment of characters are observed wandering around the campus, in costumes, talking to themselves.
Farewell  
(continued from page 7)

So, as I look back on my time at UNF, I can’t help but realize that it has been a richer and more valuable experience because of the pre-law program. Thank you to Mr. Edwards, Catherine, and all of the supporters of the program. When one of my cases is being studied in “Great American Trials” or one of my crosses is be analyzed in “Mock Trial” it is with your help that I even made it beyond “American Legal Systems.” For those of you just entering the program, know that what you can gain from it is only limited by your own effort. The world is at your fingertips for nothing more than an occasional “thank you.”

Again, because it will never be enough, thank you.

Outsourcing Law  
(continued from page 9)

What I came to learn very quickly is that we, in the US, take high wages for granted. In India and other developing nations, people work much harder, for a lot less. The average work day goes from 9:30 to 8:00, and 3:00 on Saturdays. Quite often I found myself staying even longer, with the rest of the staff. The work was grueling but at the same time absolutely fascinating. Fewer things are more alluring than preparing a case for a nine hundred million dollar dispute between two of the biggest companies in Europe and Asia.

Future lawyers need to realize that we live in a globalizing and competitive world. If you cannot be ahead of the game, no matter what your profession, you will fall behind. It will not be long before all aspects of law are forced to compete with India and other developing nations. I suggest that all future lawyers think long and hard about what facet of law they want to pursue and how they will become competitive.

Left: Kuni stands overlooking the Lake Palace in Udaipur, India, a city known as the Venice of the East in part because of this architectural rarity located on Jag Niwas Island.
Student Profile  
(continued from page 12)

Grogan spends his free time volunteer coaching baseball for underprivileged kids. His parents are divorced and he says he has seen other children and situations in which lives are tough, so he enjoys working with children who come from broken families. He hopes to work with topics related to child advocacy.

Grogan has been attending UNF for two years and has started in 62 of the 63 games he played in during his first season as an Osprey. He was named to the All-South Atlantic Region squad and earned All-Peach Belt Conference honors as a designated hitter. Grogan attended the University of Notre Dame his freshman and sophomore years and advanced to the NCAA Regionals as a sophomore. As a freshman, he set a record in the most starts made by any first year player at Notre Dame, as he started in 50 out of 56 games.

Grogan recommends that students who are unsure in their decisions to attend law school take different courses offered by the Pre-Law Program and its director Martin Edwards so they can discover interest levels in a particular area. He said students who are interested in politics or the government, or those who hate math should look into attending law school. He scored a 156 on the LSAT and plans to use his GPA, extracurricular activities and the fact that his is half Hispanic to assist him in getting accepted into law school.

His favorite movie is “Rudy”, he enjoys watching “Around the Horn” and listens to rap music while driving to class and practice. Instead of celebrating after a good baseball game, he prefers to celebrate after bad games because he says he hopes to do better the next time. If he could change one thing about UNF he would make the campus living better, create more dorms and eliminate some rules.

Above: Jenna Strom, the new editor of UNF’s Spinnaker & Contributing Writer for the Pre-Law Newsletter