

### **Advocacy tournaments allow students to shine**

This past fall, the law school held its traditional intramural competitions allowing upper-level Georgia Law students to showcase their oral advocacy skills.

Over 50 second- and third-year students competed in the 2005 J. Melvin England Mock Trial Competition, with third-year students Veronica L. Richardson and Satara L. McPherson winning the tournament's final round.

Eighteen teams entered the 2005 Talmadge Moot Court Competition, and second-year students Philip R. Green and Glenn T. Singleton captured the top trophy, while second-year student Merritt E. McAlister was named the competition's best oralist.

Advocacy Director Kellie Casey Monk (J.D.'90) said these tournaments are excellent learning opportunities for Georgia Law students.

### **New pupils join Lumpkin Inn of Court**

Each year a dozen outstanding participants in Georgia Law's moot court and mock trial programs are selected for membership in the Joseph Henry Lumpkin American Inn of Court. This prime learning and networking opportunity is one of the most prestigious rewards associated with UGA's superb advocacy initiatives.

Established in 1987 and named for one of the law school's founders, the Lumpkin American Inn of Court is one of the earliest American Inns of Court. It is also the first inn created in the state of Georgia. The inn is modeled after the famed English Inns of Court and includes: masters, prominent and highly experienced judges, lawyers and academics; barristers, practicing young attorneys with limited trial experience; and pupils, selected third-year law students.

The 2005-06 Lumpkin American Inn of Court pupils are: Michael J. Blakely, Jody C. Campbell, Michael A. Caplan, Tiffany N. Carter, Kimberly M. Council, Joshua P. Gunnemann, Carl E. Jones, Mary Rae Phelps, Emily A. Poe, Shannon C. Shipley, Meredith A. Stein and W. Elliott Stiles.

## Recent graduates in clerkships

Twenty-six members of the Class of 2005 were successful in securing judicial clerkships, where they will gain valuable legal experience.

### Federal Clerkships

Clark R. Calhoun – Judge B. Avant Edenfield (J.D.'58), U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia

Adam M. Conrad – Judge David B. Sentelle, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia

G. Neal Crowley – Magistrate Judge G.R. Smith (J.D.'78), U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia

R. Jason Fowler – Judge Jack T. Camp Jr., U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

Robert L. Fortson – Judge Thomas W. Thrash Jr., U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

John P.L. Fortuna – Judge Richard W. Story (J.D.'78), U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

Amy G. Gibbs – Judge C. Ashley Royal (J.D.'74), U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia

Amelia A. Godfrey – Judge Clay D. Land (J.D.'85), U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia

Marisa L. Huttenbach – Senior Judge John F. Nangle, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia

Erik S. Johnson – Judge J.L. Edmondson (J.D.'71), U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

Vita Maria Salvemini – Judge Harold L. Murphy (LL.B.'49), U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

Katherine A. Summers – Magistrate Judge Juliet Griffin, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee

### State Clerkships

Jenny N. Bounngaseng – Ogeechee Judicial Circuit

Mandy K. Campbell – Judge Jack Partain, Conasauga Judicial Circuit

Kimberly D. Grant – Judge Frank G. Clement Jr., Tennessee Court of Appeals

Julia K. Greene – Judge Kathlene Gosselin, Northeastern Judicial Circuit

J.L. King II – Judge James R. Tuten Jr., Brunswick Judicial Circuit

Jarrod S. Mendel – Chief Judge Roger W. Dunaway Jr. and Judge Harold A. Hinesley (J.D.'75), Toombs Judicial Circuit

Courtney D. Miller – Chief Judge Joe C. Bishop (J.D.'82), Pataula Judicial Circuit

Kenneth L. Mishoe – Chief Judge William T. Boyett (J.D.'69), Conasauga Judicial Circuit

Michael Peluso IV – Judge J. Richard Porter III, South Georgia Judicial Circuit

Jessica R. Smernoff – Judge Neal W. Dickert, Augusta Judicial Circuit

Yen H. Trinh – Judge John D. Allen, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit

Annamarie Valentino – Judge Toby Prodggers (J.D.'74), Cobb County State Court

Nicholas R. West – Judge John Simpson, Coweta Judicial Circuit

Daniel W. White – Judge David P. Darden (J.D.'83), Cobb County State Court

Additionally, Sally G. Haskell (J.D.'04) clerked for Senior Judge John F. Nangle, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, and Julie S. Tetrick (J.D.'04) clerked for Magistrate Judge Mikel H. Williams, U.S. Magistrate Court for the District of Idaho. These two recent graduates were accidentally omitted from our last published listing of clerkships.



Showing off the 557 pounds of food collected during the annual P.A.D. food drive are second-year students (l. to r.) P.A.D. Justice Jim Fletcher, 2L Vice-justice David Roth and Clerk Billy Todd.

### "Can do" attitude

In the fall, the A.H. Stephens Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta held its annual canned food drive benefiting the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia. The event was tied to students donating a can of food during each class in exchange for not being called on by the professor.

Law students donated 10 containers of canned and boxed food weighing a total of 557 pounds. In addition, several professors "matched" student food donations with a \$1 donation per student in his or her class, contributing nearly \$300.

Second-year student and P.A.D. Justice James R. Fletcher II said P.A.D.'s motto is "service to the student, the school, the profession and the community." He added, "Law students have many great blessings and opportunities, and I am glad we were able to give something back to others less fortunate in our community."



### Mike Kline: Driven from within

First-year student and 2nd Lieutenant Michael J. Kline does not like to do anything the easy way. During his senior year at the College of William and Mary, he decided he did not want to pursue the business school path traditionally taken by his fellow finance majors. Instead, he chose to explore a career related to his interests in law and the military.

Kline, who grew up near Washington, D.C. – where it was easy to develop a passion for the legal and military fields – remembers asking himself, “What is the most physically challenging thing I could possibly do? What is the most mentally challenging thing I could do?” His answers were joining the Marine Corps and attending law school, respectively.

He then found a unique way to fulfill his plan through the Marine Corps’ Platoon Leaders Class Law Program, which allows participants to pursue a commission with the Marines while attending law school.

After earning his B.B.A. in May 2005, Kline immediately began the rigorous 10 week officer training program, graduating from Officer Candidate School in August as a 2nd Lieutenant.

Although the program was extremely difficult, he felt the challenges of OCS did help prepare him for the stress of law school, especially in a physical sense.

“Coming from OCS, law school feels like a break,” he said. “We only got five hours of sleep each night. The boots we wore weighed five pounds and the rifles weighed eight, plus we carried our packs.

“It was very demanding, but rewarding. I

think law school will be the same way.”

Kline said one of the biggest challenges of law school thus far occurred before class even started: coordinating the move to Athens while attending OCS.

“We did not have computers at OCS, so we could not read or write e-mails,” he said. “Besides that, we did not have much downtime during the day, so I wrote all my letters to Georgia Law at night by flashlight.”

Not only was communication made difficult, but scheduling was as well. Kline graduated from OCS on August 12 and arrived in Athens the next day – already a day late for first-year student orientation.

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*- Mike Kline*

The game of catch-up was somewhat of a struggle, as assignments had already been posted, bookstores had sold out of many law textbooks and Kline had to spend time moving into a new apartment.

Later this year, Kline hopes to start a Military Law Society together with Georgia Law’s five other students who are currently military officers. The group plans to host events and speakers that would introduce others to military issues in the legal community.

When Kline finishes law school, he plans to spend six months at The Basic School to learn fundamental Marine Corps infantry, followed by 10 weeks at the Naval Justice School. He will then be qualified to practice law with the Marine Corps, with his ultimate goal being to work in operational law as an adviser to military officers.

With such a demanding path ahead, what is Kline’s source of inspiration? “I’ve always been driven from within,” he said. “It’s a hard path, but I know when I’m through, it will have been the most rewarding experience of my life. This is definitely something that’s going to get me up every day.”



### Rusi Patel: Finding the light

Second-year student and UGA graduate Rusi C. Patel arrived at Georgia Law in 2004 eager to finally focus on international law, a passion he developed in college after extensive traveling and a number of law-related classes.

He credits his family with his “global” enthusiasm – his mother was born in Uganda, his father in India, and various family members currently reside throughout the world in countries such as England, Kenya, India and Australia. His visits to these places stimulated his interest in foreign legal systems, and he decided to pursue his hobby on an academic level.

However, two weeks before Patel enrolled in law school, he was diagnosed with testicular cancer.

“I was so excited about finally getting into what I wanted to do for a career, and then this situation [my cancer diagnosis] completely preoccupied me,” he said. “My family and friends strongly advised me to defer law school for a year, but I decided to start classes anyway.”

Although the illness brought about many complications to his routine, Patel said the hardest part was primarily finding enough energy – physical and mental – to get through long days of classes and studying. Following his surgery, he was prohibited from lifting anything weighing more than 10 pounds – including his law books. In addition, he had to sleep much more than normal each day to regain energy, a feat for any first-year law student.

Early in his treatment cycle, Patel found an unexpected source of strength. While

waiting at a doctor's office, he noticed a flyer for UGA's Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Wanting to help fellow cancer patients, he immediately decided to get involved and was put in charge of a group for the society's upcoming Light the Night, an annual walk that raises money for leukemia and lymphoma research. Despite having only two weeks to organize funding and tactics, he raised so much money that he was asked to join the campaign and organizational committee this year.

Patel said working with the group changed how he felt about his own experience with cancer. "Leukemia and lymphoma are cancers that really make you think. Mine was nothing – it was only in stage one. The cure rates for these cancers aren't nearly as high."

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Cancer has not only affected Patel's life as a student, but his future plans as well. He now is looking to obtain a position in the field of health law, aiming to find pro bono work with a health care-related organization.

His interest in the law and politics of other cultures remains in his future goals, but he now has one more ambition in his life, one that he finds equally important.

Although his first year at Georgia Law was difficult, Patel does not regret not deferring law school for a year. "Law school was something I knew I wanted to do, and I had never quit anything before. In the past year, I have learned more about myself than I ever would have otherwise. I learned so much about my family, my friends and, probably most importantly, how to deal with real issues."



### **Ella Shagabutdinova: Following her dream**

Third-year student Ella A. Shagabutdinova has known she wanted to work in international law for over 15 years, and her unique cultural perspective has been the driving force in helping her achieve this goal.

A native of Uzbekistan but Russian by heritage, she grew up an unwelcome minority in a town only minutes from the Afghanistan border.

The violence and terrorism she saw daily on the news piqued her interest in international relations and, by age 10, she knew she wanted to travel to the United States and work in international law.

Shagabutdinova said, "The things you hear on television were a part of my daily life and, because of the surroundings I grew up in, I developed an interest in international law at a very young age. I think there are a lot of things regarding international affairs that could be – and should be – fixed in certain parts of the world. That interest is what motivates me."

In 1994, she decided to apply for the Freedom Support Act Program, an economic aid package that allowed high school students from the republics of the former Soviet Union to travel to the United States.

The program was extremely competitive, as the opportunity for this type of educational experience was almost unheard of for teenagers during the Cold War and immediately after the Soviet Union's collapse.

In order to be considered for the program, applicants had to be proficient in English. Shagabutdinova, fluent only in Russian at the time, taught herself English, studying

sometimes up to six hours each night after completing her regular schoolwork.

Despite her rigorous self-study regimen, Shagabutdinova was not accepted to the program on her first try. Candidates could, in fact, apply twice, although her parents and teachers strongly discouraged her.

Undeterred, Shagabutdinova completed the tests for the second time in secret while her parents were away on business.

She was informed several months later that not only had she been awarded the scholarship, but she had earned both the highest score in the country and was among the top five percent of all test-takers in the former Soviet Union.

"It was a big deal because we were among the first students to come to the United States," she said. "It was hugely publicized all over national television."

Shagabutdinova returned home during the summer of 1997, following her first trip to America.

She maintained several jobs, volunteering in Tashkent with the American Consulate and the Peace Corps as well as working as a language tutor.

She soon decided she wanted to return to America to pursue a college education, much to the dismay of her family and friends.

"The cost for education is very expensive, especially after converting the money," she said. "It is at least \$20,000 per year, and people in Uzbekistan are earning \$20 per month. People would just laugh and tell me I needed to come down from the clouds."

Shagabutdinova worked hard both financially and academically, and enrolled in Georgia Law in 2003.

She said although she has acquired many good memories during her time in Athens, her favorite was being a part of Professor R. Perry Sentell Jr.'s last class at the law school.

Shagabutdinova hopes to find work related to foreign policy advising and diplomatic service in Washington, D.C., and would eventually like to earn her Ph.D. in international affairs.

*All student profiles written by Kristin Kissiah.*