

Class of 2003 Commencement

As is true with all graduations, the event is a time for happiness, excitement, remembrance and apprehension. This was also the story for the Class of 2003 commencement. However, some of the reasons for this mixed bag of emotions are different. The photo essay below will offer you an insight into this much-anticipated event for the newest law dawgs.



▲ Alexander Levy and Christian Fichter show their excitement.

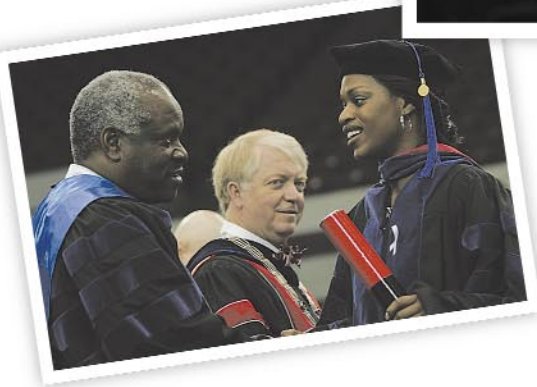


▲ This year's graduation drew much interest from the media, locally and nationally. As seen here, several broadcast cameras filmed the event. Covering the event was C-SPAN, Fox News, NBC Nightly News, CBS and ABC in addition to print media from Knight Ridder, Associated Press, the Fulton County Daily Report and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

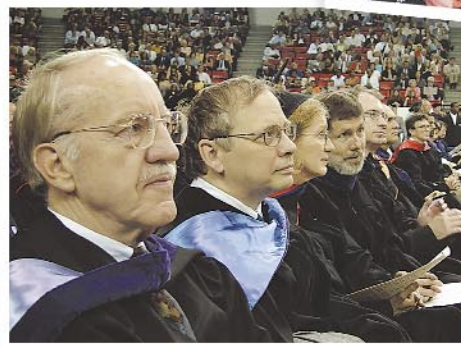
2002-03 Law School Association President Paul Painter (J.D.'74) (right) receives the Class of 2003 pledge check from Legacy Gift Co-Chairs Joshua Belinfante and Katherine Labnstein. The gift of \$11,896, representing 45 percent participation, was given in memory of their classmate, Tara Baker, who was murdered during her first year of law school in January 2001. All graduates, as a special reminder of her, wore a white ribbon on their robes (seen here on Katherine).



▲ Presented at the pre-graduation reception on Friday evening, winners of the school's prestigious Ellen R. Jordan Award for Public Interest Law and the William King Meadow Award are Julia Fisher and Jeffrey Kwastel, respectively. Receipt of the Jordan award identifies "exceptional commitment to and achievement in public interest law." The Meadow award recognizes an individual "who best exemplifies the integrity, sense of responsibility and high standards of the legal profession and who has the keen sense of humor necessary to afford a proper human perspective to the resolution of legal problems."



▲ Keynote speaker and U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas (right) shakes the hand of Charla Hall while UGA President Michael Adams looks on. Despite the controversy surrounding his selection, graduates, families, faculty and staff warmly received Thomas' address. He encouraged the Class of 2003 to go forth and become "heroes" while remaining "true to their faith and their beliefs."



Several members of the faculty attended the ceremony. ▶

Photos courtesy of Terry Allen and Professor Robert Brussack (J.D.'76).