

Being a pastor is not the only job on Johnson's resume. He also serves on the National Black Law Students Association National Board of Directors as the southern regional director, representing African-American law students at 42 schools located in nine different states. "It is incredible," Johnson said. "I toured about 30 law schools this year and got a chance to meet and speak with so many future colleagues. It is amazing to see the amount of energy that exists in these law schools and the dreams people have. If they stay true to them, our country is in great shape."

So how will he put it all together? Johnson said he sees his law degree as a means, but not an end, to his profession. "I have political aspirations. I love politics. I love the ministry. And I love the law. I think the law is really just a door one walks through to be granted access to other areas of life that can be just as rewarding."

- Kristine Fortunato

Daniel and Katie White - Partners in Life, Partners in Law



What started out as a date at Weaver D's resulted in a marriage for first-year students Daniel and Katie White.

"We met here as undergrads," Daniel said. "I proposed to her right before the start of our senior year at the fountain on Herty Field. You can see the spot through the law library windows." The site of the proposal was fitting, as a year after getting married the couple enrolled in law school.

"Daniel always knew he wanted to go to law school," Katie said. "I was very geared towards doing something with kids." Following graduation, she accepted a position teaching high school French. "A few months into it I realized that teaching was not my career, so I started looking at other things to do. I always thought to be a lawyer you had to be this really aggressive person and work in a high-rise building in

downtown Atlanta. Then I started to find out that you don't have to do that, and how I could still help kids as a lawyer, just in a different way."

Daniel encouraged her to take the LSAT and they ended up with the exact same score. Next, the couple set their sights on Georgia Law. "We decided that if we both got in, this was the place we were supposed to be," Katie said.

"It is kind of ironic," Daniel said. "I knew I was going to law school, but I wasn't sure what kind of law I wanted to go into. Whereas once Katie decided she wanted to go to law school, she knew she wanted to help kids and practice family law specializing in child advocacy. I worked for a real estate litigation firm after I finished my undergrad degree and I really enjoyed it, but I can see myself practicing almost any type of law."

Going through law school together has its advantages. The Whites are in different sections, so "we have met twice the students and know twice as many professors," Daniel said. "There are days when we both really push each other to work, and other days where we help each other not feel so bad about taking a break. I think the hardest part of being married and going through law school is finding time to do the things we used to do before," Daniel said.

"We always have our best friend at home," Katie added. "I can come home and tell Daniel everything about class and he understands it completely. He knows exactly what I mean when I say, the professor called on me today and I didn't know the answer."

So just what does the future hold for these first-year students? "A lot of people ask us if we're going to be White and White, but I just don't think you can look that far down the road," Daniel said.

The Whites will celebrate their second wedding anniversary in July. Daniel is also the son of alumnus Watson L. White (LL.B. '50). ■

- Kristine Fortunato



Mathis Joins Alumni Staff

Lisa Mathis joined the Office of Alumni Programs in September 2002 as alumni events coordinator. In this position, she assists Director

Jill Birch in planning and executing law school alumni events. These events include Homecoming, Reunion Weekend and other alumni outreach programs. Mathis has 14 years of office experience and is a Commerce native. She replaced Bridget Hardin who left the law school early in 2002 to stay home after the birth of her son Thomas.

LRAP Recipients for 2003

It is a proven fact that loan repayment assistance programs aid in the recruitment and retention of legal personnel in the area of public interest law. According to a 2002 survey of 326 public interest and government employers nationwide, 82 percent reported LRAPs are an effective recruiting tool and nearly 70 percent said the programs aided in the retention of employees. The School of Law is proud it offers a loan repayment program, supported by the Ann B. Downs Loan Repayment Assistance Program Fund created by alumnus Bertis Downs (J.D.'81) in honor of his mother. There were five recipients of this year's funds:

Kealin Culbreath (J.D.'99), U.S. Sentencing Commission, Washington, D.C.

Adrienne DerVartanian (J.D.'00), Legal Aid of Washington, D.C.

Melissa Gross (J.D.'02), Georgia Legal Services, Gainesville, GA

Sydney Taylor (J.D.'02), Office of State Attorney, Pensacola, FL

Temika Williams (J.D.'01), Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers, Atlanta, GA

The School of Law is currently the only Georgia law school to permanently fund a loan repayment program. The first awards were presented in 1997.

A Letter to Alumni from the Board of Visitors

Law School Admissions

I am sure you remember former Gov. Carl Sanders' words that are inscribed on the outside of the law school's library wall. That inscription states: "The people of Georgia want and deserve nothing but the best. The University of Georgia School of Law is, therefore, to be one of such excellence that no citizen of Georgia need ever leave the state because a superior legal education is afforded elsewhere."

I am proud to write that Governor Sanders' dream has now come to fruition. The University of Georgia School of Law has attained the level of superiority that was only a dream several years ago. The law school now outshines many other schools and attracts the best and brightest applicants from across the nation. For example, the 208 students comprising the Class of 2005 boast a median LSAT of 163 and a median GPA of 3.65. We have every confidence these students will follow in the footsteps of their predecessors and become great leaders for the state, the nation and the world.

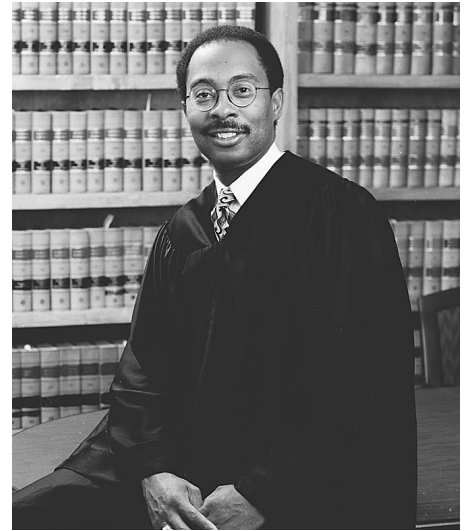
With all of this good news, I regret to inform you of a difficult decision regarding admissions that the law school's administration has had to make in the last few years. Each year, the number of people applying to the law school has steadily increased. Since 2000, applications have increased 48 percent. This year, an all-time record of 2,703 aspiring students applied. In order to maintain a student/faculty ratio necessary for a quality-teaching environment, the faculty has decided to keep the entering class

size in the low 200s — that means approximately 1 out of every 6 applicants will be admitted.

Due to the increase in applicants and the resulting increase in credentials, the law school's admissions committee has had to decide not to admit the children of some of our alumni. Despite this difficult decision, the law school's administration continues to recognize that the University of Georgia School of Law is a great law school today because of the contributions made by our alumni and their continued interest in the success of the school. It is also important to note that the School of Law has stayed true to its established mission of educating Georgians by keeping the ratio of Georgia residents high. The ratio still is about 75 percent resident and 25 percent nonresident.

Another tough decision that has been made recently is to recommend a tuition increase. This decision was made after reviewing several other alternatives and was found to be the only logical way to continue being one of the nation's best public law schools and to reach our goal of continuing to turn out the best and brightest legal minds. Even with an increase in tuition, the University of Georgia's School of Law will still be one of the nation's best bargains in legal education. Presently, the total cost of a legal education for a Georgia resident at UGA (tuition and fees) is 32 percent of the average cost for a similar education at another legal institution.

On the whole, in the words of former Gov. Carl Sanders, "The people of Georgia want



and deserve nothing but the best." Your law school is now considered "one of the best." We should all be proud of the law school attaining a superior status and in continuing its reputation for academic excellence.

Sincerely,

Steve C. Jones (J.D.'88)
Board of Visitors Chair

2002-03 Board of Visitors

Steve C. Jones, Chair; Brenda J. Bernstein; Jerry B. Blackstock; Emmet J. Bondurant; George H. Carley; Richard B. Chandler Jr.; John B. Copenhaver; Sara A. Evans; James L. Ford Sr.; Charles A. Hunnicutt; S. Lark Ingram; A. Felton Jenkins Jr.; Ruth A. Knox and Patrick N. Millsaps

Taking to the Streets

Dean David Shipley continues to get out and meet with alumni and members of the legal community. In these meetings, he shares the status of legal education today as well as the mission and progress of the School of Law. Recent trips include Georgia law firm visits to McKenna Long & Aldridge; Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial; King & Spalding; Troutman Sanders; Alston & Bird; Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan. In addition, the dean spoke to the following Georgia bar associations: Baldwin, Cobb County, Fayette County, Forsyth County, Gainesville-Northeastern, Gwinnett County, Sandy Springs and Tifton.

If you would like Dean Shipley to visit your firm or bar association, please contact the Dean's Office at (706) 542-7140 or shipley@uga.edu to schedule a convenient time.

A Letter to Alumni from the Law School Association



Leading by Example

As I write these words, the Iraq War is winding down to a victorious conclusion. I have been moved by the enormous sacrifices made by many, including several Law Dawgs, in the cause of leading the once-repressed Iraqis to a new era of freedom. The sacrifices of these brave men and women, both at home and abroad, have been an inspiration to me as the new president of the Law School Association. They inspire leadership through their service, and I hope, by following their example, to inspire you as alumni and friends of the School of Law to lead through service.

There is no better example to the law school community of leadership through service than the institution itself. The UGA School of Law leads this state and the nation through its service to its students, faculty and alumni.

The School of Law serves its students with better facilities. The renovations of the last two years have greatly enhanced the learning experience. Thanks to \$3.2 million from the state government, much needed technology improvements have been fully implemented.

The law school also serves its students with better faculty. The faculty includes three

former U. S. Supreme Court law clerks, one Pulitzer Prize winner and two Fulbright Scholars. Efforts are underway to recruit legal scholars to further boost the quality of the institution's faculty.

Additionally, the law school serves its students with increased financial assistance. Through the support of alumni, faculty, staff and friends, almost half of the school's annual fund receipts are dedicated to providing full and partial scholarships to qualified students. The scholarships are awarded, based on both merit and need, to help attract the best and brightest to Georgia Law each year.

The School of Law supports its faculty by encouraging good teaching and scholarship, and providing faculty with the resources necessary to accomplish these goals. These resources include endowed professorial chairs and faculty positions, the number of which has increased with the recent additions of the Verner F. Chaffin Professorship of Fiduciary Law and the Carl E. Sanders Chair in Political Leadership.

Finally, Georgia Law serves its alumni after they leave school and embark on their careers. Employment placement assistance is one of the many services provided to students and alumni. Alumni are always welcomed back to their alma mater to use the library and other facilities. Also, Dean David Shipley and the staff of the law school are willing to answer questions and provide information to alumni in need. In fact, Dean Shipley has been visiting law firms and local Law Dawg alumni groups throughout the state and elsewhere to share the latest news regarding the school. Our Dean is committed to improving the law school and would like to receive input from alumni regarding the progress of the institution and address any concerns. Anyone interested in hosting the Dean for a visit may contact him directly at (706) 542-7140 or shipley@uga.edu.

What are the results of all of these efforts to serve students, faculty and alumni?

- Better students, with the class of 2005 having a

median GPA of 3.65 and median LSAT score of 163.

- More successful students, with the advocacy teams securing one national title, two second-place finishes, and one final four placement in 2002-03.
- Increase in stature, improving to 31st among the nation's legal learning institutions and 11th among public law schools in the latest *U.S. News and World Report* rankings.
- More major gifts from alumni and friends.

In short, I am dedicating myself to the example of leadership through service set by our soldiers and by the School of Law. I call on all alumni and friends to continue the hard work begun by the institution, its faculty, staff and students. Lead others by your service to the law school and support the improvement initiatives underway by the giving of your time and energy and your financial resources. Only in this way can we lead the next generation to even greater heights as graduates of the finest law school in the history of Georgia.

Sincerely,

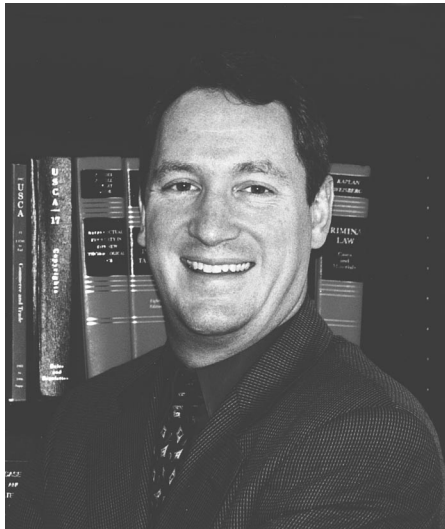
Julia W. Lumpkin

Julia W. Lumpkin (J.D.'90)
Law School Association President

2003-04 Law School Association Council

Julia Willcox Lumpkin, President; James B. Ellington, President-elect; Robert O. Freeman, Treasurer; Eleanor Banister, Secretary; Paul W. Painter Jr., Immediate Past President; Verner F. Chaffin, Secretary Emeritus; Kathleen Horne, District 1; Gregory C. Sowell, District 2; Kenneth M. Henson Jr., District 3; J. Thomas Morgan III, District 4; To be appointed, District 5; Michael E. Sumner, District 6; W. Heath Garrett, District 7; Robert W. Chastee Jr., District 8; Steven P. Gilliam, District 9; To be appointed, District 10; Charles A. Thomas Jr., At-Large State Representative; Henry C. Tharpe Jr., At-Large State Representative; Elizabeth Brannen Chandler, At-Large State Representative; Frank L. Butler III, At-Large State Representative; Shelley D. Rucker, At-Large Out-of-State Representative; and John L. Carr Jr., At-Large Out-of-State Representative and Douglas R. Kertscher, Younger Law Alumni Committee Chair

A Letter to Alumni from the Younger Law Alumni Committee



Simplicity and Focus

The Younger Law Alumni Committee speaks for over 35 percent of all University of Georgia School of Law alumni. In other organizations, such as the State Bar of Georgia, the young lawyers section is the most active division (in terms of event planning, community service, etc.) and is indispensable to the larger association as a whole.

Likewise, YLAC should become indispensable to the larger Law School Association and YLAC membership generally. Recently, the group has taken steps in this direction when former YLAC Chair Melisa Anderson Ferris (J.D.'98) began the popular "Thirsty Thursday" program that raised YLAC's profile and promoted alumni networking. In addition, Melisa, with the help of board member Clement Doyle (J.D.'99), initiated an experimental "calling tree" pro-

gram designed to raise funds by young alumni calling their fellow classmates. Clem's experiment resulted in his "subject" (the class of 1999) having *the highest giving rate* of any of the YLAC classes during the 2001-02 fiscal year. Melisa also consolidated the YLAC budget by eliminating specific line items that tied the hands of the YLAC chair and its leadership council.

During the 2003-04 year, YLAC will build on these foundation points. Our theme will be "simplicity and focus," reflecting the belief that a few things done very well is sometimes better than doing several things without distinction.

There are two events YLAC will conduct very well this year. First, we will have an expanded calling tree program with a "reward" fundraiser at the wildly popular "Martinis & IMAX" event at the Fernbank Museum in Atlanta. This will happen in late fall, and the event will be the reward for the calling tree "lieutenants" and those YLAC members who gave over a certain dollar amount. The event will be completely underwritten by outside sponsors and existing YLAC operating funds. The goal will be not only to raise YLAC's profile, but also result in the *best giving year ever by each YLAC class*.

The second event will occur in the late spring and reincarnate an old UGA program that has been successful for other law schools. YLAC will host and organize a "Recruiting Showcase" that will introduce firms to third- and second-year law students. This half-day event will feature two hours of panel presentations by young attorneys "on the rise," followed by a social/recruiting hour, and a two-hour ban-

quet with a high-profile speaker. The event will be underwritten by law firms purchasing banquet tables and by existing YLAC funds. It is our goal that this event will increase YLAC's profile and contribute to alumni involvement and student placement.

At the end of the year, with the help Chair-Elect Daniel Snipes (J.D.'95), Treasurer David Gruskin (J.D.'96) and Secretary Jeffery Monroe (J.D.'00), the committee will have become indispensable to the larger alumni board and its YLAC membership, and will have helped fill specific law school needs. We appreciate the help (both in terms of time and financial giving) of all alumni and anyone wanting to "get in on the ground floor" of this burgeoning group. If you would like more information, please contact me directly at (770) 953-0995 ext. 102 or drk@hkplaw.com.

Sincerely,

Douglas R. Kertscher (J.D.'94)
Younger Law Alumni Committee Chair

2003-04 Younger Law Alumni Committee Members

Douglas R. Kertscher, Chair; Melisa A. Ferris, Immediate Past Chair; Daniel Snipes, Vice Chair and Chair-elect; David Gruskin, Treasurer; Jeffery Monroe, Secretary; At-Large Representatives: Shalena C. Archibald, S. Kendall Butterworth, Clement C. Doyle, Kevin D. Gonzalez, Marcy A. Gonzalez, James C. Joedecke Jr., Ian N. Matthes, Jacob A. Maurer, Joshua M. Moore, Christopher M. Rosselli and Natalie D. Schweers. District Representatives: To be appointed

2002 Order of the Coif Inductees

On March 7, highest academic honors were bestowed on 23 graduates of the School of Law when they were inducted into the law school's chapter of the Order of the Coif. Coif membership is reserved for those who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class and is the highest academic honor awarded. Only 77 American law schools have a chapter at their institution.

2002 Order of the Coif Inductees pictured are: (back row, from l. to r.) Kyle Wallace, Kevin Tallant, Matthew Healey, Thomas Hawk, (middle row, from l. to r.) Joseph Gleason, Heather Stern, Erik Figlio, Sarah Moore, (front row, from l. to r.) Edward Marshall, Richard Douglass, Jennifer Chapman and Emily Meazell. Not pictured are: Nancy Baumgarten, Michael Bertelson, Kevin Biron, Dustin Brown, Lauren Bush, Lawrence Edell, Darren Gaynor, Gregory Mauldin, Christopher Rosselli, Nitin Sathe and Brian Vick.



State Bar of Georgia Midyear Gatherings

As usual, the Law School Association held a cocktail reception and a breakfast in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia's Midyear Meeting in Atlanta during January. Those attending the evening gathering at Pope, McGlamry, Kilpatrick, Morrison & Norwood, LLP, had a good time. Over 85 guests participated in the event sponsored by Ellis, Painter, Ratterree & Bart, LLP.

The following morning, 75 alumni and law school personnel enjoyed breakfast at the Swissôtel. The Law School Association's midyear meeting was held in tandem with this event.



Alumni and relatives - Sally Cannon (J.D.'78) and Bill Norwood (LL.B.'67) enjoyed the opportunity to catch up on family and law school business at the cocktail reception.

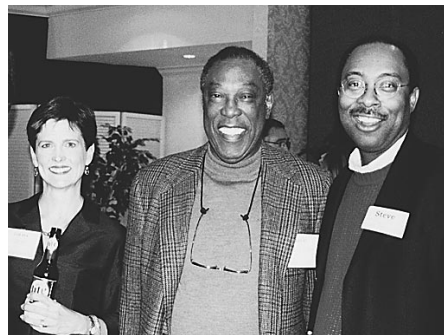


Jim Ford (J.D.'73) and his wife Claire enjoyed the Thursday evening gathering.

All Judges Welcome at Alumni Reception



David Sweat (J.D.'79) (right) and Director of the Legal Aid and Defender Clinic Russell Gabriel (J.D.'85) pose for a picture.



The judicial trio of Louisa Abbot (J.D.'82), Marvin Arrington (center) and Steve Jones (J.D.'87) enjoy the evening.

Due to the continued popularity of the annual judges reception, held in conjunction with the Superior Court Judges Winter Seminar, the law school opened the social event to all judges attending the seminar in Athens during January. This year, over 175 judges, faculty and senior administrators enjoyed the event. Following the reception, several attendees crossed the street to cheer the Bulldogs' basketball team on to a thrilling victory over the University of Tennessee in overtime. The School of Law hopes to host a similar event in Savannah with the judicial seminar in January 2004.



Governor Roy Barnes - Courageous Decision

In May, former Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes (J.D.'72) was honored with the John F.

Kennedy Profile in Courage Award. It was presented by Caroline Kennedy and Senator Edward Kennedy at a ceremony held in the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, MA.

Barnes received this prestigious award for his role in reducing the presence of the controversial Confederate "stars and bars" emblem on the Georgia state flag during his governorship. Although polls showed that some constituencies were strongly opposed to the redesign, Barnes went ahead with his decision, despite the risk of alienating his supporters. It has been said this is one of the main issues that lost Barnes his gubernatorial reelection campaign in 2002.

The Profile in Courage Award is named for President Kennedy's 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Profiles in Courage*. The book relates the stories of U.S. senators who risked their careers to fight for what they believed was right. This award is presented annually to an elected official who has followed what he or she believes is the right course of action, despite strong opposition from constituents, interest groups or adversaries. It was created in 1983 by the Kennedy Library Foundation in honor of President Kennedy's commitment and contribution to public service.

Watson Serves on UGA Provost's IT Taskforce

School of Law Reference and Computing Services Librarian Carol Watson (J.D.'87) served on the Provost's Information Technology Taskforce charged with assessing UGA's IT infrastructure. The taskforce was asked to review opportunities for service improvements through centralized processes and develop recommendations to achieve significant improvement in the value generated by the university's current IT investments. She was handpicked to join a team of nearly a dozen to consult on this issue. ■