## Commencement 1997: Finding Your Dream

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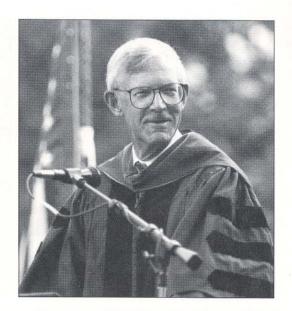
or University of Georgia law graduates and, undoubtedly, many of their

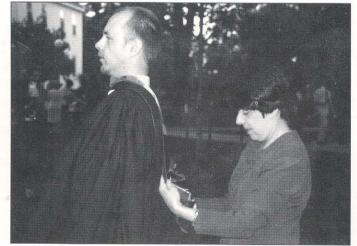
parents and spouses, the commencement ceremony on May 23 marked the culmination of one dream and the beginning of another.

"Unquestionably dreams are the stuff of life, that hope that connects the present with the future," said commencement speaker Norman S. Fletcher (J.D.'58), presiding justice of the Georgia Supreme Court. "And if your dreams are of the right stuff, both your future and the future of all persons who are touched by your dreams will be brighter."

Fletcher encouraged graduates to reach out and take risks to achieve their goals, but cautioned them to be realistic and always have a "Plan B" on hand. He used his own life experience as an illustration: through his current position on the Supreme Court, he lives his dream every day, but he didn't realize that dream until his first goal as a politician faltered and he resorted to Plan B: to become the best small-town general practitioner possible.

"Life is full of changes and surprises, as well as some disappointments," Fletcher said. "At times it is necessary to build winning lives of second chances and second choices. That second chance to find your dream may involve digging in exactly where







you are, as the opportunity on the ground on which you stand may be the best opportunity you will ever have. Don't overlook it. Give it a chance. It may well be the place where you will truly make a difference, and nothing is more important than that."

A total of 202 graduates fulfilled their dreams of earning a law degree, and 29 LL.M. students, hailing from countries as diverse as Armenia, Brazil and Ethiopia, were recognized.

Rob Cox, a graduate from Millville, New Jersey, received the inaugural Ellen R. Jordan Award for Public Interest Law, endowed by friends, family and colleagues of Professor Ellen

Norman Fletcher left graduates with one "absolute" for a full and happy life: "Your dreams must include many things other than the law, things vital to your well-being and society's well-being, and you must provide quality time for them." & Honorary marshal Linda Dudley performs a commencement morning ritual: helping graduates (in this case, LL.M. Patrick Specht) with their hoods. & Mimosas for a special occasion: (l. to r.) Katie Hung, Jessica Heywood, Katie McBride, Debbie Richardson and Kerry Harike.

Jordan, who died last year. The Jordan Award recognizes "exceptional commitment to and achievement in the practice of public interest law."

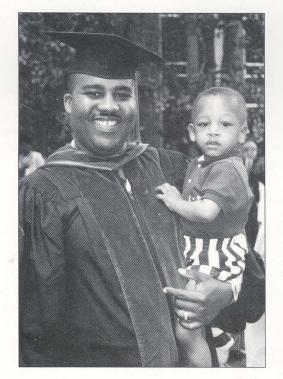
Blaine Norris of Carrollton received the William K. Meadow Award, presented to "the graduate who best exemplifies the integrity, sense of responsibility, and high standards of the legal profession and who also has a keen sense of humor to afford a human perspective to the resolution of legal problems."

Two faculty members also were honored for teaching excellence: Assistant Professor Anne Dupre (J.D.'88) received the Student Bar Association Faculty Book Award and the Phi Delta Phi John C. O'Byrne Memorial Faculty Award for Significant Contributions Furthering Student-Faculty Relations, and Herman E. Talmadge Professor Ray Phillips received the Student Bar Association and Younger Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Georgia Award for the Teaching of Legal Ethics. Hosch Professor Ron Ellington and Degree Program Assistant Linda Dudley were selected by the graduates as honorary marshals.

The third-year class presented a gift of \$6,000 to the Law School Association, \$1,000 of which is to be dedicated to support of public interest law in memory of their classmate, Shelley Knox, who died a few weeks before graduation.

LSA President Emmet
Bondurant presented graduates
with brass law school keychains
to symbolize their membership
in the Law School Association.
Dean Ned Spurgeon presented
UGA President Charles B.
Knapp with a law school proclamation in appreciation of his
support and leadership during
the past decade.







(Counterclockwise from top left) Youngest spectator:
One-week-old Trey Kitchens, born to Dianne and Bill on the morning of dad's last exam! & Plenty of reason to smile: Cedric Davis and his son. & A record-breaking crowd of nearly 600 graduates, family and friends enjoyed socializing on the grounds of the State

Botanical Garden at the annual Commencement Eve reception hosted by the Law School Association. \* The Commencement Speakers: (l. to r.) Presiding Justice Norman Fletcher, LSA President Bondurant, UGA President Charles Knapp and Dean Ned Spurgeon. \* Dean Spurgeon congratulates Judy McLeod, a former teacher, court reporter and business owner who earned her law degree.

