

Prominent political consultant and former U.S. senator serve as Sanders Scholars

Two renowned individuals joined the University of Georgia School of Law faculty as Carl E. Sanders Political Leadership Scholars this academic year – Paul E. Begala, political contributor on CNN’s “The Situation Room” and former counselor to President Bill Clinton, and former U.S. Sen. Wyche Fowler Jr.

During the fall semester, Begala taught Law and Policy, Politics and the Press, while Fowler is teaching a course on the U.S. Congress and the Constitution this spring.



Political consultant
Paul Begala

As a former top-ranking White House official, political consultant, corporate communications strategist and university professor, Begala has spent his career at the intersection of politics, policy and the press.

He first entered the national political scene after his consulting firm, Carville & Begala, aided Bill Clinton in his successful run for the White House in 1992.

After the election, he served as counselor to the president, helping to define and to

promote the administration’s agenda.

Currently, Begala serves as Research Professor of Government at Georgetown University and is also a political analyst and commentator for CNN, where he previously co-hosted “Crossfire.”

While on campus, Begala also delivered a speech to the university community titled “Politics 2008: Serious Business or Show Business for Ugly People?”



Former U.S. Sen.
Wyche Fowler

Currently, Fowler is engaged in an international business and law practice and serves as chair of the board of the Middle East Institute, a nonprofit research foundation in Washington, D.C.

He began his public service career as an Atlanta City Council member, while still in law school at Emory University, and was ultimately chosen to serve as city council president.

In 1977, Fowler was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Nine years later, he was elected to the U.S. Senate where he was assistant floor leader.

He was later appointed U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Among the numerous recognitions he has received are: the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s highest civilian honor, the Jefferson Cup; selection as the Most Effective Legislator by the Southern Governors’ Association; and the Central Intelligence Agency “Seal” medallion for dedicated service.

Named for Georgia’s 74th governor and 1948 Georgia Law alumnus, Carl E. Sanders, the Sanders Chair in Political Leadership was created to give law students the opportunity to learn from individuals who have distinguished themselves in politics or other forms of public service.

Previous Sanders Political Leadership Scholars include: former U.S. Attorney General and U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Griffin B. Bell, former Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox, former U.S. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Theodore W. “Ted” Kassinger (J.D.’78), former U.S. Sen. J. Maxwell “Max” Cleland and former Georgia Supreme Court Justice George T. Smith (LL.B.’48).

Dean Rusk Center turns 30

This past year, the Dean Rusk Center – International, Comparative and Graduate Legal Studies celebrated its 30th anniversary.

To commemorate this occasion, the center brought a variety of notable speakers to campus throughout 2007 as part of a special lecture series, which the center plans to publish.

Among the invited guests were: Daniel R. Fung, former solicitor general of Hong Kong, delivering the Inaugural Willson Center – Dean Rusk Center Annual Lecture titled “The Rise of China: Political and Economic Implications;” Lee Hamilton, co-chair of the Iraq Study Group and former vice-chair of the 9/11 Commission, who, as the 2007 Sibley Lecturer, discussed how the U.S. should approach its foreign policy and pragmatically use its power abroad; and Diana Wallis, vice president of the European Parliament, who gave an address titled “Who Runs Who: Does Europe Follow the U.S., or the U.S. Europe, on Major Policy Issues?”

The center also marked this 30th anniversary milestone with a major conference on transatlantic security issues – involving members of the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament and their colleagues and counterparts from U.S. Congress, the Department of Justice and the Department of

Homeland Security – as well as with a recent colloquium on Rome II, the 2007 EU regulation on choice of law issues applicable to non-contractual obligations. Proceedings from both conferences will be available as 30th anniversary publications.

The Dean Rusk Center was established in 1977 and named after former U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk, who taught at the law school for nearly 25 years following his departure from Washington, D.C.

Thirty years after its creation, the center remains committed to its mission of promoting international law and cooperation as a means for solving issues of global importance.

Moving forward, Director of the Dean Rusk Center C. Donald Johnson (J.D.’73) said the center will continue the work Dean Rusk had originally envisioned through lectures and conferences while seeking to expand the reach of that vision through strengthening current programs as well as developing new outreach opportunities.



Class of 2010: a landmark class both historically and academically

The entering Class of 2010 holds a special status in School of Law history. Not only academically talented, these students are projected to graduate in 2010, which will be the 150th anniversary of the school's first graduating class.

The School of Law officially opened on Oct. 1, 1859, with 14 students. This inaugural class expanded to 26 and graduated in the summer of 1860. Legal study at this time consisted of three daily lectures with rigorous outside assignments and moot court on Saturday.

The academic environment at the School of Law today is very different. During the first year of law school, students are enrolled in 31 semester credit hours, and they routinely spend evenings and weekends prepping for classes. Also, as you know, it now takes three years to complete a law degree.

Additionally, over the years, academic credentials have become very important to students desiring to study the law, and this year's entering class boasts some of the highest scores in School of Law history.

Comprised of 222 students, the Class of 2010 has a median undergraduate grade point average of 3.67, a school record.

Moreover, the median Law School Admissions Test score for these first-year students is 163, which ties the all-time high and reflects a score that places these students near the top 10 percent of test takers nationwide.

Additionally, the top quarter of the class scored a 165 or higher on the LSAT and/or achieved a 3.86 or better undergraduate GPA. The 25th percentile scores are a 159 LSAT and a 3.42 GPA.

Staying true to the law school's commitment to provide the finest legal education to people from the state of Georgia, 84 percent of the first-year class is classified as state residents. The Class of 2010 also includes residents from 15 different states as well as graduates from 74 institutions.

The most popular undergraduate degrees for this class were political science, business and English.

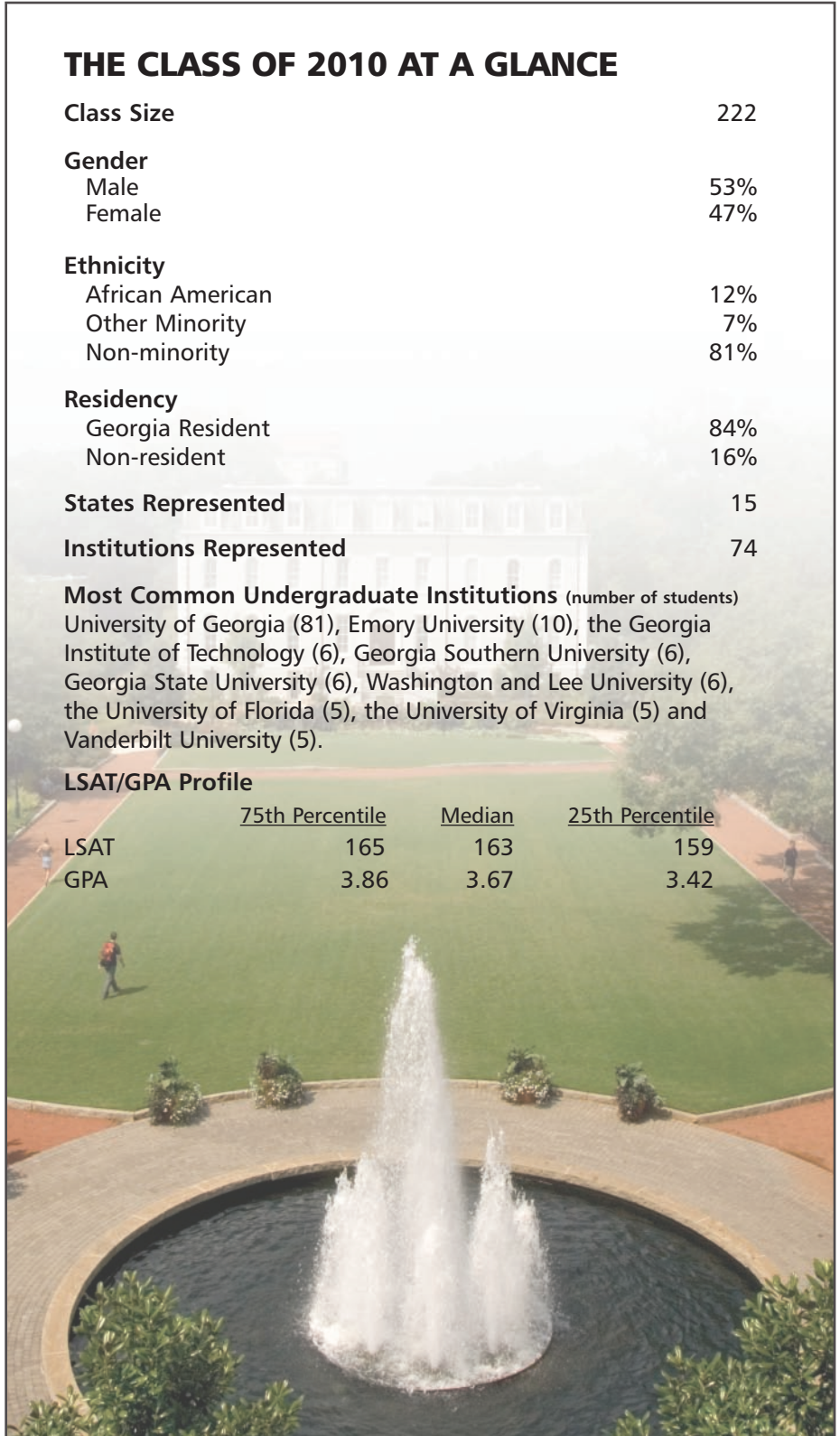
THE CLASS OF 2010 AT A GLANCE

Class Size	222
Gender	
Male	53%
Female	47%
Ethnicity	
African American	12%
Other Minority	7%
Non-minority	81%
Residency	
Georgia Resident	84%
Non-resident	16%
States Represented	15
Institutions Represented	74

Most Common Undergraduate Institutions (number of students)
 University of Georgia (81), Emory University (10), the Georgia Institute of Technology (6), Georgia Southern University (6), Georgia State University (6), Washington and Lee University (6), the University of Florida (5), the University of Virginia (5) and Vanderbilt University (5).

LSAT/GPA Profile

	<u>75th Percentile</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>25th Percentile</u>
LSAT	165	163	159
GPA	3.86	3.67	3.42



Brussels Seminar receives ABA accreditation



Participants in the 2007 Brussels Seminar on the Law and Institutions of the European Union pose for a quick photo at the European Court of Justice.

For more than three decades, the School of Law has helped sponsor the Brussels Seminar on the Law and Institutions of the European Union. This past summer, the three-week program was approved for academic credit by the American Bar Association.

The seminar is taught by officials of the EU Commission and Council, judges of the European Community Court of Justice, leading practitioners of EU law and distinguished

professors from European universities.

Accreditation was sought for the course so U.S. law students participating in it could receive transferable credit hours for their hard work, according to School of Law Associate Dean for International and Graduate Legal Studies Gabriel M. Wilner, who has directed the Brussels Seminar since its inception in 1973.

In the early years, the Brussels Seminar received the sponsorship and support of the

late Dean Rusk, who served as the U.S. Secretary of State during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations and taught at the School of Law for nearly 25 years. His vision of a transatlantic community of states has remained the inspiration for the program, according to Wilner.

He added that the Brussels Seminar is the only summer program in the world that is entirely dedicated to the study of European Union law. "It is a great opportunity for our students to attend this rather unique program and receive academic credit for it," he said.

The ABA accreditation process took approximately one year and included explaining the purpose of the program, showing a sound budget and demonstrating a highly qualified faculty as well as passing an on-site inspection.

Held each year at the Institut d'Etudes Européennes of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Wilner said the program received a "glowing report" from the ABA inspector.

Brown becomes UGA's first Administrative Fellow



Earlier this academic year, Arnett C. Mace Jr., UGA's senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, announced the reorganization of his office to include a newly created rotating one-year fellowship for faculty members interested in obtaining administrative experience, and School of Law Associate Professor Lonnie T. Brown

Jr. became the first to hold the position.

Brown came to UGA in the fall of 2002 and has taught Civil Procedure, Legal Profession and Conflict of Laws.

Previously, he was an assistant professor at the University of Illinois College of Law and served as a visiting assistant professor at Vanderbilt University. He was also a judicial clerk for Judge William C. O'Kelley of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. From 1991 to 1999, he practiced law as an associate and then as a partner at Alston & Bird.

Brown was appointed by the Supreme Court of Georgia in 2004 to a three-year term as a member of the review panel of the State Disciplinary Board for the State Bar of Georgia and spent one year as the vice chair of that body.

In addition, he has served on the executive committee for the Professional Responsibility Section of the Association of American Law Schools. He is currently a member of the AALS Committee on Bar Admission and Lawyer Performance as well as a member of the American Bar Association's Center for Professional Responsibility.

Brown earned his Juris Doctor from Vanderbilt University, where he was a Patrick Wilson Scholar and editor in chief of the *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law*. He obtained his bachelor's degree from Emory University.

Mace said he is pleased to offer a valuable training and learning opportunity for faculty who may be interested in future administrative positions.

Scherr becomes first on law faculty to receive NSF grant



Recently, University of Georgia School of Law Associate Professor and Director of Civil Clinics Alexander W. Scherr became the first full-time law professor in the School of

Law to receive a grant from the National Science Foundation.

The \$100,000 grant was awarded to Scherr and Clark University Assistant Professor of Geography Deborah G. Martin to study the impact that legal practices have on the formation of a community's identity. The study will focus on disputes between neighborhood residents and privately-run group homes for homeless and mentally ill individuals.

People often object if a vacant house next door becomes a group home or if an empty lot becomes a shelter for the homeless, according to Scherr.

"It is not that those facilities are bad things to have. They are needed and are present in most communities. However, locating a

facility in a neighborhood has the potential to change the neighborhood's identity and can affect strongly felt values for its residents," he said.

"The goal of this research is to look at cases in which residents have hired lawyers to fight new facilities," Scherr added. "We want to look at how lawyers influence these conflicts through their choices about process, strategy and outcome. Those choices can shape the community's sense of itself and may impact later disputes involving similar values."

Another focus of the research is to describe how lawyering and the legal process affect community activism, and thus to increase the understanding of the relationship between geographical identity and the law.

"The findings may also lead to improved ways of dealing with similar disputes, including ways to better equip the attorneys who work on them," he said.

The study, titled "Legalizing Community: Lawyers and Citizen Activism in Neighborhood Disputes," is scheduled to be completed by spring 2009.

Georgia Law named sixth best value

In a recent ranking that appeared in the 2007 back to school edition of *PreLaw*, a National Jurist publication, the School of Law was named the sixth best value among law schools across the nation.

The ranking looked at "schools that deliver results at an affordable price" and was derived by using the Law School Admission Council's "Official Guide to Law Schools" to compare tuition rates with bar passage and employment rates of both public and private law schools throughout the country.

The article stressed how important it is for students to look not only at the type of education they will receive when considering law schools but also at how much each school will cost and how that will affect what they want to do when they graduate.

Land Use Clinic celebrates fifth anniversary

The Land Use Clinic celebrated its fifth anniversary this past fall. The clinic was originally created to give Georgia Law students an opportunity to develop practical skills in land use law and policy and, five short years later, it has done that and more.

Since its inception, participants in the clinic have written the first comprehensive Transferable Development Rights (TDR) ordinance in the state of Georgia and worked as part of a team that created a habitat conservation plan for the Etowah River, which received the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director's Conservation Award.

Students have also helped establish the Initiative for Watershed Excellence: Upper Altamaha Pilot Project to protect and improve water quality through local regulation and researched and drafted many documents on topics such as "Strip Corridor Revitalization" and "Sign Control on Rural Corridors" to aid quality growth in communities.

"It is amazing to look back over the past five years and see everything our students have accomplished," Land Use Clinic

Managing Attorney Jamie Baker Roskie (J.D.'01) said. "Their work has had a great impact both locally and nationally."

Roskie added that moving forward, the Land Use Clinic will continue its core work while expanding services to include assistance with affordable housing and environmental justice issues, such as the impact of industrial pollution on minority neighborhoods in areas that have become zoned for industrial use.

Land Use Clinic



university of georgia

School of Law & College of Environment and Design

Georgia Law in the news

Was Thurbert Baker right to appeal in Wilson case?

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The Genarlow Wilson case garnered national attention when then 17-year-old Wilson was convicted of aggravated child molestation for having consensual oral sex with a 15-year-old and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. In 2007, a Monroe County Superior Court judge granted Wilson's habeas corpus petition, prompting Georgia's Attorney General Thurbert Baker to appeal the decision to the Georgia Supreme Court. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* published two opposing opinions on the same day regarding Baker's appeal, written by Georgia Law professors **Ronald L. Carlson** and **Donald E. Wilkes Jr.** Carlson, who supported Baker's decision, wrote, "The appeal by Baker's office of the Wilson case, and a comprehensive judicial opinion on all of the important issues, provide the best hope for avoiding judicial chaos." In opposition, Wilkes stated, "Genarlow Wilson's 10-year sentence and continued imprisonment is recognized, in this state and across the country as a grave miscarriage of justice. ... Instead of acting to correct a gross injustice, Thurbert Baker has aggravated it."

High court may look favorably on municipal bond tax breaks

BusinessWeek

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in a challenge to the state of Kentucky's case regarding special tax breaks on municipal bond interest. Many legal experts believe the justices will overturn a state court ruling stating tax breaks that favor in-state over out-of-state bonds are an unconstitutional interference with interstate commerce. Tax law authority **Walter Hellerstein** believes things look good for the states. Citing the case *United Haulers v. Oneida-Herkimer*, in which laws favoring local government should not be subject to the same scrutiny as laws favoring private businesses, Hellerstein said to *BusinessWeek*, "The court seems to have carved out an exception for public entities when they discriminate."

Funding issues in Nichols case raise questions

The Telegraph

Defense funding issues have delayed the Brian Nichols trial and have called into question the effectiveness of public defenders who must build a case with limited state funds. Legal experts say defendants are entitled to an effective defense and a fair trial but that does not necessarily mean both the prosecution and defense have to have equal funding. Commenting on the case in an *Associated Press* article appearing in *The Macon Telegraph*, Prosecutorial Clinic Director **Alan A. Cook (J.D.'84)** said, "I don't think if the state theoretically spends \$100,000, the defense needs to spend \$100,000 to give the defendant an effective defense."

Catching a "predator" can be tricky

In July 2006, Dateline NBC's "To Catch a Predator" stings caught Robert Gerald White with the help of Xavier von Erck, founder of perverted-justice.com. While White awaits his trial, his attorney has appeared before a Georgia Superior Court judge in an attempt to get an arrest warrant for von Erck on the basis he solicited White to commit a crime when he posed as a 15-year-old girl online and chatted with him. **Russell C. Gabriel (J.D.'85)**, director of the Criminal Defense Clinic, agreed with the lawyer's argument and told the *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, "If members of Perverted Justice, the group that poses as decoys for the television show, hadn't chatted with men such as White, no crime would have been committed."

A conservative shift

THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

After the retirement of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who was considered a crucial swing vote during many of her final years on the bench, the court has been split in a sharp divide in the area of civil rights. A new conservative majority has emerged, led by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and solidified by Justice Samuel A. Alito, and has succeeded in shifting the law in a number of important cases. The effect of these new opinions is discussed in Assistant Professor **Sonja R. West's** article "A Conservative Shift." Published in *The National Law Journal*, West wrote, "What is less certain from these opinions, however, is the true extent of their reach. Court watchers, and even the justices themselves, are debating whether this term's decisions were exercises in judicial modesty or a sweeping overhaul of important precedents."

- Compiled by Leigh Tenewitz

