

Cleland speaks at public interest weekend



Former U.S. Sen. Max Cleland presented “We are Public Interest” as the keynote speaker for the 25th Annual Equal Justice Foundation Auction and the 5th Annual Working in the Public Interest Law Conference. This is the second time the two groups hosted a combined event, the first of which received the UGA 2009 H. Gordon and Francis S. Davis S.O.A.R. Award for Outstanding Campus Event.

The 25th Annual Equal Justice Foundation Auction and the 5th Annual Working in the Public Interest Law Conference joined forces again this spring to host two days dedicated to the field of public interest at the law school.

The event included a keynote address by former U.S. Sen. J. Maxwell “Max” Cleland, an auction to raise money for stu-

dents working in public interest positions and a variety of roundtable and panel discussions exploring public interest issues.

“The vehicle of law is one of many tools available to combat social injustice,” third-year law student and conference co-organizer Stinson W. Ferguson said. “Our goal was to raise awareness while supporting and equipping those trying to make a difference. I believe we accomplished that and more.”

In his presentation titled “We are Public Interest,” Cleland stressed the importance of being a public servant. He also discussed

the pressure on politicians, legislators and lawyers to please their constituencies while still working for the benefit of the public as a whole.

Notable academics and practitioners from across the country also weighed in on topics such as: human sex trafficking; issues facing former inmates struggling to reintegrate into society; the disproportionate impact of pollution in minority and impoverished communities; the pipeline carrying children from foster care to juvenile delinquency; hate crimes directed at members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community; the role of treatment-based programs within the judiciary such as drug courts; and balancing the competing interests of our nation and immigrants.

In support of students working to right these and other social grievances, EJF hosted their annual auction during the conference, raising more than \$30,000 – a record high. These proceeds help fund EJF’s summer fellowships, which give monetary aid to Georgia Law students in public interest positions.

The weekend also celebrated those who have made outstanding contributions to the public interest arena with the presentation of three awards. The Milner S. Ball Working in the Public Interest Lifetime Achievement Award went to John W. Whitehead, founder and president of The Rutherford Institute, while the EJF Annual Practitioner Award was presented to H. Bradford Morris Jr., a public defender for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit. Nikki D. Thanos, a third-year law student at Loyola University at New Orleans, was also honored for her contributions with the Working in the Public Interest Student Achievement Award.

Morehead appointed senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at UGA



Alumnus Jere W. Morehead (J.D.’80) officially began his service as the new senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at UGA on Jan. 1 of this year. He was chosen from among four finalists identified in a national search to fill the second-highest position in the university’s administration.

Morehead succeeded Arnett C. Mace Jr., who retired after 18 years of service to UGA, with seven of those years as provost.

“After reviewing all of their résumés and considering carefully these matters for 10 days or so, I became convinced that the person most capable of leading the academic mission of the University of Georgia for the next several years was already here in our vice president for instruction, Jere Morehead,” UGA President Michael F. Adams said in making the announcement.

As the chief academic officer of the university, the senior vice president for academic affairs and provost oversees instruction, research,

student affairs, and public service and outreach.

Since joining the UGA faculty in 1986, Morehead has held several leadership positions. He served as acting executive director for the Office of Legal Affairs from 1998 to 1999, as associate provost and director of the Honors Program from 1999 to 2004 and as vice provost for academic affairs from 2004 to 2006. In 2007, he was named vice president for instruction, after serving on an interim basis.

Additionally, Morehead co-chaired the university’s 1996-97 President’s Task Force on the Quality of the Undergraduate Experience and the 2004-05 Task Force on General Education and Student Learning.

Before joining the UGA faculty, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney with the Department of Justice for six years.

“I appreciate the opportunity to serve the university as its next provost,” Morehead said. “In everything I do in this position, I will attempt to maximize our academic resources to benefit this university, the state of Georgia, and those we serve around the world.”