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Interview With Paul Rollins

Paul Rollins

This is the 18th interview in our 224 part series, Better Know A Dean. Today we had the pleasure of sitting down with Paul Rollins, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Director of Admissions at the University of Georgia School of Law. Dean Rollins earned his JD from Yale Law School and currently supervises all phases of the admissions process for the juris doctor program, including recruitment, application review, decision-making, notification and the awarding of academic scholarships. In addition, he oversees the school’s Legal Career Services Office and its Student Affairs & Registrar Office.

Prior to joining Georgia Law, Rollins was the assistant dean for student services at the University of South Carolina School of Law, where he was responsible for admissions, career services and student affairs.

AD  Dean Rollins, thanks for taking time out of your busy schedule to answer a few questions that might be on the minds of prospective applicants.

PR  Not at all, it’s my pleasure to help out.

AD  Georgia Law improved from #35 to #28 in the most recent USNEWS rankings. In your opinion, what factors contributed to such a significant improvement?

PR  It’s hard to say. To some extent the USNEWS rankings are a bit of a mystery to everybody, which is why I always encourage applicants and law schools to take them with a grain of salt. But, obviously for us, we’re happy with the magazine’s calculation. Clearly, it’s better to have a more favorable ranking.

I think that part of what has contributed to our score improvement with USNEWS is that we have hired some additional faculty; this improved our student-faculty ratio, which has caused a ripple effect of sorts. A better student-faculty ratio has been a huge draw for incoming students and, as a result, we continue to see an improvement in the quality of our student body. I also think we have been more successful in attracting the best students and keeping the best Georgians here in state, particularly as the economy has gotten tougher since our tuition is such a bargain when compared to a lot of our peer schools. Our annual tuition for in-state residents is about $15,000/year, which means that you can attend three years at Georgia Law as a Georgia resident for less than the price of one-year tuition at many other private law schools. Our tuition rates are a more compelling sell for us as people become more cost conscious but do not want to sacrifice a quality education. In addition, it is possible for non-resident students to establish residency after the first year of law school and pay the in-state tuition.

AD  Thank you for your time, Paul. We appreciate your insight.

PR  My pleasure. It was nice talking to you, Dean Rollins.

AD  Thanks for your time, Paul. We appreciate your insight.
has gotten tougher since our tuition is such a bargain when compared to a lot of our peer schools. Our annual tuition for in-state residents is about $15,000/year, which means that you can attend three years at Georgia Law as a Georgia resident for less than the price of one-year tuition at many other private law schools. Our tuition rates are a more compelling sell for us as people become more cost conscious but do not want to sacrifice quality education. In addition, it is possible for non-resident students to establish residency after the first year of law school and pay the in-state tuition rate. AD True. I imagine these days a lot of the merit scholarships offered by law schools ranked in the T30 receive strong consideration by applicants who, just five years ago, might have only considered attending a school in the T14 even if it meant having to pay "sticker price." The current economy has really turned law school admissions on its ear now that students are so aware of how student loan debt can weigh them down long after graduation. PR Absolutely. In fact, I'll take it one step further and say that even if you don't get a scholarship offer from a state school like Georgia, if you're a Georgia resident there is a very compelling case to be made to accept a regular offer of admission from us. Our regular tuition for in-state students is roughly 1/3 the tuition of other private law schools. This means that an in-state student is getting what amounts to a 2/3 discount off what they would pay at many other law schools.

However, this math only makes sense if the applicant is not sacrificing quality to get the lower tuition price. By paying a lower tuition, students are not limiting their opportunities. Our students receive a top-notch education and our graduates have all the opportunities (if not more) than graduates of T14 schools.

For instance, in five of the last seven years we have placed a Georgia Law graduate as a clerk on the United States Supreme Court -- this puts us in some pretty rare company. A Supreme Court clerkship is perhaps the hardest and most prestigious job a law school graduate can get, and to have so many graduates from Georgia Law clerking on the Supreme Court is an amazing accomplishment. AD Actually, according to my research, since 1984, eight Georgia Law gradhs have served as clerks in the United States Supreme Court and, you're right, that's quite an accomplishment for a school that is ranked outside the T14. You're saying that it should now be 9 Georgia Law grads? PR Yes, the latest clerk was only announced yesterday so you probably wouldn't have it found when researching for this interview. We're proud to say that nine of our graduates have (or will) serve as clerks on the country's highest court and five of those clerkships came in the last seven years. AD You should be proud because, as you point out, your U.S. Supreme Court clerk placement record puts you in some pretty exclusive company. To what do you attribute the successful placement of your grads as clerks at the country's highest court? PR Applicants recognize the quality and value that a Georgia Law education represents, allowing us to admit students who can pretty much go to any law school in the country. The students who matriculate with us are among the most accomplished applicants in the national applicant pool. Many are Georgians who choose to stay here because of cost, location and networking opportunities. In addition, students select Georgia Law because our graduates are able to work in prestigious positions across the country -- including the Supreme Court.
The Georgia Law faculty also contributes greatly to our success in placing students in such competitive clerkships. Our law school has an extremely supportive group of professors and administrative staff who are committed to helping our students achieve their goals. Attaining a Supreme Court clerkship is really an institutional effort that requires not only students who are qualified for those positions, but also a law school who will support these students and facilitate their efforts. Many of our professors clerked on the Supreme Court or other federal courts and regularly provide strong letters of recommendation and other guidance for our students and graduates.

Moreover, our Career Services office regularly provides mock interviews to help our clerkship applicants prepare for the experience. This combined institutional push to help these candidates -- and all our students -- achieve the goals they set for themselves. That additional help and support often makes a huge difference in getting our graduates to where they want to be.

I must also emphasize the success that our previous Supreme Court clerks have lent to our continued ability to place our graduates at the Supreme Court. Obviously, there are only nine Justices on the Supreme Court and word would spread pretty quickly if the Georgia Law graduates who clerked there were not up to the challenge. How well our graduates have done in their clerkships has really helped pave the way for other, subsequent grads to compete for consideration. That contribution cannot be overstated.

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AD Okay, now according to your website, during the 2009-10 cycle applications increased by a whopping 39%! Considering that applications overall only went up about 2% during that period, something must be going on to make Georgia Law such a popular place to apply. What do you think drove the spike in applications last cycle? PR Yes, that’s correct. For the 2008-09 cycle we had just over 3,000 applications and then, during the following cycle (2009-10), we had 4,297. It’s a pretty sizable jump. AD I’d say so. Why do you think you experienced such an increase -- was it just the lower tuition combined with a solid reputation? PR I think that was a large part of the reason. It’s hard for me to account for all of it. The economy -- and the overall unemployment rate -- definitely played a roll in applications increasing, but as you point out that can’t be a huge factor since the national applicant pool didn’t grow all that much. So, I think an increased emphasis by applicants on things like value and costs probably helped us more than most schools. If you’re in a tight economy and you’re considering where to apply, the school that can offer you the greatest number of opportunities at the lowest cost is probably more appealing than a law school that is ranked higher but costs three times as much. Our high value and low cost probably played a large part in our applicants’ decision-making process.
In addition, we are a state school where it’s possible for a non-resident to establish residency after the first year. Again, with so many candidates concerned about the debt burden after graduation, I wouldn’t discount the fact that many out-of-state folks look at Georgia Law as a place they can come and establish residency for their 2L and 3L years and, as a result, dramatically decrease their tuition costs. This is not true at many other state schools. I believe this ability also played a part in the application increase we experienced last cycle -- especially with regards to our out-of-state applicants.

Also, we made a concerted effort to market the law school to prospective students more broadly. We sent out more promotional materials and expanded our recruiting to encourage people to apply and, frankly, to let people know just how good a law school we are. Regionally, we have a very strong reputation and most people around here know that. But a lot of the increase we experienced came from outside of Georgia so our outreach to areas where we may not have been as well known obviously paid off. AD Are you expecting the 2010-11 cycle to be as competitive? PR Maybe, but I’m not really sure. It is very early to tell and most indicators seem to point to a slightly smaller national applicant pool. But that could change. AD And what signals do you look at that point to a smaller applicant pool? PR There has been a lot more negative press about law school and the perceived value of a legal education. That, coupled with the concern that applicants have about the economy and, in particular, the availability of jobs after graduation are things that have me believe that there may be fewer folks who apply this cycle.

I’d also like to think that the economy as a whole is getting better and more people are getting jobs, which would prevent them from applying to law school. As you know, the common wisdom is that as the economy improves, fewer people apply to law school. I don’t know if that’s the case right now, but it could be a factor that would result in fewer law school applications. AD How about people taking the LSAT -- have those numbers dipped? PR Yes they have. LSAT registrations are down a bit. Additionally, there are a number of national recruiting events hosted by LSAC and attendance at those forums has been down substantially -- anywhere between 25-40%.

AD Wow, that’s a pretty big drop in attendance. Do you think that people are turning less to live law school forums and more toward the Internet when exploring their options regarding law school? When I interviewed Dean Rangappa from Yale in January, she expressed an opinion that live LSAC forums have become somewhat antiquated given the amount of information applicants can find from law school websites and other resources like AdmissionsDean.com. PR Yes -- I think that she is absolutely correct. There is so much more information that is conveniently available to applicants now than there was even 10 years ago. We have virtually everything an applicant could look for or ask about
on our website in addition to the standard written information. For example, an applicant can visit our website and take a virtual tour, or contact a student or professor with a question or to hear their experiences. With so much online news access there is not much to be gained by going to a face-to-face forum. I think the forums will be around for a while, but attendance is bound to continue decreasing over time and, eventually, I predict that LSAC law forums will become obsolete. AD So what will you do? I thought the best part of being an admissions dean was the perks of getting to go to all these great places. Take the forums away and all you have left is reading applications! PR [Laughing] It’s true. I think there are a lot of admissions officers who pack their suitcases at the beginning of September and return to the office after Thanksgiving. I’ve never really been one of those people because Georgia Law has always been selective about where we recruit in person. If the forums go away it won’t really affect me that much -- we will probably focus on a lot more on initiatives that we are already working on like honing our message online and in our print materials, connecting current students with prospective students through the web, or on-campus events where applicants can come here. All of these recruiting tools seem to be much more efficient than packing up a bag and traveling to forums. AD How do you guys use your current students in your recruiting process? Do you employ them or are they volunteers? PR Current students participate in the recruiting process in several ways. The Dean’s Ambassadors student group volunteers for our office by giving law school tours, assists at admitted students days and other law school events with prospective students. Once we admit an applicant, we invite them to connect with a student -- usually one of our Dean’s Ambassadors -- to answer questions and provide their perspective about life at Georgia Law. The Dean’s Ambassadors also host prospective students in their apartments when they travel to visit the school and participate in events for our admitted students -- this helps applicants save on travel costs.

We also employ a few current students who work in the admissions office by answering emails and telephone calls from prospective students. AD They’re not doing cold calls to prospects or applicants are they? PR No. The only calls our students make to admitted students are follow up calls to congratulate them on getting admitted and offer to answer any questions they might have about the law school or Athens. To the extent that we can, we try to match up the caller and the applicant. So, for instance, if the applicant attended Georgia Tech for undergrad, we might have a current student who is also an alum from Georgia Tech reach out to that applicant since they share some experiences in common and the caller’s perspective might be a bit more relevant. AD The reason I ask is because we’ve heard that some schools -- mostly in the fourth tier -- are employing current students to cold call not just applicants, but prospective applicants. PR Yeah, we don’t do any cold calls to prospective applicants. We will send a postcard or promotional materials to prospective students who have registered with the LSAC’s Candidate Referral Service (CRS). These applicants have agreed to receive information from law schools when they registered for to take the LSAT.
GETTING INTO LAW SCHOOL IS NOT ENOUGH

AD That's good to know. I can't imagine that prospective applicants would welcome getting a cold call from a current law student -- it seems pretty awkward and unseemly.

PR I agree, and we would never put one of our current law students in a position to do that. AD Georgia Law's application became available in mid-September. When do you begin receiving applications, reviewing them and making decisions? PR Students can begin applying on September 15th and this year we received our first application one week later on the 22nd. Our review process began after Thanksgiving. AD So you didn't even begin reviewing applications until after Thanksgiving? PR We actually began the review process, but we don't issue any decisions until after Thanksgiving. Last year we began about a week earlier, but this year for a whole host of reasons we didn't start until after the holiday. That's just when it seems like we'll be able to get the admissions committee together to meet. AD So is there any advantage gained by applying early - either to Georgia Law or any other law school? PR It's hard for me to speak for other law schools, but I imagine that our admissions process is not all that different from them. All things being equal, applying earlier is better.

Now, that said, an applicant should not rush the process. If a student is trying to determine whether or not to take the LSAT in December when they are not ready for it, or February, when they have had time to prepare -- hands down they should take the February administration of the LSAT, even if it means he or she might have to postpone their law school plans by a year. A good LSAT score or a strong application is better later in the process than a weaker one that is received earlier.

Georgia Law has a "modified rolling admissions" process. If you apply early and complete your application, you will be reviewed earlier. When we review your application one of three things can happen: you could be admitted right away, you could be denied right away or your application could be held for further review. A "hold" from us basically means that we want to wait and see how the entire applicant pool shapes up before making a decision about that particular candidate. As you might imagine, the decision about whether to admit or deny an applicant is a relative process. We are looking to admit the most qualified applicants from the pool of applications that we receive, so if you are not someone who can be described as a "clear admit" or a "clear deny" -- if you fall somewhere in the middle and we might need to hold on to your application for a little while so we have a chance to see compare you to the entire pool. AD I understand. And how do you distinguish being "held" from being "waitlisted?" PR We hold applications we are not ready to make a decision about. We don't waitlist anybody typically until the end of March. So, the committee will periodically review (and re-review) applications that are "held" -- often resulting in a final decision one way or the other. Then everyone who is still being held, when we have finished our review and fill the class, is ultimately placed on the waitlist. AD And who makes up your admissions committee? PR The
committee consists of me, the associate director of admissions, the assistant director of admissions, as well as five faculty members. The three admissions counselors all have law degrees. AD So they all review the applications? PR At least two people review every application. No applicant is admitted or denied without at least two reviews -- in truth, most folks get three reviews. AD Are you the person who makes the final determination on an applicant’s file? PR Yes. I actually review every application. AD Every application that comes in? PR That’s right. I am the only person who reviews every single one. AD You must be pretty busy these days! PR It certainly is a busy time.

Law Preview

GETTING INTO LAW SCHOOL IS NOT ENOUGH

AD Do you have an estimate of how long you actually spend reviewing an application? Given the amount of time and effort that applicants spend preparing their applications, I’m sure they would be interested to know how long you spend reviewing them. PR The admissions review process is relative. How much time we spend reviewing a particular application is really going to depend on that applicant’s credentials.

For example, a Georgia resident with a 180 LSAT and a 4.0 GPA will be a very quick review. When we are presented with an applicant who has high scores -- those well above our median -- we typically begin scanning the file looking for anything bad. If a quick review of the file shows that there is nothing bad then there’s no reason that person wouldn’t be admitted. Similarly, someone with a 125 LSAT score and a 2.1 GPA is going to be pretty quick review, too. AD [Laughing] Okay, I see what you mean. PR It’s those applicants who fall in the middle where the review takes a lot longer. And that’s often why we will decide to hold an application. Because when we hold an application, it means that the application is probably going to need additional review before a final decision is made. AD You have mentioned Georgia residents taking advantage of Georgia Law. Last cycle it looks like about 69% of your class members were Georgia residents. Does that number change or is that pretty consistent? Do you have a quota for in-state versus out-of-state residents? PR We do not have a quota. We typically break down in that 75-25 range -- 75% of our students are Georgia residents and the other 25% come from out-of-state. That usually happens naturally. In the initial admissions process, there is really not much of a disadvantage to being a non-resident. The reason it breaks down that way is because our yield rate is really, really high from Georgia residents and it’s lower from non-residents.

Now, where it does sometimes make a difference is for applicants on the waitlist. If you are a Georgia resident and you are on the waitlist, then you will usually have a definite advantage. AD Do Georgia residents receive preferential treatment if they are on the waitlist? PR Yes, they get preference. And that sometimes means that we don’t even have non-residents on the waitlist as we get further into the process. AD I see. You’ve already mentioned that you personally read all the applications in the cycle, but can you walk us
through your admissions process? When you pick up an application, where do you start? 
What do you like to read first, the LSAT score, the UGPA and make a quick determination as to whether this person is going to be an easy or hard decision? PR I wouldn’t say that I follow any methodical order. I guess because when I open a file, the LSDAS report is always on the left hand side I do tend to review that information first, so that I can see an applicant’s academic record and his or her LSAT score. But I always read the entire file. I look at the entire application, the personal statement and the letters of recommendation and, honestly, I tend to gravitate toward the applicant’s response to question #24 on our application -- that’s the question that every law school asks in some form about whether the person has had any criminal or academic discipline problems. That’s always read early in my review -- particularly when the candidate has strong numbers and I’m looking to see if there is anything negative in their past.

When a student’s numerical credentials put him or her in a competitive position, then other parts of the application tend to factor less in our decision. When a candidate’s numbers can easily distinguish him or her from other members of the applicant pool -- both good and bad -- then those numbers carry a lot of weight. But, the fact of the matter is for the bulk of our applicants, their numbers aren’t all that different. Those are the more difficult decisions when all of the other parts of the application matter a lot more.

AD Right. How do you handle somebody who is a splitter, like say somebody who has a high LSAT score, but a much lower GPA? PR When we see split numbers we tend to scrutinize the numbers a bit more closely. For example, if someone has a high LSAT and a low GPA then that’s the traditional “slacker” profile, right? AD Right. PR That’s the profile of a person who could do the work, but for whatever reason has not been living up to his or her potential. We are going to look at that applicant’s numbers and see if we can find an explanation as to why the GPA is lower. Did the person do poorly their first year of college and then pull it together in the end? Did they graduate from college 20 years ago -- before this era of rampant grade inflation at colleges and universities? Despite the lower GPA, does the applicant have other qualities that set them apart and make us want to admit them to our class? All of those things matter and will be considered.

Clearly, if a person’s GPA is too low -- well below our median -- then that applicant is going to need a much higher LSAT score to make them a more attractive candidate. Similarly, someone with a lower LSAT score is going to need a higher GPA to make him or her more competitive. If the person has a GPA and LSAT that are both very low, well then that applicant is going to have a tough up-hill battle. AD Okay. So, if you had a choice between a “splitter” or, say, a “reverse-splitter” -- someone with a high GPA, but a lower LSAT score -- which of those folks would you rather be? PR You know one of the reasons the LSAT is relied on so much by admissions offices is that it is the closest thing we have to an apple-to-apple comparison. When the GPA is really high and LSAT is lower, we will look more closely at the GPA -- where the applicant went to college, how rigorous was the applicant’s course load, and how his or her academic performance compares to other people from their undergraduate institution who are also applying to law school. We get all that information in the LSDAS report. We consider all those things in order to really understand what those grades mean. That’s where the “art” of law school admissions comes in when we try to figure that out. But, rest assured, we
definitely admit people every year who are “splitters” both ways. Those decisions just take a little extra attention and consideration. AD Now, in terms of the personal statement, do you have any advice for that part of the application? PR I don’t have anything that’s terribly enlightening. Most people are going to tell you that the essay needs to be well written, edited and concise. I guess the only thing I would add is that is must also be “relevant.”

The admissions committee looking for three things from every applicant: First, has he or she demonstrated an ability to do law school work -- this will largely be found in the academic record and the LSAT score report. Second, that the applicant has demonstrated time management skills and a serious work ethic -- what sorts of things have you done that show you can work hard, you can prioritize, you are a motivated person? And, third - - and this is a bit more amorphous -- what kind of character, integrity and commitment to something besides yourself can you show the admissions committee?

If you want a really oversimplified checklist, what we really want to know about you is that you’ll be able to do the required work, you’ll work very hard, and later -- either in school or after graduation -- you’re not going to be the type of person who’ll embarrass us. Does that make sense? AD [Laughing] Absolutely. PR So, when I say that the personal statement must be “relevant,” your personal statement should hit upon one (or more) of those things -- especially if that information cannot be found elsewhere in your application. We don’t want a narration of your resume or something like that. Instead, applicants should use the personal statement as an opportunity to discuss in greater detail these points of concern that the admissions committee might have.

AD Do you require a resume? PR We do not but I do strongly encourage one. AD What about letters of recommendation -- do you have any advice on that part of the application? PR We require two letters but will accept more than that. We typically receive between two and four letters of recommendation. If you are graduating this coming May -- or have graduated within the past year or two -- I strongly encourage you to get at least one (and probably two) academic letters from your undergraduate professors. If you have significant work experience because you have been out of school for a while, you have a little more flexibility about where your recommendation letters come from.

In terms of who you should ask to write a letter on your behalf, you definitely want to choose people who can comment on those things we just talked about: your academic ability, your work ethic and your character. And people who know you well are going to be better recommenders than people you think we might know well. By that I mean, make sure you choose a recommender who will be able to write a letter that addresses
those qualities. A letter from a well-known politician or family friend who happens to be Georgia Law alum, but does not truly know you, will not carry a lot of weight with the committee. AD Is it a red flag if somebody was a recent college grad but does not submit a letter of recommendation from one of his or her undergraduate professors? PR Yes. AD Do you ever get negative letters of recommendation? PR Sometimes, but not too often. We rarely get ones that are really bad -- I think that most people will decline an invitation to write a letter of recommendation before they will write one that is bad. But every once in a while we do get one that certainly doesn’t paint the most flattering picture of an applicant.

What we do get is a fair number of “generic” letters of recommendation. These letters tend to come from an elected official who doesn’t know the applicant very well. The letter is clearly a form letter and the same one that was probably written for 10 other people -- some of whom might also be applying to Georgia Law. If the applicant chooses such a person for a letter of recommendation, it demonstrates poor judgment because they blew a free opportunity to find someone -- anyone -- who can truly speak their abilities and/or qualities. The leaves the admissions committee to conclude one of two things: either this person does not have very good judgment or, worse, they couldn’t find someone who could vouch for them. AD [Laughing] So, do you require a diversity statement and how does that differ from a personal statement? PR Applicants have the option to submit a diversity statement. We have two optional essays and an applicant can submit one, both or neither. One is just a very open-ended question that asks whether there is anything else you would like the admissions committee to know about that may not appear elsewhere in your application.

The other optional essay is the diversity statement. If you’ll bring a different perspective to our law school community, you should share that in a diversity statement. I like to remind students that the optional statements are truly optional. Applicants who only submit a personal statement are not disadvantaged in any way. We don’t give extra points simply because an applicant submitted two (or three) essays. AD So, are you just looking for diversity from a racial or ethnic standpoint, or can the applicant write about anything that they think sets them apart from the rest of the pool? PR Our diversity statement question is very open-ended. We’ll read any diversity statement submitted that describes how an applicant believes he or she will offer some sort of diversity to the law school. For example, I have seen very effective diversity statements from applicants who have worked for 10 years. A doctor who wanted to go to law school wrote one such statement - - a person who is obviously a diverse applicant for us. So, diversity can be anything that sets you apart. It could be that it’s geographic diversity, a disability or some other hardship. It really is wide open. AD I understand. So, somebody who worked in law enforcement would be considered diverse because of the experience he or she would bring to the classroom. PR That’s right. Of the 4,297 applicants, someone who has worked as a doctor or police officer is certainly different because of his or her life experiences, which would certainly bring a different perspective into the classroom.

Although all applicants are technically “different” the same way snowflakes are different, the majority do not submit a diversity statement. If nothing comes to mind, then do not
feel forced to submit an answer to the optional diversity essay because you think you need to submit one to show you’re serious about attending Georgia Law. Most students do not submit a diversity statement. AD So, sell me on Athens. Convince me that Athens is a good place to call home for the next three years. PR We really encourage prospective students to visit Athens. I’m a transplant myself -- I’ve been here for about two and half years and it’s just an incredible place to live. It’s certainly a college town, but it’s also so much more.

The law school is situated on the historic part of campus. Our graduation is held right outside on the quad. It’s absolutely gorgeous. We are within walking distance of downtown Athens -- a place routinely ranked as one of the best towns in America. There are tons of local and ethnic restaurants, coffee shops, bars, and music venues. Students also enjoy the University of Georgia resources like sporting events, workout facilities, and health center. It’s also a great biking town and there are plenty of good places to hike around here. Athens also has a well-established music scene, that’s home to . . . AD REM, right? PR Yes, REM, the B-52’s, Widespread Panic and a lot of up-and-coming, local bands. There is just a lot going on.

The other great thing about Athens for a law student -- as compared to Atlanta or many other cities where law schools are located -- is that the cost of living here is relatively inexpensive. There is a great bus system, but if you have a car, there is always a place to park at the law school. Unlike Atlanta, the commute is never bad and you can live close to campus and it will not cost you a lot of money. AD And that’s a big deal that actually dovetails nicely with the next set of questions, which focus on the financial aspect of going to a state school like Georgia Law -- one that offers in-state residents a break on tuition. But before we get talk about financing a legal education, can we talk briefly about application fees?

PR Sure. Our application fee is $50. AD Okay, and if a student wants to get an application fee waiver, how generous are you in giving those? PR We are fairly generous. If a student gets a LSAT fee waiver from the LSAC, then we will not charge them an application fee. So, that’s one way to get a fee waiver. Additionally, if an applicant is registered with the LSAC’s Candidate Referral Service, we have an opportunity to see their LSAT score and UGPA. Based on those scores, we’ll invite an applicant to apply free of charge.

Lastly, if a student wants to request a fee waiver and they email me, or one of the other folks who work in the Admissions Office, and explain their need for a fee waiver -- we tend to be pretty lenient. We don’t require financial documentation because we don’t want the fee to be an impediment to good applicants applying. We expect that if the
student who wants to apply can afford to pay the fee, then, in most cases, they will pay it. But if they can't, then they just need to tell us the reason they can't afford to pay it and we'll usually take their word for it. AD In doing my research on Georgia Law, I saw that you offer some pretty unique scholarships. Can you tell us about the tuition equalization scholarship and the tuition reduction scholarship and how these two scholarship awards differ? PR Sure. The tuition equalization scholarship is a one-year reduction in tuition from the non-resident rate to the resident rate. For the first year of law school, non-resident students who receive the tuition equalization scholarship will pay as if they were Georgia residents. It's a one-year commitment because the vast majority of students after the 1L year will successfully establish residency and petition for in-state tuition during the second and third years. So, essentially if you receive one of these scholarships then it means that as a non-resident you would enter law school and likely pay resident tuition for each of your three years here. It's not a guarantee that you will receive resident tuition in years two and three. There is information about establishing residency on our website and residency decisions are made within the law school by the admissions office. Non-resident students can contact our office with questions about what needs to happen in order for them to establish residency.

The tuition reduction scholarship is essentially the same thing, with the only difference being that you pay non-resident tuition for the fall semester of your first year. Then, during the spring semester, you pay what amounts to in-state tuition. So, again, if you receive one of these scholarships and you successfully establish Georgia residency starting in the second year, you only pay non-resident tuition for the fall semester of the 1L year. AD And how many of the 77 non-resident students that matriculated last year received one of these scholarships? PR Forty-seven. AD That's 61% -- a pretty impressive number! Now, can you briefly describe the process someone has to go through to establish residency in Georgia in order to qualify for the in-state tuition rate during the 2L and 3L years? PR It's a technical process but it's really not that rigorous. Students must complete a two or three page form that's available on our website, www.law.uga.edu/georgia-residency. Obviously, they must reside in Georgia and have a Georgia address for 12 months prior to the beginning of the term for which they seek to pay resident tuition. They also need to be financially independent, which means that more than 50% of their financial support needs to come from a source directly attributable to them.

So, for example, loans for law school that are in the student's name without a cosigner will count as the student's own financial support. Scholarships, including the tuition equalization scholarship or the tuition reduction scholarship, also count as support and are directly attributable to the student. Money that a student can document that they have earned prior to law school and are now spending while they are in school also counts toward their own support.

What wouldn't count is when, for example, a student's parents who live in another state write a check for the entirety of tuition and living expenses. In that case the student would not be considered "financially independent." Similarly, they cannot be claimed as a dependent on their parents' tax returns for the year prior to the one in which they seek
to establish residency. AD Okay, that all seems pretty straightforward. Are there any other hoops a student would have to jump through in order to establish residency? PR There are, but they are not terribly onerous. They must do a few things to demonstrate that they plan to call Georgia home after they graduate. You know, they need to do all the things that a good Georgian would do: get a Georgia driver’s license, register their vehicle in Georgia, get a bank account with a local address, stuff like that. AD Perhaps start a peanut farm? PR [Laughing] Sure. I haven’t had someone try that, but it might work. AD What about the Georgia Law Scholars Program? What can you tell us about that scholarship program? PR That’s our most generous scholarship program. It’s a full-tuition scholarship for all three years and is restricted to Georgia residents. Georgia Law Scholars are selected based on the application for admission. What we try to do is identify the most promising Georgia residents who enroll in the law school. AD Is the scholarship something you can lose based on your performance after the first year? PR Yes, if you have less than a 2.7 GPA you could lose your scholarship. AD And what’s your curve at Georgia? PR A GPA of a 2.7 is right around the bottom 25% of the class. AD Oh, so they would have to do very poorly. PR Yes. It’s very rare for someone to lose their scholarship.

AD In a given class, how many students are invited to attend as Georgia Law Scholars? PR It varies. We offer quite a few, but they don’t all come here. So the number that we actually award varies depending on the yield. Typically we will have somewhere between 1 and 4 Georgia Scholars in a class. AD And what’s the yield? How many Georgia Law Scholars invitations do you have to extend in order to get to that yield that number? PR That’s varies quite a bit too, but I’d say we extend the offer between 8 and 15 applicants. AD What factors do you consider deciding whether to offer a full tuition scholarship? PR For those applicants we consider every aspect of the application. Letters of recommendations, personal statement, work experience, service experience, leadership skills and, of course, an applicant’s LSAT score and UGPA. They are going to have to have really good numerical credentials -- a very strong GPA and LSAT score. In addition, they have got to have something unique about them -- whether it’s significant leadership experience, significant work experience -- something that makes us think they are going to perform at the top of the class. We are making a sizable investment in these applicants and really want them to be the cream of the crop. AD Do you interview these candidates? PR We do not hold evaluative interviews. We have done that in the past but have not done it in recent years. AD Does Georgia Law offer a Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) program? PR We do. Our LRAP program is in its infancy. I don’t administer the LRAP program but I do know that about 6 students per year receive funds from that program. Since our LRAP is relatively new, it’s certainly not the sole reason that you should choose to come to law school here -- because you want go into the public interest field and we’ll pick up all your loans. We will assist some students, but
obviously a more lucrative program that's available more broadly to every law school is The College Cost Reduction Act of 2007. AD How long has Georgia Law's LRAP been around? PR Less than 10 years. It's an endowment and the market hasn't been great lately so you can imagine that it will get better as the endowment grows and matures. I tell every student that when you are looking at LRAP programs you need to ask how many students receive these funds and, most importantly, what's the average grant amount? AD [Laughing] OK, so if that's such a good question, then I'd better ask it: For the six students who received LRAP funds last year, what was the average grant amount? PR It was about $1000. AD Oh really? PR Yeah. AD So we're not talking about a lot of money then. PR No, not at all and I am very candid with students when they ask about it. AD You oversee the Career Placement Office as well, correct?

PR Yes. AD Then let's talk about jobs. I did a little digging and it looks like Georgia Law took some knocks on AboveTheLaw.com last spring. PR We did indeed. AD Just to recap -- I guess somebody at the school had posted a minimum wage job to move some boxes and they were overwhelmed with students who wanted the work. Are you starting to see law firms returning to campus to recruit students this year? PR We are, but can I address that AboveTheLaw.com incident first? AD By all means. PR Look, anything that gets posted on AboveTheLaw must be taken with a grain of salt. The library staff needed help moving boxes and sent an email out to students about a very flexible, temporary position that would allow a student to earn a few extra dollars. It was not intended to be a permanent job or a position that would be counted towards the school's employment statistics. Basically, ATL took a non-event and gave it the most negative spin it could have possibly been given. AD That's kind of what they do at ATL. That's what makes the website a "guilty pleasure" for so many lawyers and law students. PR Yes, that is what they do. AD Now, getting back to the second part of my question: is the University of Georgia School of Law seeing law firms come back on campus to interview? It's no secret that the past couple of years have created a very difficult legal hiring market and law schools across the country have seen many large law firms scale back (or abandon) their summer associate programs. As a result, many schools reported fewer employers coming on campus to interview for on-campus interviews (OCI). Having just completed the fall 2010 OCI period, what are your impressions? Has there been a turnaround? PR Yes, law firms definitely interviewed fewer students (nationwide) in 2009, but in actuality Georgia Law didn't lose that many firms coming on campus. To the extent that Atlanta firms are going to interview anywhere, they come here. What we saw instead of a marked decrease in the number of firms coming on campus was that the firms that interviewed on campus here just hired fewer people. Obviously, that led to fewer job offers coming out of OCI.

This past fall has definitely seen an increase in both the number of interviews granted and
offers awarded. The economy is slowly turning around. We are not back to the pre-recession employment levels of 2007, but it definitely seems to have picked up. AD Now if somebody who is reading this wants to go Georgia Law and eventually work at a big law firm in Atlanta, DC or New York, what’s your best advice to that person? PR In terms of working in Atlanta, we have one of the strongest connections to that legal market based on our huge alumni network in the area. A lot of people don’t know but outside of Atlanta our largest alumni base is in Washington DC. Our graduates place really well in DC. We also send folks to New York every year.

As for what these large private law firms look for? The big firms tend to hire people who do well during the first-year and are members of law review and other academic journals. That’s the profile of the person who typically gets hired by the big firms. It’s a competitive market for any of those large law firms -- particularly now. This means that excellent 1L grades are going to get you an interview for a summer associate position at most of these places, but you probably need some other things on your resume -- law review or journal experience, moot court, etc. -- to close the deal and land the job.

I guess what I would tell students who, right now, are convinced they want to work at a big firm is that although most students think they know what they want to do before they come to law school, they really don’t. One of the advantages that Georgia Law offers is that our students have a broader variety of job options when they come here. So, if a big law firm in DC is the only job that you want and you don’t get it, then what do you do? AD Then you have to have a Plan B. PR Exactly. One of the biggest advantages that our students have is that if they change their mind and decide they don’t want to work at a large firm -- or simply don’t get that job -- they are in a better position to consider other career options because their loan repayment obligations don’t preclude them from looking more broadly. A lower debt load coming out of law school allows our graduates to consider a wider range of employment opportunities and this has allowed our graduates to weather this economic storm better than graduates at some other law schools. AD That makes perfect sense. I worked at a big law firm in Manhattan and it’s definitely not for everyone. The fact that I didn’t have a lot of debt coming out of law school allowed me to pursue other options that, although not as lucrative, would provide me with more of a life. When students grab that brass ring and land that big firm job, that’s only the beginning -- now you’ve got to do the work and live that lifestyle and, as you know, they aren’t paying law school grads $160,000/year for no reason. You’re going to work for it. If you don’t need that money to repay your student loans then you suddenly have more options. PR Yeah I am with you and would take it one step further. Doing well in law school -- especially during the first year -- also provides students with options. Top grades open doors and poor grades will close them. Top law school grades open the doors not only to large law firms but also clerkships, government agencies, academia, NGO’s -- really anywhere. Say you start at a private law firm and ultimately decide it’s not for you -- you need to have other career options. Top grades provide you with that type of flexibility.

I think that there is a misconception not just here but everywhere in the country that “I’ve got to land a job during OCI and it’s got to be with a big firm.” Some students want the
big firm lifestyle and once they get it they end up loving it. However, the fact of the matter is that many students learn the hard way that big firm life is not all it’s cracked up to be.

I suspect that the vast majority of students around the country look at large private law firms as the only option to help them repay their student loans. The nice thing about coming to a place like Georgia Law is that you have the option of going the big firm route -- or even a Supreme Court clerkship if you want it -- but because you will probably graduate with a much smaller debt load than at other law schools you have a choice about where you end up.

Applicants need to think hard about the ways they will finance their legal education now -- when they are applying -- so they can look three, five, even ten years down the road and understand what it is going to take to repay those loans. They don’t want to be in a position where the only choice is to work at a big firm. The big firm lifestyle is not palatable to everyone, and those jobs have become harder and harder to get in this new economy. They typically go to students who perform very well during their first year of law school. The first year is stressful enough and you don’t want to add any more pressure on yourself. AD I think that’s good advice. As someone who oversees career placement, how important is it to do well during the first-year? PR Because many legal employers interview during the fall semester of the second year for their summer associate programs, 1L grades are often the only thing they have to go on when deciding whether or not to grant an on-campus interview. So, frankly, a student’s first-year grades do carry a lot of weight -- especially for students hoping to land a job at a large law firm in New York, Washington, DC or Atlanta. Even if you don’t want to end up at a large firm, though, because most schools use first-year grades to determine honors like law review and journal participation -- honors and activities that almost every legal employer (large and small) value -- top grades will help open doors down the road to jobs like judicial clerkships, academia, governmental agencies, etc. While we obviously have students outside the top 10% of the class who find legal careers that they enjoy, the fact remains that top 1L grades open more doors early, providing students with more options.

AD Let’s talk about transferring. If I don’t get into Georgia Law on my first try, how hard is it to transfer in as a 2L? PR It’s very unpredictable, that’s the best I can say. As a transfer applicant there are several things that are beyond your control. The first is who else applies to transfer and the overall quality of the transfer applicant pool. We see pretty significant swings in the number (and quality) of transfer applications that we receive every year.

The other factor out of a transfer applicant’s control is the number seats available for
transfers. During my tenure, we have admitted at few as 4 transfers and as many as 18. Obviously, in years when our regular enrollments are down and we have more room for transfers, then an applicant’s chances are going to be better. If, however, you are applying when our enrollment is higher and we only have a couple of spots, then the transfer applicant is going to face some stiff competition.

To make yourself a competitive transfer applicant in any year you need to be transferring from an ABA-approved law school. You also need to have been in at least the top half of your first-year class, but more likely in the top 25%. This is another example of how strong 1L grades can open more doors -- like transferring to another school. AD Wow, that’s pretty liberal because what I hear from other schools that are similarly ranked is that you must be in the top 10% of the 1L class in order to get considered for a transfer. PR It varies so much depending on the reason why they want to transfer and the school they are seeking to transfer from. To be honest, during a competitive year, being in the top 25-50% of your 1L class might get you considered, but may not get you admitted. If we get 75 applications for only 4 spots, then it doesn’t get much more competitive than that and we tend to select students who performed at the very top of their class. In years when we admit 15 or 18 transfers, we will tend to dig a little deeper in the class. AD When admitting transfers, are you giving a preference to Georgia residents? Are those most of your admits? PR Yes, I would say most of our transfer students are Georgians -- not all, but certainly most. And some of them are students who did not apply through our regular admittance program. They were just Georgia residents who realized a little too late that they were taking on unnecessary debt and decided to transfer back in order to save some money. Because of the economy, and the fact that our graduates have just as many career options as those from other law schools, we have seen more and more of these types of transfer applicants in the past couple of years -- those who may have mistakenly overlooked Georgia Law the first time around. AD Do you guys have a tough time retaining your top students you from transferring out? PR One of the great things about Georgia Law is that our students really want to be here. We lose almost nobody as a transfer to another law school. In fact, in our current 2L class -- the folks who just finished their 1L year -- we had only one student transfer out. Oftentimes, we have none. AD You obviously are keeping your students very happy by providing a good value between the employment opportunities a Georgia Law degree offers your graduates and the relatively low cost of tuition. PR Yes, we’re proud of the fact that once admitted, the overwhelming majority of our students decide that they made the right choice. AD For that one student who did transfer, where did he or she end up going? PR I think she ended up transferring to the University of Chicago. AD Given the geographic differences between Athens and Chicago, there might have been other factors weighing on her decision. PR That may very well be the case. AD Well, Dean Rollins I think we’ve covered just about everything. Thank you so much for taking the time to talk with me today. PR It’s been my pleasure. I hope this interview proves helpful to AdmissionsDean.com users.
Chairman's Letter/Winter 2011

Dear Friends -

Much can happen in a year to change one's perspective. At this time last year we were coming out of a very difficult and economically challenging 2009, hoping for a different direction in 2010 ... and, I'm happy to say, we saw a turnaround beginning to happen.

2010 was a good year for the University of Georgia Foundation as our investment returns improved significantly and the generosity of you, our donors, never wavered. It is truly gratifying to know there are so many people who share our love for the University of Georgia and continue to make the university a priority in their annual giving.

I am optimistic that 2011 will produce another step forward for the foundation's investments. But why wouldn't I be optimistic? We are blessed to have a dedicated and highly skilled board of trustees who are relentless in their pursuit of the best. These individuals always go the extra mile with their service and their gifts to assure the foundation continues to support the academic mission of the University of Georgia to the fullest extent.

Here's wishing you a happy and prosperous 2011 and my sincere thanks for your continued generosity.

Sam Holmes, Chairman

Foundation Fellow Tracy Yang named 2011 Rhodes Scholar

Foundation Fellow Tracy Yang of Macon has been awarded a 2011 Rhodes Scholarship to attend England's Oxford University. She plans to pursue a Master of Science degree in global health science.

Yang is one of 32 Rhodes recipients in the United States and the only one from the state of Georgia; she is the third UGA female student to be selected since 1978, the first year women were eligible to apply. "Tracy is an amazing person," said David S. Williams, director of UGA's Honors Program and the UGA faculty representative for the Rhodes Scholarship. "She displays an uncommon intellect, a deep sense of dedication, profound empathy and extraordinary energy. Yet, she remains completely down to earth and is a delight to be around. Rhodes Scholars are not just impressive intellects. They are supposed to make the world a better place. I have no doubt that Tracy will do just that."

Yang, who also was a 2010 Truman Scholar, will graduate from UGA in May with a bachelor's degree in anthropology. She plans to pursue a career as a physician-policy analyst addressing health disparities and improving access to care.

Pierre Howard to join School of Law

Former Georgia Lt. Gov. Pierre Howard is joining the School of Law faculty as the Carl E. Sanders Political Leadership Scholar, an appointment funded by the University of Georgia Foundation. He will teach a course on law and politics. Howard served as lieutenant governor from 1991 to 1999. He is an emeritus trustee of the foundation and currently president of the Georgia Conservancy.

Katz awarded Mitchell Scholarship

Former Ramsey Honors Scholar Betsy Katz, a 2009 graduate of the University of Georgia, is one of 12 national recipients of a 2011-2012 George J. Mitchell Scholarship, sponsored by the U.S.-Ireland Alliance. The Thomasville native plans to pursue a master's degree in intercultural studies at Dublin City University in Ireland.
Environment & Design students spend productive semester at UGA Costa Rica

The College of Environment & Design sponsored a new fall semester program in Costa Rica in 2010. Led by faculty Ron Sawhill, Shelley Cannady and Jose Buitrago, 15 undergraduate and graduate students took a full semester of coursework that involved addressing multiple local design challenges, including a new stormwater management plan and a new “sensory trail” for the UGA Costa Rica Campus in San Luis de Monteverde. In addition, a new sustainable farm master plan was developed for EARTH University’s La Flor campus. Three students received UGA Foundation Incentive Scholarship grants for their semester in Costa Rica.

The students all spent part of their semester living with local families. Comments in journal assignments noted that these homestays were the most personally influential experiences students had during the program. Students also noted the visual richness of the environment offered something new every day – vegetation, wildlife, cultural interaction, watching mists pour over the mountains and enjoying the “symphony of bird calls.” Trips to the Arenal Volcano and the San Luis waterfall also were reported highlights.

Brown, Parks named as first chairs of animal studies

Two University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine faculty members have been appointed to new professorships funded by the University of Georgia Foundation. Dr. Scott Brown, who heads the college’s department of small animal medicine and surgery, has been appointed the first James and Marjorie Waggoner Professor of Small Animal Studies. Dr. Andrew Parks, head of the department of large animal medicine, has been appointed the first Olive K. Britt-Paul E. Hoffman Professor of Large Animal Studies.

“We are grateful to Dr. Britt and the Waggoners for their generosity and vision in creating these professorships that will provide support to the large animal medicine and small animal medicine and surgery departments in perpetuity,” said Dr. Sheila W. Allen, dean of the college. Both professors have been with the University of Georgia for more than 20 years.

UGA Foundation 2009 annual report recognized for excellence

The University of Georgia Foundation 2009 Annual Report was recently recognized with a Phoenix Award from the Georgia Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). The awards recognize excellence in public relations work in a variety of categories. The foundation’s report won in the category of “Nonprofit Organizations,” and beat out annual reports from The Georgia Tech Research Institute and United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. The annual report is produced by the foundation’s communications firm under the direction of the Development and Public Affairs Committee.

Wyck Knox named to list of 100 most influential Georgians

Georgia Trend magazine has named University of Georgia Foundation Emeritus Trustee Wyck Knox to its 13th annual list of 100 most influential Georgians. Knox, director of AGL Resources and president of Knox Charity Fund, was recognized for handling complex litigation and arguing numerous cases in front of state and federal court, including the Georgia Supreme Court. Knox served 10 years as a managing trustee for the foundation -- serving on the executive, finance and investment committees -- and was accorded emeritus status in 2008.

The University of Georgia Foundation accepts and manages gifts to the university according to donor wishes. For more information, please call (706) 542-6677 or visit the foundation’s website at www.ugafoundation.org.
This is the 13th edition of Georgia Trend's 100 Most Influential Georgians, and it reflects a changing of the guard at the highest levels of state government and business leadership, while furthering the notion of Georgia as, basically, a one-party state.

Republicans now hold every constitutional office, there is a new Republican governor, and politicians across the state continue to leave the Democratic Party in an effort to curry favor with voters. Georgia is redder than ever before.

Meanwhile, there is new leadership at the top of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Fort Benning, the Georgia Ports Authority - four of the state's most powerful forces for economic and business growth.

These 100 are people who affect the course of events in Georgia, who influence what you think and how you live during the toughest economic era since the Great Depression. [And, for the most part, their phone numbers are publically listed.]

Profiles were written by Candice Dyer, Linda M. Erbele, Jerry Grillo, Karen Kennedy, Bobby Nesbitt, Don Sadler, Alan Sverdlik and Ben Young.

Dr. Michael F. Adams
President, University of Georgia
Athens
Age: 62

Severe state budget cuts haven't kept the students away from UGA although total enrollment is 34,677 this year, down slightly. But there has been plenty of good news: For the second year, UGA set a record for research funding, with sources totaling approximately $176 million. In 2010 the first class of 40 students enrolled in the new medical school at UGA, in a partnership arrangement with the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta.

Dan Amos
CEO/Chairman
Aflac
Columbus
Age: 59

Under his guidance, insurance giant Aflac has been added by the Ethisphere Institute to the list of the world's most ethical companies, to Fortune's Best Places to Work, to the Latina Style 50 as a Best Company for Latinas, and it is one of Black Enterprise's 40 Best Companies for Diversity. Since 1995, Aflac has raised and donated $60 million to the Aflac Cancer Center and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta's cancer research and treatment.

Ani Agnihotri
Founder/Managing Partner
U.S. India Business and Research Center (USIBRC)
Johns Creek
Age: 49

As founder and leader of consulting firm USIBRC, Agnihotri links together the business interests and opportunities of his chosen country, the U.S., and his birth country, India. He founded and chaired the first USA India Business Summit (last May in Atlanta) and in his spare time is CEO of IIIrd Millennium Technologies (a boutique technology company he started) and serves on several boards.

Richard H. Anderson
CEO
Delta Air Lines
Atlanta
Age: 55

For a CEO in a troubled industry, especially with only four years of leadership under his belt, Richard Anderson had to summon his 20 years of aviation experience to integrate the financial and corporate cultures of Delta and Northwest, which merged on his watch. Anderson expects the merged carrier to turn a profit in the fourth quarter of 2010.
100 Most Influential Georgians

Scott Angle
Dean/Director
University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Athens
Age: 57

Angle has helped the college extend its emphasis from traditional agricultural teaching and research into such areas as urban agriculture, agribusiness, food safety, natural resource conservation and environmental protection. His research has been aimed largely at finding ways to improve the quality of soil, focusing in particular on phytoremediation, or the use of plants to remove metals from soil.

Dr. Ricardo Azziz
President, Georgia Health Sciences University; CEO/Chairman, MCG Health System
Augusta
Age: 52

Azziz has not slowed down since being named president of GHSU (formerly Medical College of Georgia) in 2010, bringing 20 years of leadership in biomedical research and medical education with him. He has been at the forefront of the reorganization of the university's clinical and academic enterprises, which pulled the hospitals and clinics back under the university umbrella.

Cheryl A. Bachelder
CEO, AFC Enterprises
President, Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen
Atlanta
Age: 54

Bachelder is the chief peddler of New Orleans-style fast food as the leader of AFC Enterprises, which develops, operates and franchises Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen quick-service restaurants. With approximately 2,000 locations, the restaurant/brand (which originated in New Orleans) has expanded to 44 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and 27 other countries, most recently Malaysia and Egypt.

Joe Bankoff
CEO/President
Woodruff Arts Center
Atlanta
Age: 64

Bankoff heads the country's third largest arts consortium, made up of the Alliance Theatre, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the High Museum of Art, Young Audiences and the 14th Street Playhouse. He led the search that brought Robert Spano and Donald Runnicles to the ASO and chaired the task force that created the Metro Atlanta Arts and Culture Coalition.

Dr. Mark P. Becker
President
Georgia State University
Atlanta
Age: 52

Becker is leading Georgia State's transformation into a world-class urban university with a burgeoning student enrollment (more than 30,000 graduates and undergraduates), proximity to the city's cultural resources, and vastly improving academics and research (and a new football team). Becker has a five-year plan to bring in 100 new faculty members to fortify GSU's scholarly reputation.

Sanford Bishop
U.S. Congressman
District 2
Albany
Age: 63

Bishop survived the closest race of his political career, finally dispatching GOP challenger Mike Keown (a state legislator and pastor) with just 51.4 percent of the vote to win a 10th term in the November midterm election. Bishop, a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, led the way in securing $350 million to replace outdated Martin Army Hospital at Fort Benning.

Frank Blake
Chairman/CEO
The Home Depot
Atlanta
Age: 62

Blake has emphasized customer service at America's second-biggest retailer since taking the helm in 2007, prior to which he served as general counsel to the Environmental Protection Agency and General Electric. He was named one of the Best Managers of 2008 in BusinessWeek and sits on the board of the Georgia Aquarium.

Arthur Blank
Owner/CEO
Atlanta Falcons, Georgia Force Chairman, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation
Atlanta
Age: 68

Blank's energy and volubility are in evi-
dence whether the Falcons are winning, as they are this season, or losing. The Home Depot co-founder is a major philanthropic presence in Atlanta. His Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation provides more than $15 million in grants to nonprofit state agencies to improve fitness and reduce childhood obesity.

**Bill Bolling**
Executive Director/Founder
Atlanta Community Food Bank
Decatur
Age: 63

For more than 35 years, Bill Bolling has fought hunger by collaborating and creating partnerships. His work in creating a statewide food bank network has resulted in more than 2,500 nonprofit agencies distributing food. He tirelessly advocates for the issues of affordable housing, homelessness and poverty. In Metro Atlanta, the Food Bank provides more than 20 million pounds of food annually.

**John Brock**
CEO/Chairman
Coca-Cola Enterprises
Atlanta
Age: 62

Brock will continue to run the new, streamlined CCE, whose North American bottling operations were acquired by The Coca-Cola Company in a $13-billion deal last February. The new CCE, focused entirely on Western Europe, will remain headquartered in Atlanta, where Brock will serve this year as chairman of the Metro Atlanta Chamber.

**Bishop Dale Bronner**
Founder/Senior Pastor
Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral
Villa Rica
Age: 47

Dr. Bronner leads one of Metro Atlanta’s largest churches, with more than 15,000 members and an outreach that includes many more through his books and national television and radio broadcasts. He also serves on the board and is part owner of Bronner Bros., a family-owned hair care products corporation that has been in business since 1947.

**Maj. Gen. Robert Brown**
Commanding General
U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence
Fort Benning
Age: 53

Brown inherited the difficult task of managing the post in wartime as well as handling the preparation for the troops coming to Fort Benning from Fort Knox, Ky., as part of the $3.5-billion BRAC expansion. Previously stationed in Germany as chief of staff of the U.S. Army’s European operations, he is a veteran of military campaigns in Haiti and Bosnia, as well as Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**John Bulloch**
State Senator
Ochlocknee
Age: 63

Bulloch, a fourth-generation Thomas County farmer, is the influential chair of the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee and vice chairman of the Natural Resources and the Environment Committee. A strong voice for Georgia’s agricultural community, he has been an advocate for food processing safety and is a leader in trying to solve Georgia’s ongoing water needs.

**Charles Bullock III**
Richard B. Russell Professor of Political Science
University of Georgia
Bishop
Age: 68

Professor Bullock, author of *Politics in a State of Change*, has been inspiring political pundits and future leaders for decades – at least 25 current and past legislators, scores of lobbyists and countless staffers, city council members and other elected officials have been students. He also provides valuable nonpartisan commentary for many media contacts and outlets.

**Casey Cagle**
Lieutenant Governor
Gainesville
Age: 44

At 28, the Gainesville native became the youngest person ever elected to the Georgia Senate in 1994. In 2006, he became the first Republican to win election as Georgia’s Lieutenant Governor. Cagle, who was easily re-elected for a second term in November, was stripped of some legislative powers by Senate Republican leaders. Nonetheless, he has made immigration reform a primary legislative focus for the coming session.

**C. Michael Cassidy**
President/CEO
Georgia Research Alliance
Atlanta
Age: 57

As leader of an alliance of Georgia’s
research universities, business and government, Cassidy draws on their resources to foster economic development, emphasizing high-tech innovation, recruitment of talent and scholarship, and commercialization of scientific findings. He's directed more than $700 million in public and private funds into research and development at its six member universities and established a foundation with a goal of creating 100 new companies.

Dan Cathy
President/COO
Chick-fil-A, Inc.
Fayetteville
Age: 57
Dan Cathy's goal for his family's highly successful business is to provide five-star service at what is America's second largest chicken fast-food chain. In the last two years, all franchise operators have received additional training. He is also actively involved with the WinShape Foundation, started by his parents more than 20 years ago; it provides a number of programs to help families and children.

Saxby Chambliss
U.S. Senator
Moultrie
Age: 67
As Georgia’s senior senator, Chambliss, a Republican, worked this past year to reduce the deficit, introduced legislation to protect Georgia's water supply and co-authored an energy bill to expand America's use of natural gas and nuclear power. He has been a consistently strong supporter of Georgia agriculture and the military.

Chris Clark
President
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Fayetteville
Age: 41
In November, Clark went from protecting the interests of Georgia’s natural environment as commissioner of the state’s Department of Natural Resources to becoming president of Georgia's top business organization. Clark, who has led local chambers and worked for years in the Georgia Department of Economic Development, brings plenty of relevant experience as well as statewide and international business relationships to his new role.
Joe Cook
Executive Director & Riverkeeper
Coosa River Basin Initiative
Rome
Age: 44
The CRBI was established in 1992 to protect the Coosa, Oostanuala and Etowah rivers. Cook has done his part, winning a settlement that provided funding to begin a 120-mile water trail on the Etowah. His basin also includes Dawson County, where Cook is pushing to increase conservation efforts and strengthen the Interbasin Transfers regulation before a new reservoir is built there.

Deke Copenhaver
Mayor of Augusta
Augusta
Age: 43
Copenhaver, with a strong environmental background, approached last year's campaign for re-election determined not to go negative or add to the landfills. He asked supporters to contribute to their favorite local nonprofit rather than to his re-election and campaigned online without sending mass mailings. The unusual strategy worked: He won a re-election by a substantial margin.

Cathy Cox
President, Young Harris College
Young Harris
Age: 52
Since taking the reins at YHC, Cox has overseen the expansion from a two-year to a four-year college, which brought rapid growth in enrollment, doubled the faculty size and raised millions of dollars to pay for essential new facilities. She broke ground on one of the state’s largest solar-powered facilities — designed to make YHC one of Georgia’s greenest campuses.

Charles Craig
President
Georgia Bio
Atlanta
Age: 58
Craig zealously advocates for Georgia’s life sciences sector, which he calls “robust,” particularly in healthcare, agriculture and biofuels. In spite of a sputtering economy, he is confident that emerging companies ultimately will commercialize their proprietary technologies to everyone’s benefit.
Bio, with 300 members, played host to the industry’s largest gathering (BIO International Convention) in 2009, when 14,000 biotech industry leaders descended on Georgia.

**Erroll B. Davis, Jr.**
Chancellor
University System of Georgia
Atlanta
Age: 66

Hallmarks of Davis’ tenure leading Georgia’s 35 degree-granting institutions include a revision of core curriculum, the introduction of two-year course catalogs and the consolidation of many institutional-based operating functions under a single entity. The USG’s annual economic impact on Georgia has grown from $10.4 billion in FY 2006 to $12.7 billion in FY 2009. Davis will retire as Chancellor in June 2011.

**Scott Davis**
Chairman/CEO
United Parcel Service
Alpharetta
Age: 58

Davis pilots a 103-year-old package delivery company that is adapting deftly to increasingly mobile dynamics as applications enable customers to track and ship packages around the world – UPS delivers to about 200 countries and territories. With more than 400,000 employees, UPS operates a fleet of about 102,000 cars, vans, tractors and motorcycles and more than 500 aircraft.

**Nathan Deal**
Governor of Georgia
Gainesville
Age: 68

Former U.S. Congressman Deal handily defeated his Democratic opponent (and former governor) Roy Barnes to become Georgia’s governor in November’s election. While he’ll enjoy the advantage of the GOP’s complete control of the state legislature, he’ll have his hands full with a state budget shortfall and living up to campaign proposals to increase spending on education while cutting taxes.

**George E. Deese**
Chairman/CEO
Flovers Foods
Thomasville
Age: 64

Under Deese’s leadership, the Thomasville-based maker of packaged bakery goods has prospered. Now with 40 bakeries scattered around the country, Flowers employs 8,800 people who helped generate sales of $2.6 billion (2009), serving about 50 percent of the U.S. population in 27 states and the District of Columbia. Helping to guide Flowers’ growth, Deese has been responsible for more than 30 acquisitions in his career.

**Margaret DeFrancisco**
President/CEO
Georgia Lottery Corporation
Atlanta
Age: 61

Under DeFrancisco’s leadership, the Georgia Lottery raised more than $2.4 million every day last year for HOPE Scholarships and Pre-K, in spite of the economic conditions. DeFrancisco is spearheading efforts to increase revenues with a national lottery game, and she helped establish the annual statewide Blanchard Award for Outstanding Stewardship and Ethics in Business.

**Kit Dunlap**
CEO
Greater Hall County Chamber of Commerce
Chair, Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
Gainesville
Age: 68

As head of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, Dunlap is searching for a long-term plan to provide consistent water sources to keep up with explosive population growth. The Cedar Creek and Glades Reservoirs are crucial to her blueprint. She leads the chamber of commerce for Northeast Georgia’s busiest economic development corridor, with more than 1,500 business members.

**Zippy Duvall**
President
Georgia Farm Bureau
Greensboro
Age: 54

Duvall directs Georgia’s largest general farm organization, representing producers of all major agricultural commodities grown or raised in the state and providing leadership and assistance to the state’s $65-billion agricultural sector. The Farm Bureau claims some 400,000 families as members and offers services ranging from multiline insurance to commodities marketing plus hotel, auto and healthcare discounts.
Most Influential Georgians

Burrell Ellis
CEO
DeKalb County
Stone Mountain
Age: 52

Ellis sought office as a technocrat who would tighten the reins of a county government in disarray. In his second year, he continues to carry out his reformist platform. He made a splash early on in his tenure by firing the police chief and hiring a public safety director. Confronting a $100-million revenue shortfall, Ellis is working to consolidate departments, downsize, restructure and reduce non-essential services.

Alan Essig
Executive Director
Georgia Budget and Policy Institute
Age: 51

Essig, head of the independent nonpartisan institute, has a plan to help Georgia improve its current standing as the 12th poorest state in the nation. It involves establishing a state economic security task force with members from the private and public sector. He stresses the importance of accountability for the task force by establishing a target and timeline for poverty reduction, an implementation plan, an annual legislative agenda and an annual report card.

Sue Everhart
Chair
Georgia Republican Party
Marietta
Age: 65

Everhart was looking for a Republican sweep of Georgia's constitutional offices in the midterm elections, and she got it. The GOP is more firmly entrenched than ever in Georgia, with Republicans now holding office as governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state school superintendent, attorney general and the commissioners of agriculture, insurance and labor. Additionally, the party gained a Congressional seat.

Robert Farris
Director
Georgia Forestry Commission
Gray
Age: 51

Farris leads a team of 600 Georgia Forestry Commission professionals who were collectively recognized as Customer Service Agency of the Year in 2009. Farris and his team strive to maintain the state's 24.8 million acres of forests. Forest-related industries have an economic impact in Georgia of $28.7 billion and account for 128,000 jobs.

Curtis Foltz
Executive Director
Georgia Ports Authority
Age: 53

Foltz is determined to make environmentalism a priority, including the use of electrically operated container crates that re-generate their own power and eliminate the use of more than two million gallons of diesel fuel in shore-based tracking systems for refrigerated commodities. Georgia's ports have a statewide economic impact of almost $62 billion.

Thomas C. Gallagher
Chairman/President/CEO
Genuine Parts Company
Atlanta
Age: 63

Genuine Parts was founded in 1928 and Gallagher has been with the company about half of its existence. He became president in 1990, CEO in 2004 and was elected chairman of the board in 2005. He runs one of Georgia's largest public companies, with some 30,000 employees and revenues of $10.1 billion in 2009 (and likely to exceed that in 2010).

Mike Garrett
Retired President/CEO
Georgia Power
Atlanta
Age: 61

Garrett led Southern Company's largest subsidiary from 2004 through 2010, overseeing the start of construction of Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4, the first new-generation nuclear plants in the United States in 30 years and part of Georgia Power's commitment to cost-effective and reliable fuel sources to meet rising electricity demands in the Southeast. He is being succeeded by W. Paul Bowers, a veteran Southern Company executive.

Dr. Helene Gayle
President/CEO
CARE USA
Atlanta
Age: 55

Before joining CARE USA in 2005, Gayle spent 20 years at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, working primarily on HIV/AIDS. An expert on health, global dev-
Most influential Georgians

opment and humanitarian issues, she has also directed programs on HIV/AIDS and other global health issues for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In addition, Dr. Gayle chairs the Obama Administration’s Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

**P. Russell Hardin**
President
Atlanta
Robert W. Woodruff Foundation
Age: 53

Hardin presides over a difficult environment for giving. Nonetheless, under his stewardship, the organizations he leads remain steadfast in their missions. The Woodruff and Whitehead Foundations focus largely on Georgia, stressing education, health and human welfare, the environment, volunteerism, community, economic development and the arts. Hardin also oversees the Lettie Pate Evans Foundation and the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation.

**Jim Higdon**
Executive Director
Georgia Municipal Association
Atlanta
Age: 69

Higdon represents the interests of 512 municipal governments at a time when cities are reeling from the state budget crisis. While serving as a fierce advocate in the General Assembly, Higdon also counsels his members that there are things they can do to ease the crunch, such as promote economic development, encourage tourism and put aside their differences to work together for common goals.

**Donna W. Hyland**
President/CEO
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
Sandy Springs
Age: 50

Under Hyland’s leadership, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta is expanding its pediatric research and collaborating with clinical and academic partners such as Emory University, Morehouse School of Medicine and Georgia Tech to discover treatments and potential cures that will impact children all over the world. CHOA has been ranked among Fortune’s “100 Best Companies to Work For” in America.

**Johnny Isakson**
U.S. Senator
Marietta
Age: 66

The Republican senator’s long and distinguished public service career started with his election to the Georgia legislature in 1974, and in November he was re-elected for a second term in the U.S. Senate. Isakson has been on the front lines of efforts to lower federal spending and taxes, strengthen border security and negotiate a long-term water-sharing agreement among Georgia, Florida and Alabama.
Ronald Jackson  
**Commissioner**  
Technical College System of Georgia  
Atlanta  
Age: 63  
TCSG keeps setting enrollment records. In fiscal year 2010, enrollment at the system’s 26 institutions swelled to 190,000, an increase of almost 40,000. This comes as no surprise to Jackson, who understands the appeal of a technical education in an economy that keeps losing jobs. These days, the most sought-after course of study is healthcare.

Otis Johnson  
**Mayor of Savannah**  
Savannah  
Age: 67  
The Savannah native and two-term mayor has a simple but bold vision for his city: for Savannah to be a “safe, environmentally healthy and economically thriving community.” To this end, Johnson is focused particularly on neighborhood empowerment, crime reduction, economic development, tourism and support of the city’s rich and diverse heritage.

James R. Jolly  
**Member**  
State Board of Regents  
Dalton  
Age: 69  
Jolly, who has represented Georgia’s Ninth Congressional District on the Georgia Board of Regents since 2003, chaired the committee that recommended a controversial new policy banning undocumented immigrants from some Georgia colleges. A Dalton native, Jolly retired as CEO of J&J Industries – one of the world’s leading commercial carpet manufacturers – in 2007.

Jan Jones  
**Speaker Pro Tempore**  
Georgia House of Representatives  
Milton  
Age: 53  
Jones may well be the most powerful woman ever to sit in the male-dominated Georgia Legislature. When the Republican lawmaker was elected to the second highest position in the House last year, she became the first woman in Georgia history to hold the title. She’s expected to use that power this year pushing for a vote on creating a new county out of the north Fulton County district she represents.

Brian Kemp  
**Georgia Secretary of State**  
Athens  
Age: 47  
Kemp, a Republican who was appointed Secretary of State when predecessor Karen Handel resigned to run for governor, won a contentious race within his own party during the primary then won decisively in November. Kemp has filed a lawsuit against the federal government, so the state can require evidence of U.S. citizenship with voter registration applications.

James Cox Kennedy  
**Chairman/CEO**  
Cox Enterprises Inc.  
Atlanta  
Age: 63  
Kennedy has grappled with the circulation nose-dive of the Cox family’s best-known product, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. With considerable foresight, however, the family diversified long ago, particularly into the cable and online markets, and the company remains highly profitable, retaining a high quotient of profit against revenue. Kennedy, a nature enthusiast, has been named a “Philanthropist of the Year” and serves on the board of Ducks Unlimited.

Mulitar Kent  
**Chairman of the Board and CEO**  
The Coca-Cola Company  
Atlanta  
Age: 58  
Kent, who was born into a Turkish family, began his steep, steady climb at Coca-Cola as a cross-country, truck-driving salesman, earning a string of promotions based on his knack for increasing market share in Asia and Europe. In July 2008, the man who began his career by distributing crates of soft drinks in the American outback took the helm of the $31-billion soft-drink company.

Phil Kent  
**Chairman/CEO**  
Turner Broadcasting System Inc.  
Atlanta  
Age: 56  
Kent is plenty busy running one of the world’s largest media empires, but he has also made time to be involved in the Atlanta community. Kent is serving a second year as the chairman of the Atlanta Committee for Progress, a panel of
business executives who advise Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, and is chair of the Board of Trustees at the Woodruff Arts Center.

Ross King
Executive Director, Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)
Fayetteville
Age: 52
King stepped into his current role in 2010 with a vision for the ACCG: encourage civic engagement, offer leadership development and training and provide services to help counties operate more efficiently. He also worked with the Atlanta Regional Commission for Higher Education to secure a grant to fund interns in county offices statewide, encouraging the next generation of leaders.

Jack Kingston
U.S. Congressman, District 1
Savannah
Age: 55
Republican Rep. Kingston spent much of 2010 trying to mitigate the economic impact of the decision not to bring the anticipated 5th Brigade Combat Team to Fort Stewart. Kingston serves on the Defense Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, which oversees military funding. With his district home to several military bases, Kingston has a special interest in America’s defense.

Wyck A. Knox, Jr.
Attorney, Kilpatrick Stockton
Augusta
Age: 70
Knox has focused his practice on complex litigation, having tried numerous cases in state and federal courts and handled appeals to both the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme Court. Knox serves as a director of AGL Resources and president of Knox Charity Fund. He has been recognized locally and nationally for his legal prowess.

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Charles “Chick” Krautler
Director, Atlanta Regional Commission
Atlanta
Age: 63

As head of the regional planning agency for Metro Atlanta, Krautler works with a board of 39 elected officials and citizen leaders to craft strategies to address current needs including transportation, water and quality growth, as well as plan for sustainability. He is leading the development of Plan 2040, a comprehensive blueprint for the region’s future success and livability.

Charles Kuck
Attorney/Managing Partner
Kuck Immigration Partners
Milton
Age: 48

Kuck has spent his professional life in the pursuit of justice for people dealing with what he calls “a broken immigration system” and has testified before Congress on various aspects of immigration law and immigration reform. Frequently quoted in the national press and a regular on television and cable news outlets, Kuck previously served as national president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Chuck Leavell
Musician, Tree Farmer
Author, Eco-Entrepreneur
Bullard
Age: 58

Rolling Stones keyboardist and co-founder of The Mother Nature Network (www.mnn.com), Leavell is one of Arbor Day’s hippest spokespersons. Even while touring, he keeps busy with environmental advocacy and forest conservation and takes on tractor patrol of Charlane Plantation, his sustainable hunting lodge in Twiggs County. He has twice been named Georgia Tree Farmer of the Year, and he is a member of the Georgia and Alabama music halls of fame.

Tad Leithead
Chairman
Atlanta Regional Commission
Atlanta
Age: 55

Leithead is the first citizen board member to chair the ARC (which always has been chaired by elected officials). Leithead, who left Cousins Properties in 2009 to form his own government relations and consulting firm, also chairs the Cumberland Community Improvement District (CID), responsible for almost $3 billion in transportation improvements in Cobb County.

Dorothy Leland
President
Georgia College & State University
Milledgeville
Age: 63

Leland’s educational mantra is “learning beyond the classroom,” and by this she means study-abroad programs, undergraduate research and community service. More than 6,000 students are enrolled and more than 800 faculty and staff report to her as she works to increase the geographic, economic and ethnic diversity of incoming classes. Under her leadership, GCSU established a natural history museum, a planetarium and its first freestanding art gallery.

Craig Lesser
Managing Partner
Pendleton Consulting
Sandy Springs
Age: 59

The former commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD), Lesser has joined the private sector as a consultant, providing economic development and government affairs advice and strategy. While at GDEcD (2004-2007), new investment and expansion announcements in Georgia totaled more than $8 billion and created more than 40,000 new jobs. Lesser also chairs the board of the World Chamber of Commerce.

John Lewis
U.S. Congressman
District 5
Atlanta
Age: 70

Despite Republican dominance in Georgia’s congressional delegation, Lewis remains one of its uncompromisingly liberal holdouts. A hero of the civil rights movement, Lewis serves on the House Ways and Means Committee and the Subcommittee on Oversight. He recently led efforts to bolster green jobs training and construct the Georgia Transit Connector, which would link key community, tourism and business districts in Atlanta.
Bill Linginfelter
Area President, Georgia/South Carolina Regions Bank
Atlanta
Age: 54
Linginfelter oversees the Georgia/South Carolina divisions of Regions Bank. In 2010 he served as chairman of the Metro Atlanta Chamber and played an important role in the passage of the transportation funding bill. He also chairs the board of trustees for the Georgia Research Alliance and serves on numerous community boards.

Dennis P. Lockhart
President/CEO
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
Atlanta
Age: 63
Lockhart is responsible for all activities at the Atlanta Fed bank, including monetary policy, bank supervision and regulation, and payment services. He serves on the Federal Reserve’s chief monetary policy body, the Federal Open Market Committee. The latest FOMC report indicates the declining possibility of deflation in 2011, which has buoyed the spirits of Lockhart and his Fed colleagues around the country.

Jeff Mullis
State Senator
Chickamauga
Age: 51
Mullis was writing legislation similar to Arizona’s tough new immigration laws when Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle recruited him to be part of a committee that will make immigration a main focus of the coming session. As chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, Mullis also secured a $14.2-million federal study grant for a proposed high-speed rail system connecting Atlanta and Chattanooga.

Sam Olens
Attorney General
State of Georgia
Marietta
Age: 53
Olens spent eight productive years as the chairman of Cobb County’s Board of Commissioners and also served an extended stint as chairman of the Atlanta Regional Commission before throwing his hat into the ring for the attorney general job. As AG, he says he’ll pursue all legal avenues to oppose the national healthcare plan.

Larry O’Neal
State House of Representatives
Majority Leader
Bonaire
Age: 61
A pro-business accountant and tax lawyer who chaired the House Ways & Means Committee and signed off on some key business-friendly legislation, O’Neal lost his bid for Speaker of the House a year ago but was elected majority leader in November by the House Republican caucus. O’Neal is beginning his 10th year as a legislator.

Charles A. Pannell, Jr.
U.S. District Court Judge
Eton
Age: 64
In September 2009, Justice Pannell set the wheels in motion for a complete overhaul of Georgia’s mental health system when he rejected a settlement agreement between the state and the U.S. Department of Justice (which filed a lawsuit over unsafe conditions in state psychiatric hospitals). In October 2010 he approved a historic settlement that forces Georgia to improve its entire adult mental health system.

Dan Papp
President
Kennesaw State University
Marietta
Age: 63
Under Papp’s leadership, KSU is working to become nationally recognized. Last year marked several firsts, including the first Ph.D. program and the first time the school’s athletes competed as full-fledged members of NCAA Division I. And Georgia’s third largest university is moving forward with its assessment of fielding a football team. An exploratory committee found support, and students have voted approval of a “football fee.”

Tyler Perry
Entertainer/Entrepreneur
Atlanta
Age: 41
Fortunately for Georgia, New Orleans native Tyler Perry has chosen Atlanta as the home base for his burgeoning entertainment empire. His 200,000-square-foot studios occupy more than 30 acres and employ hundreds of people. Outside of entertainment, Perry has been involved in civil rights issues and charities that focus on helping the homeless.
George P. “Bud” Peterson
President
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta
Age: 58
Georgian Tech’s 11th president, Peterson outclassed the competition for the top spot when Tech named him the sole finalist in February 2009, an appointment made official six months later. His immediate priority is to maintain the university’s high standards amid the state budget crunch. He’s also laid out a 25-year-plan to catapult Tech to the apex of technological research centers.

Tom Price
U.S. Congressman, District 6
Roswell
Age: 56
Price, a successful orthopedist before entering politics, has used his medical background to be a vocal critic of Democratic healthcare reforms. As chair of the Republican Study Committee, a group of House conservatives, Price works to forward the bedrock conservative principle of reducing the size and power of the federal government.

Usher Raymond IV
Entertainer/Entrepreneur
Atlanta
Age: 32
Raymond, known to his millions of fans as simply Usher, has won multiple Grammy, Billboard and MTV awards and found success as a motion picture actor. He started his own record label, is part owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers basketball team, helped launch the career of teen idol Justin Bieber and formed New Look, a nonprofit charity focused on developing leadership skills for young people.

Kasim Reed
Mayor of Atlanta
Atlanta
Age: 41
Reed has pounded the table on international trade, signing an agreement with a Bahrain delegation to explore ways Atlanta firms can do business with the Persian Gulf nation and welcomed Chinamex to its new offices at Atlantic Station. In Reed’s first year on the job, Atlanta has hired 100 new police officers, improved fire response times and dramatically increased city reserves.

Lee Rhyant
General Manager
Executive Vice President
Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company
Marietta
Age: 60
Rhyant is a leader of one of the state’s biggest employers (more than 84,000 employees). Because more than 500 aerospace organizations now call Georgia home, he has focused much of his attention on how Lockheed Martin will overcome future workforce challenges, given that more than half of Georgia’s current aerospace employees will become eligible for retirement in the next five years. Rhyant is stepping down this spring.

A.J. Robinson
President, Central Atlanta Progress,
Atlanta Downtown Improvement District
Atlanta
Age: 55
Robinson leads CAP and ADID with the goals of keeping Atlanta safe, livable and economically vibrant. In 2010 CAP brought leaders together from across the state to discuss common goals and a new vision for Georgia. ADID partnered with the city of Atlanta and MARTA to win $47 million in federal TIGER II grants for the first phase of the Atlanta streetcar project.

Dale Russell
Senior Investigative Reporter
Fox 5’s “I-Team”
Atlanta
Age: 56
Russell, a Peabody Award-winning journalist whose bold, shoe-leather reporting has helped change laws and send scoundrels to prison, likes to say: “I rake the muck. It is a dirty job, but somebody has to do it. Otherwise, there would be more muck.” The Atlanta Press Club named him “Journalist of the Year” for breaking the story of then-House Speaker Glenn Richardson’s alleged affair with a lobbyist.

Sylvia Russell
President
AT&T Georgia
Atlanta
Age: 54
Georgia has become wired and wire-
less as never before with Russell calling the shots. AT&T continues to roll out or enhance the fastest networks – according to independent wireless research firms – crisscrossing the state. "Expansion" is Russell’s catchword. She serves on the boards of the Technical College System of Georgia and the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education.

Beverly A. Scott
General Manager/CEO
MARTA
Atlanta
Age: 59

MARTA’s CEO since 2007, Scott is recognized throughout the transportation industry as a leader. Her career spans more than 30 years and includes leadership positions with some of the nation’s top transit organizations. Scott may be facing some of her toughest challenges as she tries to minimize the effects of budget cuts on MARTA schedules and operations and joins efforts to develop a comprehensive regional transportation plan.

David Scott
U.S. Congressman
13th District
Atlanta
Age: 64

Scott brought nearly three decades of state legislative experience and a reputation as a bipartisan consensus builder to the table when he was elected to Congress in 2003. The Congressman, who has been the target of threats and hate mail for his part in the healthcare reform debate, is known as a pro-business Democrat. He serves on the Financial Services, Foreign Affairs and Agriculture committees.

Behereuz N. Sethna
President/Professor of Business Administration
University of West Georgia
Carrollton
Age: 62

Under Sethna’s guidance, West Georgia has increased enrollment by 50 percent, acquired national accreditation and university status, grown its endowment to about 700 percent of its 1994 level and launched the state’s first advanced academy for exceptionally gifted high school students. Sethna is believed to be the first U.S. university president of Indian origin, and is a dedicated Rotarian with a perfect attendance record for meetings.

Michael E. Shapiro
Director
High Museum of Art
Atlanta
Age: 59

With the High since 1995, Shapiro has brought blockbuster exhibitions to the museum, overseen the reinstalltion of the institution’s permanent collection and spearheaded the High’s 177,000-square-foot expansion. He has become known for creating partnerships with institutions from around the world to bring acclaimed art to the High.

Suzanne Sitherwood
President
Atlanta Gas Light
Atlanta
Age: 50

One of the state’s most dynamic business executives, Sitherwood takes an active role working with state leaders on a variety of issues that affect Georgia’s future: among them, water, transportation and business development. Last year, she became the first woman to chair the Georgia Chamber of Commerce in its nearly 100-year history.

Lynn Smith
Georgia House of Representatives
Newnan
Age: 65

Smith, chair of the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee, is known for championing policies that protect Georgia’s environment. The Georgia Chamber’s 2010 “Legislator of the Year,” she was a key sponsor of the 2010 Water Stewardship Act designed to help the state meet its long-term water supply needs while emphasizing conservation measures.

Thomas A. "Tom" Smith
President/CEO
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Alpharetta
Age: 56

Smith continues to burnish his reputation as a can-do leader of a company with 4 million Georgia customers. In one of the more recent phases of OPC’s expansion plans, the company is constructing a natural-gas-powered generating facility to help meet the growing needs of its members. The facility will gain additional efficiency by capturing wasted heat from the combustion process and using it to generate more power.
Vance Smith
Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation
Pine Mountain
Age: 58

Smith learned the challenges facing Georgia’s transportation system as a state lawmaker for 16 years and chairman of the House Transportation Committee from 2005 to 2009. Now he is using his knowledge and expertise as commissioner of the DOT, working to implement the $900-million federal transportation stimulus program and launching an aggressive public-private partnership program.

John W. Somerhalder II
Chairman, President & CEO
AGL Resources
Atlanta
Age: 54

Somerhalder heads Georgia’s oldest company, a leader in the natural gas industry. In 2011, he will chair the American Gas Association. He serves on the boards of the Metro Atlanta Chamber, Georgia Chamber of Commerce, BeltLine Partnership and the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. He has chaired the local United Way’s annual giving campaign for two consecutive years.

Walter C. Sprouse, Jr.
Executive Director
Development Authority of Richmond County
Augusta
Age: 60

Sprouse has implemented nearly a decade of “face-to-face” marketing for Augusta, and the results keep coming. Just two years after opening, Teleperformance hired 300 more call center employees this year. Convergent ER Solutions, another Augusta call center company, began hiring what will total 400 employees in 2011. His efforts have helped bring Augusta national recognition as a “Top 10” area for business growth.
Kessel Stelling
President & CEO
Synovus
Columbus
Age: 53
After a successful tenure at the Bank of North Georgia, Stelling was selected to lead its Columbus-based parent corporation. Synovus, a financial services company with more than $31 billion in assets, has banks in Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Florida and Tennessee. Stelling is a member of the state Board of Regents and a trustee of Kennesaw State.

Jimmy Tallent
President/CEO
United Community Bank
Hiawassee
Age: 58
Under Tallent’s leadership since 1988, United Community Bank has grown from a small, one-branch financial institution in rural Blairsville to the third-largest bank holding company in Georgia with $8 billion in assets and 107 offices in three southeastern states. He is a member of the Georgia Power board and serves as a Trustee of Young Harris College.

James Wagner
President
Emory University
Atlanta
Age: 57
With Wagner at the controls, Emory (ranked among the top 20 national universities by U.S. News & World Report) remains one of Metro Atlanta’s most powerful engines, pumping about $3.5 billion into the area economy. Under Wagner, the university also has ramped up its star power and international cachet, adding celebrity scholars such as Salman Rushdie and the Dalai Lama to its faculty.

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Paula Wallace
President/Co-founder
Savannah College of Art and Design
Savannah
Age: 62
Wallace has helped transform SCAD into the most comprehensive art and design university in the world. The university’s enrollment has doubled since Wallace was named president in 2000 – there are now more than 10,000 students and 1,500 faculty and staff at campuses on three continents and online, including SCAD Savannah, SCAD Atlanta, SCAD Lacoste (in the south of France), SCAD eLearning, and SCAD Hong Kong.

James M. Wells III
Chairman/CEO, SunTrust Banks, Inc.
Atlanta
Age: 63
The bank Wells runs, with total assets of $170.7 billion as of June 2010, sits at the top of an industry struggling during the challenging economic environment. Despite the economy, Wells says the greatest accomplishment at SunTrust in 2010 was the bank’s success in increasing client satisfaction while investing in future growth.

Joel Wernick
President/CEO
Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital
Albany
Age: 56
In September, Wernick was recognized by U.S. Rep. Sanford Bishop in Washington, D.C., for the extraordinary leadership he has brought to medicine and healthcare in southwest Georgia during his 20 years at the hospital. With Wernick at the helm, Phoebe Putney has been recognized for excellence in clinical quality, operations and community health.
Sam A. Williams  
President  
Metro Atlanta Chamber  
Atlanta  
Age: 65

Named president in 1997, Williams leads the Metro Atlanta Chamber, which serves 4,000 member companies employing nearly a million workers. In 2010 MAC was involved in recruiting 55 companies and creating more than 5,000 jobs, and achieved a “3 for 3” victory for its top legislative priorities – transportation, water and school board reform. Under Williams, the chamber has taken an active role in civic affairs and public policy.

Tommie Williams  
President Pro Tem  
Georgia Senate  
Lyons  
Age: 56

This former onion farmer, school teacher and missionary is currently a Toombs County tree farmer and a strong conservative voice for his southeast Georgia district. First elected to the Senate in 1998, he’s now one of the state GOP’s top leaders as senate president pro tem, chairman of the powerful Senate Committee on Assignments and vice chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

Sally Quillian Yates  
U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Georgia  
Atlanta  
Age: 50

Yates became the federal government’s top law enforcement official in Atlanta in March 2010 after distinguishing herself as a tough prosecutor since joining the U.S. attorney’s office in 1989. Known for going after public corruption with a vengeance, she’s handled a variety of high-profile cases, ranging from bank executives indicted for fraud to the prosecution of former Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell for corruption.

Michael A. Young  
President/CEO  
Grady Health System  
Mableton  
Age: 54

Young has proven to be the right cure for turning around Atlanta’s ailing public health system. Hired in 2008 as part of a restructuring of Grady leadership, Young achieved a turnaround of almost $75 million and reduced costs by nearly $20 million while making what even many former restructuring critics say are major improvements in care.
Stacey Abrams, Georgia House of Representatives
Brian Anderson, President, Dalton-Whitfield Chamber of Commerce
Stephanie Armistead, General Manager, GreenBusiness WORKS
Joel Babbit, CEO, Mother Nature Network
Wright Bagby, Mayor, Rome
F. Allen Barnes, Director, Environmental Protection Division
Brandon Beach, Executive Director, North Fulton Community Improvement District
W. Paul Bowers, President and CEO, Georgia Power
Chris ‘Ludacris’ Bridges, Actor/Entrepreneur/Philanthropist/Rapper
Robert Brown, President/CEO, RL Brown & Associates
Otis Brumby, Publisher, Marietta Daily Journal/Neighbor Newspapers
Chip Cherry, President & CEO, Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and Macon Economic Development Commission
Ron Clark, Educator
Dennis Creech, Co-founder/Executive Director, Southface Energy Institute
Jermaine Dupri, Entrepreneur/Producer/Rapper/Songwriter
Amir Farokhi, Georgia Forward

Robert Franklin, President, Morehouse College
Hans Gant, Senior VP of Economic Development, Metro Atlanta Chamber
Sharon Gay, Attorney/Partner, McKenna Long & Aldridge
Mike Gaymon, President/CEO, Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce
Renée Lewis Glover, President/CEO, Atlanta Housing Authority
Jerry Gonzalez, Executive Director, Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials
Col. Bruce Hampton, Actor/Musician
Becca Hardin, Executive VP of Economic Development, Greater Columbus Chamber
Robert Hatcher, President/CEO, MidCountry Financial Corp.
Tommy Hills, Chief Financial Officer, State of Georgia
Al Hodge, President & CEO, Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce
Pierre Howard, President, Georgia Conservancy
Eric Jacobson, Executive Director, Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities
Robert S. Jepson, Jr., Chairman/CEO, Jepson Associates, Inc.
Jimmy Jeter, President, Standard Discount Corp.
Hank Johnson, U.S. Congressman
Notable Georgians

Bill Jones, III, Sea Island Company
Dr. Samantha Joye, Marine Biologist, UGA
Joel Katz, Entertainment Lawyer, Greenberg Traurig
Brian Leary, President/CEO, Atlanta BeltLine Inc.
Tim Lowe, President, Lowe Engineers
Mike Luckovich, Pulitzer Prize-winning Editorial Cartoonist, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Jim Maran, President/CEO, Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce
Nick Masino, Vice President for Economic Development, Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce
Todd McDevitt, Scientist, Georgia Tech
Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, Chairman, Georgia Public Service Commission
Tim Mescon, President, Columbus State University
Bob Neren, Director, Georgia Tech/Emory Center for Regenerative Medicine
William “Dink” NeSmith, Jr., Newspaper Publisher, Board of Regents
Jim Pannell, Attorney/Partner, Gray & Pannell
Chip Rogers, State Senator
Joe Rogers, Jr., Chairman/CEO, Waffle House
Dr. Lisa A. Rossbacher, President, Southern Polytechnic State University
Michael Russell, CEO, H.J. Russell & Company
Maria Saporta, Journalist, Saporta Report, Atlanta Business Chronicle
Barbara Schuster, Dean, MCG/UGA Medical Partnership Campus
John R. Seffrin, Ph.D., CEO, American Cancer Society
Dr. Frank E. Shelp, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
Steve Stice, Scientist, UGA
Doug Stoner, State Senator
Eric Tanenblatt, Senior Managing Director, McKenna Long & Aldridge
Charles K. Tarbutton, Assistant VP, Sandersville Railroad Company
Geri Thomas, State and Atlanta Market President, Bank of America
William Todd, President/CEO, Georgia Cancer Coalition
Pat Topping, Senior VP, Macon Economic Development Commission
Natasha Trethewey, Pulitzer Prize-winning Poet, Professor of English, Emory
Betty Willis, Senior Associate VP, Governmental and Community Affairs, Emory University
Woody Woodside, President, Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce

Johnson Luckovich Masino Mescon NeSmith Schuster Tarbutton Trethewey
Ray Anderson
Chairman
Interface, Inc.
Atlanta
Age: 76

Ray Anderson has been counting down to zero for 16 years, and he won't be happy until his company hits rock bottom.

"We've made a lot of progress toward our goal of zero environmental impact," says Anderson, chairman and founder of Interface, Inc., the world's largest maker of modular flooring, with about $1 billion in annual sales.

"Can you picture what that means, to walk on the earth and leave no footprint? From the time that we started in 1994 we're about 60 percent there, almost two-thirds of the way to the top of 'Mount Sustainability.'"

It's a famous story now, Anderson, asked by stakeholders to explain his company's environmental position, sought inspiration in Paul Hawken's The Ecology of Commerce.

"It was a revelation. I was the typical capitalist – you know, the Earth is mine for the taking," Anderson says. "But that book changed my worldview. It set me on a different path."

Though he is battling cancer, Anderson continues to spread the word like an evangelical missionary. Interface's greenhouse gas emission tonnage is down 94 percent since 1994, water use and landfill waste are both down about 80 percent, and the company has recycled 100,000 tons of material inside its own walls.

The company has remade itself, gaining global kudos for putting sustainability at the forefront. Anderson, whose most recent book is Confessions of a Radical Industrialist, has become a sought-after source and speaker on the topic, and Interface has assembled an impressive roster of conservation-minded advisors, including Hawken (who apparently is dedicating his updated version of The Ecology of Commerce to Anderson). – Jerry Grillo

David Ratcliffe
Retired CEO/Chairman
Southern Company
Atlanta
Age: 61

David Ratcliffe received one of the best bits of advice in his 39-year-career as he ascended to the post of chairman and CEO of Southern Company. It came from Allen Franklin, Ratcliffe's predecessor, who offered some concise counsel as he handed over the keys to the kingdom.

"He told me, 'It's in pretty good shape. Don't screw it up,'" Ratcliffe recalls. "It was good advice. I don't think I screwed it up."

Ratcliffe retired last month from the powerful $16-billion energy mega-company (parent to Georgia Power, Alabama Power, Gulf Power and Mississippi Power), which generates 42,000 megawatts of electricity for 4.4 million customers across the Southeast.

Since beginning his career in 1971 as a biologist for Georgia Power, Ratcliffe says the challenges of keeping the lights on have changed very little.

"It's still about finding an appropriate balance between a reliable supply of electricity that we can afford," he says. "We still want to keep the lights on, but we'd like to do it with a smaller environmental footprint."

Emissions-free nuclear power will help toward that end, he says. Units 3 and 4 under construction at Georgia Power's Plant Vogtle will be the first new-generation nuclear plants in the U.S. in decades.

"Our decision four years ago to begin new nuclear plants was a watershed event for this company," he says. "We are on schedule and under budget."

Ratcliffe says he plans to enjoy retirement (more golf, hunting and fishing) but will stay involved with some of the boards on which he has served, including CSX Transportation and the Georgia Research Alliance. – Jerry Grillo

Margaret L. Cook

Hall Of Fame
Lasting Influence
Three additions to Georgia Trend’s Most Influential Hall of Fame
More than 1.1 million Georgia 4-year-olds have benefited from the Georgia Lottery-funded Pre-K Program, giving them the quality educational foundation they need to succeed. With over $12 billion toward education and over 1.3 million HOPE scholars, we're helping supply the essential building blocks needed for a brighter future for Georgia. Thank you, Georgians, for playing—because when you play, our students win.
Franklin Skinner
Retired CEO/Chairman
BellSouth Telecommunications
Atlanta
Age: 79

Franklin Skinner can hardly recognize the telecommunications industry any more. “It’s hard to believe now that the mobile phones we had back then were so heavy you had to wear a shoulder strap to carry them,” he says — via cell phone, a few days after shoulder reconstruction surgery.

But by the time he retired as chairman and CEO of the newly minted BellSouth Telecommunications in 1992 (a company formed through the consolidation of Southern Bell, South Central Bell and BellSouth Services into a single corporation), there were some clear signs of how the industry was diversifying and where it was heading.

“The Internet was new, and it was pretty clear that the cellular phone business was going to grow in a big way,” says Skinner, who began his career in what was simply called “the telephone business” with the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Virginia.

Throughout his career, though, business was just a way of allowing him to do what he loved most.

“There’s more to being a good citizen than simply paying taxes and earning an honest living,” he says. “Each of us has a responsibility to contribute to the welfare of the community. I’ve been blessed in many ways to be able to do so.”

Barely scratching the surface: Skinner chaired United Way fund-raising campaigns in three different cities, including Atlanta; is past chairman of the Salvation Army’s national and statewide boards; is former chairman of the Metro Atlanta Chamber; and has served on the Morehouse College Board of Trustees for 15 years. — Jerry Crillo
Leadership: Speaker of the House of Representatives David Ralston
Putting The House In Order

Speaker David Ralston restored order and dignity last session. This year’s challenges are different, but still daunting.

By Susan Percy

Speaker of the House **David Ralston** thinks the fraternity-party image that attached itself to the House under his predecessor was overblown.

Nonetheless, that perception helped fuel his determination to put the House in order and insist that members get serious about the business of lawmaking during the 2010 General Assembly session.

Ralston, who has been in public life since 1992 and in the House since 2003, is a conservative Republican lawyer from Blue Ridge. He first challenged then-Speaker Glenn Richardson – unsuccessfully – in 2008 for the top job and was stripped of his key committee roles by Richardson in retaliation.

When scandals forced Richardson to resign his post in late 2009, Ralston ran again and won handily, boosted by votes from 11 Democrats.

By any standards, but especially in contrast with the two previous sessions, the 2010 session was dignified and serious, befitting the issues it had to deal with. Ralston is proud that it was a productive session, too – passing legislation dealing with water, transportation and ethics that had been talked about but neglected in prior years.

For his leadership in restoring dignity to the House of Representatives, Speaker David Ralston is **Georgia Trend’s 2011 Georgian of the Year.**

As his friend and colleague Rep. John Meadows (R-Calhoun) puts it: “Things are so much better now you can’t stand it.”

Georgia’s U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson, whom Ralston has said he considers a role model, says, “David Ralston has shown the capacity, the intellect and the drive to be a great speaker of the House. David always gets the job done because he never seeks the credit, only the right result.”

In a time of harsh rhetoric and snarling charges and counter-charges on the state and national levels, he stands out as a new model of leadership bolstered by determination and civility.

Even in the darkest days of 2008 and 2009, Ralston never lost faith in his colleagues, despite the “boys’-club” shenanigans and the outright abuses of power.

“I know those House members, and I know that 99 percent of them are good, decent, honorable people who are here for the right reasons. So I think the image that there was some sort of fraternity party was somewhat exaggerated, but to the extent that it was there, it was hurting a lot of people,”
Ralston says, “I thought the best way to get rid of that exaggerated image was to have a new kind of leadership that focused not on self-interest but the interests of the entire House and the entire state.

“What we had to realize was that people pay attention to what we do, and they have more and better ways to pay attention. The best way to get the message out that these are good people... is [for us to] do good work.

“People tend, in terms of leadership, to conform to the model. We had to have a model this past session, and we will again next year. We have some tough work to do, some big challenges,” Ralston says. “The people of Georgia will not always agree with every single thing we do. But I do want them to know that we are working hard and have their interests at heart.”

No More Eggshells

Meadows says of Ralston: “He has his own ideas, but his strength is that he brings people together. Whether you’re a Republican, a Democrat or an Independent, he’s going to give you the opportunity to voice your opinion. In the House, there are 180 of us, and all 180 of us have ideas about where we should go. He listens to us and tries to hammer out a solution.”

The biggest difference since Ralston became speaker?

“You don’t walk around there on eggshells anymore. It’s more relaxed,” says Meadows.

“There were a lot of naysayers who wondered if a good ol’ boy from Blue Ridge could do it, or if he was out of his league. But he brought us back together. Those of us in the House have a lot of confidence in him.”

Ralston says it’s a team effort. “I rely on a large number of House members to give me input on various issues. I have the best staff any speaker has ever had in Georgia. They know I like to inform myself of both sides before we wade into a fight. There are people outside of the Capitol I turn to. I know they’re going to tell me the truth. I know my staff is going to tell me the truth. Finally, you have your own sense of priorities in terms of issues and your own values and your own views of things. All of that kind of works together to help you set the legislative table.”

The speaker is notable for his even-handed approach, even when he has strong opinions on an issue. During last year’s session, Ralston, who describes himself as pro-life, intervened to rewrite an anti-abortion bill (HB 1155) that he felt went too far and was designed specifically for a court challenge.

“My entire legislative record is pro-life. At the same time my duty as speaker is to make sure that what legislation will pass really has meaning to people in our state. On that specific issue I believed very strongly that the goal wasn’t to save lives, the goal was to get a lawsuit; and I frankly didn’t want the House to be a part of that.

“This House, as long as I’m here, is not going to be captive to any special interest, to any agenda. We’re going to be independent and look at each piece of legislation on its merits.”

A Difficult Route

Ralston’s climb to the speaker’s office wasn’t an easy one. He served in the state senate from 1993 until 1998, when he lost a statewide race for Attorney General to Democrat Thurbert Baker, that kept him out of public life until he won a house seat in 2002.

“Everything you do in life prepares you for the next challenge. I had a lot of years serving here in the legislature, many of those years in the minority party. That’s actually a pretty good laboratory, because you can’t implement very much, but you have a lot of opportunity to observe and reflect on how you would do things. I think those years were important.

“You entire view of the world is shaped by your life—who you were and where you’re from and what drives you. I have a
“If you truly believe in limited government, which I do, you don’t need to get mired in seeing how many bills can pass,” Ralston says. “I want us to see how few we can pass. I believe instead of doing a lot of things and doing them halfway, let’s do a few things and get them right. We did that last session.”

very deep appreciation for our state’s history, and I appreciate serving in the Georgia House as sort of an opportunity to be a part of that. It’s kind of taking a longer view.”

He says he’s learned more from losing, especially in 1998, than winning.

“The first thing I learned from that is that losing is not fatal. I got up the next morning and I still had a pulse. It gave me the opportunity to be away from public life for a number of years – it shaped my perspective.”

His unsuccessful 2008 race against Glenn Richardson, then the sitting speaker, brought its own perspective. “I think that brought into focus my view of this office more than anything I had done in my legislative life up to that point. It sort of reinvigorated me. I don’t know that we have many opportunities in our public lives to do what you just really believe is the right thing to do, knowing the consequences if it doesn’t work out, knowing that going in. I was absolutely convinced it was the right thing to do.

“I had no regrets during the challenge or after the challenge. I obviously could not foresee what later happened – a very tragic thing. I think we always get renewed by throwing ourselves into something just because we think it’s the right thing to do, whether it’s the expedient or popular thing to do.”

The Tough Ones

Ralston is confident that his focused, less-is-more legislative approach will work as well in the 2011 session as it did his first year as Speaker – even though the novelty of his election will be behind him.

“If you truly believe in limited government, which I do, you don’t need to get mired into seeing how many bills
On immigration, Ralston says, "Are we going to continue to be a nation that abides by the rule of law? We have laws. The really unfortunate part of this issue is that the solution ought to have been federal, and the federal government for a multitude of reasons has completely failed to manage this issue."

"I want us to see how few we can pass. I believe instead of doing a lot of things and doing them halfway, let's do a few things and get them right. We did that last session - on the budget, on transportation, on ethics, on water. We went in and said these are things we have to do; this is where our focus is going to be. That's what I intend to do next session."

The biggest challenge, he believes, will be the budget. "Obviously, that's the overriding issue. That will be the focus of much of our work."

Ralston sees immigration as a particularly tough issue the General Assembly will be dealing with in its 2011 session.

"I view the issue in terms of are we going to continue to be a nation that abides by the rule of law? We have laws. The really unfortunate part of this issue is that the solution ought to have been federal, and the federal government for a multitude of reasons has completely failed to manage this issue. That leaves the states with a wide range of abilities to handle the issue within their borders.

"And I think that what really frustrated me was that whether you like it, or favor it or oppose it, the state of Arizona came up with a law that went through the legislative process and was signed into law by the governor, and now the federal government is suing the state to stop enforcement of a properly passed law.

"This is not about being intolerant at all - it's not about trying to stop tourism or economic development or all the other issues you hear about. At the end of the day the people of Georgia still believe we are a nation of law, and we have rules that govern a path to citizenship."

Last fall, Ralston and Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle appointed a joint legislative committee on immigration. "We want to get a handle on it. I anticipate there will be a heavy volume of legislation on this subject. I think it's important to get a head start looking at this - whether it's an
Arizona-type law, whether the law deals with state benefits such as the HOPE Scholarship, college and higher education benefits, state contracting – [so] we will have a fair, reasonable piece of legislation that reflects that we still are a nation that abides by the law.”

Ralston also wants to change the tone of the legislature’s relationship with local governments, “to end the war” as he puts it.

But he is keeping his eye on signs of trouble from some local school systems and believes the state may need to play a larger role than in the past – particularly to avoid any further loss of accreditation, like Clayton County schools experienced two years ago. (The accreditation has since been restored.)

“If you have a school system that has lost its accreditation, then you have a huge number of young people that are going to be penalized for the mismanagement or corruption of adults. That’s intolerable. We need to have a discussion so we understand where we set the bar when it comes to state intervention. But it is absolutely inexcusable for us to turn a blind eye to failing local entities – they serve the same people we serve.”

Ralston is pretty clear-eyed about the work ahead of him, especially on the budget, which is the House’s major responsibility. But he is optimistic.

“I really believe our state’s best days are ahead of us. We’re all working for the same thing here. I’m optimistic we are going to meet the challenges because I have seen what happened last session. We came in at a time that morale was poor [and] there was a lot of turmoil in the House, but we saw a group of men and women come together and climb that mountain. There will be a lot of challenges because of the budget, but I know it can be done.”

His colleague John Meadows says Ralston has the right combination of temperament and toughness to get things done.

“David’s not much of a politician,” Meadows says, “but he’s a hell of a statesman.”
Law & Order, The Defenders, L.A. Law and Damages lead the pack as the top legal TV shows by professors. Find out how the 25 shows rated — from oldies to the newbies — and why they were given a Thumbs Up or a Thumbs Down.
A passport to the legal
Besides adding an international flavor to your law degree, summer study abroad can take you all over the world to places you've always dreamed about. Here's a sample of what just seven of the hundreds of destinations are like.

BY REBECCA LARSEN

Law school study abroad programs are definitely not a legal version of the summer school experience. If you're in Shanghai, London, Jerusalem or a host of other summer study locales, chances are you are taking advantage of far more than just a few academic credits or the chance to travel to a few tourist spots.

Among the many perks of the experience, say students and program directors alike, is a genuine chance to gain a more enlightened global perspective and insight into the culture and lifestyle of the program's host country. Legal study abroad programs also give students a chance to have closer interaction with instructors and the opportunity to develop lasting friendships with fellow students, both U.S. and foreign classmates.

Law schools sponsor programs all around the globe, from Paris to Beijing and from Amsterdam to Madrid. But there is no set model. The study abroad opportunities range from two-week trips to two-month trips. We take a look at seven destinations and explore the culture, the courses and the unique opportunities law students had on their journey.

The Guide to Study Abroad Programs begins on page 32. Here you will find study abroad programs located in Africa, The Americas, The Middle East and Europe, hosted by over 150 law schools. Be sure to contact law schools for up-to-date program information, as some program information was not available by press time. For an expanded listing of study abroad program information, including tuition, application fees and requirements, go to NationalJurist.com/content/study-abroad.
China Beijing Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis 
China Beijing Loyola Law School - Los Angeles and Brooklyn Law School 
China Beijing Loyola Univ. Chicago School of Law 
China Beijing University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law 
China Beijing University of Georgia School of Law 
China Beijing University of New Hampshire 
China Hangzhou American University Washington College of Law 
China Hangzhou Indiana University School of Law - Bloomington

Program Dates
A: May 20-June 4; 8: May 20-June 18 
B: May 29-June 17 
C: May 14-June 5 
D: May 30-June 22 
E: June 27-July 11 
F: Fall: March 1, Spring: Sept. 25

Contact school
rilgriff@iupui.edu 
studyabroad@lls.edu, debbie.esparza@lls.edu 
studyabroad@wcl.american.edu

Kristie Gibson loved the setting of the building used for the Willamette College of Law study program in Shanghai because it offered a window into Chinese daily life. "Our dorm was in the middle of an older campus that still had houses where Chinese people lived," Gibson said. "So we could interact with them and watch them during their daily activities. There was a park nearby that we visited to watch people practicing tai chi and ballroom dancing, and they invited us to participate with them."

The dorm and classrooms are on the campus of the East China University of Politics and Law. Gibson already had a J.D. from the University of Oregon and was working on an LL.M. in transnational law when she went to China in 2009 with Willamette. Her husband went along as a companion and attended business meetings when she was in class. Many summer study abroad programs do allow spouses to come along if they pay a housing fee.

The two had been importing some items from suppliers in China for a store fixture business they had in the United States, and she hoped to use the one-

continued on page 38
NORTHERN EUROPE (continued)

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dispute resolution INSTITUTE

Study Abroad 2011
Program Offerings

Budapest, Hungary
June 6 - 17, 2011 (6 credits)
Mediation and Other Methods to Foster Democratic Dialogue
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WINTER 2011
VOL. 14, NO. 3

We've run the numbers and graded the law schools for their commitment to public service. CUNY and Yale lead the pack, but 94 other law schools get a B- or better. Find out who makes the grade.
A pairing of technology and interesting clients

After earning her Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry from Yale University, Karen LeCuyer worked several years as a biochemistry professor at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

"But I didn't want to be a professor anymore, and I wanted to leave the university. I'd thought about patents, and friends helped me find a job in the area," she said.

Law firm Cantor Colburn in Hartford, Conn., let her try a job as a technology consultant and patent agent for two days a week in the summer of 2001.

"I decided I liked it, and in November I quit my teaching job. I've been here ever since," she said.

Being a law firm employee naturally led her to return to the University of Connecticut as a law student, earning her J.D. in 2008. She had continued work at her firm while going to school part-time.

In law school, she took advantage of the Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Law Clinic, where she did work on trademarks as well as patents and also dealt with the ins and outs of the Bayh-Dole act, dealing with intellectual property.

Now she's an associate at Cantor Colburn. She specializes in pharmaceutical formulations and biotechnology and helps clients obtain patents for their new developments.

"I love my job because it's a marriage of technology and interesting clients," she said. "When clients come to us, it's usually because they've made new discoveries and they're very excited about it."

She works in patent prosecution, drafting applications for clients' inventions to submit to the U.S. Patent Office.

"Then the case is assigned to an examiner who writes back to tell us why the client can't have a patent," she said. "They generally say, 'Oh no, you can't have that,' and then we go back and forth a fair bit, amending and arguing. I usually joke that if you get approval on the first application, there's probably something wrong with the application."

Her law firm has hired a number of technology advisers like her and encouraged them to go on to law school.

"Cantor Colburn has been very progressive in hiring people with a chemistry background who can also write," she said. "Generally, you can't teach a lawyer the science, but someone with a science background can learn the law."
Q&A with Susann MacLachlan, clinical professor and director for the Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution at The John Marshall Law School

What is Advocacy & Dispute Resolution Law?

Advocacy and Dispute Resolution is the area of study that encompasses both litigation-based training and skills-training focusing on conflict resolution. Discovery techniques, litigation strategy, as well as trial advocacy, are each taught in a "learning-by-doing" approach to practice. The emphasis on preparation and performance in these courses ensures that students are courtroom-ready upon graduation.

What are the skills needed to work in this area of law?

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For example, there is an art to taking effective and useful depositions, and practicing the techniques of both taking and defending depositions is central to several of our dispute resolution courses. We also emphasize the importance of client interviews, legal issue spotting and the significance of the attorney's subsequent counseling skills for his client.

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Jenkins recalled as model regent

By LEE SHEARER - lee.shearer@onlineathens.com
Published Tuesday, January 04, 2011

Friends and colleagues remembered Felton Jenkins Jr. as a generous mentor, a tireless leader and a compassionate advocate.

Felton Jenkins Jr., a retired lawyer and vice chairman of the University System Board of Regents who lived in Madison, died Saturday of brain cancer, just weeks short of his 69th birthday.

"He was just the shining example of what a regent ought to be," said regents Chairman Willis Potts, who met Jenkins when both were sworn in as regents on the same day in 2006. "I just enjoyed working with him so very much. He was the kind of guy we would all aspire to be like. It's a tragic loss for the state."

Jenkins was an example to follow for Regent Dink NeSmith of Athens, who sat beside Jenkins at meetings after joining the board in 2008.

"They send us pounds of information to read and study every month, and Felton read every word," NeSmith said. "What a fine, fine gentleman and a terrific mentor. He always did his homework and knew the right questions. And better yet, he helped us answer the tough questions."

Jenkins was one of the few regents who have visited every one of the state's 35 public colleges and universities, NeSmith said.

"Anytime you went to a board meeting, he had done his homework. He had read..."
"Anytime you went to a board meeting, he had done his homework. He had read the material, and he had marked it up," said University of Georgia President Michael Adams. "He was the best. He was smart, he was conscientious, he was always prepared. He always made good suggestions and good comments, and made you think about what you were doing, whether you agreed or not."

Jenkins got both his undergraduate and law degrees from UGA, in 1963 and 1965, and supported the university with donations and by serving with groups like the law school's board of visitors.

"He was extraordinarily loyal to this institution," Adams said. "Mostly what he was concerned about at UGA was the quality of the academic program."

But Jenkins wanted to lift up the whole university system, according to Potts.

"He had a heart for the students that was something to behold," he said.

Jenkins took on some of the regents' toughest assignments, like coordinating efforts to expand medical training through the Medical College of Georgia, Potts said.

"He was always there when you needed him," he said.

Jenkins retired as a senior law partner with King & Spalding in 1992 after helping transform the law firm from a modest office of a couple of dozen partners into a major international firm with more than 800 lawyers and offices in Europe and Asia, as well as several major U.S. cities.

As a lawyer, Jenkins was intensively competitive on behalf of his clients and an outstanding lawyer who had argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, said John Staton Jr., another retired partner with King & Spalding.

Staton joined the law firm in 1964, a year before Jenkins, and the two worked alongside each other for nearly three decades.

Jenkins brought the same competitive fire to representing his clients as he showed in the 1950s, when he helped lead his Morgan County High School football team to three state championships.

"When you find somebody that likes to try cases and is good at it, you'll usually find they're very competitive, in the sense that they want to represent their clients well," Staton said.

Jenkins was a mountain climber as recently as 2009, when he made it to the South Base Camp of Mount Everest at the age of 68.
But Jenkins also took the qualities that helped him be a good lawyer into the volunteer work he devoted himself to after he retired from King & Spalding in 1992.

"He was very concerned about people, very concerned about causes," Staton said.

Jenkins was president of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Cancer Society and served on numerous other boards, both statewide and in his hometown of Madison, where he and his wife, Julie Green Jenkins, returned to live in 1997.

Jenkins was especially proud of his work with the Georgia Justice Project, a nonprofit organization that helps people turn their lives around after they have served prison sentences, Staton said.

"He was a great man, and I am going to miss him very much," Staton said.

Jenkins devoted his time to local organizations after returning to Madison in the late 1990s, said Andy Ainslie, chairman of the church council of the First United Methodist Church of Madison, where Jenkins was a member.

"We were really excited when he retired back here," said Ainslie, who recalled watching Jenkins play football as a child. "His presence and guidance on many decisions will be greatly missed. People looked to him for his opinion. He had a way of leading people to make the right decisions."
Hull Barrett Selects Two Attorneys as Shareholders of the Firm

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Hull Barrett Selects Two Attorneys as Shareholders of the Firm

Christopher A. Cooper & Chris Driver have been elevated to members of the firm.

Augusta, GA (Vocus(PRWEB)) January 04, 2011

Hull Barrett, PC is pleased to announce our two newest members of the firm, Christopher A. Cooper & Chris Driver, effective January 1, 2011. "I congratulate and commend Mr. Cooper and Mr. Driver for all that they have done and continue to do for Hull Barrett and our clients," said managing partner Douglas Batchelor. "These talented attorneys are the best, brightest and future of the firm and will enable Hull Barrett to grow and provide exceptional client services."

Christopher A. Cooper graduated summa cum laude from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2004 and completed a Clerkship in 2005 with the Honorable B. Avrant Edenfield, United States District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia. His practice focuses in the areas of general civil litigation with an emphasis in commercial litigation, construction litigation, class actions and medical malpractice. He has tried numerous cases in both state and federal trial courts, including successfully defending two recent cases in which the plaintiffs sought damages at trial of more than $5 million each. He has also handled numerous cases in mediation and in arbitration settings. From this firsthand experience, Chris is able to represent both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide range of litigation from small claims to multi million dollar torts, class action and malpractice claims and commercial and business disputes. Chris serves on the editorial board for Calendar Call, a periodical published by the General Practice and Trial Section of the Georgia Bar Association, and he graduated with Leadership Augusta Class of 2009.

Chris Driver graduated summa cum laude from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2002. Since joining Hull Barrett, he has practiced in the areas of construction and real estate law, both transactional and litigation, with a focus on the use and enjoyment of real estate, including land use, zoning, eminent domain, and property rights. He also practices local government law and has been Columbia County’s primary counsel for its right-of-way acquisitions and eminent domain litigation. Chris is instrumental in working with both large national employers and small local businesses for their transactional needs and provides counsel to help prevent litigation. He is a member of the County Attorney’s Section, Georgia Association of County Commissioners and the Local Government Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia and has attended on numerous occasions the annual Institute for City and County Attorneys. Chris currently serves on the board of the Kiwanis Club of Augusta and recently finished serving on the board of the Georgia-Carolina Boy Scout Council. Prior to joining Hull Barrett in February 2005, Chris worked with nationally respected law firms of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker, LLP and Ashe, Refuse & Hill, LLP in their employment law departments.

About Hull Barrett, PC:

Hull Barrett, PC is a full service law firm with 29 attorneys firm wide. The firm is engaged in a general civil practice providing a broad range of legal services with an emphasis on general litigation, trial and appeals, securities and corporate law, mergers, acquisitions and public offerings, local government law and eminent domain actions, health care, computer and technology law, internet ventures, trademark and copyright law, taxation, public finance, commercial real estate, construction law and disputes; employment law; banking law; insurance law, trusts, estate planning and probate; First Amendment and media law and environmental matters. Hull Barrett represents a broad client base of major corporations, small businesses, professional entities, financial and lending institutions, local governments, public authorities, utilities, railroad companies, insurance companies, health care institutions and individuals.

Hull Barrett is also a member of the International Society of Primerus Law Firms (Primerus) which is the leading alliance of small and medium-sized, top-rated, independent firms. Primerus has over 160 law firms in over 120 cities located in Canada, China, Cyprus, England, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Puerto Rico, Russia, Switzerland and 44 states in the United States. Primerus firms provide clients with responsive, partner-level service at reasonable fees. Law firms in the U.S. and Canada must be AV-rated using the Martindale-Hubbell peer review service. For firms outside of North America, consideration is given to...
Panel discussions will focus on legal issues, historical significance of UGA's desegregation

By Sara Freeland
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Two panel discussions on UGA's desegregation 50 years ago will take place Jan. 10-11 on campus.

"We believe that it's very important for students to know about this history—even though we are five decades removed from 1961," said Derrick Alridge, director of the Institute for African American Studies and co-chair of the 50th Anniversary of Desegregation Committee. "The desegregation of UGA ushered in an era of change that paved the way for UGA to become a world-class university."

A panel discussion about the legal issues involved in UGA's desegregation and progress the university has made over the past five decades will be held Jan. 10 at 5 p.m. in Masters Hall of the Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center and Hotel. Participants will include Horace Ward, the first African American to challenge UGA's discriminatory admissions policies after being denied admission to the School of Law in 1950, and Robert Benham, who was one of the first African Americans to receive a law degree from UGA in 1970 and later became the first African-American chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court.

Specifically, the group will discuss Ward's experiences with his court case and the court case surrounding Hamilton Holmes' and Charlayne Hunter-Gault's 1959 application to UGA. Ward, currently a senior district judge, served on Holmes and Hunter-Gault's legal team. He also is the first African American to sit on the federal bench in Georgia.

See DISCUSSIONS on page 3

Community event to honor Mary Frances Early

By Sara Freeland
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UGA's first African-American graduate, Mary Frances Early, will be honored with a community reception Jan. 13 at 1 p.m. in the cafeteria of J.J. Harris Elementary Charter School, 2300 Danielsville Road. She also will be the featured speaker at the eighth annual Freedom Breakfast on Jan. 14 at 7:30 a.m. in the Grand Hall of the Tate Student Center.

Open to the public, the reception is hosted by the College of Education and the Institute for African American Studies. The elementary school's orchestra and chorus will perform. A group from UGA's Hugh Hodgson School of Music also is scheduled to perform. Nancy Denson, mayor of Athens-Clarke County; Andy Horne, dean of the education college; Derrick Alridge, director of the Institute for African American Studies; and Xernona Thomas, the school's principal, are among those who will give remarks. Early also will speak briefly.

"We wanted to host the event in the community because of Ms. Early's commitment to public education," said Jenny Penney Oliver, a senior academic professional in counseling and human services.

See EARLY on page 3

Grady College sponsors campus-wide read of Hunter-Gault memoir

By Diane Murray
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As a part of the 50th anniversary celebration of desegregation at UGA, the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication is sponsoring a campus-wide read of Charlayne Hunter-Gault's memoir, In My Place.

The book recalls the UGA alumna's early years growing up black and female in the Deep South and the turmoil surrounding her entrance to the university in 1963 and her journey to a distinguished career in newspapers, magazines, radio and television.

In preparation for the Hunter-Gault college expo

By Matt Weeks
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Charlayne Hunter-Gault, one of the first two black students admitted to the University of Georgia, will deliver a talk about her experiences in college and beyond on Jan. 10, 50 years after she first registered for classes.

Her 50th Anniversary Lecture, which takes place at 3 p.m. in Mahler Auditorium in the Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center and Hotel, is part of 50 days of events on campus.
J.A. Williams that he was withdrawing them from UGA "in the interest of your personal safety and for the safety and welfare of more than 7,000 other students at the University of Georgia." The riot and the suspension decision sparked an outcry, and more than 400 faculty members immediately signed a resolution calling for the return of Holmes and Hunter to campus. Within days, a new court order brought them back.

**Legislative maneuvering**

Meanwhile, state political leaders were doing some legislative maneuvering to keep UGA from being closed. In 1956, the Georgia General Assembly had passed a law forbidding recodification of blacks and whites and cutting off state funds if schools were desegregated. Fortunately, Gov. Ernest Vandiver and key legislative leaders (all UGA alumni) decided that the school needed to remain open.

Holmes and Hunter were soon joined at UGA by another Turner High alum, Mary Frances Early, who transferred from the University of Michigan, where she was in graduate school. Early, who said she made the move to provide moral support to Holmes and Hunter, earned her master's degree in music education in 1962, becoming UGA's first African-American graduate.

Holmes and Hunter graduated in 1963. Holmes received a bachelor of science degree cum laude and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He went on to earn a medical degree from Emory University and became an orthopedic surgeon in Atlanta, affiliated with Emory's medical school and Grady Memorial Hospital. Hunter pursued a career in journalism, first with *The New York Times*, then with PBS, CNN and NPR.

**Return to campus**

Years passed before Holmes or Hunter returned to campus, but in 1979 Hunter came back to do a documentary on the riots and the suspension. The riot and the suspension that was withdrawing them that year by Jesse Jackson. It was the last time she and Holmes appeared at UGA together.

Holmes died in October 1995 at age 54. At his funeral, Hunter-Gault spoke movingly of their shared experience in desegregating the university and, in a *Washington Post* column, remembered him as "one in a million."

In 2001, UGA marked the 40th anniversary of desegregation by bringing back to campus many of the key figures from the 1960s including Hunter-Gault, Early, Hollowell, Ward, Baker-Motley and Vandiver, who offered an apology for campaigning for governor with a pledge to uphold segregation. The day's activities included the unveiling of a plaque to mark the renaming of the Academic Building as the Holmes-Hunter Academic Building.

**A more diverse UGA**

Additional efforts have since been made to celebrate the courage of those who opened the doors to a more diverse UGA. The Graduate and Professional Scholars (GAPS) established an annual lecture series honoring Early in 2001, Hollowell was awarded an honorary UGA degree in 2002, and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree was bestowed on Jordan in 2007.

The Hamilton Holmes Professorship and the Charlayne Hunter-Gault Writer-in-Residence positions have been filled (see stories, page 2) and searches are currently under way for professorships honoring Early and Hollowell.

UGA's Russell Library now houses the Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights Studies Collection, honoring largely unsung heroes including Early, who observed in a 2007 interview, "You have to appreciate the progress that has been made... a lot of good things have happened."

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**LECTURE from page 1**

reflect on those 50 years is a unique challenge as well as opportunity—and I am excited about looking back and sharing memories of those years with young people and trying to see what I can contribute to their own unique challenges and opportunities so that they may put their stamp on the next half century. I hope I can share with them some of my journey in some way that may inspire them on their 50-year journey.

A graduate of the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, Hunter-Gault has built a successful career for herself with positions in newspapers, magazines, radio and television. When asked about what she'll talk about, she said she was still working out the details.

"We used to sing an old song during the civil rights movement called 'How I Got Over,'" she said. "Well, that comes about as close as I can get right now."

**DISCUSSIONS from page 1**

"Horace Ward was the first African American to apply to the School of Law and his case helped pave the way for Hamilton and Charlayne's case to come along a few years later," Alridge said.

The panel discussion "Chronicles UGA's Desegregation" will be held Jan. 11 at 4:30 p.m. Room 101 of the Miller Learning Center.

It will feature five authors who have written about the desegregation. From UGA's faculty, the authors are Maurice Daniels, dean of the School of Social Work, who wrote *Horace T. Ward: Desegregation of the University of Georgia, Civil Rights Advocacy and Jurisprudence*; Robert Pratt, a history professor who chronicled UGA's desegregation in *We Shall Not Be Moved*; and Thomas Dyer, a history professor emeritus who included a chapter on the event in his bicentennial history of UGA. Robert Cohen, professor of history and social studies at New York University, who also has written about UGA's desegregation in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, and Calvin Trillin, who wrote *An Education in Georgia* and was a reporter for *Time* magazine at the time of the desegregation, will also participate.

Betty Jean Craige, director of the Wilson Center for the Humanities and Arts and University Professor of Comparative Literature, will moderate the discussion.

**PERIODICALS POSTAGE STATEMENT**

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Adrian Patrick
Class of 1991 and 1994

For Adrian Patrick, earning two degrees from UGA was only part of his education. Graduating from UGA twice in the 1990s—one with a bachelor's degree in finance in 1991 and again with a law degree in 1994—showed him two different sides of human nature, he said.

During his undergraduate years, he experienced problems—police officers would pull him over while driving or ask what he was doing on campus and sometimes he'd get called names by a student—but he also found professors who cared about his education and treated him with respect.

"I wouldn't say the incidents at UGA were bad by any means. The racial environment there wasn't any different from what some people experienced outside the university environment—if anything it was better. I'm from Cordele, and I've lived in Atlanta, and we had incidents there as well that were probably more numerous than at the University of Georgia," he said. "The treatment I received from professors was always fair. And as far as the benefits I received from going to UGA, I'm still experiencing those. What happened to me during those years were non-frequent incidents."

Patrick now runs his own law firm specializing in criminal law, divorce, construction, probate and general legal services in Atlanta. His wife, Kimberly Miller Patrick, graduated from the UGA School of Law in 1996 and currently works as an attorney with the city of Atlanta.

"The black community at UGA at that time was very close. There was a lot of unity among us, which was a benefit," he said. "In most of my classes we'd have from six to eight black students, and at a place this large that made us a pretty thriving community. Everybody knew everybody."

That kind of community, he said, probably won't exist again at UGA. As the university and the culture at large change, myths about race have faded and the way it's perceived has changed, he said.

"I don't know if UGA is different, but I think black students are different now. I think people who are my age were more conscious of blackness than most of the black kids I talk to today," he said. "They think everybody is no different. We've even got a black president. So, in a way, the level of black consciousness has declined."

"Not that it's a bad thing. You've got more interracial marriages and more biracial or mixed-race children, so generally the consciousness of race has gone down," he added. "If you talk to people who graduated in 1998, 1999 and later, you're going to notice a big difference in their views."

—Matt Weeks
1961 • Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter become the first African Americans to register at UGA after winning a legal battle to gain admission.

1962 • Mary Frances Early, who enrolls at UGA as a graduate student in the summer of 1961 to support Holmes and Hunter, earns a master's degree in music education—becoming the first African American to earn a UGA degree.

1963 • Holmes and Hunter graduate from UGA. He goes on to medical school at Emory; she begins a career as a journalist.

1966 • Chester Davenport becomes the first African-American graduate of the School of Law, 16 years after Horace Ward, the first black applicant to UGA, was denied admission.

1968 • Richard Graham becomes the first full-time African-American faculty member when he comes to the

1987 • Robert Pratt becomes first African-American faculty member in the history department, later writes a book on UGA's desegregation, We Shall Not Be Moved.

1988 • President Charles Knapp announces the hiring of 20 new black faculty members—nearly doubling the number (29) previously on campus. • Bryndis Roberts Jenkins named UGA's first African-American vice president, heading the legal affairs office.

1989 • The Office of Minority Services and Programs opens in the fall, and Leslie Bates becomes the first director in April 1990. Vanessa Williams Smith initiates the Black Educational Support Team

1988 • Dean Louis Castenell, who serves as acting associate provost for institutional diversity.

2003 • Eve Troutt Powell, associate professor of history, becomes first UGA faculty member to receive MacArthur Foundation "genius award." • Asian American Student Association founded by Sarah Chen.

2004 • UGA partners with the Athens-Clarke County government and the school district to host inaugural Freedom Breakfast—now an annual event—to mark the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday. • Damon Evans (B.B.A. '92, M.Ed. '94) becomes director of athletics and is named by Sports Illustrated as one of the "Most Influential Minorities in Sports."
1969  The Zeta Pi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha becomes the first African-American fraternity at UGA. Members include Eddie Cheeks, Alan Jackson, Richard Morgan, Bennie Roberson, Michael Stover, Russell William and Alonzo Wilson.

1970  Basketball player Ronnie Hogue becomes the first African American to play a major sport at UGA.

1971  Richard Appleby, Horace King, Chuck Kinnebrew, Clarence Pope and Larry West break the color barrier on the football team.

1972  A group of African-American students form a vocal ensemble called the Pamoja Singers, which later becomes the African American Choral Ensemble under the auspices of the School of Music. The Pamoja Dance Company, created in 1974, is another offshoot that continues today as part of the African American Cultural Center.

1976  The Black Theatrical Ensemble is founded to give African-American students the opportunity to stage productions. Larry Calhoun is the first president and Micah Penn the first director. Larry Blount becomes the first African-American faculty member in the School of Law, where his portrait now hangs.

1977  Leroy Ervin and Ron Fadden found Abeneefoo Kuo Honor Society for black students. The name means "circle of honor" in Swahili.

1980  Several black faculty and staff, including Katheryn Davis, Maurice Daniels, Leroy Ervin and others, form the Black Faculty and Staff Organization.

1981  Harold Wright becomes the first African-American drum major for the Redcoat Marching Band.

1986  Vernon Jordan delivers the inaugural Holmes-Hunter Lecture, a series established during UGA's bicentennial.

1991  Hispanic Student Association founded by Melissa Sulli.

1992  Indian Cultural Exchange founded by Premal Amin and other students.

1993  Telvis Rich and running mate Ron Jones become the first African-American students to serve as president and vice president of the Student Government Association.

1994  The African-American Cultural Center is founded by the Division of Student Affairs, African-American studies and members of BFSO. Kimberly Thomas is the first coordinator of the center.

1995  Alumnus Robert Benham (J.D. '70) becomes the Georgia Supreme Court's first black chief justice.

1996  Former Lady Dogs Teresa Edwards and Katrina McClain jointly carry Olympic torch past Stegeman Coliseum, then lead U.S. women's basketball team to gold medal.

1997  Graduate student Akinloye Ojo launches African Perspectives show on WUGA-FM. He continues as host after earning his Ph.D. in 2001 and joining the faculty in comparative literature.


2000  Sprinter Debbie Ferguson chosen as recipient of NCAA's Top VIII award after winning silver medal in '96 Olympics and gold at '99 World Championships. Art Dunning, who as a student helped desegregate the University of Alabama, becomes vice president for public service and outreach.

2001  UGA marks 40th anniversary of desegregation.

2002  The Office of Institutional Diversity is established under the direction of College of Education
ECS graduate Brian Lea to clerk for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas

By Lawrence Buser

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Former Collierville resident Brian Lea has been selected to clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas for the coming October term.

Lea, 27, finished first in his 2009 graduating class at the University of Georgia law school in Athens where he was articles editor of the Georgia Law Review and was inducted into the Order of the Coif, an honorary scholastic society.

He has served as a judicial clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit and currently is with the DLA Piper law firm in Atlanta.

Lea, a graduate of Evangelical Christian School and Union University, is the son of Charlie and Louise Lea of Collierville.

His father is a former major league baseball pitcher and broadcaster for the Memphis Redbirds.

Brian Lea will be the fifth Georgia law graduate in seven years to clerk for the U.S. Supreme Court.
In brief: Judge Donald nominated again

By Staff

Thursday, January 6, 2011

U.S. District Judge Bernice B. Donald of Memphis, whose Dec. 1 nomination to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals was not confirmed before the Senate’s adjournment last year, was renominated by President Barack Obama on Wednesday.

Donald was one of 42 nominees for appellate or district judgeships re-submitted for consideration.

Donald filed required Judiciary Committee paperwork but the committee didn’t have the time to vote her nomination out to the full Senate during the crush of issues being resolved in the closing days of 2010.

Donald, 59, has been a U.S. District Judge for 15 years and has been a judge for more than 28 years. A native of DeSoto County, she was one of the first students to integrate Olive Branch High School. She is a graduate of the then-Memphis State University and its Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

The president also re-nominated Kevin Hunter Sharp, formerly of Memphis and now a Nashville lawyer, to the federal district court for Middle Tennessee. He was originally nominated in November.

— Bartholomew Sullivan

COLLIERVILLE

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MEMPHIS

Bridges hosts series on equity

Bridges is offering a three-month series of luncheons to advance equity in Memphis, including education.

The first event, at noon Wednesday, will feature Beverly Cross, who holds the Moss Chair of Excellence in Urban Education at the University of Memphis. She will speak on the role educational justice plays in moving the region forward.

Susan Glisson, head of the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation at the University of Mississippi, will speak Feb. 9 on racial equity. Wanda Rushing, who wrote "Memphis and the Paradox of Place: Globalization in the American South," will speak March 17 on economic justice.

Bridges is at 477 N. Fifth St. Lunch is $10. The events are free without lunch.

Register at bridgesusa.org/luncheon.

— Jane Roberts
Felton Jenkins, Jr., was Vice Chairman of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, died on the 1st of January 2011 after a short battle with brain cancer. Born on January 18, 1941 in Madison, Georgia, Jenkins was a retired senior law partner with King & Spalding. He served as Chair of the Georgia Justice Project, President of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Cancer Society and Chairman of the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center. Jenkins also has served on the Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority, the Georgia Appellate Judicial Selection Commission, the Georgia Judicial Process Review Commission, and the Georgia Joint Study Commission on Revenue Structure. He was on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, the Decatur First Bank Group and Dundee Mills, Inc.

Jenkins earned his undergraduate degree (A.B., 1963) and his law degree (J.D., 1965) from the University of Georgia, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa. Admitted to the bar in 1964, he joined the King & Spalding firm in 1965 and later served as Co-Chair of the firm's Litigation Section. As a successful trial lawyer in the state and federal courts, he argued cases in several Federal Circuit Courts of Appeals and before the United States Supreme Court. He was a Life Fellow of both the American Bar Foundation and the State Bar of Georgia, for which he served on the Board of Governors. He was president of the Younger Lawyers Section (1972-73). Throughout his career, he actively supported his university as chair of the Law School's Board of Visitors, Secretary of the Foundation and member of the UGA Strategic Planning Group.

He retired in 1992, and in 1997, he moved back to his boyhood home, Madison, where he farmed cattle, trees and pasture land in Morgan County. He taught Sunday school and served as a trustee at Madison First United Methodist Church, where he was baptized and raised. In addition to his several civic and nonprofit board endeavours, he was a golfer, traveler and adventurer. Jenkins climbed Mt St. Helens, Mt. Hood, Mt Kilimanjaro, and completed the 33 mile Milford Track in New Zealand. On his most recent international expedition to Nepal in 2009 at age 68, he trekked to the South Base Camp of Mt. Everest at 17,590 feet of elevation. Always an athlete and competitor, he played on three Georgia state champion football teams in the late 1950's for Morgan County High School.

Felton Jenkins, Jr. leaves behind his beloved wife of 44 years, Julie Green Jenkins, and their three children, Felton Jenkins III (wife Karen) of Savannah; Emily Jenkins Fellowlow (husband Tom and their children Sarah and Thomas) of Alforda; Rev. Alan Davis Jenkins of Atlanta; his sister Virginia Jenkins Payne Foreman (husband Clarence and sons Dr. Miles Payne and William Foreman) of Jackson, MI., many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was the son of A. Felton Jenkins and Jimmie Davis Jenkins. A memorial service was held at Madison First U.M.C., 296 S. Main Street, Madison, Georgia on Wednesday, January 5, at 11:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Georgia Justice Project, 438 Edgewood Ave. Atlanta, GA 30312; Madison-Morgan Cultural Center, 434 S. Main, St., Madison, 30650; and/or Madison-Morgan Conservancy, P.O. Box 752 Madison, GA 30650. The family expresses appreciation and thanks to the many friends and healthcare providers throughout his illness.
ATLANTA -- Gov.-elect Nathan Deal today announced his choice for commissioner of the Georgia Real Estate Commission, William "Bill" Rogers, Jr., and Bobby Cagle as the commissioner of the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning.

A news release provided the following information:

**William L. Rogers, Jr., commissioner, Georgia Real Estate Commission**

Rogers became a partner of Whelchel & Dunlap, LLP, in 1976 and practices in real estate and banking law. Rogers was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 1971. He is a member of the Gainesville-Northeastern Bar Association, serving as president from 1988-1989. He has also served on the Executive Committee of the Real Property Section of the State Bar of Georgia. Rogers is a past president of the United Way of Hall County as well as the Kiwanis Club of Gainesville and as past director of the Gainesville-Hall County Chamber of Commerce.

Rogers graduated from Emory University with a bachelors of arts in history and from the University Of Georgia School of Law in 1971, where he was a member of the Georgia Law Review and a legal writing instructor.

**Bobby Cagle, commissioner, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning**

Cagle currently serves as director of legislative and external affairs for the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, where he has worked for the past five years. Prior to his service at DFCS, Cagle was the deputy director of Youth and Family Services within the state of North Carolina's Department of Social Services and has also held the position of Chief Probation/Parole Officer for the North Carolina Department of Correction in Murphy, N.C.

Cagle earned the 2010 Higher Directions Award from Georgia EmpowerMEnt and was the 1997 North Carolina Probation/Parole Officer of the Year. He earned a bachelor of arts in political science and sociology and a master's of social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
Companies
Trex Co. Inc. is introducing a high-quality, versatile deck design program for contractors, designers and landscape architects. DeckWorks operates as a plug-in for the popular Vectorworks Inc. platform, allowing professionals to produce and output photorealistic 3-D renderings of outdoor living spaces for their customers. For more information, visit www.trex.com.

DuPont Community Credit Union’s Woodstock Office, which opened in 2008, recently collected 215 new and gently-used coats for elementary school age children in Shenandoah County. This is the first year of what is hoped to be an annual holiday project for the local branch office.

For the 21st consecutive year, The Chandler Law Group offered its free Safe Ride Home during the holiday season. From Dec. 17 through Jan. 1, anyone who had been drinking alcohol and was in need of a safe ride home could call Taxi USA in Winchester or Elwood Cab in Front Royal, and The Chandler Law Group paid the cab fare within a 10 mile radius. The program, which began in 1990, provided a total of 180 safe rides home locally last month.

The Shenandoah County Soccer League has received more than $1,650 in funds and equipment from Buettner Tire Distributors and Uniroyal Tire in Woodstock. The national program, currently in its 11th year, continues to be a major supporter of youth soccer, donating nearly $13 million, including over 1 million soccer balls, since 2000 through the Uniroyal Soccer Program.

Cub Cadet, a commercial and residential outdoor power equipment manufacturer in Cleveland, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary at the National Dealer Meeting in Orlando, Fla. Cub Cadet’s celebration included the presentation of the prestigious "First Cut Partners Award" to Shade Equipment Co. Inc. of Winchester, recognizing Shade as a continuous full service Cub Cadet dealer since the brand’s inception. Sales Manager C. Kelly Lockhart received the award on behalf of Shade Equipment.

Personnel
The following area Edward Jones representatives have accepted invitations to become limited partners or increase their limited partner holdings in The Jones Financial COS., the holding company for the St. Louis-based financial services firm: Bret Hrbek and Tina Maddox in Front Royal, Tracy P. Miller and Kathy Hines in Edinburg, and Janet Davidson in Stephens City.

Aaron Tweedle, a Realtor and builder, has joined the Skyline Real Estate team of real estate professionals in Strasburg. He can be reached at 622-7702 or 465-2800.
Michael Aulgur, manager of external affairs for Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative, has been appointed by Gov. Bob McDonnell to the Virginia Universities Clean Energy Development and Economic Stimulus Foundation.

Steve Cluss, Dr. Sherif Kae, Diane Kearns and Jim Stutzmans have joined Winchester Medical Centers board of trustees.

Class recently retired after a 32-year career as an executive in the lumber industry. He was chief operations officer for C.G. Cluss Lumber Co. in Unontown, Pa., before moving to Winchester to become president of Valley Lumber Building Materials. Kae, a board-certified family practitioner, is owner of Berryville Medical Associates, PLC, and medical weight loss consultant to WMCs bariatric program.

Kearns, a Winchester native, is an orchardist and president of Fruit Hill Orchard Inc., and Virginia Apple Storage Inc. Stutzman has been president and CEO of Jim Stutzman Chevrolet Cadillac-Buck in Winchester since 1995, a position he earned after 15 years of steady promotion with the dealership.

The Top of Virginia Building Association has named its slate of officers for 2011: Danny McKee, Ken Construction Services, president; Bob Wells, Elite Insulation, president-elect; Mike Whitty, Ferguson Enterprises, vice president; Lori Fountain, Fountain Homes, immediate past president; Tracy Jewell, Alcosa Mortgage, secretary; Scott Moore, Bank of Clarke County, treasurer.

Joe Waltz, director of energy resource management for the Front Royal electric department, was recognized for completing a term on the American Municipal Power Inc. board of trustees at the groups annual conference held Oct. 25-26 in Columbus, Ohio. During the meeting the town of Front Royal was elected to a new term on the board.

J. Michael Aulgur, manager of external affairs for Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative, has been appointed by Gov. Bob McDonnell to the Virginia Universities Clean Energy Development and Economic Stimulus Foundation.

Awards

Catherine "Kitty" C. Abell has been named Randolph-Macon Academy's vice president for development. Abell comes to R-MA with a strong background in institutional development and fundraising, including as director of advancement at the Epstein School, near Atlanta. She previously served at the University of Georgia Law School, the Shenandoah School and the Shepherd Hospital Center.

Thomas W. Ashton, of Richmond, has joined the law firm of Marilyn Ann Solomon in Winchester. Ashton is an experienced attorney specializing in family law, personal injury law and contract law.

Bill Wiley has re-joined the ERA Oak Crest family in Winchester as an associate broker with Oak Crest Commercial Real Estate. As a broker in Virginia with 10 years of real estate industry experience, his background includes acquisition-development of land, design-build solutions of commercial construction and tax credit opportunities.

Appointments

Shenandoah County cattle and grain producer Peter A. Truban, of Woodstock, has been re-elected to a three-year term on the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation board of directors. Truban previously served the remainder of a three-year term held by John R. Zinkle Sr., of New Market, who died in April 2009. He will represent Farm Bureau producer members in Clarke, Frederick, Loudoun, Page, Rappahannock, Shenandoah and Warren counties.

The Top of Virginia Regional Chamber voted in three new members to its board of directors during its December meeting: Jason Atkins, vice president, Atkins Group; Jim McCarty, executive vice president and chief accounting officer, Bank of Clarke County; and Sharon Farinholt, owner, Crown Trophy. Re-elected to the board for an additional term was Patricia Taylor, superintendent of Frederick County Public Schools.

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Ralph's Home Store in New Market was recently recognized as a Bronze-level mattress dealer by Therapeutic International and Kathy Ireland Home.

Winchester resident Dorothy LaFollette has been named Caregiver of the Year by the local Home Instead Senior Care franchise office for her outstanding dedication and service to older adults. Home Instead Senior Care is the world's largest provider of non-medical in-home care services for seniors.

Dennis Boyd was the top lister and Katrina Smith was top salesperson and top producer in the Winchester office of Long & Foster/Webber & Associates last month.

Ten attorneys with Lenhart Obenshain PC in Harrisonburg were recognized in the 2010 "Legal Elite" survey conducted annually by Virginia Business magazine. They are: Brian K. Brake (construction); John W. Flora (taxes/estates/trusts/elder law); Lisa Anne Hawkins (real estate/land use); Jeffrey G. Lenhart (business law); Mark O. Obenshain (civil litigation); Nancy R. Schlichting (alternative dispute resolution); Jennifer E. Shirkey (young lawyer); Bill Shmidehiser (family/domestic relations); Lynn K. Suter (legislative/regulatory/administrative); and Cathleen P. Welsh (labor/employment).

Mr. Appliance Corp., which has a local franchise in Strasburg, ranked No. 200 on Entrepreneur magazine's 2011 Franchise 500 list. This is the 11th consecutive year the company has made the list. The magazine also listed Mr. Appliance No. 158 on its Top Global Franchises list and No. 58 on its Top Home-Based Franchise list.

Certifications
Marie Dilorenzo, associate broker at OakCrest Commercial Real Estate in Winchester, has been awarded the Certified Commercial Investment Member designation by the CCIM Institute, one of the leading commercial real estate associations in the world.

Teresa Sullivan, practice manager at Warren County Veterinary Clinic, has earned the Certified Veterinary Practice Manager designation by successfully passing the certification exam offered by the Veterinary Hospital Managers Association on Sept. 27 in Savannah, Ga. The designation is VHMA's highest professional distinction.

Conferences
Dick Davies and Eric Estep, both of Frederick Block, Brick & Stone, recently attended the Allied Stone Industry Study Tour in Scranton, Pa. The event included tours of a coal mine and of Endless Mountain's block and bluestone quarries, fabrication plant and stone yard.

Seminars
Amerisist Assisted Living will host an educational workshop on Veterans Affairs benefits on Jan. 20 at 2 p.m. at 106 Westminster Drive, Front Royal. The VA Aid and Attendance Pension benefit offers eligible veterans or their surviving spouses a significant monthly pension, ranging from $1,056 to $1,949 per month, tax-free. To be eligible, veterans must have served 90 consecutive days or more with at least one day during a wartime period and meet a few medical and financial eligibility criteria.
The workshop is free and open to the public. Call 631-0505 to register, or visit www.veteransfinancial.com for more information about the benefit.

Financial
United Bankshares Inc. paid out a fourth-quarter dividend of 30 cents per share on Monday to shareholders of record as of Dec. 10. Dividends per share of $1.20 for 2010 represent a 3 percent increase over the $1.17 per share paid for 2009.

-- Daily Staff Reports

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Comments

Comments that are posted on nvdaily.com represent the opinion of the commenter and not the Northern Virginia Daily/nvdaily.com.

Comments that contain Web addresses, e-mail addresses, personal attacks, name-calling or personal information considered by the editor to be inappropriate for posting here will not be posted.

Commenters agree to abide by our COMMENTS POLICY when posting. Questions? E-mail us at...
Melton judges this Auburn team something special

By Michelle Hiskey
For the AJC

4:12 p.m. Saturday, January 8, 2011

Georgia Supreme Court Justice Harold Melton graduated from Auburn in 1988, and occasionally helps his alma mater with (academic) recruiting. He will watch the Tigers battle Oregon in the BCS title game Monday.

When I was a student at Auburn, I didn't realize how spoiled I was to have Bo Jackson as a running back. He made everything, even an 80-yard run, look easy. I started in 1984, and he won the Heisman Trophy in 1985.

I went to the 1988 Sugar Bowl [against] Syracuse, and Auburn tied. That was not fulfilling.

At University of Georgia Law School, I went to see Auburn play at Tennessee. I drove there in the rain, watched us get beaten in the rain and drove the long ride back in the rain. I was miserable. After that, I decided to never let a football game ruin my day. I enjoy it, but it doesn't determine my existence.

In my life, Auburn football is a great escape. We all have jobs that are put to certain types of strains and stress. Sports are a way of bringing people together and relieving stress over something that in the big scheme of things doesn't matter.

This season has been complete fun, especially since it was unexpected. I knew we had a good program with an opportunity to do something special this season, but I didn't anticipate us being undefeated and having a shot at bringing home the national trophy.

Cam Newton's individual play is earth-changing. What he's done I didn't think was physically possible: to be 6-foot-5, 250 pounds, a player who can throw, run over or around somebody, and who can make all the right decisions. He's made big plays when we needed them and has changed the idea of what can be expected.

As far as the NCAA investigation, it does sound as if something happened. I hope the NCAA got all it needed to get, and that it's determined the level of sanctions is accurate. Cam Newton has overcome a lot personally, and I wish him well as he heads into a bright future. I hope I'll cheer him on Sundays.

The last time Auburn was in the national championship was 1957, so it's a once in a 50-year experience. We've always come up short to Alabama in terms of national championships. We beat them this year, but we'd like to match them for national titles.

Monday night, I intentionally plan to watch by myself. My son, who is 9, might stay up and watch with me.
I don't want a big party. I don't want any distractions. I want to take it in.

-- Reported by Michelle Hiskey
College graduation rate is below average

ATLANTA - A new report shows Georgia leads the nation in the rate of recent high school graduates enrolling in college, but only half of those students actually get a degree.

The report released Tuesday by the Southern Regional Education Board shows that Georgia trails both the national and regional averages for college completion. Only 42 percent of Georgia ninth-graders have a reasonable chance of enrolling in college, compared with the regional and national average of 44 percent.

The report shows that 72 percent of Georgia students enroll in college within a year of graduating high school, more than any other state. The national average is 63 percent.

Atlanta-based SREB works with 16 Southern states to improve public education.

Teacher certification program approved

COLUMBIA - The state Education Board has approved an alternative certification path that allows Teach for America recruits to get jobs in South Carolina classrooms.

The board approved Wednesday a new way for college graduates without an education degree to teach. It came over the objections of teacher groups and college education departments. They wanted the board to block Teach for America graduates from teaching in elementary grades, saying budget cuts mean certified teachers for those grades already can't find work.

The approved guidelines allow up to 30 percent of jobs filled through Teach for America to be in the early grades.

The nonprofit recruits recent college graduates to struggling schools. It plans to bring 30 teachers to Pee Dee schools next year.

Couple charged for false police report

CHARLESTON, S.C. - Charleston police say a couple's story about being robbed, forced to strip and tossed into the Cooper River never happened and the two are being charged with filing a false police report.

Police said Wednesday that 20-year-old John Shafer and 19-year-old Penelope Jade Murray are being charged. Both are from Charleston.

Authorities said the couple walked into a hotel lobby early Nov. 23 naked and covered in mud.

At the time Shafer told police they had been sitting in the city's Waterfront
Park when they were approached by another couple who assaulted them and demanded their cell phones and money.

The original police report said the two were forced to strip at knifepoint and thrown into the water.

Haley makes second cabinet nomination

COLUMBIA - South Carolina Gov.-elect Nikki Haley has picked an attorney to head the state agency that enforces professional licensing and labor laws.

Catherine Templeton was nominated Wednesday to run the Labor, Licensing and Regulation Department. It's Haley's second Cabinet announcement — following her pick of a BMW executive and former newspaper editor to lead the state Commerce Department.

Templeton is a labor and employment lawyer and has specialized in union opposition.

The state Senate must confirm all nominations to the Cabinet, which consists of 15 agency heads who report to the governor.

Haley is to be sworn into office in January

Republican Gov. Mark Sanford held his last Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

**UGA law school gets high-profile professors**

ATHENS, Ga. - Two big names are coming to the classrooms of the University of Georgia School of Law this spring.

Former Georgia Lt. Gov. Pierre Howard is joining the faculty as the Sanders Political Leadership Scholar and will teach a course on law and politics. He served as lieutenant governor from 1991 to 1999 and is currently president of the Georgia Conservancy.


- Edited from wire reports

LOAD-DATE: January 8, 2011

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Newsmakers

By Savannah Morning News
Created 2011-01-09 00:18

Summary:
Hires and promotions
Savannah Morning News

Hires and promotions

Dr. Nick Bollin

New job title: Optometrist

Company: Palmetto Eye Specialists

Duties: He will serve in the firm's new Lady's Island office in Palmetto Business Park, 33 Kemmerlin Lane (formerly Bailey Vision Clinic). He joins Dr. Ken Farr, Dr. Walter Meier, Dr. Emily Bollin, Dr. Perin Diana and Dr. Jocelyn Herman.

Education: Doctorate of Optometry from Ohio State University College of Optometry.

Kandice N. Harvey

New job title: law partner

Company: Gray & Pannell LLP

Duties: Harvey's focus will be in the areas of municipal finance and commercial real estate.

Related work experience: Harvey was previously an associate with Gray & Pannell LLP and is a member of the State Bar of Georgia, the National Association of Bond Lawyers, the Savannah Bar Association, the Young Lawyers Division of the Savannah Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

She is admitted to practice law before the Georgia Supreme Court, the Georgia Court of Appeals, and the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

Education: She graduated cum laude from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer
University.

Sheryl L. Davis, MBA, CPA

New job title: Partner in her firm's Education Services Group

Company: Deemer Dana & Froehle LLP

Related work experience: Davis has 20 years of hands-on audit and consulting experience. Since 2006, she has managed Deemer Dana & Froehle's education-industry specific team, the Education Services Group, exclusively. Davis has assisted in the merger and sale of private post-secondary educational institutions in excess of $200 million.

She spent seven years as an accounting professor at the University of West Georgia and several community colleges.

Beth Vantosh

New job title: commercial real estate sales professional

Company: KW Commercial, a division of Keller Williams Realty Coastal Area Partners

Related work experience: Vantosh has been in the commercial real estate industry for 13 years and was co-broker/owner of Vantosh Realty LLC for over six years. Prior to Vantosh Realty LLC, Vantosh lived New York, where she was the associate director of leasing for Murray Hill Properties for over three years.

Benjamin M. Perkins

New job title: Law partner

Company: Oliver Maner & Gray LLP

Duties: His primary areas of practice are municipal liability, zoning and land use litigation, professional products liability and personal injury.


He is admitted to practice before the Georgia Supreme Court, the Georgia Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Courts for the Southern, Middle and Northern Districts of Georgia, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals and all state courts of Florida.

Education: Perkins graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia and received his J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law.

Honors and awards

Amanda Reeves
Honor/Award: Reeves, of Hostetter Schneider Realty Partners, was awarded Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation from the CCIM Institute.

Background: CCIMs are recognized experts in commercial real estate brokerage, leasing, asset management, valuation and investment analysis. Reeves joined Hostetter Schneider Realty Partners in January 2010.

Monthly Stay Real Star Award

Honor/award: Gail Johnson, of Savannah, has received Holiday Inn Express Savannah North's Stay Real Star for December.

Background: This program was established to recognize an employee who has been noticed by guests, and fellow staff members. Johnson has been a housekeeper with Holiday Inn Express, Savannah North for four years.

Annual Stay Real Star Award

Honor/award: Thomas Bedford, of Savannah, has received Holiday Inn Express Savannah North's Stay Real Star of the Year Award.

Background: This program was established to recognize an employee who has been noticed by guests, and fellow staff members. Bedford has been with Holiday Inn Express, Savannah North for four years. He works part-time as assistant to the hotel's banquet coordinator.

New officers elected to Step Up Savannah's board of directors

Honor/award: Step Up Savannah's new slate of officers have been selected and they started their terms on Jan. 1. Robert James, president of Carver State Bank, is chairman; Michael Traynor, publisher of the Savannah Morning News, is vice-chairman; and John Wills, executive director of Consumer Credit Counseling Service Inc., is treasurer/secretary.

Sister Pat Baber steps into her role as immediate past chairman after a year of as the board's leader.

Other board members are: Bernetta Anderson, Maria Elena Bowden, Virginia Brown, Leon Burton, Earline Wesley Davis, Helen Downing, Micheal Elliott, Bishop Willie Ferrell, Deborah Goldwire, Stephanie Gray, Cathy Hill, Bill Hubbard, Savannah Mayor Otis Johnson, Chatham County Commission Chairman Pete Liakakis, Thomas Lockamy, Kathy Love, the Rev. James Nelson, Pamela Oglesby, Michael Polak, Alethea Frazier Raynor, Millie Rivers, Gregg Schroeder, Rochelle Small-Toney, Jim Stevenson, Tyrone Ware, Dr. Diane Weems, Charles Wilhite, Rick Winger.

Sharpton achieves LEED Green Associate accreditation

Honor/award: The Green Building Certification Institute, the credentialing arm of the U.S. Green Building Council, has awarded Judy Sharpton of Growing Places Marketing LEED Green Associate accreditation.
Background: LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The LEED Green Associate accreditation is the entry level credential for individuals working in the field of sustainable building practices. After completing a course provided by Southface of Atlanta, Sharpton passed the LEED Green Associate exam in December.

Cooley becomes American board certified haircolorist

Honor/award: David Cooley passed the examination in chemistry, psychology, and physiological aspects of haircoloring to become an American Board Certified Haircolorist.

Cooley verified his expertise in the state-of-the-art application techniques of professional haircoloring and demonstrated skill in his ability to properly formulate for his clients needs.

Attorney to head international sorority chapter

Honor/award: Attorney Zena McClain has taken on the leadership of Gamma Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Elected on Nov. 12 and installed on Dec. 11, McClain is responsible for managing the operations of the graduate chapter and overseeing the supervision of two undergraduate chapters. Her term of office began Jan. 1.

Background: McClain, a graduate of Howard University and St. Louis University School of Law, is the manager and owner of the McClain Law Firm.

Meyerhoff honored by architects

Honor/award: The Savannah chapter of the American Institute of Architecture has awarded Eric Meyerhoff its certificate of appreciation, a recognition presented every two years.

The award was presented to honor Meyerhoff’s work in designing the World War II memorial on River Street. Called "A World Apart," the memorial features two, 20-foot-tall half spheres clad in bronze. One represents the Pacific theater during World War II, the other the European. Visitors who pass between the split globe can see the names of more than 500 area service personnel killed in the war.

Background: The award recognizes the significant architectural addition the memorial makes to River Street, but also serves to recognize Meyerhoff’s long-standing commitment to preservation and Savannah’s downtown, said Peter Callejas, past president of the chapter’s board of directors. In the late 1970s, Meyerhoff’s firm designed Rousakis Plaza, which created an inviting walkway, opened up scenic views of the river and led to renewed revitalization of River Street.

Attorney named to state bar committee

Honor/award: Sarah Brown "Sally" Akins of Ellis, Painter, Ratterree & Adams, LLP, in
Savannah has been appointed to the finance committee of the State Bar of Georgia for 2011.

The committee prepares an annual budget and monitors receipts and disbursements for the 42,000-member organization.

Background: Akins also represents the Eastern Judicial Circuit on the State Bar’s Board of Governors, is a past chair of its General Practice & Trial Law Section and Review Panel of the State Disciplinary Board and a member of the Tort & Insurance Law Section.

She is a graduate of Walter F. George Law School at Mercer University.

Pooler Chamber’s new officers, board of directors

Honor/award: The Pooler Chamber of Commerce membership recently elected new officers and board members for 2011. Serving one-year terms are Jean Delong of GeoVista Credit Union, president; Kim Griffin of The Coastal Bank, vice president; and Bobbie Frost of The Paper Clip Inc., treasurer/secretary.

Elected for two-year terms on the board of directors are Sherri Moore of H&R Block; Angela McAfee of Sam’s Club; and Rosalie King, Savannah Conference Hotel.

Returning board members are Jennifer Ranicki of Ranicki Chiropractic Wellness Center, PC; Jamie Olejarz Kennedy of A Class Act Dance Center; Rick Danis; and Carole Elkins of Tara Nursing Home.

Gail Johnson
Thomas Bedford
Amanda Reeves
Robert James
Michael Traynor
John Wills
Benjamin M. Perkins
David Cooley
Sister Pat Baber, immediate past chair of the Step Up Savannah board (John Carrington/Savannah Morning News)
Architect Eric Meyerhoff designed the World War II Memorial.
Sheryl L. Davis
Dr. Nick Bollin

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Links:
Georgia Supreme Court Justice Harold Melton graduated from Auburn in 1988, and occasionally helps his alma mater with (academic) recruiting. He will watch the Tigers battle Oregon in the BCS title game Monday.

When I was a student at Auburn, I didn't realize how spoiled I was to have Bo Jackson as a running back. He made everything, even an 80-yard run, look easy. I started in 1984, and he won the Heisman Trophy in 1985.

I went to the 1988 Sugar Bowl [against] Syracuse, and Auburn tied. That was not fulfilling.

At University of Georgia Law School, I went to see Auburn play at Tennessee. I drove there in the rain, watched us get beaten in the rain and drove the long ride back in the rain. I was miserable. After that, I decided to never let a football game ruin my day. I enjoy it, but it doesn't determine my existence.

In my life, Auburn football is a great escape. We all have jobs that are put to certain types of strains and stress. Sports are a way of bringing people together and relieving stress over something that in the big scheme of things doesn't matter.

This season has been complete fun, especially since it was unexpected. I knew we had a good program with an opportunity to do something special this season, but I didn't anticipate us being undefeated and having a shot at the national trophy.

Cam Newton's individual play is earth-changing. What he's done I didn't think was physically possible: to be 6-foot-5, 250 pounds, a player who can throw, run over or around somebody, and who can make all the right decisions. He's made big plays when we needed them and has changed the idea of what can be expected.

As far as the NCAA investigation, it does sound as if something happened. I hope the NCAA got all it needed to get, and that it's determined the level of sanctions is accurate. Cam Newton has overcome a lot personally, and I wish him well as he heads into a bright future. I hope I'll cheer him on Sundays.

The last time Auburn was in the national championship was 1957, so it's a once in a 50-year experience. We've always come up short to Alabama in terms of national championships. We beat them this year, but we'd like to match them for national titles.

Monday night, I intentionally plan to watch by myself. My son, who is 9, might stay up and watch with me. I don't want a big party. I don't want any distractions. I want to take it in.
Jenkins, board of regents vice chairman and UGA alumnus, succumbs to cancer

A. Felton Jenkins Jr., vice chairman of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, died Jan. 1 after a short battle with brain cancer.

Jenkins, 69, was a retired senior law partner with King & Spalding. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a law degree from UGA in 1963 and 1965, respectively.

He served as chair of the Georgia Justice Project, president of the Atlanta chapter of the American Cancer Society and chairman of the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center. Jenkins also has served on the Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority, the Georgia Appellate Judicial Selection Commission, the Georgia Judicial Process Review Commission and the Georgia Joint Study Commission on Revenue Structure. He was on the board of directors of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, the Decatur First Bank Group and Dundee Mills Inc.

Throughout his career, Jenkins actively supported UGA as chair of the School of Law's Board of Visitors, secretary of the UGA Foundation and a member of the UGA Strategic Planning Group.

"Felton Jenkins was, first and foremost, extraordinarily loyal to his alma mater, the University of Georgia," said UGA President Michael F. Adams. "He was focused on the quality of the academic programs here. In his role as a regent, he was equally focused on the quality of the experience for the system's students and ensuring that they had adequate and appropriate academic opportunities."

A memorial service for Jenkins was held Jan. 5 in his hometown of Madison.

UGA researchers receive grant to develop sustainable poultry production in Africa

UGA researchers have received more than $440,000 as part of a collaborative research, outreach and education program aimed at encouraging sustainable poultry production in the West African country of Mali. This project is part of a research program at Colorado State University and is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development in Mali under a $5.25 million Poultry and Pastoralism Associate Award.

This three-year program will be led by faculty in the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences' departments of poultry science and agricultural and applied economics and the College of Veterinary Medicine pathology department. The program will be implemented in cooperation with the Mali Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, U.S. Agency for International Development Mission in Mali, the Malian Extension Service and faculty at Colorado State University.

During the next three years, a small but expandable model poultry hatchery will be built in Mali to serve as a hub of poultry research, outreach and education. Research on small flock production will take place at this center, as will outreach, training and吸引 grants from external organizations," said Jessica Hawks, internal grants and awards program coordinator.

In 2010, 45 awards were made out of 100 applications received. UGARF, with the help of the President's Discretionary Fund for Faculty Research Grants, provided a total of $348,425 in funding, with 28 awards in science and 17 in arts and humanities.

Stefan Van Liefferinge, assistant professor of medieval art and architecture, received initial funding of $6,353 from UGARF to explore the use of artificial intelligence in understanding architectural history.

"OVPR seed grants are absolutely instrumental for obtaining external funding," said Van Liefferinge. "They manifestly strengthen the grant application."

With Walter D. Potter, director of the Institute for Artificial Intelligence in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, and Michael Covington, associate director of the IAI, Van Liefferinge presented the results to the National Endowment for the Humanities, which awarded a grant of $24,965 for further study.

In 2009, Jason Locklin, assistant vice president for research, received $10,150 in faculty research grants. In 2010, $10,150 inOVPR grants was awarded.

Nobel Prize winner will deliver 2011 Boyd Lectures

By Helen Fosgate
hfosgate@uga.edu

Thomas R. Cech, distinguished professor of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Colorado at Boulder and a 1989 Nobel Laureate in chemistry, will deliver UGA's 2011 George H. Boyd Research Distinguished Lectures.

He will speak at 4 p.m. on Jan. 18 and Jan. 19 at Mahler Auditorium in the Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center and Hotel. His Jan. 18 lecture, planned for a general audience, is entitled "Science for Tomorrow: Interdisciplinary Research and Interactive Education." On Jan. 19, he will talk more specifically about his research in a presentation en-titled "Grant Writing for Smarties: The Seeds of Research and Scholarship."
Law grad to clerk at U.S. Supreme Court

Brian C. Lea, a 2009 UGA School of Law graduate, will serve as a judicial clerk for Justice Clarence Thomas of the U.S. Supreme Court for the October 2011 term. Lea's selection means that five former Georgia Law students have been selected in the past seven years to clerk for the U.S. Supreme Court.

"This is a tremendous achievement for Brian, and we are extremely proud of him. A U.S. Supreme Court clerkship is considered one of the most elite appointments a law school graduate can obtain," Dean Rebecca Hill White said. "Brian's selection is a testament to his outstanding academic ability and accomplishments, and I am confident he will do an outstanding job."

Lea graduated first in his class from Georgia Law, where he received numerous awards and honors for his academic achievements, served as an articles editor of the Georgia Law Review, and was inducted into the Order of the Coif. He served as a judicial clerk for Judge Edward Carnes of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit before joining DLA Piper as a litigation associate in the firm's Atlanta office. He plans to remain with the firm until his Supreme Court clerkship begins.

—Cindy H. Rice

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

Nobel Prize winner will deliver 2011 Boyd Lectures

By Helen Fosgate
hfosgate@uga.edu

Thomas R. Cech, distinguished professor of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Colorado at Boulder and 1989 Nobel Laureate in chemistry, will deliver UGA's 2011 George H. Boyd Research Distinguished Lectures Series.

He will speak at 4 p.m. on Jan. 18 and Jan. 19 at Mahler Auditorium in the Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center and Hotel. His Jan. 18 lecture, planned for a general audience, is entitled "Science for Tomorrow: Interdisciplinary Research and Interactive Education." On Jan. 19, he will talk more specifically about his research in a presentation entitled "Crawling out of the RNA world, from Ribozymes to Telomeres."

The Boyd Distinguished Lecture Series, supported by UGA's Office of the Vice President for Research and the William S. and Elizabeth K. Boyd Foundation, brings national leaders and policymakers to UGA in science, education and related fields to discuss the applications of research to contemporary issues in education. The lectures are free and open to the public.

PARTNERSHIP from page 1

valuable programming to all of Northeast Georgia. GPB has its roots in Athens—we signed on 50 years ago on the campus of the University of Georgia—but the circle is now complete as we begin this important new partnership." The station, acquired in October 2008 to serve Northeast Georgia and to provide laboratory experiences of exceptional quality for UGA students, the signal and associated digital spectrum will only increase over time, as will the educational value and opportunities for our students.

The rebranding of WUGA-TV will emphasize the station's role as an extension of UGA. The station will carry GPB Knowledge, an educational programming package targeting primar-
Youthful Blackwell is steady and measured

by ALISON M. PALMER

JUDGES KEITH R. BLACKWELL, appointed to the Court of Appeals by Gov. Sonny Perdue in October at the age of 35, knows that he is not the youngest judge to serve on that court.

The youngest was Arthur G. Powell, who was 34 when he became one of the court's first three judges in 1907. Blackwell is also eager to point out that other judges, such as former Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears and Court of Appeals Chief Judge John J. Ellington, joined the state's appellate courts in their thirties.

Still, the appointment of Blackwell is striking for the new judge's youth and relatively short time in practice. He had been partner at his law firm, Atlanta's Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs, for less than two years. And although he had worked on some cases before the Court of Appeals as a lawyer, in none of those did he handle an oral argument. (He notes that some of his work as a student intern with prosecutors' office resulted in published opinions from the court.)

But it is easy to see what Perdue found appealing in Blackwell. He finished first in his class in both college and law school, according to the application he submitted to the governor's Judicial Nominating Commission. The federal judge for whom Blackwell clerked, J.L. Edmondson of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, called him "very smart... a heaven-sent lawyer who will likely be a future star in the court system," the AJC reported.

Blackwell is married and has one child. He is a member of the Emory School of Law Board of Fellows and a past president of the Emory Law Alumni Association.

Arizona judge cited 'judicial emergency'

by DAVID INGRAM, TONY MAURO, MIKE SCARCELLA

JUDGE JOHN ROLL, died just a few minutes away from the Safeway supermarket in Tucson, Ariz.'s Oracle Road. So it wouldn't have been a major inconvenience for him to drop by on Saturday morning to talk business with U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who was having an event for constituents at the grocery store.

Roll joined the 20 or so people who crowded around Giffords, a three-term Democrat. Just after 10 a.m., a gunman with a 9mm pistol opened fire. Within minutes, six were dead. One of them was Roll, who since 2006 had been the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the
Youthful Blackwell is steady and measured on Court of Appeals

Blackwell, from page 1

one of the most talented clerks he’s ever had. In addition to his involvement in Republican politics, Blackwell knows how to try a murder case and has worked on complex civil litigation.

Moreover, Blackwell, who lives in Smyrna with his wife and three young children, comes across as serious and steady. In a recent interview after he had settled into his new chambers, he offers up cautious, non-controversial answers for all of the usual questions for new judges. He’s prepared to deal with questions about his relative lack of experience before the Court of Appeals, too.

I think the real preparation that you need to be an appellate judge is to have a breadth of experience,” he says, “so that you’re prepared to come up here and deal with something different every day and deal with it correctly.”

Blackwell rectifies all the types of cases he’s handled, from criminal matters to business disputes to products liability lawsuits. “I don’t think most lawyers...have had that kind of breadth of experience,” he says.

The new judge was born in Canton and grew up in nearby Bull Ground, a Cherokee County town that Blackwell says had about 700 people and one-fourth of the way when he was a child. He was raised by his mother, a history teacher and then a stay-at-home mom, and his father, an aircraft mechanic and technician in the Georgia Air National Guard.

Blackwell received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Georgia, where he was on the Law Review.

He says he had a lot of military and law enforcement people in his family, and when he set off to law school, he had plans to return home and be a prosecutor. During school and in the summers, he interned with district attorney offices in North Georgia. “Not having any lawyers in the family, not having any family friends who were lawyers, you really don’t know much about it other than what’s on television,” Blackwell says.

But he says his professors encouraged him to apply for a clerkship. He says law school and his time with Edmondson gave him a broader exposure to other areas of the law. By the time his clerkship was through, he also thought he might want to be a judge.

Blakebrough tapped Blackwell and another young conservative, Stephen L. A. Dillard, to the appeals court last fall, a commenter on the conservative Peach Pundit blog lamented that he “just wish[ed] that when I read their resumes, I saw something more than a list of all the GOP campaigns they have aided, assisted, and/or chaired.”

Blackwell says his political involvement makes sense. “I have long been interested in public policy,” he says, “and I think it’s natural for somebody who’s interested in public policy to be involved in campaigns and other things in the political and public arena that they think are important.”

Blackwell now will have to deal with a vein of campaigning that’s a bit different from the usual partisan contests. He’ll have to face the voters in 2012 in order to keep his seat in an officially non-partisan election.

He’s already begun to put together a campaigning committee. He says he’s lined up at least three co-chairs—former state attorney general Michael J. Bowers and two other prominent Republican lawyers, Frank B. Strickland and Oscar N. Persons.

Asked whether he’ll directly solicit money for his campaign, Blackwell says he’s lined up at least three co-chairs—former state attorney general Michael J. Bowers and two other prominent Republican lawyers, Frank B. Strickland and Oscar N. Persons.

He’d like to run for a seat in the state Supreme Court, or perhaps run for a seat on the state Court of Appeals, he says. He’d like to run for a seat in the state Supreme Court, or perhaps run for a seat on the state Court of Appeals, he says. He’d like to run for a seat in the state Supreme Court, or perhaps run for a seat on the state Court of Appeals, he says. He’d like to run for a seat in the state Supreme Court, or perhaps run for a seat on the state Court of Appeals, he says.
With low-key invetsitue, Ellington is chief judge

Ellington, from page 1
struggling econo(my.
Plus, he says, "I'm not big on ceremony or protocol." Behind Ellington's desk is a copy of Dr. Seuss' book "If I Ran the Zoo," and he turns to a page with a drawing of 12 "Whos," noting that each of the court's 12 judges has signed his or her "picture."

"This is the new court photograph," he jokes.

Ellington will need a sense of humor, given the budget woes that have socked the court and the rest of the state in recent years.

Born in Vidalia and raised in nearby Soperton, Ellington says he didn't have attorneys in his family. "The only kind of judging I ever really was interested in was livestock shows and beauty pageants," he says.

He began his higher education at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton. But he says he was interested in government and public service, noting that he was president of the Student Government Association at Baldwin.

Ellington went on to receive accounting and law degrees from the University of Georgia. He says when he had finished his law school classes but was still months away from graduation ceremonies, his state senator suggested he look for work as a reader for the state Senate. "That's how I got to know Zell and Roy," says Ellington, explaining that Zell Miller was lieutenant governor then, and Roy Barnes was a state senator. "I came up on that side of the street," says Ellington, referring to the Capitol, "and I knew the process."

He settled into a general trial practice in Vidalia. He says the firm had a plaintiffs practice but also represented an insurance company, three banks and a sawmill in town. "We did whatever walked in the door," he says.

Scott Ellington was pledging as a city court judge, handling night court. Just six years into his legal career, he was appointed to the State Court of Troup County by Miller, who by then was governor. In addition to his State Court duties, Ellington acted as a Superior Court judge by designation in five circuits because there weren't any senior judges in his administrative district at the time.

"I was the expert in Georgia in other judges' neighbors' divorces," he says.

At the age of 38, Ellington was elevated to the Court of Appeals by Barnes. Asked more than a decade later which of his opinions stand out, Ellington says, "I can't remember one from the next."

What he wants to talk about is his farm in Soperton, where he grows pine trees and blueberries, and his love of hunting. He says he always has a gun on the floor. Judge Charles B. Mikell Jr., whose home is in Savannah, "can download the whole Court of Appeals at my house," he says, "and I do."

"He says he loves to hunt ("I kill anything with a feather") and grows roses and tomatoes. And he boasts that he made the wooden bookshelf that takes up most of one wall of his office (he explains he had to rebuild it recently when he moved to a new office in the Judicial Building, pointing to an air compressor and nail gun on the floor).

That task taken care of, one of his jobs as chief will be integrating three new judges—Keith R. Blackwell, Stephen L. A. Dillard and Christopher J. McFadden—into the court of 12. Ellington and McFadden were in the same law school class at UGA. Ellington says he shares many common friends with Dillard, who lives in Macon, and is impressed with Blackwell's work ethic. "I'm excited about all of them," says Ellington.

But the obvious issue on Ellington's plate is money—or lack thereof.

He says the court will be looking for more money to complete its electronic filing system. The court began a piecemeal roll-out of its e-filing system about a year ago, first allowing lawyers to file briefs electronically, but Ellington says the project still is not done.

Meanwhile, he says the court has various contingency plans for cuts depending on what the Legislature calls for when it comes back in session this month. All of those plans involve furloughs, he says. "I anticipate there will be more furloughs until the economy changes," he says. Too many furloughs potentially could result in the court missing for the first time its deadline of deciding cases within two of its three annual terms, he warns.

He says he has a great relationship with state Supreme Court Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein ("She's been in my home; I've been in her home"), and he talks about going to UGA football games with Presiding Justice George H. Carley and Justice P. Harris Hines, hunting birds with Justice Hugh P. Thompson and "stealing stories" from Justice Robert Benham.

But Ellington says he's not sure that his experience with the Legislature will help as the court makes its case for funds, allowing, you can't print money."

"I told this at the Judicial Council meeting, that for years we had been doing more with less, and that I had joked that now we were going to have to do less with less," Ellington says. "But that is not an option for us in the judicial system."

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**Roy Barnes, whom Ellington met at the state legislature, named Ellington to the appeals court.**

John J. Ellington, new chief judge of the Court of Appeals, describing growing up in a family without lawyers.

**The only kind of judging I ever really was interested in was livestock and beauty pageants.**
Morgan County son Felton Jenkins memorialized in moving service

By Katie Davis Walker
Staff Writer

Scores of mourners lined the sidewalk of the First United Methodist Church, umbrellas in hand. The sanctuary was full, the vestibules crowded with statesmen, representatives from colleges across Georgia, accomplished litigators, and a multitude of people whose lives were impacted by A. Felton Jenkins, Jr.

The congregation gathered Wednesday, Jan. 5 in a public service memorializing a native son of Morgan County who never forgot his roots. Jenkins had been buried that morning in his maternal family cemetery in Rutledge. The high school football champion became a tireless advocate for education in Georgia and vice chair of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents. He died New Year’s Day of brain cancer.

“He was genuinely nice—a nice, decent man, respectful of others,” said Chuck Toney, speechwriter at the University of Georgia Public Affairs office. “He saw the connection between education and success, both for the individual and the state.”

Jenkins was dedicated in his service with the Board of Regents.

He was a judicious thinker and thorough in his research. Fellow regent, Dirk NeSmith, told the Augusta Chronicle, “They send us pounds of information to read and study every month, and Felton read every word...He always did his homework and knew the right questions. And better yet, he helped us answer the tough questions.”

The font of Rev. Edward Nelson’s sermon came from Philippians, which he read from Jenkins’ Bible, used to teach Sunday school at FUMC. The Bible fluttered as he held it up for the congregation to see. It was feathered on three sides with yellow post-its, notes made by the University of Georgia law school alumnus.

The beloved Sunday school teacher was also a feared litigator, a retired senior law partner with King and Spalding. He argued cases in several Federal Circuit Courts of Appeals and before the U.S. Supreme Court, before retiring in 1992 to farm cattle on his ancestral land. He also served on numerous boards, including Chair of the Georgia Justice Project, the American Cancer Society, the Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority, and many other governmental, nonprofit and corporate boards.

Strong in mind and body, he had also climbed four of the world’s major mountains, most recently reaching South Base Camp at Mt. Everest in 2009. “How he accomplished all he did was amazing,” said Felton Jenkins, III, of his father. “Had the cancer not hit him like a ton of bricks, he would have contributed more to higher education.”
Virginia Jenkins Payne Foreman, likened her brother to the yeoman farmer and founding father, Thomas Jefferson. After serving as president, Jefferson advocated for educational reform at the College of William and Mary and founded the University of Virginia in the early 1800s. Jenkins' sister noted that he loved the land, and the people of Georgia. She lamented he would have accomplished more in his service to others had he had more time.

"The Jenkins were all smart people - good country people. Salt of the earth, and Felton was one," said Rev. Alan Jenkins, his son. Jenkins is the son of A. Felton Jenkins and Jimmie Davis Jenkins. He is survived by his wife, Julie Green Jenkins, three children, Felton Jenkins III, and his wife Karen Jenkins; Emily Jenkins Follom, married to Tom, and their children, Sarah and Thomas; and the Rev. Alan Davis Jenkins.

Contributions can be given to the Georgia Justice Project, 438 Edgewood Ave., Atlanta, Ga. 30312; the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center, 434 S. Main St., Madison, Ga. 30650, and/or Madison-Morgan Conservancy, P.O. Box, 757, Madison, Ga. 30650.

Printed in the January 13, 2011 edition

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Tough job market for attorneys as hiring slows

Law & Accounting

Premium content from Atlanta Business Chronicle - by Martin Sinderman, Contributing Writer

Date: Friday, January 14, 2011, 6:00am EST

A slumping economy has taken its toll on the job market for lawyers, with a drop in hiring of new Georgia law school graduates by private firms offset to some extent by jobs in the public sector.

When it comes to the overall lawyer job market, "I've been recruiting for 26 years and I have never seen anything like this," said Linda Sloan-Young, co-founder of Hughes & Sloan Inc., an Atlanta-based legal recruitment firm.

Due to the down economy, there are fewer IPOs and other business transactions that need the services of lawyers, Young notes, "and to some degree, people in general are less litigious, because they are reluctant to start racking up legal fees."

With the recent mild uptick in the economy, some firms are getting busier, Young said. But that is not resulting in a lot of new hiring of lawyers, "because even though firms are billing out more to their clients, their receivables are growing, and they are not getting paid like they used to."

"It is a nightmare for people that have just graduated, or will be graduating in May," Young said. "We went through difficult times in the 1990s with the dot-com meltdown, but this is different."

Increasingly, law firms are hiring lawyers on a contract basis, working through employment agencies to take on legal help for a set period of time or on a per-project basis.

"That way, if things slow down, or if receivables keep growing but they are not getting paid, the firms can just end the contract," Young said.

A tight job market has not been accompanied by a decline in lawyers practicing in Georgia. There were 33,655 total members in good standing with the State Bar of Georgia in 2010, compared with 32,594 in 2009 and 31,621 in 2008. Meanwhile, according to the Georgia Department of Labor, the number of initial unemployment claims filed by lawyers in the state more than doubled from 2008 to 2009, going from 385 to 790.

As of November, according to the Labor Department, 2010 claims totaled 561.

New grad roundup

Like their cohorts across the U.S., graduates of Georgia law schools are getting hit by today's tough job market.

Nationally, as of February 2010, the overall employment rate for the Class of 2009 law school graduates was 88.3 percent, according to the Washington, D.C.-based National Association of Law Placement (NALP) Class of 2009 Jobs & JDs report.

Based on information submitted by 192 American Bar Association-accredited law schools on 96 percent of the graduates in the Class of 2009, this figure represents a 3.6 percentage point drop from the recent historical high of 91.9 percent for the Class of 2007. Georgia's class of 2009 was 85.8 percent employed, down significantly from 93.8 percent in 2007.

Some 55.9 percent of employed 2009 graduates were working in private practice at law firms, according to the NALP. Meanwhile, nearly 25 percent of employed graduates reported that they were working in public service positions, such as government jobs, the military, judicial clerkships, and public interest positions. Employment in business was 13.5 percent, with positions in academia weighing in at 3.5 percent.

The overall legal job market throughout the nation has definitely been negatively affected by the economic downturn, according to Paul Rollins, assistant dean of The University of Georgia Law School. And for new law school graduates, "The market is tighter, and the number of employment choices is less."

Hiring by private firms has decreased, Rollins said, "But for our graduates, that blow has been softened somewhat by hiring for government jobs, public interest groups, and judicial clerkships."

Rollins reports that 90 percent to 98 percent of UGA law school graduates have jobs lined up at graduation. The school graduated 220 students in 2010, compared with 212 in 2009 and 203 in 2008.

The bad job market is apparently not keeping college graduates from pursuing law degrees. In keeping with national trends, according to Rollins, the number of applicants for slots at the school grew from 2,300 for the class that began in 2008 to almost 4,300 for the class set to begin in 2010, although indications are that this number may decrease a bit for 2011.

Meanwhile, at the Emory University School of Law, May graduation totals grew from 219 in 2007 to 256 in 2010, with 236 anticipated for the class of 2011.

According to the school's career services office, 93 percent of the members of the graduating class of 2009 reported having jobs lined up.
Out of this group, 69.1 percent were going to work for private law firms, followed by 9.6 percent finding employment in business and industry. Judicial clerkships, overwhelmingly for judges at the federal level, accounted for another 8.4 percent of employment with 2009 grads, while governmental employment weighed in at 5.1 percent.

Some 93 percent of Georgia State University's College of Law Class of 2009 were employed at graduation, the school reports. Just under 59 percent joined private practices, with business/industry and government accounting for 15.4 percent and 10.5 percent, respectively.

At Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law, 77.3 percent of 2009 graduates were employed as of February 2010, 55.3 percent with private practices.

The outlook for future lawyer employment is mixed. In its 2010-2011 Occupational Outlook Handbook, the U.S. Department of Labor projects employment of lawyers to grow 13 percent during the 2008-18 decade, "about as fast as the average for all occupations."
EVANS, Ga. - Tammy Lynn Barfield and Samuel Justin Adams were united in marriage on September 25, 2010 at Christ Church Presbyterian in Evans, Ga. Dr. Lawrence Anderson Gilpin officiated.

Tammy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Allen Barfield of Warner Robins, Ga. She is the granddaughter of Caroline Nelson of Leesburg, Ga. and Irene Barfield and the late Jimmie Barfield of Sasser, Ga. She is a 2003 graduate of Westfield School in Perry, Ga., attended the University of Georgia and is a 2008 graduate of the Macon State College School of Nursing. She is employed by Hilton Head Regional Hospital as a registered nurse.

Sam is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert King Adams of Evans, Ga. He is the grandson of Edgar M. Sweat and the late Helen Sweat of Martinez, Ga. and Ilse Adams and the late Col. Alvin S. Adams of Evans, Ga. He is a 2002 graduate of Westminster Schools of Augusta, a 2006 graduate of the University of Georgia and a 2010 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law. He is serving as a 2nd Lt in the United States Marines.

Given in marriage by her father, Tammy chose her friend, Blair Sexton Greene of Atlanta, Ga., to serve as her maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Sarah Elizabeth Lipari of Decatur, Ga. and Kelly Ann Christian of Atlanta, Ga., friends of the bride.

Sam chose his father to serve as best man. Groomsmen were Cpt Robert Nathan Adams, United States Army (in absentia), William Aaron Adams, both of Savannah Ga and brothers of the groom, and Brad Edward Barfield of Washington D.C., brother of the bride. Ushers were James Freeland Griffin of Baltimore, Md., Matthew Austin Jackson of Columbia, S.C., Andrew Tollison Yonchak of Charlotte, N.C., Jason Lewis O’Rourke of Athens, Ga. and William Preston Martin of Birmingham, Ala., all friends of the groom.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the Club House at River Island in Evans, Ga. The newlyweds honeymooned in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. The couple resides in Beaufort, S.C.
Wet, cold weather doesn't hamper turnout for annual MLK Day of service

By LEE SHEARE - lshearer@onlineathens.com
Published Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Organizers feared that last week's historic snowstorm might dampen turnout for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on Monday.

If anything, the snow that shut down schools and businesses most of last week actually worked to boost attendance at the annual event, said Kim Ness, chairwoman of the annual event's steering committee.

See more photos from the day of service.

"I think everybody was ready to get out and do something after being stuck inside last week, and it really worked to our benefit," Ness said.

Nearly 900 people showed up Monday to give a few hours of their labor in work details around Athens-Clarke County, Ness said.

Most of them began their day of service in downtown Athens' Morton Theatre with hot coffee and live music before heading out to the work sites they had chosen.

Groups ranging from a handful of people to more than 100 pulled invasive weeds from riverbanks along the Oconee River, shoveling trees at area schools, sorted and boxed food at the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia and helped in more than two dozen other community service projects.

Twelve-year-old Rachel Livsey and mother Renee joined about 200 other people who tramped through lingering snow to help in the day's single largest project, helping to clean out brush at Brooklyn Cemetery, near Alps Road Elementary School off Westlake Drive.

"We did this last year at Chase Street Elementary, and I just think it's important to teach my daughter about service," Renee Livsey said.

"It's not that cold," said Rachel, smiling as she took a break from trying to yank a vine out of a tail tree.

She got a little help from Cortney Newman, Brandon Mitchell, Chris Clauss and other fraternity brothers in the University of Georgia's Beta Zeta chapter of the historically black Omega Psi Phi fraternity, taking turns wielding an ax and snips as they felled saplings and
She got a little help from Cortney Newmans, Brandon Mitchell, Chris Claudius and other fraternity brothers in the University of Georgia's Beta Zeta chapter of the historically black Omega Psi Phi fraternity, taking turns wielding an ax and snips as they felled saplings and trimmed them to go into a grinder.

"We're a service-oriented fraternity," Newmans said. "We look for opportunities to give back to the community."

The historic black cemetery is the final resting place for as many as 1,100 people, but fell into disuse and neglect after the 1960s, said Linda Davis, president of the Bethlehem Cemetery Society, which aims to restore the cemetery.

Eventually, Davis hopes the park will become a civil rights memorial, with sculptures helping tell the life stories of the hundreds of people buried there without headstones.

Across town at the Athens Community Council on Aging, high school student leaders worked with UGA graduate and law students, spreading mulch and building a kind of rock terrace to slow down the rush of water that comes out of a storm sewer pipe on the back of the property off Hoyt Street.

Now, the land where the volunteers worked Monday is a vegetable garden and patio behind the council's adult day care center.

Moving rocks and shoveling compost for three hours was not easy work, said Acacia Wilson of Commerce, a third-year law student in the UGA School of Law.

But it's a small way to help fulfill the vision of Martin Luther King Jr., she said.

"He was a servant of the people," said Christa Porter, a UGA graduate student who worked with Wilson.
10 years after student's slaying, parents want answers

By JOE JOHNSON - johoson@onlineathens.com

Published Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Tara Louise Baker's parents are resigned to the stark and disturbing fact that they may never know who murdered their pretty blond daughter 10 years ago today, while she was a student in the University of Georgia's School of Law.

And they believe that Athens-Clarke police ought to release their daughter's death certificate, a decade after a murderer took the 23-year-old's life.

Police are withholding the certificate because they don't want to publicize the cause of death, which only the killer knows, they say.

"The biggest reason we would like to have the death certificate is because we buried Tara 10 years ago, but on paper it says she's still alive," said Lindsay Baker, the slain student's father.

"Some unscrupulous people have used her identification to obtain credit and a cell phone and other things because Tara's still alive on paper," he said. "We get bills and other mail several times a week with Tara's name on it, and it's just gut-wrenching. Her mother doesn't even want to go to the mailbox."

If the family could get the death certificate, Lindsay Baker said, "that would be a big step to burying her completely."

Firefighters found Baker's body the morning of Jan. 19, 2001, when they responded to a fire at her Eastside home on Fawn Drive entrance on East Broad Street.
Firefighters found Baker's body the morning of Jan. 19, 2001, when they responded to a fire at her Eastside home, on Fawn Drive off Lexington Road. It was the day before Baker's 24th birthday.

Witnesses reported seeing a white man in a T-shirt and jeans run from Baker's backyard that morning before the fire was reported, police said.

Athens-Clarke police will not discuss details of the crime, and several officers who assisted early on with the case have since retired; most talked about the murder only on the condition of anonymity.

The first-year UGA law student had been beaten, stabbed, strangled and possibly sexually assaulted, sources said, an indication that Baker may have known her killer - perhaps someone who was enamored with her and flew into a rage when she spurned his advances.

The only thing taken from the home was Baker's laptop computer, which might have held e-mails that would have incriminated the killer, sources said.

Investigators identified at least three possible suspects after the murder, including a man Baker was dating, a fellow law school student, and an attorney at a local firm Baker worked for. Authorities will not say if the men still are under suspicion or if there are new suspects.

Police ruled out the boyfriend after he passed a polygraph test and his alibi checked out.

Athens-Clarke continue to investigate Baker's murder in hopes of breaking the case, according to Assistant Police Chief Tim Smith.

"(We) will continue to follow all leads as they are developed or brought to our attention through the public or other sources," Smith said Tuesday. "(The police department) is resolved to solve this murder no matter how long it may take."

Athens-Clarke police formed a Crime Analysis Unit several years after Baker's murder.

"The investigators continue to actively use this resource to follow-up on all leads from other jurisdictions which involve crimes of a similar nature," Smith said. "The Crime Analysis Unit has looked at a possible suspect in another state, but could not develop sufficient information to place the individual in the state of Georgia during the time of the crime."

Even so, the Baker family has lost confidence in the investigation, which they claim was botched in the early stages.

"Every day of the year is an anniversary of Tara's death, another day we don't have her, but the 10th anniversary is especially poignant because a decade has passed and nothing
has happened," Lindsay Baker said. "It just rubs you in your face that your daughter is dead and will never come back, and the police, I think, are embarrassed about the way they did their investigation."

Police sources defended the investigation, saying detectives worked the Baker case tirelessly, but there is virtually no physical evidence, including DNA that could belong to the killer.

"The fire damage was so extensive that it destroyed the crime scene, so there was very little to work with," said Alex Morrow, a former UGA police detective who assisted in the investigation. He recalled working up to 15 hours a day during the first six months after the murder.

"We explored every possible avenue with the information and evidence we had," said Morrow, who now works in residential property management in Alpharetta.

The crime scene was contaminated by more than a dozen firefighters who were there before authorities realized a woman was murdered, he said, and water from fire hoses and a coating of soot from the fire made it impossible to get fingerprints.

"It was frustrating for everyone involved," Morrow said. "(UGA police) worked very hard on it and Athens-Clarke police worked very hard on it - it was just a very difficult crime to work on."

Genia Ferrero, a fellow law school student and one of Baker's good friends, said detectives didn't question her and other students until three months after the murder, to ask them about a man who was in one of Baker's study groups.

"All of us were interviewed so very late, not when things were still fresh in our minds," Ferrero said.

Baker was one of a group of a half-dozen UGA law students who were friends and socialized and studied together.

Now, they are attorneys scattered across the state and country, according to Katherine Lahnstein, one of Baker's best friends at UGA who now practices law in Washington, D.C.

She stays in touch with others from Baker's group of law school friends, and the contacts increase as the anniversary approaches each year.

"I encourage them to stay in touch because their biggest fear is that they will forget Tara," Lahnstein said. "We all loved Tara, and we're here for each other."

Ferrero married one of the students in Baker's circle of UGA friends, and now is on hiatus as an attorney to care for a 2-year-old daughter in Atlanta.
"It really doesn't seem like it's been 10 years, and some days it seems like it just happened," Ferrero said. "The fact that her death obviously was a pointless and horrendous crime, and it still hasn't been resolved, that only adds to the loss."

Police not only could have interviewed Lahnstein, Ferrero and other friends sooner, but a source doesn't think police ever showed photos of the main suspects to the witnesses who saw the man run from Baker's yard.

"I think they are embarrassed," Lindsay Baker said. "The crime scene was contaminated - the whole thing was a farce.

"Part of the reason they're sitting on the death certificate and not releasing it to the public is because it would open a whole can of worms."

Athens-Clarke police Sgt. Randy Garrett, who was Clarke County coroner at the time, defended withholding the document.

"We sat down and decided it would not be in the best interest of the investigation if I signed the death certificate," Garrett said Tuesday. "Once it's signed the exact manner in which (Baker) died is going to be out in the public, and that's information only the suspect would know."

Meredith Baker, Tara's younger sister, sees no reason to withhold the death certificate.

"We buried Tara's body, and now we want to bury her in paper - one step closer to closure," she said.

Meredith, now 25, used to trek from their home in Lovejoy each Jan. 19 to lay a wreath at the Arch at UGA's main entrance on East Broad Street, where family and friends held a vigil in order to draw publicity to the unsolved murder.

Baker's parents didn't plan to come today, but Meredith still wanted to lay a wreath and light candles.

"We've run out of things we could do, to keep reminding people that Tara's murder remains unsolved and her killer is walking free," she said.

A $30,000 reward is offered for information that leads to the arrest of Baker's killer.

Anyone with information should call Athens-Clarke police at (706) 613-3337 or the Crime Stoppers confidential tip line at (706) 613-3342.

Originally published in the Athens Banner-Herald on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 report an error
DLA Piper Adds High-Profile Real Estate Team to Atlanta Office

Posted January 19, 2011

DLA Piper announced that a team of six lawyers from Epstein Becker & Green PC has joined its Real Estate practice in the Atlanta office. Led by M. Maxine Hicks, who was a member of the board of directors for Epstein Becker & Green, chair of its National Real Estate Practice and managing shareholder of the Atlanta office, the group includes J. Lindsay Stradley Jr., Constance P. Haywood, Daniel H. Sherman, Louis M. Oliverio, and Caesar C. Mitchell.

Representing a variety of real estate developers and owners, the team focuses on handling mixed-used developments, public-private partnerships and infrastructure, health care real estate, recreational development, commercial lending and finance, and adaptive re-use, urban infill and brownfield redevelopment.

In addition to the management roles she held at her previous firm, Hicks holds several key positions with the Urban Land Institute, including vice chair of the Community Development Council and board member of the Atlanta District Council. She is also a certified public accountant and serves on the board of a number of other organizations, including the Buckhead Coalition, Central Atlanta Progress, Georgia Children’s Health Alliance and Safe Kids Georgia.

“Maxine is a highly-recognized real estate authority who brings a team of well-regarded lawyers to DLA Piper with significant experience handling a variety of sophisticated and high-profile real estate projects throughout the Southeast and around the country,” said Jay Epstein, chair of DLA Piper’s US Real Estate practice. “Their in-depth experience in mixed use/transit oriented developments and health care real estate projects broadens the spectrum of services that DLA Piper’s top-ranked Real Estate practice can provide to our clients internationally.”

“An experienced law firm leader and active member of the Atlanta business community, Maxine will head our Real Estate practice in Atlanta and play a major role in helping us expand our presence in the Southeast,” said Mark Grantham, managing partner of DLA Piper’s Atlanta office. “The addition of this highly regarded team of lawyers also significantly expands our real estate capabilities in the region, where we see a number of growth opportunities moving forward.”

About the Lawyers

M. Maxine Hicks focuses her practice on real estate development, with a particular emphasis on mixed use, transit oriented, hospitality, club and resort projects. She also advises developers, owners, and health care providers on real estate issues associated with medical office buildings, ambulatory surgery centers, long-term acute care hospitals and hospital campus projects. Hicks has extensive experience in acquisition, development, leasing, distressed assets, state and federal regulation of real property, mixed-use community governance and public-private partnerships.

Hicks received a J.D. from Georgia State University College of Law and a B.B.A from West Georgia College.

J. Lindsay Stradley, Jr. focuses his practice on commercial real estate finance and development, and asset-based commercial lending. He has significant experience in workouts and loan restructuring transactions for financial institutions as well as private lenders and borrowers.

Stradley received a J.D. from University of Texas School of Law and a B.A. from Vanderbilt University.

Constance P. Haywood focuses her practice on the representation of developers of planned communities, including residential, commercial, industrial and mixed-use developments, golf course communities and destination resorts throughout the country. She is also an active member of Community Associations Institute (CAI) and has served on its national Attorneys Committee while also speaking at a variety of national and regional CAI seminars and conferences.
Haywood received a J.D. cum laude from University of Georgia School of Law and a B.A. from Agnes Scott College.

Daniel H. Sherman IV focuses his practice on real estate development, including mixed-use and urban infill projects, redevelopment of contaminated properties, adaptive re-use, infrastructure development, and public-private partnerships. He also maintains a related environmental law practice focused on regulatory compliance counseling, strategic planning and permitting, and brownfield redevelopment.

Sherman received a J.D. from Emory University School of Law and a B.A. Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Florida.

Louis M. Oliverio focuses his practice on commercial real estate and corporate matters with an emphasis on the representation of developers of retail, office, residential, and mixed-use projects and of hospital authorities and health care providers in the development of medical office buildings, long-term acute care hospitals, and other hospital campus projects. He previously served as associate general counsel for Gabriel Brothers, a Pittsburgh-based retailer.

Oliverio received a J.D. from Wake Forest University School of Law and a B.A. cum laude from Duke University.

Cesar C. Mitchell focuses his practice on real estate transactions, commercial lending and development, and retail. He serves as President of the Atlanta City Council and represents clients in structuring public-private partnership arrangements and other incentivized transactions involving real estate acquisition, development and construction.

Mitchell received a J.D. from University of Georgia School of Law and a B.A. cum laude from Morehouse College.

About DLA Piper’s Real Estate Practice

DLA Piper’s Real Estate practice is the world’s top-ranked by leading industry research firms and the world’s largest with more than 500 attorneys, including 180 in the United States. Handling some of the most complex, high-profile real estate transactions and litigation matters, DLA Piper provides a full range of real estate services, including acquisitions and dispositions, construction, financing, land use and development, leasing, environmental, insurance, tax, and litigation.

About DLA Piper (www.dlapiper.com)

DLA Piper has 3,500 attorneys in 30 countries and 69 offices throughout the US, UK, Continental Europe, Middle East and Asia. In certain jurisdictions, this information may be considered attorney advertising.
Felton Jenkins—an extraordinary man
Retired King & Spalding partner never met an unanswered challenge in law, higher education, charitable enterprises or athletic activities.
By Robert L. Steed, Special to the Daily Report

Robert L. Steed | Special to the Daily Report

A. Felton Jenkins Jr. was born on Jan. 18, 1941, in scenic Madison. He married the love of his life, Julie Green, in 1966 and this led to three grown children. Felton was a partner of mine at King & Spalding and never met an unanswered challenge in the practice of law, in the service of state government, in higher education activities and in church and charitable enterprises. He died on Jan. 1, 2011, of cancer that didn't give him a fair chance.

When Felton came to King & Spalding in 1965 from the University of Georgia Law School, he had a very impressive record. He was in active practice law from 1965 to 1992. He co-chaired the firm's litigation department for some of that time, arguing before courts, state and federal, including the U.S. Supreme Court. He became a retired partner in 1992. In 1997, he moved back to his boyhood home of Madison.

In the late 1960s, the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia was a political powerhouse and Felton was elected its president. As a former president myself, I decided it would be appropriate for me to write a helpful biographical sketch for him, as I had done for many other Young Lawyer presidents who were on the verge of taking themselves too seriously.

A few excerpts follow:

The Guinness Book of World Records contains many important Georgia references. In 1917 an abandoned kidney stone weighing almost 14 pounds was discovered behind the Amoco Station in Dewey Rose, Georgia. The discoverers of the famous stone (now a part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts in Marietta) were led to their find by tracing a series of mysterious screams. In 1922, Mrs. Sarah Mae Spleen of Chatsworth, Georgia, in the grip of what she claimed to be a divine visitation (later diagnosed as a spastic colon), produced the world's ugliest chenille bedspread. In 1935, a team of South Georgia physicians working with a research grant from the WPA pronounced Joe Bob Bledsoe (the "Hahira Hunchback") perfectly normal after x-rays revealed that every morning for 46 years he has been buttoning his collar to his fly. In 1953, a full-grown teenage boy, A. Felton Jenkins, Jr. was discovered in Madison, Georgia with a size 3 7/8 head.

Who could have guessed that one day this young lad would overcome his cruel handicap and rise to power as President of the world-powerful Georgia Younger Lawyers Section?

Jenkins' story was brought to light by a cub sports reporter from Atlanta who was in Madison covering the annual Morgan County Track, Field and Hog Flogging competition. Heartstrings across the nation were tugged when the wire services carried his account of how plucky young Jenkins, faced with failure at football because of lack of head gear, fashioned a helmet from a rubber band and an Ipana toothpaste cap and went on to win regional honors.

Jenkins' undergraduate achievements peaked when he was tapped for membership in the highly secret Gridiron Society. This honor did not go to Jenkins' head for two reasons. First, it (his head, not the honor) was too small. Second, the society was so secret that Jenkins was never told of his membership. He learned of it only by chance many years later after having the steam room attendant at the YMCA arrested for making improper advances only to learn at the arraignment hearing that the defendant was a brother Gridiron trying to administer the secret grip.

Jenkins was active in extracurricular activities at Georgia, where he originated the annual Leo Gorcey film festival, tap-danced and twirled baton, ran a detoxification center at the Phi Delta Theta house, and played "Mr. Germ" in the Health Club's production of "Don't Touch That Thing, You Don't Know Where It's Been.

Looking back, the sketch might seem to be excessively rude but that was the fashion in which all my victims found themselves. Felton could be very serious, but he never seemed to take issue with any of the nonsense I foisted off on him.

In the realm of higher education activities, Felton served as chairman of the University of Georgia Law School Board of
Visitors, as secretary of the University of Georgia Foundation and chairman of the University of Georgia Young Alumni. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He was a trustee of the Atlanta-Fulton County Public Library System. In the area of professional and business activities, he was a director of Dundee Mills, Board of Governors of the State Bar and chairman of the Georgia Justice Project. The Georgia Justice Project Board Room was designated in 2002 as "The Felton Jenkins' Board Room."

Highlights of his involvement with state and local government service are that he was a member of the Georgia Appellate Judicial Selection Commission; a member of the Georgia Judicial Process Review Commission; a member of the Georgia Joint Study Commission on Revenue Structure; and served as chairman of the Sales Tax Committee. He was a member of the Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority and a member of the Morgan County Planning and Zoning Commission.

In the area of charitable and religious activities, he was president of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Cancer Society; president of the Morgan County Foundation; Executive Committee member of the Community Foundation for Morgan County; vice president of the local Habitat for Humanity; a member of the Board of Trustees of the Madison First United Methodist Church; and a devoted Sunday School teacher.

He co-authored with Ralph A. Pitts a two-volume treatise, "Georgia Civil Procedures Forms Practices (1988)."

In his quest to seek out new challenges and to conquer them, Felton climbed Mount St. Helens, Mount Hood and Mount Kilimanjaro and completed the 33-mile Milford Track in New Zealand. On his most recent international expedition to Nepal in 2009, at age 68, he trekked to the South Base Camp of Mount Everest at 17,590 feet elevation.

He was always a fierce athlete and competitor. He played on three high school state championship football teams in the late 1950s. He was an extraordinarily intense and able golfer with a handicap in the low teens. The only thing he didn't enjoy about golf was making a bet for more than $1 a side. Some of his golf colleagues thought he was a little stingy. They were right.

We don't know what kind of feat of daring-do he was considering at the time of his death, but we do know that it would have been interesting and worthwhile and that Felton would have given it his all.

A. Felton Jenkins. What an extraordinary man.

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Father of slain UGA law student says document offers closure

Family to get Baker death certificate

By JOE JOHNSON · joe.johnson@onlineathens.com

Published Thursday, January 20, 2011

Authorities agreed Wednesday to release the death certificate for Tara Louise Baker, the University of Georgia law student murdered in her Eastside home exactly 10 years ago.

Athens-Clarke police had refused to release the document because they didn’t want to publicize the cause of death, something they said only Baker’s killer would know.

Photo gallery: Tara Baker murder revisited

But Wednesday afternoon, Clarke County Coroner Sonny Wilson received a call from a supervisor with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, informing him he could sign the death certificate and list the cause of death as “multiple injuries associated with homicidal violence,” Wilson said.

The decision to release the document came the same day the Athens Banner-Herald published a story commemorating the 10th anniversary of Baker’s death, including comments from her father that the lack of a death certificate deprived the family of closure.

Lindsay Baker said he and his wife wanted to gather their three other children, from whom they live in different towns and states, so they can travel together — perhaps today — from the family home in Lovejoy to pick up the certificate.
"I'm delighted and I'm tickled pink," Baker said, only minutes after he received word from Wilson that the family could have the death certificate.

"They've omitted some of the critical information about how Tara was killed, information which I've been saying for years they should do," he said. "If it's got all this pertinent information, then just keep it out and give me a certificate that shows my daughter is dead."

Because there was no death certificate, Lindsay Baker said, someone was able to steal his daughter's identity to buy a cell phone and run up bills.

"We get bills and other mail several times a week with Tara's name on it, and it's just gut-wrenching," he said. "Her mother doesn't even want to go to the mailbox."

Having a death certificate "would be a big step to burying (Tara) completely," he said.

The Baker family sent a note to Gov. Nathan Deal's office, and included a Banner-Herald article about the death certificate, according to Georgia Bureau of Investigation spokesman John Bankhead. A governor's staffer sent an e-mail asking for a resolution to the GBI's State Crime Lab, where Chief Medical Examiner Kris Sperry "decided to fix this and instructed his staff to make it happen," Bankhead said.

Firefighters found Baker's body the morning of Jan. 19, 2001, when they responded to a fire at her home on Fawn Drive off Lexington Road. It was the day before Baker's 24th birthday.

Athens-Clarke police will not discuss details of the crime, but sources with knowledge of the investigation said Baker had been beaten, stabbed, strangled and possibly sexually assaulted.

She possibly knew her killer and let him in - there was no evidence of a break-in - and the only thing stolen from the home was Baker's laptop computer, sources said.

One theory detectives have explored is that the killer flew into a rage when Baker spurned his advances, killed her and took the computer because it may have held incriminating e-mails, sources said.

The killer then set Baker's bedroom on fire, either as overkill or to destroy evidence, the sources said.

Even a decade later, Athens-Clarke police continue to work Baker's case, according to Assistant Police Chief Tim Smith, who said his department is "resolved to solve this murder no matter how long it may take."

A $30,000 reward is offered for information that leads to the arrest of Baker's killer.
Anyone with information should call Athens-Clarke police at (706) 613-3337 or the Crime Stoppers confidential tip line at (706) 613-3342.
10 Years After Murder, Victim's Parents Get Death Certificate

Posted By: Jerry Camas
- 1 day ago

ATHENS, GA – The parents of murder victim Tara Baker are frustrated that it took a full 10 years to get a death certificate after their daughter's murder.

Somewhere, Virginia and Lindsay Baker hope to write their daughter's story on the back of her gravestone at a Fayetteville cemetery, but they say as of now, they don't have the final chapter.

As they gathered at the gravestone on Wednesday morning to mark the 10th anniversary of Tara Baker's death, her parents still lacked that death certificate, as well as details of exactly how the 23-year-old was killed.

"I certainly know how she came into this world," said Virginia Baker. "I have no idea how she went out."

Athens-Clarke County police admit they've taken unusual steps in an unusual case.

Tara Baker was found murdered one day before her 24th birthday. She was in her first year of law school at the University of Georgia. Because her Athens home was burned, investigators were able to recover very little physical evidence.

Police have revealed that a witness saw a man wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans leaving the scene the morning of the fire. They've revealed that the only item missing was Tara Baker's laptop.

Other than that, Athens Clarke-County Police have kept much of what investigators found at the scene from the public, saying they don't want to jeopardize the investigation. Assistant Police Chief Tim Smith says the department wants to guard information only they and the killer know in order to protect their case if it ever goes to court.

Because of that, investigators have not released specifics of how Tara Baker was murdered, information included in the death certificate.

On the afternoon of the 10th anniversary of Baker's murder, Athens Clarke County Police and the coroner's office agreed to provide the family with that death certificate, but only after those details were removed.

"I feel for the family," said Assistant Chief Smith. "But I also think the family would want, when we do find the person responsible, to have the information we need to prove the case in a court of law without it being in the general public."

Police have provided some details to outside agencies, but only on the condition that those agencies sign a confidentiality agreement to keep the information from going public.

Police declined to open their investigative files to a network television show that offered to publicize the case.

"If you're baffled and someone offers to help, why not?" asked Lindsay Baker.

Assistant Chief Smith said detectives are actively reviewing similar crimes around the country to see if they can make a connection to the Baker murder. Just last year, investigators looked at a similar homicide and developed a "person of interest," but found no evidence that the person had ever been to Georgia.

"We put our faith in God," said Virginia Baker. "We know that it will be handled in his way and in his time."

Tara Baker's mother visits the murder victim's grave
The Warren Commission concluded back in 1964 that it had "no evidence that the extreme views expressed toward President Kennedy by some rightwing groups centered in Dallas or any other general atmosphere of hate or rightwing extremism which may have existed in the city of Dallas had any connection with Oswald's actions on November 22, 1963."

But that hasn't stopped an increasing number of newspaper columnists in 2011 from likening the Arizona shooting earlier this month with a supposedly similar "atmosphere of hate" in Dallas in November 1963. Since this week marks the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy's inaugural address, it has become an occasion for even more opinion columns vainly attempting to fuse the two tragedies as the work of "right-wing hate groups."

Washington Post columnist Michael Gerson was quick to lift the Warren Commission Report's quote denying a "general atmosphere of hate" in his January 11 column and claim it was an established fact that Dallas was swimming in hate groups in 1963.

Likewise, John Farmer, Jr., dean of Rutgers School of Law-Newark, wrote in the New Jersey Star-Ledger January 16 about the supposed links The John Birch Society had to hate literature in Dallas at that time, referencing an anonymous "Wanted" poster accusing Kennedy of "treason." Farmer wrote: "The 'Wanted' poster bearing JFK's likeness may have been published by the John Birch Society, but it could have had any number of sources." But the reality is that there were no real ties between The John Birch Society and the "Wanted" poster, which was highly offensive but not threatening, nor were there any ties between the "Wanted" poster and Lee Harvey Oswald. Had Farmer checked his facts, perhaps he wouldn't have resorted to baseless innuendo.

Professor Farmer may have been conflating the "Wanted" handbill with the full-page advertisement that ran in the Dallas Morning News the day Kennedy was shot. "On the very day JFK visited Dallas and died, the local newspaper, the Dallas Morning News, featured a full-page, black-bordered anti-Kennedy advertisement prepared and paid for by persons affiliated with the John Birch Society," wrote Donald E. Wilkes, Jr., professor of law, University of Georgia School of Law, back in 2006. Of course, "affiliated with" is a textbook example of vague weasel words that most true academics avoid. But Professor Wilkes is at least partly correct. The John Birch Society had no role in preparation or endorsement of the advertisement, but several people who purchased the advertisement were members of (or later joined) The John Birch Society.

The "Welcome to Dallas" ad in the Dallas Morning News was hardly a militant poster, however. The advertisement exclaimed that "we free-thinking and America-thinking citizens of Dallas still have, through a Constitution largely ignored by you, the right to address our grievances, to question you, to disagree with you and to criticize you." The full page advertisement, which ran in the November 22, 1963 Dallas Morning News, went on to criticize Kennedy for the debacle at Cuba's Bay of Pigs, increasing hostility to the United States abroad by foreign countries despite huge expenditures of U.S. foreign aid, and a general reluctance to use the executive office to prosecute communists criminally.

The "Welcome to Dallas" ad simply asked a series of questions that reflected serious policy differences with President Kennedy, nothing more.

The attack on conservatives as general messengers of hate was also resurrected recently by Madison, Wisconsin's
WISC-TV personality Bill Wineke. Wineke wrote on the television station's website: "The 1960s were not a gentler time in American history. And they were not a more civil time. Robert Welch and his John Birch Society were the equal of any right-wing kook of today. School children in Texas cheered when they learned that Kennedy had been shot."

Newsbusters.org's Jack Coleman exploded this longtime liberal myth that children cheered the death of a President. The urban legend hails from Dallas' University Park Elementary School, and here's what really happened: "Because of the shooting, which took place at 12:30 p.m., the principal had decided to close the school early, though without telling the students why. The children at the school — including three of Barker's own — were merely happy to be going home early, he was told. There couldn't have been any spontaneous cheering at the news of Kennedy's murder, because no such news had been announced."

Yet the story that school children cheered the death of a President — promoted nationally by CBS News correspondent Dan Rather — took hold and established Dallas as a "city of hate" in the early 1960s in many American minds. Again, Wineke simply failed to check his facts.

Some veteran conservatives are almost accustomed to the falsehoods and distortions. "I was a very active [volunteer] section leader," Larry Waters, a Dallas resident in 1963 who is now vice president of The John Birch Society, told The New American. "I was part of a group of 10 men speaking under the auspices of the Dallas Civil Defense." Waters says that the liberal media were then chomping on the bit to blame the political "Right" for Kennedy's assassination. "The entire atmosphere had been shaped by two or three events that had happened a couple of months before the assassination," Waters told The New American, referring to the Dallas Morning News advertisement, the "Wanted" handbill, and a scuffle at an event by UN Ambassador Adlai Stevenson days earlier. Waters said that liberals then (and now on a national scale, apparently) "tried to make Dallas out as a city of hate. The writers in retrospect are trying to attach this to us."

Ironically, it's the same people on the political Left who cry loudest about hateful rhetoric who are the ones most prolifically spewing it, along with an ample helping of falsehoods and innuendo.

Disclaimer: The New American magazine is a corporate affiliate of The John Birch Society.

Photo of JFK arriving in Dallas on the day he was assassinated: AP Images
Newstex Web Blogs  
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January 21, 2011 Friday 3:35 PM EST

LENGTH: 657 words

HEADLINE: Breaking Away: Crafting the Career You Want Beyond the Traditional Practice of Law

BYLINE: Stephanie West Allen

BODY:

Jan. 21, 2011 (idealawg delivered by Newstex) --

From the Web page of this upcoming seminar:

You're not alone if you want to make a change in your legal career but are unsure how to do it...

...

Some attorneys want more satisfying jobs in the law; others want to try something completely different. Reading legal postings or simply changing jobs isn't going to do it.

Come uncover a simple process for finding work you love inside, outside, or around the law. This interactive workshop provides three simple-but-powerful steps to finding the career that's right for you:

1. What do you want to do?
   Where are you and where do you want to go next? This brainstorming session lets your imagination run wild. And it's OK if you don't have a clue where you want to go next; there are lots of juicy exercises to tease out exciting career possibilities.

2. What is stopping you from doing it?
   Lawyers are especially good at detailing what gets in the way of having the careers they want. But are those barriers real or not? Learn the strategies for testing your assumptions about what's stopping you from having a satisfying career.

3. What can you do about it?
   This session is all about what to do with those barriers that are real. They may have stopped you in the past but no more. Ready to get past them?

   If you're ready to do more than just stress and complain about your unsatisfying legal career, then this half-day workshop is for you! In short, you will get:
   - A 3-step process you can use whenever you want to make a career change.
   - A lively and entertaining interactive program. This isn't some boring, stuffy lecture; you'll be engaged and creating as you go.
   - Personal stories of several successful, happy lawyers who made career changes.
   - A career transition plan that you can start implementing right away.

FACULTY

Anne H. Whitaker, M.S., J.D., is Vice President of Counsel On Call's Atlanta office and a career coach for lawyers. Previously, Anne practiced law for five
years and in 1991 started In-House Counsel, Inc., a pioneer in contract attorney placement which she later sold to a national company. She received her J.D., cum laude, from the University of Georgia School of Law, is a graduate of Corporate Coach University's Corporate Coaching Program, and a licensed provider of the Highlands Ability Battery and other career assessments. Anne is the founding member and co-chair of the Atlanta Bar Associations Career Management Committee, and is also a member of the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers and the International Coach Federation. Anne has created and presented over 17 programs for lawyers on career development for lawyer associations, and has been a contributing writer for The Complete Lawyer online magazine since 2004, for which she wrote the 10-article series, eePersonal Vision: How to Make Your Vocation Our Vacation, and the 5-article series, eeExploring Non-traditional Careers.

Monica R. Parker, J.D., helps attorneys who want to leave the law but are struggling to find alternative careers through her company, LeavingTheLaw.com. She previously practiced law for five years and served as a Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School, teaching negotiation to law students and professionals. Monica also worked for filmmaker Spike Lee and Winn Dixie, a Southeastern grocery store chain. She earned a B.A. cum laude in English and American Literature from Harvard College and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. She is a member of the Career Management Committee of the Atlanta Bar Association, the Georgia Coach Association, and the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys. Monica is the author of The Unhappy Lawyer: A Road Map to Finding Meaningful Work Outside Of The Law (Sourcebooks) and What It Takes: How Women of Color Can Thrive Within the Practice of Law (ABA).

Includes a panel discussion with lawyers who have made successful transitions - hear and learn from their stories!

Newstex ID: IDEA-0001-100042503

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LOAD-DATE: January 21, 2011

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January 21, 2011 Friday 4:35 AM EST
The University of Georgia issued the following news release:

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The TRIPS agreement introduced intellectual property law into the international trading system for the first time. Now, 15 years later, the leading authorities on the subject will conduct a "then and now" examination of the agreement and its effectiveness.

"TRIPS remains the most comprehensive international agreement on intellectual property protection," said Jennifer L. Fridgeon, a third-year law student and conference organizer. "It is important to determine just how effective it has been in achieving its original goals and to explore other possible actions that may need to be taken to protect intellectual property rights at a global level."

Titled "15 Years of TRIPS Implementation: Intellectual Property Protection From a Global Perspective," the conference will feature panels covering such topics as compulsory licensing, compliance and defiance, TRIPS' weaknesses, the anti-counterfeiting trade agreement, and the relation between TRIPS and other subsequent free trade agreements.

The keynote address will be delivered by University of Minnesota Law School Prosser Professor Ruth Odediji, who will present "If WIPO Leads, Should the World Follow? Decentralizing IP Norm-making Processes and the Norms that Result There-from."

The conference is sponsored by the UGA School of Law Dean Rusk Center as well as its Journal of Intellectual Property Law. CLE credits are available. For more information, see www.law.uga.edu.

Writer: Cindy H. Rice, 706/542-5172, cindyh@uga.edu

Contact: Jennifer Fridgeon, 770/757-8228, pridg@uga.edu

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LOAD-DATE: January 22, 2011
The Tennessean (Nashville, Tennessee)
January 21, 2011 Friday

SECTION: NEWS

LENGTH: 1013 words

HEADLINE: 11/14/2010: Hunting measure's impact may be years off

BYLINE: By, Anne Paine

BODY:

THE TENNESSEAN

This story was originally published on Nov. 14, 2010.

Cheryl Sanders of Brentwood was perplexed that the Nov. 2 election ballot asked her whether the Tennessee Constitution should guarantee the right to hunt and fish.

Taken aback, she voted yes. "I didn't know they didn't have the right to hunt and fish," she said.

Her husband later told her that he voted no. Why write the activities into the state constitution?

Whatever their reasons, Tennessee voters overwhelmingly favored adding hunting and fishing to the constitution, alongside the rights to religious freedom and a fair trial. What difference the change might make could take years to show up, but possibilities include more lawsuits challenging the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's regulations.

For John Birmingham, the protection was called for.

"What are you gonna do?" said Birmingham, a South Nashville retiree. "You gonna have someone up there in Washington tell you you're not going to hunt anymore? It's sad you have to put that in the constitution."

More than 1.4 million votes were cast on the issue, just 10 percent fewer than in the governor's race, and 90 percent voted yes.

Ironically, Tennessee hunters are few in relation to the general population. Slightly more than 11 percent of Tennesseans are licensed to hunt, a rate that has remained fairly steady for more than 25 years.

Fishermen, many of whom also are counted among the hunters, are more numerous but still account for less than 20 percent of the population, according to a TWRA tally of license holders.

Little opposition

The issue had virtually no organized opposition that gave the public any reason to vote against it, said political analyst Pat Nolan.

"Those who were strong supporters knew it was on the ballot," he said. "I think most of the public didn't know one way or the other, and it didn't appear to create any problem - at least on the surface - to anyone. So they voted yes.

"A lot of people, even if they don't hunt or fish themselves, don't have anything against the idea."
Birmingham said he didn’t believe anyone was trying to prohibit hunting and fishing, but he backed the move as a cautionary measure at a time when firearms are under attack by liberals.

The longtime hunter, who was wearing a camouflage jacket as he watched Thursday’s Veterans Day parade, said the strong vote probably resulted from having so many sportsmen in the historically conservative state.

"Up there in New York, it might not have passed," he said.

Heidi Hogan, a Brentwood mother and wife whose husband hunts, said she had known the issue would be on the ballot, and she voted yes.

But familiarity with the amendment proposal before entering the voting booth wasn’t universal. Fred McLaughlin, a Nashville financial adviser, said he voted yes.

"I don’t know why," he said with a shrug and laugh. "I really didn’t understand the amendment ... but I think we should be able to hunt and fish."

Other states approve

Similar amendments, part of a push nationally by the National Rifle Association, won in Arkansas and South Carolina, though one in Arizona failed. Ten states already had such amendments.

The issue has arisen as hunting groups have grown concerned over animal rights groups and the political clout of an increasingly urban populace.

It remains to be seen whether the amendment will lead to people saying they don’t need a hunting or fishing license because it’s a constitutional right, or whether it could have an impact on state gun laws, Nolan said.

Georgia passed a similar amendment in 2004 and little has come of it, said Peter Appel, an associate professor at the University of Georgia School of Law.

Each time TWRA comes up with new regulations on hunting or fishing, the amendment gives more of a platform for a court challenge. Judges would decide whether a regulation is reasonable, he said.

"It’s more a hassle and expense than an interference with what the wildlife agency wants to do," he said.

Most groups probably wouldn’t bother to challenge TWRA in court, but when financial interests are large, they could.

Commercial fishermen have consistently warded with TWRA over a prohibition on selling fish from Watts Bar Lake, where environmental officials say toxic substances are present in some species. They also oppose the limits on paddlefish, which the TWRA says are in danger of being overfished.

The fishermen say TWRA is wrong about the fish in Watts Bar or wrong about the paddlefish, which are valuable for their eggs that are processed into caviar.

A group with a large financial stake such as this might find new momentum with the amendment, Appel said.

The Tennessean received no response to a call and e-mail to a representative of commercial fishermen to ask for comment.

Wildlife Federation glad
The overwhelming vote here pleased Mike Butler, executive director of the Tennessee Wildlife Federation.

"It struck a chord. This is who we are," he said, adding that some still feed their families in this way.

"People, for better or worse, were able to see that in other states there have been efforts that have been successful to remove certain aspects of hunting and fishing."

This year, Butler noted, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals sent a letter to the president of the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and other schools calling for eliminating fishing teams, saying fishing was cruel. And a few years ago, the state legislature, without scientific reason, decided to ban hunting of albino deer.

The federation raised $50,000 to promote passage of the amendment and paid for nine billboards statewide, with four in Nashville.

Butler said Tennessee's amendment is worded to avoid undermining TWRA, with revisions made over six years. Hunters and fishermen pay license fees for TWRA to manage the state's wildlife, and they don't want costs to rise because of lawsuits.

"We spent a whole lot of time and sweat working to make sure that language did pretty much everything it could to prevent that sort of thing from happening," Butler said.

"We got the language right, and that was really, really important."

LOAD-DATE: January 21, 2011

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US Fed News

January 21, 2011 Friday 1:46 PM EST

LENGTH: 331 words

HEADLINE: UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA LAW CONFERENCE TO EXPLORE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW PROTECTION AT GLOBAL LEVEL

BODY:

ATHENS, Ga., Jan. 21 -- The University of Georgia issued the following news release:

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The TRIPS agreement introduced intellectual property law into the international trading system for the first time. Now, 15 years later, the leading authorities on the subject will conduct a "then and now" examination of the agreement and its effectiveness.
"TRIPS remains the most comprehensive international agreement on intellectual property protection," said Jennifer L. Fridgeon, a third-year law student and conference organizer. "It is important to determine just how effective it has been in achieving its original goals and to explore other possible actions that may need to be taken to protect intellectual property rights at a global level."

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The keynote address will be delivered by University of Minnesota Law School Prosser Professor Ruth Okediji, who will present "If WIPO Leads, Should the World Follow? Decentralizing IP Norm-making Processes and the Norms that Result There-from."

The conference is sponsored by the UGA School of Law Dean Rusk Center as well as its Journal of Intellectual Property Law. CLE credits are available. For more information, see www.law.uga.edu/. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

LOAD-DATE: January 22, 2011

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Long County judicial officials, community leaders, dignitaries and residents paid tribute to former Long County State Court Judge Richard Phillips on Wednesday when a painting of the legal legacy was unveiled in a courtroom at the Long County courthouse.

Phillips' lifelong friend Sheriff Cecil Nobles attended the ceremony. "He always represented the city and county well. He was a great judge, a great citizen and a great lawyer who was known throughout Georgia. He was one of the finest persons that I have ever known and I miss him," Nobles said.

Long County Clerk of Court Frank Middleton, who grew up with Phillips and worked with him in the court system, said, "Me and him went to school together and hunted and fished all through high school. He was a good friend and it was a privilege and distinct honor to know Richard Phillips ... We will miss him."

Phillips was born in 1938. He graduated as valedictorian from Long County High School. He earned his undergraduate degree from Georgia Southern College and his law degree from the University of Georgia in 1963. After law school, Phillips moved back to Ludowici where he practiced law and served as the Ludowici clerk of court, the Long County Chamber of Commerce president, the Long County Health Department chairman and the attorney for the city of Ludowici and the Long County Board of Education.

Phillips, who was the third state court judge for Long County, was elected in 1964 and served until his death on Feb. 25, 2010. He was the longest-serving state court judge in Georgia.

Phillips' daughter, Amy Phillips, who lives in Atlanta, and his sister, Margaret Ruiz, who lives in Richmond Hill, also attended the portrait-unveiling ceremony. "Everybody respected him and was glad to have him as their attorney. He also was respected as a judge, helping as many people as he could and always treating everyone fair," Ruiz said.

Amy Phillips, who followed her father into the legal field as an attorney, said, "He was very proud to be from here and he loved Long County. He always tried to help anyone that he could. He had a man who went before him in court one day for breaking into a warehouse. When my dad asked him why he did it, the man said he broke into the place because it was raining ... my dad told him he had to leave the county and then gave him $20. That's how my dad was."

Phillips was replaced as the Long County state judge by Judge Jeffrey Arnold. "It's been said that if you expect the best, you'll get the best. Judge Phillips was
the best," Arnold said of said of his predecessor.
TERRY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Lowery, rock band co-founder, teaches spring semester course for music business certificate program

By Matt Waldman
mwalldman@terry.uga.edu

David Lowery, co-founder of rock bands Cracker and Camper Van Beethoven, will be the instructor of a spring semester course for the Music Business Certificate Program in the Terry College of Business.

Lowery is teaching “Fundamental Concepts in Music Business.” According to David Barbé, director of the Music Business Certificate Program, Lowery’s knowledge and experience make him the perfect fit to teach this class.

“He’s the real deal. A platinum-selling producer with a great career as an artist who also has run a label and does a lot with publishing,” said Barbé, who explained that Lowery embodies the program’s ideal of finding lecturers who are active professionals and embrace change within the industry. “When you combine this with his detailed knowledge of financial markets, I don’t know if there is anyone else like him.”

The Terry College of Business got a glimpse of Lowery in the classroom in 2009 when he was a guest lecturer for the Music Business Certificate Program. Lowery told his students, “Virtually all successful individuals in the music business unconsciously adopt the same strategy to ‘harvest’ luck,” and based his instruction on theories more commonly applied to financial markets.

Barbé said hiring Lowery was a serendipitous moment, because he was looking for an instructor for the “Fundamental Concepts in Music Business” course (MBUS 3000) when Lowery contacted him.

“David was telling me that he had lectured here in the past and thought it would be fun to teach class one day. Then he shared with me he was writing a book called Highly Volatile: How Your Band Taught You Everything You Need to Know about Economics and Finance, and at that moment I asked him what he would be doing spring semester,” said Barbé, who brought Lowery to Athens to meet with Dean Robert Sumichrast and Associate Dean for Academic Programs Mark Dawkins. “Everyone thought it was a great fit.”

Lowery is a compelling figure in the music industry as an artist and producer. He came to prominence on the music scene as the founder of the alternative rock group Camper Van Beethoven in 1983. The band’s song, “Take the Skinheads Bowling,” served as the title track for the filmmaker Michael Moore’s 2002 Academy Award-winning documentary Bowling for Columbine.

Both Camper Van Beethoven and Cracker are known for drawing upon a variety of musical influences including rock, punk, country, folk and blues. Lowery has successfully translated his experiences and influences as a singer-songwriter into artist production. As the co-founder of Sound of Music Studios in Richmond, Va., he has worked with numerous artists, including Sparklehorse, September 67 and the Counting Crows.

The UGA Music Business Certificate Program prepares students for careers in the music industry. Students can earn an interdisciplinary certificate in music business by receiving a hands-on education about subjects such as music and business fundamentals, copyright issues, creative content, artist management and production and technology.

SCHOOL OF LAW

Conference will explore property law at global level

By Cindy H. Rice
cindyh@uga.edu

Intellectual property law experts from around the country will gather at the School of Law to discuss the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights during a daylong conference Jan. 28. The event, free and open to the public, will take place in the Larry Walker Room of Dean Rusk Hall beginning at 8:30 a.m.

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The keynote address will be delivered by Ruth Okeedji, Prosser Professor at the University of Minnesota Law School. She will give a presentation entitled, “If WIPO Leads, Should the World Follow?: Decentralizing IP Norm-makingProcesses and the Norms that Result There-from.”

The conference is sponsored by the law school's Dean Rusk Center as well as its journal of Intellectual Property Law. Continuing legal education credits are available.
Forty aspiring physicians began their education in Athens this past fall as the inaugural class of the Medical College of Georgia/University of Georgia Medical Partnership. The first cohort of the four-year medical education program consists of MCG students who are studying basic science and clinical skills in a program that mirrors the curriculum of the Augusta campus.

Robert Fowells

Both funding agencies and private donors put their money where they have confidence, and we are grateful to them for that expression of confidence in the mission of this place. I am also encouraged by the fact that we had approximately 800 more donors in 2010 than we had in 2009. In this economic climate, we need each and every one of those, large or
Thank you, Jeff, for that introduction and for your good work on the Council this year. We have been graced with strong leadership in the faculty and that has been a tremendous benefit during these difficult economic times.

Good afternoon, and thank you for being here. The president of the University of Georgia is required by University Statutes to report annually to the faculty on the State of the University. I look forward to this opportunity each year to recall with you some of the most significant events of the previous year and, today, to share with you some of what I hope we can accomplish in 2011 and beyond.

The university is strong and stable, but under significant challenge. Both we and the state remain in the throes of the most gripping recession since the Great Depression. It is only through the cooperation of every university person that we have saved as many jobs as we have and continued to do the job we are charged to do in such an admirable way. Despite the ongoing challenge of the budget and the economy, 2010 was still a year of some significant accomplishments. I remain proud and humbled by the spirit of the people of this place who have faced these challenges with an attitude of service and commitment, who have done more work than they had in years past and with limited resources, and who have offered ideas and comments that have helped us manage the institution more effectively. I am grateful to everyone of you for that.

I have been encouraged by that spirit of togetherness in tough times. There is an American spirit in that—the concept embodied in the Declaration of Independence that “we the people” are responsible for what we make of the situation we are presented. I particularly regret that we are now in the third year of no state salary pool for faculty and staff and appreciate greatly that, while we have not been able to pull together the kind of salary support that I would have liked, we have kept our focus on keeping people employed. It takes but a glance at the double-digit unemployment rates to realize that it is good to have a job in times like these.

In fact, through working together and pooling our resources, by acting responsibly on water and electricity usage, by reducing travel and supply budgets all across this campus, you have helped to save hundreds of jobs. We have remarkable faculty and staff at the University of Georgia, and once again you worked together to accomplish great things.

Delivered by
President Michael F. Adams
January 20, 2011
Chapel

Let’s recall some of the other important institutional events and accomplishments of the previous year.

We commemorated the 225th anniversary of the signing of the charter that created this university, the first public university in America. We celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Honors Program and the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Graduate School. I’ll have more to say about that later. And while it technically began this year and not last, we are in the midst of an extended recognition of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of this university, an event which continues to have a profound impact on this institution and this state. In one of those simple acts of immense courage that shape history, Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton Holmes walked onto campus in 1961 and said, “We belong here.” They were right, and UGA has been the better for their bravery ever since.

External funding for research set a record at almost $176 million, and we topped the $100 million mark in gifts and pledges for the fifth year in a row. Both of these are indicators of the quality of this institution as seen by two separate yet equally important external constituencies.

We are also encouraged by the fact that we had approximately 800 more donors in 2010 than we had in 2009. In this economic climate, we need each and every one of those, large or small. When we approach foundations for financial support of the University of Georgia, one of the first questions is always, “How has the family given?” Individual financial support for UGA has far-reaching positive implications.

We simply need every alumni and every friend of this great university to write a check in 2011, no matter how great or how small. We especially need support for scholarships and fellowships for students and endowed accounts to support faculty. This is a time unlike any other in our lifetimes, a time when we must all pull together to ensure the quality of this place.

We enrolled, yet again, a highly qualified freshman class—in fact, the best class ever. These young people are not only well prepared academically, they come to us with a commitment to service and a desire to see the world—all of which gives me great hope for the future.

The first class of medical students in the MCG/UGA Medical Partnership enrolled in August, attending classes in the Partnership Building down by the river. We held a symbolic transfer ceremony with the Secretary of the Navy in October to sign documents approving the transfer of the Navy School property back to UGA for the establishment of a Health Sciences Campus; the official transfer will take place in March.

In November the board of regents approved our proposal to offer civil, mechanical and electrical engineering beginning in the fall of 2012 with full implementation by 2014. This is a very significant event in the academic history of the University of Georgia and is important first because, in the land-grant tradition, it means we will be helping Georgia meet the pressing need for more practicing engineers, and second, because it will open up, along with medicine, many new avenues for research funding. The start of medical education and the approval of a broader engineering curriculum within the span of a single season—taken together with the establishment of the School of Public and International Affairs and the College of Environmental Design in 2001, the College of Public Health in 2005 and the Odum School of Ecology in 2007; and the offering this fall of a freshman seminar taught by tenured or tenure-track faculty—may constitute the most concentrated advancement of the academic program in the history of the university.

We completed two very thorough and important decennial reviews—the NCAA certification review and the SACS reaccreditation. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Drs. Rodney Bennett and Welch Suggs for leading the NCAA effort and professors Bob Boehmer, David Shipler and Rodney Maurico for leading the SACS process.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome to campus our new dean of students, Bill McDonal.
Bill comes to us from Presbyterian College, but he has worked on this campus before. He has already demonstrated his commitment to being an advocate for and advisor to students, and has quickly become an important member of the Student Affairs leadership team. Please join me in welcoming him.

University Council's work on the First-Year Odyssey QEP is a substantial step forward; there are not many comprehensive research universities that have committed to putting every first-year student in the classroom with a major professor. That is more typical of the experience at a very good liberal arts college, and I believe this is going to have a transformative effect on the academic climate of this institution. I encourage everyone on the faculty to participate in this program. I intend to do so myself.

Four members of the faculty received Fulbright Scholarships, ranking UGA fourth in the nation for the number of honorees. Please join me in recognizing Diane Edison, a professor in the Lamar Dodd School of Art; Jared Klein, Research Professor of linguistics; Peter Rutledge, an associate professor in the School of Law; and Richard Siegesmund, an associate professor and co-chair of art education in the Dodd School.

Our public service and outreach mission was recognized in December with a Community Engagement Classification by the Carnegie Foundation, putting UGA into a select group of institutions noted for "dynamic and noteworthy community engagement." That honor capped a year of significant accomplishments in public service, in which more than 100,000 Georgians were served directly by the University of Georgia. The Vinson Institute in December hosted the 27th Biennial Institute for Georgia legislators. Dr. Wilf Nichols last fall joined the university as director of the State Botanical Garden. And the Fanning Institute assumed direction of the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement, a program designed to develop the skills of Georgia's principals and school administrators.

All of these efforts and others apply the knowledge of the university to the state's evolving needs.

UGA students continued a remarkably successful run in national academic scholarship competitions, capped in November by the announcement that Tracy Yang, a senior anthropology major from Macon, is UGA's 22nd Rhodes Scholar and our seventh since 1996. UGA students also claimed two Goldwater Scholarships, two Truman Scholarships, one Udall Scholarship, one Mitchell Scholarship, one Merage Fellowship and 11 Fulbright Scholarships, among others. Brian Lea became the fifth law school graduate in seven years to be selected as a clerk for a U.S. Supreme Court Justice.
These qualitative indicators have impacted the various rating services. As I've said many times, I don't put a lot of stock in any one ranking, but if universities are going to be ranked, I would rather be highly ranked—and maybe even respectfully ranked for having fun, but not at the top of that list.

I do find satisfaction in the fact that UGA is consistently ranked highly by a broad array of publications, the most widely known of which, for better or worse, is the U.S. News & World Report “Best Colleges” issue. UGA is ranked 18th among public research universities this year, continuing a string of placements in or very near the top 20. Forbes magazine puts UGA at 19th nationally and 10th in the Southeast among public universities. Kiplinger ranked UGA eighth among publics in its annual value report. Our efforts at sustainability were recently recognized by the Sustainable Endowments Institute, which gave us an A-minus. Multiple departments and units are ranked among the top 10 in their peer groups. This is a very good university—we have known that for some time, and now others are coming to know it as well.

The student body is one of the factors that make this place strong. We have extraordinary students both undergraduate and graduate. There have been significant improvements in undergraduate academic life, spurred primarily by the excellent work of Provost Jere Morehead and his colleagues on the undergraduate experience task force several years ago. Co-chaired by then-Vice President for Instruction Del Dunn, that committee took seriously the charge to make the undergraduate experience here and make it better—more rigorous, more challenging, more relevant, more meaningful. By all indicators, they were successful. The feedback from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) tells us that our undergraduates feel more connected to the academic mission of the university because of these efforts. That, my friends, is real academic progress.

The evidence of an improved undergraduate experience is almost tangible. This place has a different academic feel than it did 10 or 12 years ago. One of the themes of the 2000 strategic plan was “Building the New Learning Environment,” with a deliberate double meaning. We have indeed added to the physical environment in ways that support learning, but the environment of academic rigor, of high expectations, of intellectual challenge, of student engagement is a much more challenging one to create. But thanks to many of you and the dedication and hard work of the faculty, we have done just that at the University of Georgia.

Many of you know that there has been commensurate progress in graduate and professional education, but that progress is not yet as visible or as obvious as the progress on the undergraduate side. One of the next great challenges of this university will be to enhance even further our efforts in graduate education.

For a number of reasons, some political, some historical, some sociological, this state has not valued graduate and professional education to the extent that it does undergraduate education, and not to the extent that some of our neighboring states, notably North Carolina, have done. Graduate students are the workforce of research intensive universities—and I speak from experience. The three years I spent studying political communications at The Ohio State University were among the most robust intellectual periods of my life. I can still feel the sting of the cold winter air and smell the peculiar aroma of freshly plowed snow as I trudged 1.1 miles from my parking spot near the stadium to Derby Hall to teach. I can close my eyes and picture those first- and second-year students, eyes wide with the anticipation of the greatness that was about to spout from the mouth of someone maybe three years their senior. I can recall with pleasure the conversations with Dr. James Golden, my advisor and mentor, on late afternoons in Columbus.

Those are the experiences that build strong and lasting universities. Those are the moments that collectively move states forward and strengthen them economically, civically and in quality of life. Those are the opportunities that education beyond the bachelor's degree provides, and those are the benefits that we are obligated to provide for our students and our state.

It is important to remember here that we cannot decouple graduate education from the research mission of the university. One cannot flourish without the other; UGA cannot be a great graduate institution with a weak research agenda, and it cannot be a great research institution if the graduate programs are not strong.
the important work of teaching graduate students. I am pleased to announce today a commitment to fund at least 40 additional Ph.D. fellowships to bolster efforts to recruit top students to UGA's graduate programs.

But we need to do more. It is time to make a significant, visible, tangible statement about the central role of graduate and professional education at the University of Georgia. Over the next six months I will work with the dean of the Graduate School and the vice president for research to design a graduate studies and research center to be located on a prominent plot of land on Lumpkin Street that is now occupied by the Chi Phi fraternity. This facility will house the Graduate School and the Office of the Vice President for Research and their attendant staffs, as well as provide a locus of gathering and support for the almost 9,000 graduate and professional students who have chosen this university to further their education.

The development office will take the lead in securing commitments of private funding to make this much-needed facility a reality. The finance office will also play a significant role in developing a plan that will, I hope, allow us to move forward on this in late summer or early fall of this year.

But this is about more than merely a building, important as such a structure will be as a statement of the importance of graduate and professional education. This is about a commitment to the students who populate our graduate classrooms, who help to teach undergraduate classes, who drive the research agenda. We have already taken steps to improve the recruitment and retention of graduate and professional students here and will continue to do so.

One of the most important professional opportunities that graduate students have is the chance to present at professional conferences. To date, we have made available some $50,000 to support travel for graduate students who were presenting papers or posters at conferences or pursuing other means of professional development. Such opportunities to meet with and share newfound knowledge and expertise with their peers in the academy world-wide are invaluable, and I remain committed to providing funding for such travel.

A competitive, affordable, viable health insurance program for graduate students and their families is an important service we provide. Tom Gausvik in Human Resources, Dean Grasso and others have worked very hard to establish such a program, because we know that it helps attract the best students and allows them to focus on their studies and not be distracted about the physical well-being of their families and themselves.

With significant input and participation from the graduate student leadership over the years, we have worked with the regents on developing a competitive health insurance pro-
The very best research universities are at the forefront of innovation and discovery, processes which are fueled by their graduate programs. Entities like the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and the National Endowment for the Humanities are increasingly of the correct mind that the best work is done collaboratively; is interdisciplinary; and that the easy sharing of ideas across department, college and even institutional lines leads to 21st century solutions.

There are different processes and different ways of doing the business of research inherent in this new model of the research university. To be successful in attracting funding and in meeting the needs of society, we must be broader in the scope of what we do and more varied in the ways we are willing to do it. Only in that way will we be truly successful in developing a new body of information to reach solutions for this century.

Unfortunately, when you walk or drive around this campus, you do not see graduate education. One of the decisions I regret the most, although I can still argue the case for making it, was to move the offices of the graduate dean and her staff off campus. The symbolic effect of that decision has troubled me since the day it was implemented, and while the office space downtown may function very well, we need those offices on campus, physically integrated as part of what we do here every day. The simple reality is that you can't build a great graduate program with its offices over a noodle bar.

Let me take this opportunity to thank publicly Dean Maureen Grasso and her staff for their attitude and understanding in this process.

We have taken actions to improve and support graduate education recently. One of the intents of the faculty hiring initiatives was to take some of the pressure off undergraduate courses by hiring faculty for the express purpose of teaching those courses, thus freeing up senior faculty for other initiatives. One more thing that we are willing to do it.

None of those well-educated, high-wage, high-tech areas
A faculty member in the College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Susan Sanchez is also a CURO mentor to Al Ray, who is majoring in cell biology. The CURO program has expanded research opportunities on campus through a partnership with the Faculty of Engineering.

Matthew Herring, a doctoral student in kinesiology in the College of Education, and a research team found that exercise decreases anxiety and illness.

Yiping Zhao, director of UGA's Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center, uses nanotechnology to understand biological systems.
I cited have had the rate of unemployment that Georgia has seen precisely, I believe, because of the collaborative work that was done decades ago in support of a vision for intellectual innovation.

The benefit to the community, the region and the state is clear: Innovation brings products and processes to market, it creates jobs, it generates taxable revenue and it boosts local economies through the ripple effect of the support industries that want to be located close to areas of innovation.

Only universities can provide the level of innovation, and only the state can provide the level of infrastructure to support it. It has to be a partnership, and we must each do our part — universities and colleges, the state, the business community and foundations.

There are some good efforts under way. The Georgia Research Alliance is a highly successful program attracting researchers in targeted economic development fields to Georgia. The Georgia Cancer Coalition is another example of state support for targeted bioscience research. And there are other targeted economic development issues on which we have worked collaboratively; and I expect that cooperation to continue under the leadership of Chris Cumminskey, the new commissioner of economic development for the state. Chris is an alumnus and has served as director of state relations for UGA for the past several years, and I look forward to working with him in this new role.

But the exceptions prove the rule; there is not yet enough broad support for the societal benefits of graduate and professional education and the research enterprise it supports. We simply have to tell our story better.

What does this mean for us? Each year, the entire senior administrative team — from the president to the vice presidents to the deans to the associate provosts — takes a two-day retreat. This year’s may have been the most productive yet. We spent much of that time in breakout groups engaged in intensive discussion about the strategic plan for the next 10 years. And, hard as it may be to believe, there was virtual unanimity on the key elements of focus going forward in the next decade:

* Enhancing and improving graduate and professional education;
* Preparing and equipping students to succeed in a global economy;
* Fostering a culture of discovery, with particular emphasis on medicine and engineering;
* Preparing leaders; and
* Re-energizing the land- and sea-grant missions.

Now that’s a pretty good vision for a world-class comprehensive public research university that is poised to lead in the 21st century. But it also comes with a price tag. In addition to the level of state support necessary to build that kind of university for Georgia, it will take at least $1 billion in private support. While this may not be the best time to launch a capital campaign of that magnitude, it is the time to begin preparations for just such a campaign. The people of Georgia showed us during the Archway to Excellence campaign that they get it — they understand that great public universities are made great by private and public support. Public support is the foundation on which great universities are built, and the people of Georgia deserve a flagship university every bit as good as do people in Michigan or Virginia or California. To accomplish that we must leverage public support with even greater levels of private support.

Two hundred twenty-six years ago, the founders of this state put on paper a bold, even radical, idea — the idea that higher education is a public, not just a private good, the idea that the benefits of higher education inure not just to the individual but to society the idea that government owed its very existence to an educated populace. That idea had never been posited before 1785, and it was born in this state, our state.

We today are the stewards of that idea, and we honor that legacy by asking and answering this question: What form does the University of Georgia take in the second decade of the 21st century?

I see a university that, while not by its own choice, has undertaken a long, hard, detailed look at its financial structure and made some difficult choices that have led to greater efficiencies while maintaining service levels. One of the most remarkable statistics I have seen in the past few years is that we produced virtually the same number of credit hours in the 2009-2010 academic year as the year before — with significantly reduced faculty numbers. I have said it before but I will say it again, because there are people who need to hear it: The people of this university have rallied to the cause of education which we hold dear by doing more with less, by offering creative ideas about saving money and with a spirit that has moved me deeply.

I see a university that is ever more in tune with the needs of its home state. Georgia needs the University of Georgia now and going forward, and we must respond. The expansions of the curriculum I mentioned earlier — public health, SPIA, environment and design, ecology, medicine and engineering — have all been driven by a desire to position the academic structure of the university in ways that will align with the needs of the state. The shadow of the Arch is long and the presence of this university permeates the fabric and substance of Georgia.

I see a university with a different mix of students who bring a high measure of quality to the campus. The graduate population will increase while the undergraduate population will remain relatively stable. You will see a more diverse campus, rich in racial and ethnic diversity, in geographic diversity, in linguistic diversity and in experiential diversity, as defined by Council in 2004.

The 21st century demands an appreciation for those who are not like us, and part of a UGA education should be the opportunity to meet and befriend and study with and learn from other people.

I see a university that not only fulfills the promise of the charter, but exceeds it. A university that continues to break new ground and make history. A university whose people have a positive impact in everything they do.

I see a university that matters; a university that serves its primary constituent, the state of Georgia, better than ever before.

Thank you.
ATHENS, Ga., Jan. 25 -- The University of Georgia issued the following news release:

The University of Georgia School of Law Staff Council recently presented Tricia Jonas Hackleman with the 2010 Emma P. Terrell Employee of the Year Award. Given annually, this honor recognizes and rewards outstanding employees for their service to the law school.

Hackleman joined Georgia Law in 2008 as a career advisor in the Office of Legal Career Services, where she specialized in assisting students seeking federal and state judicial clerkships and externships. As of Jan. 1, she became the law school's student affairs adviser. She also continues to oversee summer judicial externs as part of the school's Civil Externship Clinic.

One of the nominations stated: "I hear directly from students all the time that Tricia drops everything to assist them even on the weekend or late at night if she is contacted or learns that a student needs some help. It's Tricia's commitment to go the extra mile that ensures our students maximize their clerkship opportunities."

Other nominators described her positive attitude despite the pressures of her job as well as her great rapport with students, faculty and other staff members. "... you will never see Tricia without a smile on her face."

Before joining Georgia Law, Hackleman practiced in Atlanta for five years and was the assistant director of student activities and campus programs at The Ohio State University for two years. She also served as a judicial clerk for Justice Deborah L. Cook of the Supreme Court of Ohio, Judge Mark P. Painter of the Ohio 1st District Court of Appeals and Judge Michael L. Close of the Ohio 10th District Court of Appeals.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Purdue University and her Juris Doctor from the University of Cincinnati, where she was the executive editor of the University of Cincinnati Law Review.

The award, formerly known as the Employee Distinguished Service Award, was renamed in February 2005 in memory of the late Emma P. Terrell, a longtime employee remembered for her dedication and enthusiasm for the law school.

The Law School Staff Council presents this award annually to recognize staff members who demonstrate an outstanding work ethic, commitment to service and exceptional job performance in addition to the cooperation necessary to increase the quality of education and service provided by the law school. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com
Q: This year is the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of the University of Georgia. How did it happen?

A: This historic civil rights moment took place in January 1961, when Judge William A. Bootle ordered the school to admit black students Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton Holmes. The decision on Jan. 6, 1961, ended 160 years of segregation at the school and was the result of a legal battle begun in 1950 by Horace T. Ward, who was denied admission to the UGA Law School.

The students -- who had first applied to the university during summer 1959 -- registered for classes on Jan. 9, 1961. But it wasn't a peaceful process, as a mob of students within the first week threw bricks and bottles at Myers Hall, where Hunter lived, causing Athens police to disperse the crowd with tear gas. Hunter and Holmes were brought back to Atlanta by state troopers and told they were being withdrawn from the school, with a school official citing their personal safety and the safety and welfare of the school's 7,000 students. But after an outcry, with more than 400 faculty signing a resolution demanding their return, and a new court order, they came back a few days later. The students graduated in 1963. Holmes became an orthopedic surgeon in Atlanta and passed away in October 1995; Hunter (now Hunter-Gault) became an award-winning journalist. The school has created a website devoted to the desegregation anniversary, at desegregation.uga.edu, which includes details about events, some of which were postponed due to the snowstorm.

Q: When I was snowbound and going stir-crazy in early January, it made me wonder when the most snow has ever fallen in Atlanta at one time.

A: The weather outside sure was frightful earlier this month, but even the snowfall that crippled the metro area in early January didn't set a record. That honor -- very non-Hotlanta, as we say -- goes to Jan. 23, 1940, when 8.31 inches fell, according to Channel 2 Action News data. Other brrr-inducing snowfalls on record were about 8 inches on March 24, 1933 and 6 inches on Jan. 30, 1936.

What do you want to know?

If you're new in town or just have questions about this special place we call home, ask us! E-mail Lori Johnston at gja@ajc.com
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For more information about Georgia Law, see http://www.law.uga.edu/.

Writer/Contact: Cindy H. Rice, 706/542-5172, cindyh@uga.edu

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HEADLINE: PRESIDENT OBAMA NAMES SIX TO UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
BYLINE: States News Service
DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The following information was released by the White House:

Today, President Obama nominated Michael Green, Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona, J. Paul Oetken, Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos, Natasha Perdew Silas, and Judge Linda T. Walker to seats on the United States District Court.

Throughout their careers, these distinguished men and women have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to public service, said President Obama. I am confident they will serve the American people with distinction from the District Court bench.

Michael Green: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Western District of New York

Michael Green serves as the District Attorney of Monroe County, based in Rochester, New York, a position he has held since 2004. He has been a prosecutor in the office for nearly his entire legal career, starting as an Assistant District Attorney in 1987 and serving in several leadership positions prior to becoming District Attorney, including chief of the DWI Bureau, deputy chief of the Major Felony Bureau, and First Assistant District Attorney from 2001 to 2003. Green has tried more than 100 felony cases, including 40 homicide cases, and currently manages a staff of more than 80 prosecutors and 140 employees. He received his J.D. in 1986 from Western New England College School of Law, and his B.S. in 1983 from LeMoyne College.

Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona: Nominee for Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona is an Associate Judge with the Superior Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a position she has held since 2003. From 2004 to 2008, Judge Manglona also served as a Justice pro tempore and Judge pro tempore with the Guam Supreme Court and the Guam Superior Court. From 1998 to 2002, Judge Manglona was an Assistant Attorney General in the Commonwealth Office of the Attorney General. In 2002, Judge Manglona served as the Deputy Attorney General for the Commonwealth, and was promoted later that year to Attorney General, a position she held until she became a judge. Judge Manglona received her J.D. in 1996 from the University of New Mexico School of Law, and her B.A. in 1990 from the University of California at Berkeley.

J. Paul Oetken: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

J. Paul Oetken is Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel of Cablevision Systems Corporation in Bethpage, New York, a position he has held since 2004. Prior to joining Cablevision, Oetken worked at Debevoise and Plimpton, where he was counsel from 2003 to 2004 and an associate from 2001 to 2003. Oetken joined the White House Counsels Office as Associate Counsel to the President in 1999 and worked there until 2001. From 1997 to 1999, Oetken was an attorney-advisor with the U.S. Department of Justice in the Office of Legal
Counsel. Prior to that, he worked as an associate at Jenner and Block for approximately two years. From 1993 to 1994, Oetken served as a law clerk for the Honorable Harry A. Blackman of the U.S. Supreme Court; from 1992 to 1993, he served as a law clerk for the Honorable Louis F. Oberdorfer of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia; and from 1991 to 1992, he served as a law clerk for the Honorable Judge Richard D. Cudahy of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Oetken received his J.D. in 1991 from Yale Law School, and his B.A. with highest distinction in 1988 from the University of Iowa.

Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas

Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos currently serves as a district court judge for the 347th State District Court in Corpus Christi, Texas. Prior to being elected to the bench in 2000, Judge Ramos was a sole practitioner for a year. From 1997 to 1999, she served as a municipal court judge for the City of Corpus Christi. Before taking the bench, Judge Ramos practiced law for six years in the civil-litigation section of Meredith, Donnell and Abernethy. Judge Ramos received her J.D. with honors in 1991 from the University of Texas School of Law, and her B.S. summa cum laude in 1987 from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University).

Natasha Perdue Silas: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

Natasha Perdue Silas is a staff attorney at the Federal Defender Program for the Northern District of Georgia, based in Atlanta. She has worked as a Federal Public Defender since 1994, during which time she has tried approximately 25 cases to completion. Previously, from 1992 to 1994, she worked as a litigation associate at the law firm of Sutherland, Asbill and Brennan in Atlanta. Silas received her J.D. in 1992 from the University of Virginia School of Law and her B.S. in 1988 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Judge Linda T. Walker: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

Judge Linda T. Walker is a United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, based in Atlanta, a position in which she has served since 2000. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she worked for Fulton County in several capacities as Deputy County Attorney from 1992 to 1997, as County Attorney from 1997 to 1999, and as director of the County’s Board of Registration and Elections in 1999. Judge Walker worked as a litigation associate at the firm of Webb and Daniel in Atlanta from 1990 to 1992. From 1989 to 1990, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable G. Ernest Tidwell of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. She received her J.D. in 1989 from the University of Georgia School of Law, her M.S. in 1987 from Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University), and her B.S. in 1983 from Southern University.
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DATELINE: WASHINGTON

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Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos currently serves as a district court judge for the 347th State District Court in Corpus Christi, Texas. Prior to being elected to the bench in 2000, Judge Ramos was a sole practitioner for a year. From 1997 to 1999, she served as a municipal court judge for the City of Corpus Christi. Before taking the bench, Judge Ramos practiced law for six years in the civil-litigation section of Meredith, Donnell & Abernethy. Judge Ramos received her J.D. with honors in 1991 from the University of Texas School of Law, and her B.S. summa cum laude in 1987 from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University).

Natasha Perdew Silas: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

Natasha Perdew Silas is a staff attorney at the Federal Defender Program for the Northern District of Georgia, based in Atlanta. She has worked as a Federal Public Defender since 1994, during which time she has tried approximately 25 cases to completion. Previously, from 1992 to 1994, she worked as a litigation associate at the law firm of Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan in Atlanta. Silas received her J.D. in 1992 from the University of Virginia School of Law and her B.S. in 1988 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Judge Linda T. Walker: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

Judge Linda T. Walker is a United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, based in Atlanta, a position in which she has served since 2000. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she worked for Fulton County in several capacities—as Deputy County Attorney from 1992 to 1997, as County Attorney from 1997 to 1999, and as director of the County’s Board of Registration and Elections in 1999. Judge Walker worked as a litigation associate at the firm of Webb & Daniel in Atlanta from 1990 to 1992. From 1989 to 1990, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable G. Ernest Tidwell of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. She received her J.D. in 1989 from the University of Georgia School of Law, her M.S. in 1987 from Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University), and her B.S. in 1983 from Southern University.
President Obama Names Six to United States District Court

WASHINGTON — Today, President Obama nominated Michael Green, Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona, J. Paul Oetken, Judge Nelia Gonzalez Ramos, Natasha Perdew Silas, and Judge Linda T. Walker to serve on the United States District Court.

"Throughout their careers, these distinguished men and women have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to public service," said President Obama. "I am confident they will serve the American people with distinction from the District Court bench."

Michael Green: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Western District of New York

Michael Green serves as the District Attorney of Monroe County, based in Rochester, New York, a position he has held since 2004. He has been a prosecutor in the office for nearly his entire legal career, starting as an Assistant District Attorney in 1987 and serving in several leadership positions prior to becoming District Attorney, including Chief of the DWI Bureau, deputy chief of the Major Felony Bureau, and First Assistant District Attorney from 2001 to 2003. Green has tried more than 100 felony cases, including 40 homicide cases, and currently manages a staff of more than 80 prosecutors and 140 employees. He received his J.D. in 1986 from Western New England College School of Law, and his B.S. in 1983 from LeMoyne College.

Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona: Nominee for Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona is an Associate Judge with the Superior Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a position she has held since 2003. From 2004 to 2008, Judge Manglona also served as a Justice pro tem and Judge pro tem to the Guam Superior Court and the Guam Superior Court. From 1998 to 2002, Judge Manglona was an Assistant Attorney General in the Commonwealth's Office of the Attorney General and served as the Deputy Attorney General for the Commonwealth, and was promoted later that year to Attorney General, a position she held until she became a judge. Judge Manglona received her J.D. in 1996 from the University of New Mexico School of Law, and her B.A. in 1993 from the University of California at Berkeley.

J. Paul Oetken: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

J. Paul Oetken is a Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel of Cablevision Systems Corporation in St. Louis, New York, a position he has held since 2004. Prior to joining Cablevision, Oetken worked at Deloitte & Plimpton, where he was counsel from 2003 to 2004 and an associate from 2001 to 2003. Oetken joined the White House Counsel's Office as Associate Counsel to the President in 1999 and worked there until 2001. From 1997 to 1999, Oetken was an attorney-advisor with the U.S. Department of Justice in the Office of Legal Counsel. Prior to that, he worked as an associate at Jenner & Block for approximately two years. From 1993 to 1994, Oetken served as a law clerk for the Honorable Harry A. Blackmun of the U.S. Supreme Court. From 1992 to 1993, he served as a law clerk for the Honorable Louis F. Oberdorfer of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. From 1991 to 1992, he served as a law clerk for the Honorable Judge Richard D. Custody of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Oetken received his J.D. in 1991 from Yale Law School, and his B.A. with highest distinction in 1988 from the University of Iowa.

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Natasha Perdew Silas: Nominee for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

President Obama's goal to put one million advanced technology vehicles on the road.

January 26, 2011 6:04 PM EST

The President's State of the Union Address: What They're Saying Part II

Read more reactions to the President's State of the Union Address from America's governors, mayors, and experts. From various fields covered in the President's speech.

January 26, 2011 5:17 PM EST

Health Care Costs

Stephanie Cutter, Assistant to the President for Special Projects, discusses how the health reforms in the Affordable Care Act will help bring down health care costs.

President Obama Names Six to United States District Court | The Whi...
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/01/26/president-

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US INDIAN NEWS

White House Initiative Aims to Boost AAPI Outreach
By RICHARD SPRINGER

January 27, 2011 03:02:00 PM

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. — Kiran Ahuja, appointed in December 2009 as executive director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, told India-West on the sidelines of the White House Summit on Entrepreneurship and Small Business Growth here Jan. 7 that she “knew from college that I wanted to do work in minority communities.”

The recent conference on the Microsoft campus here (I-W, Jan. 14) was the first major event on the West Coast to improve communications with the Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

Ahuja received a B.A. in political science from Spelman College, a historically black college, and a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law.

After law school, she was selected as one of five honors program trial attorneys in the civil rights division of the U.S. Justice Department, where she litigated education-related discrimination cases and filed the department’s first peer-on-peer student racial harassment lawsuit.

Ahuja participated in the civil rights division’s National Origin working group among the attorneys who organized response efforts after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. From 2003-08, she was founding executive director of the Brooklyn, N.Y.-based National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum.

She joked to an overflowing crowd while moderating a panel on government opportunities for small businesses at the recent conference that when she grew up in Savannah, Georgia, her main business experience was “selling Girl Scout cookies.”

On a more serious note, she added that she also witnessed first-hand the hard work of her parents as real estate agents and the owners of a local clothing store.

While entrepreneurship was the focus of the recent conference, Ahuja said other committees have been formed in the White House Initiative on AAPIs to develop strategies on civil rights, educational opportunities, bullying in schools and health.

The Initiative’s advisory commission currently has 17 members, including First Rockford Group president Sunil Puri, Ethan Allen chairman/CEO Farooq Kathwari, Sikh Coalition co-founder Amardeep Singh and Yonja Media Group CEO/president Dilawar A. Syed. More appointments to the advisory body are forthcoming, Ahuja added.

The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Interagency Working Group, which includes Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and many other high-ranking Asian American officials in the Obama administration, Jan. 18 released the first set of agency plans to increase AAPI’s access to the federal government.
Twenty-three participating federal departments have developed agency plans over the last four months detailing strategic activities and performance outcomes for the next one to two years.

They have four objectives: diversity in federal employment, increased access to federal funding, fewer language and cultural barriers, and collection of data on specific communities, rather than lumping groups together.

Plans are being released on a rolling basis through the end of February. The public comment period is open for 30 days from the posting date of each plan.

"The agency plans will drive the administration's effort to improve the quality of life for AAPIs," Ahuja said in a Jan. 18 statement. "In order for the federal government to take meaningful steps, it is crucial that people go online, view the plans, and provide feedback."

"Are we making agency programs more accessible, especially to the language-specific communities?" Ahuja asked rhetorically in the interview with India-West.

"If no one knows what the government is doing, then the programs aren't doing much good. We know we have to use many different ways to get to the community, including the (Asian) ethnic press. We are finding creative ways to make this happen and to make our data collection better."
HEADLINE: Hank Supports White House Nominees for Northern District Judges

BODY:

Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Ga. (4th CD), has issued the following news release:

House Judiciary Committee member and former Chairman of the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Rep. Hank Johnson (GA-04) announced today his support of President Barack Obama's nominations of a Georgia federal public defender and a U.S. Magistrate Judge to serve as district judges on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

The nominations, which require Senate confirmation, were announced January 25.

"I am pleased that President Obama has nominated two highly qualified candidates to the Federal Bench in the Northern District of Georgia," said Johnson, lifelong attorney and former judge. "He has taken time to get it right - right on diversity and right on qualifications."

United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Georgia Linda T. Walker and staff attorney at the Federal Defender Program for the Northern District of Georgia Natasha Perdew Silas were nominated to judgeships vacant since early 2009.

Walker has served as magistrate judge since 2000. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she worked for Fulton County in several capacities -- as Deputy County Attorney from 1992 to 1997, as county attorney from 1997 to 1999, and as director of the County's Board of Registration and Elections in 1999.

Judge Walker worked as a litigation associate at the firm of Webb & Daniel in Atlanta from 1990 to 1992. From 1989 to 1990, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable G. Ernest Tidwell of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. She received her J.D. in 1989 from the University of Georgia School of Law, her M.S. in 1997 from Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University), and her B.S. in 1983 from Southern University.

Silas has worked as a Federal Public Defender since 1994, during which time she has tried more than 20 cases to completion. She previously worked as a litigation associate at the law firm of Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan in Atlanta from 1992 to 1994. Silas received her J.D. in 1992 from the University of Virginia School of Law and her B.S. in 1988 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

More than 3,500 civil and criminal cases were filed in 2010 in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, headquartered in Atlanta. The district is allotted 11 judgeships.

Federal district court judges, appointed under Article III of the Constitution, are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. Their current annual salary is
Drake University issued the following news release:

On Friday, Jan. 28, the Intellectual Property Law Center at Drake University Law School will co-host a conference on the first 15 years of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, known commonly as the TRIPS Agreement.

Held in Athens, Ga., the event is organized by Drake's Peter K. Yu, the Kern family chair in intellectual property law, in conjunction with the Dean Rusk Center and the Journal of Intellectual Property Law at the University of Georgia School of Law. The Journal of Intellectual Property Law is the nation's oldest student-edited journal in the intellectual property law field.

Titled "15 Years of TRIPS Implementation: Intellectual Property Protection from a Global Perspective," this conference explores issues that range from treaty compliance to intellectual property enforcement and from compulsory licensing to the recently negotiated Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement.

Ruth Okediji, the William L. Prosser professor of law at the University of Minnesota Law School, will deliver a keynote speech on "If WIPO Leads, Should the World Follow? Decentralizing IP Norm-making Processes and the Norms that Result Therefrom."

Other speakers include leading international intellectual property law scholars from the United States as well as Brazil, Canada, Germany, Japan and Singapore. Yu will serve as the guest editor of a special symposium issue collecting the principal papers presented at this conference.

"The TRIPS Agreement is the leading international intellectual property treaty," said Yu, who directs the nationally renowned Intellectual Property Law Center at Drake University Law School.

"By marry ing intellectual property to trade, TRIPS has transformed the global intellectual property system. I am very glad to be able to work closely with one
of the nation's most prestigious intellectual property law journals to examine the agreement's strengths, weaknesses and effectiveness."

Yu serves as the general editor of The WIPO Journal, published by Sweet & Maxwell in association with the World Intellectual Property Organization. Last summer, he testified before the U.S. International Trade Commission on intellectual property protection and enforcement in China. His testimony was recently adapted for an article published in a special issue of The WIPO Journal. The article is available online. (http://ssrn.com/abstract=1711184)

A leading expert in international intellectual property and communications law, Yu has spoken at events organized by U.N. agencies, the Chinese, EU and U.S. governments, and leading research institutions from around the world. He has delivered lectures and presentations in more than 20 countries, and his publications have been translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, Japanese, Persian, Portuguese and Spanish.

Under his leadership, the Drake Intellectual Property Law Center has served as a leading international hub for research and education in the intellectual property field. In the past two years, the U.S. News and World Report magazine has ranked the center consistently among the top 25 intellectual property law programs in the United States and one of the top five programs in the Midwest.

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Ward reflects on role in UGA desegregation - Daily Report

Friday, January 28, 2011

Ward reflects on role in UGA desegregation
Senior judge says helping first African-American students enter UGA was vindication for earlier fight—and loss—to enter law school
By R. Robin McDonald, Staff Reporter

Sixty-one years ago, when Horace T. Ward, now a federal senior judge, sought admission to the University of Georgia School of Law, the state tried to bar him to leave Georgia.

The Georgia Board of Regents offered to pay Ward the difference between in-state tuition at UGA and out-of-state tuition anywhere else plus travel money and a small stipend—a policy that Georgia had adopted in an effort to preserve its segregated public schools.

Ward rejected the money, becoming the first African American to sue the state for admission to a state graduate school that had denied him entrance because of his race. He lost the case and later earned his law degree at Northwestern University in Chicago. But he returned to Georgia where he helped integrate the civil rights case that in 1961 finally broke the color barrier at UGA.

At a presentation before the Atlanta chapter of the Federal Bar Association in November, Ward reflected on his role—as both a student and attorney—in desegregating UGA. The role played by Ward, now 83, has been celebrated as part of the university’s recognition this month of the 50th anniversary of its desegregation.

On Jan. 9, 1961, two African-American students—Hamilton Holmes and Charlaine Hunter (better known as journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault)—barged a hostile mob and walked onto the UGA campus to register for classes.

Ward’s own seven-year struggle for admittance to the law school—during which he was opposed not only by UGA’s chancellor and president but also by the law school’s faculty and dean, the state Board of Regents, the Georgia General Assembly and then-Gov. Herman Talmadge—paved the way for the federal suit that opened UGA to Holness and Hunter and eventually brought down segregation in all of Georgia’s public schools and colleges, said Ward’s biographer, Maurice Daniels, author of "Horace T. Ward: Desegregation of the University of Georgia, Civil Rights Advocacy and Jurisprudence" and dean of UGA’s School of Social Work. Of Ward’s decision to confront the color barrier, first as a prospective law student and later as a lawyer, Daniels said, “I think it took great courage to challenge a system that was determined to sustain the apartheid-like conditions in Georgia at the time.”

“I can honestly say that he never showed any kind of animosity or any kind of negative feeling with respect to those who placed obstacles and barriers in his path in his effort to obtain a legal education,” Daniels said. “I think his character is quite impeccable in his ability to forgive and look to the future and not hold hostility for what has occurred in the past. He has made a great contribution to the cause of social justice and human dignity.”

Ward, in a lecture he delivered at UGA’s law school in 2000, referred to the desegregation of higher education in Georgia as “a long and hard struggle covering a period of over 10 years and requiring three federal lawsuits.” State and university officials, he said, “tortured” that his efforts was not a sincere effort to study law, that I had been hand-picked by the NAACP and was being paid for my services. Nothing could be further from the truth.”

Born in LaGrange in 1927, Ward told the federal bar gathering in Atlanta that his interest in the law first was piqued when he was in high school and he met attorney Austin Thomas Walden, who was speaking in LaGrange.

Walden, the child of former slaves, had graduated from the University of Michigan’s law school in 1911. He practiced law in Macon and Atlanta, headed the Atlanta chapter of the NAACP and eventually founded the Gaile City Bar Association.

“It was the first time [Ward] had an opportunity to see a black lawyer,” Daniels said. “He was impressed. From that day, he began to think about pursuing law school.”

After graduating from high school, Ward attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, where Ward has said that he was greatly influenced by the college president, Benjamin E. Mays, an educator and theologian. Mays “preached a type of social gospel that . . . stressed that while the laws may segregate your bodies the laws should never segregate your mind,” he said.

Ward graduated with honors from Morehouse in 1949, a year behind Martin Luther King Jr. In preparing for law school, he majored in history and political science. He then enrolled at Atlanta University where in 1950 he earned a master’s degree.

At Atlanta University, a political science professor, William M. Boyd, who was president of the state NAACP, became Ward’s mentor. Ward said he convinced Boyd that he wanted to become a lawyer and that he wanted to go to UGA although “at that time there were no colleges or universities providing law school in the Southeast for black students.”

At that time, Ward recalled, Boyd was looking for a candidate to attempt to desegregate the state’s graduate schools.

“I got enough courage and went and told him that I was interested in pursuing that venture.” Ward recalled. “And he told me, if you do . . . I will give you all the assistance that I can.”

But Ward said that he wasn’t “drafted” by the NAACP, as UGA eventually would claim. “I was a walk-on player . . . The misconception on the part of the state was I was not sincerely inclined to study the law, and I was just a foot
Murphy, to assist UGA

Ward reflects on role in UGA desegregation - Daily Report

http://www.dailyreportonline.com/Editorial/News/singleEdit.asp?ori...
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Spotted: People, Places, & Things

Athens Banner-Herald
Published Saturday, January 29, 2011

Soldier returns home from overseas duty: Army Reserve Spec. Aaron C. Gennuso is returning to the U.S. after a deployment to Iraq serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations.

Operation New Dawn transitions and signifies a formal end to U.S. military combat operations in Iraq.

A 2007 graduate of Franklin County High School, Gennuso, a petroleum supply specialist with three years military service, is regularly assigned to the 849th Quartermaster Company, Rocky Mount, N.C.

He is the son of Karen L. Gennuso of Royston and Peter C. Gennuso of Athens.

Nursing student wins scholarship help: Jackie Johnson of Jefferson was one of six nursing students at Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill., who won 2010-11 Evelyn R. Simmers Scholarships. One student will receive $13,500 and five will be awarded $3,870.

The scholarships are for students pursuing either a bachelor’s or master’s degree in nursing from Benedictine.

Local student studies abroad: Margaret K. Winthrop of Athens, a junior at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, will spend the spring semester of the 2010-11 academic year in South Africa studying at CIEE-Cape Town. Winthrop is a graduate of Athens Academy and is the daughter of Robert and Carol Winthrop of Athens.

Hackleman 2010 Employee of the Year: The University of Georgia School of Law Staff Council recently presented Tricia Hackleman with the 2010 Emma P. Terrell Employee of the Year Award. Given annually, this honor recognizes and rewards outstanding employees for their service to the law school.

Hackleman joined Georgia Law in 2008 as a career advisor in the Office of Legal Career...
Hackleman joined Georgia Law in 2008 as a career advisor in the Office of Legal Career Services, where she specialized in assisting students seeking federal and state judicial clerkships and externships. As of Jan. 1, she became the law school's student affairs adviser. She also continues to oversee summer judicial externs as part of the school's Civil Externship Clinic.

Locals graduate from GSU in fall ceremony: Georgia Southern University graduated a record number of students this fall, including Madeline Adams of Hartwell, Willie Andrews of Union Point, Breezy Bray of Jefferson, Brandon Edwards of Athens, Broderick Flanigan of Athens,


RECENT GRADS

Gregg Bernstein of Athens recently graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

ON THE LIST

Abbott McEachern Ellison of Monroe was named to the Dean's List at Wofford College.

Allison O'Rear of Athens was named to the Dean's List at Furman University.

The following students were named to the Dean's List at Mercer University: Courtney A. Bear of Union Point; Stephanie Leigh Bennett of Bishop; Rachael Lauren Bishop of Jefferson; Emily C. Brownlee of Statham; Brittany N. Chandler of Jefferson; Christopher O. Hill of Hartwell; Morgan P. Lowman of Watkinsville; Audrey E. Overton of Athens; Ethan A. Trice of Bogart; Michael B. Ware of Monroe; Joshua A. Whitfield of Jefferson; and Phillip Thomas York of Watkinsville.

The following students were named to the President's List at Mercer University: Denise Y. Acosta of Bethlehem; Rachita P. Amin of Hartwell; Tilly J. Benson of Winder; Laura Lynn Betancourt of Auburn; Kirsten Louise Childress of Auburn; Joshua M. Deremer of Jefferson; Nikki Lorinda Golden of Bethlehem; Sarah Spinks Hepburn of Auburn; Raphaelle Rose Lombardo of Statham; Joanna L. Malcom of Monroe; Santiago E. Mayor of Bethlehem; Joshua Haines Morrison of Toccoa; and Hannah B. Stark of Royston.
The following students have been named to the Dean's List at Oglethorpe University: Annie Morgan of Jefferson; Abigail Pritchard of Winterville; and Kimberli Ward of Winder.

The following students have been named to the Dean's List at Samford University: Jacqueline L. Long of Union Point and Katelyn J. Rouch of Watkinsville.


The following students were named to the Principal's Honors for the Second Quarter at St. Joseph Catholic School: Jomarie Cortese, Elizabeth Jurado, Reagan Kelly, Isabel King, Isabel Lane, Sofia Lopez, Julia McArthur, Davis Meyer, John Morris, Avery Orange, Veronica Shockley, Sean VanMeter, Justin Wallace, Janie Williams, Lorenzo Calabria, Derek Alvarez, Avery Burns, Caroline Jansen, Stevenson Joseph, Rylan Kennedy, Christina Kurian, Julia Lopez, Alexa Montello, Anna Moore, Alexis Shirley, Somerlin Nixon, Daniel Smith, Elly Tranovich, Chase Trest, Elizabeth Allen, Caroline Borst, Kaitlin Bortle, Shelby Clark, Hazael Cortese, Sofia DeCastro, Alex Diaz, Anderson Felt, Jessica Frederich, JaiMone Gil, Mary Glassman, Tori Hart, Jasmine Henneberger, Jordan Kreimeyer, Rachel Krunkosky, Rachel Livsey, Jacob Samuelson, Lee Brackman, Brian Cafferty, Helen Chapman, Dylan Dellinger, Daisy Gallegos, Rudy Montayre, Haleigh Nixon, Lilli Perno, Meggi Shaffer, Emily Shapland, Anna Thurmond, Allison Thurston, Kayla Ward, Madison Watkins, Jessica Bortle, Tory Bowles, Christine Cisco, Claire Daniel, Isabella Gallo, Colton Garrison, Samson Joseph, Kelsey Lancaster, Julianna Reynolds, Celina Russo and Mackinlee Slate.

The following students were honored for Perfect Attendance for the Second Quarter at St. Joseph Catholic School: Quentin Nekvinda, Isabel Lane, Lorenzo Calabria, Caroline Jansen, Stevenson Joseph, Christina Kurian, Anna Moore, Somerlin Nixon, Chase Trest, Elizabeth Allen, Shelby Clark, Mary Glassman, Rachel Livsey, Josh Thomas, Rudy Montayre, Anna Thurmond, Kayla Ward, Colton Garrison, Samson Joseph and Celina Russo.
The following students were named students of the month in September at Colbert Elementary: Alex Whittington, Ben Rogers, Cindy Slaton, Camden Bradberry, Adamari Galeana, Mia Tadlock, Daniel Fairchild, Destiny Sewell, Carter Guest, Susie Wiskow, Demyus Watts, Courtney Faulkner, Amy Ramos, Danielle Morrow, Tykeria Barnett, Dylan Hipp, Kage Hill, Logan Joiner, Spencer King, Marquavious Stovall, Destiny Brooks, Dawson Bates, Josh Cotton, Jackson Bailey, Cedtrisha Bush, Jacob Wells, Travis Babineau and Allie Dunn.

The following students were named students of the month in October at Colbert Elementary: Trinity Sewell, Lesley Gurley, Payton Heard, Maria Kesler, Allison Patrick, Payden Moore, Ethan Brock, Belle Dickerson, Deasia Sewell, Carly Brady, Blake Moon, Sebastian Fennel, Ansley Maddox, KyRon Burden, Vandra Drake, Isaiah Callaway, Kara Drake, Miracle Armstrong, Marvin Pugh, Kiera Burnett, Amber Braswell, Jordan Bailey, Shoray Yamasato, Gail Moody, Morgan Faulkner, Morgan Osborne and Parker Minish.

The following students were named students of the month in November at Comer Elementary: Josh Blackmon, Sophia Merka, Madison Potts, Eric Padilla, Eaan Drake, Hunter Beasley, Evan Jones, Austin Seymour, Mallory Smith, Kale Anderson, Erica Power, Madison Beasley, David Qiu, Toby Spivey, Anthony Lyvers, Macey Ehols, Hanna Chamberlain and Alexis Gonzalez.

The following students were named to the Dean's List at the University of the South: Kristen Reinberger of Athens and Walter Wellborn of Watkinsville.

Margaret K. Winthrop of Athens was named to the Dean's List at Colby College.

Joseph McKeechnie of Jefferson received a doctor of ministry in theology during the December 2010 Southern Methodist University Commencement ceremony.

Keima A. Thomas of Winder has earned a bachelor of science degree from Excelsior College in Albany, N.Y.

Several local students recently graduated from Valdosta State University, including:

- From Barrow County: Abigail Susanne Mooney, bachelor of business administration

- From Clarke County: Jordan Michael Brown, master of education; Heidi Dominique Cummings, education specialist; Keri Faith Guined, master of education; John G. Lawrence, bachelor of arts, criminal justice; Ansley Brieanna Shepherd, bachelor of fine arts, speech communication

- From Jackson County: Lauren Diambrose, bachelor of fine arts, speech communication; Felicia Ann Freeman, bachelor of science, early childhood education; Mary Elizabeth Knight, master of arts for teachers, special education

- From Oconee County: Predrag Tomasevic, master of education
Several local students recently made the Dean's List at Valdosta State University, including:

- From Barrow County: Hannah Elizabeth Holmes, Maria Therese Antonetti, Jonathan Vincent Pampalon, Jared Lloyd Kay, Abigail Susanne Mooney, Olivia Paige Nix and Clayton Russell Orr

- From Clarke County: Ansley Brieanna Shepherd, Kelli Diane Condict, Sara C. Crosby, Jarron E. Hutchins, Christina LaMurl Morris, Brittany Sabina Wallace and Jessica Lynn Walker

- From Jackson County: Alexander Odin Bates, Marissa Autumn Flanigan, Tayler Suzanne Pitts, Kira Marie Spanks

- From Oconee County: Mackenzie Heth Nordone, Joanne Catherine Anderson, Jennifer Nicole Harrison, Sonnie Meredith Looney and Kyle David Page

- From Oglethorpe County: Matthew Eben Ruark and Samantha Hope Adkins

Students named to GSU Dean's List: Georgia Southern University recently recognized 2,331 students for excellence in academics on the 2010 Summer Semester Dean's List. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must have at least a 3.50 grade point average and carry a minimum of 12 hours for the semester. The University is proud of these high-achieving students from your area.

They include: Virginia L. Angles of Colbert, art; Derrick A. Beining of Hoschton, international studies; Andrea P. Bird of Carlton, nursing; Brittney J. Buckman of Rayle, pre-athletic training; Katrina B. Bufford of Washington, accounting; Bradley C. Bugg of Athens, pre-business; Rebecca R. Case of Watkinsville, biology; Mitchel Z. Churchill of Winder, exercise science; Benjamin T. Crews of Athens, mechanical engineering; Jessica S. Dudley of Winterville, public relations; Garrett L. Duncan of Monroe, nursing;

Lindsey E. Duncan of Athens, nursing; Kristen A. Edwards of Watkinsville, early childhood education; Andrew B. English of Toccoa, nursing; Joshua L. Fant of Washington, psychology; Nancy K. Floyd of Winder, pre-athletic training; Kyle E. Franks of Commerce, biology; Jordan A. Frazier of Hoschton, nursing; Mary K. Harper of Watkinsville, pre-sports medicine; Gerrick A. Hicks of Winder, modern languages; Craig A. Ingalls of Hartwell, marketing; Hayley G. Johnson of Watkinsville, in pre-communication studies; Robert D. Kilcrease of Watkinsville, biology; Kathryn L. King of Athens, pre-early childhood education; Tannis A. Kufner of Bishop, communication arts;

Austin D. Lewis of Bishop, pre-exercise science; Aulbri L. Little of Athens, graphic design; Lauren M. Livingston of Statham, construction management; Jordan M. Lord of Commerce, biology; Tabitha A. Luke of Comer, international studies; Peyton M. Maddox of Commerce, pre-middle grades education; Rebecca L. Maier of Hoschton, middle grades education; Justin B. Marsh of Hoschton, geography; Thomas L. McCallister of
Athens, geography; Ashley N. McDonald of Comer, music ed/instrumental; Olivia K. Moore of Bogart, interior design; Autumn Moser of Bogart, pre-exercise science; Victoria B. Parsons of Bogart, general studies; Kayla L. Perry of Danielsville, biology; Tra'ven L. Porter of White Plains, civil engineering;

Charles A. Rittenberry of Hoschton, pre-business; Robert C. Rogers of Winder, construction management; Taniqua R. Russ of Winder, psychology; Katherine H. Simonton of Jefferson, multimedia communications; Hayley A. Spencer of Toccoa, mathematics; Brandon R. Stover of Hartwell, pre-business; Caleb L. Swain of Commerce, chemistry; Kelly E. Thomas of Monroe, sports management; Kacie L. Thorne of Canon, anthropology; Mary T. Wallace of Madison, pre-child/fam development; David Yang of Madison, chemistry.

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Diversity - Law Firms
Diversity At King & Spalding: Fully Embedded In Firm Culture

Published: January 31, 2011

Editor Julia R. Dillon interviews Samuel M. Matchett, Partner, King & Spalding LLP.

Editor: Please tell our readers about your professional background.

Matchett: I attended college at Morehouse, in Atlanta, and then the University of Georgia law school. After clerking for a judge, I made an unusual move: I went directly in-house, rather than private practice. It was a valuable and enlightening experience; I don't think I ever viewed the practice of law the way a first-year associate does. While many of my colleagues were junior associates focusing on legal research, I was in-house thinking about how to hire the best available legal talent for different legal issues. I was asking myself questions such as, how does this litigation fit into the overall scheme of things for the company? The broader viewpoint I gained early on informs my work as a practicing lawyer today; especially, someone who is very involved with the firm's diversity efforts.

Editor: Congratulations on being named chair of King & Spalding’s Diversity Committee. How would you describe the firm's culture with regard to diversity, and how has it changed since you came here?

Matchett: Diversity is absolutely a core value at King & Spalding, and, as with our other core values - providing excellent service, being ethical and hard-working, giving back to our community on many levels - the firm takes it seriously and holds individual lawyers to a very high standard. Diversity is not something off to the side; it is an essential part of what we are as professionals and what we do every day. It's in our lawyers' professional DNA to mentor associates, including, of course, women and minority associates, and to encourage people to be open to those who are different from themselves. In my ten-plus years with the firm, I certainly think that diversity as a core value has improved, and this is not an accident. To foster change requires attention, intention, planning and action.

In terms of formal diversity-related efforts, one of the firm's former chairs, Ralph Levy, kicked off some excellent programs, especially firm-wide training efforts that enabled us to give lawyers more tools both to understand and act on diversity-related matters. Ralph, along with successor Diversity Committee Chairs Kevin Sullivan and Lovita Tandy, brought in outside consultants who interviewed groups across the firm to get a sense of what issues might be different, say, for the corporate teams versus the litigation teams. They made specific observations and recommendations which we continue to implement to this day.

Of course, at bottom, the skills that make for a successful minority or woman lawyer are no different from those required by any other lawyer. However, there are other "layers" to acquiring those skills. There may be differences in communication styles or comfort level in discussing certain things. Once we recognize this, we can put in place some type of training program or assistance to bring awareness to the particular layer and consider how to address it. The whole idea is to arm folks with tools to help them better cope with issues that can form artificial barriers to performance at the highest level.

Editor: I understand that King & Spalding has recently received a diversity award from Chevron. The firm has also received similar awards from GE and Coca Cola. In addition, the firm consistently appears at the top of "Best Places to Work" lists for women and minorities. To what do you attribute these accolades?

Matchett: It is the culture, the people who are attracted to the firm and those who we try to recruit in the first place. There is no such thing as a King & Spalding cookie-cutter lawyer. People come in great variety, but at their core, they are alike in that generally they are all extremely bright, hard working and ethical. To such a collection of high-achieving professionals, our core values come easily.

Our former firm chair, Walt Driver, used to say, "You can't be smart enough at King & Spalding to be a jerk and still be successful." Being selfish and rude doesn’t work with clients, colleagues or staff. It's antithetical to growing and prospering within the firm.

Editor: Does King & Spalding offer scholarships or fellowships to diverse law students?

Matchett: We do. We participate with the Lloyd M. Johnson Scholarship for first-year law students, which is an effort on our part to assist in the pipeline. We also have up to four diversity fellowships that we offer to
Editor: Are the needs of new associates different from when you were first practicing?

Matchett: Yes and no. Yes in the sense that communication is different today from 25 years ago, when I was a new lawyer. There is far less face-to-face communication, which I think is unfortunate. My bias is that learning the practice of law is an apprenticeship. While law school can teach you how to research and analyze the law, at least 50 percent of how a person learns to be a good lawyer - how to interact with clients, staff and opposing counsel; how to be a good writer; how to structure a deal; how to try a case - comes from personal interaction with an experienced lawyer. Part of the continuing challenge in training new lawyers today is to help both generations understand and cope with these differences.

That said, the skills necessary to be a successful lawyer fundamentally have not changed, and they are not based on gender, ethnicity, or age. It is important to recognize what has changed and what hasn't and not to get confused in that regard.

Editor: You served as president of the Atlanta Legal Diversity Consortium, of which King & Spalding is a charter member. Would you tell us about your work there and how the firm works with it?

Matchett: The original goal of the Atlanta Legal Diversity Consortium, which started about a decade ago, was to assist law firms and law departments in making diversity a priority. About three years ago, we realized that diversity was by then on the radar screen for just about everybody, and many organizations in addition to ALDC were conducting seminars and training. So we decided to assess ALDC's role: Might there be some unmet need in the diverse legal community that we can address? The answer was yes, and at that point we changed our focus.

If you were to ask any successful firm partner what the key to his or her success was (other than their own individual hard work and intellect), almost every person would say “mentorship.” We turned ALDC into an organization that provides training to fairly new lawyers that captures what lawyers would learn if they had the ideal mentor. Experienced lawyers lead very interactive 60- or 90-minute modules, many of which deal with real-life issues, such as what to do when, as an associate, you fail to deliver on an important project for a partner. The mentee is walked through how to limit the damage and even, hopefully, rectify the situation with the partner.

We may even go through a mock conversation. The idea is to get down in the weeds with the associate and provide tips that can be implemented immediately.

Editor: Several King & Spalding attorneys have been in the news in the past few years for their work in diversity-based associations. The firm also boasts many successful diverse and women award-winning attorneys. Would you tell us about a few?

Matchett: Dawn Jones is an incredible human being, and we are fortunate to have her at the firm. Both extremely hardworking and modest, she is involved in just about everything you can imagine - not just as a member, but as a leader. She has been president of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers and the Gate City Bar Association. She leads pipeline programs at the firm for which we bring in high school students interested in the law and give them an idea of what it would be like to be a law student and how best to prepare themselves in college.

Brian Basinger is president of the Stonewall Bar Association, a statewide organization that supports LGBT individuals. He is an incredibly bright man who is most impressive because he is not only constantly coming up with ideas, but he is also ready to work on execution. He has risen through the ranks very quickly. Because we've been talking about mentors, I should mention Sam Griffin, a selfless attorney who serves as a mentor to Brian, and who likely let Brian know that there was a place for him at King & Spalding when we were recruiting top talent.

I don't know if we have enough time to discuss Ray Persons! He is one of the top litigation lawyers in the country, and that is no exaggeration. Like Chilton Vemaker, Ray would be on the short list for almost any major company litigation. We are incredibly fortunate to have him, and the fact that he is African-American is even more special because there are few minority litigation partners of his caliber. Despite constantly trying cases, he managed to sneak in a presidency of the Atlanta Bar Association. He also helped to found the pipeline organization Just the Beginning Foundation, and he continues to be a major supporter of JBF on many levels. He is an outstanding individual.

Partner Carolyn Alford played a key role in our firm's hiring committee. Formerly a hiring partner, she has been recognized nationally as one of the top lawyers in the country under 45.

Carol Brewer was selected as the Outstanding Member of the Year by the Washington, DC chapter of the Organization of Women in International Trade. She is a real trailblazer.

Meanwhile, partner Roberto Aguirre Luzi was appointed co-chair of the Bilateral Investment Treaty and Development Committee of the American branch of the International Law Association. Roberto helps our clients on very complex arbitrations for organizations like the World Bank.

Such people are important role models at the firm, because when minority and women lawyers look around and
see people like these, a whole world of possibility opens up.

Editor: Please describe Flexible Strategic Partnering.

Matchett: This idea is a part of the firm's external outreach to work with women and minority-owned firms; meanwhile, it helps our clients achieve some of their own diversity goals. Most small women- or minority-owned firms lack the resources required to handle very complex matters - the discovery aspects of a case may involve hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of documents - so we partner with these smaller firms by providing such resources. King & Spalding has a discovery center with 80 to 125 lawyers whose primary responsibility is to assist in complex discovery, and they do whatever is required to assist these firms. One of our minority partners, Bobby Woo, was instrumental in founding this program, and he runs it today.

Editor: Do you see the expectations of in-house shifting in terms of having diverse partners on their cases?

Matchett: I see it as an evolution rather than a shift. As law departments and law firms continue on their diversity journey, both are becoming better at measuring the success of their efforts, and more corporations are taking a sophisticated look at whom they hire or which firms they partner with.

Editor: Do you find retention of diverse attorneys to be more of a challenge than recruitment?

Matchett: It can be. It is a continuing challenge to identify, nurture and develop future firm leaders. Most of the people who graduated from law school with me were certain they wanted to be lawyers. I am not sure that is still true today, and I believe this phenomenon has contributed to attrition among associates. Expectations are different and evolving. I have noted, however, that once a person has made a clear decision to pursue a career in the law, it is much easier for both the lawyer and the firm to make mutual investments.

Editor: Where do you see King & Spalding's Diversity Committee in five years?

Matchett: I simply see the committee continuing its focus on observing, enhancing and implementing diversity initiatives. The committee is simply a microcosm of the whole firm, where every day we strive to be better at everything we do.

Please email the interviewee at smatchett@kslaw.com with questions about this interview.