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WOMEN SWIMMERS AND DIVERS CAPTURE TITLE

The UGA women’s swimming and diving team won the NCAA championship in March. The title is the fifth in the program’s history. Georgia won in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2005, giving Jack Bauerle-led teams titles in three different decades. Bauerle was chosen as the National Coach of the Year for the sixth time. He earned previous honors in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2005 and 2006. Earlier this year, Bauerle was selected as the SEC Coach of the Year for the 14th time after leading the Lady Bulldogs to the conference title.

Swimmer Allison Schmitt, who won three gold medals, one silver and one bronze in the 2012 Olympic Games in London, was named the Honda Sports Award winner for swimming and is a finalist for the Collegiate Woman Athlete of the Year Award and the 2013 Honda Cup, to be presented June 24.

New Atlanta office to support economic development

UGA will open a new office in Atlanta to provide a closer link with the business sector and the Georgia Department of Economic Development, President-elect Jere Morehead announced in March. The Atlanta office also will make the considerable research, public service and outreach resources of the university more accessible for communities, development authorities and Chambers of Commerce. Margaret Wagner Dahl, who serves as associate provost for economic development as well as director of the Georgia BioBusiness Center, will become associate vice president for economic development. Dahl will remain director of the GBBC. The new Atlanta and campus offices will report jointly to Vice President for Research David Lee and Vice President for Public Service and Outreach Jennifer Frum. The reorganization of UGA’s economic development activities and programs will build upon the many economic development efforts the university currently has in place. The BioBusiness Center has helped launch more than 30 companies that have attracted more than $150 million in investment, and UGA is consistently ranked among the top 10 universities in the nation for moving research discoveries into the marketplace.

EAST CAMPUS RESIDENCE HALL NAMED

An East Campus residence hall known as Building 1512 since it opened in 2004 has been named to honor the late Gov. George D. Busbee. Georgia’s 77th governor championed education during his time in office, particularly kindergarten through 12th grade, establishing the statewide public kindergarten system. Busbee died in 2004 at age 76. Building 1512 opened in the fall of 2004 along with three named residence halls—McWhorter Hall, Rooker Hall and Vandiver Hall. The apartment-style buildings offer two-, three- and four-bedroom options to more than 1,200 students.
**SEARED DUCK BRINGS HOME A SILVER**

Food Services Chef Shelly Orozco-Marrs' recipe of seared duck with pancetta and chevre polenta, thyme butter carrots, sautéed erugula and spiced Madeira cherry jus earned a silver medal in the 2013 National Association of College and University Food Services Southern Region Culinary Challenge.

Orozco-Marrs was one of six chefs selected to compete in the regionals held at Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas. Duck was the mandatory ingredient for all competitors, from Georgia Southern University, Oklahoma State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Vanderbilt University.

This is the 13th regional NACUFS competition in which a UGA Food Services chef has competed. The university has had a chef selected every year since 2001.

The competition is judged and medals awarded by chefs from the American Culinary Federation. This is the second medal for Orozco-Marrs, who received a bronze in the 2011 Southern Region Culinary Challenge.

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**Star light, star bright**

In a galaxy far, far away burns a star now known as UGA-1785 thanks to Roger Hunter (BS '78), who leads the NASA search for habitable planets outside our solar system. The Kepler mission, as it's known, recently found three planets with light collected from the host star. The light from the star originated in 1801, NASA scientists determined, the first year of classes at UGA.

Hunter asked and was told that yes, the star could be nicknamed for UGA and the year the university was chartered. The Kepler Space Telescope, launched in 2009, provides the technology to explore other galaxies. Since then, project scientists have confirmed the existence of 115 planets outside our solar system.

Learn more about Hunter and Kepler from this June 2011 GM feature story: http://tinyurl.com/bq89nhy.

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**UGApp**

Need to know when the next campus bus will arrive? What's on the menu at Snelling? If the Diamond Dawgs are winning? You can find that and more information on a new central mobile app planned and designed by the Student Government Association working with UGA Enterprise Information Technology Services.

The app has a campus map and building search, a UGA people search, a UGA majors search, customizable calendars and locations and a quick contacts list with the ability to call Designated Dawgs, a free designated-driving service.

One of the most anticipated functions of the UGA app is the campus bus tracker—a feature that allows users to pinpoint the next arrival time of buses by routes to their location, based on GPS technology. The app also shows the real-time capacity of dining halls and lets users see nutritional information for dining hall food choices.

Future versions of the app will include a student information system through which students can register for classes.

Available in the Apple App Store (search for University of Georgia, UGA and Bulldog) the app is offered for the iPhone, iPad or iPod.

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**EXAM SURVIVAL KITS**

Junior Laura Higgason, a student ambassador for the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, packs exam survival kits to be given out at the end of spring semester. Filled with snacks and water, the kits are funded by the FACS Alumni Association and packaged and distributed by FACS student ambassadors. In the program's third year, 350 kits were distributed over two days in April to students with classes in Dawson Hall.
The Stephens siblings owe their existence to President Abraham Lincoln—and the proof is on display at UGA. (Left to right) Winston Stephens (AB ’63); Rob Stephens, a 1971 graduate of the Medical College of Georgia; Lawton Stephens (JD ’81) and Mary Hopper (AB ’74, MPA ‘83) are descendants of Alexander Stephens, vice president of the Confederacy. In 1865 Stephens and Lincoln met in an attempt to negotiate the end of the Civil War. The session ended without progress, but Lincoln asked Stephens—a former Congressional colleague—if there was anything else he could do for him. And there was: Stephens’ nephew, John, had been captured by the Union, and Lincoln agreed to release him if the Confederacy would release a Union soldier of equivalent rank. After his release, John Stephens was taken to the White House, where Lincoln presented him with a letter to deliver to his uncle. The letter was handed down through the Stephens family and now is displayed at UGA’s Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library (www.libs.uga.edu/hargrett).

PETER FREY

CLASS NOTES
Compiled by Chase Martin

1945-1949
Sam Massell (M ’48) received recognition for his involvement in the Real Estate Catalyst Deal of the Year by the Atlanta Business Chronicle.

1960-1964
Stuart Woods (AB ’60) of Key West, Fla., married Jeanmarie Cooper Jan. 10.

1970-1974
John C. Tardy (MPA ’72) of Walnut, Miss., was elected commander of the American Legion Department of Mississippi.

David Loughridge (BS ’73, DVM ’78) of Chatsworth was named Veterinarian of the Year by the Georgia Cattlemen’s Association.

Mike Morris (BSEd ’73, MEd ’74, JD ’79) of Athens was named chair of the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce.

1975-1979
Earl V. Rogers (BBA ’76) of Marietta will become the new president and CEO of the Georgia Hospital Association in July.

William Daniel Kibler (ABJ ’78) of Winston-Salem, N.C., won the Governor’s Award as Conservation Communicator of the Year from the North Carolina Wildlife Federation. Kibler is managing editor of North Carolina Sportsman and South Carolina Sportsman magazines. Yvonne Durrett Williams (ABJ ’78) of Marietta was one of 50 women leaders selected from across the nation to participate in the 2013 class of Leadership America, the longest-running women’s leadership development program in the U.S.

1980-1984
Doug DePriest (ABJ ’80) of Marietta was honored with a nomination from the International Documentary Association for the documentary “Bomb Patrol:
The greater good
Former New York financier now helps Georgians escape poverty

by Kelly Simmons

Greg Skowronski’s vacation to Tanzania in 2007 included a safari and climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro. Along the way, it turned into a much deeper experience, one that would change the course of his career.

“The unanticipated part of the trip was the firsthand experience with poverty,” says Skowronski (BBA ’99). “It just became very real to me.”

After seven years of investment banking on Wall Street he had recently returned to his hometown of Atlanta and taken a job in finance for an Atlanta real estate company. Following the Tanzania trip, his plans changed. He began looking for an opportunity to help the African people improve their situation.

He began learning about microfinance, small loans to help people start or grow a business.

“I saw how microfinance was being used to improve poverty,” he says. “It was a light bulb moment. Someone with a business background could help alleviate poverty. I always thought it had to be a doctor or a teacher.”

He found an organization launching a pilot program that partnered with churches in South Africa to teach business skills to the local people. In 2009, he went to South Africa to head the organization’s microcredit division.

“It was amazing,” he says, “to live in Johannesburg where you could go from a (nice) restaurant to what they call an informal settlement—what we would call a slum.”

For the next two years he visited with local businesses and people living in the informal settlements to talk about small business training. The organization offered a business program to teach the potential entrepreneurs about record keeping, pricing, market research and advertising. Those who participated in the program were eligible for small loans to grow their businesses.

Hairdressing, sewing and “tuck” shops, business that sold dry goods and served as convenience stores, were popular.

The training, Skowronski says, empowered the South Africans to take their businesses to the next level. That helped bridge the cultural divide between the business professionals who volunteered with the program and the entrepreneurs from the settlements.

“It was more of a peer relationship,” he says.

After two years, the program was running well and local volunteers had been trained to teach the business practices. Skowronski weighed the idea of staying in Africa but decided to return to the U.S. to look at the underlying causes of poverty and ways to make systemic changes.

Upon his return to Atlanta he found work at Habitat for Humanity International, managing the organization’s Flexible Capital Access Program. Through FlexCAP banks, insurance companies and foundations make loans to Habitat so that the organization can build affordable homes at a faster rate. FlexCAP loans are repaid with the mortgages from previously sold Habitat houses. With a foreclosure rate of less than 2 percent, Habitat is a better investment for banks than the general market.

“We have a 100 percent on time repayment rate to investors,” Skowronski says. “He says he doesn’t miss Wall Street.

“For me this is the perfect blend,” Skowronski says. “Dealing with Wall Street banks but doing it for a social purpose.”

Afghanistan.” Stanley E. Clarke III (BSA ’81) was named director of the Air National Guard. Charles W. “Bill” Robinson (AB ’81) of Carrollton, Va., completed a yearlong deployment in Afghanistan as a Department of Defense information technology manager. He received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award in recognition of his achievements there. David Howard (BS ’83) of Peru, Kan., completed the national registry exam while working at Jane Phillips Hospital for RML Laboratories in Bartlesville, Okla. Donald Bailey (ABJ ’84) of Shreveport, La., was named president and publisher of The Telegraph in Macon.

Julie Moran (ABJ ’84) of Santa Monica, Calif., debuted her new series “Mission Makeover” on the Lifetime network.

1985-1989

Bob Behler (ABJ ’85) of Boise, Idaho, was selected as the Idaho Sportscaster of the Year for the third year in a row. Tonya Henderson Freeman (AB ’86) of Lithonia works in the information
Greetings my fellow alumni:

We've come to the end of my two-year term as alumni president. It's hard to believe that this time has come as it feels like it was just yesterday that I took the reins as president. It's been said that time flies when you are having fun and enjoying what you are doing. I can attest to the truth of this statement as I have truly enjoyed being your alumni president.

The main focus of my presidency has been to keep my fellow alumni active and involved with UGA—as I am a firm believer that interested, engaged and positive alumni improve the university as a whole. This has been a tremendous undertaking, as there are over 275,000 living UGA alumni in all parts of the state, nation and world. During my two years as president, I was privileged to have the opportunity to travel the state and the nation to meet our alumni who are using their UGA degrees in a variety of fields, improving our communities and representing UGA well. I encourage all of our alumni to stay connected to UGA through the network of local and UGA Alumni Association Chapters.

Also, during my presidency we continued in the tradition of the signature programs, specifically Bulldog 100 and 40 under 40. Both programs recognize our alumni who are excelling in their fields. Congratulations to this year’s Bulldog 100 class and the soon to be named 40 under 40.

No farewell would be appropriate without saying thank you—as leaders are only as good as the people who work with them. I would like to thank the dedicated Alumni Board and the awesome Alumni Association staff, led by Executive Director Deborah Dietzler, for their hard work and devoted service to the mission and goals of the Alumni Association. I wish my successor and incoming president, Tim Keadle (BBA '78), all the best. I know that Tim will do a great job on behalf of UGA.

I would also like to thank the Honorable Julie E. Carnes (AB '72, JD '75), chief judge of the United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia, for all of the advice and guidance that she has provided to help me be a successful alumni president. A big thank you to my chambers staff at the Northern District of Georgia, who were patient and supportive as I juggled dual roles of judge and alumni president. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank my beautiful wife and best friend, Lillian (EdS '94), for her love and encouragement in this endeavor.

With the end of my alumni presidency, we will also mark the end of the presidency of Dr. Michael F. Adams. Dr. Adams will step down on June 30, 2013. I would like to thank Dr. Adams for all that he has done for our beloved University of Georgia, and for the support that he has given to me and the Alumni Association. One of my last, most important, tasks as alumni president was to serve on the UGA Presidential Search Committee for the purpose of finding our next president. On Feb. 4, 2013, Jere Morehead was named as the next UGA President. Jere is a UGA alumnus (JD '80). Jere's selection is a testament to my continued thoughts—our alumni are doing great things. Jere will be an outstanding UGA president.

On the whole, as I mentioned above, I have truly enjoyed being your alumni president, but more than that, I have been honored to be your alumni president. Words cannot explain how much it has meant to be able to graduate from the University in 1978—then, some 35 years later, be able to lead its alumni nation. Thank you for this opportunity. I remain proud to be a Georgia Bulldog.

Good things are happening at UGA and in my opinion, the future looks great. It’s great to be a Georgia Bulldog!

—Steve Jones (BBA ’78, JD ’87), president
UGA Alumni Association
Reminisce about the days of old

Alumnus donates band memorabilia from campus concerts during the '70s

by Chase Martin

UGA received a blast from the past when an alumnus from the 1970s donated memorabilia from concerts staged on the university campus.

Charles J. Henkin (BBA ’79) decided to give his collection of posters, T-shirts and flyers to UGA Libraries after reading an article from the March 2010 issue of Georgia Magazine (http://tinyurl.com/cvsx35x) about the music scene in Athens, which featured a photo of a band poster he knew well.

“I saw the poster for Boston’s 1979 concert and names I knew in the article and remembered everything I had kept,” Henkin says. “I’d had the posters in a trunk for 30-something years.”

Henkin dug up the collection and had it appraised.

“I found out they were worth a lot, but I thought the university would benefit more,” he says.

The New York native’s ties to the university are deeper than his management degree and attendance of the concerts; he was part of the concert division of the University Union three years of his undergrad.

“I saw a concert at the coliseum and thought it was awesome,” he says. “Then one day I saw a door hanger on my dorm door promoting the University Union and it started from there.”

At that time, the union took applications for spots on the events committee and selected 20 people to participate. The group was responsible for reviewing and choosing music and entertainment acts currently on tour, calculating the costs of bringing them to campus, creating the agreement contracts, promoting events and managing ticket sales. The annual budget was about $60,000 but varied from year to year.

Jimmy Buffett, Dolly Parton, Boston, Heart and the Village People, among others, performed at either Memorial Hall or Stegeman Coliseum. There were numerous small concerts throughout the academic year, and a big one each semester.

“We tried to be as diversified as possible,” Henkin says. “It was a different scene back then, but the shows were very popular, depending on the band.”

The collection, which also includes posters from university sporting events, matchbooks, decals and creations by artist Jack Davis (M’52), is housed in the Richard B. Russell Building Special Collections Libraries.

chief of staff for Lower Oconee Community Hospital. C. Trent Rosecrans (ABJ ’98) of Cincinnati, Ohio, was hired by the Cincinnati Enquirer to cover the Cincinnati Reds and major league baseball.

Tanya Smith (BSEd ’98) of Jesup was selected as a finalist for Georgia Teacher of the Year. Melissa Dutton (BBA ’99) was recognized by Collaborate magazine as a meeting industry leader.

2000-2004

Hunter R. Hopkins (BBA ’00) of Atlanta accepted an executive director position at the Georgia Petroleum Council. Yve Assad (ABJ ’01) of Nashville, Tenn., was selected by the city of Charleston, S.C., to exhibit 50 of her aerial landscape photographs at the Waterfront Gallery. Kattrina Assadi (BBA ’01) of Alpharetta is engaged to Casey Lee Richardson. Micah Lott (AB ’01) of Chicago, Ill., taught for a year at the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh before joining the philosophy department at Boston College. Wade A. Schueneman (BS ’01, MA ’03, JD ’09) of Maxeys earned his master’s of law (LLM) in taxation through New York University. Jenny Griffin Dell (AB ’02) of Buford and husband Clay welcomed their first child, Caroline Lilly Dell, Jan. 20. Chris Dooney (BBA ’02) and Jennifer Atkinson (BS ’08) of Nashville, Tenn., were married Dec. 15. M. Anne Kaufold-Wiggins (AB ’02) of Mableton was promoted to partner at Balch & Bingham LLP. Mary Ryals Lawson (BSEd ’02) of Cumming and husband Shane welcomed their second daughter, Reese Noel, April 19,
2013 UGA Alumni Association Awards

2013 Alumni Merit Awards

Norman Fletcher (AB '56, JD '58) was appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court in 1989 and became its chief justice in 2001, a position he would hold until he retired in 2005. He began his law practice in 1958 as an associate with Matthews, Maddox, Walton and Smith in Rome, Ga. In 1963, he became a special assistant attorney general in LaFayette, Ga., where he also served as city attorney and Walker County attorney. Fletcher was a 2002 UGA Blue Key Service Award recipient and in 1999 received the Harold G. Clarke Award from the Georgia Indigent Defense Counsel “in recognition of his long-term commitment and dedication to the cause of insuring equal justice for all of Georgia’s citizens.”

Jack Rooker (BBA '60) served as chairman of both the UGA Foundation and the UGA Real Estate Foundation, which he helped to found. Rooker’s first job after graduation was with his family business, Southern Bonded Warehouse. He later became chairman and CEO of the company, serving in this capacity until the business was sold in 2005. He now is CEO of Rooker, a development and construction firm that focuses on industrial and commercial real estate. His family’s support to UGA exceeds $2 million in gifts to the UGA Real Estate Foundation, the Terry College of Business and the UGA Alumni Association, among others. In 2005, an East Campus Village Residence Hall was named J.W. Rooker Hall in his honor. The building’s student commons room was named the Cynthia W. Rooker Fireside Lounge in honor of his wife, who earned her bachelor’s degree in education from UGA in 1962.

2013 Faculty Service Awards

Gordhan Patel, professor emeritus of cellular biology, biochemistry and molecular biology, joined the faculty at UGA in 1967 as an assistant professor of zoology. In 1971, Patel became the first scientist in Georgia to receive the National Science Foundation/NATO Senior Fellowship in Science. Between 1981 and 2005, he was head of the Department of Zoology, later renamed cellular biology, dean of the Graduate School, vice president for research and executive vice president of the UGA Research Foundation. When he retired in 2005, the UGA Research Foundation board honored Patel by contributing $500,000 to endow the Gordhan L. and Virginia B. “Jinx” Patel Distinguished Visiting Professorship in Indian Musical Arts.

Michael F. Adams arrived in 1997 with the vision of transforming UGA into one of the country’s best public institutions. Since his arrival, more than six million square feet of building space has been added to the campus at a cost of $1.8 billion. Projects include the Zell Miller Learning Center, the Coverdell Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences, the east Campus Village, the Lamar Dodd School of Art, the Richard B. Russell Building Special Collections Libraries and the College of Veterinary Medicine Learning Center. Adams also oversaw the opening of the Health Sciences Campus and the creation of the College of Public Health, the College of Environment and Design, the School of Public and International Affairs, the Odum School of Ecology and the College of Engineering. During his tenure, enrollment climbed from 29,600 to 35,000 and the university saw its largest capital development campaign in history, raising $600 million. Annual donations now exceed $100 million.

2013 Friend of UGA

Mary Adams has twice been the first lady of an educational institution during her 44-year marriage to President Michael Adams, first at Centre College in Kentucky and later UGA. In that time, Adams has assisted with and supported many of her husband’s endeavors, but has also undertaken many of her own. Drawing on her interest in art, architecture and historic preservation, she was active in the renovation and restoration of UGA buildings as well as campus improvement and beautification projects. She served on the Lamar Dodd School of Art Board of Visitors and was honorary chairwoman of the Campus Campaign for Charities. She has served as a board member for the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation and leads the Girl Scouts Legacy Circle. She was named the Girls Scouts’ Athens Woman of Distinction for 2013.
For love of the game

After decades as a volunteer, Gordon Smith leads the USTA

by Allyson Mann (MA '92)

In 1968, Gordon Smith watched on TV as Arthur Ashe became the first black man to win the U.S. Open tennis championship. Nearly 45 years later, Smith (ABJ '75, JD '78) serves as executive director and chief operating officer of the United States Tennis Association (USTA), the nation’s governing body for tennis and sponsor of the U.S. Open, a tournament that draws more than 700,000 spectators in two weeks.

It all began when the Rome, Ga., native grabbed rackets bought by his father (Oscar Smith, JD '48) and brother (Marvin Smith, AB '71). Inspired by the tennis he'd seen on TV, Gordon Smith walked to local courts, started hitting with a friend and "just fell in love with the game."

"I'm one of these people that really believes that tennis made me what I am in so many ways," he says. Tennis took him to UGA, where he played on scholarship for Coach Dan Magill.

"In many ways he was a second father to me and many of his players," he says. Smith captained the team that swept four straight SEC titles from 1972-75. In 1975 he was SEC doubles champion with his partner, Manuel Diaz, now the UGA men’s tennis coach. And Smith met Jane Kimbrell (ABJ '75, MEd '77) at the UGA tennis courts during freshman year. She'd come by to check out Diaz—his roommate—because she'd heard he was cute, but she ended up marrying Smith.

After earning undergraduate and law degrees, Smith clerked for Chief Judge William C. O’Kelley of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia then joined King & Spalding’s Atlanta law office. While at the firm for more than 25 years, he defended high-profile products liability and civil cases for tobacco, automotive, pharmaceutical and heavy equipment manufacturers.

At the same time, he maintained his passion for tennis—as a player and as a volunteer for USTA’s Southern Section, for which he served as counsel, delegate at large, vice president and president. In 1996 he received the Jacobs Bowl Award as the section’s outstanding volunteer. Eventually he was named to the USTA’s national board, and when his predecessor resigned in 2007 he applied for the job.

"I just had this crazy idea that maybe this would be something I could do," he says. "To my great shock, they actually hired me to do it."

Smith was happy practicing law but couldn’t pass up the opportunity. "Only something like this, where I could feel like I was giving back to tennis, would have interested me," he says.

Now Smith presides over USTA’s staff of 350, tennis league of 350,000 players, membership of 750,000 and the U.S. Open, televised in 188 countries. He’s leading a campaign focused on recruiting 6- to 10-year-olds, last year revising the rules to allow shorter courts, smaller, lighter rackets and softer balls for kids. And the organization has embarked on a multiyear, multimillion dollar upgrade of facilities at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, home of the U.S. Open, in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, N.Y.

But his biggest challenge is the competition for leisure time—not just from other sports, but computers and nonathletic endeavors.

“We’ve got to get attuned to the times so that kids and adults who play the game can enjoy it in short periods of time and learn it quickly,” he says.

Smith doesn’t get to play as often as he’d like. When he does, he’s reminded of what he loves about the game—it teaches self reliance, independence, fair play and honesty. And it’s a healthy activity that players can enjoy all their lives.

“I just think it has a package of things that no other sport really offers in the same way.”
Not wasting anything
Alumnus manages global sustainability programs for The Coca-Cola Company
by Chase Martin

If April Crow were to see you tossing a bottle into the trash, she undoubtedly would tap you on the shoulder and convince you to change your ways.

Crow (BS ’95) likely would direct you to the nearest recycling bin, one that she herself might have helped put in place. And she certainly would have convinced you of the many economic, social and environmental benefits of recycling waste in a world of finite resources. Working as the global sustainability director for packaging at Coca-Cola, she’s been at the forefront of the company’s and beverage industry’s mission for healthier waste management.

Crow began working with Coca-Cola 18 years ago as an intern. A recent graduate with a degree in environmental health science, she was determined to stick with the company and apply her passions to help the world’s most recognized brand also become the world’s greenest brand.

While her original interest was in working for an environmental nonprofit organization, Crow says once she got to Coke she realized she could have a real influence there.

After moving around the company, Crow decided to focus primarily on Coke’s packaging and what happens to it after the product is sold. Now her work combines both her interests and is part of one of the largest recycling efforts in the world.

“It’s nice to be able to look back at the courses I took at UGA and how I’m now using what I learned,” she says. “My work gives me the opportunity to feel like I’m making a difference in the world.”

Crow works with nonprofit, government and other industry organizations to implement green and efficient waste management systems. In addition to the programs in American communities, she also takes her efforts to the 200-plus other countries in which Coca-Cola operates.

“I love the global aspect,” she says. “No matter where I go in the world people recognize Coca-Cola.”

The work Crow enjoys the most are the programs she helps launch within developing and emerging markets. By working with other parties and educating the public about the benefits of recycling, she helps them improve the informal waste systems that are common in those markets. Crow helps expand recycling cooperatives that support economic and social development.

Back home in Georgia, Crow worked with Atlanta-based Delta Airlines to launch their onboard recycling initiative, and did similar work with Turner Field. Nationally, she collaborates with organizations like Keep America Beautiful, and works with celebrities such as will.i.am from the Black Eyed Peas to develop campaigns to encourage recycling.

Through the outreach of Coca-Cola, Crow has tailored her passions, weaving her love for the company and the environment.

“I couldn’t have planned it better. I’ve been able to combine my passion for Coca-Cola and my interest in sustainability.”
Fantasia competed in the AKC Rally National Competition. Rebekah D. McCorvey (BBA '04, JD '12) joined Bryan Cave LLP in Atlanta as an associate in the Transaction and Corporate Finance & Securities practices. Brandon A. Mitchell (BSEd '04, MEd '07, EdS '09) of Winder was selected as a finalist for the 2014 Georgia Teacher of the Year.

2005-2009
Jeana Arnold Bush (BS '05) of Charlotte, N.C., is now a board-certified pediatrician and will be a fellow of allergy and immunology at the Georgia Regents University/UGA Medical Partnership until 2015. Andrew Saunders (BSFR '05, MFR '07) was named environmental coordinator of Athens-Clarke County. R. Jeremy Wilson (BBA '05, MAcc '06) of Macon was promoted to manager at Draffin & Tucker’s tax service group. Golfer Kevin Kisner (BBA '06) of Aiken, S.C., won the Chile Classic, earning his second career title on the Web.com Tour. Allyson Nichols Miller (BSEd '06) and Bartley R. Miller (BBA '06) welcomed their son, Harrison Gray, on Feb. 1. Ben Colley (BBA '08, BA '08) of Atlanta was named assistant vice president of underwriting for AloStar Business Credit. Leslie Friedman (BSFCS '09) launched her own clothing line, Buchanan. Daniel Masi (BBA '09) of Montclair, N.J., represented Pace University Law School in the 6th Annual Tulane National Baseball Arbitration Competition, finishing first of 40 competing law schools.

A Supreme honor

UGA graduate Andrew Pinson (BBA '08, JD '11) has been selected to serve as a judicial clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas for the October 2013 term. He is the 10th UGA graduate selected to clerk for the U.S. Supreme Court. Six of the 10 have been chosen in the last nine years. Pinson graduated first in his class, where he was the executive articles editor for the Georgia Law Review and was inducted into the Order of the Coif. He then served as a judicial clerk for Judge David B. Sentelle of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Pinson is an attorney with Jones Day in Washington, D.C., and works in the firm’s Issues & Appeals Practice, where he represents clients in various stages of civil litigation.
In Carr’s novel, Jonathan Browning deals with a startling confession from his wife, a mysterious, scandalous recording, and the deterioration of his marriage while working on the deal of his career.

Life on the Brink
University of Georgia Press (2012)
By Philip Cafaro (MA ’88) and Eileen Crist
This book reexamines the role of overpopulation in major ecological problems, such as global climate change, species extinction, pollution and food and water scarcity, bringing together contributions from environmentalists, environmental studies scholars, policymakers and other experts.

Triathlon for the Every Woman
Tricycle Books (2012)
By Meredith Nesbitt Atwood (AB ’01, JD ’05)
Triathlon for the Every Woman is full of expert advice, training tips and stories to turn a tired, busy woman into a tired, busy woman triathlete, no matter her size, age or place in life.

If You Can Read, You Can Cook!
An Easy, How-to-Manual
By Bob Lowe (AB ’72, MPA ’74)
An easy-to-do, simple-to-follow cooking manual that provides readers with a fool-proof way to prepare restaurant-quality meals in a manner of minutes.

Fretboard Freedom
Hal Leonard
(2013)
By Troy Nelson (BSEd ’09)
This revolutionary approach to chord-tone soloing features a 52-week, one-lick-per-day method for visualizing and navigating the neck of the guitar.

Leadership Lessons from the Cherokee Nation
By Chad “Corntassel” Smith (BSEd ’73)
The former principal chief of the Cherokee Nation addresses questions of leadership in his new book, using a model based on a traditional Cherokee prayer that encourages learning from different perspectives as the sun moves across the sky from sunrise to sunset.

Love's All That Makes Sense: A Mother Daughter Memoir
Bridgeross Communications (2013)
By Anika Francis (MEd ’05) and Sekeenah Francis
This memoir is a book on growing up with a mother with schizophrenia, as told by both mother and daughter from their own unique perspectives.

The Spellcaster’s Grimoire
Imajinn Books (2013)
By Mark All (BMus ’84, MEd ’95)
When a dying warlock entrusts an ancient spell book to a bestselling witchcraft author, she must actually master the craft to prevent a vengeful witch from using the grimoire to destroy the town coven.

Forty-One Jane Doe’s
Ahsahta Press (2013)
By Carrie Olivia Adams (AB ’00)
A book of poems that includes a DVD of the author’s poem-films.
Former Athens resident returns as professor

published Saturday, June 1, 2013

David C. Hagaman, a former employee of the national labor and employment law firm Ford & Harrison LLP, has returned to Athens as an adjunct professor or labor arbitration at the University of Georgia School of Law.

Hagaman attended Athens High School, where he graduated in 1965. He also attended UGA for his undergraduate degree and his Juris Doctor from the School of Law.

Hagaman is also a registered mediator and arbitrator throughout the state of Georgia. He is currently working on a case for the 10th Judicial District ADR program located in Athens.

While working with Ford & Harrison in Atlanta, Hagaman served as the chairman of the State Bar of Georgia – Labor and Employment Section, on the board of advisors of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and on the board of the Atlanta Preservation Center.
Local judge to sit in on Georgia Supreme Court case

By JOE JOHNSON updated Sunday, June 2, 2013 - 10:27pm

A local judge will be sitting today as a Georgia Supreme Court justice when the high court considers a case that involves double jeopardy.

Western Judicial Circuit Chief Judge David Sweat was chosen to serve in place of Justice Keith Blackwell in the appeal of a Gwinnett County case in which a man is contesting a Court of Appeals decision that he can be retried on a charge of voluntary manslaughter after having been acquitted of murder.

The man said a new trial would violate the double jeopardy clause of the federal and state constitutions.

Blackwell recused himself from the case because he was justice with the Georgia Court of Appeals when it made its ruling on the same case last year.

The Supreme Court maintains a list of state Superior Court judges, who are sometimes called upon to fill in when a justice recuses himself or herself, according Jane Hansen, the high court’s public information officer.

Replacement justices are selected on a rotating basis, and the Western Judicial Circuit was next on the list, she said. The circuit is made up of Athens-Clarke and Oconee counties.

Sweat, 58, was elected as Superior Court judge in 2002, and in January of this year became the local judicial circuit’s chief judge.

He said he looks forward to playing a role in deciding the double jeopardy case.

“It is the ultimate honor for a Superior Court judge to be asked to sit with the justices on the Supreme Court,” Sweat said on Friday. “Sitting on this case in the Supreme Court allows me to take on the role of reviewing
Local judge to sit in on Georgia Supreme Court case | Online Athens

I will have to opportunity to understand how the Supreme Court justices view a case on appeal and what they think is important,” he said.

Prior to becoming a judge, the University of Georgia School of Law graduate practiced law in the Athens area since 1979.

Among other accomplishments since assuming the bench a decade ago, Sweat spearheaded creation of a Treatment and Accountability Court, which diverts from jail into treatment individuals involved in the criminal justice system due to mental illness.

He recently drafted enabling legislation for mental health courts statewide, which was ultimately passed by the Georgia Legislature.

Sweat is a member of the Council of Superior Court Judges and chairs the Uniform Rules Committee, which develops rules that govern Georgia’s trial courts, and he serves on the council’s Accountability Courts Committee.

As a substitute Supreme Court justice, he will listen to arguments from attorneys on both sides of the double jeopardy case, have the opportunity to question the lawyers, then have input when issuing a ruling.

“This experience will give me greater insight and understanding of the work I do everyday and will help make me a better judge,” Sweat said.

Follow Criminal Justice reporter Joe Johnson at www.facebook.com/JoeJohnsonABH or www.twitter.com/JoeJohnsonABH
The parents of Emily Westberry, Athens, Ga., and Adam
Michael M. O’Brian, Simpsonville, S.C., announce the couple’s engagement.
Miss Westberry, daughter of Kim and Jo Lynn Westberry, Watkinsville, Ga., graduated from Athens (Ga.) Academy and in 2011 from Furman University, Greenville, with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. She recently completed her second year at the University of Georgia’s School of Law, Athens. Miss Westberry is working as a summer associate at both Gallivan, White and Boyd and Ogletree Deakins, Greenville, S.C.

Mr. O’Brian, son and stepson of David and Kari Conklin, Watertown, and Matthew and Rita O’Brian, Palatine Bridge, graduated from Immaculate Heart Central School, Watertown, and in 2007 from Clarkson University, Potsdam, with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and physics. He is a tire designer for Michelin Tires, Greenville.

A May 2014 wedding at St. Simons Island, Ga., is planned.

GRAPHIC: B/W photo Adam-Michael M. O’Brian, Emily Westberry
Fulton County State Court Judge Susan Forsling submitted her resignation to Governor Nathan Deal on Friday.

"After prayerful consideration," wrote Forsling, "I hereby tender my resignation as judge of the State Court of Fulton County effective upon the close of business July 1, 2013."

In an interview, Forsling noted that she started work with the Fulton County Attorney's Office on July 1, 1980, so she will leave service after exactly 33 years, with 16 years on the bench.

"I'm ready for a new stage," she said.

In her letter, Forsling asked the governor to appoint her as a senior judge so that she could hear cases in the Superior Court as needed, and she said she was considering pursuing a mediation practice.

"I also want to pursue my ministry," said Forsling, who teaches Bible study at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church and is preparing for her fifth trip abroad as part of a prison ministry that has taken her to Thailand and Kenya.

Forsling, 57, was appointed to the bench by Governor Zell Miller in 1997. A University of Georgia law school graduate, she is married to Schreeder, Wheeler & Flint partner Mark Forsling.

Judge Forsling was in the news last year when her longtime case manager was discovered to have stashed thousands of court files and documents in his office and elsewhere over more than a decade. On Friday she said that incident was not related to her decision, adding that she had been considering the move for some time.

"Nothing brought it on except time," said Forsling. "I maxed out on my pension several years ago, and I'm just ready to do other things."

Forsling's resignation provides Deal's first opportunity to appoint a judge to the Fulton County State Court bench, though he has appointed two Superior Court judges: his former executive counsel, Todd Markle, was named to that court in July 2011, and former federal prosecutor Robert McBurney was appointed in February 2012.

Other candidates on the shortlist for the judgeship McBurney won included Shingler Lewis partner Joyce Gist Lewis and Fulton County Assistant District Attorney Robert Wolf; candidates for the McBurney shortlist included Lewis, Fulton County Magistrate Melynee Leftridge, and Atlanta solo Chloe Dallaire.
The *Daily Report* was able to contact only Dallaire by press-time; she said she had since moved to DeKalb County, so she wouldn’t be eligible for the seat.

Only two other Fulton State judges have been on the bench longer than Forsling: Judge Patsy Porter and Chief Judge John Mather, both of whom were appointed in 1996.

"I think Susan and I were both trying to be judges at about the same time, sort of competing for the same slots," recalled Mather. "I remember running into her at one of our first judges' seminars together, and we immediately clicked; we've always gotten along very well."

Mather said he was stunned when informed of Forsling's decision.

"Susan came by this morning and told me she'd submitted her resignation, and I was speechless for a few minutes," Mather said. "Then I was sad, and then I said, 'No, this is a good thing for you.'"

Mather said Forsling had labored intensely to clean up the backlog of cases discovered last year.

"She's a very hard-working judge," Mather said. "She's worked very hard to make sure her civil and criminal case load is current, and that they'll be current once she leaves the bench. She's done a great job running the DUI Court; she'll be missed."

Forsling said she was gratified by the opportunities her judicial duties and overseas ministries had offered to help people suffering from drug and alcohol addiction, and her letter to the governor referenced that work.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of my career has been founding our DUI Court program and serving as the presiding judge of that court since 2007," wrote Forsling. "We have been privileged to help hundreds of men and women reclaim their lives and I thank you for your support and advocacy on behalf of accountability courts throughout the State of Georgia."

Forsling said she began participating in the international prison ministry about four years ago and has visited an adult women's prison and a juvenile prison in Thailand, and two prisons in Nairobi, Kenya.

"You have to have contacts on the ground to give you entrée," she said, "then they let you go in and share the message and gifts and song, even some one-on-one time with the prisoners."

Staff reporter Kathleen Baydala Joyner contributed to this article.
Whitfield County Superior Court clerk pushes the edge

Taking the long way

Amanda Brown graduated from the University of Georgia Law School in May 2012 and spent the summer studying for the bar exam. Every January, Whitfield County Superior Court Judge Jack Partain goes to a job fair at the UGA Law School to interview and hire three graduating law students to work as law clerks for a year.

“Our job is to help the judges,” Brown said. “We do legal research for them, assist them in drafting orders, and assist them with trials.”

Brown was chosen to help Judge Partain, while Mandy Proctor was primarily assigned to Judge William Boyett and Sara Fish to Judge Cindy Morris. All three law clerks do work for Judge David Blevins. Brown graduated in 2001 from Lamar High School in Arlington, Texas, then did her undergraduate work from 2001-2005 at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., before serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Madagascar from 2005-2008.

(http://daltondailycitizen.com/sports/x1062696981/Whitfield-County-Superior-Court-clerk-pushes-the-edge)

By Mitch Talley
Whitfield County Director of Communications (http://daltondailycitizen.com)

Do you think you could swim for 1.2 miles, bike for 56 miles and run for another 13.1 miles in less than seven hours?

That’s what Amanda Brown did while competing in her first triathlon, the Ochsner Ironman 70.3, on April 21 in New Orleans.
Brown is a law clerk in Whitfield County Superior Court Judge Jack Partain’s office who graduated from the University of Georgia Law School in 2012. She said it’s been a personal goal for a long time to get in shape and compete in a major triathlon.

So, at the beginning of this year, she started intensive training for the Ochsner Ironman 70.3, a long course triathlon.

“I wanted to set a goal for myself and have something to work toward and not have a letdown at the end,” Brown said. “That’s one reason I picked this big distance in the first place, because I felt like I needed to scare myself into training — because if I picked a small race, I’d be like, ‘Oh, it’s just a 20-mile bike ride, a 10-mile run, I can do that.’ But this distance I thought, I’m gonna die if I don’t train!”

In preparation for that one very grueling day, for four months Brown swam at the Dalton High School pool, did a lot of running along the Pinhoti Trail and at Red Top Mountain south of Cartersville, and cycled in The Pocket area in Walker County.

She even competed in a mini-triathlon in Tennessee as a tune-up, “but it was really short,” she said, “300 meter swimming, 2.5-mile run, and 10-mile bike.”

By the time the Ochsner Ironman arrived, Brown already knew she could swim the 1.2 miles, bike the 56 miles and run the 13 miles required because she had completed all three tasks while training, “but I’d never done them all together, so that was sort of what worried me,” she admitted.

She started the competition with the 1.2-mile swim in South Shore Harbor Marina. That portion of the triathlon had been canceled the previous two years because of choppy waters in Lake Ponchartrain, prompting the move to the relatively easier conditions in the harbor.

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By the time she reached the finish line, she had a hard time walking, but the support of her parents (Lee and Danuta Brown) and a friend from Dalton (Caitlin Pyne, who works in the Public Defender’s Office) proved to be a big emotional boost.

"They were all waiting for me at the finish line," Brown said. "It was great. People took pictures and I sort of stopped and sat down and then I got up. I had a really hard time walking. One of my legs, the quad muscles were really sore."

She said completing the event was a big confidence booster.

"You know what kind of adrenaline rush you get after doing something like that," she said. "It just feels really good. It's a huge feeling of accomplishment. I was worried I wouldn't be able to do it or my bike would break down. My bike is not a really nice bike so I was afraid of that happening, or not being able to do the swim — the cold water, the open water, I wasn't used to either."

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So are there more triathlons in her future?

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swimming, 112 miles of biking and a marathon (26.2-mile) run at the end.

"I think I might be able to," she said. "Before starting this, my thought was I could never do that. I could never even run a full marathon, much less with a 100-mile bike ride at the beginning.

"But I'm not sure now — I might try it at some point."

308 S. Thornton Ave. Dalton, GA 30720
Waller Adds 17 New Attorneys in Nashville, Birmingham Offices

Waller, Nashville's oldest and largest law firm, on May 1 announced the addition of 17 new attorneys to the following key practice groups:

-- Corporate (one partner and four associates);
-- Finance & Restructuring (two associates);
-- Healthcare (four associates);
-- Real Estate (one Of Counsel and two associates);
-- Trial & Appellate (one partner and two associates).

"Over the last few months, our roster of attorneys has become deeper and stronger than ever before as we continue to grow our core practice groups at Waller," said John Tishler, chairman of Waller. "It is exciting to see that we are not only attracting attorneys from the best law schools in the Southeast, but also from iconic institutions like Harvard and Stanford. We look forward to their contributions and leadership as we continue to expand our firm here in Nashville and Birmingham."

CORPORATE Mark Folk joins Waller as a partner with more than 25 years of experience. Mr. Folk focuses primarily on assisting healthcare providers as they establish new strategic partnerships, restructure lines of service and solidify capital for operations in response to the Affordable Care Act. Prior to joining Waller, Folk was partner and co-chair of the healthcare department for Partner Shutts & Bowen, LLP, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Folk earned his J.D. from Stanford Law School and his B.A., magna cum laude, from Harvard College.

G. Tyson Bickley joins Waller as an associate. Mr. Bickley assists clients in a wide range of industries, including healthcare, practicing in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, venture capital financing and securities.
Mr. Bickley earned his J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law and his B.S., with honors, from University of Alabama.

Brent Moreland joins Waller as an associate practicing in corporate matters, including mergers and acquisitions and securities. Mr. Moreland earned his J.D., with honors, from the University of Tennessee College of Law where he worked as the publications editor of Tennessee Journal of Law and Policy. Moreland also earned his B.S., magna cum laude, from University of Tennessee.

Trevor Sava joined Waller as an associate in 2012 and has practiced in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, strategic business transactions and governance issues. Mr. Sava represents clients, ranging from public companies to startups, in the healthcare industry as well as manufacturing and technology industries. Prior to joining Waller, Mr. Sava was an associate at McDonald Hopkins, LLC, in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Sava earned his J.D. from Tulane University Law School/ Harvard University Law, his M.B.A. from Case Western Reserve University, and his B.S., magna cum laude, from Auburn University.

Lin Ye joins Waller as an associate, advising healthcare clients in mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures. Prior to joining Waller, Ms. Ye was an associate at Butler Snow/Miller & Martin, LLC, in Nashville, Tenn. Ms. Ye earned her J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law and her Bachelor of Law and Masters of Law from China University of Political Science and Law.

FINANCE & RESTRUCTURING Blake Roth joins Waller as an associate, practicing in the areas of commercial litigation, bankruptcy litigation and distressed debt for a variety of financial institutions. Previously, Mr. Roth was an associate at Duane Morris, LLP, in Philadelphia, Pa. Mr. Roth earned his J.D., cum laude, from the Earle Mack School of Law at Drexel University, and his B.A., magna cum laude, from University of Tennessee.

Dustin Timblin joins Waller as an associate, assisting clients primarily in the healthcare industry in financing and bankruptcy matters. Prior to joining Waller, Mr. Timblin was an associate at Allen & Overy, LLP, in New York, N.Y. Mr. Timblin earned his J.D., with honors, from Vanderbilt University Law School, where he was associate editor of the Vanderbilt Law Review. Mr. Timblin earned his B.S., summa cum laude and as a member of the honors program, from Tennessee Technological University.

HEALTHCARE Cory Brown joins Waller as an associate, assisting healthcare clients in regulatory compliance, including Federal and State physician self-referral laws, Stark and anti-kickback laws and HIPAA. Prior to joining Waller, Mr. Brown was an associate at Rainey, Kizer, Reviere & Bell, PLC, in Memphis, Tenn. Mr. Brown earned his J.D., cum laude, from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at University of Memphis, where he was a member of the Memphis Law Review editorial board and a recipient of Cecil C. Humphreys Law Fellowship. Mr. Brown earned his M.A. in linguistics from University of Memphis and his B.S. from University of Tennessee.

Caitlyn W. Davie joins Waller as an associate, assisting healthcare clients with Medicare and Medicaid participation requirements, facility licensure requirements and federal and state anti-kickback and self-referral laws. Ms. Davie also assists clients with regulatory aspects of healthcare mergers, syndications, joint ventures, divestitures and restructuring. Davie earned her J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School, and her B.A., cum laude, from California State University, Fullerton.
Mike Dreyfuss joins Waller as an associate and a member of the healthcare regulatory team. Mr. Dreyfuss’ practice focuses on healthcare transactions, state licensure, certification issues, Certificate of Need (CON) applications, as well as Medicare enrollment and reimbursement matters. Prior to joining Waller, Mr. Dreyfuss worked as an EMT and was a member of the U.S. Peace Corps in Ghana, West Africa where he became a tribal sub-chief. Mr. Dreyfuss earned his J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School, and his B.A. from James Madison University.

Kevin Page joins Waller as an associate, focusing on Medicare and Medicaid billing and reimbursement, HIPAA privacy and security issues, and Stark and anti-kickback compliance. Mr. Page also assists healthcare clients in transactional matters, including mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures. Previously, Page was an associate at Wagner, Myers & Sanger, PC, in Knoxville, Tenn. Page earned his J.D., magna cum laude, from the University of Tennessee College of Law, and his B.S., summa cum laude, from Louisiana State University.

REAL ESTATE David P. Wright joins Waller as an Of Counsel with the firm. With over a decade of experience in the real estate field, David assists clients in a variety of complex transactions, including leasing, acquisition, disposition, financing and development. Previously, Mr. Wright was an associate at Wagner, Myers & Sanger, PC, in Knoxville, Tenn. Mr. Wright earned his J.D., cum laude, from the University of Tennessee College of Law, and his B.B.A. in banking and managerial finance, magna cum laude, from University of Mississippi.

Lida Greist joins Waller as an associate in the real estate practice group. Prior to joining Waller, Mr. Greist was an associate at Lewis, King, Krieg & Waldrop, PC, in Knoxville, Tenn., as well as an assistant property manager at Carter and Associates in Atlanta, Ga. Greist earned her J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law and her B.A., magna cum laude, from Kenyon College.

Erin Hughes joins Waller as an associate, focusing on assisting healthcare companies in leasing and transactional matters. Prior to joining Waller, Ms. Hughes was an associate at Farris, Bobango, Branan, PLC, in Memphis, Tenn., and also worked real estate development. Hughes earned her J.D., magna cum laude, from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at University of Memphis and her B.S., magna cum laude, from University of Tennessee.

TRIAL & APPELLATE Rebecca Pritchett, joining Waller as a partner, is a prominent environmental attorney who was formerly principal of Pritchett Environmental & Property Law LLC. Previously, Pritchett served as chair of the environmental practice at Sirote & Permutt, P.C. A national expert in environmental and natural resources law, Ms. Pritchett has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America and Alabama Super Lawyers for the past five years. She earned her J.D. from University of Oregon School of Law and her BS in Journalism, cum laude, from the University of Southern Mississippi, where she was recently elected to the Foundation Board.

Alexandra Lee joins Waller as an associate, representing clients at both the trial and appellate levels of state and federal courts in general litigation, labor and employment, government investigations and white collar matters. Prior to joining Waller, Ms. Lee represented clients in appeals to the Supreme Court of the United States and arbitrations, and managed lobbying efforts.
Ms. Lee earned her J.D. from Harvard Law School, where she worked at the Harvard Negotiation Law and Review and BlackLetter Law Journal. She earned her B.A., magna cum laude, from Spelman College.

Todd Hambidge joins Waller as an associate in the firm’s litigation and dispute resolution practice. While working as a senior associate at Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP, in New York, N.Y., Mr. Hambidge was recognized by SuperLawyers as one of New York Metro’s Rising Stars in 2011 and 2012. Mr. Hambidge earned his J.D., with honors, from Vanderbilt University Law School and his B.A., magna cum laude, from DePauw University.

About Waller

Waller -- http://www.wallerlaw.com -- is headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee with offices in Birmingham, Alabama and Austin, Texas. With approximately 200 attorneys, Waller helps clients navigate a diverse range of complex transactional, regulatory and litigation issues across myriad industries. Waller is Nashville’s oldest and largest law firm. Founded in 1905, Waller has client relationships spanning decades because time and again, clients come for the lawyer and stay for the firm.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2013

2 of 2 DOCUMENTS

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The Daily Citizen (Dalton, Georgia)

June 5, 2013 Wednesday

SECTION: SPORTS

LENGTH: 1008 words

HEADLINE: Whitfield County Superior Court clerk pushes the edge

BYLINE: Mitch Talley, WHITFIELD COUNTY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

BODY:

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LOAD-DATE: June 5, 2013
The New York State legislature has been considering a bill that would extend the retirement age to 80 for hundreds of judges statewide. So should we trust that they're getting wiser with age or should we take their gavel sooner?

Originally aired on June 6, 2013

Hosted by: Mike Sacks

Guests:

1. **Dr. Jon Lieff** @jonlieffmd (Boston, MA) Neuropsychiatrist; Former President of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry

2. **Leonard Frieling** (Lafayette, CO) Former Judge & Criminal Defense Attorney

3. **Sonja West** @sonjarwest (Athens, GA) Associate Professor of Law at University of Georgia
The Atlanta Bar Association Presents
A Courthouse Line X
Audition Dates: August 5, 6 and 8

LawJam 2013: It's All In The Name For Mikey Mel & The JDs

Michael Melonakos, Special to the Daily Report

Daily Report
06-07-2013

Mikey Mel & the JDs and Shayanne are the last of seven bands profiled in the Daily Report. The bands will compete at LawJam 2013 - the fourth annual battle of the Atlanta lawyers' bands - at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Variety Playhouse, 1099 Euclid Ave. N.E. Proceeds benefit pro bono legal service providers and Atlanta Bar youth programs. Buy tickets at www.variety-playhouse.com or the box office.

How did you pick your band name?
I started this band in my basement the summer before I started law school at UGA. I was the only member of the band. I knew I would always be a member of my band, so I put my name on it. I figured that if anyone else would join the band, they should be separated from me with an ampersand.

How did you all find each other?
Adam Hebbard and I became fast friends in law school and joined the band relatively quickly. I met Derin [Dickerson] when he was the drummer for the in-house band in the Atlanta Bar Association's Bard Show. I met Laura [Ashby] when we worked at the same firm (but different locations) years ago and we sang together at the firm's variety show.

Mikey Mel & the JDs have multiple rock duets with female singers on record, but we have not been able to pull the songs off live. Laura is a great fit for the band (she played in bands in high school), so with her on board we are extremely excited to be able to play some of our favorite duets such as "Forbidden Lawyer Love."

Nate Brown is our latest and greatest guitarist. Nate went to UGA undergrad and played in bands with Adam Hebbard. He is our only nonlawyer in the band this year, which also means he's the best human being in the band this year.

How long have you been together?
The band has been together in some iteration since 2005.
Where do you play? Tour?

We played in multiple venues in Athens throughout law school. Since then, we have performed in LawJam. Adam Hebbard has played in Atlanta for the Songs for Kids Foundation, and I have played some solo shows at various Atlanta Bar events.

Have you ever been in any other bands?

For the high school talent show sophomore year my best friend Adam Pacholski and I formed a band with two other guys. We played two Smashing Pumpkins covers in the gym. When we took the stage, Adam said "Hi, we are Blue Tide." The two other band members did not know that we had any band name, let alone Blue Tide. They thought the name was stupid and then purposefully played poorly.

From that point on, I knew that I would never be in any band unless my name was in it. Also from that point on, we never played with those two guys again.

What are your musical influences?

Ke$ha, Katy Perry, Weezer, Drive-By Truckers, Kings of Leon, Modest Mouse, The Beatles, country music, Biters, Eels, in that order from most influential to least.

Do you have a story about meeting your musical idol?

I met John Mayer after he played at a bookstore in Michigan in 2001. I gave him a copy of my CD that I recorded in high school. I don't think he listened to it.

What was your favorite concert of all time?

Probably the Weezer/No Doubt concert that I went to in seventh grade. Drive-By Truckers at the 40 Watt in 2008 was pretty solid, too.

What was your musical education or training?

I was classically trained on the recorder when I was in second grade and I played clarinet throughout middle and high school. Because it's a woodwind, you can't sing while playing clarinet, so I taught myself how to play guitar in high school.

What's the biggest venue you've ever played?

Variety Playhouse at LawJam in 2010.

What are your special plans for LawJam 2013?

I'm dabbling with the idea of each band member dressing like the different personas of David Bowie. I would definitely be Labyrinth David Bowie. Hebbard would be Ziggy Stardust David Bowie, because Hebbard is androgynous like that.

Best album ever?

Weezer's "Blue Album," followed by Mikey Mel & the JDs "3 and Out."

One thing that would surprise your fans?

How much more attractive my wife is than me.

When and where can we see you play next?

You can see us play at LawJam at Variety Playhouse on Saturday. Future plans are TBD

MEET THE BAND: Mikey Mel & the JDs

Michael Melonakos, guitar and lead vocals, associate at the Roth Firm;
Adam Hebbard, bass guitar and backup vocals, principal at the Law Office of Adam Hebbard;

Derin Dickerson, drums and backup vocals, partner at Alston & Bird;

Laura Ashby, vocals, Miller & Martin; Nate Brown, guitar.

Genre: law rock

Website: www.myspace.com/mikeymelandthejds

Twitter: @mikeymjd

YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/melonako

Mikey Mel & the JDs and Shayanne are the last of seven bands profiled in the Daily Report. The bands will compete at LawJam 2013—the fourth annual battle of the Atlanta lawyers’ bands—at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Variety Playhouse, 1099 Euclid Ave. N.E. Proceeds benefit pro bono legal service providers and Atlanta Bar youth programs. Buy tickets at www.variety-playhouse.com or the box office.
UGA students resigned as interest rates on loans set to double

If nothing is resolved on Capitol Hill by July 1, students may want to rethink their financial aid plans.

The interest rates for federally subsidized loans is set to double from 3.4 percent to 6.8, which makes applying for loans a more delicate process.

"I'm an independent student," said 18-year-old sophomore Melissa Lehman. "I realize that graduating school debt-free is not really possible now... and I know that more than half of everybody that went to college has debt."

On May 31, President Obama urged students to keep a watchful eye on their state representatives during a press conference. And he criticized members of Congress, in hopes they'll rectify House Resolution 119, which was drafted to combat the imminent interest hike.

In the midst of the political turmoil over the resolution, the president acknowledges the severity of student debt.

"Since most of today's college students were born, tuition and fees at public universities have more than doubled," Obama said, "And these days, the average student who takes out loans to pay for four years of college graduates owing more than $26,000,

And Lehman is no different. Even with two grants and a part-time job, she is already $8,000 in debt by the time she graduates. (Photo illustration by Randy Schafer)

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UGA students resigned as interest rates on loans set to double - The R...

OSFA Coordinator of Outreach Joseph Boyles warns that "this increase is not a possibility, it is current regulation."

But there are some students, regardless of possible interest rates changes, who expect to be drowning in debt post-graduation.

Law student Kabir Sharma is looking at $85,000 of debt — a year into his graduate program. Although he can no longer apply for subsidized loans as a graduate student, Sharma is still receiving Federal PLUS Loans and other direct unsubsidized loans.

"Due to the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011, beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year graduate students are no longer eligible for a Federal Direct Subsidized Loan," Boyles said in an e-mail interview.

Prior to the 2012-2013 year, the number of UGA graduate subsidized loans increased from 3,366 (FY 2007-2008) to 4,088 (FY 2011-2012). Although the increase is minimal compared to the undergrad numbers, the amount awarded to graduate students increased from $29,988,395 to nearly $43 million.

When Sharma attended the University of California Irvine as an undergrad, he accrued $40,000 of debt, doubling since his move to Georgia in 2011. He expects to be $120,000 in debt post-graduation.

"It's problematic," Sharma said. "You've already finished about 80 percent of your trip, you know? And loans are just the easiest way."

He's not scared of his future debt, but it does shape his post-collegiate decisions.

"I don't brood over it," Sharma said. "I'm calm, mostly because I'm in law school. And I'm hoping I will get a decent job, but what worries me is the lack of flexibility and it makes what you do very narrow with your life."

His financial sacrifice for education may leave him pigeon-holed in the future.

"Like lenders. I've talked to Equifax twice," he said. "And they've told me people who have education debts have a harder time getting car loans, home loans, so-on-and-so-forth. That plays a pretty big part explicitly and implicitly."

And he debates if his choice of job will reflect his amount of debt.

"Even if I get multiple opportunities, it basically constrains me, taking me to one path, which is high-pay," Sharma said. "Even if it's high-pay, high-stress, or a really boring job. I'm more inclined to pursue that compared to a medium or low-paying job that could be entertaining or fun."

Lehman would likely agree.

"Obviously getting a job is going to be a little more important me than someone who hasn't [taken out loans]," she said. "And also I'm probably not going to want to move either because that's just another added expense." Sharma believes that his post-collegiate debt will even intervene in his romantic affairs.

"When I think about my debt, I basically just have to go for money," he said. "And it can interfere with having a family and it delays that for me."

As July 1 approaches, students will have to wait and wonder about their financial futures. And Lehman, only a year into her education, plans to keep working her part-time job at the UGA Call Center — and applying for scholarships.

She confides in her mother for financial advice and Lehman is skeptical she'll need the loans her entire collegiate career.

But for now, like many others, she has no other choice.

"It sucks," Lehman said. "But you can't do anything about it."

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Giving The Players What They Want

Seventeen years is a long time for any game to remain in existence, especially in this era of sequels and server shutdowns, but Threshold is still going strong today, serving thousands of players in its role-playing required, text-only world. Michael attributes Threshold's longevity to the game's focus on role-playing and community, and also to the fact that the game doesn't try to appeal to everyone. "As long as it's really good at doing the things that it does," he says, "the people who are fans of those things will be its audience. One of the beauties of our medium of entertainment, especially compared to TV or movies, is that we can so directly target to an audience so much easier. With a movie, everyone has to go the same theaters, everyone has to have the same experience. We don't have to do that with games. You can make games be whatever you want."

As strange as that may sound, Michael says Threshold's longevity isn't the most surprising thing. "What's extra bizarre," he told me, "is that Threshold is growing again." He attributes that growth to an unlikely source for a MUD - mobile phones.

"I love whoever made BlowTorch," Michael says. "BlowTorch is a free MUD client for Android phones. A ton of our players use it who had kind of quit playing Threshold because they couldn't find the time, or were at work, or whatever. But now they have an Android phone, so they get on Blowtorch, and that gets them reconnected to the community. Next thing you know, they're playing at home on their PC again."

"There are lots of players now who use how well they do in combat on their phone as a bragging right," Pang added. "I killed someone on my phone, I beat this mob on my phone, and so on."

Rather than simply be amused by the trend, the Hartmans set out to capitalize on it. Frogdice lead developer Brian Workman (known as "Gessler" in-game) is currently at work on a new setting tailored for the mobile platform. "The main goal," Michael says, "is to cut back on some of the text outputs that are inherent to a text-based game. You know, to tone it down for mobile."

"Every one of..."
Threshold also has some ties to every other Frogdice title. You see, every game they make, from Coin and Carry – the collection of mini-games – to Tower of Elements – the match 3 RPG – is set in the same world. “Every one of our games, even our flash games on Kongregate, even our one-minute demos – they all have a story,” Pang explained. “Any time you’re writing a story, it’s much easier to set it in a world that you know super, super well. You know the history, you’ve got all the timelines, and you have more of the details of every little story that can be told.”

Naturally, that shared universe includes Dungeon of Elements, Frogdice’s latest project. It mixes RPG elements with Dr. Mario and Tetris inspired combat, as well as crafting, exploration, gear and pets. It’s a weird mix of familiar puzzle gameplay in a slightly different RPG wrapper. Michael describes it as “core meets casual.” Frogdice is hoping to complete it with the help of some Kickstarter funding. And the good news: it won’t take that much.

Dras

On June 7, 2013 at 9:13 am

Having been one of those people that have stuck around with Frogdice for over ten years now, I can tell you that there’s another part of their company, beyond the well made games.

They encourage and support a community. They’re not faceless developers who we rant and rave at and may or may not respond to our complaints (I’m looking at you, Bioware). They’re Michael and Pang, they’re the ones making these worlds come alive WITH our input, not BECAUSE of the cash flow.

It’s a weird distinction, and I’m not sure my words get it across correctly, but I will always support Frogdice. It’s not just another gaming company, the people involved, players and admins, have become friends (and one even became my wife).
A federal magistrate judge in Atlanta is allowing the ex-wife of international gun manufacturer Gaston Glock to issue sweeping subpoenas for financial information from the Georgia companies that control Glock's North American operations.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Linda Walker's June 3 order allows Helga Glock to delve into the corporate finances of the three companies as part of litigation pending in Austria related to their 2011 divorce. She claims that her ex-husband has hidden marital assets from her and that the Georgia companies may hold clues that would uncover them—Glock Inc., Glock Professional Inc. and Consultinvest Inc.—which are headquartered at Glock's North American manufacturing facility in Smyrna.

Two days after Walker issued her order, Helga Glock's Atlanta attorneys subpoenaed Glock's Georgia corporations, said her Atlanta spokesman, David Rubinger. The companies have until June 26 to respond, he said.

The subpoenas seek financial information from 2008 to the present that could provide a virtual blueprint of the U.S.-based companies in Glock's privately held, international corporate empire. Helga Glock's attorneys suggested in court pleadings that the majority of Glock's worldwide corporate assets are held by his U.S. firms.

No attorneys have entered an appearance on behalf of Gaston Glock or his Georgia companies. Carlos Guevara, general counsel of Glock Inc. and a corporate officer of the three Georgia companies, could not be reached for comment. New York attorney John Renzulli, Glock's longtime outside counsel and the CEO of Consultinvest Inc., also could not be reached.

Helga Glock is represented in Atlanta by Andrew Flake and Edward Marshall of Arnall Golden Gregory. Flake said Monday that in order to accurately determine Gaston Glock's income, and because the corporate structure of Glock's business empire is so complex, "We have to understand the ownership and control structure" of the three Georgia companies that collectively are also known as the Glock Group.

"They are complicated," he said. "There is a lack of transparency."

Flake also said the sought-after documents will likely be useful "in illuminating the corporate structure and the way it's permitted Mr. Glock Sr., in effect, to adjust his income levels."

In April, Helga Glock sought the help of the U.S. courts in gathering evidence for proceedings pending in the Austrian courts that are related to the couple's divorce. Helga Glock has accused her former husband of unfairly stripping her and
the couple's children of managerial jobs in his companies and of hiding hundreds of millions of dollars in corporate and personal assets via a "byzantine structure" of international companies and trusts.

Helga Glock's legal team sought a court order directing Glock's U.S. firms, which are not named as defendants in the Austrian litigation, to turn over extensive financial data associated with the North American manufacturing and sales of the iconic pistol that Gaston Glock invented and that bears his name.

Walker's order said that Helga Glock sought permission to subpoena Glock's Georgia companies in order to identify all of the couple's marital assets to insure their fair division and to determine the monthly level of financial support her ex-husband must pay. The financial information she is seeking would also assist her in ascertaining her husband's worldwide income, the order said.

Helga Glock is also seeking to recover shares that she held for years in Austrian parent company Glock GmbH as well as marital property that was transferred into what her attorneys have labeled "illusory trusts."

Court papers filed by Helga Glock's attorneys said her ex-husband "has erected a complex and opaque structure of holding companies and trusts for Glock-affiliated entities around the world ... and has moved what Ms. Glock contends are marital assets" beyond the reach of the Austrian courts to avoid splitting them with his ex-wife or the couple's three adult children.

"She is concerned that Mr. Glock is intending to transfer Glock assets within the United States outside of her reach," Walker's order states.

The Austrian courts have found Gaston Glock at fault for the failure of the couple's marriage, according to Helga Glock's court papers. Glock, 83, filed to divorce his now 77-year-old wife in 2011 in order to marry his lover, a woman 50 years his junior, according to Helga Glock's affidavit.

In Atlanta, Walker held that a federal statute, 28 USC § 1782, permitted her to grant Helga Glock's request to mine Glock's Georgia companies for financial information. The law gives America's federal courts wide latitude to allow parties in litigation abroad to obtain documents or other evidence from people or companies in the U.S. for use in a foreign court—as long as those from whom the information is sought are not parties to the foreign litigation and not subject to the foreign court's jurisdiction.

Peter "Bo" Rutledge, a professor at the University of Georgia School of Law, told the Daily Report in April that the Eleventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta has "developed a bit of a reputation for being especially friendly" to 1782 petitions and predicted that Helga Glock had "a very strong claim."

In her order, Walker said she found nothing to suggest she should turn down the request. "Based on the information presented thus far, the court cannot conclude that the information in the proposed subpoena is unduly intrusive and burdensome," the judge's order states.

The subpoenaed information includes: five years of corporate financial statements from Glock's Georgia companies' general ledgers, financial and fair-market evaluations of the companies' assets and net equity, auditor reports and internal financial reports prepared for corporate board members or company executives, corporate tax returns, tax audits, and any financial transactions involving insurance companies owned or controlled by any Glock affiliate.

Helga Glock's attorneys have also subpoenaed documents detailing the distribution of corporate dividends and who received them as well as corporate salaries, bonuses, profits, management and service fees that have been paid to Glock shareholders, including Gaston Glock.

The subpoenas also sought all contracts between Glock's Georgia companies and any other Glock affiliate—including leasing agreements, capital infusions, loans and any information that would depict Gaston Glock's direct or indirect ownership interest in any Glock affiliate.

According to an affidavit that Helga Glock including in the Atlanta court papers, she and her former husband were married in 1962 and she assisted him in transforming his garage metal shop in an Austrian village into his firearms empire. Until 1999, Helga Glock owned 15 percent of the shares of the Austrian parent company; Gaston Glock held the remaining 85 percent.

That changed after one of Gaston Glock's corporate lieutenants, Charles Ewert, attempted to have him assassinated in Luxembourg in 1999, according to court papers. Glock survived the attempt, fighting off the would-be assassin with his fists. Luxembourg authorities eventually arrested and secured Ewert's conviction as well as that of the hit man he hired.

After surviving the attempt on his life, Gaston Glock and his wife created a private family trust into which they placed nearly all of the Austrian parent company's assets and, eventually, a second trust that contained at least 172 million euros
and assorted real estate acquired during the marriage and the patenting and licensing rights to the Glock pistol.

After Glock suffered a stroke in 2008, he began an affair with a woman at the clinic where he was being treated, according to Helga Glock's affidavit, and he subsequently broke off all contact with his wife, children and grandchildren. Eventually, according to Helga Glock's affidavit, Gaston Glock removed her and the couple's children as beneficiaries of the family trusts, filed for divorce to end their 48-year marriage and, subsequently, married his paramour.

The case in Atlanta is *In re Application of: H.M.G.*, No. 1:13-mi-0038.
United Nations executive has UGA ties

Brad Mannion | Posted: Wednesday, June 12, 2013 9:30 am

The University of Georgia acts as a family to many people — filled with numerous mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters. But within this family of thousands, there is one member to regard — a notable Cousin.

Ertharin Cousin, a UGA School of Law alumnna, is using her education in law differently than most, as she is the acting executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme.

Cousin assumed her role as the 12th executive director on April 5, 2012, and from there, she has continued to oversee “approximately 15,000 staff serving about 100 million beneficiaries in 78 countries across the world,” according to her biography on www.wfp.org.

Aside from her work “improving the lives of hungry people worldwide” and “[raising] awareness of food insecurity and chronic malnutrition,” according to the biography, Cousin also worked under President Bill Clinton, serving as the White House Liaison to the State Department.

For 2013, Forbes ranked Cousin 49th on “The World’s 100 Most Powerful Women” list — only nine spots behind Queen Elizabeth II of England and four behind Lady Gaga.

Cousin was also named one of the top 11 black women on the Forbes list — an honor she shares with first lady Michelle Obama and TV personality Oprah Winfrey.

Cousin was not able to be contacted, as she has traveled to Cuba for “official meetings and field visit,” according to her appointment schedule on www.wfp.org.

But in her speech given during the WFP executive board’s annual session on June 3, Cousin outlined efforts done by her and WFP to better food production and distribution around the world.

“Countries around the world already have access to insurance pools supporting their agricultural systems,” Cousin said in the speech. “We are excited that African nations will now also benefit from these essential services. The future hand-over of the [African Risk Capacity] to a stand-alone specialized agency of the African Union will provide WFP with our clearest model to date of a successful partnership at the regional level, where we will truly say ‘we came, we saw, we worked together, and we handed over,’ and, in the same spirit, we are working as better partners.”

She also commended the WFP itself for the strategies used to strengthen the organization.

“Let me begin by talking about our continuing efforts to strengthen WFP,” Cousin said. “The Fit for Purpose exercise we initiated last year after comprehensive conversations held both from outside of WFP and within our own ranks, including all of you, led to the conclusion that strengthening WFP’s
organizational structure and internal technical capacities would provide the opportunity to move from a good WFP to a great WFP.
Why Justice Kennedy May Decide We’ve Been Thinking About Gay Marriage All Wrong

By Sonja West | Posted Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at 10:48 AM
| Posted Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at 10:48 AM

What Is Anthony Kennedy Thinking?

Why the Supreme Court justice might decide we’ve been thinking about gay marriage all wrong.

Supreme Court watchers have long made a national sport out of parsing Justice Anthony Kennedy’s every word. From issues as diverse as the death penalty, terrorism, and gay rights, Kennedy has been the only conservative justice to vote with the court’s more liberal wing. It’s not surprising, therefore, that as we wait for the court’s decision on same-sex marriage bans, the search for clues to Kennedy’s thinking has shifted into high gear.

What is surprising, however, is that in this quest for insights into Kennedy’s frame of mind, pundits have virtually ignored one of the few things he flat-out told us about his views on same-sex marriage.

In March, during the oral argument about California’s same-sex marriage ban, Kennedy said that he was “trying to wrestle” with a “difficult question” about the constitutionality of same-sex marriage. The question on his mind was whether prohibitions on same-sex marriage are a form of gender discrimination. The lawyer defending the ban, Charles Cooper, responded that this was a case about sexual orientation, not gender, and the argument quickly moved in a different direction.

But we shouldn’t dismiss Kennedy’s question about gender discrimination too hastily. The court’s precedents on gender might offer Kennedy the conservative compromise he is looking for: a way to recognize a constitutional right for same-sex marriage in a limited way.

The gender-discrimination argument is not complicated. Imagine Alice applies for a license to marry Charlie and it is granted. Yet if Bob applied for a license to marry Charlie, he would be denied. The crucial difference between Alice and Bob is, of course, their gender—not their sexual orientation. In fact, as we all know, homosexuals have long been free to marry members of the opposite sex. Thus, Kennedy is wrestling with the possibility that Bob is being discriminated against because he is a man and not because he is gay. And, if so, should the court apply the same level of heightened protection it traditionally applies whenever the...
government treats men and women differently?

Kennedy wouldn’t be the first to see the denial of marriage licenses to same-sex couples as gender discrimination. A plurality of the Supreme Court of Hawaii accepted this argument in a 1993 case and held that the state’s ban on same-sex marriage violated the state’s constitution (although a constitutional amendment allowing marriage to be limited to opposite-sex couples was later upheld.) Judge Stephen Reinhardt of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals similarly held in a 2009 order that denying a federal employee the ability to name his husband as his beneficiary amounted to sex-discrimination because the designation would have been allowed had he been a woman. Law professor Andrew Koppleman made the same argument in a New York University law review article, explaining, “[a]s a matter of definition, if the same conduct is prohibited or stigmatized when engaged in by a person of one sex, while it is tolerated when engaged in by a person of the other sex, then the party imposing the prohibition or stigma is discriminating on the basis of sex.”

A standard response to the gender-discrimination argument is that it’s not discrimination if both genders are denied the same benefit. In other words, because all men can only marry women and all women can only marry men, everyone is being treated equally. But this response is easily rebutted.

Laws that once prohibited interracial marriage were often described in the same “everybody loses” terms. Take, for example, Virginia’s anti-miscegenation law, which the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional in 1967 in *Loving v. Virginia*. The Virginia law declared it a crime if “any white person intermarry with a colored person, or any colored person intermarry with a white person.” Virginia argued to the Court that because the law punished “equally both the white and the Negro participants in an interracial marriage,” there was no Equal Protection violation. White people were free to get married, just not to nonwhites and vice versa. The court disagreed, and declared the law to be racially discriminatory.

During the arguments over California’s Proposition 8 banning gay marriage, Cooper’s response to Kennedy’s question offered another common, yet flawed, retort to the gender-discrimination argument. Cooper said that this case involves a gender-based classification only “in the sense that marriage itself is a gendered institution, a gendered term.” The government in the Hawaii case similarly argued “the right of persons of the same sex to marry one another does not exist because marriage, by definition and usage, means a special relationship between a man and a woman.”

Surely Kennedy could easily see through this kind of circular logic. Marriage is a “gendered term” that “by definition and usage” involves only members of the opposite sex precisely because we have always prohibited same-sex couples from marrying. In *Loving*, there was a similar reliance on the so-called natural state of marriage. The trial court judge declared “there was no cause for” interracial marriage because “God created the races ... and did not intend for the races to mix.” But it proves nothing to say that marriage is innately one way and must remain that way when—whether because of alleged divine order or legal fiat—it has never had the opportunity to be any other way. Marriage is no more an inherently gendered institution than an inherently racial one.

The gender-discrimination framework may appeal to Kennedy in other ways, too. During oral
argument, he expressed worry about the court about moving too far too fast. Bouncing between metaphors of entering “uncharted waters” or going off a “cliff” with its decision, Kennedy expressed a desire for the court to proceed cautiously “in light of the newness” of the issue.

This approach could help Kennedy with these concerns. He doesn’t have to break new legal ground by declaring a constitutional right to be free from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Instead, Kennedy could turn to the much more developed path of our constitutional protections against gender discrimination. The outcome (constitutional protection for same-sex marriages nationwide) would be revolutionary, but the basis for it (gender discrimination) would be familiar.

The reach of these cases is also naturally circumscribed. A gender-discrimination ruling on marriage would not, for example, determine how much constitutional protection a person might receive if he was fired from his job because of his sexual orientation. Kennedy could save that case for another day. It also does not give fodder to the slippery-slope argument about polygamy, which presents a problem of numbers and not gender.

Another advantage, at least perhaps in Kennedy’s worldview, is that his opinion need not hinge on a constitutional right to privacy. Kennedy could sidestep any icky feelings he might get from wading into privacy rights, which tend to include family-based freedoms like the right of procreation, childrearing, contraception, and abortion. Instead he could rest easy that a gender-discrimination decision would put this case squarely in the Equal Protection chapter of future constitutional law textbooks.

Of course, we will know soon enough if Kennedy is really writing the court’s opinion on gay marriage or not. But if he does, and if he chooses to rely on the traditional framework of gender discrimination, we can’t say he didn’t try to warn us.

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At the Supreme Court, New Regulation Targets Demonstrations

Tony Mauro
The National Law Journal
06-13-2013

The Supreme Court moved quickly on Thursday to respond to a recent district judge's decision that struck down the federal law banning demonstrations on the grounds of the court.

With the approval of Chief Justice John Roberts Jr., court marshal Pamela Talkin promulgated a new regulation that invokes a different law to prohibit "demonstrations" on court grounds. The regulation includes "picketing, speechmaking, marching, holding vigils or religious services and all other like forms of conduct that involve the communication or expression of views or grievances, engaged in by one or more persons, the conduct of which is reasonably likely to draw a crowd or onlookers." It adds that "casual use by visitors or tourists" is not covered by the regulation.

The new regulation cites 40 U.S.C. 6012, which gives the marshal the authority to issue regulations to protect individuals and property at the court and to maintain "suitable order and decorum."

The wording of both the new regulation and the law under which it was issued appear to be more specific in some ways than the broad prohibition under 40 U.S.C. 6135 that prompted U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell on June 11 to strike down that law on First Amendment grounds.

"The absolute prohibition on expressive activity in the statute [6135] is unreasonable, substantially overbroad, and irreconcilable with the First Amendment," wrote Howell in a 68-page ruling in the case Hodge v. Talkin. In a court filing Thursday morning, the new Supreme Court regulation was submitted to Howell as part of the record in the case.

But at least one lawyer who has represented protesters arrested on court grounds thinks the new regulation is just as overbroad as the law that Howell struck down. "It maybe gets rid of some of the harsher edges," said Mark Goldstone, a Maryland solo practitioner. "But now we will have to find out what a demonstrator is. The court is still prohibiting First Amendment activities on the court plaza. I think Judge Howell will be very disappointed."

Asked if he would challenge the new regulation when it is invoked against a demonstrator, Goldstone said, "Sure." He also said the new development suggests the court is "walking away from Section 6135, and realizing it is unsalvageable."

The law Howell struck down has been invoked to arrest individuals ranging from death penalty protestors to kneeling ministers and Princeton University scholar Cornel West.

The statute makes it illegal to "parade, stand, or move in processions or assemblages in the Supreme Court Building or grounds, or to display in the Building and grounds a flag, banner, or device designed or adapted to bring into public notice a party, organization, or movement."
That language is so broad, Howell found, that it could apply to groups of tourists, court employees, or even a "familiar line of preschool students ... holding hands with chaperones, parading on the plaza on their first field trip to the Supreme Court." The new regulation focuses more closely on demonstrations intended to draw attention.

In her ruling Tuesday, Howell specifically mentioned Section 6102 as a law that "does not leave the Supreme Court plaza unprotected." She also cited a local D.C. law that bars obstruction of entrances to public buildings.

The Howell decision came in the case of Harold Hodge Jr., a Maryland resident who was arrested in January, 2011 for standing on the court's marble plaza while holding a small sign that read "The U.S. Gov. Allows Police To Illegally Murder and Brutalize African Americans And Hispanic People." Court police told Hodge three times that he was in violation of 40 U.S.C. 6135 and he refused to depart.

Hodge was charged with violating the law, but later that year, charges were dropped after he agreed to stay away from the court and its grounds for six months.

In January 2012, Hodge filed a suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, stating that he wanted to return to the court to engage in "peaceful, non-disruptive political speech and expression." With the aid of lawyers from the Rutherford Institute, Hodge challenged the constitutionality of the law. Talkin was the named defendant, along with U.S. Attorney Ronald Machen Jr.

Goldstone said the ruling was "the first chink in the armor, the first break we've had" in challenging the law, which he said "creates a First Amendment-free zone in an area that is completely open to the public."

But Goldstone was not optimistic that Howell's ruling would survive an appeal. "The Roberts Court has been good on the First Amendment, but they have a vested interest in this issue," he said. "It's their own backyard."

University of Georgia School of Law professor Sonja West, a First Amendment expert who once clerked at the Supreme Court, agreed that the justices "clearly have more than a passing interest in what goes on outside their chambers' window. They also care deeply about protecting the decorum of the Court."

But West predicted the high court would still take the issue seriously — if the case reaches the justices.

"Such an absolute ban on speech is striking. Judge Howell's opinion is thoughtful and thorough," West said. "It will certainly cause them to think seriously about this law."

Tony Mauro can be contacted at tmauro@alm.com.
Funeral for Towson set for Monday

Macon area skaters hope to highlight need for public skate park during Go Skateboarding Day

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ATLANTA JC[REG]: ADAMS REFLECTS ON HIS TIME AT UGA AND THE FUTURE

Jun 15 2013 20:58:48

By Laura Diamond The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

June 15--Michael Adams will step down as president of the University of Georgia June 30, having led the flagship institution for 16 years.

He is the last of a trio of long-serving research university presidents. Wayne Clough left Georgia Tech in 2008 after 14 years and Carl Patton retired from Georgia State University in 2008 after 16 years.

UGA became more respected during Adams’ tenure and is now consistently ranked among the top 25 public colleges in the country.

Adams sat down with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution last week to discuss his time at UGA and challenges facing colleges and the state. (Editor’s note: This interview was edited for brevity and clarity.)

Q: Why step down now? When you announced your plans last May you said you had reached the decision only a few weeks prior.

A: I think a lot of things came together. My daddy just passed away. I was very close to him and I was emotionally wrung out. I knew I was turning 65 this year. My third grandchild was in the oven. We completed the health sciences campus and got the engineering school started, so a lot of the things that I had come here to do were done. And I was tired. More tired than I had been. I had always told myself that when I got to the point that I was not thinking, “Boy, I really want to get up the next day and go do this,” that it was time.

Q: How much of your decision was because of funding battles and fights here and nationally about the value of college?

A: That’s a big part of what I’m talking about when I talk about being tired. I was tired of the battles. The last three years have been very tough for all of us. I know it’s been tough for the Legislature and the governor. But we have sustained cuts approaching $150 million here, and that’s real money. I was frustrated by what we haven’t been able to do for faculty.

There just comes a time when you’ve fought enough battles and accumulated enough scars, that it’s time to let someone else fight those battles.

Q: You regret not being able to give faculty raises. What other regrets do you have? What haven’t you achieved that you wished you did?

A: Not much. I don’t want to be self-serving about that. We’ve tripled the endowment. We’ve attracted hundreds of really bright people, top faculty and key students. They are the strongest ever. We’ve moved up in all the rankings, not as high as I would have liked in a couple of cases, but we’ve moved up considerably. I’ve pretty well done what the (Board of) Regents asked me to do when they hired me.

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Q: Part of UGA’s rise is attributed to the HOPE scholarship. How important is HOPE to UGA?

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-D- Jun 16/2013 00:58 GMT
From Supreme Court's swing voter, a clue on possible gay marriage ruling (Commentary)
ATHENS, Ga. — Supreme Court watchers have long made a national sport out of parsing Justice Anthony Kennedy’s every word. From issues as diverse as the death penalty, terrorism and gay rights, Kennedy has been the only conservative justice to vote with the court’s more liberal wing. It’s not surprising, therefore, that as we wait for the court’s decision on same-sex marriage bans, the search for clues to Kennedy’s thinking has shifted into high gear.

What is surprising, however, is that in this quest for insights into Kennedy’s frame of mind, pundits have virtually ignored one of the few things he flat-out told us about his views on same-sex marriage.

In March, during the oral argument about California’s same-sex marriage ban, Kennedy said that he was “trying to wrestle” with a “difficult question” about the constitutionality of same-sex marriage.

The question on his mind was whether prohibitions on same-sex marriage are a form of gender discrimination.

The lawyer defending the ban, Charles Cooper, responded that this was a case about sexual orientation, not gender, and the argument quickly moved in a different direction.

But we shouldn’t dismiss Kennedy’s question about gender discrimination too hastily. The court’s precedents on gender might offer Kennedy the conservative compromise he is looking for: a way to recognize a constitutional right for same-sex marriage in a limited way.

The gender-discrimination argument is not complicated. Imagine Alice applies for a license to marry Charlie and it is granted. Yet if Bob applied for a license to marry Charlie, he would be denied.
The crucial difference between Alice and Bob is, of course, their gender — not their sexual orientation.

In fact, as we all know, homosexuals have long been free to marry members of the opposite sex.

Thus, Kennedy is wrestling with the possibility that Bob is being discriminated against because he is a man and not because he is gay.

And, if so, should the court apply the same level of heightened protection it traditionally applies whenever the government treats men and women differently?

**VIEW HAS PRECEDENTS**

Kennedy wouldn’t be the first to see the denial of marriage licenses to same-sex couples as gender discrimination.

A plurality of the Supreme Court of Hawaii accepted this argument in a 1993 case and held that the state’s ban on same-sex marriage violated the state’s constitution (although a constitutional amendment allowing marriage to be limited to opposite-sex couples was later upheld).

Judge Stephen Reinhardt of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals similarly held in a 2009 order that denying a federal employee the ability to name his husband as his beneficiary amounted to sex-discrimination because the designation would have been allowed had he been a woman.

Law professor Andrew Koppleman made the same argument in a New York University law review article, explaining, “[as] a matter of definition, if the same conduct is prohibited or stigmatized when engaged in by a person of one sex, while it is tolerated when engaged in by a person of the other sex, then the party imposing the prohibition or stigma is discriminating on the basis of sex.”

A standard response to the gender-discrimination argument is that it’s not discrimination if both genders are denied the same benefit.

In other words, because all men can only marry women and all women can only marry men, everyone is being treated equally. But this response is easily rebutted.

Laws that once prohibited interracial marriage were often described in the same “everybody loses” terms.

Take, for example, Virginia’s anti-miscegenation law, which the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional in 1967 in Loving v. Virginia.

The Virginia law declared it a crime if “any white person intermarry with a colored person, or any colored person intermarry with a white person.”
Virginia argued to the Court that because the law punished “equally both the white and the Negro participants in an interracial marriage,” there was no Equal Protection violation.

White people were free to get married, just not to nonwhites and vice versa. The court disagreed, and declared the law to be racially discriminatory.

**Struggling with the question of whether prohibitions on same-sex marriage are a form of gender discrimination.**

Cooper said that this case involves a gender-based classification only “in the sense that marriage itself is a gendered institution, a gendered term.”

The government in the Hawaii case similarly argued “the right of persons of the same sex to marry one another does not exist because marriage, by definition and usage, means a special relationship between a man and a woman.”

Surely Kennedy could easily see through this kind of circular logic.

Marriage is a “gendered term” that “by definition and usage” involves only members of the opposite sex precisely because we have always prohibited same-sex couples from marrying.

In Loving, there was a similar reliance on the so-called natural state of marriage. The trial court judge declared “there was no cause for” interracial marriage because “God created the races . . . and did not intend for the races to mix.”

But it proves nothing to say that marriage is innately one way and must remain that way when — whether because of alleged divine order or legal fiat — it has never had the opportunity to be any other way.

Marriage is no more an inherently gendered institution than an inherently racial one.

The gender-discrimination framework may appeal to Kennedy in other ways, too. During oral argument, he expressed worry about the court about moving too far too fast.

Bouncing between metaphors of entering “uncharted waters” or going off a “cliff” with its decision, Kennedy expressed a desire for the court to proceed cautiously “in light of the newness” of the issue.
This approach could help Kennedy with these concerns. He doesn't have to break new legal ground by declaring a constitutional right to be free from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Instead, Kennedy could turn to the much more developed path of our constitutional protections against gender discrimination.

The outcome (constitutional protection for same-sex marriages nationwide) would be revolutionary, but the basis for it (gender discrimination) would be familiar.

The reach of these cases is also naturally circumscribed. A gender-discrimination ruling on marriage would not, for example, determine how much constitutional protection a person might receive if he was fired from his job because of his sexual orientation.

Kennedy could save that case for another day.

It also does not give fodder to the slippery-slope argument about polygamy, which presents a problem of numbers and not gender.

Another advantage, at least perhaps in Kennedy's worldview, is that his opinion need not hinge on a constitutional right to privacy.

Kennedy could side-step any icky feelings he might get from wading into privacy rights, which tend to include family-based freedoms like the right of procreation, childrearing, contraception, and abortion.

Instead he could rest easy that a gender-discrimination decision would put this case squarely in the Equal Protection chapter of future constitutional law textbooks.

Of course, we will know soon enough if Kennedy is really writing the court's opinion on gay marriage or not. But if he does, and if he chooses to rely on the traditional framework of gender discrimination, we can't say he didn't try to warn us.

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Sonja West is an associate professor at the University of Georgia School of Law and a former law clerk to Justice John Paul Stevens.
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We still have about 40 percent of the schools in this state that are not producing competitive young people. That is what worries me about the state for my grandchildren. We've got to figure out better ways to bring up the lower schools.

We need a leadership class in this state that represents the ethnicities in this state. That's to the state's benefit. And I think we have an important role to play in that.

I've supported affirmative action and I've been asked how long it needs to go on. I don't think affirmative action, as we've known it, will last or should last. But we can argue about when is an appropriate time.

I grew up in Jim Crow. I remember separate bathrooms and water fountains. My late father was well ahead of his time. He came at it from a very committed religious perspective about how a lot of people weren't treated properly. He didn't get much more philosophical about it than that. But that stuck with me from a pretty young age. I don't want to be melodramatic about it, but it's one of the things that people who know me know have driven me. I think if we challenge minorities properly they can, and will, and have risen to the bar.

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Source: University System of Georgia, University of Georgia.Metro & Obituaries
ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Office of Legal Affairs
Beth Bailey, a veteran legal adviser at UGA, has been named interim executive director of the university's Office of Legal Affairs. The appointment, announced by President-elect Jere Morehead, is effective July 1.

Bailey joined the Office of Legal Affairs in 1994 as a legal research associate and has served as associate director for legal affairs since 1997.

She advises campus units on legal, policy and liability issues. She also conducts training for members of the university community in areas of employment law and university policies and procedures.

School of Law
Lonnie T. Brown Jr., who joined the School of Law faculty in 2002, will become the school's associate dean of academic affairs July 1, upon the retirement of Paul M. Kurtz.

Specializing in civil procedure and legal ethics, Brown is the holder of the A. Gus Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism at the law school. He is also very active in the broader legal community, serving on the Drafting Committee for the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam and on the State Bar of Georgia Formal Advisory Opinion Board.

Finance and Administration
Ryan Nesbit, an administrator who has overseen the budget planning process at UGA for the past 13 years, has been named interim vice president for finance and administration.

Nesbit is currently budget director and senior associate vice president for finance and administration, a position in which he assists in the day-to-day management of all units reporting to the Office of the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration.

His appointment as interim vice president is effective July 1.
Lease-to-Own Company Aaron's Signs Up New GC

Shannon Green
Corporate Counsel
06-17-2013

Atlanta-based Aaron's Inc. has put money down on Robert Kamerschen, the lease-to-own retailer’s new general counsel. He is responsible for managing all aspects of the company’s legal and compliance work, including regulatory matters, intellectual property, litigation, vendor relationships, financings, and acquisitions.

Aaron's currently has more than 2,085 stores throughout the United States and in parts of Canada, offering furniture, electronics, appliances, and home accessories.

Kamerschen heads a seven-member legal department at Aaron's. The new GC has a history of team leadership. Before he went to law school, Kamerschen spent a season pitching for a minor league affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies. He recalls his stint as an amazing time, despite being a "struggling apprenticeship where you get paid nothing, travel on buses for 10 hours at a time, play every day," and have little chance of making it to the majors.

Pitching-arm problems cut Kamerschen’s pro baseball career short, but he later got to do legal work for Major League Baseball franchise the Atlanta Braves. The team was a client at Troutman Sanders, where Kamerschen began his legal career. After five years with the firm, he left to take an in-house position with another client, software provider EzGov Europe.

Kamerschen joined Aaron's on June 3 from Equifax Inc., where he served as U.S. chief counsel, senior vice president, and chief compliance officer. Starting in 2008, he managed the credit reporting agency's U.S. legal function, compliance, and government relations. Kamerschen previously spent six years as vice president of law and public policy at information services provider ChoicePoint Inc.

From a compliance perspective, he says, his in-house positions have prepared him well for his newest role. "In the environment we're in now, 'we' being all American businesses, there is a lot of scrutiny from regulators who are looking at business practices of all sorts—from how you do marketing to how you guard consumer data," he says. "All of that focus from a regulatory standpoint really is right at the core of what I was doing at ChoicePoint and Equifax. Information services companies have always been under that light."

The new GC will report to Aaron's CEO Ronald Allen, who joined the company in 2011 and formally took the reins last year. Kamerschen says integrity is important to Allen, and he anticipates that the ex-Delta Air Lines Inc. chief executive will get behind his own efforts to make Aaron’s a better and more tightly run company. "I think any general counsel will tell you that having the support of your CEO is really one of the most important factors," Kamerschen notes.

Kamerschen grew up around the Athens campus of the University of Georgia, where his father has taught economics since the early 70s. "My high school was literally in the middle of the campus," says the GC. He earned his bachelor's degree from Stanford, but returned to UGA for law school, graduating in 1994.

Kamerschen replaced Elizabeth Gibbs, who left Aaron's at the end of last year.
'Gideon's Army' Rallies Its Troops For Justice

Lawyer-filmmaker's HBO documentary tells story of two crusading Georgia public defenders

By Meredith Hobbs Contact All Articles

Daily Report June 17, 2013

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After almost two decades as a corporate lawyer, Dawn Porter took a career U-turn and made a documentary about public defenders in the South. The film, Gideon's Army, will air on HBO on July 1.

"Doing this changed my life. It's been my honor to follow these young people around and my honor to show you their work," Porter told a packed house June 11 at the Carter Center for the film's Atlanta premiere.

Three years in the making, Gideon's Army tells the stories of two Georgia public defenders, Travis Williams and Brandy Alexander, and Mississippi lawyer June Hardwick as they fight for their clients while juggling enormous caseloads and big student loan payments on low salaries.

Gideon's Army provoked crying, laughter and spontaneous applause during the Atlanta screening. Porter and her crew took about 550 hours of footage and compressed it into a tight 96-minute film as gripping and suspenseful as any of the fictional dramas, like The Wire, that HBO has aired.

In the film Williams and Alexander work doggedly to help two clients, both teenage boys charged with armed robbery, fight prosecution in a system where high bonds, steep mandatory sentences and limited resources wear down even the most dedicated public defenders.

Williams' client is accused of robbing a pizza delivery man at knife point, and Alexander's is accused of robbing a neighborhood pizza parlor with a gun. The stakes are high. An armed robbery charge carries a 10-year mandatory minimum with a maximum of life in Georgia.

HBO bought Gideon's Army after seeing just 20 minutes of footage, Porter said. The film went on to win the Sundance Film Festival's Editing Award in January.

Williams, Alexander and their mentor, Jon Rapping, were on hand for the Atlanta premiere. Rapping is the founder of Gideon's Promise, an Atlanta-based training and support network for public defenders which connected Porter with the young lawyers. The organization takes its name from the 1963 Supreme Court decision, Gideon v. Wainwright, which says the state must provide lawyers for criminal defendants who cannot afford to hire their own.

The judges who appear in the film, Hall County Superior Court Judge Jason Deal in Gainesville, where Williams works, and Clayton County Superior Court Judge Matthew Simmons in Jonesboro, where Alexander used to work, also attended, along with former clients and their families.
Gideon's Army' Rallies Its Troops For Justice

'Made away' by PDs

Making Gideon's Army, Porter said, opened her eyes to the realities of the American criminal justice system, and she hopes it does the same for others.

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DeKalb CEO accused of strong-arming vendors

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By April Hunt

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Burrell Ellis, twice elected to the top post in Georgia's third-largest county under a pledge of progress, was indicted Tuesday afternoon on 15 counts of political corruption that could bring a stunning end to his once-promising career.

DeKalb County District Attorney Robert James read the list of charges — including extortion, theft and conspiracy — after a daylong presentment to a grand jury. It accuses Ellis of ordering county staff to compile a list of vendors he allegedly hit up for cash in his CEO campaign, and threatening to punish firms that did not contribute.

By Tuesday night, Ellis had already reported to DeKalb County Jail and posted $25,000 bond.

Ellis did not answer questions Tuesday. One of his attorneys, former DeKalb district attorney J. Tom Morgan, said Ellis was withholding comment until he could review the indictment.

The case now heads to arraignment and the indictment heads to Gov. Nathan Deal, who must decide whether to suspend Ellis from the chief executive's job he has held since 2009.

But even without being removed, the charges alone could be the most damaging black eye to the image of DeKalb, already battered by the pending racketeering prosecution of former DeKalb Schools Superintendent Crawford Lewis and Deal's decision to replace most members of the county school board.

"We are all just stunned," said County Commissioner Elaine Boyer, a one-time Ellis ally who has butted heads with him since his elevation from commissioner to CEO. "It's a very sad day in DeKalb County."

The 17-page indictment paints Ellis as desperate for campaign contributions during his 2012 re-election campaign, despite being heavily favored to win against two unknowns.

The rivals raised $165,656 and $3,335 for their bids, according to campaign reports filed with the state. By comparison, Ellis raised $332,830.

But the indictments allege Ellis was vengeful when at least three companies doing business with DeKalb didn't give:
DeKalb CEO accused of strong-arming vendors

The indictment says when workers at those companies didn’t respond to Ellis’ strong-arm tactics, Ellis ordered the county’s purchasing director to keep them from winning future contracts.

CIBER, for instance, lost out on a share of a $4 million consulting contract in 2012, county records show.

But, despite the threats, records reveal that NPI won $201,065 in contracts to rehab foreclosed homes in the county since last year.

"Of course I am aggressive in seeking contributions to my campaign. That’s how you win," Ellis said in an exclusive interview with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution in January, hours after investigators from the DA’s office seized records from his home and office, searching, among other things, for campaign records and county contracts.

But, Ellis adamantly denied ever promising a contract for donors or penalizing companies that did not contribute.

"If I know someone is soliciting a contract with the county, I generally won’t even meet with them," Ellis said, adding he also avoided the appearance of conflict by making campaign-related calls from a friend’s Decatur business.

In January, DA investigators filed three search warrants, two seeking wiretaps on cellular phones that yielded two discs of material that are sealed as part of the special grand jury investigating allegations of corruption in the county.

They did not execute a third warrant on the phone number at the office Ellis used at R.L. Brown & Associates architects.

"It breaks your heart," said Albert Trujillo, the retiree who has served as the foreman of the special grand jury, whose yearlong investigation remains under seal but was apparently the blueprint for the indictment.

"Here’s all these people working as hard as they can ... then you see these guys that are taking advantage of all these people," Trujillo said. "They are taking their money, their tax money."

Portraying Ellis as a politician adept at twisting arms and punishing challengers to his power could present its own challenges, though.

An Ivy-League-educated lawyer, Ellis has long been known as so button-down and formal that friends and detractors alike refer to him as Urkel, the nerdy character from a popular 1990s’ sitcom.

He often clashed with the County Commission over political power, but also once taught classes in collaborative problem-solving to law students at Georgia State University.

James and prosecutors from his public corruption unit must tackle those disparities while simultaneously undertaking other big cases, such as the school racketeering case, said University of Georgia law professor Ronald Carlson.

"It’s going to be a difficult, complex case," Carlson said. "Public corruption cases are often the province of the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Unless he felt he had a team in place that could do that, he would not have brought this indictment."

James would not comment on the indictment or answer if the charges tie into his yearlong investigation with the special purpose grand jury that looked into possible corruption in county water and sewer contracts.

James and Ellis remain locked in a legal battle over a Superior Court judge’s ruling that Ellis and his former campaign manager, Kevin Ross, could preview the special grand jury’s still-sealed report to see if they are named in it.

Investigators searched the homes and offices of both men in January looking for evidence of crimes such as bid-rigging. None of the six firms listed in those raids was mentioned in Tuesday’s indictment.

But the lingering questions, especially on the heels of six school board members suspended from office in March, have left some county residents disillusioned.

“Every elected official in DeKalb County seems to be a crook,” said Robert Robertson, a retired Realtor who lives near DeKalb-Peachtree Airport.

He said he and a lot of his friends voted for Ellis because he looked “polished” and seemed honest. Then, Robertson read about how connected some of Ellis’ campaign supporters were.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported in February that nearly 40 percent — almost $600,000 — of the campaign cash Ellis collected had come from firms that either worked, or wanted to work, for the county.
"You don't have a chance unless you're in the shakedown," Robertson said. "It's disgraceful."

Staff writers Rhonda Cook, Marcus Garner, Ty Tagami and Steve Visser contributed to this article.

What's next

Governor's decision. Gov. Nathan Deal will have to set the legal process in motion that could end with DeKalb CEO Burrell Ellis being removed from office. If that happens, Commissioner Lee May would take over as CEO.

Arraignment. Ellis will soon appear in court and will be allowed to enter a plea.

Special grand jury report. Ellis is under criminal indictment now. But it's still unclear whether more accusations could result from a report still under seal by a grand jury that spent a year looking into contracting in DeKalb's water department.

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Another part of the Atlanta/DeKalb Black Mafia. Greedy and corrupt.

• Posted by notevensurprised at 9:05 a.m. Jun. 19, 2013
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dekalb superintendent, dekalb school board, now dekalb CEO well i guess when monkeys run things they continue until it is run into the ground and there is nothing left but ashes...of course he didn't do it and he is innocent...well he pissed somebody off really bad and they told, don't think they will bring false accusations against him, nor would the local DA bring charges if they didn't have anything on him...but of course being a politician he will run to the camera to claim "i did nothing
In a news release, Buckhead attorney Tom Tidwell Thursday announced he will run for the at-large Seat 8 on the Atlanta Board of Education in the November general election. The seat is currently held by Reuben McDaniel, who also serves as the board chairman. Tidwell, a lifelong Atlanta resident, cited wasteful spending, rising class sizes and shrinking graduation rates as his motivation for seeking a position on the board.

"As a parent with two children in the Atlanta Public School system," he said, "I feel like I owe it to my daughters and to the children of Atlanta to get involved and bring leadership, fiscal responsibility, hard work and a vision for the future to the board.

"Following the [CRCT] cheating scandal, we've seen some alarming trends in Atlanta's public schools. There have been some huge increases in administrative salaries downtown, but teacher salaries have been frozen. At the same time, class sizes have increased and graduation rates have declined."

When asked what he saw as the most pressing concerns for Atlanta's schools, Tidwell quickly pointed to getting control of the budget process and improving early education programs.

"Our children need to be able to read by the time they graduate third grade. Unfortunately, the children that need help the most are being left behind before they even have a chance," he said. "We have to improve our early education programs so that these children can learn basic skills that provide them with a fighting chance to succeed in school and later on in life. To do this, we need to get control of the budget process so that limited resources are spent more effectively. This starts by learning where money is being spent and then redirecting it into the classroom, not administrative salaries downtown."

Tidwell also touched on how important he believes public education is not just for parents but for the city of Atlanta as a whole.
"A floundering education system hinders our entire city. Strong schools support strong communities, and strong communities support economic development, both locally and city-wide," he said. "A strong school system makes Atlanta a more attractive place for businesses to relocate, which brings more jobs to the city."

Tidwell also pointed to a lack of leadership within the board since McDaniel became chairman at the beginning of 2012.

"The two most important things the Board does [are] select a superintendent and pass a budget. Under McDaniel's leadership, the board failed on both accounts," he said. "McDaniel oversaw two huge budget deficits - $16 million in 2012 and $60 million in 2013. As chairman, McDaniel actively delayed finding a new superintendent. APS is at a crossroads. Finding the next superintendent will be the most important decision the Board makes. It will shape the future of public education in Atlanta for the next generation of children."

Tidwell earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Georgia State University in 1989. He graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law, cum laude, in 1992. He and his wife of 20 years have two daughters who attend Atlanta Public Schools. Tidwell has served as a member of the Morris Brandon Elementary School council task force. He is a trustee of Northside Methodist Church and also serves on the church's sports and recreation board. Tidwell is vice-chairman of the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods and serves as a board member of the West Paces Northside Neighborhood Association.

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Savannah, Georgia, Age 72, died Wednesday, June 19, 2013, at Candler Hospital. He was born in Savannah, the son of James T. Collins, Sr. and Bertis Bland Collins. Mr. Collins earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. He joined Miller Brewing Company as Director of the Treasury Division and was the first recipient of the Philip Morris, Inc. Chairman's Award. He also taught tax law at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and was the Executive Director of the Deloitte Multistate Tax Center. Mr. Collins was the 1994 corporate Wisconsin tax professional of the year and the author of numerous tax books. He served as Vice President and member of the Board of Directors of the University of Wisconsin Foundation. He also served as Chairman of the Board of St. Michael's Hospital, First Presbyterian Day School and was a former moderator of Presbyterian Churches (PCA) in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. His wife, Elizabeth Wylly Collins preceded him in death. Surviving are his children, James T. Collins, III and his wife, Angela of Melbourne, Australia; Lachlan C. Ivy and her husband, James of Savannah, Georgia; Wylly H. Collins and his wife, Kristin of Montgomery, Alabama; grandchildren, Amelia, Melissa, Nathaniel, Oliver, and William.

Visitation: 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM, Monday, June 24, 2013 at Fox & Weeks Funeral Directors, Hodgson Chapel. Funeral: 2:00 PM, Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at Independent Presbyterian Church. Burial: Bonaventure Cemetery. Please sign our online guestbook at www.foxandweeks.com Fox & Weeks Funeral Directors, Hodgson Chapel, Savannah, Georgia

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UGA law grad’s passion for justice lands him in HBO movie

By LEE SHEARER  updated Saturday, June 22, 2013 - 9:39pm

A former Athens rapper and University of Georgia law student is a star in a new documentary set to air on HBO.

But the documentary focuses less on his music and more on his fierce dedication to the impoverished defendants he represents as a Hall County public defender.

"If I don't do all I need to do, somebody's going to go to prison," said Trav Williams, one of three young public defenders profiled in director Dawn Porter's "Gideon's Army."

The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year and is scheduled for HBO broadcast 9 p.m. July 1.

Williams' job is seven days a week, but he doesn't mind so much. What he does, he believes, is civil rights work by protecting society's least powerful people.

One part of "Gideon's Army" shows a tattoo artist at work on Williams’ back. If he takes a case to court and loses, Williams has his client’s named tattooed on his back. So far, he’s lost eight cases out of 25.

“I really enjoy it and wouldn’t do anything else. It’s not easy, but anything worth doing is not easy,” said Williams, who released his first rap album in 2005, the same year he graduated from UGA law school.

He’s also passionate about his music, but rap is for fun, one of the things that keeps him going in a crazy world.

“I just do it for love and for the opportunity it gives me to express myself,” he said. “I try to keep a couple of things in my life that make sense and help me maintain my sanity. One is my music, and my work is another.”

And in his work as a public defender, he’s doing
something he's wanted to do since he was a younger growing up in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where like many other young black males, he was routinely harassed by police.

"I always knew I wanted to be a public defender before I knew what a public defender was," he says in the documentary. "I love my job, I love my work, I love my clients, but there are things I hate. I hate how this country treats poor people. I hate how individuals treat poor people. So that's my hate that keeps me fighting."

Williams met Porter, a former corporate lawyer, when Porter visited Alabama's Gideon's Promise, which trains public defenders.

The names of both the movie and the training institute refer to the landmark 1953 U.S. Supreme Court decision, Gideon v. Wainwright, in which a poor Florida man, Clarence Earl Gideon, argued that the U.S. Constitution guaranteed that even poor people had the right to a fair trial. And to get a fair trial, a person needs a lawyer.

The Supreme Court agreed, but 50 years later, the ruling remains more promise than reality, according to Porter.

Authorities arrest about 12 million to 15 million people each year in the United States, far more than any other country in the world. The U.S., Porter says, also leads the world by a wide margin in the number of people behind bars — about 2.3 to 2.5 million at a cost of $74 billion a year.

Public defenders routinely have caseloads in the hundreds, too many to give effective representation to the poor and powerless they serve, argue Porter and Jonathan Rapping, president and founder of Gideon's Promise.

"The greatest civil rights abuses are happening today to poor people and people of color in the criminal justice system," Rapping says in the documentary.

In some states, 80 percent of defendants cannot afford a lawyer, said Rapping. In many places, most notoriously in Florida's Miami-Dade County, there are too few public defenders to effectively represent their clients. The average Miami-Dade public defender has a caseload of about 500 felony cases and 225 misdemeanor cases, all at the same time, according to the movie.

The South in general stands out for the high rate of "broken" justice systems, according to Porter. About 90 percent of people charged with felonies plead guilty, but the choices that leads to many guilty pleas is a grim one, according to Porter — a five-year prison sentence for a guilty plea vs. a possible 10-year sentence if they're found guilty at trial.

"We are funneling people into the prison system," Porter said to interviewer Amy Goodman of Democracy Now at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

If Williams keeps on as a public defender, he might run out of space to tattoo clients' names on his back, but Williams isn't worried about that.
"As long as I'm a lawyer, I'm going to be a public defender," he said.

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21 posts
Kudos to you, Mr. Williams. As a physician working with the poor and disadvantaged, I interact with decent people every day who have been repeatedly harassed for nothing more than the pigment of their skin. There are some very fine people who work in the criminal justice system. However, there are also those who are woefully ill informed and misguided. He who refuses to be educated is responsible for ignominious prejudice to himself as well as his victims. Please keep up the good work!

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Gideon was in 1963, not 1953. Does the ABH even have researchers anymore?
HBO movie focuses on Georgia law school graduate

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) - A University of Georgia law student is a star in a new documentary set to air on HBO.

The documentary focuses Trav Williams' fierce dedication to the impoverished defendants he represents as a Hall County public defender.

The Athens Banner-Herald reports (http://bit.ly/1a4tkvU) that Williams is 1 of 3 young public defenders profiled in director Dawn Porter's "Gideon's Army."

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ADR: Mediation, Neuroscience And Your Brain

Mary Welch, Special to the Daily Report

Daily Report
2013-06-24 00:00:08.0

Real estate agents suggest the aroma of baking bread or cookies entices clients to buy houses. Stylists recommend wearing red because it implies power. What about spritzing a mediation room with a lavender essence to encourage a harmonious settlement?

Wait—what? Is the latter idea just a New Age fad or is it a common-sense solution grounded in science?

Mediators and law school professors increasingly are bringing neuroscience into mediations to reframe the conversations and promote reflection.

"The intersection of law and mediation is still a young field—cutting edge, actually—and we're still learning how the brain functions in decision-making. Neuroscience takes it into a few directions when you're talking about mediation," says Timothy Hedeen, professor of conflict management at Kennesaw State University.

"It's based on how you can manipulate the primal emotions and get to an area of trust and empathy. We are not wired, for instance, to accept unfairness. So how can your perception of fairness be applied in mediation so that you can go from someone who is pissed-off mad and wants to play hardball to someone who is willing to listen and negotiate? It's really changing how we think," Hedeen says.

Mediators approach their jobs in a variety of ways and develop tricks of the trade, learned through experience, to massage a situation in order to achieve a more organic and agreeable settlement.

Some mediators may privately be skeptical, but respectfully acknowledge the entry of neuroscience into the profession, while others dismiss the trend outright as New Age nonsense. Believers assert that those "trick" techniques are based less on intuition and experience and more on neuroscience, which is the study of the nervous system and how it deals with thoughts, emotions and behavior.

By understanding how the brain works, mediators can proactively and methodically direct a mediation toward a harmonious outcome. Rather than reacting to the emotions and energy in the room, mediators—using the underlying tenets of neuroscience—can change that energy and the way the parties view the mediation process itself, helping them understand why they ended up in mediation in the first place.

"You are not conducting group therapy," says Georgia Geiger, a Marietta-based mediator and owner of Above & Beyond Conflict. "But the new research is fairly accurate and what many would say is instinctual. The more we tap into the science the more we'll have more of a solid basis for success. Mediation influences people to change the way they think. When you look into the psychology and neuroscience of it, it becomes transformative."
Brain basics

Neuroscience is the study of the nervous system and how it deals with thought, emotion and behavior. The brain is divided into three basic parts, two of which—the brain stem and the prefrontal cortex—are at the heart of the mediation process, determining whether it will go forward or stall. The brain stem rules the basic human drives (flight, fight, food and fornication). Think of it as your primal instincts—crude, forceful and basic—to be acquired and protected at all costs.

The prefrontal cortex is the home of kinder, gentler, more evolved thinking. It takes us past our need for primary survival toward nonprimal social necessities, which are defined by SCARF: Status, Connection, Autonomy, Relationships and Fairness.

On a very basic level, neuroscience and mediation involve the mediator identifying which (or all) of the four basic drivers are in play, then negating them and unlocking the inner SCARF—moving from protect to connect.

In scientific terms, the process moves adrenalin, which is found in the fight/flight part of the brain, to oxytocin production, which triggers the more evolved, human state, Hedeen explains.

Mediation with neuroscience is a "framework for, on a fundamental level, quieting the noise—those perceived threats—in people's heads that may keep them from making a rational decision," says Ellie Lanier, managing attorney of the mediation practicum at the University of Georgia School of Law.

"With a deeper understanding of neuroscience and what's going on in the person's brain, you can understand why someone is willing to spend $3,000 in mediation and court fees to recover $300. You get everyone to take a step back, remove the threat—whatever it is—and then get to a place where SCARF becomes important. Then you can get down to fairness and moving forward."

Lanier cites a dispute where a landlord faced several tenants and reached settlements in all but one case.

"I was working with students in the law clinic on this situation and the landlord was in a fight-or-flight mode, and we were able to probe a bit and remove the threat," she says. "In this case, the threat was that the tenant had made some comment that the landlord took offense at and the landlord closed down. It was a threat to his status and he wasn't willing to negotiate with this tenant the way he did with the others. After that was dealt with, you can get down to a real mediation."

Getting to 'yes'

Two standard mediation techniques are based on neuroscience: priming and framing—filtering mechanisms that can either fuel the emotional barriers to settlement or defuse them. Priming, done successfully, evokes an atmosphere of fairness and reconciliation by replacing inflammatory words with more calming, positive ones.

Jane C. Greenspan, a mediator with JAMS in Philadelphia and a former justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, regularly relies on the theories of neuroscience, especially the priming and framing aspects. "Priming is how the brain reacts to a stimulus, such as an image or set of words, and how that reaction causes a response to a later stimulus, such as a settlement offer," she says.

Greenspan cites a case where a plaintiff, a victim of racial slurs and disparaging treatment at work, was fired and then sued his former employer. As the talks hit the mediation room, the client was very emotional, which heightens his demands for retribution. Going back to the primal emotions, he was in a definite "fight" mode, feeling that his dignity as a man was at stake. He wanted not only a resolution, but also to punish his former employer. Negotiations were at a standstill even though the plaintiff's counsel repeatedly told him that the settlement was unrealistic.

In this case, the priming effect was a negative one as the plaintiff reviewed trial exhibits, including racially offensive graffiti, prior to the settlement conference. With those images still in his head, he viewed the initial low offer as an aggressive or dismissive act.

"Again, priming is all about how a client will react to stimuli and bad stimuli and it can certainly hurt a negotiation," Greenspan says. "You introduce stimuli that will have a more positive impact on negotiations and you have to think how bad stimuli can hurt. Sometimes, in a case like this, maybe the defense attorney may call for a break so the plaintiff can deal with emotions that the pictures evoked."
In addition, how a mediator "frames" the transaction is crucial, Greenspan says. Framing, in layman's terms, might be akin to a soft-sell—removing potentially toxic trigger words that would upset the parties. "It is instinctive and requires creativity so that both sides can accept the negotiations and settlement."

When it comes to negotiations, especially financial ones, the brain is "sensitive to the proposition of loss and gain," says Hedeen. "And the stronger of the two is loss. People are loss-averse and that comes from fear. Given the choice of avoiding a loss or gaining something—a reward—people will choose not losing something."

A wise moderator will "make it look like there was no greed, no entitlement involved. People will make a bad decision because they are so scared of losing," he says. "So sometimes you explain that they are taking a short-term loss to make a long-term gain. As a moderator you have to make it look less bad so the person can walk away and say 'Well, at least we didn't lose.' "

So in Greenspan's discrimination case, a mediator should frame the negotiations in a way that both parties perceive a win by emphasizing what they are not losing.

For the defendant, making a reasonable offer can potentially avoid a significant damage award, as well as trial costs and the commercial backlash from bad publicity.

For the plaintiff, a settlement offer eliminates the investment in the trial and the real risk of getting no money.

"Framing allows both parties to eliminate their worst-case scenarios," she says.

Behind the conflict

Jaime Dodge, an assistant professor at the University of Georgia School of Law whose undergraduate research involved neuroscience in mediation, agrees.

"People go into mediation thinking that they have something and someone is trying to take it from them. So it is up to the mediator and lawyers to restructure the discussion about how they are thinking about compensation, for instance. How can I restructure the parties' thinking so that one might settle for a smaller amount? This is especially important if the parties are still going to have an ongoing relationship, such as in family cases and, actually, many business partnerships as well."

An example is a recent mediation where the driver for a locally owned small business had a stroke while on the job and ran over and killed a child. The company offered the family $1 million, the maximum of its insurance policy; the family demanded more.

Michael L. Wetzel of Bogart, Ga., was the mediator. He realized that the family really didn't want more money; they didn't want to lose their daughter.

"Once we recognized that, the company was more than happy to settle for a smaller amount. This was a way that the child lived on."

He added, "sometimes you create ways of creating intangible currency to trade instead of just monetary ones."

Neuroscience and the need to divert one's emotions to the SCARF mode is often used when the parties are too angry, too emotional, too stressed to think clearly. The body, Hedeen says, "goes on autopilot for self-preservation and they go into mediation and tell their story and they revisit the issues again, and can't think of a solution. You have to actively override those memories and emotions. With neuroscience, you retrain them to be more thoughtful, less barbaric. You bring in new patterns of thinking."

Mediation most likely fails when one party is "hands-down not going to settle, no matter what," says Athens-based mediator Nicole Woolfork Hull of the Hull Firm.

"The situation becomes so adversarial that you have to change their mental framework to get them to a different place. Oftentimes you discover that someone's feelings are hurt. They feel they've been wronged and no one cares. And, if you address that, maybe even have someone apologize, you can then get them moving forward."

Sometimes, Dodge says, a party feels powerless and is reactively lashing out.
"The mediator then must help the person get their guard down. What is their real interest? What are they struggling with internally? Many times, they fear losing their identity," she says. "I will be viewed as a failure because I was fired for the wrong reasons.' The person feels disrespected. But it doesn't have to be an adversarial process. You can help the person understand the firing was for a business reason. Empathy can be a powerful tool."

Some people live for a fight, says Tracey Harris, an Atlanta mediator who handles workplace disputes, and the mediator "needs to figure out how to tone it down. You need to make them understand it won't be a profitable fight and then they will get to a reasonable place."

Jill Tanz, adjunct professor at DePaul University College of Law whose mediation practice specializes in foreclosures, uses neuroscience to locate "critical spikes in stress" that makes it difficult for the person to concentrate.

"It's not a good place and the stress is causing them not to look at their options correctly. They feel they don't have control over the process; they can't control the outcome so they react more forcefully. The mediator needs to calm it down and help the person get control of his or her body. Even if that means taking deep breaths," she says.

Tanz, who says she believes neuroscience will become more of an influence in mediation, says that when emotions are at their peak in the mediation room, lawyers who "pushed back when I was training them about neuroscience and acknowledging emotions have no problem with me using my techniques to stop a crying party."

Maybe some lavender spray may not be such a bad idea after all.

"It's based on how you can manipulate the primal emotions and get to an area of trust and empathy. We are not wired, for instance, to accept unfairness."

"Mediation influences people to change the way they think. When you look into the psychology and neuroscience of it, it becomes transformative."

"With a deeper understanding of neuroscience and what's going on in the person's brain, you can understand why someone is willing to spend $3,000 in mediation and court fees to recover $300."

"People go into mediation thinking that they have something and someone is trying to take it from them. So it is up to the mediator and lawyers to restructure the discussion..."

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UGA Law Graduate Stars in HBO Documentary

9:22 AM, Jun 24, 2013

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) - A University of Georgia law student is a star in a new documentary set to air on HBO.

The documentary focuses Trav Williams' fierce dedication to the impoverished defendants he represents as a Hall County public defender.

The Athens Banner-Herald reports that Williams is one of three young public defenders profiled in director Dawn Porter's "Gideon's Army."

The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year and is scheduled for HBO broadcast 9 p.m. July 1.

One part of "Gideon's Army" shows a tattoo artist at work on Williams' back. If he takes a case to court and loses, Williams has his client's named tattooed on his back. So far, he's lost eight cases out of 25.
HBO movie focuses on Georgia law school graduate - SFGate

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) — A former Athens rapper and University of Georgia law student is a star in a new documentary set to air on HBO. But the documentary focuses less on his music and more on his fierce dedication to the impoverished defendants he represents as a Hall County public defender.

"If I don't do all I need to do, somebody's going to go to prison," said Trav Williams, one of three young public defenders profiled in director Dawn Porter's "Gideon's Army."

The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year and is scheduled for HBO broadcast 9 p.m. July 1.

Williams' job is seven days a week, but he doesn't mind so much. What he does, he believes, is civil rights work by protecting society's least powerful people.

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"I really enjoy it and wouldn't do anything else. It's not easy, but anything worth doing is not easy," said Williams, who released his first rap album in 2005, the same year he graduated from UGA law school.

He's also passionate about his music, but rap is for fun, one of the things that keeps him going in a crazy world.

"I just do it for love and for the opportunity it gives me to express myself," he said. "I try to keep a couple of things in my life that make sense and help me maintain my sanity. One is my music, and my work is another."

And in his work as a public defender, he's doing something he's wanted to do since he was a youngster growing up in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where like many other young black males, he was routinely harassed by police.

"I always knew I wanted to be a public defender before I knew what a public defender was," he says in the documentary. "I love my job, I love my work, I love my clients, but there are things I hate. I hate how this country treats poor people. I hate how individuals treat poor people. So that's my hate that keeps me fighting."

Williams met Porter, a former corporate lawyer, when Porter visited Alabama's Gideon's Promise, which trains public defenders.

The names of both the movie and the training institute refer to the landmark 1953 U.S. Supreme Court decision, Gideon v. Wainwright, in which a poor Florida man, Clarence Earl Gideon, argued that the U.S. Constitution guaranteed that even poor people had the right to a fair trial. And to get a fair trial, a person needs a lawyer.

The Supreme Court agreed, but 50 years later, the ruling remains more promise than reality, according to Porter.

Authorities arrest about 12 million to 15 million people each year in the United States, far more than any other country in the world. The U.S., Porter says, also leads the world by a wide margin in the number of people behind bars — about 2.3 to 2.5 million at a cost of $74 billion a year.

Public defenders routinely have caseloads in the hundreds, too many to give effective representation to the poor and powerless they serve, argue Porter and Jonathan Rapping, president and founder of Gideon's Promise.

"The greatest civil rights abuses are happening today to poor people and people of color in the criminal justice system," Rapping says in the documentary.

In some states, 80 percent of defendants cannot afford a lawyer, said Rapping. In many places, most notoriously in Florida's Miami-Dade County, there are too few public defenders to effectively represent their clients. The average Miami-Dade public defender has a caseload of about 500 felony cases and 225 misdemeanor cases, all at the same time, according to the movie.

The South in general stands out for the high rate of "broken" justice systems, according to Porter. About 90 percent of people charged with felonies plead guilty, but the choices that leads to many guilty pleas is a grim one, according to Porter — a five-year prison sentence for a guilty plea vs. a possible 10-year sentence if they're found guilty at trial.

"We are funneling people into the prison system," Porter said to interviewer Amy Goodman of Democracy Now at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

If Williams keeps on as a public defender, he might run out of space to tattoo clients' names on his back, but Williams isn't worried...
about that.

"As long as I'm a lawyer, I'm going to be a public defender," he said.


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FTC, Phoebe case may be moving toward settlement

Want daily summaries and Breaking News alerts?

By Jennifer Maddox Parks (1554)
jennifer.parks@albanyherald.com

ALBANY, Ga. - An order granting a request to certify a joint motion to withdraw from adjudication the case of the Federal Trade Commission's opposition to the Hospital Authority of Albany-Dougherty County's purchase of the former Palmyra Medical Center indicates a settlement may be in the works.

On June 10, a joint motion was filed to temporarily withdraw the matter from adjudication for 30 days "for the purpose of considering a proposed consent agreement."

On the FTC website is a listing of court documents pertaining to the case showing that a consent proposal was attached to the joint motion, the contents of which have been redacted from public access.

This development follows a stipulated preliminary injunction order that was entered into by the U.S. Court for the Middle District of Georgia the previous week as a means to maintain the status quo and stop further integration of Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital and the former Palmyra, now known as Phoebe North, pending the results of the administrative trial.

The order, signed by Chief Administrative Law Judge D. Michael Chappell on June 11, notes that a reasonable possibility of settlement exists in the matter involving the $195 million purchase of Phoebe North by the Hospital Authority that went through in December 2011.

An administrative trial had been set to begin Aug. 5. A previous stay on administrative proceedings that had been put in place in July 2011 was lifted after a Feb. 19 unanimous ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court in the FTC's favor. The high court found that the state
action doctrine did not immunize the Palmyra acquisition from federal antitrust laws, in turn bringing forth renewed motions from the FTC in the case that resulted in the temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction being issued.

A spokesman for the FTC said Monday that the agency would have no immediate comment on the development.

Rick Smith, corporate director of marketing and public relations at Phoebe, said Monday that the hospital would be unable to comment because of pending litigation.

Kevin Grady, adjunct professor of law at the University of Georgia, is among those who have been following the case from afar. He said in an interview with The Albany Herald on Monday that if the FTC is still trying to restore the competitive status quo and with Hospital Corporation of America — the former owner of Palmyra — now out of Albany, a settlement could potentially involve bringing in a third party to take over the operations of the former Palmyra.

"It is a very, very messy situation," Grady said. "Even if settlement discussions fall through, then it will go back on the administrative docket and the FTC will have to prove it is anticompetitive. They would have to show, indeed, that Palmyra in its current situation is not a dead hospital."

A third party operator of the hospital "is the only settlement that makes any sense" in this situation, he said. "If the goal of the FTC is to restore the hospital to its previous condition, (there needs to be) another to operate the Palmyra campus."

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ATHENS, Ga. — A former Athens rapper and University of Georgia law student is a star in a new documentary set to air on HBO.

But the documentary focuses less on his music and more on his fierce dedication to the impoverished defendants he represents as a Hall County public defender.

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Yarbrough: Visit with Carl Sanders recalls tumultuous time in Georgia

When Jimmy Carter ran for the state Senate in 1961 and was defeated, he claimed voter fraud. Carl Sanders, president pro temp of the state Senate, supported Carter's claim and provided legal counsel from the Democratic Party. Carter prevailed.

Fast forward to 1970. After serving as Georgia's governor from 1963-67, Sanders ran again. In those days a governor could not serve consecutive terms. In the campaign, he was subjected to a barrage of racist attacks, including criticism for having attended the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His opponent? Jimmy Carter, the eventual winner. Sanders says wistfully, "I guess I started him on the road to the presidency." No good deed goes unpunished. The governor said he has made peace with Carter's nasty campaign. I have not and never will.

I went to visit Gov. Sanders recently. Now 88, the governor has lost maybe a step or two since he was a left-handed quarterback on the University of Georgia's 1945 Oil Bowl championship team, but he has lost none of his aura.

Carl Sanders served Georgia during a tumultuous time of civil rights upheaval and helped guide the state safely to our better side, unlike governors across the South who played to the racist instincts of their constituencies.

"When I became a lawyer," he said firmly, "I swore to uphold the law and I was not going to disobey it. It's that simple." I won't dispute the man but I lived through those days. It wasn't simple. Those were tough times, but Sanders' obedience to the law kept federal troops out of our schoolhouses.

It helped, he says, that he was not a part of Georgia's good ol' boy network, a machine
Carl Sanders was governor when the position had almost total control of state government. He could appoint legislative committee chairs or remove them.

“I had control of the budget,” he says, “After it passed, I would let the legislature play some games with it but not much.”

He expresses sympathy for current Gov. Nathan Deal. “He seems to be trying to do the right things but he has to spend a lot of his time dealing with the legislature.”

He admits he could be a bit autocratic. He recalls the day he called a legislator off the floor in the middle of a speech opposing one of the governor’s pet projects. After “explaining things” to the recalcitrant legislator, the chastened fellow returned to the rostrum and asked his colleagues to forget what he had said previously. He had decided he was wrong.

In addition to confronting the civil rights challenges, Gov. Sanders is equally proud of his success in economic development and his efforts to improve education in Georgia.

“When I was running for governor,” he recalls, “I flew around the state in a private plane and landed in cow pastures and on mountaintops. I decided we needed to build airstrips and we did when I got in office. Prospective companies didn’t have to circle the Atlanta airport for hours to go visit a piece of property. They could go straight to the site.” Sanders built 50 airstrips around the state which he says brought $1 billion of new industry to Georgia.

After a visit to California, Sanders decided to emulate its education system and created more than a dozen junior colleges around the state to make college more accessible to the populace. “I wanted our young people to stay in Georgia,” he says. One of those junior colleges is now Kennesaw State University in Cobb County, the state’s third largest university.

Over lunch, I asked Gov. Sanders how he would like to be remembered.

“I would like to be known as a good governor who did good things and made this a better state as a result,” he said. I assured him that his legacy is secure. He was the right governor at the right time for Georgia. And, I might add, he didn’t have to compromise his integrity to get the job.

- Dick Yarbrough can be reached by email at yarb2400@bellsouth.net, or by mail at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, GA 31139.
University of Georgia Foundation Board elects new chair, vice chair, treasurer, secretary and six managing trustees

Board also welcomes a slate of advisory and ex-officio trustees; accords emeritus status to outgoing board members

Athens, Georgia (June 25, 2013) – The University of Georgia Foundation today announced changes in leadership and board positions voted upon at its recently concluded annual meeting. Most notable among the actions is that its board voted unanimously to elect John S. Spalding as chairman effective July 1, 2013 and running through June 30, 2015. He succeeds Bill Young, Jr. who served the foundation in two separate terms from 2007 to 2009 and 2011 to present.

The board also elected, by unanimous vote, Kenneth G. Jackson as vice chairman, Andrew M. “Jack” Head as secretary and William W. Douglas III as treasurer.

Spalding was chairman of the Arch Foundation from 2005 to 2007. He and Young were instrumental in the historic merger that brought the Arch Foundation and University of Georgia Foundation together in 2011. Spalding has served as vice chairman of the UGA Foundation since the merger.

“It has been a privilege to work with John on so many levels,” Young stated. “His consistent and thoughtful approach helped immensely when we were considering the merger two years ago and his work as vice chairman was reassuring to me as the University of Georgia Foundation entered a new era. I’m confident that the foundation is going to be in good hands.”
Spalding inherits chairmanship of a foundation whose endowment grew during Young’s term by more than $125 million to $800 million despite a very challenging economic climate.

"With a steady hand and a great sense for business, Bill was the perfect choice to lead this foundation for the last two years. I am honored to have been vice chair during his term and offer my personal thanks for his service to the university and the foundation," Spalding noted.

In addition to his work on the foundation, Spalding is currently vice president of government affairs and chief privacy officer for Cox Communications, an Atlanta-based Fortune 500 company. He is a Trustee of the Atlanta History Center and is a past Trustee of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. He is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Georgia where he earned an AB in History ('82), and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Spalding went on to earn a JD from UGA School of Law in 1985.

Ken Jackson, who by UGA Foundation bylaws will be the next chairman, is executive vice president and chief financial officer for floor covering giant Shaw Industries. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in accounting from the Terry College of Business.

Jack Head is a 1977 graduate of the Terry College of Business and is president of Atlanta-based Head Management Group, an industry leading developer and manager of industrial, commercial and residential properties.

Bill Douglas is executive vice president and chief financial officer for Coca-Cola Enterprises, the world’s largest bottler of Coca-Cola products. He earned a BBA in accounting from the Terry College of Business in 1983.

When the new leadership team takes office, they will have six new managing trustees with whom to work in the coming term: Garry W. Bridgeman, Victor E. Corrigan II, Stephen Joiner, Steve C. Jones, Cliff McCurry and Barry L. Storey.

In addition, the board will include five new advisory trustees: Mark Chandler, Richard W. Courts IV, John Mangan, John E. “Ted” McMullan and Susan D. Sherman. Joining as ex-officio trustees are Silvia Q. Giraudo, Austin Laufersweiler, Libby V. Morris, Ryan A. Nesbit and Timothy A. Keadle.

Managing Trustees:

Garry Bridgeman is a first vice president, investments, and a private wealth advisor for Merrill Lynch in Atlanta. He heads the Bridgeman Group as part of Merrill Lynch’s Private Banking and Investment practice. In that capacity, he provides investment consulting and wealth management services to clients with a minimum of $10 million in investable assets. Garry served the foundation ably as a trustee from 2005 to 2012 and accepted an invitation to be placed before the board for election to a new term commencing July 1, 2013.

Vic Corrigan, MD, who served the foundation for one term as an advisory trustee, becomes a managing trustee. Dr. Corrigan graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia in 1979, received his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia in 1983 and completed his internship, residency and fellowship in cardiology at Emory University Hospital. He is a partner in Atlanta Cardiology Group, PC under the umbrella of the Piedmont Heart Institute and is ranked among the nation’s top one-percent of physicians in his specialty by U.S. News & World Report.

Stephen Joiner is fulfilling the unexpired term of Don Waters. Stephen is a regional managing partner, in the Southeast Division of Deloitte & Touche’s Mergers and Acquisitions Services Group in Atlanta. He also serves on the company’s US Mergers & Acquisitions Leadership team, overseeing the Mergers and Acquisition department’s industry programs and the US member firm’s strategic buyer program. Prior to joining Deloitte, Stephen was a partner with Arthur Andersen in Atlanta. He is a 1986 graduate of the Terry College of Business where he earned his BBA in accounting.

Steve Jones is a U.S. District Court Judge in Atlanta and past president of the UGA Alumni Association. As such, Judge Jones is concluding his term as an ex-officio trustee of the UGA Foundation and accepted an invitation to continue his work in the capacity of a managing trustee. He has served the United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia since 2011. Prior to his federal appointment, Judge Jones was as a Superior Court Judge serving Athens and Clarke and Oconee Counties. He has served on the University of Georgia’s Athletic Board, is a former chairman of the University of Georgia School of Law's
Board of Visitors and the Georgia Judicial Qualifications Commission. Judge Jones earned both his BBA (’78) and JD (’87) from the University of Georgia.

Cliff McCurry is fulfilling the unexpired term of Sheffield Hale. He is a Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) who has been a vibrant force in the Savannah insurance and business community for more than 40 years. Cliff presently serves a vice chairman of Savannah-based Seacrest Partners where he oversees the firm’s business development activities. Seacrest is a privately held insurance brokerage and employee benefits consulting firm serving a wide range of clients with complex property/casualty, employee benefit and personal insurance needs. Cliff earned a BBA in business administration and management from the Terry College of Business in 1971.

Barry Storey is completing a term as an advisory trustee and transitions into a managing trustee position on July 1. Storey is a co-owner of Hull Storey Gibson Companies, an Augusta-based real estate acquisition, management and development firm which primarily acquires enclosed malls and shopping center properties throughout the South and develops "big box" shopping centers. He is a 1982 graduate of the University of Georgia where he earned a BSA in Agriculture Economics.

Advisory Trustees:
Mark Chandler is president and founder of Habersham Properties, an Atlanta property management and brokerage firm. Mark earned a BBA from the Terry College of Business in 1981, is a certified public accountant and has held a real estate license with the Georgia Real Estate Commission for more than 15 years. He has been an active real estate investor for more than two decades.

Richard W. Courts IV is vice president of brokerage services for Carter & Associates, the Southeast’s oldest and largest privately held commercial real estate firm with more than 600 employees and more than $1 billion in annual revenues. Richard is the son of Richard and Lynda Courts, both of whom are emeritus trustees of the foundation, Lynda is a past chair (2004-2005.)

John Mangan is a private investor who resides in Charlotte. He is a 1982 graduate of the University of Georgia where he earned a BBA in finance from the Terry College. John was a four year letterman, two-time All-SEC and a 1981 All-America on UGA’s powerhouse tennis teams under legendary coach Dan McGill. He is one of the players that helped propel the men’s tennis team into national prominence. Those teams earned three SEC Championships and four consecutive NCAA Tournament bids while posting an astonishing record of 104 wins and only 19 losses from 1979 through 1982.

Ted McMullan is president and chairman of Atlanta-based Covington Investments a privately owned firm whose related companies own and operate senior living communities in Florida, Ohio and Tennessee. Ted is the son of John and Marilyn McMullan. His father presently serves as a managing trustee of the University of Georgia Foundation and chairs the Audit Committee.

Susan D. Sherman, a Jacksonville native, is president of Susan Sherman Inc., a St. Louis, Missouri-based marketing, special events and public relations company. She is a 1982 Broadcast News graduate of the Grady College of Journalism and went on to work for the Atlanta Ballet and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra before hosting the PBS TV series State of the Arts and prior to working in CNN’s Paris bureau.

Ex-Officio Trustees:
Silvia Giradou, PhD is an associate professor in the Department of Foods and Nutrition and serves as the foundation’s faculty representative succeeding Nelson Hilton.

Austin Laufersweiler is the University of Georgia student body president succeeding Will Burgess.

Libby Morris is interim provost of the University of Georgia, succeeding President Designate Jere Morehead.

Ryan Nesbit is interim vice president for finance and administration, succeeding Tim Burgess who is retiring.

Tim Keadle is the incoming president of the University of Georgia Alumni Association succeeding Steve Jones.
"I am truly excited to have an opportunity to work with the new folks that are joining the board," said Spalding. "Their combined talents complement those of a board that has an outstanding depth of experience, all of which helps us fulfill the foundation's primary objective of supporting and enhancing the University of Georgia's academic mission.

"While I am sad to see several of our good friends leave the board as their terms expire, it's always exciting to see and hear the diverse perspectives new trustees bring to the organization," Spalding added. "My sincerest thanks to our outgoing board members for their hard work and dedication, and welcome to our newest trustees, we look forward to your coming successes."

Emeritus Trustees:
The University of Georgia Foundation board accorded emeritus status to ten trustees whose terms draw to a conclusion on July 1; Earl D. Barrs, Charles E. Campbell, Jay M. Davis, Norman S. Fletcher, F. Sheffield Hale, James L. LaBoon, Richard B. Means, Steven W. Smith, Harriet H. Warren and Don L. Waters.

"We are tremendously thankful to have had the privilege of working with this group of professionals," said outgoing Chairman Bill Young, Jr. "They contributed greatly to the growth and success of the University of Georgia Foundation through their gifts and their service and I hope they will remain engaged with the university and the foundation in the years to come as emeritus trustees."

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Note to editors: (St. Simons Island, GA – June 21, 2013) An image of incoming University of Georgia Foundation Chairman John Spalding accepting the gavel of leadership from Outgoing Chairman Bill Young, Jr. is available at http://multimedia.uga.edu/media/images/Spalding-Young_06-2013.jpg.
The University of Georgia Foundation today announced changes in leadership and board positions voted upon at its recently concluded annual meeting. Most notable among the actions is that its board voted unanimously to elect John P. Spalding as chairman effective July 1, 2013 and running through June 30, 2015. He succeeds Bill Young, Jr. who served the foundation in two separate terms from 2007 to 2009 and 2011 to present.

The board also elected, by unanimous vote, Kenneth G. Jackson as vice chairman, Andrew M. “Jack” Head as secretary and William W. Douglas III as treasurer.

Spalding was chairman of the Arch Foundation from 2005 to 2007. He and Young were instrumental in the historic merger that brought the Arch Foundation and University of Georgia Foundation together in 2011. Spalding has served as vice chairman of the UGA Foundation since the merger.

“It has been a privilege to work with John on so many levels,” Young stated. “His consistent and thoughtful approach helped immensely when we were considering the merger two years ago and his work as vice chairman was reassuring to me as the University of Georgia Foundation entered a new era. I’m confident that the foundation is going to be in good hands.”

Spalding inherits chairmanship of a foundation whose endowment grew during Young’s term by more than $125 million to $800 million despite a very challenging economic climate.

“With a steady hand and a great sense for business, Bill was the perfect choice to lead this foundation for the last two years. I am honored to have been vice chair during his term and offer my...
personal thanks for his service to the university and the foundation,” Spalding noted.

In addition to his work on the foundation, Spalding is currently vice president of government affairs and chief privacy officer for Cox Communications, an Atlanta-based Fortune 500 company. He is a Trustee of the Atlanta History Center and is a past Trustee of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. He is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Georgia where he earned an AB in History ('82), and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. **Spalding went on to earn a JD from UGA School of Law in 1985.**

Ken Jackson, who by UGA Foundation bylaws will be the next chairman, is executive vice president and chief financial officer for floor covering giant Shaw Industries. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in accounting from the Terry College of Business.

Jack Head is a 1977 graduate of the Terry College of Business and is president of Atlanta-based Head Management Group, an industry leading developer and manager of industrial, commercial and residential properties.

Bill Douglas is executive vice president and chief financial officer for Coca-Cola Enterprises, the world’s largest bottler of Coca-Cola products. He earned a BBA in accounting from the Terry College of Business in 1983.

When the new leadership team takes office, they will have six new managing trustees with whom to work in the coming term: Garry W. Bridgeman, Victor E. Corrigan II, Stephen Joiner, Steve C. Jones, Cliff McCurry and Barry L. Storey.

In addition, the board will include five new advisory trustees: Mark Chandler, Richard W. Courts IV, John Mangan, John E. “Ted” McMullan and Susan D. Sherman. Joining as ex-officio trustees are Silvia Q. Giraudo, Austin Laufersweiler, Libby V. Morris, Ryan A. Nesbit and Timothy A. Keadle.

Managing Trustees:
Garry Bridgeman is a first vice president, investments, and a private wealth advisor for Merrill Lynch in Atlanta. He heads the
Bridgeman Group as part of Merrill Lynch’s Private Banking and Investment practice. In that capacity, he provides investment consulting and wealth management services to clients with a minimum of $10 million in investable assets. Garry served the foundation ably as a trustee from 2005 to 2012 and accepted an invitation to be placed before the board for election to a new term commencing July 1, 2013.

Vic Corrigan, MD, who served the foundation for one term as an advisory trustee, becomes a managing trustee. Dr. Corrigan graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia in 1979, received his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia in 1983 and completed his internship, residency and fellowship in cardiology at Emory University Hospital. He is a partner in Atlanta Cardiology Group, PC under the umbrella of the Piedmont Heart Institute and is ranked among the nation’s top one-percent of physicians in his specialty by U.S. News & World Report.

Stephen Joiner is fulfilling the unexpired term of Don Waters. Stephen is a regional managing partner, in the Southeast Division of Deloitte & Touche’s Mergers and Acquisitions Services Group in Atlanta. He also serves on the company’s US Mergers & Acquisitions Leadership team, overseeing the Mergers and Acquisition department’s industry programs and the US member firm’s strategic buyer program. Prior to joining Deloitte, Stephen was a partner with Arthur Andersen in Atlanta. He is a 1986 graduate of the Terry College of Business where he earned his BBA in accounting.

Steve Jones is a U.S. District Court Judge in Atlanta and past president of the UGA Alumni Association. As such, Judge Jones is concluding his term as an ex-officio trustee of the UGA Foundation and accepted an invitation to continue his work in the capacity of a managing trustee. He has served the United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia since 2011. Prior to his federal appointment, Judge Jones was as a Superior Court Judge serving Athens and Clarke and Oconee Counties. He has served on the University of Georgia’s Athletic Board, is a former chairman of the University of Georgia School of Law’s Board of Visitors and the Georgia Judicial Qualifications Commission. Judge Jones earned both his BBA (’78) and JD (’87) from the University of Georgia.

Cliff McCurry is fulfilling the unexpired term of Sheffield Hale. He is a Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) who has
been a vibrant force in the Savannah insurance and business community for more than 40 years. Cliff presently serves a vice chairman of Savannah-based Seacrest Partners where he oversees the firm's business development activities. Seacrest is a privately held insurance brokerage and employee benefits consulting firm serving a wide range of clients with complex property/casualty, employee benefit and personal insurance needs. Cliff earned a BBA in business administration and management from the Terry College of Business in 1971.

Barry Storey is completing a term as an advisory trustee and transitions into a managing trustee position on July 1. Storey is a co-owner of Hull Storey Gibson Companies, an Augusta-based real estate acquisition, management and development firm which primarily acquires enclosed malls and shopping center properties throughout the South and develops "big box" shopping centers. He is a 1982 graduate of the University of Georgia where he earned a BSA in Agriculture Economics.

Advisory Trustees:
Mark Chandler is president and founder of Habersham Properties, an Atlanta property management and brokerage firm. Mark earned a BBA from the Terry College of Business in 1981, is a certified public accountant and has held a real estate license with the Georgia Real Estate Commission for more than 15 years. He has been an active real estate investor for more than two decades.

Richard W. Courts IV is vice president of brokerage services for Carter & Associates, the Southeast's oldest and largest privately held commercial real estate firm with more than 600 employees and more than $1 billion in annual revenues. Richard is the son of Richard and Lynda Courts, both of whom are emeritus trustees of the foundation, Lynda is a past chair (2004-2005.)

John Mangan is a private investor who resides in Charlotte. He is a 1982 graduate of the University of Georgia where he earned a BBA in finance from the Terry College. John was a four year letterman, two-time All-SEC and a 1981 All-America on UGA's powerhouse tennis teams under legendary coach Dan McGill. He is one of the players that helped propel the men's tennis team into national prominence. Those teams earned three SEC Championships and four consecutive NCAA Tournament bids while posting an astonishing record of 104 wins and only 19 losses from 1979 through 1982.
Ted McMullan is president and chairman of Atlanta-based Covington Investments, a privately owned firm whose related companies own and operate senior living communities in Florida, Ohio, and Tennessee. Ted is the son of John and Marilyn McMullan. His father presently serves as a managing trustee of the University of Georgia Foundation and chairs the Audit Committee.

Susan D. Sherman, a Jacksonville native, is president of Susan Sherman Inc., a St. Louis, Missouri-based marketing, special events, and public relations company. She is a 1982 Broadcast News graduate of the Grady College of Journalism and went on to work for the Atlanta Ballet and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra before hosting the PBS TV series State of the Arts and prior to working in CNN's Paris bureau.

Ex-Officio Trustees:
Silvia Giraudo, PhD is an associate professor in the Department of Foods and Nutrition and serves as the foundation's faculty representative succeeding Nelson Hilton.

Austin Laufersweiler is the University of Georgia student body president succeeding Will Burgess.

Libby Morris is interim provost of the University of Georgia, succeeding President Designate Jere Morehead.

Ryan Nesbit is interim vice president for finance and administration, succeeding Tim Burgess who is retiring.

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Supreme Court appeal stalls Clayton murder sentence

Defense claims double jeopardy, prosecutor witness tampering

Related

By Marcus K. Garner

A Clayton County woman found guilty of murder for planning the 2011 beating death of her mother has appealed her prosecution to the state Supreme Court, claiming double jeopardy, and is also accusing prosecutors of intimidating a witness.

Kajul Harvey, 23, faces at least life in prison, and was to be sentenced Tuesday for a host of convictions related to the death of Alena Marble. Harvey had been found guilty of malice murder, aggravated assault, false imprisonment, concealing a death and evidence tampering.

But Clayton County Superior Court Judge Matthew O. Simmons said an appeal Harvey’s attorney Lloyd Matthews filed just before the trial put sentencing on hold.

“That’s going to delay everything,” Matthews told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Tuesday following the abbreviated sentencing hearing. “That throw’s a monkey wrench into the sentencing.”

Matthews’ actions in a previous attempt to try this case – he disobeyed the judge’s orders not to tell the jury information about his client – led to a mistrial.

The defense attorney subsequently claimed that the judge erroneously declared the mistrial, and claimed that allowing prosecution of the same case and charges a second time would constitute double jeopardy.

“When the judge declared a mistrial, there was no manifest necessity ... no legal requirement that he do so,” Matthews said Tuesday. “By him doing so and, by the state proceeding again against the accused would put them in double jeopardy.”

In a pretrial motion, Matthew claimed that lead prosecutor, Clayton County chief deputy assistant district attorney Katie Powers pressured Brittany Franklin, a key witness in the trial, to lie.

“They’re pressuring her to say that Kajul Harvey’s mother told her that she (Marble) was afraid her daughter was going to harm her,” Matthews wrote on May 6.
Powers denied Matthews' allegations, pointing to a later motions hearing on the issue in which Franklin testified to hearing the kidnapping plan from Harvey, then changing the story after visiting Harvey in jail.

"We think all of his allegations are completely meritless," she said.

Judge Simmons also rebuked the defense attorney's claims in a notice denying his double jeopardy plea.

"The Court finds that the plea of double jeopardy is frivolous," Simmons wrote in his June 5th order.

Matthews filed notice to appeal to the Supreme Court the next day.

Should the Supreme Court side with Matthews and Harvey, all charges that are similar in both cases — including the count of malice murder — could be impacted, University of Georgia law professor Ronald Carlson said.

"A double jeopardy ruling would bar sentencing on some of the most serious counts in this case," Carson said.

And the case could take as much as a year, or even more before state Supreme Court justices rule on the appeal, authorities said.

"I'm going to go ahead with my appeal and see what the Georgia Supreme Court has to say," Matthews said, noting he also appealed the validity of evidence presented in the trial to the Supreme Court.

Until any such decision is made, Harvey will remain in the Clayton County jail.

"We're not disappointed with today at all," prosecutor Powers said. "We're confident that the judge made the correct ruling throughout the trial and we know that sometime she'll be sentenced."

Harvey's boyfriend Lotoris Grovner was convicted in January of voluntary manslaughter for beating Marble to death with a saucepan and vodka bottle. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison. Harvey's jury determined that she conspired with Grovner and planned the attack.

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[What's this?]
UGA responds to Supreme Court striking down Doma, Prop 8

DOMA Ruling

The Supreme Court ruled that the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was unconstitutional. The ruling allows same-sex couples who are married in the 12 states that have legalized same-sex marriages and the District of Columbia to claim hundreds of benefits previously denied to them. Some of the major benefits include Social Security, taxes, health care, housing, and veterans' benefits.

Related Stories

- Edited Remaining ‘hopeful’ for change after denial
- States still have the ability, for now, to place parameters on same-sex marriages, evident in the 38 states which have banned same-sex marriages.

UGA Football team learns from competition

BY GABE RAM. The University of Georgia football team received a hands-on cook off.
Logistics for federal recognition in the states that have banned same-sex marriage have yet to be fully developed.

"The court ultimately left the biggest questions open for another day, much as most commentators expected," Levine said.

As well as the case concerning DOMA's Constitutionality, the Supreme Court also took a look at California's Proposition 8 which banned same-sex marriage in the state.

The court dismissed the suit concerning Prop 8 on the grounds that the proponents of the ban had no standing to appeal a lower court's ruling that Prop 8 was unconstitutional.

Same-sex marriages in California are expected to begin again soon.

"It doesn't only come down to money or particular benefits," Levine said. "There's a dignity that comes with being recognized by your federal government as equal."
Alumni Receptions

Events at the State Bar of Georgia's Annual Meeting continue with continuing education sessions and alumni gatherings events sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division and opportunities to support young lawyers and judges.

Judicial Section Awards

JQC Director Jeff Davis spoke at the Judicial Section Awards luncheon.

Judge Johnny Mason, right, presented the “Spirit of Justice” award to Governor Nathan Deal.

Judge Johnny Mason presents an award to Judge Susan Edlein.

Judge Johnny Mason, left, presents an award in memory of Judge Anne Workman that was accepted by Bryan Cavan.

Showing off the Daily Report were representatives Laura S ...
izes contributions

Meeting in Hilton Head Island, S.C., included gatherings from Georgia law schools, as well as symposium, meet-and-greet sessions with candidates and pro bono fundraising.

Judge Julie Carnes at the UGA Scroll Awards breakfast.

Justice Hugh Thompson, from left, with J. Anderson Davis and Attorney General Sam Olens.

Michael Terry, from left, Greg Sowell, David Bell and David Shpley at the UGA Scroll Awards breakfast.

Planary Session Awards

Susan Campbell, left, of the Daily Report accepts an award for GAWL.

Robin Frazer Clark, left, presented Judge W. Louis Sands with the Commitment to Equality Award.

Jessica Powell, left, and her father, state Rep. Jay Powell, with presenter Robin Frazer Clark.

Charles S. Johnson III, left, accepts the Randolph Thrower award from Robin Frazer Clark.

Judge John Girardeau accepts the award for professionalism from Robin Frazer Clark.

Bobbie Kendell, middle, receives the Employee of the Year award from Paula Frederick, left, and Robin Frazer Clark.

Rita Sheffey, from left, and Lynn Roberson accept the Law Day Achievement award from Robin Frazer Clark.
Duane Morris has made Kirk Domescik its new managing partner in Atlanta. Domescik, who has been with the Philadelphia-based firm for a decade, is taking over from L. Norwood "Woody" Jameson, who headed the Atlanta office for five years.

Jameson became the leader of Duane Morris' national intellectual property practice at the beginning of 2012, which he said is taking a lot of his time. He's been making a lot of trips to Silicon Valley, he said, building an IP-focused office in Palo Alto that Duane Morris opened in January.

"I'm on the road constantly. I'm never here," Jameson said. "That's part of the reason for the transition."

Domescik, a corporate and health-care lawyer, joined Duane Morris in 2003 and made partner the following year.

An Atlanta native, he joined Vincent Berg Stalzer & Menendez soon after receiving his law degree from the University of Georgia in 1994. That firm was acquired by EpsteinBeckerGreen to gain an Atlanta foothold in 2000—the same year Duane Morris opened its Atlanta office.

A Vincent Berg partner with whom Domescik worked, Greg Youra, moved to Duane Morris after the Atlanta office opened and recruited him. "I've been here ever since," he said.

(Youra is now at Holt, Ney, Zatcoff & Wasserman. EpsteinBeckerGreen announced two weeks ago that it is closing its Atlanta branch.)

Domescik, who will maintain his practice, said that as local managing partner he will become more involved in the firm's finances and take a more active role in local recruiting.

As with many large firms, Duane Morris' local office shrank during the recession, from a peak of about 37 lawyers to 22 at present. The firm has about 700 lawyers in 24 offices.

"The legal landscape has changed dramatically. To be a large national firm, there are some challenges associated with that," Domescik said. An Am Law 100 firm, Duane Morris reported 2012 revenue of $420.5 million and profit per equity partner of $875,000.

The Atlanta office's practice is concentrated in litigation and IP. The latter, Domescik said, is the firm's third-largest practice. Labor and employment, real estate and banking law are also part of the mix. Domescik said.
Atlanta attorney Beth Chandler named as new general counsel of Rollins Inc.

By Maria Saporta

Rollins Inc. has named Elizabeth "Beth" Chandler as its new vice president and general counsel, replacing recently retired Kathleen Mayton.

Rollins, a nationwide consumer services company, is best known for signature brand — Orkin pest control.

Chandler has had a long tenure in Atlanta. Before joining Rollins, Chandler was vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary for Asbury Automotive. Prior to working with Asbury, Chandler served as city attorney for the City of Atlanta; and she served as vice president, assistant general counsel and corporate secretary for Mirant Corp.

Chandler started her career with Troutman Sanders, where she rose to partner in its corporate practice.

"Beth brings many years of valuable experience and knowledge to Rollins," said John Wilson, president and chief operating officer of Rollins. "She is a great addition to our leadership team, and we are pleased to welcome her to Rollins."

Chandler graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia Law School and the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business. She served in a variety of leadership roles in the Atlanta community, including chair of the board of Atlanta Beltline Inc., where she currently continues to serve as vice chair. She also serves on the Board of Visitors of the UGA Law School.

"As a long time Atlantan, I'm extremely pleased to join a company that is so highly regarded in the community and is committed to outstanding customer service, employee development and professionalism," Chandler said.

Rollins provides pest control services and protection against termite damage, rodents and insects to more than two million customers in the United States, Canada, Europe, South America, Central America, the Middle East the Caribbean, Asia, Africa and Mexico through its wholly-owned subsidiaries.

Chandler is replacing Mayton, who received her bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts. Mayton then received her law degree from the Emory School of Law. She began her career with Rollins in 1990 as a staff attorney, later becoming assistant vice president of the human resources department. In 1995, Mayton was named general counsel.
June 27--The practical impact of Wednesday's Defense of Marriage Act ruling on gay married couples who live in Georgia is, at least for now, minimal.

But President Barack Obama said his administration is deciding how broadly the decision will be interpreted. And legal experts predicted the ruling will spawn more litigation if federal benefits continue to be denied to gay married couples in Georgia and other states that do not recognize same-sex marriage.

More immediately, it appears same-sex married couples living on military bases in Georgia will be entitled to the more than 1,100 federal tax, health care, employment and pension benefits that straight couples enjoy, lawyers said. The ruling also indicates that U.S. government employees in same-sex marriages should begin receiving Social Security and federal retirement system benefits.

Because Georgia bans gay marriage and does not recognize marriages of its gay couples performed in other states, it is unclear how many, if any, of the federal benefits enjoyed by straight couples can now be extended to gay married couples in Georgia, legal experts said.

"Nobody is quite sure what the implications will be," said Hillel Levin, a University of Georgia law professor who has researched the issue. "I wish I could be more specific, but the truth is this is going to be a big open question."

Obama said he had "directed the Attorney General to work with other members of my cabinet to review all relevant federal statutes to ensure this decision, including its implications for federal benefits and obligations, is implemented swiftly and smoothly."

The president's statement appears to be a step toward extending federal benefits to gay married couples in Georgia, Levin said. "Unfortunately, it doesn't tell us how far the administration is going to go."

Historically, the federal government has looked to the state where gay married couples live and whether that state recognizes same-sex marriage when deciding what benefits are allowed, Indiana University law professor Deborah Widiss said.

"So potentially a gay married couple living in Georgia would not count in terms of federal taxes or Social Security or other federal benefits," Widiss said. "I predict future court challenges if the federal government continues not to recognize those same-sex marriages."

The high court ruled in favor of 84-year-old Edie Windsor, of New York, who married Thea Spyer in Canada in 2007 after the couple had been together four decades. When Spyer died two years later, the IRS did not recognize the validity of their marriage, which meant Windsor owed $363,053 in estate taxes. Windsor filed suit, contending the DOMA provision was unconstitutional.

Ruling in Windsor's favor, Kennedy said gay couples, under DOMA, "have their lives burdened, by reason of government decree, in visible and public ways." He wrote, "The avowed purpose and practical effect of the law here in question are to impose a disadvantage, a separate status and so a stigma upon all who enter into same-sex marriages made lawful by the unquestioned authority of the states."

DOMA touches the lives of many same-sex married couples in ways both mundane and profound, Kennedy wrote. It prevents them from obtaining government health care benefits and prohibits them from being buried together in veterans' cemeteries.

Atlanta attorney Kathleen Womack, who specializes in domestic partnership law, said it's going to be interesting to see how far the Obama Administration goes in extending federal benefits to same-sex married couples in Georgia.

Regardless of how broadly the administration interprets Wednesday's decision, she said, same-sex couples will still be prohibited from being married in Georgia because of the state's ban against it.

For this reason, gay married couples will still be unable to get a divorce in Georgia. A gay or lesbian person will still be unable to visit a spouse who is hospitalized, unless the correct paperwork has been filled out. And if a gay spouse dies without a will, the estate will still go to the biological relatives of the deceased, not the married partner, Womack said.

Decatur lawyer Denise VanLanduyt, who married her partner in Vancouver in 2006, said she believes Wednesday's decision now allows her and her spouse to file a joint federal tax return.

"It's going to be a situation where either the federal government provides the benefits or forces the next lawsuit to make them happen," she said. "I think Justice Kennedy's ruling teed it up nicely for that."
Supreme Court rules to allow federal benefits for married same-sex couples

Decisions generate fervor on both sides

Carly Sharec
csharec@gainesvilletimes.com
770-718-3432
June 27, 2013

Supporters of same-sex marriage had reasons to cheer Wednesday morning, as the United States Supreme Court released two decisions that many agree add to the movement’s momentum.

Some local and state faith-based leaders, however, disapproved of the decisions.

Lakewood Baptist Church’s Tom Smiley said that the high court was not ruling in favor of “traditional” marriage.

"Same-sex marriage is not marriage," he said. "Calling something marriage doesn’t make it marriage. Marriage has always been a covenant between a man and a woman. ... My world view is a biblical worldview."

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta also released a statement against the rulings.

"Today’s decision is part of a public debate of great consequence," he wrote. "The future of marriage and the well-being of our society hang in the balance."

The Supreme Court first struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act, now allowing for same-sex married couples to have access to federal benefits. The second decision was a technical legal ruling that left in place a trial court’s ruling that California’s Proposition 8 is unconstitutional.

Prop 8, banning gay marriage, was approved by California voters in 2008. A federal appeals court then ruled the vote was unconstitutional.

Both were determined in 5-4 rulings.

With the striking down of part of DOMA, the

Supreme Court put an end to the provision of federal law denying federal benefits to married gay couples, but was silent on the part that allowed for states to choose whether or not to recognize same-sex marriages conducted in other
While both rulings are of significance in the legalization of same-sex marriage, University of Georgia law professor Hillel Levin cautions that there won't be an immediate change, particularly for Georgia residents.

"It could have some potential implications down the road," he said, explaining that there will be future court cases that could decide those changes. "All of that is just unknown at this point, how the courts would vote in such cases, because these two particular cases decided this morning don't really affect Georgia residents."

It was not immediately known if it would impact the benefits of same-sex couples in Georgia who married in a state where the marriage is recognized.

"This is an incremental step that is important, but not decisive in the large move toward recognition of same-sex marriage nationwide," Levin said.

"I think there's a good likelihood that full federal benefits (will go) to Georgia couples who got married in a state that recognizes same-sex marriage, but it's not going to be immediate," he added.

Same-sex marriage has been adopted by 12 states and the District of Columbia.

University of North Georgia political science and history professor Douglas Young sees the rulings as a "major victory" for same-sex couples.

"I think that these rulings today could serve as the precedent from which the court could outright legalize homosexual marriage the next time a homosexual marriage case comes before the high court," he said.

The DOMA case, or United States v. Edith Schlain Windsor, involved Windsor and Thea Spyer, a lesbian couple who married in Canada in 2007. The couple returned to their home in New York, where Spyer died in 2009. She left her estate to Windsor. As the Supreme Court's ruling reads, "Windsor sought to claim the estate tax exemption for surviving spouses. She was barred from doing so, however, by a federal law, the Defense of Marriage Act, which excludes a same-sex partner from the definition of 'spouse' as that term is used in federal statutes."

Windsor paid the taxes, but challenged the constitutionality behind the law, leading to this eventual decision.

Reactions across Hall County and the state remained mixed.

On the downtown Gainesville square, Yvonne Gore echoed the sentiments of faith-based leaders.

"I'm not really happy about it. I feel like the states should have the right to make their own decisions," she said, referring to the Prop 8 decision and the earlier California vote on the subject.
Farrah Sumlin had not heard of the rulings, but after learning of the decisions, she broke into a smile.

"I am in support of man and man, and woman and woman getting married and having children," she said, noting that her brother is gay. "I totally think it's a great thing. I think everyone should have free choice. I see it as an awesome step."

National reaction is as divided as local reaction, with President Barack Obama praising the court's decision.

"It treated loving, committed gay and lesbian couples as a separate and lesser class of people," Obama said in a statement about the striking down of DOMA. "The Supreme Court has righted that wrong, and our country is better off for it."


"Marriage policy should have the same access to the electoral process as other major issues we face as a country," he wrote. "I will continue to fight for limited government and our American family values as Northeast Georgia's voice in Washington."

Following the Prop 8 ruling, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said it will be at least 25 days before same-sex marriages begin taking place again in California.

Young said that he could see how the decisions, particularly involving Prop 8, are less of a vote for democracy, and more of a vote for the power of the court system.

"The fact that now the United States Supreme Court is in effect nullifying this referendum result, this decision really increases the clout of the courts and the executive branch at the expense of the democratic impulse of society," he said.

Levin said that while Wednesday was symbolic victory for proponents of same-sex marriage, it's also a concrete step toward the legalization of gay marriage, and that there are many people who will see actual results from the rulings.

"I don't know what the numbers are, but the thousands upon thousands of same-sex couples married and living in states that recognize those marriages ... also get tangible, real federal government benefits from that," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.
Rollins Hires Chandler To Be Its New GC

Meredith Hobbs
Daily Report
2013-06-28 00:00:07.0

Rollins Inc. has named Elizabeth Chandler its new general counsel and vice president. Chandler succeeds Kathleen Mayton, who has retired.

Chandler joins Rollins, which owns Orkin and other pest-control companies, from Asbury Automotive in Duluth, where she was general counsel, vice president and corporate secretary. She served as city attorney for the City of Atlanta until taking the GC job at Asbury Automotive in May 2009.

"As a long time Atlantan, I'm extremely pleased to join a company that is so highly regarded in the community and is committed to outstanding customer service, employee development and professionalism," she said in a statement.

Chandler, a graduate of the University of Georgia Law School, started her career at Troutman Sanders, where she became a partner in the corporate practice. She later became assistant general counsel, vice president and corporate secretary for Mirant Corp.

Chandler's community involvement includes serving as board chair for Atlanta Beltline Inc. and on UGA Law School's board of visitors.
Outgoing University of Georgia president Michael Adams has plenty of critics, detractors, even enemies as he leaves office today to make way for new UGA President Jere Morehead, who officially takes up the mantle on Monday.

But history will judge Adams' 16-year tenure kindly, said University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby.

"Even his critics have to admit he made a very positive impact on the university," said Huckaby, who was Adams' senior vice president for finance and administration when Adams faced what was probably his most serious crisis.

That was in 2003, after Adams forced out longtime UGA athletic director Vince Dooley.

The University of Georgia Foundation, whose board included some of the university's richest and most influential alumni, rebelled, but their rage at Adams went far beyond Adams' shoving out Dooley.

The foundation commissioned an audit of Adams' management practices and use of foundation money, and then released the blistering report to the public.

But the state Board of Regents backed Adams, calling the face-off an athletics-academics conflict. They instead directed Adams to create another group to raise and manage money for the university. The foundation came back into the fold two years ago when they and the newer Arch Foundation merged.

Adams endured sharp criticism in other controversies, such as when he gave former football coach Jim Donnan a raise without getting approval from the UGA Athletic Board.

Many UGA faculty and alumni reacted bitterly two years ago when the Regents awarded Adams a $50,000 annual raise paid for by the athletic
Adams made enemies, but leaves lasting academic, physical legacy

The foundation kerfuffle probably hurt Adams' and the university's ability to raise private funds in a time of declining state support, retired UGA historian Nash Boney believes. Adams, for his part, said he doesn't think the issue hurt fundraising.

Fundraising at UGA has remained at about $100 million each year during Adams' last several years at UGA, which is better than before he took office.

But UGA had the third-largest endowment among Southeastern Conference schools when Adams took over from Charles Knapp in 1997. By 2008, UGA lagged behind three others of the then-12 SEC schools, wrote Rich Whitt in his account of the Adams presidency, "Behind the Hedges." UGA also lags far behind many of the universities it aspires to emulate, such as the University of North Carolina and the University of Virginia, which recently concluded a $3 billion campaign.

The flow of federal dollars to UGA researchers also stalled in recent years, though the national economy and federal cutbacks have hurt more universities than UGA.

But Adams may have laid the groundwork for future growth in those areas.

Asked what his legacy would be, Adams named academics and cited the creation of the College of Engineering, the School of Public and International Affairs, the Odum School of Ecology, the College of Public Health and a medical partnership with Georgia Regents University.

"I think we've helped prepare the university to compete better research-wise in the 21st century, but I hope the better part of my legacy is an academic legacy," Adams said.

UGA administrators have for years pointed to the absence of medical and engineering schools as a big reason Georgia sometimes doesn't crack the top 100 research institutions in federal grant totals.

"In the long run, the medical campus and the engineering campus might be Adams' biggest academic legacy," Boney said. "It was like missing a front tooth not to have a medical school on campus."

And in the future, having those kinds of schools at UGA could also help with fundraising; doctors and engineers tend to make more money than the average teacher.

Georgia students' SAT scores and grade point averages went up while Adams was president, but that may have had more to do with the state's enormous population growth and the HOPE Scholarship.

But the HOPE and population growth aren't the only reasons UGA's
Adams made enemies, but leaves lasting academic, physical legacy...  

http://onlineathens.com/uga/2013-06-29/adams-made-enemies-leaves...

academic reputation has grown under Adams. The university is regularly ranked one of the top public universities in the country.

"The university is better known now not only in the United States but around the world because of successes that have occurred during his term," said Larry Dendy, a retired assistant to the UGA vice president for public affairs.

Its students repeatedly win prestigious awards such as the Rhodes Scholarship, and its honors program for top students is the envy of many universities.

Adams also championed studying abroad from the time he arrived in Athens from Kentucky's Centre College. The number of UGA students who spend at least some time studying in a foreign country has more than doubled.

The first thing that occurs to many people when they think of Adams' impact is the sheer volume of construction on campus since 1997, much of it financed by the UGA Real Estate Foundation, a nonprofit corporation Adams established.

Unlike the university itself, the foundation can borrow money to finance construction projects. In a little more than a decade, the foundation has financed hundreds of millions of dollars for projects such as the 1,200-bed East Campus Village, the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center and numerous parking decks.

The foundation leases the buildings to the university, which pays off the debt through student housing fees, parking fees or indirect costs on research projects. The buildings will revert to state ownership once the debt is paid off in 20 or 30 years.

"If you were to pick one event that was very important for the university, it would be the creation of the UGA Real Estate Foundation," said retired UGA provost and vice president for academic affairs William Prokasy. "It enabled the university to get away from state limitations."

UGA now has about 40 percent more square feet of building space than when Adams assumed the presidency, said UGA associate vice president for facilities planning Danny Sniff. Besides new buildings, many of the university's older buildings on north campus have been renovated. The university has spent well more than $1 billion on construction during Adams' years.

"He has overseen more physical development of the campus than any other president in terms of dollars as well as probably physical structures," Dendy said.

But Adams has built with specific goals in mind.

"I was frankly concerned when I came here about how much this place functioned like a commuter campus," Adams said last week at the dedication of Rutherford Hall, UGA's newest residence hall.

"Another big initiative was to add to the undergraduate experience by
Adams made enemies, but leaves lasting academic, physical legacy

Adding dormitories, supporting all the green space programs, along with academic programs like mentoring that supported the academic mission," Sniff said.

Workers have converted about 43 acres of asphalt to green space, pushing cars more to the edge of campus and beyond.

Projects like those and the Miller Learning Center, open late into the night, have brought more students back to campus, said Adams.

"We have created an academic environment that extends well beyond what happens 8 to 5," he said.

Adams has also backed environmental initiatives, such as a push for more green space and ongoing programs to curb water consumption, energy use and waste generation, Dendy said.

Like Boney, Sniff believes a bigger and more attractive campus will be part of Adams' legacy, but probably not the most important part.

"I think his biggest legacy will be the engineering, public health and ecology colleges, and the medical campus," he said. "They will have a profound impact on what this campus could become."

All in all, Adams should get a good grade, said historian Boney, whose tenure at UGA spans four presidents.

Under Adams, enrollment and the physical plant grew, graduate programs improved and so did the student body, Boney said.

"It's very hard to measure these people," he said, "but if I were grading him, I'd give him a B+ or an A."

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Concrete Tiger Teacher
All in all Adams meant well, and for the most part, did well.
Problem was, the guy just wasn't too bright! ☹️
University of Georgia President Michael Adams leaves office after 16-year tenure

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
June 30, 2013 - 5:25 pm EDT

ATHENS, Georgia — University of Georgia President Michael Adams is leaving office after 16 years of service, clearing the way for President-elect Jere Morehead to officially begin in his new role.

University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby told the Athens Banner-Herald (http://bit.ly/127Q8Si) even Adams' critics will likely say he made a positive impact on the school. Morehead, who previously served as provost and vice president of academic affairs, is set to take office Monday.

Adams has said his legacy will be creating the College of Engineering, the School of Public and International Affairs, the Odum School of Ecology, the College of Public Health and a medical partnership the school launched with Georgia Regents University.

"In the long run, the medical campus and the engineering campus might be Adams' biggest academic legacy," UGA historian Nash Boney said. "It was like missing a front tooth not to have a medical school on campus."

Adams says creating those academic programs has helped raise the university's profile in the research field. Among other things, the university's enrollment grew to 35,000 students and its endowment nearly tripled.

Under Adams' watch, the University of Georgia has added 40 percent more square feet of building space, said UGA associate vice president for facilities planning Danny Sniff. The school has also spent more than $1 billion in construction during Adams' tenure.

"He has overseen more physical development of the campus than any other president in terms of dollars as well as probably physical structures," said Larry Dendy, a retired assistant to the UGA vice president for public affairs.

Adams has said he plans to continue working with the university as a faculty member after he leaves office.

Just after being unanimously chosen by the Georgia Board of Regents to serve as president, Morehead — a 1980 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law — announced that his administration would launch a major capital campaign soon after he took office.
Morehead has also restructured the school's administration, school officials have said the move essentially flattens the university's administrative flow chart, allowing for more direct communication between leaders of administrative offices.

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TV briefs: Georgia featured in HBO doc 'Gideon's Army,' and news about Kim Zolciak and Paula Deen

Related

By Rodney Ho

Public defenders in Hall and Clayton counties are profiled in an HBO documentary "Gideon's Army" Monday night at 9 p.m.

Trav Williams, a dedicated public defender and former University of Georgia law student, does his work in Gainesville with enthusiasm despite being strapped by student loan debt. He posts all his victories (not guilties) on the wall and his losses (those who end up in prison) as tattoos on his back.

Brandy Alexander has been working longer in Clayton County and struggles with lousy pay, a caseload that averages 180 people at at time and a system that encourages people to plead guilty.

The documentary, featured at the Sundance Film Festival, focuses on how the public defender system is overwhelmed, that most poor people who are arrested either have inadequate representation or none at all.

The film spends time at the Southern Public Defender Training Center in Atlanta, which helps young public defenders learn their craft. At one event, Rep. John Lewis shows up to tell them how lawyers made all the difference in the civil rights movement of the 1960s and moves Alexander to tears.

Over three plus years from 2009 to 2012, the filmmakers visited jails in Mississippi and Atlanta and courtooms in Jackson, Miss., Gainesville, Ga. and Atlanta.

Reviews have been positive. LA Weekly called it "the most illuminating crime drama since The Wire went dead."

You can read more here. And watch the trailer here:
TV briefs: Georgia featured in HBO doc 'Gideon's Army,' and... | Rad... http://www.accessatlanta.com/weblogs/radio-tv-talk/2013/jun30/tv-...

TV preview

"Gideon's Army," 9 p.m., Monday, July 1, HBO

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On a far less serious issue, Kim Zolciak, former "Real Housewives of Atlanta" cast member, is peeved that a photo agency created what she considers a false controversy by releasing photos of her smoking, implying she had been doing so while pregnant with her current child, according to TMZ.

She said the photos were taken awhile ago and besides, the person who took it invaded her privacy. And yes, of course, she might sue.

***

Forbes magazine estimates Paula Deen has lost at least $12.5 million in restaurant, TV, merchandising and endorsement deals the past 10 days.

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- Posted by FlintCrispy at 11:42 a.m. Jul. 1, 2013
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Where would we be without the AJC keeping everybody informed about some trashy reality tv person from 10 years ago?

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Yarbrough: Thoughts on changing of Grady deans

updated Sunday, June 30, 2013 - 6:23pm

I try to make it a habit to hang around with smart people. Given that my IQ is not much larger than my waistline, this isn’t difficult to do.

One person who fits that bill — and is a nice guy to boot — is the newly retired dean of my beloved Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia, Dr. C. Culpepper Clark.

It is no small coincidence that the dean of the Grady College hails from Grady County. It is just another obvious example of the fact that God is partial to UGA. Our dean could have come from Ashtabula, Ohio. The Ashtabula College of Journalism? That would never have worked.

No need to dredge up times that are blessedly in the rearview mirror, but suffice it to say that it has been a bumpy ride during much of the tenure of Michael Adams, the recent past president of my alma mater. But let bygones be bygones. I will always treasure the form letters from his office acknowledging my financial support of UGA.

Walking the fine line between Adams and an opinionated columnist/Grady grad of wide circulation who can find the humor-impaired like a moth finds a porch light has not been easy for Cully Clark, but if my barbs at his boss ever caused him discomfort, he never let it show.

Dean Clark retired last week, and his good works deserve applause. The Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at UGA is a better place because he was there — and it was pretty good to begin with. Because of the dean, I have continued to support the university through scholarships and internships and a recently announced chair in Crisis Communications Leadership at the Grady College. I doubt any of this would have happened had Cully Clark not been around.

We had lunch recently to celebrate his retirement and to talk about the future. We discussed our joint efforts to make the Grady College a national leader in the area of crisis communications in the days to come. There will be no shortage of opportunities.

Ironically, our get-together coincided with the fiasco that is Paula Deen. Whether she has been treated fairly or not is not the issue. What matters
is that when not crying or begging forgiveness, it is clear she was not prepared for the fallout that occurred after she mentioned she had used a racial slur in the past. Now, her food empire is crumbling like a half-baked cake. It didn’t have to happen.

It is my hope that future leaders will understand that the court of public opinion can harm an organization’s reputation as much or more than the court of law and that the place to find out how to deal with crises will be good ol’ UGA and the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Cully Clark’s replacement will be Charles Davis, currently a professor at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, another top-notch facility. By the way, if you doubt my theological belief on God’s favorable view of UGA, Davis hails from Athens, the Classic City of the South.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in criminology from North Georgia College in Dahlonega and his master’s degree in journalism from the Grady College. Truth in advertising requires me to tell you that the new dean got his doctorate from the University of Florida. But I’m told he drives a red and black pickup truck, which makes up for a host of sins. Plus, you can take the boy out of Athens, but ... well, you know the rest.

At the same time that Cully Clark steps into the next phase of his academic and personal life, Jere Morehead will be installed as the University of Georgia’s 22nd president. The Board of Regents made a great choice in selecting Morehead, currently the university’s provost. He has already made a favorable impression on the Yarbrough clan by his personal participation at the ceremony announcing my commitment to the crisis communications program at the Grady College.

Life goes on at the University of Georgia, but I will miss Dean C. Culpepper Clark, of Grady County, Ga. He has been and will remain a good friend for whom I have the highest respect. Like Nik Wallenda and his recent Grand Canyon hike, Cully Clark walked a fine line and survived the experience.

• Georgia columnist Dick Yarbrough can be reached at yarb2400@bellsouth.net.

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