Georgia Law welcomes notable guests

Each year, the law school is fortunate to welcome a variety of distinguished guests. Whether meeting with students one-on-one, giving a presentation or participating in a conference, these visitors enrich the intellectual atmosphere by offering unique perspectives on timely issues. These visits are highlighted throughout the magazine and below.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas spent two days at the law school this past fall. He led a few classes, met with students in small groups, held a Q&A for law school students and faculty, and helped judge the biennial international moot court exchange with Gray’s Inn of London. This was the justice’s fifth visit to Georgia Law since 2003.

The school also welcomed Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, who stopped by during a visit to campus and discussed current issues facing the state with members of the law school community.

Several members of the Georgia state legislature and its judiciary gathered in Athens for the First Annual Symposium of Law & Politics. This event included: Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein, Georgia Court of Appeals Chief Judge John J. Ellington (J.D.’85), Georgia Senate President Pro Tempore Tommie A. Williams and U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia Edward J. “Ed” Tarver (J.D.’91). The conference was hosted by the school’s Georgia Association of Law & Politics and focused on current issues in Peach State politics such as immigration, judicial budgetary issues, congressional redistricting and the new Georgia Evidence Code.

Additional legislative officials who gave lectures at the law school included: U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, who spoke on issues facing elected representatives in Washington, D.C., and Georgia Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp, who shared his thoughts on the 2012 presidential primary dates.

On the judicial side, Georgia Supreme Court Justice Harold D. Melton (J.D.’91) shared his thoughts on balancing legal responsibilities with one’s personal faith, while Georgia Supreme Court Justice David E. Nahmias discussed his role on the court and current issues.

Also, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia Judge J. Randal Hall (J.D.’82) presented “Professionalism – A View From the Bench” to first-year law students and Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Keith R. Blackwell spoke to Associate Professor Elizabeth Weeks Leonard’s (J.D.’99) Torts class.

Adams to step down from UGA presidency in 2013

University President Michael F. Adams recently announced his decision to step down as president at the conclusion of the 2012–13 fiscal year.

At the end of his 16 years in office, he will stand fifth in length of service among the university’s 21 presidents, tied with founding President Abraham Baldwin.

Adams plans to stay engaged with the university and the Athens community after his presidency, with an eye toward teaching and writing.