Georgia Law bids farewell to two longtime professors

After collectively dedicating more than 60 years of service to Georgia Law, professors Alan Watson and Donald E. “Eugene” Wilkes Jr. retired June 1.

Watson, the holder of the Rogers Chair of Law and a Distinguished Research Professorship, is regarded as one of the world’s foremost authorities on Roman law, comparative law, legal history, and law and religion.

He holds 13 degrees (one is by decree and six are honorary) from the universities of Glasgow, Oxford, Edinburgh, Pretoria, Palermo, Belgrade and Stockholm.

A master of more than 12 languages, Watson has authored more than 150 articles and books, and several of his titles have been translated into various dialects.

Watson attended several sessions regarding the development of a common law for the European Union and, at the request of the U.S. Agency for International Development, he served as a member of the two-person U.S. team which helped revise the draft civil code for the Republic of Armenia.

In 1997, he was elected Visiting Honorary Professor of Private Law at the University of Edinburgh, the highest honorary award bestowed by the Scottish faculty.

He regularly serves as a distinguished lecturer at leading universities in the United States and abroad, including institutions in France, Germany, Holland, Israel, Italy, Poland, South Africa and Yugoslavia. And, this fall, Watson will be presented with a lifetime achievement award by the American Society of Comparative Law.

Of his 23-year tenure at Georgia Law, Watson said he enjoyed many memorable experiences and will miss teaching “some of the best and nicest students” he has ever encountered.

During retirement, he plans to continue his involvement with the Alan Watson Foundation, which was established by his colleagues at the University of Belgrade to promote a multidisciplinary understanding of law by encouraging scholarship broadly focusing on the correlation between law and society. Watson will also maintain an office at the law school, where he will continue his research activities.

Wilkes, who earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Florida, joined the law school’s faculty in 1971. Specializing in the fields of criminal procedure, English legal history and postconviction remedies, he is a leading expert on the writ of habeas corpus.

His scholarship includes approximately 250 published works including five books, 14 law review pieces, two book chapters, five encyclopedia entries and more than 160 articles in magazines, newspapers and professional journals.

Prior to teaching at Georgia Law, Wilkes clerked for U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida Judge Ben Krentzman.

During his early years in Athens, he took a leave of absence to serve as a Fellow in Law and the Humanities at Harvard University from 1975 to 1976.

While one of Wilkes’ highlights during his teaching career is having been interviewed by “60 Minutes” correspondent Harry Reasoner during May 1985 (a segment that subsequently aired), Georgia Law’s 1990 graduation holds a special place in his heart – it is the year his daughter, Karen, received her law degree.

“Dean Ron Ellington allowed me to hand her her diploma,” Wilkes said. “It was just a beautiful day. I remember the exact date – May 19, 1990.”

The thing Wilkes said he will miss most in his retirement is helping to “broaden the horizons” of his students and “providing new perspectives.”

Grading exams, however, is what he will miss the least.

“I think most professors will agree with me on this,” he added.

Wilkes will maintain an office at the law school and actively engage in research and writing, primarily in the area of the history of the writ of habeas corpus. Additionally, he will continue his pursuit of supporting the aviary population and add further credence to his moniker a “friend of liberty and birds.”

—Crissinda M. Ponder
FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Faculty Notes

The following will summarize the scholarly productivity of Georgia Law’s distinguished faculty during the calendar year 2011 and year-to-date 2012.

Diane Marie Amann

Peter A. Appel

Randy Beck

Lonnie T. Brown Jr.

Elizabeth Chamblee Burch

Thomas V. Burch

Ronald L. Carlson

Dan T. Coenen

Harlan G. Cohen

Julian A. Cook III

Andrea L. Dennis

Jaime L. Dodge

Maria Eugenia Giménez (LL.M.’89)

Matthew I. Hall

Erica J. Hashimoto

Walter Hellerstein
This past fall, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and Hosch Professor Paul M. Kurtz was presented with the Athens Justice Project’s Milner S. Ball Social Justice Award. He was selected for this honor because of his outstanding and continued support of countless community organizations and causes as well as for his tireless work on behalf of indigent criminal defense in Georgia and on the reform of family law nationally. Upon receiving the award, Kurtz recognized three types of people who “help move the social justice cause forward.”

“In the first group are those like [the late Caldwell Chair in Constitutional Law Milner S. Ball (J.D.’71) for whom the award is named] who are creative, inspirational and true role models,” Kurtz said. “They come up with big ideas and devote themselves to building structures and programs to help their fellow human beings.

“The second group consists of people who have a good heart and are willing to go to meetings, write memoranda, draft legislation and reports, attend charity events and write checks from time to time,” Kurtz added. “This is where I fit in.”

Thirdly, Kurtz said, are those working on the frontlines who actually deliver social services to those who need them. This includes public defenders, social workers, lawyers who do pro bono work, volunteers and other public servants.

“They do ‘social justice’ every day as they deal with the sometimes intractable problems of real people,” Kurtz said. “It is these people who inspire me and the others who are found in the first two groups. … These are the real heroes of the social justice community, and they are the ones who we should pause to honor and thank today.”

Originally called the Athens Justice Project Social Justice Award, the accolade was renamed two years ago in honor of Ball, who served as a professor at Georgia Law for almost 30 years and was well known for his altruism.

Kurtz honored for philanthropic work

Elizabeth Weeks Leonard (J.D.’99)

Colloquium series bring notable scholars to campus

Georgia Law hosts two colloquium series each year that provide a forum for provocative and innovative legal scholarship by bringing legal academics from around the country to Athens to present their latest research to faculty and students. Below is a summary of the 2011–12 presenters.

**Faculty Colloquium Series**

- Deborah J. Cantrell, University of Colorado at Boulder
- Scott Dodson, College of William & Mary
- Howard M. Erichson, Fordham University
- Brett Frischmann, Yeshiva University
- E. Lea Johnston, University of Florida
- Prasad Krishnamurthy, University of California, Berkeley
- Ethan J. Leib, Fordham University
- Gerald F. Leonard, Boston University
- Katerina Linos, University of California, Berkeley
- Julia D. Mahoney, University of Virginia
- Oren Perez, Bar-Ilan University (Israel)
- Mae C. Quinn, Washington University in St. Louis
- Chaim Saiman, Villanova University
- Henry E. Smith, Harvard University
- Scott E. Sundby, University of Miami

**International Law Colloquium Series**

- Joseph S. Miller

- Lisa Milot

- Lori A. Ringhand

- Usha Rodrigues

**International Law Colloquium Series**

- George A. Bermann, Columbia University
- Andrea K. Bjorklund, McGill University
- Chris Brummer, Georgetown University
- Robert M. Chesney, The University of Texas
- Laura A. Dickinson, George Washington University
- Andrew T. Guzman, University of California, Berkeley
- Douglas Stinnett, University of Georgia
- Joel P. Trachtman, Tufts University
- Ingrid B. Wuerth, Vanderbilt University

Margaret V. Sachs


Logan E. Sawyer III


David E. Shipley


James C. Smith


Larry D. Thompson


Travis M. Trimble (J.D.’93)


Christian Turner

Recent faculty appointments and honors

Woodruff Chair in International Law Diane Marie Amann has been elected to the executive committee of the American Society of International Law’s Lieber Society on the Law of Armed Conflict.

Director of the Criminal Defense Clinic Russell C. Gabriel (J.D. ’85) was honored by the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers with its President’s Award for his excellence in service as chairperson of the organization’s Indigent Defense Committee.

Assistant Professor Matthew I. Hall was one of 10 tenure-track junior faculty members to be named a 2011–13 Lilly Teaching Fellow by the UGA Center for Teaching and Learning. To be selected for this honor, one must demonstrate a passion for and commitment to excellence in teaching.

Distinguished Research Professor and Shackelford Distinguished Professor in Taxation Law Walter Hellerstein was an invited witness before the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance at an April hearing on “Tax Reform: What It Means for State and Local Tax and Fiscal Policy.” During his testimony, Hellerstein provided an overview of federal-state tax coordination in an effort to assist the committee in determining the appropriate role of Congress with regard to matters of state taxation.

Associate Professor Elizabeth Weeks Leonard (J.D. ’99) has been appointed chair-elect of the Association of American Law Schools’ Section on Law, Medicine and Health Care.

Lori A. Ringhand, who was promoted to Hosch Professor in May, was awarded the 2012 Neal Tate Award by the Southern Political Science Association – an honor reserved for outstanding papers in judicial politics.

Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge, the new holder of the Talmadge Chair, has been selected to serve on the board of directors for the Atlanta International Arbitration Society.

Assistant Professor Logan E. Sawyer III was named a member of the 2011–12 UGA Teaching Academy Fellows program. Approximately 20 early-career faculty members campus wide were selected to participate.

Professor and Law Library Director Emeritus Erwin C. Surrency (J.D. ’48) was selected for inclusion in the American Association of Law Libraries Hall of Fame for his years of distinguished service to the AALS and for his significant contributions to the profession.

Sibley Professor in Corporate and Business Law Larry D. Thompson has been appointed by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. to serve a three-year term on the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Judicial Conference of the United States.

This year, the Georgia Law student body honored (l. to r.) Assistant Professor Christian Turner, Associate Professor Erica Hashimoto and Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism Lonnie Brown with the John C. O’Byrne Memorial Award for Significant Contributions to Furthering Faculty-Student Relations, the C. Ronald Ellington Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Student Bar Association Professionalism Award, respectively.

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View more faculty highlights at www.law.uga.edu/faculty-highlights.
IN MEMORIAM

Anne Proffitt Dupre — a respected scholar, teacher, mentor and friend

On June 22, 2011, the Georgia Law community lost a person who touched many of our lives on a variety of levels. Anne Proffitt Dupre was a respected scholar, a dedicated teacher, a wise mentor, a valued colleague and a treasured friend. After a courageous battle with cancer, she died at the age of 58.

Dupre joined the law school community in the fall of 1985 as a first-year student. She became editor-in-chief of the Georgia Law Review, graduated first in her class and was inducted into the Order of the Coif.

After graduation in 1988, she served as a judicial clerk for U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit Judge J.L. Edmondson and for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun. She then practiced law in Washington, D.C., before returning to Athens as an assistant professor of law in 1994.

A nationally recognized scholar in the areas of education law and policy, Dupre also specialized in contract law. She held a J. Alton Hosch Professorship, was the recipient of several teaching honors and greatly contributed to the academic environment at the law school, UGA and the wider teaching academy through her active service and involvement.

She is survived by her husband, William “Bill” Dupre, and her father, George Proffitt.

The following excerpts will provide insight into some of the ways in which Dupre touched the lives of so many. These were taken from the law school’s online tribute page – www.law.uga.edu/memory-anne-proffitt-dupre. Please feel free to visit and add your own.

“Professor Dupre and I had a special, first-day relationship. Our section was her first – both her first year teaching, and the very first class she taught. And I was the first student she ever called on. … Naturally, I was terrified. And so, as it turned out, was Professor Dupre. She told me later how she’d worried over that first day, that first student to be called on. What would happen if she picked someone who was unprepared or who couldn’t take the pressure? … When I walked into class that first morning, I’d been proud that I’d even read the cases for the first day …. When I walked out, I knew that this class and this professor would challenge my intellect in a way I’d never experienced before. She brought out the best in me.”

—Juliana Rowland (J.D.’97)

“Anne was one of the smartest, funniest, most fearless people I’ve ever known. Particularly as a young woman entering law teaching, there was no greater role model for [me] to look up to than Anne. She was a friend, colleague, teacher, scholar and mentor, and she excelled at all of these roles.”

—Associate Professor Sonja R. West

“Anne Dupre is the best teacher I ever had. She taught attention to detail, organization, and preparation. She demanded rigorous thinking. She questioned us, ‘probing’ – her word – for weakness and when she found it she excised it. I hated her most of my first year. But I grew to love her. Now, I appreciate the debt I owe her. She prepared me for my professional life like no other teacher or experience in the Academy.”

—E. Howard Merry (J.D.’99)

“Of all of the important lessons she taught us, the two that had the greatest impact in my life were: (1) to always be prepared (for anything, from an argument to a wine tasting), and (2) to always be proud of being a lawyer, a profession whose value society often takes for granted.”

—Glianny Fagundo (J.D.’00)

“Professor Dupre had the ability to bring out the best in people because she saw what others oftentimes overlooked. She recognized potential – especially the kind that extended outside the classroom – and she challenged others to expand their outer limits. She has helped so many to uncover and develop their talents. Professor Dupre pushed those around her toward excellence, and those who listened thrived. She saw past herself, always working to motivate others.”

—Jenah L. Zweig (J.D.’11)