Brown named associate dean of academic affairs

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

Dean Rebecca Hanner White said she was pleased Brown agreed to take on this important responsibility. “I am confident Lonnie will do an excellent job for us all.”

Brown is not a stranger to the administrative side of academic life. For the 2007–08 year, he served as the inaugural Administrative Fellow in UGA’s Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. This full-time, one-year fellowship exposed him to the inner workings of academic administration, including university governance, promotion and tenure, crisis response, policy development and budgeting.

Specializing in civil procedure and legal ethics, Brown is the current holder of the A. Gus Cleveland Distinguished Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism at the law school.

He is also very active in the legal community, serving on the Drafting Committee for the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam and on the State Bar of Georgia Formal Advisory Opinion Board. Additionally, he was recently selected by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia as the principal substantive consultant for the court’s Local Rules Revision Project.

Brown has received the Student Bar Association’s Professionalism Award six times and has been presented with the Ellington Award for Excellence in Teaching. He also was selected on two occasions to be an honorary faculty marshal at graduation. At the university level, Brown has served as a Senior Teaching Fellow, and he is a member of the UGA Teaching Academy.

Prior to coming to Athens, Brown was an assistant professor at the University of Illinois College of Law and a visiting assistant professor at Vanderbilt University. He served as a judicial clerk for Judge William C. O’Kelley of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Additionally, he practiced law as an associate and a partner at Alston & Bird in Atlanta from 1991 to 1999.

Brown earned his Juris Doctor from Vanderbilt University, where he was editor-in-chief of the Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Emory University, where he was student body president and the recipient of the Marion Luther Brittain Award, Emory’s highest student honor.

The appearance and functionality of the law school’s facilities have greatly improved over the past two years. Most recently, the Rotunda and cupola received a face-lift. This historic space presently features black granite and white marble flooring and is much brighter due to the “opening up” of the cupola, which now provides natural and enhanced lighting.

Additionally the second floor walkway, accessed by the law library entrance, was renamed in honor of Kathelen V. Amos, a 1982 graduate of the law school. The dedication ceremony included a portrait unveiling of Amos, whose likeness now hangs in the space that bears her name – the Kathelen Van Blarcum Amos Foyer. Amos and her husband, Dan, made a leadership gift to the law school to assist with its renovations and have been longtime supporters of the school.

In the summer of 2011, approximately 4,000 additional square feet of building space was created when the Sutherland Courtyard was enclosed and transformed into a wonderful study and gathering space for students and faculty.

This work to repurpose underutilized areas and to address overcrowding also included the creation of a large student lounge (which has a Jittery Joe’s Coffee shop), seven group study/interview rooms, a large locker room and additional student organization offices.

The scope of the project also involved the installation of a grand staircase and a “glass wall” spanning all three levels of the north end of the law school’s primary building providing natural lighting and exterior views of the new courtyard as well as resulting in wider walkways and supplemental gathering space.

Further progress will be made this summer when the hallways on the second and third floors are renovated to “link” with the work completed on the first floor, the Rotunda and the northern end of the building and will aesthetically connect “the old with the new.” Work began after classes finished in May, and it is scheduled to be completed in August before students return.

View more images of Georgia Law’s renovations at www.law.uga.edu/building-future.

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Georgia Law alumnus to be next UGA president

By unanimous vote, the University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved Jere Morehead, a 1980 graduate of Georgia Law, as UGA’s 22nd president. He will assume leadership of the state’s flagship institution of higher education on July 1.

Morehead, who is currently senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at UGA, has been described as “a quiet and brilliant academic with an unparalleled understanding of the university’s inner workings” and as “a collaborative type more likely to make thoughtful, nuanced changes to the institution as opposed to an overhaul.”

University System Chancellor Hank Huckaby said Morehead’s appointment “is the right decision for UGA. I have known and worked with Jere for many years and am delighted he will have this great opportunity to serve the university he loves so well. Our students will be in excellent hands under his leadership. Jere will bring the vision and energy essential to UGA advancing its land grant mission.”

Morehead said being named UGA’s next president is a dream come true.

“When the University of Georgia faces many economic challenges, I believe that if we focus on our academic priorities, we can and will reach new heights as an institution,” he added. “The university is poised, thanks to our faculty, staff and students, to become one of the greatest public universities in this country. That belief will filter every decision that I make, how I spend my time and how I devote the university’s resources in the coming years.”

In some ways, Morehead’s thought process as president will be a continuation of the philosophy he has applied in his current position.

“When I became provost I said that I thought our institution needed to be less bureaucratic, it needed to be very responsive to our faculty, students, alumni and supporters, and that is an issue that I will continue to confront and to address going forward.”

Morehead also said one of the most important things he can do as president is to keep the university focused on being “the strongest academic institution that we can possibly be.”

$1.5 million cy pres award goes toward scholarships

Last year, U.S. District Court Judge Clay D. Land (J.D.’85) entered an order directing $1.5 million of a cy pres remainder fund to Georgia Law to endow a new scholarship fund.

Georgia Law alumni Joel O. Wooten (J.D.’75) and James E. “Jim” Butler (J.D.’77) represented the class that obtained the class action settlement and were members of the Remainder Fund Committee that made recommendations to the court on the distribution of the remainder funds.

The scholarship will provide financial assistance to deserving Georgia Law students “who have demonstrated an intention and commitment to dedicate a significant part of their professional career to the representation of individuals in civil matters who, due to their financial circumstances and the nature of their legal problem, would be unlikely to be able to privately retain legal counsel.”

That requires getting our entire structure behind a major capital campaign to move the university forward because we can’t assume that, in these economic times, we’re going to get our resources from any place other than our own friends and supporters.”

Morehead’s career covers a wide range of faculty and administrative posts at UGA. Prior to his current position, which he assumed in 2010, he served as UGA’s vice president for instruction, vice provost for academic affairs, director of the Honors Program and acting executive director of legal affairs.

In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Morehead is the Meigs Professor of Legal Studies in the Terry College of Business, where he has held a faculty appointment since 1986. He also directed the law school’s Advocacy Program from 1986 to 1995.

Assisting Morehead with his move to the president’s office is Georgia Law Dean Rebecca Hanner White. She is a member of his 12-person Presidential Transition Advisory Committee, which is gathering information on key issues facing the university and sharing ideas for a successful presidency.

Also, Kathy Pharr, the law school’s director of communications and public relations from 1993 to 2001, has been appointed the new president’s chief of staff.

Adams to retire after 16 years

One of the country’s longest serving university presidents, Michael F. Adams will step down from his post on June 30. Under Adams’ leadership, student quality at UGA has risen steadily and the campus has been transformed, with more than $1 billion in new construction, renovation and infrastructure and 6.2 million square feet of new space completed. Also, during his 16 years of service, UGA has attained its highest rankings ever, has become the most selective in its history and has grown from roughly 29,000 students to almost 35,000 students.

He was named the university’s 21st president on June 11, 1997.