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FAMU College of Law

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From the Dean's Desk

Having closed out another calendar year at the FAMU College of Law, we reflect on a busy and productive season marked by milestones.

We began the calendar year by launching our Academic Success program, which helps our students hone their skills in preparation for the upcoming bar exam.

In the spring, dozens of our students secured clerkships, internships and other meaningful summer

employment in the legal arena.

The summer was highlighted by our granting of provisional accreditation by the American Bar Association.

During the fall, we enrolled our largest entering class to date, 113 students.

All of these achievements were realized because countless friends, alumni and other supporters of the College of Law reached out to help.

On behalf of the faculty,



Dean Percy R. Luney, Jr.

staff and students at the FAMU College of Law, I want to thank you for your continued

support of our effort to provide a quality legal education to our students.



Clinical Programs Take Shape

The FAMU College of Law is well on its way to making the clinical program integral to the legal education and skills training provided to students while providing a critical service to the Central Florida community.

The FAMU College of Law clinical program opened in the fall and provides legal services to indigent clients in the Orlando area. Law students who have completed the requisite number of credit hours, generally third year students, may assume some of the powers and authority of attorneys when enrolled in a law school clinical program.

Prior to assuming the responsibilities of an attorney, students must apply to and be approved by the Florida Supreme Court as Certified Legal Interns (CLIs). The Florida Supreme Court granted CLI status to students in the

class of 2005 in September. The students are using their new status as CLIs to provide legal services for indigent clients while under the supervision of a licensed attorney (both defending and prosecuting).

Students who received the CLI certification are working in the State Attorney, Public Defender and Housing clinics. Students in the Bankruptcy Clinic were approved by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida to practice as CLIs. The faculty team responsible for the clinics and the certification processes are: Phyllis Smith, Hastings Jones, Karin Moore, Nicky Boothe-Perry, Eang Ngov, Jennifer Smith, Brad Saxton, Douglas Neway and John Paul Jones. The local legal community also supported the clinic and the certification

process.

Ka'Juel Washington, 3L, made history this fall as the first College of Law student to complete a full trial in the clinical program. Washington did an externship with the Office of the Public Defender, Orange and Osceola Counties, 9th Judicial Circuit, for his clinical experience. In October he did a full D.U.I. trial from voir dire (selecting a jury) to closing arguments. The trial resulted in a hung jury and his client left the courtroom a free man. The State has the option of re-charging the client.

Beginning in the fall of 2005, when the permanent campus is complete, students and attorneys will work out of the FAMU law clinic's offices. The offices are part of the state-of-the-art building and will be set up to operate as a small law firm.

Faculty Profile: Professor Lundy Langston

Professor Lundy Langston is a member of the Founding Faculty at FAMU College of Law. She received her Juris Doctorate (J.D.) degree, with honors, from North Carolina Central University (NCCU) School of Law where she also received her Bachelor's degree. While a law student



Prof. Lundy Langston

at NCCU, Professor Langston was Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review and a member of the Moot Court Board. Upon graduating from NCCU School of Law, Prof. Langston clerked at the North Carolina Supreme Court for the Honorable Justice Henry E. Frye. After completing her clerkship, Prof. Langston attended Columbia University Law School where she received her Masters in Law (LL.M.)

degree.

Prof. Langston came to FAMU College of Law from Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. While on the faculty at Nova, Professor Langston taught the first, regular semester, ABA approved, cyber course with no in class sessions.

She was honored by a student-voted election for her to serve as faculty speaker at the law school graduation ceremony. Prof. Langston was instrumental in adding a Domestic Violence workshop to the Nova curriculum. In addition to teaching at Nova, Prof. Langston also taught at Tulsa College of Law in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in CLEO (a federally program that provides financial assistance to law students) at

Touro Law School in Long Island, New York, and at her alma mater, NCCU School of Law.

Throughout her teaching career, Prof. Langston has given talks in the international arena as well as domestically. She participated in a program in Ghana, West Africa, as part of the Black Studies Scholars Institute, sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the National Council for Black Studies.

She presented talks at the University of Malaga Law School in Malaga, Spain and taught a mock United States law class at the University of Beijing in Beijing, China. Domestically, Prof. Langston has conducted presentations at various law schools throughout the country, including Columbia University Law School, The University of Michigan Law School, Duke Law School, and Howard University Law School.

In addition to Domestic Violence and Cyber Law, Prof. Langston's other areas of teaching interest include Bioethics, Criminal Law, International Criminal Law, Juvenile Law, Family Law, Criminal Procedure, Race and the Law, Women and the Law, and Jurisprudence. Prof. Langston co-authored a textbook entitled *Torts: Contemporary Cases, Comments and Problems*. Her scholarly articles have been published in noted journals and law reviews such as the *Miami International and Comparative Law Journal*, *American University Law School International Law Review*, *Columbia's Gender and the Law Journal*, *Wisconsin Women's Law Journal*, and *Cardozo's Women's Law Journal*. She also published in an international journal for the University of Malaga Law School in Malaga Spain.

Faculty Scholarship & Activities

Dean Percy R. Luney, Jr. is a member of a recently formed Blue Ribbon Panel on Education for Orange County Public Schools. The panel's mission is to develop recommendations for improved student performance. Dean Luney is co-chair of the panel's committee on education management. He also served as a panelist for a panel titled "Can Ethics & Business Coexist in Bottom Line Times?" The panel was sponsored by the University of Central Florida and the Orlando Business Journal.

Professor Barbara Bernier directed the college's Law in America series for the fall. The series of discussions, open to the public, dealt with same-sex marriage, military tribunals, and voting rights. FAMU professors who served as panelists were Associate Professor Nathaniel

Friends and Assistant Professor James Smith, III. Other panelists who spoke during the series included professors from the University of Central Florida and the Barry University School of Law.

Assistant Professor James Smith, III and Desiree Sanchez, director of academic success programs, both passed the Florida Bar Examination. Prof. Smith was previously admitted to the South Carolina Bar and Sanchez is a member of the New York Bar.

Assistant Professor Reginald Mombrun has been invited to serve on the board of directors for the Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention. The organization develops programs to address health disparities and quality of life issues for the African American, His-

panic and Caribbean community in Central Florida.

Associate Professor Nathaniel Friends spoke at a training session for Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. The session focused on "How to do an administrative hearing" and Prof. Friends made a one-hour presentation explaining administrative hearings and the importance of preserving issues for appeal.

Assistant Professor Phyllis Smith was featured in National Jurist magazine in an item titled "Attorney Q&A: Advice from a new professor."

Professor Lundy Langston and two of her students were featured in a series of stories about domestic violence issues on Central Florida Diversity: The People's Journal, an Orlando television show. The stu-

dents interviewed were Marcia McMahan and Tony Covington. Professor Langston also taught an L.L. M. course in intercultural human rights at the St. Thomas University School of Law on Oct. 22 and 23. Thirty-five students representing 23 countries attended the class. She has been appointed to the Community Leadership Council for the Howard Phillips Center for Children & Families. She will act as an advisor to the Orlando Regional Healthcare Foundation and provide philanthropic support of causes and programs.

Professor Joan Bullock moderated a panel of women judges for an event sponsored by the FAMU Women's Law Caucus and the Central Florida Association of Women Lawyers (CFAWL).

Alumni Spotlight: Isiah Williams, III

By Nicole Hester Williams
Staff Writer
The Jacksonville Advocate Newspaper

Isiah Williams – publisher of The Jacksonville Advocate and president of the Jacksonville chapter of The Association for the Study of African American Life and History – could be called a walking anthology of African-American history.

Not only has he taught the subject at the college level, but Williams has lived a noteworthy life of his own.

A 1963 graduate of the FAMU College of Law, Williams said he and his five classmates had far from an easy ride.

“It was rough in our class,” Williams said. “They expected a lot out of us.”

However, he believes the rigor of the program may explain why he passed New York’s Bar Exam the first time around.

“I remember when I first arrived in New York, I went to this well-known bar called the Red Rooster, and I met this fellow,” he said. “He introduced me to so many influential people that first night.”

As a result of that meeting, Williams said he soon found himself intermingling with Harlem’s socially elite, including Malcolm X and Adam Clayton Powell. He served as an attorney for the Black Panthers; engaged in intellectual dialogue with Langston Hughes; and accepted a position at one of New York’s top law firms.

“Ike was one of the pall bearers at Malcolm X’s funeral, in fact he’s in the picture that ran on the front page of the ‘New York Times,’” said Marilyn Wilkerson Williams, Isiah’s wife and co-publisher of the newspaper.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Williams was given up by his young

mother and raised by his aunt (whom he’d always considered his mother) and uncle.

After his uncle was killed in an industrial accident when he was 13, his aunt sent him to Feseden Academy, a private boarding middle school. Williams excelled at Feseden, developing an appreciation for reading and history.

Among the notables who attended Feseden are Donald Jones, dean of Florida Coastal School of Law, and Alcee Hastings, the U.S. Congressman and fellow FAMU classmate.

After completing Feseden, Williams returned to Jacksonville, finished high school, and enlisted in the Army, serving a two-year stint. He later returned home, and accepted a position at the Jacksonville Terminal.

While working at the terminal, a friend of his, Christopher Brewington, came into town. Brewington, on his way to Xavier University for pharmacy, took an active interest in his friend’s education – escorting Williams to Edward Waters College.

“If it hadn’t been for him, I may not have ever gone to college.”

Williams received his associate of arts degree from Edward Waters, and his bachelor’s degree from Florida Memorial College.

“I didn’t want to go to law school. One of my classmates was going, so he encouraged me to go,” Williams said. “The next thing I knew, I was at Florida A&M in law school.”

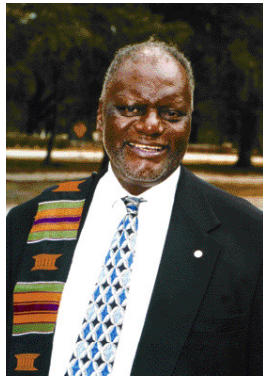
After graduating, Williams moved to New York, where he worked as an attorney while pursuing a master’s degree in Legal Studies from the Brooklyn School of Law. He later accepted a position with his long time friend, and now Judge, Mark

Spires

He returned to Jacksonville, where he dabbled in cable television before the industry took off. Williams later accepted a position at Florida Community College as a history professor.

Soon, friends and colleagues convinced him to mark and record more African-American history by starting a newspaper. He went to Miami and met with Garth Reeves, then publisher of the Miami Times.

After soaking in as much knowledge as he could in one day, Williams embarked on the challenge of providing an alternative publication to Jacksonville’s African-American community. Now, 28 years later, the Jacksonville Advocate thrives.



Isiah Williams III

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 9, 2005:
Third Annual Percy R. Luney, Jr.
Spirit of Service Awards
6 p.m. at the Varsity Club at Florida
Citrus Bowl
Sponsored by the Jesse J. McCrary
Chapter of the Black Law Students
Association, the event highlights
superior service exemplified by College
of Law students, faculty and staff.

Saturday, April 30, 2005: University
Commencement
College of Law graduating students
will join other FAMU students in
the university-wide commencement
exercises in Tallahassee. (Location and
time TBD)

Saturday, May 7, 2005: Law School
Commencement
Third-year students will take part in
the reestablished College of Law’s first
commencement program in Orlando.
(Location and time TBD)

Scenes from the College of Law



Photo by Charles Hodges

Dean Luney joined State Representative Arthenia Joyner and former ABA President Dennis Archer prior to Archer giving the keynote address at the Celebration for Provisional Accreditation.



Photo by Charles Hodges

Ambassador Harriet L. Elam-Thomas, Pat Christiansen, Beverly Marshall-Luney and Geraldine Thompson attended the reception and dinner to celebrate provisional accreditation with keynote speaker Dennis Archer in November.

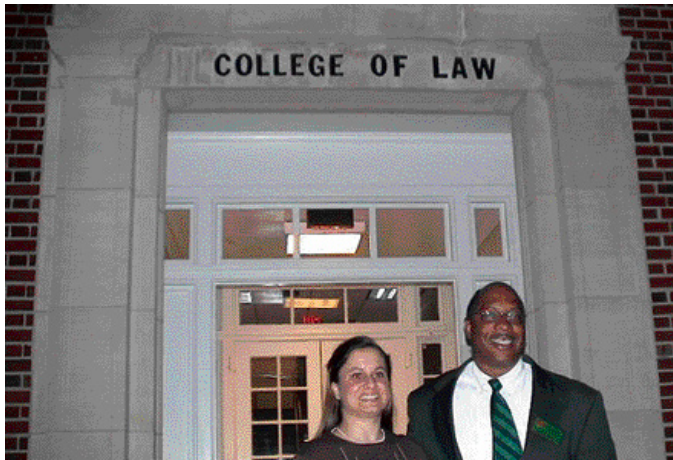


Photo by Eric Jams

Elizabeth Gomez-Mayo (1L) and Student Bar Association President Carlos Woody (3L) stood outside the original College of Law after touring the FAMU main campus in Tallahassee. Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends traveled to Tallahassee to join other College of Law supporters to celebrate provisional accreditation and view exhibits of the law school's history.



Photo by Rolland Desmarais

Dean Luney addressed the crowd at the topping out ceremony for the permanent campus. With him were (l to r) Vernice Atkins-Bradley of Turner Construction, Orlando City Commissioner Daisy W. Lynum, Shawnda Anderson, PSA Constructors, Inc., and Scott Skidelsky, Turner Construction Florida.



Photo by Rolland Desmarais

Professor Lundy Langston (1) and Karla Davis, director of admissions, signed a beam which was placed on the permanent campus at the topping out ceremony in November.



Photo by Rolland Desmarais

The beam, signed by the construction crews, faculty and staff, was placed on the permanent campus in November. The law school campus is scheduled to open in the fall of 2005.

Student Activities



Photo by Rolland Desmarais

Michele Velazquez, 2L, Tonya Minick, 3L, and Japonica Jackson, 2L, chatted during a reception hosted by the FAMU Women's Law Caucus and the Central Florida Association of Women Lawyers. The reception preceded a panel discussion with local women judges.

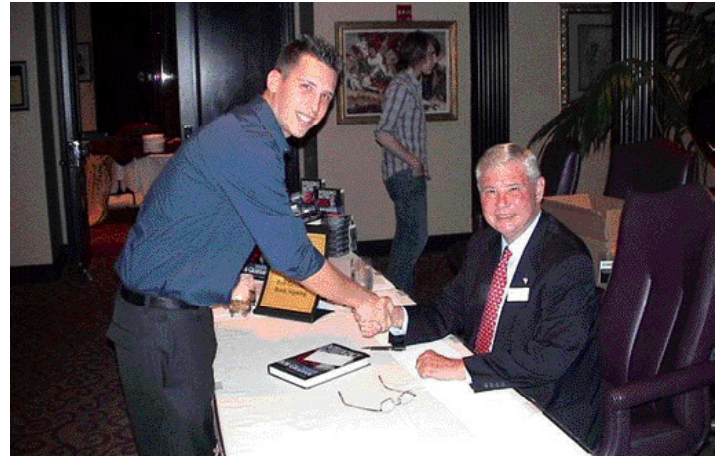


Photo by Rolland Desmarais

U.S. Senator Bob Graham greeted Benjamin Sharpe (2L) while autographing copies of his book "Intelligence Matters." Graham participated in "The War in Iraq: Defining Democracy, A Panel Discussion." along with State Senator Gary Siplin, State Representative David Simmons, State Representative Bruce Antone, State Representative Sandra Adams, and Taleb Salhab, Executive Board Member of the Arab-American Leadership Council.

Scholarship Awards

The first Holly Marie Stutz Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Marivette Powell (1L). The \$1,000 renewable scholarship recognizes part-time students with outstanding academic qualifications and a commitment to public service law. Thanks to a generous contribution from the Stutz family, the scholarship honors Holly Marie Stutz, a member of the 2002 Inaugural Class and active participant in the Part-Time Evening Program who passed away in December 2002.

In recognition of their academic achievements and community service, the following first-year students each received \$2,000 scholarships from the University Club of Orlando: Samuel Irizarry; Dana Paige; Sylvester Polk; Cheo Reid; and Abdelrahman Zeini.

The Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association (BESLA) awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Tianekquia Gibbs (3L). BESLA honors students with high academic achievement and an interest in entertainment or sports law.

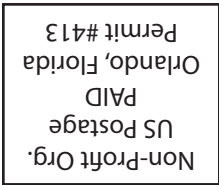
Jacinta Williams (2L) was awarded the 2004 Belle Cummins Memorial Scholarship by the Association of Administrative Law Judges. The \$1,000 award recognizes students with outstanding academic performance and an interest in public service law. It is named after the late Belle Cummins, a Congressional staff member, lobbyist, lawyer for legal services and advocate for women's issues.

Carlos Woody (3L) was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers for outstanding academic performance in the family law class.



Photo by Julian Thompson

Marivette Powell accepts the Holly Marie Stutz Memorial Scholarship award from Dean Luney.



Florida A&M University College of Law
One North Orange Avenue
Orlando, Florida 32801
<http://www.famu.edu/law>

A Special Thank You

Our Celebration of Provisional Accreditation, an event featuring Dennis W. Archer, former president of the American Bar Association as the guest speaker, was a huge success. We'd like to thank the following sponsors, and many of you, for supporting this special occasion:

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