

2005

FAMU Lawyer and Annual Report Volume 3, Issue 1

FAMU College of Law

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Dean's Message

I'm pleased to welcome our new students and greet our returning students and faculty for the 2005 - 2006 school year. This summer we admitted the largest and most diverse class ever to attend the College of Law. As you can see in the stories in this issue of the *FAMU Lawyer*; the law school continues to move onward and upward. We still face challenges, but we have pursued creative solutions to continue to fulfill the mission of this institution. I pledge to continue in that vein of creativity and

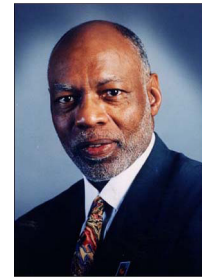
excellence during my tenure as interim dean.

As many of you know, we will have another visit from the American Bar Association this fall. That will be another important step in maintaining our provisional accreditation status and moving toward full accreditation.

In addition, we are eagerly watching the construction at 201 Beggs Av-

enue, here in Orlando, as our building nears completion.

I am excited to be able to share this time with FAMU law students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters. I am encouraged by the progress we've made with the facility and our programs since joining the law school in June and look forward to more milestones this fall.



Interim Dean James M. Douglas

Law School Welcomes Largest Class

When the Florida A&M University College of Law re-opened in Orlando in 2002, it was charged with increasing the percentage of minority attorneys in Florida and the nation. The college has had a high percentage of minority students every year since it opened and the entering class of 2005 represents growth in the overall number of students as well as the number of minority students.

The Florida A&M University College of Law's enrollment is ethnically and racially diverse, surpassing the diversity at most of the nation's law schools. The total enrollment for the 2005-2006 school year is 410 students.

The first-year class has approximately 175 students.* Of the total first-year class, nearly 71 percent are members of minority groups. African-American students comprise 49 percent of the

first-year class and Hispanic students comprise 14.6 percent of the class. Women account for 60 percent of the students. Minority students comprise nearly 62 percent of the total enrollment at the College of Law.

The evening program, which in previous years admitted approximately 30 students, has more than doubled to meet the demand for a legal education program for working professionals. As a result, the law school revamped its fall 2005 class schedule to accommodate more students in the evening program.

Interest in the College of Law continues to grow as evidenced by the 34 percent increase in applications for seats in the 2005 class. The admissions office processed a total of 813 applications for 2005 class, compared with the 540 received in 2004.

"We are proud to welcome these students to the College of Law. It was clear through their applications and experience that this will be another sharp class," said Interim Dean James M. Douglas. "They will find themselves challenged by our faculty, but I know that these students are up to the task."

Due to construction delays, the law school will remain in its temporary facility on Orange Avenue through the fall and will utilize additional space in the Zora Neale Hurston Building on Robinson Street for classes.

The College of Law received provisional accreditation from the American Bar Association in 2004. The first class graduated in April and many have already found employment in the legal profession.

*All student data current as of August 22, 2005.

Faculty Profile: Associate Dean Omar Saleem

Omar Saleem is the associate dean for Academic Affairs and a professor of law. He is a senior founding faculty member at the College of Law. He received his B.A. from City University of New York at Queens College and his J.D., cum laude, from North Carolina Central University School of Law where he was the editor-in-chief of the law review and received numerous academic awards, including the NAACP National John Warren Davis Award for Academic Excellence, and the North Carolina Board of Governors Academic Award. He received his LL.M. from Columbia University School of Law. He was a law clerk for the Honorable Henry E. Frye, Associate Justice for the North Carolina Supreme Court, and was in private practice in North Carolina.

Saleem has dedicated his career to public interest concerns involving guardian ad litem, pro bono legal advisor, and the Harlem (NYC) Tutorial Program. He has been a CLEO professor, former legal advisor to the National Council for Black Studies, mentor in the Orange County Scholars Program, advisory board member for the EPA Environmental Risk-Communication Assessment Project, Inter-American Center for Human Rights, and board member of the Orange County Educational Facilities Authority. In the past, he served as faculty advisor for the Miami-Dade NAACP Legal Services Referral Program, ABA Criminal Justice Standards Committee for Revising

the ABA Guilty Plea Standards, Florida Bar Continuing Legal Education Committee – Publications Subcommittee, YMCA Adult Achiever for the Y Black Achievers Program, and a public interest attorney.

As an assistant public defender he handled criminal proceedings in juvenile, district and superior court, and appeals before the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of North Carolina, and as Legal Services attorney he handled matters involving insurance, domestic violence, housing, consumer fraud, wills, and the uniform commercial code.

Saleem has published extensively on a variety of topics including Cyberlaw, Environmental Law, Environmental Justice, International Environmental law, Criminal Procedure, and China-related matters. He has taught and researched in countries throughout the world. He was a Peace Corps Volunteer English teacher in Burkina Faso, West Africa and a Ford Foundation/National Council for Black Studies Research Fellow in Ghana, West Africa. He has been part of cultural-exchange delegations to Beijing, China, has researched in both West Africa and China, has studied French and Chinese, and has also taught in the Royal College University Escorial Maria, Cristina, Spain as part of the St. Thomas University Law School summer program.

He began teaching law in 1989 and

joined Florida A&M University College of Law after teaching at North Carolina Central University School of Law and



St Thomas University School of Law, where he was recognized by student organizations for excellence in teaching. He has strong interests in the domestic and global application of laws, with a particular focus on devel-

oping countries and racial minorities. He is committed to computer-based learning materials in legal education and distance-learning techniques.

His scholarship is extensive and cited in more than 50 different publications, including the popular Environmental Law textbook by Findley and Farber, Cases and Materials on Environmental Law (5th ed. West 1999). His scholarship appears in law reviews published by John Marshall University, Pennsylvania State/Dickinson University, Columbia University, American University, University of Oklahoma, and Georgetown University. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, he is very active in community and university-wide affairs and teaches Internet law.

Faculty, Staff Scholarship Endowment Campaign

For the second year, faculty and staff members at the College of Law participated in the university's Faculty and Staff Scholarship Endowment Campaign. The campaign provides an opportunity for professors and staff members to provide financial support to students and increase the scholarship endowment.

A few members of the College of Law faculty and staff attended the university's kick-off breakfast for the campaign on August 19 in Tallahassee. The law school held a breakfast in Orlando on August 26 to kick-off the campaign for faculty and staff who

could not attend the function on the main campus. The goal for the College of Law campaign is \$11,000. As of this writing, the College of Law had raised more than \$14,000 in faculty and staff contributions and pledges.

Approximately 30 faculty and staff members attended the breakfast and many others made contributions, though they were unable to attend. Col. (Ret.) Ronald M. Joe, interim vice president for

development and James M. Douglas, interim dean of the College of Law, spoke at the event. Mildred Graham, director of Development & Alumni Affairs for the College of Law, was the mistress of ceremonies, and Professor Nathaniel Friends and Pamela Leonard were on the program.



Alumni Spotlight: Memorial Scholarships

Remembering Henry Latimer, 1938 - 2005

The FAMU College of Law lost an alumnus and dedicated supporter in January with the passing of Henry Latimer of Fort Lauderdale. Latimer, one of the state's top litigators, attended the original Florida A&M University College of Law. He entered the law school during the 1962 - 1963 school year, but was compelled to drop out after his first year because the law school, already facing pressure to close, was unable to fund his academic scholarship.

A scholarship fund has been established in his memory. Nearly \$37,000 has already been deposited into the fund, including contributions from the 40 Fellows in the American College of Trial Lawyers and a \$25,000 donation from The Florida Bar. Because the contributions exceed the \$20,000 minimum to endow the gift, the funds can begin to generate earnings for a College of Law scholarship.

Latimer, who held a bachelor's degree from FAMU, went on to attend the University of Miami Law School and

graduated cum laude. He had a storied legal career that included serving as a Circuit Court Judge for the 17th Judicial Circuit in Broward County. During his last year on the bench, Latimer was rated "most qualified" judge in the Circuit. Once back in private practice, he specialized in labor and employment law and commercial litigation. He was a shareholder in the litigation practice group of Greenberg Traurig, P.A.

The Florida Bar chose to honor his legacy by renaming its Center for Professionalism for Latimer. The resolution that renamed the Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism noted that he was "an admired, respected and beloved lawyer" who served as one of the state's first African-American judges. The resolution states that "Henry Latimer's pursuit of legal excellence was paralleled by his devotion to equal opportunities for all, pro bono work, and assistance

to those less fortunate."

Latimer served on the Florida Bar Board of Governors and received numerous awards during his lengthy career.



Henry Latimer

He was a past president of the Broward County Bar Association and held a long and distinguished record of service in local, state and federal bar associations and local community organizations including The Florida Bar, the National Bar Association, the University of Miami board of trustees and

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

If you wish to contribute to the fund, you can make your donation to the FAMU Foundation, c/o Henry Latimer Memorial Scholarship Fund. Please mail your gift to the FAMU College of Law, Office of Development, 5th Floor, One North Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801.

Remembering Joseph E. Gibbs, 1916 - 2004

Joseph E. Gibbs, a member of the faculty at the original College of Law, passed away in December 2004. Gibbs, 88, lived in Tampa. He was born in Ridgely, Maryland and moved to Tampa Bay from Tallahassee in 1979. He was a graduate of the St. John's School of Law and taught law and political science at FAMU. He also served as head of Sponsored Research.

Gibbs, a World War II Army veteran, was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the American Association of Law Libraries and the F&AM Prince Hall, J.R.E. Lee, Sr. Lodge No. 422 in Tallahassee. Gibbs also served as executive director of the YMCA.

A scholarship fund has been established at the College of Law in his memory. Memorial contributions may be made to the FAMU Foundation, c/o, Joseph E. Gibbs Memorial Fund. Please mail your gift to the FAMU College of Law, Office of Development, 5th Floor, One North Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801. Or contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs for more information at 407.254.3268.



Professor Gibbs is shown in this photo (second from left, back row) with other faculty and staff of the original law school. (Photo from the book, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, College of Law (1949 - 2000), by Larry O. Rivers.)

Alumni News

Are you a graduate of the College of Law or an attorney who holds another degree from Florida A&M University? We welcome your news of professional achievements. Send news to famulaw.alumni@famu.edu. You may also submit a portrait photo in JPEG or TIFF format to accompany your news item.

FAMU College of Law ANNUAL REPORT 2004 - 2005

FAMU College of Law Mission

The College of Law has committed to the following mission: To provide a law program with high academic standards that produces excellent legal professionals who demonstrate professionalism, provide public service, enhance justice and promote scholarship to provide a program that offers both full-time and part-time learning opportunities to students; and, consistent with the enabling legislation, to increase representation of minorities within the legal profession.

FAMU will continue its mission of

meeting the educational needs of African-Americans and other ethnic minorities, while maintaining its leadership in racial diversity. At the same time, the University seeks students from all racial, ethnic, religious and national groups, without regard to age, sex or disability, who have the potential to benefit from a sound education. The University provides for all an atmosphere where excellent teaching and lifelong learning are hallmarks.

FAMU reaffirms its historical respon-

sibilities to its students to provide important opportunities for service to the diverse communities in Florida, the nation and the world. FAMU strives to set, maintain and reward high standards for faculty, staff, and students through continual evolution and pedagogy, curricula, research and public service demands. The College of Law's role is to promote the development of legal professionals as community leaders who are sensitive to the needs of all people.

Student Services Programs and Accomplishments

Academic Success Program

The program director conducted workshops on the fundamentals of law school for first-year students. The sessions covered the following topics: creating an outline, managing time and stress, briefing, writing essays, tackling multiple choice questions, approaching exams, organizing study groups, and completing multiple choice questions. The office also held Criminal Law and Contracts practice exams for first-year students and workshops to review Torts and Property.

The program director met with first- and second-year students who were on academic probation to discuss ways in which they can achieve academic success.

The Academic Success Program oversaw the new Teaching Assistant program. The teaching assistants work with professors teaching first-year courses, including Professional Responsibility, Legal Writing and Torts.

The research assistant assigned to the Academic Success Program created the Professional Mothers Law Association, to support students who are balancing motherhood and law school.

Five professors agreed to participate in the new Faculty Volunteer Program. Those professors worked with students who have a GPA of 2.5 or below to help them prepare for the Florida bar exam.

The Academic Success Program writing counselors conducted workshops throughout the academic year. The counselors also met one-on-one with students to work on individual writing issues and review student papers.

The office brought in Tim Blaire, an education and reading specialist from the University of Central Florida, to help students learn methods for increasing their reading speed and improving their retention of material. Blaire conducted three seminars for FAMU law students.

Admissions

The Office of Admissions and the Admissions Committee reviewed 540 applications for the 2004 - 2005 entering class. Of those applications, 120 students enrolled in August

2004.

The Admissions director attended more than 20 recruitment events and



FAMU College of Law 2004-2005

Student Services continued

graduate school fairs in Florida to meet prospective law students. The College of Law was represented at events in Tallahassee, Orlando, Daytona Beach, Tampa, Gainesville, Miami and Boca Raton. The Admissions director also attended the Law School Admission Council Forum in Atlanta and Miami.

The Office of Admissions marketed the College of Law through advertisements on public transportation, billboards and radio. Advertising in publications included PreLaw Insider, Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Black College Today, Capital City Black Pages, Princeton Review Official Guide to ABA Approved Law Schools, Essence, Ebony and Black Enterprise.

The Office of Admissions participated in a number of recruitment events on the FAMU campus as well as in the local community. The events included the Hatchett Pre-Law Society visit to the FAMU College of Law (Orlando); Zora Neale Hurston Festival (Eatonville); FAMU Career Expo (Tallahassee); Florida Memorial College Grad Day (Jacksonville); FAMU Law Day (Tallahassee); Bethune-Cookman College Grad Day (Daytona Beach); FAMU Graduate Studies Feeder Conference (Tallahassee); FAMU Big Bend Education Fair (Tallahassee); Law School Admission Council (LSAC) Atlanta Forum; LSAC Miami Law Fair.

Applications for the 2005 – 2006 year increased by 34 percent as a result of the Office of Admissions' marketing efforts. The Office of Admissions received a total of 813 applications.

The number of African American applicants increased by 52.5 percent.

The Office of Admissions coordinated the Law Student Ambassador program to support recruitment and outreach programs.

The Office of Admissions coordinated the law school's first Summer

Conditional Admission program. The prospective students who chose to take advantage of the program spent three weeks at the law school taking courses and studying to improve the writing and analytical skills necessary to succeed in law school.

Building Administration and Security

A transition plan for the move to the permanent campus has been implemented, including the formation of faculty committees to coordinate interior furnishings and security/IT requirements for the facility.

The College of Law continued to provide additional after-hours security and escorts to the parking garages with off-duty Orlando Police Department officers.

Construction activity continued on the College of Law's permanent campus at 201 Beggs Avenue in downtown Orlando. The construction company, Turner Construction, held a topping ceremony at the facility in November 2004.

Career Planning and Placement

The Office of Career Planning and Placement developed a 3L Resume Book to showcase members of the 2005 graduating class to potential employers.

The placement office held a career fair that was attended by the following employers: Office of the Public Defender 18th Judicial Circuit, Office of the State Attorney 10th Judicial Circuit and the Office of the Attorney General.

The placement office supported placement of 3L students in postgraduate positions including employment with the following companies and agencies: Army Judge

Advocate General, Orange County Utility Commission, Office of the Public Defender 9th Judicial Circuit, Zimmerman, Kiser & Sutcliffe, P.A., Gray Robinson, P.A., Office of the Attorney General State of Florida, Arthenia L. Joyner Attorney at Law, and Anderson & Associates.

Development and Alumni Affairs

The Office of Development coordinated several events for the College of Law, including a banquet to celebrate provisional accreditation and a panel discussion with FAMU

alumnus John Due and his family. The department also assisted other offices with the following events: student orientation, the Law in America discussion series, student oral arguments, commencement exercises in Tallahassee, the

hooding ceremony, and the permanent campus topping ceremony.

The Development & Alumni Affairs group continued production of the law school's publications, including the *FAMU Lawyer* quarterly newsletter and *The Record* weekly newsletter. The office developed publications for a holiday fundraising appeal and to support various events at the College of Law, including invitations and programs.

Public relations efforts by the Office of Development yielded positive stories by or about the College of Law and its students and faculty in the *Orlando Sentinel*, *The Orlando Times*, *The Florida Bar News*, *The Orange County Bar Association Briefs*, *Court Illustrated*, *The Tallahassee Democrat*, *Black College Today* and other media.

The College of Law presented scholarships on behalf of the

Development	
Total Endowment	\$2.2 million
Total Gifts Received	\$833,000
Grants Received	\$400,000
Scholarship Endowment Awarded	\$30,750
Scholarship Recipients	32

FAMU College of Law

Student Services continued

University Club of Orlando, the Florida Lawyers' Legal Insurance Corporation, the Florida Chapter of American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and the Florida Bar's Labor and Employment Law Section.

Student Affairs

Students established a chapter of Phi Alpha Delta, a law fraternity, at the College of Law. The chapter is named for Gwendolyn Sawyer Cherry, a graduate of the original law school and the first black woman elected to the Florida Legislature.

The Jesse J. McCrary chapter of the Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Team participated in its first competition during the Southern Regional Convention of the National Black Law Students Association (BLSA). The team advanced to the semi-finals and lost in a close decision to the University of Georgia. The BLSA Moot Court Team also competed at the convention. The FAMU chapter hosted the Southern Region BLSA Region IV Academic Retreat at the

College of Law in October. Sixty students from five Florida law schools attended workshops with FAMU law professors and local attorneys. In addition, BLSA sponsored a clothing drive in the fall.

The Women's Law Caucus (WLC) began a mentoring program with students at Howard Middle School in downtown Orlando. The law students meet with the middle school students once a week. Three local judges spoke at the WLC panel discussion on women judges in the fall. The panel was a joint effort with the Central Florida Association of Women Lawyers. The WLC held its annual silent auction in March. Proceeds from the event fund WLC programs, including a mentoring program, scholarship fund and support for women's shelters.

A group of students from FAMU won the Southeastern Regional ABA Client Counseling Competition, held at Florida State University College of Law.

The College of Law held a Student Organization Fair in February to allow students to learn about the law school's student groups. The following organizations participated: Black Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Criminal Law Society, Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Society, Phi Alpha Delta, and the Women's Law Caucus.

The Student Bar Association (SBA) conducted a holiday toy drive in the fall and held a family picnic in January for all College of Law students, faculty and staff and their families. The SBA hosted the law school's first Barrister Ball on March 20 to bid a formal farewell to the graduating class.

The Christian Legal Society hosted Lindsey Martin from the Liberty Counsel, as a guest speaker in the fall. Martin spoke to students about the challenges of being a Christian law student and attorney and answered questions about cases Liberty Counsel is involved in across the country.

Faculty Scholarship and Activities

Associate Dean Omar Saleem taught in El Escorial, Spain with the St. Thomas University School of Law 9th Annual Summer in Spain program.

Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara J. Pariente created The Standing Committee on Fairness and Diversity and appointed 26 individuals to that committee, including Associate Dean Ruth A. Witherspoon, for a term to expire on June 30, 2006. The Standing Committee on Fairness and Diversity was established for the purpose of advancing the State Courts System's efforts to eliminate from court operations inappropriate bias based on race, gender, ethnicity, age, disability, or socioeconomic status. Witherspoon will serve as co-chair of the Committee's Research



Abrams

Subcommittee. The Research Subcommittee will undertake the work to evaluate the need to conduct new research on diversity and fairness in the justice system.

Professor Robert Abrams made presentations at the Delaware River Basin Commission, Special Regional Conference on Water Law and Water Supply Challenges Facing the Basin in Philadelphia and at the 4th annual National Water Crisis Conference: Drawing the Line, University of Toledo School of Law. In addition, Abrams was appointed vice-chair of the American Bar Association Water Resources Committee, responsible for coordination of committee publication

activities.

Professor Barbara Bernier coordinated the College of Law's Law in America discussion series in the fall. She directed the first College of Law Conditional Admissions Program for the summer of 2005.



Bernier

Professor Joan R. Bullock taught a four-day course on Law Practice Management to students at the University of Toledo College of Law from July 25-28. On August 3, she spoke at the National Bar Association 80th Annual Convention and Exhibits, which was held in Orlando. She spoke on "The 10 Stupid Things Lawyers Do to Mess Up Their Practice – in Business Management, Practice Management, Client Management, and Life Management." On August

FAMU College of Law

Faculty continued

6, she joined a panel for the ABA Law Practice Management Section at the American Bar Association Annual Meeting in Chicago. The panel topic was "Law Firm Financial Management: Satisfying Clients and Increasing Profitability." She also moderated a panel on women in the judiciary for the Women's Law Caucus.

Professor Lundy Langston was appointed to the Community Leadership Council for the Howard Phillips Center for Children & Families. Langston's International Law seminar students coordinated a panel on the war in Iraq featuring U.S. Senator Bob Graham and other elected officials. She was featured in a series of stories by Central Florida Diversity: The People's Journal on domestic violence, one of her areas of expertise. Langston taught an L.L.M. (Master of Laws) course in intercultural human rights at the St. Thomas University School of Law in the fall and a law course in El Escorial, Spain with the St. Thomas University School of Law 9th Annual Summer in Spain program. Professor Langston published an opinion piece on African debt relief in the *Orlando Sentinel*.

Associate Professor Nathaniel Friends spoke at a training session for Community Legal Services of Mid-



N. Friends

Florida, Inc. The session focused on administrative hearings. He served as a panelist for the Law in America series panel on the Voting Rights Act of 1964. Professor Friends moderated the panel, The Civil Rights Movement in Florida, An Evening with the Due Family, in March. He also participated in a training session in June with the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The intensive session trained individuals interested in writing performance test times for

national administration and introduced them to an evaluation method for use in the law school setting. Professor Friends wrote an opinion piece on the verdict in the Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner murder trial. The piece appeared in the *Orlando Sentinel* and *The Orlando Times*.

Associate Professor Grace Mills served as a Leadership Orlando Alumni board member and a Downtown (Orlando) Arts District Board member. Professor Mills made a presentation on "Strategic Planning and Diversity" at the 2005 National Conference on Leadership Diversity and attended the Special Libraries Association Annual Conference in Toronto.

gible for nomination and selection for the Davis Awards. Our Law Library was one of four teams from Florida A&M University selected to have won a 2005 Davis Award.

Grace Mills, Law Library director, has been selected by the incoming president of the American Association of Law Libraries to serve as Chair of the Mentoring and Retention Committee, 2005 -2006.

Phoebe Poydras, assistant law librarian

Assistant Professor Reginald Mombrun was invited to serve on the board of directors for the Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention. He also published a lesson plan with the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction and an essay on Johnnie Cochran in *Black College Today*.

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

Assistant Professor James Smith, III served on the Law in America panel on the status of enemy combatants in the U.S. and the war on terror.

Associate Professor Jennifer Smith's students in the housing clinic conducted a workshop on the importance of having a will for residents of a predominantly African-American neighborhood in Winter Park. Professor Smith also published a piece on home buying and selling scams in *The Orlando Times*.



J. Smith

Law Library Acquisitions and Milestones

The Law Library accepted a donation from Judge Joseph Hatchett. His personal set of Federal Reporters will be housed in our permanent facility on the 4th floor of the Law Library.

The Law Library Team has won a 2005 Davis Productivity Award. The Law Library won a Certificate of Commendation for its work in developing a public law library facility for Central Florida. Individuals and teams from all Florida governmental agencies and the State University System were eli-

gible for nomination and selection for the Davis Awards. Our Law Library was one of four teams from Florida A&M University selected to have won a 2005 Davis Award.

Grace Mills, Law Library director, has been selected by the incoming president of the American Association of Law Libraries to serve as Chair of the Mentoring and Retention Committee, 2005 -2006.

Phoebe Poydras, assistant law librarian

for Public Service, is the 2005-2006 president of the Florida-Caribbean chapter of Special Libraries Association (SLA). She also received from the Special Libraries Association one of five Leadership Diversity Awards in 2005. It was presented at the SLA Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada 2005.

Linda Sobey, cataloging librarian, participated in the People to People Ambassador Program to Russia in May.

Florida A&M University College of Law
One North Orange Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801

www.famu.edu/law



Progress continues on the College of Law's permanent campus at 201 Beggs Avenue in Orlando. The state-of-the-art facility will accommodate up to 700 law school students and the 160,000 square-foot-space includes the law library and legal clinic offices.

Due to unforeseen delays in construction, the College of Law will remain in its temporary location on Orange Avenue for the fall semester. The move to the new campus is planned for early in 2006, to minimize disruptions to classes and exams.

A celebration event at the permanent campus is being planned for the spring. Keep an eye on your mailbox for an announcement about the event in early 2006.



Florida A&M University College of Law Commencement 2005

April 30 and May 7, 2005

Members of the inaugural class of the Florida A&M University College of Law received their degrees in April and were honored with ceremonies in Tallahassee and Orlando. The historical legacy and present-day diversity of the College of Law were recurring themes as the 55 graduates were honored at the hooding ceremony in Orlando.

The commencement activities marked the first time in 38 years that the University has conferred the Juris Doctor. Students and administrators paid homage to the original law school graduates and lauded the accomplishments of the 2005 graduating class.

Robert J. Grey, Jr., president of the American Bar Association, was the keynote speaker at the hooding ceremony on May 7. He told graduates they are the backbone of the judicial system. "Society has to reflect the texture, the culture, the diversity of its people in the most critical profession to the safeguard of liberty that we have," Grey said.



2005
Commencement
and
Hooding
ceremonies

April 30 and May 7



Images provided by Bob Knight Photo



Castell Vaughn Bryant, interim president of Florida A&M University, told graduates that, "We are looking forward to all of your contributions. We know that you are going to make a difference." The 2005 graduates are already beginning to make a difference and have secured employment at numerous law firms, organizations and companies, including: Florida A&M University, Army Judge Advocate General, Orlando Utilities Commission, Office of the Public Defender, 9th Judicial Circuit, and Office of the Attorney General State of Florida.

