ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW NEWSLETTER

ST. THOMAS LAW NEWS

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FORMER GOVERNORS CONVENE AT ST. THOMAS LAW

On Tuesday, February 19 at 6 p.m. in the Moot Courtroom, St. Thomas Law will host a unique event. Three former governors will engage in a panel discussion on the growth, conservation, and the future of South Florida’s environment. The panelist includes governors Bob Graham, Buddy MacKay, and Charlie Crist. The entire St. Thomas Community is invited to attend this unique event.

JOINT DEGREE PROGRAM

The faculties of the law school and the university graduate schools work in close collaboration to offer five joint-degree programs: the J.D./M.S. in Sports Administration, the J.D./M.B.A. in Sports Administration, the J.D./M.S. in Marriage and Family Counseling, the J.D./M.B.A. in International Business, and the J.D./M.B.A. in Accounting.

These programs offer St. Thomas students the opportunity to complete both the Juris Doctor and the Master’s degree in the three years it typically takes to complete the Juris Doctor degree alone. The respective graduate schools and the law school have all agreed to accept credits from courses taken at the other schools, thereby reducing the total number of credits needed for both degrees.

A law student is required to take the entire first year law school curriculum before he or she can begin the joint degree program. Law students will not be given credits for any master level courses taken before matriculating into the law school, nor will they be given any credit toward the J.D. for courses taken at colleges other than St. Thomas University.

Any law student who is in good standing at the completion of his or her first year of law school is eligible for admission into any of the joint degree programs. Students must meet all admission requirements for St. Thomas University graduate programs. A law student wishing to matriculate into one of the joint degree programs must file an application for admission before March 1st of Spring Term of his or her first year.

After filing the application, the student must meet with the faculty advisor from the graduate school to which he or she seeks admission. The faculty advisor of the graduate school will ensure that the degree program will meet the students’ educational objectives and that the student has the requisite background and skills in the relevant areas of study to successfully compete in the graduate degree program. Upon approval by the relevant faculty advisor and completion of the first year of law school, the student will be admitted into the joint degree program.
Any law student who desires additional information regarding the joint degree programs should consult with the Graduate Admissions Office in Kennedy Hall. The faculty advisor for each of the programs is as follows: M.B.A. and M.S. in Sports Administration, Dr. Jan Bell (jbell@stu.edu); M.B.A. in International Business, Dr. Raul Carrillo (rcarrillo@stu.edu); M.B.A. in Accounting, Dr. Craig Reese (creese@stu.edu); and M.S. in Marriage and Family Counseling, Dr. Barbara Buzzi (bbuzzi@stu.edu). Law students interested in one of the programs should e-mail and discuss the program with the respective faculty advisor. With regard to the J.D. component of the joint degree programs, please contact Assistant Dean John Hernandez (j hernandez@stu.edu).

BARRISTERS’ BALL

This year’s Barristers’ Ball will be held at the Hyatt Regency Miami on Saturday, April 6, 2013. The Hyatt Regency Miami is an elegant venue, located in downtown Miami, overlooking the Miami River and Florida’s famed Biscayne Bay.

The Annual Barristers’ Ball is a night when we all come together to recognize the achievements of the current year and when we look forward to the promising accomplishments of another great at St. Thomas Law. We hope that all students, faculty, and administrators will attend. We promise it will be an evening worth attending and the greatest event of the year. Barristers’ Ball tickets are on sale in the Cordero Breezeway.

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENT

Professor Alfred Light will be presenting a paper at the annual meeting of the American Society for Public Administration on Saturday, March 16, in New Orleans. The American Society for Public Administration is dedicated to the improvement of the public service by building a sense of professional identity, advancing expertise, fostering ethical responsibility, and promoting diverse representation throughout government. Its membership includes public officials from all levels of government, nonprofit leaders, and academics in universities and research institutions within the United States and abroad. The paper, entitled “Get Smart to Go Green? LEED Neighborhood Development and Sustainability,” is scheduled to be published by the Appalachian Natural Resources Law Journal.

Professor Roza Pati had the honour of meeting and exchanging a few words with Pope Benedict XVI, at an audience on December 3, 2012, at the Vatican. She was participating in the 27th Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace that took place at the Vatican on 3-5 December 2012. The Assembly focused on issues related to the Social Doctrine of the Church as well as on the need for a world political authority, as contained in Pope Benedict XVI’s Encyclical Caritas in Veritate. Presenting on the social problems of our hemisphere, Professor Pati discussed, amongst others, the issue of the polarization of wealth, capacity building in developing countries, the need for a consideration of the ethical dimension of the use of unmanned aerial vehicles as well as protection of civilians, the connection between justice and peace, etc.