GOVERNOR'S PANEL BIG SUCCESS

St. Thomas Law hosted three former Governors: Bob Graham, Buddy MacKay, and Charlie Crist in a panel discussion on the environment. The program was held on Tuesday, February 19, in the Law School Moot Courtroom to a standing room only crowd. The program consisted of a question and answer session with each former governor responding to questions asked by a law school faculty member and law student from each of the following: St. Thomas Law, Nova Law School, Florida International School of Law, and Ave Maria School of Law. St. Thomas Law Assistant Professor Keith Rizzardi was largely responsible for arranging the program and Associate Dean Dykas did much of the leg work, setting up the logistics of the program. Dean Ray introduced the program. A reception in the law school breezeway followed the program. The Governors each commented on what a spectacular evening it was, from the sophistication of the discussion regarding Florida’s treasured natural resources to the warmth and welcome of our students, faculty, and staff. St. Thomas Law once again shined.

ST. THOMAS STUDENTS COMES UP WITH CREATIVE WAY TO RAISE MONEY FOR TOYS FOR TOTS

This past holiday season, the St Thomas Law student community participated in a fundraiser to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program that provides toys to disadvantaged children at Christmas.

Third-year law student, Mitch Altman, a Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, learned that toy donations were down and organized law students to help raise money for the Toys for Tots program. Mitch created “Survival Bracelets” which were provided to all those who made a $5 dollar cash donation to Toys for Tots. The Survival Bracelets have become a staple to the United States military serving abroad. The bracelets get their name from the material they are made of, 550 Paracord; it can hold up to 550 pounds. The bracelets, when dismantled, contain approximately eight feet of rope. This rope can be extended between trees to help provide shelter in the field; it can be used to bind prisoners, etc. Inside of the paracord are seven smaller white strands, these strands can be used as fishing line, as stitches in an injury, to mend uniforms, etc.

The bracelets proved popular, and Mitch was able to raise more than $1,600 through the sale of the bracelets. In addition to Mitch, other students lending support included Ms. Yudi Beltran, Mr. Francois Blanco, Ms. Lauren Covert, Ms. Marbely Hernandez, Ms. Justina Martynaityte, Ms. Maude Vega.
and Ms. Jennifer Zorn. A special donation was made by Mr. Josh Hertz. With the additional financial support, the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program was able to reach a significantly greater number of children. We congratulate Mitch Altman and the other members of the St. Thomas Community for their generous support of a worthwhile cause.

**SHOULD I TAKE SUMMER CLASSES?**

As the spring semester progresses, students should consider whether to continue and take classes in the summer term. Although some students need a break from classes and may want to work or attend to personal family matters, taking classes during the summer here at St. Thomas Law does have some advantages. Taking summer classes at St. Thomas Law does free up course selection options for the fall and spring terms. Students can take some of the required classes in the summer and then take clinics, electives, or internships externship in the fall and spring terms. In order to graduate in 3 years, students must take approximately 15 credits each spring or fall term. By taking summer classes, a student can enable him or herself to take a lesser number of credits in a fall or spring term. Also, taking summer classes may enable a student to graduate a semester early if he or she takes classes in two summer terms.

Financial Aid is generally available for students for the summer term if the student otherwise qualifies for financial aid. However, students must take at least three credits in the summer to qualify for any student financial aid. Other than the need to qualify for financial aid, there is no minimum number of credits that must be taken in the summer. However, students can never take more than nine J.D. credits in the summer term. Tuition in the summer term is based on a per credit hour charge and a student service fee. The term runs seven weeks. Please note that classes in the summer meet for twice the number of class minutes per week as in the fall or spring. Therefore, very few absences are allowed for summer classes.

If you have specific questions or need additional assistance with academic planning, please see Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, John F. Hernandez, or Assistant Dean for Academic Support Barbara Singer. Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Cece Dykas can assist you with questions or concerns regarding clinics, externship, and internships.

**FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Professor Marc-Tizoc González has been invited to speak at the AALS Workshop on Poverty, Immigration, and Property, which will occur June 10-12, 2013, in San Diego, California. Professor González proposed the following topic for his lecture: “Damning Our Children, Damning Ourselves: Multidimensional Analyses of the Impoverishment of Youth en América Posfascista (in Postfascist America),” which will explicate the evolution of the impoverishment of children in the U.S. under the color of law in the era of global neoliberalism.

On January 25, 2013, Professor Roza Pati presented at the International Series on Holocaust, organized by the Holocaust Education and Documentation Center, Inc. Her presentation titled Albania and the Holocaust, shed light on the well-documented historical records of Albania’s contribution to hosting, protecting and safeguarding Jewish families from all over Europe before and during the World War II, as confirmed by Yad Vashem, of the World Center for Documentation, Research, Education and Commemoration of the Holocaust.