**Should I Take Summer School Classes?**

As the spring semester progresses, many students begin considering whether they should take classes in the summer. In last week’s newsletter, we provided information about the St. Thomas Law and Barry Law Summer-in-Spain Program. That is a good option for students who want to combine some travel and cultural enrichment and still be able to earn credits during the summer.

Students also have the option of visiting other law schools or taking summer abroad programs sponsored by other ABA accredited law schools. The policies and procedures for doing so are set out in another article in this newsletter.

Taking classes during the summer here at St. Thomas Law does have some advantages. All rising 2Ls are required to take Appellate Advocacy, Constitutional Law I, Criminal Law, and Professional Responsibility (plus at least 3 other credits) in the fall term. A student can take any of these required courses in the summer instead (but still needs to take a minimum of 14 credits in the fall). Taking summer classes at St. Thomas Law does free up course selection options for rising 2Ls. 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 (but not below 12) in a fall or spring term. Also, taking summer classes can enable a student to graduate a semester early if he/she takes two summer terms and takes at least 12 credits total in the two summer terms. There are some clinics, internships, and externships available in the summer, but the deadline for applying for those is February 17. Joint degree candidates must plan on taking summer classes in order to complete both degree requirements in three years.

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 3 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 9 J.D. credits in the summer term. Tuition in the summer term is based on a per credit hour charge ($1,213 per credit) and a $250 student service fee. The term runs seven weeks. This coming summer, it starts on May 25, and the last day of finals is July 22. 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.

**Association of Public Health**

We invite you to join us for the inaugural meeting of the Association of Public Health Law Students (A-PHLS) on Thursday, February 24, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 2-1. Lunch will be provided by Gerardo’s Marketplace. A-PHLS is comprised of law students who are interested in practicing in the area of Health Law and who are dedicated to enhancing access to health care for low income and minority persons, the elderly and the disabled. A-PHLS will host the bi-annual CLE Program sponsored by the Health Law Section of the Florida Bar Association at St. Thomas Law School. In addition, A-PHLS will provide student support to the St Thomas Health Law Speaker Series, the St. Thomas Health Law Alumni Network and the St. Thomas Health Law Mentoring Program.
Students Graduation May 2011

Spring graduation is planned for Saturday, May 14, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fernandez Family Center for Leadership and Wellness. The graduation mass is scheduled for Friday, May 13, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

Pictures of our graduates will be placed in the graduation program. We would like the program to include photographs of the entire graduating class. This will make the program a more meaningful keepsake for the entire graduating class. The law school pays the sitting fee for each student, so there is no cost to you. If you are interested in purchasing pictures, you will have the opportunity to do so.

The graduation photographer will be on campus Friday, February 25, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. until 6:45 p.m. in the Evelyn & George Goldbloom Convocation Hall and return on Saturday, February 26, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

To help this process run smoothly, there is a sign up sheet on the Student Organization Board, which is located on the bulletin board next to the women’s bathroom and down the hall from the Legal Writing Suite. Graduates should sign up for a sitting time.

Students expecting to graduate should register with the law school Registrar by Friday, February 18, 2011. Graduation tickets will be provided approximately four weeks before the graduation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Assistant Dean John Hernandez at (305) 623-2358 or Carrol Hartley at (305) 623-2301, or stop by the Office of Student Affairs.

Guidelines on Visiting Another Law School or Study Abroad Program

Students are allowed to visit other law school after they have completed one full year of law school. Interested student must seek permission from the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. In your letter to the Assistant Dean, you must provide him the name and address of the school you would like to attend and provide a brief description of the program.

In order to receive permission to visit, you must be in good standing at St. Thomas University School of Law and the University.

The Assistant Dean for Student Affairs will send a letter of good standing on your behalf to the other school giving you permission to visit; he will also send a letter to you detailing the guidelines you must follow while you are visiting the other school.

In order to transfer the credits earned, you must receive a grade of “C” or above (pass/fail is not sufficient) in each of the courses attempted. The credits earned will be recorded on the transcript, but will not be included in the computation of your grade point average. And, you must request that the program transcript be sent directly to the St. Thomas University School of Law Registrar as soon as the program is completed.

Lunch and Learn Workshop

Please join Career Services Thursday, February 17th, for a special Lunch and Learn regarding How to Manage Your Own Law Firm. This event will take place in Room 1 from noon until 1 p.m. (in the Annex Building). The following topics will be discussed: rainmaking and networking ideas, management issues, and general tips for those of you who are interested in establishing your own firms in the future. If you are interested in attending this workshop, please e-mail mpino@stu.edu or go to your Symplicity account and click on ‘Workshops’ to register. Pizza and soda to be served!