Welcome Back
On behalf of the St. Thomas Law Faculty and Administration, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year and welcome you back to campus.

Financial Aid
We are pleased the BASIC staff, Business Office, and Financial Aid have worked to process law student financial aid expeditiously. If you have completed the necessary paperwork, your refunds shall be deposited in your bank account by Friday, January 14, 2011. If you do not receive your refund, please contact Assistant Dean Hernandez at jhernandez@stu.edu.

Books
We have been working with the bookstore and have been assured they have ordered ample numbers of books. A few books had to be backordered because their publication dates were not until next week. The professors have been advised. If you experience a problem with the bookstore, please contact Assistant Dean Hernandez at jhernandez@stu.edu.

Academic Advisement and Assistance
All students who are currently on Academic Probation (with a cumulative grade point average of less than 2.0) should seek academic advisement. You should review the student handbook on page 26, which explains the consequences of being placed on academic probation. If you have any questions about the process or procedure, please contact Assistant Dean Hernandez at jhernandez@stu.edu.

The first step to improve academic performance should be to meet with your professors and review your examinations. Please e-mail your professors, and find out the process and procedure the professor uses to review examinations. You should set up a semester plan of working with your professors to improve your performance.

In addition, all 1L students should meet with Professor Sullivan. He has mailed out to all students a form that is useful to take with you to your professors that will help you gain insight as you review your examinations. After reviewing your individual examinations, you then should schedule a meeting with Professor Sullivan. He can be contacted at tsullivan@stu.edu.

2L and 3L students in need of academic assistance should contact and meet with Dean Singer. Dean Singer can be contacted at bsinger@stu.edu.

Bar Application
The deadline for 1L students to get a discount for filing an early application is January 15, 2011. But all students should be working on completing their bar applications as soon as possible. The Florida Bar is taking several months to clear students, and filing late can delay admission, even after graduating and passing the Bar Examination. If you have any questions or need assistance with the Bar application, please contact Assistant Dean Hernandez at jhernandez@stu.edu or Assistant Dean Singer at bsinger@stu.edu.

Save the Date Barrister’s Ball 2011
The Barrister’s Ball will be held this year on Saturday, March 19, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale, FL.
**Moot Court Ranked Third in U.S.**

The Moot Court Board is more than thrilled to announce that through our accomplishments this fall, we are now ranked **Number 3** in the country! These rankings are determined by schools scoring points for certain achievements in National Competitions such as Best Brief, Semi-Finalist, and Finalist. The rankings can be found at [http://www.law uh.edu/blakely/mcnc/2011rankings.html](http://www.law uh.edu/blakely/mcnc/2011rankings.html).

The competitions that got us to where we are, started with the Burton D. Wechsler First Amendment Competition, in Washington, D.C. The team composed of **Shana Valentine, Jorge Fors, and Shary Glenn**, guided by their student coach **Rafael De La Grana** along with faculty coach **Professor Kang**, made it to the quarterfinals and won the coveted Best Brief award.

These successes were doubled the next weekend at the National Criminal Procedure Competition, advisor **Professor Blumberg** and student coach **Nick Reed** also showed the nation that St. Thomas is a force to be reckoned with. The students finished second and also won Best Brief!

Such a ranking, however, would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our professors, research assistants and students who took time out to help us prepare for these competitions. For that we are extremely grateful.

This feat is a great reflection of the caliber of education and skill that comes out of St. Thomas. It is an addition to the many successes we have had in our organization and others such as Mock Trial. We can feel very proud to be a part of a school making its mark on the map.

**Accommodations**

A student seeking an accommodation after being admitted must make such request as soon as possible. The law school will need adequate time for evaluating documentation, working out the specific accommodation, and arranging scheduling. The law school may not be able to satisfy last-minute requests for some accommodations. **Requests for exam accommodations must be made no later than Friday of the 4th week of the term if a first-time request is being made.** In some circumstances, accommodations may be granted on a provisional basis, and the student will be required to timely submit additional documentation. If a student does not submit the additional documentation within the time frame established he or she will lose the provisional accommodation and will have to reapply for an accommodation when he or she has additional documentation.

Students who seek accommodations or alterations in standard academic procedures because of a physical, learning, or mental disability must contact the Office of Student Affairs as soon as possible after enrollment at St. Thomas University School of Law. It is the responsibility of the student requesting such accommodation to do so in a timely fashion in accordance with the requirements as set forth in the Disability Accommodations Guidelines.

Students need not make their disabilities known, unless they want to request an accommodation. If seeking an accommodation, the student has the affirmative duty to inform the School of the disability and request the accommodation. Information about a student’s disability is treated as confidential under applicable federal and state laws, and law school policies. This information is provided only to individuals who are privileged to receive such information on a need-to-know basis. Faculty members who are informed of a student’s disability are advised this information is confidential.

Once a student’s request has been granted, it is the responsibility of the student to request a modification of the accommodation should such modification be needed. For additional information and to read the complete Disability Accommodations Guidelines Handbook, please visit [http://www.stu.edu/IMG/pdf/DisabilityGuidelinesweb.pdf](http://www.stu.edu/IMG/pdf/DisabilityGuidelinesweb.pdf).

**Announcement**

We are pleased to announce that Roy Balleste has been elected as Secretary for the Global Internet Governance Academic Network (GigaNet). This position is part of the Steering Committee; GigaNet is the international Internet governance scholarly community. Under the leadership of Steering Committee, GigaNet organizes the academic program to be conducted in conjunction with the United Nations Internet Governance Form.
Graduation

Spring graduation is planned for May 14, 2011, at the Fernandez Family Center for Leadership and Wellness. Graduation registration is scheduled for Monday, February 14 through Friday, February 18, 2011, at the law school Registrar’s Office counter.

Pictures of our graduates will be placed in the graduation program. We would like the program to include photographs of the entire graduating class. The law school will be paying 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 Wednesday, February 16 and Friday, February 25, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. until 6:45 p.m. in the Evelyn & George Goldbloom Convocation Hall. They will 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. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Carrol Hartley at (305) 623-2301, or stop by the Office of the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.

ST. THOMAS LAW FACULTY TO PARTICIPATE IN PRESTIGIOUS LEGAL SCHOLARS ANNUAL MEETING

The Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS), a regional association of law schools, hosts an annual meeting that will be held this summer in Hilton Head, South Carolina. SEALS participants are well respected legal scholars.

We are pleased to announce that Professor Tamara Lawson will be participating on a panel entitled “Total Access: Taking Access to Justice Out of the Box.” Also on that panel are professors from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Loyola University.

Law Library Director and Associate Professor Roy Balleste will be presenting on the future of legal education. The other speakers on “Law Libraries for the 21st Century” are from American, George Washington, Harvard, and Marquette.

Associate Professor Dennis Corgill will be presenting on a panel “Protecting Online Privacy: First Level and Second Level Privacy Issues.” His panel will explore both general and specific responses to privacy issues in the cyber world. Specifically, Professor Corgill will examine the interplay between traditional trade secret doctrines and online security measures such as cryptography.

Associate Professor of Law Katharine Van Tassel is moderating a panel entitled “Current Issues in Mental Health Law.” The speakers are professors from Vanderbilt University Law School, Saint Louis University, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Spring 2011 Academic Calendar

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HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION TO HOST TENNIS TOURNAMENT AT THE CRANDON PARK TENNIS CENTER
HOME OF THE SONY ERICSSON OPEN

What: The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) will host a Tennis Tournament for attorneys, judges, and law students.

Why: This event provides law students with an excellent opportunity to socialize, in a casual environment, with several attorneys, judges, and other students and professionals from the State of Florida and the country. Proceeds from the event will provide support for scholarships for Hispanic law students, which the HNBA Legal Education Fund distributes.

Who: Prominent attorneys and judges from Florida and across the nation, and deans and students from various law schools.

When: Saturday, February 5, 2011, 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Where: Crandon Park Tennis Center in Key Biscayne, FL – Home of the Sony Ericsson Open
7300 Crandon Boulevard, Key Biscayne, Florida, 33149

Contact: Terry Chavez Pedrosa, HNBA Region VIII President (Florida)
T: 305-460-1000 | E: tcp@yoss.com

RSVP: The cost for player registration is $50 for law students and includes membership to HNBA. To view the complete list of activities, find out about sponsorship opportunities, or register online for the tournament, please visit http://www.hnba.com/hnba-charity-tennis-tournament/

COMPARATIVE WATER LAW SHORT COURSE
TOUR IN THE NETHERLANDS

There is still time to enroll for the Comparative Water Law Short Course/Tour in the Netherlands, scheduled for May 22 - 27, 2011. The course will examine water management for a nation below sea-level, including visits to dykes, surge barriers, and windmills. It also will explore this progressive nation’s environmental innovations. The course is open to all St. Thomas law J.D. students; arrangements to receive one law school credit can be made through Professor Light. For more information, please visit www.stu.edu/shortcourse/tabid/2979/Default.aspx.

PRO BONO

In keeping with the mission of St. Thomas University School of Law, all St. Thomas Law students are required to complete at least 40 hours of pro bono service prior to graduation. We are pleased St. Thomas Law Students routinely exceed the 40 hour minimum, and thousands of hours of public service are provided by our students. Up to 20 hours of the pro bono service can be non-law related public service (e.g., providing services to charitable, religious, and educational organizations). The Pro Bono Handbook can be found online at this link: http://www.stu.edu/IMG/pdf/probonoManual2007-08.pdf. (You can get there by going to the St. Thomas law home page, clicking on “Current Students” at the top, and then on Pro Bono Handbook listed under “Resources”).

The deadline for submitting proof of compliance with the 40 hour requirement for May graduates is April 28, 2011. Please note that failure to timely complete and submit documentation regarding the pro bono requirement can cause your graduation to be delayed.

The Pro Bono program is administered by Professor Anthony Musto, the Director of Community Outreach and Pro Bono Services. Professor Musto can be reached at amusto@stu.edu. Cathy Hayes-Cohen assist with the recording and documentation associated with pro bono. You can contact her at chayes@stu.edu for assistance.