First-year Students Give Back to the Community

First Cohort Begins Master of Science Degree

Military Law Symposium Held at Cumberland
Contents

2 Dean’s Note
3 A Fine End to the Fiscal Year
4 Professor Hartzog Addresses Graduates
6 Class of 2015 Legacy Photos
8 First-year Students Give Back to the Community
10 Admission Ambassadors
11 First Cohort Begins Master of Science Degree
12 Adjunct Faculty Spotlight
14 Barbershop Libraries
16 Faculty Notes
18 Jere F. White Jr. Fellows
20 Cumberland Community Mediation Center Receives Grant
21 Students Attend CLEO Seminars
22 Student Spotlight
23 Military Symposium Held at Law School
24 Cumberland in Cambridge
26 Class Notes

Cover: Keith Stephens, pictured left, from Opelika, Alabama, and Grant Smith, pictured right, from Nashville, Tennessee, volunteer at Ronald McDonald House for First-Year Service Day.
from Dean Strickland

One of the most distinctive and valuable attributes of Cumberland School of Law is the genuine sense of community that pervades faculty, staff, students and alumni alike. Faculty care deeply about their students and cultivate interaction that goes far beyond the classroom. Law students form bonds, and the student body has a cohesiveness that is more like a liberal arts college than a law school. Alumni engage students by coaching teams, judging competitions, preparing students in mock interviews and providing guidance in a myriad of other ways. This supportive community, which is far different from the culture of other law schools, makes Cumberland School of Law a more humane and effective place to learn law, and it helps instill the values that make good lawyers. The Princeton Review reconfirmed this attribute when it ranked the school seventh in the country for “quality of life.” The same publication recognized the role of faculty in this achievement, ranking Cumberland School of Law ninth in the country for “best professors” based on student surveys relating to “professors’ teaching abilities and accessibility outside of class.”

The role of our nonfaculty staff in creating and maintaining this culture and in achieving the school’s many successes, however, is too often overlooked. From the moment students arrive on campus, they are cheerfully welcomed by staff both in our admission office and throughout the building. The myriad functions our staff performs are too numerous to list. They train and shepherd leaders of student organizations that change every year. They painstakingly organize and oversee the many events and competitions at the school that seem to run on their own. They oversee student registration, administer exams, maintain records, maintain the law library, counsel students, support faculty teaching and research, oversee communication, and much more. All the while, they remain cheerful and supportive of our students. From the administrative assistants to the directors of departments, the members of our staff patiently and sympathetically listen to students’ concerns and struggles, and cheerfully provide words of advice and encouragement. Unlike administrators in so many organizations, Cumberland School of Law’s staff creatively look for ways to achieve goals and meet needs rather than mindlessly recite policies and rules.

While reviewing the Law School Survey of Student Engagement (LSSSE), I recently discovered anew the profound effect our staff has on students’ perceptions of the school. LSSSE is a survey of students at participating law schools that examines student perceptions about various aspects of their law school education. The 2015 survey showed that Cumberland School of Law students rated the quality of their relationships with the school’s administrative staff to be immensely more “helpful, considerate, and flexible” than did students at peer schools, comparably sized schools, other religiously affiliated schools, and all law schools. Please join me in thanking our staff for making Cumberland School of Law work, and for making it a special and unique institution.

Dean Henry “Corky” Strickland III
Each year, participating Alabama law firms with four or more Cumberland School of Law alumni attempt to reach 100% alumni participation in the law school’s Annual Fund Firm Competition. Overall alumni participation rate (the number of alumni who financially contribute to the law school) is reported to the American Bar Association annually. This year, Cumberland School of Law proudly recognizes, with gratitude, the following firms and firm leaders who achieved 100% alumni participation for the 2014–15 fiscal year:

Balch & Bingham LLP  
(Montgomery)  
Riley Robey ’00

Engel, Hairston & Johanson PC  
Rick Johanson ’75, Michael Krombach ’13

Parsons, Lee & Juliano PC  
Marda Svndor ’80

Beasley Allen  
Tom Methvin ’88

Farris, Riley & Pitt LLP  
J. Adam Clayton ’07

Porterfield, Harper, Mills & Motlow PA  
Rey Ireland III ’85

Carr Allison  
Thomas Logan ’90

Jones Walker LLP  
(all offices)  
Steve Casey ’79

Sirote & Permutt, PC  
Kelli Robinson ’06

Christian & Small  
Jordan Wood ’09

McCalla Raymer LLC  
(Atlanta)  
Kent Altom ’02

If you would like to participate, contact Anne Marovich at amarovic@samford.edu

Cory Watson PC  
Steven Hunt ’06

McCallum Hoaglund  
Cook & Irby LLP  
Chip McCallum ’86

Thank you to all of our alumni for your continued support. The consistency and breadth of your support are critical to our institution. All gifts make a tremendous impact at the law school, and we thank you.
Woodrow Hartzog ’02 told the graduates of Samford University’s Cumberland School of Law he wanted to try something different in his commencement address to the Class of 2015. Instead of “the standard advice a commencement speaker is supposed to give,” said Hartzog, “I want to identify the traits of a Cumberland lawyer through my experience at this school.”

Speaking to a graduating class of about 110 students and an audience of about 1,200 spectators on May 15 in Samford’s Wright Center, Hartzog listed five traits of a Cumberland lawyer “that make us who we are.” He added, “They are traits I learned as a student and that I try to teach as a professor. I hope you can see them in yourself as well, and draw upon them as you start your legal career.”

First, Cumberland lawyers are relentless. Hartzog told the class how he bombed his first semester in law school because he had no idea what he was doing. But his professors and classmates picked him up and helped him study harder and smarter, he said. “It paid off, and I never forgot the value of persistence.”

Hartzog said persistence and patience paid off again later when he was seeking a job as an intellectual property attorney with the federal government in Washington. He said he flew to D.C. to interview but didn’t get the job. He stayed in touch, and then “out of the blue,” he got a call asking if he was still interested. “The lesson, I suppose, is that victory through attrition is still a victory,” he said.

Second, Cumberland lawyers know life outside the law. Hartzog cited classmates who ran their own businesses while in law school, and students who volunteered in their communities, coached youth sports teams, served as disc jockeys on weekends and even auditioned for movies. He was part of a band, he said.

Third, Cumberland lawyers take themselves just seriously enough. “Cumberlanders,” a word Hartzog admitted he may have just made up, are funny and know how to laugh at themselves.

Fourth, Cumberland lawyers are loyal. “As a litigator, I had Cumberland grads as mentors,” Hartzog said. “When I worked in Washington, D.C., Cumberland grads who were otherwise strangers would go out of their way to meet up with me and give me some advice on how to make it in the city.”

Fifth, Cumberland lawyers are in the people business. “It’s easy to get caught up in the x’s and o’s of the law,” said Hartzog. “But the trait that I hope we walk away with is that the law is about people — helping people and forming relationships.”

Hartzog told the graduates, “Three years ago, I walked into a classroom that many of you were sitting in, and we began your legal education together. The first part is now over. You have been exceptional, and I can’t wait to see what you do next.”

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Sewell Receives Brewer Professionalism Award

Following Hartzog’s commencement address, Henry C. “Corky” Strickland III, dean and Ethel P. Malugen Professor of Law, presented the annual Daniel Austin Brewer Professionalism Award to senior Robert J. “Jay” Sewell of Auburn, Alabama. The award was endowed by Governor Albert Brewer, Distinguished Professor of Law and Government and Professor Emeritus, in honor of his father. Each year, the award is granted to a third-year law student who best exemplifies the high standards of ethics and professionalism expected of members of the legal profession.

During his time at Cumberland School of Law, Sewell served as chief justice of the Henry Upson Sims Moot Court Board, executive editor of Cumberland Law Review and associate justice of the Henry Upson Sims Moot Court Board Shores Competition. He also received the M. Alan Stephens Award.

Sewell is employed as an associate in the firm of Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC in Birmingham. His wife, Jessica, graduated from Samford in May with her Master of Nurse Anesthesia from Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing. She is employed by Baptist Health Systems as a nurse anesthetist.
Class of 2015 Legacy Photos

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Class of 2015 Legacy Photos

Graduate pictured | Relatives
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1. Matthew Woodham | Dad Barry D. Woodham ’92; Uncle Russ ’84 and Aunt Lindsay Allison ’84 (uncle and aunt not pictured; Matthew, Barry and Lindsay were all senior class presidents.)
3. Mary Margaret Bielby | Dad Lorence Bielby ’83, Mom Peggy Bielby ’84; Mother-in-law Helen Ball ’02 (not pictured)
4. Cynthia Hopkins | Daughters Melinda Hopkins, Pharm.D. ’15, Gina Marie Ramsey ’18
5. Katie Willoughby | Dad Anthony C. Willoughby ’87, Mom Suzanne O. Willoughby ’87
6. Faye L. Doss | Grandfather Chriss H. Doss ’68 and Grandmother Dr. Harriett Doss
7. Chandler O. Kirby | Dad Jeffrey C. Kirby ’81
8. James “Nathan” Guin IV | Dad Judge James C. Guin III ’80
9. David “Drew” A. Bozeman | Dad Randall Bozeman ’88
10. Lauren Miles | Dad Daniel “Dee” Miles ’89
11. Kendall A. Lee | Dad David Lee ’86

Not pictured:
- L. “Ashleigh” Hunnicutt | Dad Joseph F. Hunnicutt ’89
- Bradley S. Foster | Sister Claire Martin ’14
- Carl “Tripp” Sewell | Cousin Cassie Witcher ’10
First-year law student Chakeria Gilbert spent the last day of her orientation at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law painting a bedroom. She was among more than 100 students taking part in the law school’s annual First-Year Service Project on Aug. 14.

“I signed up to go to Grace House Ministries for First-Year Service Day,” said Gilbert, from Warner Robins, Georgia. “We split into groups and either painted bedrooms or bathrooms, or sorted clothes. With five people, we moved quickly, and I had a great time serving. Grace House Ministries is doing wonderful things for girls in this community, and I’m glad Cumberland gave me an opportunity to be of service to them.”

Established in fall 2007, the First-Year Service Project concludes a week of traditional orientation events. The first-year class, faculty and staff provided hundreds of volunteer hours in one afternoon to community service projects.

Students in the Class of 2018 hail from 18 states and are graduates of 52 colleges and universities. The median age is 24, and the group is 51% male and 49% female. The minority percentage is 17.4%, with 9.3% of those students identifying as African American.

Cumberland School of Law also welcomed six second-year students who transferred from other law schools, two visiting students from the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom and one visiting student from NALSAR University in India.
Community Mediation Center and Public Interest Program. “More than 100 students descend on our community that day, draped in their red Cumberland volunteer shirts, and present a true picture of our Samford University values.”

The service project got underway as students gathered for breakfast at Rosewood Hall in Homewood’s downtown SoHo district to hear from Adams, law dean Henry C. “Corky” Strickland and several second- and third-year law students before heading out to their respective service locations.

Through its Public Interest Program, Cumberland School of Law offers many legal and nonlegal public interest and pro bono volunteer opportunities for students. In addition to the First-Year Service Project, students can participate in the Help the Homeless Program, Pro Bono Week, Project Homeless Connect, Community Mediation Center and Public Interest Fellowships, and many other activities sponsored by the student-led Public Interest and Community Service Organization throughout the year.
Dear Alumni,

As an impressive new group of first-year law students begins classes at Cumberland School of Law, our admission staff celebrates the conclusion of another successful recruiting season — and immediately begins recruiting the Class of 2019. A new challenge lies before us, but it is one we gladly accept!

I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your help in recruiting the Class of 2018. From emails to handwritten notes, from telephone calls to conversations over coffee, each of you impacted prospective students and influenced their decision to attend Cumberland School of Law. We all play important roles in advancing the mission of the law school — particularly when it comes to recruiting new law students — and the admission staff couldn’t do it without your help and ongoing support.

To assist you in this effort, I’d like to direct you to our new admission viewbook, available online at samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/admission. It not only looks incredible, but also highlights the best of our law school. I challenge each of you to take the time to browse the viewbook, become familiar with this information and share it with prospective students whenever you have the opportunity to do so.

As alumni, you are ambassadors for our law school. You have countless opportunities and a unique responsibility to share with others what makes Cumberland School of Law so special. If we all participate in this effort, our beloved institution will surely reap the rewards for years to come.

Many thanks,

Ken England, Ed.D.
Director of Admission and Administration
Samford University’s Cumberland School of Law

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**Admission Ambassadors**

**Adam Buddenbohn**
- 27 years old
- Originally from Hockessin, Delaware
- Attended the University of Delaware, where he majored in Criminal Justice
- Class of 2017
- Interested in litigation before coming to Cumberland School of Law; had never set foot in Alabama

**Kevin Bufford**
- 23 years old
- Originally from Auburn, Alabama
- Attended Auburn University, where he majored in Communication and French
- Class of 2017
- Interested in property law and medical malpractice defense law; loves to bow hunt

**Caroline Collins**
- 27 years old
- Originally from Birmingham
- Attended the College of Charleston, where she majored in Communication and Sociology
- Class of 2016
- Newlywed

**Alexandria Comensky**
- 23 years old
- Originally from Birmingham, Alabama
- Attended the University of Alabama, where she majored in Social Work
- Class of 2016
- Interested in civil defense law; hates sweets

**Nicolas Gutierrez**
- 25 years old
- Originally from Hoover, Alabama
- Attended the University of Alabama, where he majored in Political Science
- Class of 2017
- Interested in entertainment law, intellectual property law, and/or corporate law; worked in the music industry for almost three years before attending law school

**Sharidan Hollis**
- Originally from Hoover, Alabama
- Attended Spring Hill College, where she majored in Finance and Economics
- Class of 2017
- Interested in compliance and regulation law; drives a 6-speed

**Jake Key**
- 24 years old
- Originally from Lanett, Alabama
- Attended LaGrange College, where he majored in History
- Class of 2016
- A big Auburn Tigers fan

**Julie Musolf**
- 24 years old
- Originally from Athens, Alabama
- Attended Samford University, where she majored in Administration and Communications
- Class of 2016
- Loves to build puzzles
First Cohort Begins Work on Master of Science in Health Law and Policy Degree

Cumberland School of Law welcomed its first cohort for the new Master of Science in Health Law and Policy (MHLP) degree at an on-campus orientation Aug. 21–22. Students had the opportunity to meet program faculty and administration, as well as spend time with fellow students. Health care professionals from the Birmingham area also joined the group to share their expertise and answer questions.

With an interesting entering cohort of 18 students — including an experienced surgeon, nurses and nurse practitioners, health care administrators, lawyers, a priest and a few recent college graduates — the class will surpass the target enrollment for the new program. Although students vary in age and background and hail from seven states, all hope to increase their expertise in the increasingly complex field of health law.

“I am extremely excited about the MHLP program because I believe it will help me develop an even better understanding of the laws and policies that impact physician practices,” said Loretta Duncan, a senior medical practice consultant for State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company in Brentwood, Tennessee. “This program will help me achieve my personal goal of obtaining a graduate degree while I continue to work full time. It will also benefit my company by giving me the tools to provide more specialized services to our policyholders. I can’t wait to begin.”

Kathryn Andreolli, an in-house counsel for a large orthopedic practice in Lindenhurst, New York, shared similar sentiments. “I love my job and anticipate getting even better at it through this program,” she said. “I hope to broaden my knowledge and understanding of compliance specific to health care providers and increase my understanding of health care delivery systems in general.”

The degree will be the first fully online program offered by the law school, as well as its first degree program for nonlawyers. With input from health law and compliance experts both on campus and in the community, Cumberland School of Law was able to develop a curriculum that could earn accreditation from the Compliance Certification Board® (CCB). Samford University earned that accreditation and is one of only eight universities nationally to be accredited by the CCB. This accreditation will enable students to sit for one of four credentialing exams offered by that organization upon graduation.

Experienced faculty from Samford’s Cumberland School of Law and College of Health Sciences, as well as compliance professionals from the community, will participate in the program. The program includes coursework in health law, regulatory affairs, public policy, insurance and health care administration, with a particular emphasis on health care compliance. The online program takes two years to complete, with students completing two classes per term through fall, spring and summer of their first year. The second year includes two classes in fall and in spring, and a final summer course. Two or three on-campus weekends are planned.

For information or to apply, go to samford.edu/go/healthlaw or contact Laura Tomlin, managing director, at laura.tomlin@samford.edu or 205-726-2545.
Donald M. Jackson is in his fourth academic year as an adjunct faculty member at Cumberland School of Law. He teaches two sports law courses; one focuses on amateur, college and Olympic sports, while the other focuses on professional sports.

Jackson is the principal of The Sports Group (thesportsgroup.org). The Sports Group’s involvement in amateur and professional sports spans several decades, and has led to Jackson’s involvement in some high-profile cases in American sports in the past 20 years. The Cumberland Lawyer had an opportunity to ask Jackson a few questions:

With your busy schedule, why do you continue teaching law students?
I’ve had phenomenal students over the past four years. My classes are interactive and — I believe — intellectually engaging. My students challenge me as much as I challenge them. The intellectual engagement is stimulating and affords me the opportunity to impact the way the students see issues in sports, which are becoming increasingly more complex. Many of the policies in the sports world will be shaped by attorneys in the future. It is my hope that a few of my students will be motivated to examine sports law as a possible career option.

What is your teaching style, and has your method of teaching changed over the years?
My teaching style is a variation of the Socratic method. My classes are quite interactive. I attempt to provide a historical context for the case law and to tie historical cases, such as Federal Baseball Club v. National League, to the contemporary model of sports. I challenge students to question many of the things they see in the media and to analyze factual scenarios in a strictly objective, non-emotional way. This is sometimes hard because sports events are exercises in extreme emotion. I believe that my teaching style has evolved as the discipline itself has changed in recent years.

New ground is broken almost every year in sports law, which requires creative analysis and, sometimes, a total re-evaluation of old standards in sports. That occasional re-evaluation has forced an evolution in my teaching style.

What advice do you offer students about the start of their legal careers?
There is no substitute for a relentless work ethic. A number of my students have availed themselves of opportunities to get experience in the sports industry. I established an internship at UAB’s Department of Athletics. A number of my students have taken advantage of that opportunity, and it has translated into other opportunities in sports. Also, I strongly advise students who have an interest in sports law to develop their trial skills. Many of the issues in sports ultimately end up in the courtroom. It is important, even for attorneys involved in sports transactional work, to understand the potential consequences of litigation. [1]

Lewanda K. VanPelt is an assistant federal security director (AFSD) with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) of the Department of Homeland Security. She is also an adjunct professor at Cumberland School of Law, having taught Negotiation Theory, Practice and Law for nearly 12 years. At the advice of Dean Strickland, she attended a Master of Laws program in the study of dispute resolution at the University of Missouri–Columbia School of Law after she graduated from Cumberland School of Law. When she returned to Birmingham two years later, the dean offered her an opportunity to teach second- and third-year law students. The Cumberland Lawyer had an opportunity to ask VanPelt a few questions:

With your busy schedule, why do you continue teaching law students?
It is a labor of love. I am dedicated to helping students realize that as savvy attorney-negotiators, they can help negotiating parties reach mutually beneficial agreements without tearing each other’s heads off, severing relationships or destroying reputations.

What is your teaching style, and how has your method of teaching changed over the years?
Initially, my teaching style was more lecture-based. Over the years, however, I adopted a nontraditional law school approach, which includes experiential exercises and role-playing that allow students to learn by doing. In addition to students being observed during negotiations, the textbook I use encourages them to try different bargaining styles, focus on creative solutions to complex legal issues and learn from their mistakes in a classroom setting, without detriment to clients.
The Honorable R. David Proctor has served as a district judge in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama since 2003. Judge John L. Carroll, law professor and former dean, invited Judge Proctor to work as a visiting professor at Cumberland School of Law in the fall of 2009. That semester, Proctor taught Civil Procedure I and Torts II. Since then, he has served as an adjunct professor, teaching Complex Civil Litigation in the spring of each academic year. The Cumberland Lawyer had an opportunity to ask Proctor a few questions:

With your busy schedule, why do you continue teaching law students?

I enjoy teaching, particularly when I have students who are engaged and realize that learning the fundamentals of complex litigation is critical if their goal is to litigate for a living. I enjoy interacting with law students. It is refreshing, and it furnishes me the opportunity to give back to our legal profession that, in so many ways, has been very good to me.

What is your teaching style, and has your method of teaching changed over the years?

I have three goals for my students. First, master the basics. Second, understand and appreciate the many nuances found in this area of the law. Finally, I hope to share with them some glimpses into the real world of complex litigation so they can not only obtain knowledge but also gain experience.

What advice do you offer students about the start of their legal careers?

Take the road less traveled. Work hard. Don’t take shortcuts or the easy way out. Like it or not, millennials are viewed by some (or perhaps many) as being long on technical knowledge but short on work ethic. I recently had the opportunity to administer an oath for an out-of-state bar admittee who is a Cumberland School of Law graduate. I had never met him before. When I asked him why he didn’t take my Complex Civil Litigation class, he said, “I heard it was hard.” I have some news for you (and this may be bad news). Practicing law is hard. Clerking for a judge is hard. Becoming a proficient attorney is hard. Making a difference as a young associate is hard. Hanging out your own shingle is hard. You don’t prepare for hard things by doing easy things. You really should be asking yourselves, “What hard work must I do now in order to stand out among my peers and prepare myself for the legal world?” I can think of no better way to stand out than to show that you’re ready, willing and able to work — and to work hard.
Barbershop Libraries
Stokes ’11
Founds Books for Boys Project
Mediation Center — Stokes made the difficult decision to join Teach for America, said Stokes. “Here I was, a kid who grew up in poverty and public housing, having graduated from one of the most distinguished law schools in the country. Honestly, all I wanted to do was make money, and I knew that I couldn’t do that working with Teach for America. But then I talked to Professor Adams, and she told me (in paraphrase) that sometimes our lives don’t really make sense to us; we just have to trust the journey that God is sending us on. For some of us, God uses us like deliverymen — he gives us a package to deliver, and we must deliver it. Then, we move on to the next assignment with the next package. We must do it because people are depending on us for the God-sent packages.”

Spending time at the library may not be at the top of most young men’s priority lists, but Cumberland School of Law alumnus Freddie Stokes has devised a way to bring the library to them by providing books at a place they likely frequent — the local barbershop. The simple idea is catching on, with more than $5,000 raised and six barbershop libraries established thus far.

Stokes was born and raised in Mobile, Alabama, where he graduated from C. F. Vigor High School in Prichard, Alabama. He grew up in Happy Hills, a public housing project in Mobile. He experienced struggles with both his academics and behavior. He failed the third grade and was suspended several times throughout his tenure in public school. It was only after he faced expulsion and the prospect of failing the 10th grade that he decided to become serious about his academics, as he recognized that was the only way he would ever escape the projects, and ultimately, poverty.

Stokes graduated summa cum laude from Alabama A&M University with a degree in political science and international relations. He enrolled in Samford University’s Cumberland School of Law, where he achieved the Scholar of Merit for Business Bankruptcy, was a member of the Black Law Students Association, a member of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International and a member of the Trial Advocacy Board.

After graduating from law school — and after a lengthy and heartfelt conversation with Cassandra Adams, director of Cumberland’s Public Interest Project and Community Mediation Center — Stokes made the difficult decision to join Teach for America, a national program that places high-achieving college graduates and professionals in low-income and rural communities to teach for a minimum of two years. He taught at Westlawn Middle School, a “turnaround” school in Huntsville, Alabama, for two years. There, he taught students who came from similar backgrounds and circumstances as his.

“I was really waffling about my decision to join Teach for America,” said Stokes. “Here I was, a kid who grew up in poverty and public housing, having graduated from one of the most distinguished law schools in the country. Honestly, all I wanted to do was make money, and I knew that I couldn’t do that working with Teach for America. But then I talked to Professor Adams, and she told me (in paraphrase) that sometimes our lives don’t really make sense to us; we just have to trust the journey that God is sending us on. For some of us, God uses us like deliverymen — he gives us a package to deliver, and we must deliver it. Then, we move on to the next assignment with the next package. We must do it because people are depending on us for the God-sent packages.”

Books for Boys

Fast forward to July 2014. Stokes was practicing law in his hometown of Mobile. He read an article in The Root about a Florida barbershop that promotes literacy, and the Books for Boys Project idea was hatched. It began as a simple plan to fund libraries in three to four barbershops in Mobile and Prichard, but due to overwhelming response, Stokes is planning to expand the project throughout the state.

In addition to collecting donations for books, Stokes is also collecting donations to provide free haircuts for boys who submit one-page book reports to participating Books for Boys Barbershops. Stokes is also establishing a Books for Boys Task Force to assist with both barbershop library installation and oversight. As long as he is receiving donations and support, Stokes says that he’s committed to doing the work.

“When I went from the classroom to the courtroom, I was able to connect the violence and apathy to a lack of reading and self-esteem,” Stokes said. “Unfortunately, in this country, the quality of education that a child receives is determined by his or her zip code. I want to play a part in eliminating these statistics and closing the achievement gap for children growing up in underrepresented communities.”

Stokes hopes that by placing small libraries in barbershops, both literacy and self-esteem in boys can be increased. While they wait, sometimes for hours, boys can be exposed to images of positive African-American men such as Colin Powell, Barack Obama, Ben Carson, Jackie Robinson, Michael Jordan, Martin Luther King Jr. and more, while at the same time increasing their reading and literacy skills.

While the Books for Boys Project isn’t just for African-American boys, the statistics for African-American and Latino boys are alarming. On average, African-American twelfth-grade students read at the same level as Caucasian eighth-grade students. In fact, the twelfth-grade reading scores of African-American males are significantly lower than those for men and women across every other racial and ethnic group. Even more alarming, African-American and Hispanic males constitute almost 80 percent of youth in special education programs, with less than half of African-American male students graduating from high school on time.

Today, Stokes works at the Carter Law Firm (previously the Cochran Firm — Mobile) and is an assistant city attorney/prosecutor for the city of Prichard. In addition to that, he spends a significant amount of time in Juvenile Court as guardian ad litem and juvenile defense attorney. He also volunteers on the Board of Directors for Men of America Nurturing and Ushering Progress Incorporated (M.A.N.U.P. Inc.) and the Sen’Derrick Marks Foundation.

To support Books for Boys, go to gofundme.com/booksforboys.
Judge John L. Carroll ’74 is a Uniform Law Commissioner from the state of Alabama and has been appointed by the Uniform Law Commission to be a member of a committee which is drafting a Model Veteran’s Court Act. Judge Carroll is currently serving as a member of a committee drafting amendments to the Uniform Athlete Agents Act.

Carroll gave the homily at the Red Mass held at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Scottsboro on Friday, August 21. The Red Mass is the traditional name of the religious service which is held at the start of each new term of court seeking divine guidance for judges and attorneys and all those who seek justice.

Edward L. Craig and Della H. Darby were elected treasurer and vice president/president elect, respectively, of the Law Libraries Association of Alabama.

Della H. Darby presented “Finding the Way with eBooks: How They are Used by Legal Scholars and How We Can Increase Their Accessibility,” on April 17 with Ann Long and Keri Stophel of Duncan School of Law. They presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Librarians in Lexington, Ky.

Darby was recently elected to the board of directors of the Leeds Arts Council in Leeds, Alabama.

Bob Greene presented a talk on “Water Law in the United States” to the New Horizons group at UAB on April 14. New Horizons is a program for retired persons who attend lectures and presentations on a year-round schedule.

Greene was recently selected as an honorary fellow by The American College of Environmental Lawyers. Fellows are selected for their distinguished experience and high standards in the practice of environmental law. Greene was officially inducted into the College at its annual meeting in October. Fellows chosen by their peers, have earned this recognition based on achievements over a minimum 15 year period, in which they have led the field in diverse areas of environmental law and policy.

Greene also spoke to the Young Men’s Business Club in Birmingham about “The Current Situation in Ukraine” and was a panelist at the Southeastern Environmental Law & Regulation Conference in Destin, Florida on June 19. His topic was “How We Got Here: The Evolution and Future of Environmental Law Practice.”

Woodrow Hartzog ’02

Hartzog recently published an essay in Wired about Snapchat’s ban on third-party apps and the future of social media design. He argues that technological constraints are the key to safe and sustainable online communities.

On April 10-11, Hartzog presented his article titled “Unfair and Deceptive Robots,” at the We Robot conference at the University of Washington School of Law.

Hartzog, along with Evan Selinger, participated in an interview with FTC Commissioner Julie Brill on the right to obscurity. The interview is online at The Christian Science Monitor’s Passcode.

Hartzog was recently quoted in Vice’s Motherboard on a story titled “The Sheer Difficulty of Defining What a Robot Is.” He also recently appeared on the Oral Argument podcast to talk about privacy and technology.

Hartzog’s article entitled “The FTC and the New Common Law Privacy” was published in the Columbia Law Review. He also workshopped two papers at the 8th Annual Privacy Law Scholars Conference in Berkeley, California. The papers were “A Theory of Privacy and Trust,” co-authored with Neil Richards and “Anonymization and Risk,” co-authored with Ira Rubinstein. Both papers were selected by conference participants for encore sessions.

The Christian Science Monitor recently published an op-ed Hartzog co-authored with Evan Selinger in their Passcode series about the breakdown of talks over a code of conduct for facial recognition technologies and the need for obscurity.

The Guardian published an essay he co-authored with Evan Selinger arguing that Google’s new policy of delisting revenge porn shows shows how something like the right to be forgotten should exist in the U.S. He was also recently quoted in an AL.com story titled “The Growing and Disturbing Rise of Revenge Porn.”

Bloomberg BNA published an essay Hartzog cowrote with Daniel Solove titled “Should the FTC Kill the Password? The Case for Better Authentication.”

The Christian Science Monitor’s Passcode published an essay by Hartzog and Evan Selinger exploring why Twitter’s new deal to share tweets with businesses might be worth some scrutiny, even if everybody can already see your profile.

The BBC recently published an essay Hartzog co-authored with Evan Selinger about the need to keep a lookout for untrustworthy robots.

Donald Jackson was recently quoted in the Washington Post’s article titled “Lawyer may not help Austin Nicols’s transfer battle with Memphis.”

David Langum was recently awarded the 2015 Lightfoot, Franklin & White Faculty Scholarship Award. Langum’s book, Quite Contrary: The Litigious Life of Mary Bennett Love was published by Texas Tech University Press.

David Smolin worked with the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) on Intercountry Adoption. He continued as an independent expert for HCCH, in particular as a
member of an expert working group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption (ICA), and also in the area of illicit practices and intercountry adoption. In June 2015, he participated as an Independent Expert in the HCCH Special Commission meetings on ICA in the Hague, Netherlands. This diplomatic/intergovernmental event occurs about every five years and involves representatives of governments and NGOs meeting on the practical aspects of intercountry adoption. There were about 70 nations represented in this year’s meeting. Smolin was able to give a plenary presentation on the topic of illicit practices.

Smolin also worked with HCCH in preparatory work toward a possible new Treaty on global surrogacy. He attended a key international conference on both surrogacy and intercountry adoption August 2014 in the Hague, Netherlands. He completed an article on surrogacy, titled “Surrogacy as the Sale of Children,” which has been accepted for publication at Pepperdine Law Review. He also participated in some informal consultation/discussions on surrogacy at the HCCH Special Commission in June 2015.

Smolin gave a keynote address for the American Adoption Congress annual convention in late March, in Cambridge, Mass., and in doing so incorporated some of the themes related to both domestic adoption reform and also surrogacy in the U.S. The American Adoption Congress is one of the significant and older organizations involved in reform of domestic adoption laws in the U.S., particularly advocating on the issue of opening adoption records.

Dean Henry C. Strickland III was interviewed by ABC 33/40 news regarding how the Supreme Court’s impending ruling on gay marriage could potentially impact Alabama.

Deborah Young won the 2015 Harvey S. Jackson Award for Excellence in Teaching for her service in upper level classes. Eddie Jackson ’76 and Richard Fikes ’85 endowed the Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in Teaching Award to allow the law school to recognize members of the law school faculty for their teaching excellence. A joint faculty-student committee selects the recipients of the award.

Woodrow Hartzog ’02 recently traveled to China through The Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries as part of the first delegation of the Golden Key Workshop. The trip was cosponsored by Microsoft (China). During his time in Beijing, Hartzog visited Microsoft China, toured Lenovo’s Beijing headquarters and attended lectures at Peking University on China’s political and social system, history and economic reform. Hartzog was also able to travel to Hong’an County to observe a special program that works to bridge multinational corporations and less-developed rural areas in China. During this visit, the workshop delegates met with local officials and teachers, observed a rural boarding school, and participated in a round-table discussion regarding the challenges fought in education and technology in rural China.

“This trip was an incredible opportunity to understand China’s growing technology sector within the backdrop of its culture, history, and economic system,” said Hartzog. “In addition to gaining a deeper appreciation for the vibrancy of China’s technological entrepreneurs, I heard of the challenges they face as well. I look forward to sharing my experience with students and colleagues.”

Eddie Jackson ’76 and Richard Fikes ’85 endowed the Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in Teaching Award to allow the law school to recognize members of the law school faculty for their teaching excellence. A joint faculty-student committee selects the recipients of the award. The winners of the 2015 Harvey S. Jackson Award for Excellence in Teaching are Professor Bob Greene for his instruction of first-year law students and to Professor Deborah Young for her service in upper level classes.

Faculty Win Awards

The Lightfoot, Franklin & White law firm, under the leadership of Jere White ’80, endowed an award for faculty scholarship. The award allows the law school to recognize faculty members who have published the most significant scholarly work over the past year. The recipients of the 2015 Lightfoot, Franklin & White Faculty Scholarship Award are Professors Woodrow Hartzog and David Langum.

Eddie Jackson ’76 and Richard Fikes ’85 endowed the Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in Teaching Award to allow the law school to recognize members of the law school faculty for their teaching excellence. A joint faculty-student committee selects the recipients of the award. The winners of the 2015 Harvey S. Jackson Award for Excellence in Teaching are Professor Bob Greene for his instruction of first-year law students and to Professor Deborah Young for her service in upper level classes.
Emily Schreiber

Emily Schreiber is the Jere F. White Jr. Fellow for the Class of 2018. Originally from Birmingham, Alabama, she graduated cum laude from Furman University with a major in history and political science with a concentration in poverty studies.

“The opportunity to be a small part of Mr. White’s legacy is an honor that I will carry with me throughout my legal career,” Schreiber said. “The friends and family of Mr. White who helped to establish this amazing opportunity have created more than a financial award; they’ve created a dynamic fellowship that is completely unique to Cumberland. Words cannot express how humbled I was to receive the fellowship, nor how thrilled I am to be attending Cumberland this fall. I know I have so much to learn and exciting years in store!”

Schreiber started fundraising for cystic fibrosis research several weeks after her own diagnosis at age 9. According to Schreiber, it was her “way of taking action and also coping with the illness.” After two years of fundraising for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, she started her own 501(c)3, Laps for Cystic Fibrosis, so that she could provide funding for a local cystic fibrosis clinic at Children’s of Alabama, as well as help patients and their families deal with the many expenses that having a genetic, chronic illness entails. Originally, her goal was to raise $3,000. To date, Laps for Cystic Fibrosis has raised more than $2.5 million dollars. α.

To donate or learn more about Laps for Cystic Fibrosis, go to lapsforcf.org.
Jonathan Griffith is the Jere F. White Jr. Fellow for the Class of 2017. Originally from Austell, Georgia, he graduated from the University of Georgia with a major in religion.

Griffith and his wife, Amy, met while doing mission work in India. They have two children, Caia and Isaac. During their second year of marriage, the Griffiths moved to India, and two years later to Costa Rica. They spent eight years living and ministering among marginalized peoples, reporting that they “received much more than we could possibly give.”

The Griffiths have since made Birmingham their home. “Though we were initially unsure of which law school I would attend, our visit to Cumberland moved the school to the top of our list,” said Griffith. “The school is strategically placed inside the Birmingham legal market.”

Beyond the benefits of location, the Griffiths were most impressed by the people at Cumberland School of Law. “The wonderful people and great location were likely sufficient to make Cumberland our first choice for schools, but we felt that the potential for being selected as a Jere F. White Jr. Fellow made picking the school an easy choice,” Griffith said. “I have since come to learn that the benefits of the fellowship are priceless. Offering much more than financial benefits, the fellowship has afforded me tremendous opportunities to network with great attorneys, judges, and other men and women within Birmingham’s legal market.”
The Cumberland Community Mediation Center (CCMC) recently received a $14,000 grant from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System — Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit (ACES-UANNP). Kevin H. Crenshaw ’98, legal consultant for the ACES-UANNP, and Cassandra Adams, director of the CCMC and Public Interest Program, spearheaded the collaboration. The grant will be allocated over two years, during which Adams will help to bring alternative dispute resolution to Alabama’s aging community.

The mission of the ACES-UANNP is to “provide learning opportunities to meet the needs of all urban and nontraditional audiences with a specific focus on limited resource families, underserved audiences, individuals and small enterprises.” The grant awarded to the CCMC is allocated from an Alabama A&M capacity-building grant entitled “Successful Aging Initiative: Community-Based Education to Promote Health and Asset Management for Alabama’s Older Adults.”

Among other project goals, Adams will be responsible for helping to develop and implement a community mediation program with an emphasis on senior mediation, providing mediation training to ACES-UANNP representatives, and developing a community pipeline to announce the availability of community mediation services through local senior centers, community resources, and academic and legal outlets.

“I am thrilled about this collaboration, and I believe we are well on our way to developing and implementing a program that fully addresses the legal, financial and health-related needs of some of Alabama’s most vulnerable individuals and families,” said Crenshaw.

A lunch meeting regarding the collaboration between the ACES-UANNP and the CCMC was held at Cumberland School of Law May 20. Representatives from the ACES-UANNP were present, as well as representatives from Cumberland School of Law and the greater Samford University community. The group brainstormed ideas, pooled resources and shared contact information in hopes of accomplishing much together over the next two years and beyond.

For more information or to support this initiative, please contact Cassandra E. Adams at ccmc@samford.edu or 205-726-4342.
New Students Attend CLEO Seminars

This summer, Cumberland School of Law sent two incoming first-year students to seminars sponsored by the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO). Established in 1968, CLEO is an organization committed to diversifying the legal profession by expanding legal education opportunities to minority, low-income and disadvantaged groups. The seminars are part of CLEO's "1L Prep — Attitude Is Essential" (AIE) summer seminar series, and are intended to prepare entering law students for academic success and to excel on law school exams. This summer's seminars were held at accredited law schools in seven regions around the country.

Members of the Cumberland School of Law admission team selected Jamal Aquil from Austell, Georgia, and Jamie Knight from Birmingham, Alabama, to attend the CLEO AIE seminars. Aquil attended the seminar in New York, New York, Aug. 1–2, and Knight attended the seminar in Chicago, Illinois, July 11–12. Both students said the CLEO AIE seminars helped prepare them for the rigors of the first semester of law school.

“I appreciate the incredible opportunity I received from Cumberland to attend the CLEO AIE seminar,” said Aquil. “It was my first time going to New York City, so that was an experience in itself.”

The seminar included simulated classrooms where participants learned to brief a case and take class notes. “I learned some strategies that I will definitely utilize this semester,” he said. “I was also able to meet a group of future colleagues from completely different backgrounds than mine. We are all going to law school in different places, but carried the same anxiety. Meeting all of them and having to give case briefs in a classroom setting resembles everything I am now experiencing during the first semester of law school.”

Aquil said the seminar helped release his anxiety and fears about starting law school. “Because of that experience, I started law school with confidence,” he said.

Knight said that he expected the seminar to be a sample of what the first year of law school would be like. “We were given cases to brief before we arrived and had to discuss and brief them again in class,” he said. “This was to prepare us for the final exam on the second day.”

He also enjoyed unexpected insights from professors who shared their law school experiences and gave helpful advice. “I feel like I am prepared for my first year of law school,” Knight said.

If he had to pick a favorite part of the seminar, Knight says it would be the time he spent studying for the final exam. “We were allowed to study anywhere we chose, so I went to the school’s courtroom and studied in the judge’s chair,” he said, adding that it was a great time of reflection on what the seminar had taught him in just a few days.

Jen Hartzog, assistant director of admission, said the law school plans to continue sending incoming first-year students to the CLEO AIE seminars in the future and will pursue other diversity-related initiatives. “We recognize the importance of diversity of all kinds at our law school,” Hartzog said. “Sending students to the CLEO seminars was the start of our renewed commitment to growing both diversity-related recruiting efforts and diversity initiatives that support enrolled students.” She said the admission office was pleased with increased diversity numbers in the Class of 2018 and hopes efforts will continue to attract impressive students to the school.

Jino Ray Named Law Admission Counselor

Jino Ray has been named admission counselor for Cumberland School of Law. He hopes to increase diversity-related recruiting initiatives at the law school, including the development of a diversity committee consisting of students, administration, faculty, staff and alumni to create a comprehensive diversity plan for the school. He also wants to develop a program to target Alabama community college students and assist them in preparing for the rigors of legal education early in conjunction with the Law School Admission Council Office of Diversity Initiatives’ DiscoverLaw Program.

Ray is a native of Cairo, Georgia. He holds a B.S. in political science from Florida State University and a J.D. from the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law.

Prior to attending law school, Ray worked as an education liaison representing the special education needs of youth in foster care, taught middle school social studies, coordinated employment and education programs for homeless youth, and served as the program director for a GED and construction skills training program for out-of-school youth.

He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. He has a passion for the arts, and enjoys acting, singing and writing.

Jino Ray, Admission Counselor, Cumberland School of Law
Tron Attends Intellectual Property Law Institute

Jose Tron, a member of the Cumberland School of Law Class of 2017, was one of 25 law students from across the country chosen to participate in a weeklong intellectual property (IP) law immersion program in Washington, D.C. The IP Law Institute, held May 31–June 5, was created by the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) and Microsoft to increase Hispanic representation in IP law. The program included substantive instruction, hands-on practical experience, writing workshops, visits to U.S. government institutions related to IP law, briefings from leading IP practitioners and congressional and executive branch authorities, and networking opportunities — all designed to give participants a broad understanding of IP law and practice.

Tron was made aware of the opportunity by law professor Woodrow Hartzog ’02, who recommended that he apply based on his interest in IP law. Although the application process was extremely competitive, Tron was chosen as a participant based on his essay of expressed interest, academic and professional recommendations, and academic record.

“Due to the program’s immersive nature, I was able to gain a great deal of experience and make connections not only with Microsoft and the HNBA, but also with the other law firms that participated, judges and other government organizations,” said Tron. “Overall, the program was an extremely impactful and valuable experience that I enjoyed thoroughly.”
National Guardsman Forms Samford’s Campus Veterans Association

When Lieutenant Jordan Thompson, infantry officer in the Alabama Army National Guard, applied to Cumberland School of Law in fall 2013, he was impressed with all that the law school and greater university had to offer, with one exception — there was no organization on campus devoted to veterans. Now a second-year law student, he is responsible for spearheading the creation of Samford University’s Campus Veterans Association (CVA).

“I realized that nothing of that nature was available at Samford and figured it was time to make a change.”

“As an undergraduate student at [the University of] Alabama, we had a terrific CVA,” said Thompson. “They would help students with the GI Bill, foster better relationships between student veterans and student veterans’ dependents, as well as sponsor events to help make students more valuable to the job market upon graduation. I realized that nothing of that nature was available at Samford and figured it was time to make a change.”

Samford’s CVA is open to all student veterans, current military, dependents and friends of the military. The organization currently has around 20 members, but Thompson reports that membership is growing rapidly via word of mouth. Thompson has also been in communication with the office of Representative Martha Roby ’01, and said that Roby is committed to helping the organization grow.

According to Thompson, Samford’s CVA plans to sponsor several philanthropy events this year, and work with Samford’s U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment. (I

Military Symposium Held at Law School

The Alabama State Bar Military Law Section sponsored the 26th annual Military Law Symposium at Cumberland School of Law July 31-Aug. 1. The presentations focused on Ethics and Professional Conduct, Terrorism Law and Policy, Military Justice, and Complex Administrative Investigations. The majority of the instruction qualified for mandatory continuing legal education (CLE) credit with most state bars.
Many reasons exist for studying in another country or culture. Among the purposes for the Cumberland School of Law program espoused by professor Mike Floyd — and before him, professor Charles “Bo” Cole — is the opportunity to experience other systems of justice up close. Comparative analysis is the bedrock of the program and provides many areas of exploration. Courses taught are unique in their focus and generally are not available on stateside campuses.

One comes to a program of international law with a perspective derived from one’s own background, experiences and systems, and leaves such an experience with a much broader, more open perspective on the necessity of understanding other people, their needs and experiences. No one who seeks such awareness can be unchanged by the experience in the program. Regardless of a student’s practice or pursuits following the Cambridge Experience, one’s viewpoint on life has changed forever. Unlike Las Vegas, what happens in Cambridge to expand the horizons of our students can’t stay in Cambridge. Perception and purpose are changed for good and for the good. Such is the power of education.

Cumberland School of Law has sponsored study abroad programs in historic locations throughout England for 25 years, first in the seat of the Church of England, the cathedral city of Canterbury, and then in the ancient northern city of Durham, and for the past 10 years in the academic mecca of Cambridge. With 35 students participating, the 2015 Cambridge program was the largest study abroad program the law school has seen in recent years. The program included 16 Cumberland School of Law J.D. students, five J.D. students from Chapman University, two J.D. students from South Texas College of Law, five J.D. students from Campbell University and seven Cumberland School of Law Master of Comparative Law students.

Blending participants from different law schools, cultures and backgrounds is a constant focus for faculty, administrators and students alike. Personality, life experience and character contribute to the way students mesh in this unfamiliar context. Even though the language is mostly known, the milieu is not. The staff and faculty become the common factor, melding the group into a serious educational experience. Hours of behind-the-scenes work by Floyd and program assistant Laura Taylor discern medical, dietary and cultural details that help the program meet the needs and expectations of the participants. Constant monitoring of student attitudes and concerns allows minor adjustments in conjunction with the staff at Sidney Sussex College to ensure a smooth and exciting educational program.

Each fall, in consultation with colleagues at each of the partner law schools, Floyd identifies courses to be taught and the faculty who will teach them. He and Taylor sort out myriad administrative details through the fall and spring semesters. While on-site in July, Floyd retains overall administrative responsibility for the program, but he relies heavily on retired Vice Dean Jim Lewis and well-respected London barrister Adrian Jenkala to address student concerns on a daily basis. This team’s long participation and active engagement in the program ensure a smooth day-to-day operation.

Fundamental to the process is grounding in the English legal system. Through a series of introductory lectures by Jenkala, the fundamental structure of the system is explored. One of the critical understandings regards the basis of governing. Unlike the American system, Great Britain has no written constitution. With the American reliance on the permanence and pervasiveness of the Constitution to order most areas of life, grasping the stability of a system that has survived over a millennium without an overarching central written document is a challenge. The
role of the Magna Carta in shaping the rights of the people and the United States’ Bill of Rights is explored, and the effectiveness of each system is compared.

A carefully planned day-trip to London provides opportunity to see two pillars of the English legal system in session. Students observe a trial or appeal in the Royal Courts of Justice and listen to debate in the House of Lords. Lunch in the Hall of the Middle Temple Inn of Court touches the history of one of the ancient legal educational institutions of the land and a foundation stone of the English legal profession.

Courses taught at Sidney Sussex College compare familiar and unaccustomed systems of justice, commerce and dispute resolution. American law students from several institutions, judges from Brazil and law professors from differing backgrounds grapple with complex ideas involving cultures, structures, unfamiliar prohibitions and freedoms, and varying experiences to recognize that no one ideology addresses all individual or multinational concerns.

In addition to the prescribed courses of study, the students are exposed to practitioners, politicians, professors and pragmatists who are dealing on a daily basis with critical international issues from labor actions to border infringements by sovereign nations. Situated in one of the major countries of the European Union, students are exposed to situations that fill the headlines, forcing everyone to consider and reconsider positions they hold or held.

Proximity to the continent of Europe brings international headlines into focus in a way that limited coverage in United States media cannot. Unlike the trend in American newspapers to reduce production and availability, newspapers seem to be flourishing in England. Stodgy or salacious, there is a wide variety of perspectives available. Venerable news sources such as the BBC provide extracurricular class content on a daily basis. Readings become reality when labor strikes on the continent impact weekend travel plans or economic misfortune in one EU country affects the cost of coffee at the local Starbucks.

The location of Cambridge makes travel to explore other countries and cultures convenient, and most students take advantage of two long weekends to visit new places. Venturing from Scotland to Poland and destinations in between, students experience differing language, food, recreation and custom, which adds invaluable context to the cross-cultural perspective the program endeavors to provide. Things studied in the classroom become reality through such travel. Confrontation with the unfamiliar is a good teacher.

By: Jim Lewis, former vice-dean, Cumberland School of Law

Bringing the World to Birmingham

The Cambridge Study Abroad Program is one part of a closely integrated collection of international educational experiences at Cumberland School of Law. Through an exchange program with the University of East Anglia (UEA), English law students study in the United States for a year, learning about American law while sharing parts of their legal system with Cumberland School of Law students. The school has a similar exchange program with NALSAR University in Hyderabad, India. The curiosity of American students is piqued to pursue more international and comparative cases through the summer study abroad program where they engage with Brazilian judges, who are part of Cumberland School of Law’s Master of Comparative Law degree program and international legal scholars. More than one summer study abroad participant has gone on to take advantage of the LL.M. opportunities offered in Norwich at UEA.

The exchange programs are facilitated under the direction of Floyd and supported by Taylor Pam Nelson, director of student services and Laurie Zimmer, administrative secretary, Offices of the Associate Dean & Student Services. The staff consistently work with students throughout the application process and during the students’ time in Birmingham. The closeness of the Cumberland-UEA connection is evidenced by the annual invitation to be part of the graduation exercises in Norwich and visits with former English students by Nelson. These English goodwill ambassadors proudly boast of their experiences in the United States as they compare experiences with their fellow students in Norwich.
1965
Robert R. Kracke was honored by the Jefferson County ARC for his four decades of support in helping persons with intellectual disabilities. He is with Kracke & Price, Leeds, Alabama.

1973
Judge Houston L. Brown retired on June 30, 2015, from the 10th Judicial Circuit, Civil Division, Birmingham. Brown served on the court for 15 years and for the last two years was the presiding judge.

1974
Judge John L. Carroll is a uniform law commissioner for the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. Carroll is a professor at Cumberland School of Law.


Judge James J. Robinson was appointed chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Alabama, effective July 1, 2015.

1976
Wayne Morse Jr. was named a Life Fellow of the American Bar Association Foundation. Morse is with Waldrep Stewart & Kendrick LLC, Birmingham.

1980
David Lee Allen was appointed, on July 17, 2015, by Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam as a circuit court judge with the 22nd Judicial District.

1981
W. Clark Watson is general counsel with the president’s office of Samford University, Birmingham.

Judge Jay A. York was appointed, effective July 22, 2015, by Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley as a circuit court judge with the 13th Judicial Circuit, Mobile, Alabama. At the time of his appointment, York was a district court judge for the 13th Judicial Circuit.

1984
LaBella Stewart Alvis is the 2015-17 president of the Birmingham American Inn of Court. Alvis is with Christian & Small LLP, Birmingham.

Simeon F. Penton II is an attorney with Baptist Health, Montgomery, Alabama.

1985
Katherine N. Barr joined other advocates at Gov. Robert Bentley’s ceremonial signing of Alabama’s Achieving a Better Life Experience Act. Barr is with Sirote Permutt PC, Birmingham.

Edward Isaacs Bowron was installed as secretary of the southeastern chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, Bowron is with Burr & Forman LLP, Birmingham.

Thomas K. Potter was inducted as a Fellow into the Nashville Bar Foundation. Potter is with Burr & Forman LLP, Birmingham.

L. Chandler Vreeland announced the publication of a novel, The Light Caller. Vreeland is an attorney in Marietta, Georgia.

1986
Aubrey J. “Jay” Holloway Jr. was appointed to a 2015-16 term on the board of directors for the Alabama Association for Justice. Holloway is the managing partner of Shunnarah Injury Lawyers PC, Birmingham.

Ernest W. Lee II was selected as the 2016 Georgia Teacher of the Year. Lee teaches at Windsor Forest High School, Savannah, Georgia.

1990
William F. Patty is an attorney with The Gardner Firm PC, Montgomery, Alabama.

Sharon Donaldson Stuart was elected secretary/treasurer of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association (ADLA). She also continues as chair of the ADLA’s Amicus Curiae committee. Stuart is with Christian & Small LLP, Birmingham.

1991
W. Todd Carlisle was named the CEO of Sirote & Permutt PC. Carlisle works at the firm’s offices in Birmingham.

Hubbard H. Harvey Jr. was a recipient of Liberty University’s 2015 President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. Harvey is an associate professor in the School of Business, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia.

1992
Daco S. Auffenorde announced the publication of a romantic thriller, The Pisces Affair. She is with Auffenorde & Auffenorde, Huntsville, Alabama.

James A. Hoover was appointed the vice chair of the health care practice section of the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel. Hoover is with Burr & Forman LLP, Birmingham.

1993
Melissa Gifford Hise is an attorney with Palmour Law Office, Summerville, Georgia.

R. Brooke Lawson III was named a board member for Make-A-Wish Alabama. Lawson is with Capell & Howard PC, Montgomery, Alabama.

Mary Ann Etzler opened a law practice, Etzler Law PA, Orlando, Florida.

Bentley H. Patrick was appointed, effective May 11, 2015, by Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley as a judge with the 10th Judicial Circuit, Birmingham.

1996
Jennifer Foley Brinkley is of counsel with Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP, Birmingham.

Kendra Rumbough Davis opened a law practice, Law Office of Kendra Davis PA, Tampa, Florida.

R. Cameron “Cam” Ward was appointed to the board of directors for the Council of State Governments. He was also presented the 2015 Business Champion Award by the Business Council of Alabama. Ward is a state senator for Alabama Senate District 14.

1997
Deborah L. Moskowitz received the 2015 Elizabeth Susan Khoury Guardian Ad Litem Award of Excellence. Moskowitz is with Quintairos Prieto Wood & Boyer PA, Orlando, Florida.

1998
Steven W. Couch and Joshua L. Firth ’06 are founding partners of Couch & Firth LLC, Hoover, Alabama.

Lazy L. Petrovich is of counsel with Aaron & Gianna PLC, New Orleans, Louisiana.

2000
Audrey Reitz Channell joined the Office of the Public Defender for Jefferson County, Birmingham.

Steven A. Collins was appointed, in January 2015, as an administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration; and is currently working in the Cincinnati, Ohio, Office of Disability Adjudication and Review.

2001
Brian P. Adams is participating in a one-year fellowship program with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy.
Michael J. Douglas announced the formation of Leak & Douglas PC, Birmingham.

2002
Anna L. (Smith) Scully was named the 2015 assistant treasurer for the Mobile Bar Association, Mobile, Alabama. Scully is with Burr & Form LLP, Mobile, Alabama.

2004
Griffin M. Shirley received a 2015 Merit Award from the Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. He is with the Shirley Law Office, Elba, Alabama.

W. Christopher Waller Jr. was named a member of the Alabama State Bar’s 2015 Leadership Forum. Waller is with Ball Ball Matthews & Novak PA, Montgomery, Alabama.

2005
Scott B. Holmes was among those recognized by the 2014 National Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Award for interagency participation in the 2012-13 Heroin Initiative Group for the U.S. Northern District of Alabama. He was also named a member of the Alabama State Bar’s 2015 Leadership Forum. Holmes is with the Office of the City Attorney, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Mitchell M. Mataya is senior counsel at Walter Energy, Birmingham.

Michael D. Ross is an assistant attorney general with the South Carolina Attorney General’s Office, Columbia, South Carolina.

2006
Haley Andrews Cox was named a member of the Alabama State Bar’s 2015 Leadership Forum. Cox is with Lightfoot Franklin & White LLC, Birmingham.

Joshua L. Firth and Steven W. Couch ’98 are founding partners of Couch & Firth LLC, Hoover, Alabama.

Ryan E. Gaylord is an attorney with Hyde Law Firm PA, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Joseph L. Hubbard Jr. is an attorney at Brooks Hubbard & James PC, Montgomery, Alabama.

Taylor C. Powell is a trust officer with Regions Financial Corporation, Birmingham.

2007
Jay P. Greene opened a practice, Greene Estate Probate & Elder Law Firm, in San Francisco, California. As well, he continues with the Greene Law Firm, in Birmingham.

Harriet D. Myrick-Jones is a judicial staff attorney with the Florida 4th Judicial Circuit, Jacksonville, Florida.

J. Thomas Richie was named a member of the Alabama State Bar’s 2015 Leadership Forum. Richie is with Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP, Birmingham.

E. Glenn Smith Jr. was named a member of the Alabama State Bar’s 2015 Leadership Forum. Smith is with Carr Allison, Daphne, Alabama.

2008
Benjamin H. Barron was named a member of the Alabama State Bar’s 2015 Leadership Forum. Barron is with Lee Livingston Lee & Nichols PC, Dothan, Alabama.

Neeli Gandhi Shah is an attorney with Abrams Davis Mason & Long LLC, Atlanta, Georgia.

2009
J. Andrew Isom is divisional counsel at Intergraph Corporation, Huntsville, Alabama.

Dara D. Fernandez Perez was promoted to head of compliance at Bupa Worldwide Corporation, Palmetto Bay, Florida.

Katherine Ellis Reeves was selected as the 2015–16 editor in chief of HR Alabama magazine. Reeves is with Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart PC, Birmingham.

C. Michael Renta is a staff counsel with Cincinnati Insurance Company, Birmingham.

R. Jordan Wood was named to the Birmingham Multiple Sclerosis Leadership Class of 2015. Wood is with Christian & Small LLP, Birmingham.

2010
Rebecca L. (Donnellan) Chambliss is an associate at Morrow Romine & Pearson PC, Montgomery, Alabama.

David L. Graves was elected to the board for the Emerging Leaders Council of the Alabama Association for Justice. Graves is with Shunnarah Injury Lawyers PC, Birmingham.

Brittany Adkins Schaffer was named a 2015 Women in Music City Award winner by the Nashville Business Journal. Schaffer is with Loeb & Loeb LLP, Nashville, Tennessee.

2011
Matthew S. Brown was named, in July 2015, by Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley to the District 1 position on the state school board. As well, Brown is now a design engineer with the Baldwin County (Alabama) Highway Department.

Michael T. Clark is a founder of Second Row Law LLC, Birmingham.

2012
Brandon S. Hays is a founder of Second Row Law LLC, Birmingham.

Polly Allen Manuel was named coordinator of marketing and communication for Cumberland School of Law.

Brett C. Thompson is a founder of Second Row Law LLC, Birmingham.

Benjamin S. Wear is a founder of Second Row Law LLC, Birmingham.

Michael E. Eldridge is an associate with Fischer & Associates LLC, Birmingham.

Setara C. (Ozan) Foster was named to the 2015 Top 40 Under 40 Lawyers list by the National Black Lawyers. Foster is with Ferguson Frost Moore & Young LLP, Birmingham.

Michael C. Guarino is an associate with Carr Allison, Vestavia, Alabama.

Ryan J. Richardson is an associate with Morrison & Foerster LLP, Washington, D.C.

Rebecca L. (Woodruff) Sherman is a senior specialist in the Equal Employment Opportunity Division for the City & County of San Francisco, California.

Freddie D. Stokes launched Books for Boys, which establishes small libraries in barbershops within the cities of Prichard and Mobile, Alabama. Stokes is with the City Attorney’s Office, Prichard, Alabama.

Jaclyn M. Terry is an associate with The Isaak Law Firm, Montgomery, Alabama.

Lanice L. Turrens is an associate with Frances Holt Hollinger LLC, Mobile, Alabama.

2013
A. Kathleen Bowers is an associate with Bressler Amery & Ross PC, Birmingham.

Patrick W. Hinchee is an associate with Savage Turner & Pinckney, Savannah, Georgia.

2014
Katherine S. Beall is contract agent and buyer for the supply chain division of Southern Company, Atlanta, Georgia.

Allen B. Blow is an associate for Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz PC, Birmingham.

Joseph M. Echols III is a regulatory analyst with Protective Life Corporation, Birmingham.

Jonathan L. Mills is an associate with Campbell Guin Williams Guy & Gidiere LLC, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

R. Ryan Proctor is an associate with Martin Law LLC, Opelika, Alabama.

W. Kayla Schoen is an associate with Bressler Amery & Ross PC, Birmingham.
Marriages

Heidi Abbott '12 and Joel DiLorenzo '00 were married on April 25, 2015. They reside in Birmingham.

Alison Almeida '15 and Garrett Dennis '15 were married on Feb. 28, 2015. They reside in Alabama.

Jessica Brookshire '15 and John Spade '15 were married on June 17, 2015. They reside in Birmingham.

Jennifer “Jenna” Day '12 and Andrew Fulk '11 were married on April 11, 2015. They reside in Indian Springs, Alabama.


Elizabeth “Liz” Dunn '13 and Al F. Teel '13 were married on April 25, 2015. They reside in Birmingham.

Amy Gonzalez '15 married Nicholas William on March 14, 2015. They reside in Kansas City, Missouri.

Sara Hames '11 and Houston Core '11 were married on April 25, 2015. They reside in Greensboro, North Carolina.


Samantha Jolly '13 and John Naramore '13 were married on March 28, 2015. They reside in Montgomery, Alabama.

Sandra Koslin '14 and Andrew Remington '14 were married on May 10, 2015. They reside in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Elizabeth Lyerly '12 married Dale Brasher on May 23, 2015. They reside in Montgomery, Alabama.


Elizabeth McIntyre '05 married Keith Hill on April 7, 2015. They reside in Birmingham.


Jennifer Reynolds '13 and M. Bert Bray IV '13 were married on April 25, 2015. They reside in Albertville, Alabama.


Leah Scarbrough '04 and James “Jay” Stowe '03 were married on April 25, 2015. They reside in Long Beach, Mississippi.


Caitlyn A. White '14 and David R. Leffard III '14 were married on Aug. 29, 2015. They reside in Nashville, Tennessee.

Births

Kelli H. Cantey '05 and Steve Cantey announced the birth of a son, Alexander Hudson Cantey, on July 20, 2015.

Caroline Coker Coursey '99 and Steve Coursey announced the birth of a daughter, Christina Marie Coursey, on April 17, 2015.

Kara M. (Massey) Garstecki '11 and Allen Garstecki announced the birth of a son, William Garstecki, on July 24, 2015.

M. Rebecca (Hankins) Hill '06 and Matthew Hill announced the birth of a daughter, Josie Mae Hill, on May 2, 2015.

Mari Irwin '08 and Chris Wooten '08 announced the birth of a son, Jasper Manning Irwin Wooten, on June 8, 2015.

Ruby Brown Jackson '11 and Sidney Jackson '13 announced the birth of a son, Colin Monroe Jackson, on June 28, 2015.

Shelley Lewis '04 and Jorge Gonzalez announced the birth of a daughter, Isabella Leona Lewis Gonzalez, on March 2, 2015.

April Jackson MacLennan '14 and Paul MacLennan announced the birth of daughter, Gabriella Blue MacLennan, on April 21, 2015.

Mark Robinson '09 and Moriah Robinson announced the birth of a son, Thomas Montgomery Robinson, on April 8, 2015.

Devona Johnson Segrest '99 and T.J. Segrest announced the birth of a daughter on Feb. 18, 2014.

Bethany Harrison Sneed '11 and Andrew Sneed announced the birth of a daughter, Virginia Harrison Sneed, on July 25, 2015.

J. Breanne Stanley Zarzour '12 and Grant Zarzour announced the birth of a son, Wyatt Zarzour, on April 20, 2015.

In Memoriam


E. Steven Cromes of Athens, Georgia, died on May 11, 2015.

Jimmie Gary Harp Jr. '91 of Gadsden, Alabama, died on July 22, 2015.

Charles V. Irwin '67 of Laguna Nigel, California, died on July 7, 2014.

Jimmie L. McIntyre Sr. '56 of Germantown, Tennessee, died on Jan. 24, 2014.

Richard A. Meelheim '82 of Destin, Florida, died on Dec. 11, 2014.

Leon F. “Lee” Stamp Jr. '81 of Mobile, Alabama, died on July 11, 2015.


Richard N. Thornton '13 of Birmingham, died on June 6, 2015.
The Cumberland Public Interest and Community Service Organization (CPICS) recently received the Pro Bono Award in the Law Firm/Group category from the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program Committee. Two students who work with the CPICS on a regular basis accepted the award July 16 at the Bench and Bar Luncheon and Awards program during the Alabama State Bar annual meeting in Point Clear, Alabama.

In recognition of her exemplary service as the 2014–15 Pro Bono Task Force chair, Cassandra Adams was presented with a framed, original signed proclamation from Alabama Governor Robert Bentley, declaring October as Pro Bono month. The surprise presentation garnered Adams a standing ovation from the commissioners.

Additionally, alumna Jana Garner ’97 received the Pro Bono Award in the Mediator category. Garner is an attorney with Reeves & Stewart PC in Selma, Alabama.

The law library remains a valuable resource throughout your career, says Grace Simms, information technology librarian. Go to lawlib.samford.edu for current hours, the library catalog, the staff directory and more.

Licensed attorneys in the Birmingham area may apply for borrowing privileges. The annual fee for a library card is $10 for alumni. Visitors present in the library building may use various databases, including a limited version of Lexis and Westlaw, HeinOnline and others.

Document scanners and microform machines are available free of charge. Photocopies are 10 cents per page plus a $1 fee for a reusable copy card. Desktop computers are available in reading rooms throughout the library, with attached printers on the first, second and lower-level floors.

Feel free to ask for guest access to Samford’s wireless network or for reference help locating library resources.

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Cumberland School of Law
Upcoming Events

Join Dean Henry C. Strickland III and Cumberland School of Law alumni, faculty and staff for our
Annual Birmingham Alumni Luncheon
Samford University
Cooney Hall, 4th floor
January 22, 2016
Doors open at 11:30 a.m.
Lunch served at noon.
Adjourn at 1 p.m.
Welcoming remarks from the Honorable Karon O. Bowdre ’80, chief judge of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama
Questions: Email Anne at amarovic@samford.edu or call Connie at 205-726-2444.

Cumberland School of Law invites you to
Alumni Reunion Weekend on April 8-9
Schedule of Events:
Friday, April 8
All Alumni Cocktail Reception at The Florentine (2nd Avenue North and 21 Street)
Saturday, April 9
Open House at the law school
Honoring Classes of:
Special recognition of former national trial team members! If you were on the National Trial Team, email amarovic@samford.edu so we can confirm the accuracy of our lists.
Details and registration information will be mailed in January.