



These six School of Law graduates, along with two others, will discuss defining moments in their lives and how racial integration shaped their values and professional careers during a panel discussion Monday, Feb. 4. Read more about the event on page 4.

In this issue ...



- Tran Named to Executive Board – page 2
- Stafford Joins School of Law Staff – page 2
- Sixty Since Silas Celebration Approaches – page 4
- ... and much more

School of Law Student Elected to National Board

Viet Tran, a second-year student at the School of Law, was elected to the national board of the National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association while attending the organization's conference in Las Vegas Nov. 15–18. Tran, a native of Orlando, Fla., will serve as the southwest regional director.

In his new role, Tran will be responsible for maintaining relations among the chapters in his region, which includes Arkansas, Arizona, Louisiana, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. He will assist law schools in forming new chapters and organize the region's recruitment and networking conference, which draws law firms from each of the eight states.

"This is a great opportunity for Viet and for the University of Arkansas' APALSA chapter," said Angie Doss, visiting clinical assistant professor of law and faculty adviser to the student association. "Viet is serving in a national leadership role, and his hard work will help our chapter and our school gain recognition from other chapters around the country."

This is the first year the local APALSA chapter has been

affiliated with the national organization. Doss said the students have been working hard this semester to establish the chapter as a working organization. The chapter helps sponsor the School of Law's multicultural barbecue each semester and promotes the Law School to other campus organizations, including the Chinese Student Association and the Vietnamese Student Association. They also inspired the Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to organize an APALSA chapter and have been helping their peers get started.

Tran, who serves as the local chapter's president, has set up a blog for others to view pictures from the convention, as well as learn and converse about APALSA issues. The blog address is <http://www.apalsauark.wordpress.com>.

NAPALSA is the first and only national Asian Pacific American law organization of its kind. The organization's mission is to provide and facilitate a network of law students and attorneys nationwide and to advance the interest of all Asian Pacific Americans.

Stafford Joins School of Law Staff



Teresa Stafford

Teresa Stafford, a former Fayetteville resident, returned to northwest Arkansas as the director of development for the School of Law. In addition to her fundraising responsibilities, Stafford will oversee the communications and alumni relations operations for the school.

Stafford comes to the University of Arkansas from the Loyola University School of Law in Chicago. There, she served as the assistant dean for advancement and alumni relations and she led a \$30 million campaign for the school. Prior to that role, Stafford held two consecutive positions at Northwestern University

in Chicago: senior associate director in the Feinberg School of Medicine and senior associate director for planned and major gifts. In addition to her work in higher education, Stafford has served as a development director for two Illinois-based nonprofit organizations, Marklund Charities and Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus.

"I am delighted to be joining Dean Nance and the University of Arkansas School of Law at such an exciting time," said Stafford. "The School of Law is a vibrant and thriving legal institution, and I look forward to building a long and rewarding partnership with the law school and its loyal and committed alumni."

Stafford is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern University.

SBA Plans Full Schedule

The Student Bar Association is composed of all members of the student body. SBA provides a number of student services and sponsors a variety of academic and social activities.

The first SBA event of the year, Pardi Gras, will be 7-10 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, at Ryleigh's on Dickson.

An ATLA/SBA Networking Event is planned for mid-February. Students are invited to attend a meet and greet with local attorneys. This event is geared toward 1Ls to give them an opportunity to meet local attorneys, discuss opportunities for summer employment and receive other helpful information.

The annual Professor Auction will be in late February. Professors will place items up for auction, such as hosting a dinner for 10 or a lunch at their house, and students bid on the specific faculty members. The auction will be held at a local restaurant or bar with all the amenities.

A March Madness Final Four Party will take place Sat, Mar 29. SBA will rent out Jerzee's, a new bar just off Dickson St., and have a Final Four Watch Party.

The annual Barristers' Ball will be Saturday, April 5, at the UARK Ballroom on Dickson.

The Razorback Baseball Crawfish Boil will be on a Saturday in April. We will set up in the outfield during a home baseball game and boil crawfish as we cheer on the Hogs.

SBA plans to host an Altus Wineries Wine Tasting Trip, but no date has been set. Chartered buses will take students down to Altus on a Saturday for a wine tasting and tour of several Ozark wineries. This is expected to be the highlight of the semester.

SBA will organize a two-man scramble golf tournament on a Friday in April. Participants will tee off around 3 p.m. at Stonebridge Meadows in Fayetteville.

The Final Party will be the day after the last law school final.

More information about each of the planned events will be distributed as it becomes available.

School of Law Hosts Arkansas ADR Commission

The Arkansas Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission met with members of the Law School community and local judges and attorneys Thursday, Nov. 15, at the Leflar Law Center.

Members of the commission participated in a panel discussion and answered questions about the role of mediation in Arkansas. Commissioner Robert Moberly is also a University of Arkansas School of Law professor.

The ADR Commission was established by the legislature in 1995 to administer the statewide, court-sponsored mediation program. Courts have authority to require mediation before trial, and the commission is charged with establishing rules for such mediation,

Moberly said.

The commission has established standards for mediator certification, training programs and professional conduct including disciplinary procedures. It also is directed to promote alternative dispute resolution and to provide education to the courts, government agencies and the general public.

The commission consists of seven volunteer members who are experienced in alternative dispute resolution. According to the legislation that created the commission, three members have to be attorneys appointed by the Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court, one of whom shall have been recommended to the court by the Arkansas Bar Association; one member must be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; one member must be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and two members must be appointed by the Governor.

In addition to Moberly, the ADR Commission is comprised of Chairman Sid McCollum, former Circuit Judge in Benton County; Tim Boe, Rose Law Firm; Ken Gallant, UALR William H. Bowen School of Law professor; Robert Hornberger, Fort Smith; Ed Nelson, North Little Rock and Kathy Searcy, general counsel for Bank of the Ozarks.



Members of the Arkansas Alternative Dispute Resolution speak with the School of Law community about the benefits of ADR.

Alumnus Named University Chancellor

G. David Gearhart, a 1977 School of Law graduate, was named the next chancellor of the state's flagship university. The university's Board of Trustees approved his nomination at its meeting in Little Rock on Friday, Jan. 25.

Gearhart, currently the university's vice chancellor for university advancement and professor of education, will succeed Chancellor John A. White upon his retirement on June 30, 2008.

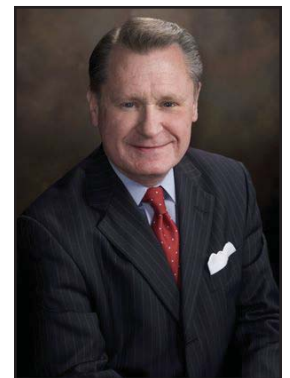
Gearhart, 55, has served in his current capacity since 1998, providing leadership for development, alumni relations, constituent relations, university relations and special events. Gearhart previously served as senior vice president for development and university relations at The Pennsylvania State University from 1985-1995.

Gearhart, a Fayetteville native, is perhaps best known for guiding the overwhelmingly successful Campaign for the Twenty-First Century, which raised more than \$1 billion for the Fayetteville campus between 1998 and 2005.

"I sincerely appreciate the confidence President Sugg has placed

in me, and I'm humbled and excited by the tremendous opportunity that lies ahead," Gearhart said. "With the board's consent, I stand ready to lead this great university community as we continue to build on the remarkable progress made over the past several years."

Gearhart previously served the University of Arkansas as director of development from 1982-1985. His career in higher education began at Westminster College in Fulton, Mo., where he was assistant to the president from 1976 to 1977, and then director of development from 1977 to 1978. He then served as vice president for development at Hendrix College in Conway from 1978-1982 prior to his return to northwest Arkansas.



G. David Gearhart

School of Law to Recognize Integration Anniversary, Celebrate Six Decades of Success

Silas Hunt, the first African American student admitted to a Southern public university without litigation in the modern era, registered to attend the University of Arkansas School of Law Feb. 2, 1948. To celebrate the 60th anniversary of Hunt's enrollment, the School of Law will host a private luncheon at 12 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4, in the E.J. Ball Courtroom. The event will also include a viewing of the Silas Hunt documentary. Interested students should RSVP to Michele Payne at payne@uark.edu or (479) 575-4436. Student tickets are limited. A panel discussion titled "Sixty Since Silas: A Celebration of Pioneering Excellence" will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the E.J. Ball Courtroom. The event is open to the public, and a reception will follow.

The event will feature School of Law graduates from the past six decades discussing defining moments in their lives and how racial integration shaped their values and professional lives. The eight panelists will include George W.B. Haley, former U.S. ambassador to The Gambia; Christopher C. Mercer, a longtime Little Rock attorney; Sharon Bernard, the first African American woman to graduate from the School of Law; Gene McKissic of Brown & McKissic Law Firm in Pine Bluff; Rodney Slater, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation; Carrol Williams-Perkins, a tax attorney for Siemens Corp.; Andre Valley, the Helena-West Helena city attorney; and Carla Martin, a Wal-Mart Realty transaction manager.



Silas Hunt

"We have assembled an outstanding panel of law school graduates who will comment on their experiences, both in educational and social settings, and how they have been affected by racial integration," said Chauncey Brummer, professor of law and event chair. "This is an opportunity to learn about the university's integration history and to hear first-hand accounts of the struggles and successes of our graduates. I think Silas would be proud of the progress we've made since he was a student."

Hunt was one of the School of Law's "Six Pioneers" – the first six African American students admitted to the law school. Two of the panelists participating in the discussion are also members of that elite group. Haley and Mercer were the third and fourth African American students to attend law school at the University of Arkansas and continued Hunt's legacy.

Hunt was born in 1922 in Ashdown, Ark. He served in World War II and graduated from the Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College at Pine Bluff in 1947. Although he was the first to enroll in the School of Law, he never graduated. He died of tuberculosis in April 1949, just a little more than a year after starting classes. However, Hunt's brave actions have continued to affect students in the past 60 years.

"This historically significant event recognizes the efforts of Silas to break down racial barriers and to open the door for other African American students to earn a legal education," Dean Cynthia Nance said. "But it also celebrates the strides made in each decade since his admittance and the accomplishments and triumphs of all minority students."

Mark Your Calendar

- Jan. 31** SBA "Pardi Gras" from 7-10 p.m. at Ryleigh's on Dickson
- Feb. 1- 6** BLSA Candy Gram Sales in the Norma Lea Beasley Entrance Hall from 12-1 p.m.
- Feb. 4** "Sixty Since Silas: A Celebration of Pioneering Excellence" luncheon at 12 p.m. (RSVP required) and panel discussion at 1:30 p.m. in the E.J. Ball Courtroom
- Feb. 5** "Crunch Time: Finding Permanent Employment for 3L Students" at 12:15 p.m. in Room 342
- Feb. 5** BLSA Black History Month Kickoff Celebration at noon in the E.J. Ball Courtroom
- Feb. 22** All 3L students who will graduate in May should apply for graduation by this date. Application fee is \$35. Go to the graduation desk at Hunt Hall for more information.

REMEMBER to RSVP to Michele Payne, payne@uark.edu or 479.575.4436, if you would like to attend the Silas Hunt luncheon and documentary viewing.

BLSA Candy Grams

BLSA members will be selling candy grams for Valentine's Day in the Norma Lea Beasley Entrance Hall from 12-1 p.m. Feb. 1 - 6. Candy grams will include a note and chocolate and will cost \$1 each. The proceeds will be used to sponsor other BLSA activities this semester. For more information, contact Trace Northcross at tnorthc@uark.edu.

