April 1999

April 1999 Docket

Georgia State University College of Law

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Larger Diploma is Back, but Paper Quality Unknown

By Sarah Hawk, 3L part-time

The university's commencement committee, which determines diploma styles, also agreed to modify the layout of the new diploma to enhance the visibility of the student's name in the middle, Rifkind said. The university announced its decision to reinstate the larger diploma following a series of student protests about the new diplomas. In the fall, the university began issuing smaller diplomas on thinner paper and printed in a smaller, illegible lettering. Rifkind said the larger diplomas will be ready for summer graduates, but spring 1999 and fall 1998 graduates can exchange their small diploma for the larger diploma at no cost.

University President Carl Patton is sending a letter to students notifying them of his commitment to maintain the quality of the diplomas, said Frances Stone, Patton's assistant. Patton could not be reached for comment.

The controversy over the diplomas erupted earlier this year when fall semester graduates received their smaller diplomas. The diplomas had been reduced from the 14 x 17 inch size to an 11 x 14 inch size, and the paper quality had changed from card stock to linen.

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Honors Day Program

The College of Law held its Honors Day Program on April 13, 1999 at 5:00 p.m. in the West Exhibit Area of the Urban Life Building. This annual event acknowledges our law students for their achievements in scholarship, academics, moot court and trial competitions, law review excellence and community service. Nearly 200 students and their families, faculty, and community members were present to show their support and receive awards.

During this event, Professor Basil Mattingly was also honored, as Outstanding Professor of the Year, an honor conferred upon him by the students. The entire College of Law congratulates our outstanding students on their many accomplishments!

Professor Harrison lives it up

Rupali Vishnov, former SBA President hands the presidential reigns over to Dawn Jones

Professor Platt and friends

Professor Basil Mattingly
Features...

Professor Podgor Talks to The Docket...

By Keri Patterson, 2L

Q. Where did you grow up? A. I grew up in Brooklyn, New York.
Q. At what law school? A. Indiana University - Maurer School of Law in Bloomington.
Q. What did you do in law school? A. I was active in student affairs and organizations.
Q. What were your experiences there? A. I was involved in moot court and other extracurricular activities.
Q. What made you decide to change jobs? A. I was interested in working for a public interest organization.
Q. Where did you work after law school? A. I worked for a non-profit organization.
Q. What was the job like? A. The job was challenging and rewarding.
Q. What did you enjoy most about your job? A. I enjoyed the opportunity to work with people who share my values.
Q. What do you enjoy most about your current job? A. I enjoy the variety of work and the opportunity to make a difference.
Q. What do you enjoy least about your current job? A. The long hours and travel can be challenging.
Q. What do you enjoy most about teaching? A. I enjoy the opportunity to pass on my knowledge.
Q. What do you enjoy most about working in a law firm? A. I enjoy the daily interactions with clients.

Words of Wisdom from Professor Williams

By Sherron Ragole, 1L

Professor Jack F. Williams has accepted a teaching position at St. John's University Law School for the 1999-2000 academic year.

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JFW: I would make it more practical and relevant. Generally, folks who fail in legal education fail because they don't understand the business and corporate world.

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Q. What do you enjoy most about your job? A. I enjoy the daily interactions with clients.
Q. What do you enjoy most about working in a law firm? A. I enjoy the variety of work and the opportunity to make a difference.
Q. What do you enjoy least about your current job? A. The long hours and travel can be challenging.
Q. What do you enjoy most about teaching? A. I enjoy the opportunity to pass on my knowledge.
Q. What do you enjoy most about working in a law firm? A. I enjoy the daily interactions with clients.

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I am glad that I took this route because it provided me with a wonderful background for writing, teaching, and lecturing in the area of white-collar crime. When I left the practice of law, I took a fellowship at Temple University School of Law. This allowed me to teach in their writing program and also in the undergraduate Criminal Justice Department. It also allowed me to obtain my L.L.M. The program was an excellent way to study "law teaching." Professor Roy Sobieski is a graduate of ELI's and teaches law at the University of Maryland.
The Diploma Brouhaha - A Different Perspective

By Bill Griffith, 2L

They shrunk the diploma, they cheapened it, and that’s a poor reflection on our school and on us! Worse, they will not change their minds, and give us what we want — after all, “tradition matters,” and we pay for the diploma! What to do? Threaten to contact the press and our state representatives; let the administration know that there will be no contributions from us once we’re making big bucks; complain amongst ourselves. Seriously, realize that we do not like changes that appear to take something from us. I commend those students who garnered support for their position and went to the administration to express their displeasure with the diploma change. From listening to Dean Kaminsky when he spoke with us during the diploma meeting last month, it sounded like this is a non-negotiable issue. My concern is that our reaction to that news can be likened to “burning bridges” over an issue that is unworthy of such a sacrifice. Some argue that the reduced size reflects poorly on our school, and on our education — that peers and clients will be unfavorably impressed. Granted, we may be disappointed with the change, however, that is not an issue worthy of much consternation. In the grand scheme of things, the size of the diploma does not even register on the radar screen. It does not reflect on the quality of our school; it will not impress our future peers in the workplace, nor will it impress our clients. There are some things that will, but the size of our diploma is not one of them.

I’ve been in the offices of plenty of professional people and have never made a value judgment based upon the size of the diplomas on the wall, nor have I ever heard of anyone who has made such a judgment. In fact, it is not at all unusual that diplomas are not even displayed. As a personal note, I recall walking into the offices of a big, prestigious accounting firm and not seeing diplomas or professional certificates on the walls of individual offices. When I asked about that, the reply was something to the effect that; “Oh, everybody has those, so what’s the point in displaying them.”

Some argue that the diploma change was made for cost-cutting purposes, and that since we’re paying for the diploma we have a right to the old diploma. That’s just silly — the school gives the diplomas, and we’re not even close to paying the full cost of our education.

One thing that will reflect on our education in the future will be how well this school does in the future with regard to having respected faculty members on staff, having worthy students seeking admission here, and being able to attract distinguished speakers to the campus. I suspect that one of the most important things that will affect those matters will be the law school’s relationship with the upper-level administration of the university.

If those folks ever conclude that the law school is just too much of a “pain in the butt,” I would think that they could do more to damage this school than we would care to imagine. Wouldn’t it be just dandy if we found ourselves in ten years with a diploma from a defunct law school? Does the university need this school? I don’t know, but I do believe that it was doing just fine before the law school was established.

Another thing that will reflect on our school is our own perception of it. If we go around bad-mouthing the place, maybe those who hear us will believe what we say.

Maybe the real issue behind the fuss is not the diploma itself, but that students feel slighted on other matters, and this issue is simply the “final straw.” I cannot speak to whatever other issues may be involved, but if there are other issues, then we should pick battles that are worth fighting over and, in my opinion, this is not such a battle.

The main thing that will reflect on our education, and the only thing that will impress peers and clients, will be the quality of our own work and our ability to get along with people. The size of our diploma will not compensate for deficiencies in those areas.

To those of you who carried the fight, you advocated our position, we lost, and now it’s time to be a good loser. Let’s realize how lucky we are to be here, and do our best to see that the school is seen in a positive light.

Why the Diploma?

By Sherry Ragole, 3L

Some individuals express perplexity regarding why the diploma issue is being pursued so intensively by students.

The diploma is a legitimate concern for at least two reasons. First, the diploma affects every student planning to graduate from GSU. Many students view the diploma as a touchstone of achievement, linking them to all past and future GSU graduates. Second, the diploma represents but one of a panoply of concerns students express which persist in the shadow of a key issue: the need for the administrators of the university-at-large to collaborate with students when they voice legitimate concerns regarding enhancement of GSU services.

Where a university administration prefers to fulfill its agenda without student input, a law school student body can be particularly disadvantaged based on its small size. Its voice constitutes a minority of university students. This can be crippling when the service in question is controlled by the administration at large, but is not as vital to the non-law student population.

The diploma constitutes such an issue. While we believe the support for the traditional diploma is not limited to law students, law students’ interest in maintaining the traditional diploma is of special significance. Law is more competitive than most careers, and lawyers want to be identified as graduates of a quality juris doctorate program. GSU law students do not want to see the traditionally recognized trademark of their educational background changed.

Moreover, a law school existing within a larger institution that is indifferent to the particular needs of the law program will be hampered in its ability to attract and maintain highly qualified students.

By Bill Griffith, 2L
Graduation...

Hooding Ceremony –
A Celebration of the Passage From Student to Alumnus

By Kelly Littrell, Alumni Development

The GSU College of Law will host the Hooding Ceremony for current graduates on Friday, May 14, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sports Arena on the third floor of the Physical Education Building directly across the street from the College of Law at 125 Decatur Street. Both February and May 1999 graduates are invited to participate in the event.

The Honorable Carol W. Hunstein, Supreme Court of Georgia, will deliver the keynote address, and Professors Curcio, Knowles and Radford will serve as the Hooding Team. The ceremony will last approximately one and a half hours and will be followed by a reception on the Urban Life Plaza. Heavy hors d’oeuvres and beverages will be available.

In case of inclement weather, the reception will be held in the West Exhibit Area located on the 2nd floor of the Urban Life Center.

The Hooding Ceremony is an exciting event, serving as a milestone at the end of the graduates’ student careers and the emergence of their careers into the legal profession. As members of the graduating class, it is often more exciting to the graduates’ family and friends. It is wonderful to see all of the family members and guests who arrive all dressed up and looking forward to seeing their son or daughter walk across the platform in a cap and gown. To the parents, this event marks the culmination of their child’s successful legal studies and their child’s future as productive, self-supporting citizens, who positively influence their communities.

Kelly Littrell, Alumni Development Specialist, encourages graduates to distribute parking cards for the event to family and friends who plan to attend, even if the graduates have printed their own invitations. Said Littrell, “At last year’s ceremony, many family members did not receive their parking information, so they were lost in downtown Atlanta during a Friday evening rush hour!” She stresses the importance of eliminating this undue stress by distributing the parking cards, and she is available by phone or e-mail for family and friends who have questions or concerns.

There is no limit to the number of guests graduates can invite to the ceremony. The Sports Arena, which is located on the third floor of the Physical Education Complex, provides more than ample seating capacity for this event. While the college provides 15 invitations per student, additional invitations may be available upon request.

Littrell works with the College’s alumni on projects such as alumni reunions and the Graduate Leadership Council. As alumni, the spring graduates will receive the Law Letter, which includes a section called Class Actions, a forum for alumni to inform each other and the faculty members of the latest events in their professional and personal lives. Alumni receive invitations to College of Law events such as the Miller Lecture series, Ben Johnson Award ceremony and student group activities, as well as College of Law functions held during the State Bar of Georgia Midyear and Annual Meetings.

It is important that alumni stay in the habit of providing Littrell and the College with updated address and phone information for College activities as well as professional opportunities. She often receives phone calls from various alumni members hoping to refer cases to other alumni with different practice areas or who live in different cities.

Kelly Littrell, Alumni Development Specialist, Phone: 404/651-2040, Fax: 404/651-2092
Email: klittrell@gsu.edu

Financial Aid Changes for Law School Students

Excerpts from Associate Dean Kaminshine’s Memo

The financial aid office will assign Benita Mathews, a senior financial aid officer and counselor, to the College of Law for two afternoons per week during the week of, and the week following, each term’s registration period. During this time, law students will be able to receive financial aid counseling in an office within the law school. This arrangement will commence this month during summer registration. Information about dates and times will be included in your summer registration packet.

Law students will be permitted to contact Benita Mathews by phone on her direct line rather than having to dial the main line that is always busy. Mathews’ direct line is 404/651-2675. Financial Aid Office representatives will conduct a workshop at the law school in February about pitfalls to avoid during the financial aid process as students prepare for the following academic year. Mathews will provide counseling services to new, incoming students during the annual Brief Encouter program each June.

The Summer School Trap: Several students who had registered for financial aid last spring received their bills without incident in the fall 1998 semester but did experience problems in the current, spring 1999 semester. For many, the cause of this problem related to the fact that they had applied for financial aid to cover not just the fall and spring, but to cover the summer term as well. According to the financial aid office, the financial aid commitment letter only covers a nine month time period and does not include the summer months.

The two-month disbursement of financial aid in the spring semester means that students may be expected to repay a financial aid commitment letter that includes a sum...
Career Profiles...

Mark Cicero

Name: Mark Cicero
Year Graduated: 1993

What He Does: Cicero is the State of Georgia's top fair housing enforcement officer. He manages the Fair Housing Division of the Georgia Commission On Equal Opportunity, which enforces the Georgia Fair Housing Law (GFHL). The GFHL prohibits discrimination in relation to the rental or sale of a dwelling on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, or familial status (the presence of minor children in the household). Cicero directs the Division's investigative efforts, provides litigation support to the Attorney General's Office, represents the Commission in administrative hearings, and provides education and outreach to the public and to members of the housing industry.

What He Likes Most: I went into the practice of law to make a positive contribution to our society. Protecting the civil rights of all Georgia residents and striving to eliminate discrimination in housing is tremendously gratifying work. I can't think of any better way to spend my working hours. Also, my position gives me a great deal of flexibility to do what needs to be done to more effectively enforce our statute.

Advice: You would be shocked at the amount of truly shady work done by fellow members of the Bar which crosses my desk. I urge all law students and practitioners to strive to improve their writing skills. Perhaps most importantly, don't appear before an administrative agency before doing your homework! I'm appalled by the number of defense attorneys who obviously haven't bothered to read our statute or our regulations. That kind of thing really destroys your credibility (and that of your firm).

Linda DiSantis

Name: Linda DiSantis
Year Graduated: 1988

Her Job: Vice President, United Parcel Service Legal Department, Atlanta, Georgia

What She Does: Linda's job in the UPS Legal Department involves a wide variety of work. Like most people at UPS, she doesn't stay in one niche. When she was hired into the UPS Legal Department in 1992, after a stint at Alston & Bird, she was hired to do the company's environmental work. Initially, this job involved working extensively with the environmental compliance group, which was at that time setting up many of UPS's environmental compliance programs. In 1995, Linda was asked to lead a project to develop and implement a corporate compliance program for UPS. The General Counsel had identified a need for the company to take a look at the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and their effect on corporate compli-

ance programs. As a result of this effort, Linda became the Chair for the Corporate Compliance Committee, which she still holds. She works extensively with the Corporate Compliance Manager in managing the various compliance needs of the company. In 1996, Linda was promoted to her current position as a Vice President and manager in the Legal Department. This position involves supervising attorneys and support staff and working with the Department Manager to develop and implement Legal Department initiatives. Currently, she is leading a project to review the company's use of outside counsel. Through this effort, the Legal Department hopes to develop a smaller network of core counsel that will enable the attorneys in the Legal Department to better manage the legal work of the company and reduce spending on outside counsel fees.

What She Likes Most: "People often ask whether I prefer being an outside lawyer or an in-house lawyer. The answer is easy for me. I greatly prefer the role of in-house counsel, because I love the involvement in the business. Although in-house lawyers must use their legal skills and training every day, they are primarily managers of the legal affairs of the company. The UPS Legal Department does not try to play the role of an 'inside law firm.' Rather, we use a variety of management tools available to us - outside counsel, our own legal training, our technology tools, our support staff - to deliver quality legal support to our business clients."

Advice: "Whether you are in a firm or in a corporate legal department, always look for opportunities to expand your area of responsibility and/or expertise. One of the best things that happened to me at UPS was when I was asked to take on the responsibility of heading up the project on corporate compliance. Although I felt that I was overloaded with work, I added this work to my plate. As a result, I was able to work with many senior managers with whom I had not previously interacted. This activity greatly expanded my knowledge of the company and my influence and ability to get my job done. It was an invaluable stepping stone in my career at UPS."

Diploma, Cont. from page 1

textured paper. Rikfink said the university made these changes when it moved the diploma printing process in house to a printer that could not accommodate the larger size. The university had to move the process in house because of increasing problems with last minute changes, such as the addition of honors designation, Rikfink said.

College of law students including former Student Bar Association President Rupal Vaishnav, third-year student Sherry Ragole and third-year student William Enslinger, Jr. launched a protest against the new diplomas by creating a web site about the issue and circulating a petition, signed by over 100 students. At a packed meeting in March, law students said that the diploma's reduction in size and paper qual-

ity would cheapen the reputation of Georgia State University law graduates. Many students also said they feared that the change in size and texture of the diploma's paper would insult the quality of the lawyer's skills.

After an emergency meeting of the commencement committee in which law students lobbied large, the university presented an argument for the reinstatement of the traditional diploma. Rikfink successfully motioned to reconsider the diploma matter. Rikfink visited former students and current staff members to compare their diplomas, he said. Changes in the format were common, but the size of the diplomas had not changed in twenty-five to thirty years, he said.

College of Law officials were pleased with the resolution. Dean Janice Griffith said, "I understand that President Patton will be sending a letter to students stating that he has directed the Registrar's office to return to a larger size diploma and to find the technology that will produce a diploma graduates will be proud to display."

"I believe this is a reasonable outcome, and I am pleased that the commencement committee which is chaired by President Patton, listened to a representative group of law students at (in April 5 meeting)," she said.

Associate Dean Steve Kaminshin said the decision was a good compromise. "Like art, different people are going to have different opinions. The new diploma stacks up comparitively. It's an extremely credible diploma. Students will have an extremely frameable diploma that they will be able to frame on their walls with pride," he said.

Law students remained skeptical about the sincerity of the university's commitment to a quality diploma.

"We proposed a reasonable compromise to order the larger size diplomas professionally engraved on heavy card stock, leaving three lines blank for the (university to insert) the students' name, degree and honors designation," Eslinger said.

"There is a [laser] printer that is capable of printing on the card stock," he added. "This would be a win-win situation. The university would maintain its flexibility and the students would get a professionally made diploma." The committee did not respond to the proposal, he said.

Also, despite Rikfink's assurances last week that the paper quality issue remains open, an April 16 university press release announced it was closed. The released read: "The paper stock will not change. The former diploma was printed on a card stock. The current diploma is printed on a linen-textured paper. This means the diploma will be larger, and the user will be able to put the diploma in a linen-textured paper, which is an acid-free archival paper."

Eslinger criticized university officials for failing to acknowledge the dilemma of diploma size.

"It's an issue when hundreds of students are furious," he said. "The diploma should be a quality document. We're upset over the fact that the diploma change was railroaded through the administration with no student input."

"The law school administration seemed somewhat atypical of (law) students. They should be open to the university. All the students have done is shine the light of day on what the university has done. The law school is caught in the middle."

Gregg Scott, who expects to graduate this spring, said he was displeased with Patton's determination to keep the law school in uniformity with the rest of the university. "I prefer my law school diploma to be larger and more impressive than my my paralegal certificate. What's wrong with having a different diploma than the undergraduates? I consider the law school a separate entity deserving a higher degree. It's a more prestigious degree and it signifies a greater effort and commitment to education."

SBA President Dawn Jones said, "Many students have expressed concern about the issue to me since the initial meeting. I hope efforts about compromise made on both sides lead to an acceptable resolution for all." Jones said law school student representatives were concerned about the change in the diploma's quality and are asking to see a sample of the new diploma and will meet again with Deans Griffith and Kaminshin.
Weltner Family Law
Inn of Court
1999-2000

Upcoming L3s who are interested in family or juvenile law are encouraged to apply for membership in the Charles Longstreet Weltner Family Law Inn of Court. The purpose of the Inn is to enhance the professional and ethical quality of legal advocacy in the family law bar in Georgia. The Inn consists of Masters (judges, law professors and attorneys with 15 or more years of experience), baristas (attorneys with 10 to 15 years of experience) and pupils (third year law students). Members are assigned to pupilage teams consisting of several masters, one or two baristas, and one or two pupils. Masters in the Georgia Family Law Inn of Court have included a Georgia Supreme Court Justice, a Georgia Court of Appeals judge, many Superior Court judges, Juvenile Court judges, and many leaders in the Family Law Sections of the Georgia and Atlanta bars.

A student who wishes to become a pupil will be required to attend monthly meetings of the Inn and occasional meetings of the pupilage team. Each pupil will be required to participate in planning and presenting one educational program at an Inn meeting. Mentoring will commence in October and will conclude in May.

The Inn is sponsoring Family Law Jeopardy, an opportunity for the College of Law Community to learn more about family law and the Inn on Tuesday, April 20 to noon in Room 330. Pizza will be provided. Lots of pre-finals laughs are guaranteed.

Applicants: Submit your resume and a one-page statement of interest to Professor Hartfield by May 14, 1996.

Information: A packet of information can be reviewed at the 4th Floor Receptionist desk. Contact Professor Hartfield (404-451-2050) or Professor Kadish (404-451-2084) if you need additional information.

PILA
Public Interest Law Association
By Karen Dayton, 2L

The Public Interest Law Association will be holding elections for officers. If you are interested in running, please sign up on the sheet that will be posted on the PILA office door on the 2nd floor (a few doors down from the SBA bookshelf).

We will need a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Auction Coordinator, Fundraising Chair, Fellowship Committee Chair, Publicity/Programs Chair, and a Race Coordinator. Please sign up by Wednesday, April 21. This is a great opportunity to get involved in something that will benefit many, many people and help you get to know some of your fellow students.

ABA

During the spring meeting of the Fifth Circuit's American Bar Association Law School Division, ABA representatives and SBA Presidents elected the new circuit governor for the upcoming academic year.

The new governor is John Daley, a rising 3L from the University of Miami School of Law. John is looking for students interested in applying for Lieutenant-Governors positions. If you are interested in these positions, please contact John Daley by phone at 305-275-2561 or via email at jdaley5628@aol.com.

Professor Williams, Cont. from page 3

Weltner's 3Ls who are interested in family or juvenile law are encouraged to apply for membership in the Charles Longstreet Weltner Family Law Inn of Court. The purpose of the Inn is to enhance the professional and ethical quality of legal advocacy in the family law bar in Georgia. The Inn consists of Masters (judges, law professors and attorneys with 15 or more years of experience), baristas (attorneys with 10 to 15 years of experience) and pupils (third year law students). Members are assigned to pupilage teams consisting of several masters, one or two baristas, and one or two pupils. Masters in the Georgia Family Law Inn of Court have included a Georgia Supreme Court Justice, a Georgia Court of Appeals judge, many Superior Court judges, Juvenile Court judges, and many leaders in the Family Law Sections of the Georgia and Atlanta bars.

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Opinion

In Defense of Emanations and Penumbras

By Melinda Lehrer, 2L

Last year in Con Law II, when we discussed the Griswold (1965) opinion (that landmark decision which announced the privacy of the marital relationship as a fundamental right protected by the Constitution), some people snickered at Justice Douglas' famous lines, "the First Amendment has a penumbra where privacy is protected from governmental intrusion" and "specific guarantees in the Bill of Rights have penumbras, formed by emanations from those guarantees that help give them life and substance." 381 U.S. 479, 484. These reactions echoed legal critics' responses over the past thirty years. These people seemed to be asking how a Supreme Court Justice could use such outlandish words as "penumbra" and "emanations" to interpret the holy writ. And were they (I shuddered) even laughing at Justice Douglas?

I want to say this in response: Justice Douglas had a broad humanistic education and was also a devoted outdoorsman. It does not surprise me, then, that at some moment he might imagine the Bill of Rights as a luminous planet in the night sky, with each of the Amendments "emanating" from the planet as a beam of light. And we know from watching eclipses that where there are emanations, there are also penumbras - partial shadows between areas of light and total darkness. Thus, in one of those connotative "penumbras" between the bright beams of the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Ninth Amendments, Douglas perceived an associated right of privacy.

I, for one, find this metaphor far more inspiring than, say, some of the boilerplate law-and-economics metaphors we see so much of today. Even the hard-hitting Justice White speaks in the Hardwick (1986) opinion of "fundamental rights imbedded in the Due Process Clause." 478 U.S. 186, 194.

Now I ask you, is Justice White's geological metaphor any different from Justice Douglas', except, perhaps, less beautiful?

Strictly Hearsay...

The National Jurist recently named Georgia State University as one of the 20 most wired law schools in the nation. What's your opinion of our technology?

Cheryl Barnes, 1L, part-time - I've had good luck with Tempo Web and registering. I think we need more computers though. Also, I think all the professors need to be taking advantage of the technology - everyone should have assignments on line, etc.

Vonda Wolcott, 2L - We need more computers. The technology that we have is good, but we need more on-campus access. Not everyone can afford home computers.

Jan Bozeman, 2L - I don't really have anything to compare it to. I really like the multimedia classroom on the 3rd floor, I think it's very useful. I would like to see either instruction manuals or classes on using GIL and other new technology on campus.

Catherine Whittington, 3L - I think overall the technology is very good, however, the mail system seems to be very primitive in comparison with the other technology made available to the students. It doesn't seem to be integrated in any meaningful way.

Mike McCalley, 2L - Our email system is obsolete and needs to be replaced. If someone sends me email with graphics, I have to forward it to an outside email account just so I can see them.

Professor Victor Platt - I think the technology is doing pretty well. It's coming along quickly and this year I have seen the difference it's made in classes.

Doug Dean, 3L Part-Time - That's impressive! Overall, I've been pleased with the College of Law's commitment to technology. Westlaw and Lexis have been invaluable, and the availability of school resources on the Internet is also useful. I'd really like to see some improvement in the email system, though. The UNIX-based "PINE" system isn't at all user-friendly, something like Eudora Light would be much easier to use.

Bill Grob, 2L - I don't know that we should be considered so advanced. We've only recently become more advanced in classrooms. We don't have any distance learning, which would be extremely useful. However, the listserves are helpful.

John Nativitz, 3L Part-Time - I don't think we have much technology. I can't believe we're one of the most wired schools in the nation.

Law Students Take the Plunge

The first ever skydiving day at Georgia State University College of Law took place on April 3, 1999, on a day perfect for any aerial sport you could imagine.

The skydiving took place at Atlanta Skydiving Center in Cedartown, Georgia, which is approximately 55 miles northwest of Atlanta. The Center has been open for two years and is one of the most rapidly growing skydiving locations in the region and is now home of the Georgia Skydiving League.

Eleven novice jumpers from Georgia State University College of Law took part in the event. All opted to exit the plane on tandem jumps, where the student is hooked to an experienced jumpmaster who performs many of the technical functions of the jump while the student gets used to the idea of freefall.

After an approximate 15 minute airplane ride to altitude, the door is opened on the aircraft and a spotter manually sites the plane to the correct exit point - 13,500 feet above the ground. To grasp how high this altitude is, 13,500 feet is twelve times the height of the World Trade Center in New York City. Additionally, the air temperature is twenty-five degrees cooler than that experienced at ground level.

Students are maneuvered to the door and, after a command of "Ready, set, go!", they fall somersaulting out of the plane and begin to fall 130 miles per hour towards the earth. After about 45 seconds of freefall, the main canopy is deployed to start a five-minute parachute ride back to the ground where the jumpers left.

All eleven law students jumped that day and it was almost an error-free event. However, one student had a hard landing and was brought to the hospital for examination, but was released that same day. Overall, everyone agreed that it was a once-in-a-lifetime event that was worth doing.

Sky-Diving Participants - Bernadette Clark, Danielle Brown, Robert Campos, Christain Diechert, Bill Fields and guest, Andrea Brownridge, Robert James, Wendell Franklin, Melvin Johnson, Sarah Hawk, and Jay Fisher