GRADUATION WRITING REQUIREMENT

The law school faculty recently voted to change the graduation writing requirement. The faculty eliminated the “Senior Writing Requirement” (SWR) and replaced that requirement with an “Intensive Writing Course Requirement.” The “Intensive Writing Course Requirement” can only be satisfied by successful completion of a “seminar” course. Each student must now take and successfully complete a seminar in order to graduate. A passing grade in the seminar will be indicative of successful completion of the “Intensive Writing Course Requirement.”

In each seminar class, each student will be required to complete one or more writing assignments that involve legal research, appropriate citations, independent thought, critical thinking and legal analysis. Each professor teaching a seminar will describe in his or her syllabus the writing requirements of the course and satisfactory completion of those requirements will meet the “Intensive Writing Course Requirement.” The “Intensive Writing Course Requirement” must meet the criteria set out above but allows the professor greater discretion to determine what type of writing assignments will be required in the seminar.

Students will not be able to use an “Independent Study” project to satisfy the “Intensive Writing Course Requirement.” Students currently enrolled in Independent Study or who have a pending grade for an Independent Study are “grandfathered” in and may continue with that process to satisfy their graduation writing requirement. All other students should plan on taking (at least) one seminar class prior to graduation. Students can take more than one seminar class if they so choose. A selection of seminar classes is offered every semester (including summer) and students can take any one of those classes. Seminar classes are an opportunity for the student to meet in a smaller class setting with a professor, read a selection of materials relevant to the topic of the seminar, engage in meaningful, thoughtful discussion of the topic and produce legal writing evidencing that process. Professors in seminars may require other projects, presentations, quizzes or examinations in addition to the intensive writing. Seminar classes are designated as such in the Law School Catalog.
and on the course registration schedule. Writing projects completed in courses not designated as “Seminars” do not qualify to meet the “Intensive Writing Course Requirement.”

STULS/VITA TAX RETURN PREPARATION ON RECORD SETTING PACE

The St. Thomas Law/VITA Tax Return Pro Bono project is on a record setting pace this year. The hard work and devotion of the volunteer students and Professor Wolff is concrete evidence of the furthering the Law School and University’s mission. Since its inception in 1984 St. Thomas Law/VITA has processed over 10 Million in taxpayer refunds. That is pro bono service providing a very real economic benefit to its clients.

CELEBRATING A LIFE OF LOVE IN ACTION

St. Thomas University School of Law and its LL.M. / J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights are delighted to invite you to our Symposium: “Celebrating a Life of Love in Action,” honoring Professor Dr. Amy Ronner, on her retirement on April 6, 2018 starting at 12:30 p.m. in the Moot Courtroom.

It will start with “Law & Literature” featuring analysis of law, lawyers, and legal themes in classic and contemporary literature. Panel topics will include: the idea of justice in Crime and Punishment; the lawyer hero in contemporary mystery novels; and legal education in the Harry Potter series. A real treat is in store for you: panelists will include a preeminent Dostoevsky scholar, a well-known Law & Literature specialist, and a New York Times bestselling legal mystery author.

The “Human Rights” panel addresses key issues in the making and application of human rights law. A leading scholar on women’s rights presents the thesis that human rights are necessary to reach the goal of gender equality, but they are not sufficient. The Chief of the Human Rights Office of the United States Southern Command presents her path-breaking work at its 20th anniversary. Finally, the Founder and Director of Strong Girls, Inc. presents the challenges and promise of educating girls for leadership in underprivileged communities.

The panel on “Therapeutic Jurisprudence,” introduces therapeutic jurisprudence, also known as “TJ,” elaborates on the usefulness of TJ with presentations on the application of TJ in two particular settings: a law school clinic focused on children and youth law; and, health law. Panelists are all internationally recognized scholars in therapeutic jurisprudence, each with a particular specialization within the field.

SCHEDULING ASSISTANCE

The “ASK A DEAN” table will be set-up in the Breezeway on Thursday April 5, as well as Monday, April 9 and Tuesday April 10, from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. manned by one or more Administrator to provide students assistance and guidance with regard to their summer and or fall schedules. Please feel free to stop by to get assistance.

All rising 2L students MUST take Appellate Advocacy in the Summer or Fall and MUST TAKE Advanced Legal Skills in the Fall (or Spring). All 3L students must take Bar Prep Skills in one of their last two semesters (preferably their last semester). Students are only authorized to take Professional Responsibility in their 3rd year.
Registration will actually take place Wednesday and Thursday (April 11 and April 12). The Registrar will send out more detailed instructions. If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Dean John Hernandez.

3rd DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS ORAL ARGUMENTS

On March 20, 2018, the Third District Court of Appeal heard oral arguments at St. Thomas University School of Law. It was an honor to host Chief Judge Rothenberg, Judge Salter and Judge Scales; and it was exciting to watch Certified Legal Intern Yamila Lorenzo (3L) present oral argument in an actual case before the Court. Congratulations to Yamila and Professor Howard Blumberg, Appellate Clinic!

IMMIGRATION LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION LEGAL SCREENING

On March 17, 2018, St. Thomas Law’s Immigration Law Students Association (ILSA) in conjunction with Americans for Immigrant Justice and Catholic Legal Services provided free legal screenings to the community. Volunteers which included law students and attorneys provided general legal assistance and brought awareness to the community about eligible immigration relief under existing laws and policies.

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS PANEL

On March 16, 2018, St. Thomas University, Gus Machado School of Business, hosted a panel discussion regarding “Insights into Mergers & Acquisitions.” The panelists shared their experiences regarding the pitfalls of successful M&A endeavors, and an overview of M&As’ best practices, including the up-front diligence activities, deal making, and post-merger integration activities.

Photo from left to right: Mario Trueba, South FL Regional President, IBERIABANK; Michael T. Fay, Principal and Managing Director, Capital Markets Group Consulting & Advisory Investment; Jorge Rico, Co-Founding Partner, MBF Healthcare Partners; Gabriel Caballero, Jr., ’06, Partner at Holland & Knight; and Dr. Somnath Bhattacharya, Dean of STU Gus Machado School of Business (Moderator).

THE HISPANIC AMERICAN LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION (HALSA) LUNCH AND LEARN

On March 15th, The Hispanic American Law Student Association & Office for Career Development hosted a Lunch & Learn with attorneys Eduardo Palmer, an alumnus Luis Golondrino ’15. Mr. Palmer, a 30 year practitioner, and Mr. Golondrino, a young lawyer in a partnership with his law school friends, provided valuable insight into the benefits, pitfalls and expectations of being a Hispanic attorney in South Florida and throughout the state, as well as a reflection on their time in law school and the importance of building your professional competence and reputation in the legal community.

Pictured: The lunch and learn in progress; the speakers with the HALSA e-Board and Career Counselor Laura Varela.
FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON
On March 14, 2018, the Federal Bar Association Hyatt Luncheon, featured a panel discussion with the Honorable John J. O’Sullivan, the Honorable Alicia M. Otazo-Reyes, and the Honorable William Matthewman, United States Magistrate Judges for the Southern District of Florida. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Federal Magistrates Act of 1968, attendees learned about the constant evolution of the responsibilities of a United States Magistrate Judge. The panel discussion touched on a variety of topics, which ranged from discussing the practice of consenting to trials before Magistrate Judges, settlement conferences, judicial pairings, discovery practices, and Reports and Recommendations.

Photo from left to right: Nathacha Bien-Aime (3L), Judge Matthewman, Judge Otazo-Reyes, Aleksei Voiskovich (3L), Jennifer Weiss (3L), and Judge O’Sullivan.

SPACE LAW LUNCH AND LEARN
On March 13th the International Moot Court hosted a Space Law Lunch & Learn. The students were treated to presentations by Professor Sylvia Ospina and Professor Roy Balleste on the U.S. and the international origins of the legal status of outer space, and modern day concerns on the scope of satellites, space debris and cybersecurity in outer space.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
Agnieszka Chiapperini (3L) accepted a paid Law Clerk position at Fowler White Burnett, P.A. in Fort Lauderdale.

Andres Duran (1L) accepted an Internship with the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office.

Akia Espinoza (2L) accepted a paid Law Clerk position with Arista Law in Miami, FL, specializing in Tax Law.

Adrian Lores de la Pena (3L) accepted a paid Senior Law Clerk position with Markowicz International Law in Aventura.

Antonio Pena (3L) accepted a Spring Internship with the Office of the State Attorney, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, in Miami.

Becky Saka (3L) accepted a post-graduate position as a Law Clerk with Judge J. Andrew Atkinson of the Second District Court of Appeal in Tampa.

Franklin Sandrea-Rivero (2L) accepted a judicial Internship with Judge Adalberto Jordan, United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

ALUMNI(AE) NEWS
Christine Dimitriou, a 2012 graduate, accepted an Associate Attorney position with McDonald Hopkins LLC in Miami, specializing in Business Litigation.

Melissa Marquez, a 2015 graduate, accepted a position as General Attorney with the U.S. Small Business Administration in Fort Worth, Texas.
FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professor Roy Balleste has been invited by the McGill Center for Research in Air and Space Law, as a legal expert in international law on the use of force and cyberspace, to contribute in the development of the Manual on International Law Applicable to Military Uses of Outer Space (MILAMOS). “The McGill Manual will articulate and clarify existing law applicable to the space environment regarding armed conflict and indicate what limitations international law places on the threat or use of force in outer space.” Professor Balleste will join experts from, among others, the U.S. Air Force, the Canadian Armed Forces, the International Committee of the Red Cross, U.S. Air Force Space Command, the Department of National Defense Canada, McGill University, Western Sydney University, the Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center at Tel Aviv University and Haifa University’s Law Faculties, the European Space Policy Institute, and Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

Professor Lenora Ledwon presented a paper and moderated a panel on “Law School Stories in Popular Culture” at the recent annual Law, Culture and Humanities Conference at Georgetown Law School in Washington, D.C.