From the desk of Dean Melissa Essary

The 2008-09 academic year is underway at Campbell Law School, and we enter it with enthusiasm for the future and gratitude for the past.

May 2009 will mark the thirteenth anniversary of our inaugural graduating class. We have educated a generation of lawyers, and we are no longer a new North Carolina law school, but a program that others admire and strive to emulate.

As we look back over three decades of success, I am awed by the fact that today’s Campbell Law School truly stands on the shoulders of giants.

A call to purpose & professionalism opens the 2008-09 academic year

The Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law opened the 2008-09 academic year on Aug. 13 with a convocation ceremony welcoming students to campus.

Janet Ward Black, principal of Ward Black Law in Greensboro, N.C., served as the convocation’s keynote speaker.

Black, a graduate of Duke Law and immediate past president of the North Carolina Bar Association, offered a humorous and poignant address that challenged students to build lifelong friendships with law school colleagues, be active members in their communities, and utilize the power of a legal education to serve others.

“ Provision of legal services to the poor is our professional responsibility. It is our duty as holders of these exclusive tickets to practice law,” Black told Campbell students. “I wish each of you success in your legal careers and hope you will continually remember the needs of millions of North Carolinians who can afford legal services that they desperately need.”

On Aug. 11 Robert H. Edmunds, Jr., Associate Justice of the N.C. Supreme Court, administered Campbell Law School’s pledge of professionalism to a first-year class of 154 students as part of their new student orientation. Justice Edmunds has served as an associate justice of the N.C. Supreme Court since January 2001.

“Campbell Law School puts tremendous emphasis on professionalism, personal integrity, and ethics,” said Keith Faulkner, Vice Dean of the Law School. “Taking the pledge of professionalism is one of the very first things all incoming students perform when they arrive, and we pray this creed will stay with each of them throughout their lives.”

The commitment of the Law School’s faculty and the hard work and drive of our graduates in communities across North Carolina, 39 other states and six foreign countries has earned the respect of legal, judicial, business and government leaders at all levels.

To the thousands who have graduated from Campbell Law School, “Thank you for letting us stand on your shoulders!” It is through your professionalism and success that your Law School’s reputation has grown and from which we will educate the next generation of lawyers.

A. J. Fletcher Foundation commits $1 million challenge grant to Campaign for Raleigh

The A. J. Fletcher Foundation, Raleigh, N.C., has committed a $1.0 million challenge grant to the Law School’s Campaign for Raleigh for law school clinical facilities. This grant is the largest in Campbell Law’s history.

Jim & Barbara Goodmon and other leaders of the A. J. Fletcher Foundation also challenged the Law School to generate an additional million dollars to underwrite the creation of various community-based legal clinics. By the time the new Campbell Law facility opens in fall 2009, it may boast low-income housing and senior law clinics. Long-term, other possible clinical opportunities include immigration law and tax law clinics, among others.

Including the A. J. Fletcher Foundation’s challenge grant, total commitment to the Campaign for Raleigh are at the $4.0 million mark toward a total campaign goal of $27.5 million. Other recent major commitments to the campaign include $250,000 class challenge gifts from John Bruffey (’84) and Perry Safran (’81). These individuals hope their respective classes will collectively match their generous commitments.

For more information about getting involved with the Law School’s Campaign for Raleigh or class gift campaigns, contact Britt Davis, director of development, at 910.893.1811 or davis@law.campbell.edu.

Campbell Law grads excel on 2008 N.C. Bar Exam

Members of Campbell Law School’s class of 2008 collectively scored a 95 percent passage rate on the July 2008 North Carolina Bar Exam.

These results reflect Campbell Law’s continued success in preparing graduates to quickly begin careers in the law following graduation. Law School graduates have boasted the highest average overall passage rate on the N.C. Bar Exam among the state’s law schools for the past 20 years.

“Campbell Law School’s commitment to its students and their future clients continues to produce results,” said Dean Melissa Essary.

“We have high expectations of our students, and through our rigorous academic program, they respond. From the first day that students report to Campbell Law until the day they graduate, they are taught to think critically, problem-solve and carry themselves in a highly professional manner. We believe our approach prepares Campbell Law graduates for outstanding legal careers and service in their communities.”
Alumni in service: Secretary of State Elaine Marshall ('81) receives 2008 Professionalism Award

North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall has been honored with Campbell Law School’s 2008 Professionalism Award.

The award, given annually to an individual who exemplifies the most noble of ideals and values within the legal profession, was presented on September 23 at The Cardinal Club of Raleigh.

A 1981 graduate of Campbell Law School, Secretary Marshall made history in January of 1987 when she was sworn in as N.C. Secretary of State, becoming the first woman ever elected to a N.C. statewide executive office.

Established in 2003, recipients of Campbell Law School’s Professionalism Award have been selected based on their exemplary contributions to the legal profession and the Law School.

Past honorees include: I. Beverly Lake, Jr., Former Chief Justice of the NC Supreme Court; C. Colon Willoughby, Wake County District Attorney ('79); The Honorable Jane P. Gray, North Carolina District Court Judge-District 10 ('79); The Honorable Sidney S. Eagles, Jr., Smith Moore LLP; and F. Leary Davis, Former Dean, Campbell Law School.

Campbell Law student selected DNC member

Phillip Gilfus, a third-year Campbell Law student, was recently selected as one of five North Carolina Super Delegate representatives within the Democratic National Committee (DNC). He assumed this position within the DNC on Aug. 29, in Denver, Co., at the close of the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

At the age of 27, Gilfus is one of the youngest representatives elected from North Carolina to the DNC and, as a former U.S. Army captain, will be the first veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom to serve on the national party.

“It will certainly be a challenge to be a full-time law student and a national party member, but I’ve received great support from the Law School,” Gilfus said. “The world doesn’t stand still for the three years I’m in school, and this opportunity allows me to serve on a national level. I’ll still be a good law student, but will also be taking my studies outside of the classroom.”

Gilfus was recently featured in stories published in The News & Observer, The Fayetteville Observer and WRAL, among other outlets.

Library Director Weeks serves as contributing author for library textbook


Weeks wrote a chapter entitled “We Are in the Business of Service: Serving Students and Faculty in an Academic Law Library.” The book was published in 2008 by Aspatore Books.

Campbell Law Federalist Society announces fall speaker series

The Campbell Law chapter of the Federalist Society has announced its fall 2008 speaker series.

Guantanamo Bay Detainees and the Constitution, Aug. 27. Major General Hugh Overholt (ret.), U.S. Army JAG Corps

The Second Amendment’s Individual Right to Keep and Bear Arms, Sept. 4. John Lott, Senior Research Scientist, University of Maryland

Global Warming and Environmental Law, Sept. 11. Becky Dunlop, Vice President of External Relations, Heritage Foundation

Original Meaning of the First Amendment Religion Clauses, Sept. 25. Rob Natelson, Professor, University of Montana Law School

Debate on the Death Penalty, Oct. 7. William Otto, Former White House Special Counsel; Thomas Maher, Executive Director for the Center of Death Penalty Litigation, Duke Law School; Melissa Essary, Dean, Campbell Law School (Moderator)

Thomas Jefferson’s Wall of Separation between Church and State, Oct. 21. Daniel Dreisbach, Professor, American University

All events will be held in Room 220 of the Law School on the main Campbell University campus from noon-1 p.m. Presentations are open to Law School students, faculty, alumni and friends.

Coming events:

2008 Professionalism Dinner and Award Ceremony
September 23
Raleigh

Class of 1988 reunion
November 1-2
Raleigh

Homecoming weekend
November 1-2
- Law School Admissions Open House, Nov. 1 (Buies Creek) – be sure to tell your friends and relatives who might be thinking about law school
- Football (Buies Creek): Campbell v. Davidson, Nov. 1 @ 1 p.m.

Keep in touch:

Join the Campbell Law School online community at alumni.law.campbell.edu!

For more information, contact: Shonagh McGuade, director of alumni relations and special events 910.893.1893 shonagh@law.campbell.edu

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