

APRIL 2006 E-NEWSLETTER

Dear TMSL Alumni & Friends:

There are two words to sum up this month, "Bitter Sweet." With the 2005-2006 academic year nearing an end, all the student organizations held receptions celebrating the works of its outgoing officers and members and introducing the incumbents. All of the receptions, luncheons and dinners kept everyone very busy, but with the exception of Dean Carrington, I do not believe anyone attended every organization's events but Professor Fain and her family. Many thanks go out to them for such great display of school support.

I was pleasantly surprised that the Office of Alumni Affairs along with the Office of Career Services was awarded the "Department of the Year." This was such an honor, especially since it is my first year as director and even more, to share such an honor with our suite mate, Career Services. The award was largely due to the very enthusiastic and most diligent efforts of our team, Lydia Lewis (Administrative Assistant), Bridgett Wines (Student Assistant), myself (Director) and numerous alumni and student volunteers, especially Danielle Diaz 2L.

This brings me to my overall feelings this month, "oh how bitter sweet." April marks the end of Lydia and Bridgett's official work with the Office of Alumni Affairs. Lydia Lewis recently left to start a non-profit organization to provide awareness and protection for children's safety. Her sincere compassion for children and just life itself makes her most fitting for such a wonderful endeavor. Regarding Bridgett, the sad thing about having a 3L student worker is that they leave the nest to go out into the world so quickly. Bridgett was more than prepared for the legal profession and whatever the world brings her way, the day I met her. I was truly amazed how mature, intelligent and organized this young lady is. Bridgett is definitely a future leader in our society, which is why it should come to no surprise that she received two awards on Law Day, "Department -Alumni Affairs and Organization-Sports & Entertainment Law Society; Bridgett Wines, President of the Year." The departure of these phenomenal ladies saddens my heart, but while our office is reorganizing and preparing for the future, they will never be forgotten.

The Office of Alumni Affairs wants to send a special thanks to Troy Pradia, Lance Hamm, Bryan Savoy, JaPaula Kemp and Jonathan Cox for hosting this month's "Thurgood Thursday." The weather was beautiful for the nice patio setting.

As you continue to read this month's e-newsletter, the remaining awards given at the Law Day Banquet should not come as a surprise since the recipients were most deserving. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and remember to keep me informed of all your new accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Prudence N. Smith

Prudence N. Smith, Esq. '99

Director of Alumni Affairs

Thurgood Marshall School of Law

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Student Affairs

The Office of Student Affairs held a Leadership Conference this month for student organizations and leadership heads to empower their continued leadership at the law school. Thurgood Marshall School of Law has several student leaders at the law school and in local and national organizations.

The Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Alumni Affairs will soon present its premiere issue of "Lawyers are Leaders" which will feature law students and alumni leaders comments on what prepared them to be leaders and their future leadership plans. This will be a monthly publication featuring a different student and/or alumni leader each month.

Academic Support

The Office of Academic Support and the Office of Alumni Affairs hosted the Bar Mentoring Reception on April 18, 2006 at the law school. This event provided an opportunity for the July 2006 bar takers to meet their mentors and make the initial arrangements for their mentoring during the bar preparation period. For more information about the Office of Academic Support, go to www.tsu.edu/academics/law/life/support/index.asp

Faculty News

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law hosted a **Joint Faculty Meeting** this month where faculty from South Texas College of Law, University of Houston Law Center and Thurgood Marshall School of Law discussed testing issues in law schools.

L. Darnell Weeden, Associate Dean and Roberson King Professor of Law's article entitled, *Back to the Future: Should Grutter's Diversity Rationale Apply to Faculty Hiring? Is Title VII Implicated?* was published in the Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law Volume 26, Number 2, 2005.

Professor Gabriel Aitsebaomo published two (2) articles in the March/April 2006, Volume 43 Number 5 issue of The Houston Lawyer, entitled *No More Common Law Exoneration of Liens in Texas for Wills Executed on or After September 1, 2005* and *New Texas Statute Authorizes Trusts for Care of Animals*. Professor Aitsebaomo serves on the editorial board for The Houston Lawyer.

Staff News

Juan Parras, Community Outreach Coordinator was a guest speaker at the National Advisory Conference in Biloxi, MS.

Zuotian "Terry" Deng passed the Certified Wireless Network Administrator exam. Congratulations!!!

Student News

The 2006-2007 Student Bar Association Executive Board:

Quinon Brooker	President
Pamela Vasquez	Vice President
Mandy Allbright	Secretary
Quyen Pham	Treasurer
Jeanie Dickey	Historian
Larry Taylor	Sergeant-at-arms
Devon Douglas	Asst. Sergeant-at-arms
David Wilson	Parliamentarian
Jeannine Broadnax	ABA Representative
Lakeisha Cannon	Street Law, Chair
Danielle Diaz	Alumni Representative

Continuing Legal Education/Legal Symposiums

Thurgood Marshall School of Law presented the *Employment Law Conference* on April 28, 2006 in the law school's moot court auditorium. This symposium provided a comprehensive overview of employment law with practical information of what is

required in the handling of employment cases and taking an employment case through trial from both the plaintiffs and defendants perspectives.

This symposium presented 3.50 MCLE hours and 1.0 ethics for attorneys. The panelists consisted of: **Dennis Herlong**, The Law Offices of Dennis Herlong; **J. Alfred Southerland**, Ogletree Deakins; **Katrina Patrick**, Law Offices of Katrina Patrick; **Joseph Y. Ahmad**, Ahmad, Zavitsanos & Anaipakos, P.C.; **Vernon Lewis**, U.S. Attorney's Office; and **Ruthie White**, Jones Day. Two (2) of the presenters are alumni; **Katrina Patrick '96** and **Vernon Lewis '91**. The moderators were **Professor Elizabeth Hall** and **Professor Thelma Harmon**.

The Institute for International and Immigration Law and Thurgood Marshall School of Law presented the *2006 Immigration Law Conference* on April 29, 2006. This conference provided a comprehensive overview of Immigration Law with practical information of what is required in the handling of employment, family, and deportation (removal) immigration cases.

This symposium presented 3.75 MCLE hours and 1.0 ethics for attorneys. The panelists consisted of: **Angelique Montano**, Tindall & Foster, P.C.; **Susan Brady**, Tindall & Foster, P.C.; **William D. Fong**, Fong & Associates; **Ernest Kwarteng**, Law Offices of Ernest Kwarteng; **Maurice Hew**, Thurgood Marshall School of Law; **Joy Al-Jazrawi**, Harry Gee, Jr. & Associates; **J.J. Slater**, Tindall & Foster, P.C.; and **Jenny Salomon**, Tindall & Foster, P.C. The moderator was **Ms. Carla Marshall**, 3L Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Two (2) of the presenters are alumni; **William Fong '94** and **Ernest Kwarteng '99**.

Thurgood Marshall School of Law offers continuing legal education courses and symposiums regarding current legal issues, featuring nationally recognized scholars and panelist, at a low cost, and in a friendly, familiar, and welcoming atmosphere. To view a listing of upcoming CLE programs and to register on-line, go to www.tsu.edu/academics/law/alumni/registration.asp

Alumni News & Class Notes

Class of 1991

John Chiles is the owner of Ritchie's Café, located at 11107 S. Post Oak @ S. Willow, Houston, TX 77053. The hours of operation are 11:30 am to 7:00 pm Tuesday thru Sunday. Some of the items on the menu include: burgers and sandwiches, chicken wings, catfish & greens, vegetables, salads and daily special desserts.

Class of 1999

Roslyn R. Bazzelle joined the law firm of Weycer, Kaplan, Pulaski & Zuber, P.C. Her new email address is: rbazzelle@wkpz.com

Valencia Nash sends her thanks to those who assisted in her campaign and electing her to serve as the Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 2 in Dallas, TX.

Class of 2000

Eric Burns and his wife Christina Burns are expecting their second daughter on June 17, 2006. Their first daughter is named Gabriela Burns and she is almost 3yrs old. Eric works for the State Board of Dental Examiners in Austin, TX and resides in San Antonio.

Class of 2003

Barbara L. Deans-Campbell is practicing tax and bankruptcy for the law firm Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson LLP in Memphis, TN.

Births

Cedric Scott '99 and his wife had a daughter, Saba Scott on November 9, 2004.

Marriages

Maxine Longoria married Rusty Nash on February 14, 2006 in McAllen, TX. The bride is the Associate Judge for the Hidalgo County Juvenile Justice Court.

Dallas/Fort Worth Area News:

If you are interested in joining this alumni association, please contact either, Altresha Burchett, Altresha.burchett@haynesboone.com or Lori Brooks, brookslaw03@hotmail.com

Announcements

MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1997:

Please contact **Toysha R. James Martin** at (602) 378-4765work or (623) 974-9782.

REUNION 2006 – The Office of Alumni Affairs is looking for class representatives and volunteers for your reunion. If you are in the class of **1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, or 2001** and wish to help in planning your reunion, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs, Prudence N. Smith, Director at (713) 313-1142 or prsmith@tsulaw.edu.

Upcoming Events:

For more information about events or to register for any event, please go to: www.tsu.edu/academics/law/alumni/events.asp or call (713) 313-1142.

MAY:

Event Name: **“Thurgood Thursday”**
Event Date: May 4, 2006
Event Location: Solar & Padilla, L.L.P.
Williams Tower
2800 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 111
Houston, Texas 77056
(713) 850-1212
Sponsored By: Joel Flowers '96 and Mark Grafenreed '03
Event Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Event Name: **TMSL Hooding Ceremony**
Alumni Reception Following
Event Date: May 12, 2006
Event Location: George R. Brown Convention Center

JUNE:

Event Name: **State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting**
Event Date: June 15-16, 2006
Event Location: Hilton Hotel Austin and Austin Convention Center

Event Name: **State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting – TMSL Alumni Reception**
Event Date: June 15, 2006
Event Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Event Location: Meeting Room 404

AUGUST:

Event Name: **NBA 81st Annual Convention – Detroit, Michigan**
Event Date: August 5-12, 2006
Event Location: Marriott, Renaissance Center

Event Name: **NBA 81st Annual Convention - TMSL Alumni Breakfast**
Event Date: August 9, 2006
Event Time: 6:30 – 8:00 a.m.
Event Location: TBD

Event Name: **NBA 81st Annual Convention - TMSL Alumni Reception**
Event Date: August 9, 2006
Event Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Event Location: TBD

Please contact the office of Alumni Affairs if you are interested in hosting an alumni event (713) 313-1142. Also, your suggestions for future events are always welcomed.

Annual Fund & Giving

The TMSL Annual Fund has over \$82,618 to date with 173 donors. Please take the time out to make your donation today as we are approaching the end of our 2005-2006 annual giving.

Make a gift or pledge today. Encourage fellow alumni to make a donation. Volunteer to help the Office of Annual Fund & Giving meet its 2005-2006 financial support goals. For more information about the annual fund and giving opportunities, or to make a donation, please contact Kira Cross, Director of the Annual Fund/Giving at (713) 313-1156 and visit: www.tsu.edu/academics/law/development/index.asp

Special Thank You

The Office of Alumni Affairs would like to give a special thank you to the following alumni and friends who have either recently sponsored alumni events or dedicated their time in support of this office:

Troy Pradia '00	Carla Marshall (student)
Lance Hamm '00	Danielle Diaz (student)
Bryan Savoy '00	Bridgett Wines (student)
JaPaula Kemp '03	Tonya Condell (student)
Jonathan Cox (friend of TMSL)	Rhoda Matiru (student)
Katrina Patrick '96	Nichole Thompson (student)
Tom Gehring '95	

We'd Love to Hear From You !!!

Photos of all alumni events are on the website.

Visit www.tsu.edu/academics/law/alumni/photo/index.asp

I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE E-NEWSLETTER. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE
WITH YOUR UPDATED INFORMATION!!!!