School Sponsored Off-Campus Housing: Coming Soon?

“Finding a place to stay in Jacksonville may get a bit easier for Florida Coastal students. Last month, the Admissions Department sent a survey to students via email to aid them and other administrative departments in improving Coastal’s student housing options. According to the Law School Admission Council’s website, most law schools in Florida and the surrounding areas, such as Stetson College of Law in Gulfport, Barry School of Law in Orlando, and the University of Florida’s College of Law in Gainesville, do not offer any type of restricted housing or graduate housing to their law students. While this survey was simply a preliminary step, Brooks Terry, Director of Marketing and Communication, said Coastal’s continually increasing student population has created the need to take a better look at the accruing housing needs of Coastal’s student body.”

As we continue to evolve as a school, we want to make sure that we are meeting the needs of the students on every level,” said Terry. According to Steve Jones, Director of Admissions, future plans could include partnerships with nearby apartment complexes to offer special deals to students or the purchasing of an apartment complex to serve as Coastal housing. This plan could be implemented as early as next fall. A more distant plan may be a newly built Coastal owned and operated complex.

“There is an empty parcel of land near the school and I-95 that may be used,” said Jones, “but it will probably take at least a full year to build something like that.” However, neither the plan for apartment liaisons or groundbreaking are certain at this time. Currently, Coastal offers its incoming students access to services from the agency, Leasing Jacksonville, free of charge. The Admissions Department also equips incoming students with a roommate list to aid them with their move to Jacksonville. Nearly 90 percent of Coastal students are from outside the Jacksonville area and 70 percent are from states other than Florida.

According to the survey, which had 551 responses, the majority of those surveyed were satisfied with their housing situation. They noted affordability and proximity to campus as the most important factors when deciding on a place to live. “We will use the results to make sure we’re doing everything we can. We want to know if what we’re doing is enough on the customer service end,” said Terry. Britanny Bell, Pennsylvania native and 1L, said Coastal housing might have made her complicated move-in process easier. Bell only visited Jacksonville and its apartments once before orientation.

“It was quite difficult because I wasn’t from the city and I had to put all my faith in apartment realtors in Jacksonville, that [the apartment] was right,” said Bell. Agnes Mombrun, a 1L also from Pennsylvania, lives in an apartment close to campus and described her move-in process as fairly simple. “I looked up most of the apartments online and called to set up tours when I traveled to Jacksonville,” said Mombrun. Mombrun and Bell agree that they would consider moving if Coastal offered more affordable housing with better amenities than their current apartments.

Last summer, teammates Razan Faramand, Stephanie Cabral, Vilma Janusyte, and Renee Maxey began preparation for the Vis Moot Court Competition that took place in March in Vienna, Austria. This was the 15th time the competition was held, growing from 11 to 200 teams over the last few years, which, according to Cabral, reflects the growth of international trade and that arbitration is emerging as the most effective means to resolve international disputes.” After intensive study of CISG and international arbitration with Coach Darren Latham, the team practiced multiple times each week leading up to the pre-moot competition. The competition is organized by the Florida Bar’s International Law Section. Florida Coastal team members competed against five other Florida law schools. The international competition drew over 200 law schools from all over the world, including Spain, France, Denmark, Bahrain, Germany, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, Ireland, Australia, U.K., Italy, India, Turkey, and the United States. For Janusyte, the team from Lithuania had special meaning because she is from Lithuania and “hasn’t been back in almost seven years. It was very interesting hearing how things have changed. I’m going there this summer, so it will be really nice getting to see them again and have them show me around,” she said. Coastal students may be interested to know that the Floridians “became practically inseparable,” according to Janusyte, as she described the friendship that grew between the Coastal, Nova, Miami, Florida, and Stetson team members. After taking part in a competition of such high caliber, each teammate expressed how honored they are to have participated in the Vis Moot Court Competition. “If you are interested in commercial law and/or arbitration, this competition will provide you with an unforgettable experience,” said Faramand.

The arbitrators were “fantastically prepared for the arguments. Most of them are coaches, so they are very familiar with the problem. This realistically reflects a major difference between arbitration and litigation; arbitrators are generally familiar with the facts before the proceedings and intimately familiar with the applicable principles, concepts, and nuances of international arbitration because they specialize in the field,” said Cabral. With all their hard work paying off, the team outperformed the winning Spanish team in a preliminary-round argument, and the team’s Memorandum for the Respondent was submitted to the upper rounds for judging. Notwithstanding all the time and energy these students put into the competition, they encouraged any student interested in the international practice of law to try out for the team next year. However, they warned interested students to be prepared for your significant other, family, and friends to feel like they never see you, and for you to feel like you’re so exhausted that you just want to disappear to some tropical island and never return. Nevertheless, according to Janusyte, the payoff is invaluable and it will be one of the greatest experiences of your law school career.
Emptying Your Pockets At The Pump

Hala Ezeldin
Conributing Writer

Have you ever had the experience of driving into the gas station by school on Monday afternoon and filling your gas tank with regular fuel at $3.21 a gallon, followed by pulling into the same gas station on Saturday evening to refuel only to find that gas is now $3.39? The only natural response is to wonder whether they can actually do such a thing. Is it legal for the gas station to empty out your pockets? Unfortunately, it is legal, however immoral it may seem. For operators of gas stations, it’s just business. Reports show that gas prices have increased over the past 30 years and will continue as long as vehicles run on gas. While over the years there has been some fluctuation, gas prices are generally on the rise. Part of the reason may be because the crude oil that it takes to create gas is predominantly imported. In fact, in the U.S., about 20.8 million barrels of crude oil is consumed per day and only 1/4 of that is produced in the U.S. Moreover, the U.S. is the largest consumer of gasoline, using up to 25 percent of all the oil and gasoline in the world. One solution to gasoline and oil conservation is for Americans to drive smaller cars. The question is whether we are willing to trade in our gas guzzling S.U.V.‘s for more fuel-efficient sedans. For some, that may be an option, but for others a more spacious vehicle is needed to drive the kids around, load the sporting gear, or for just the sheer emotional attachment to their big cars. Some other solutions are opting for a smaller, more eco-friendly S.U.V., like the Subaru Forester, Toyota RAV4, Honda CR-V, or Mitsubishi Outlander. For an even more fuel efficient solution, there’s always the hybrid vehicles. Examples are the Toyota Prius, Saturn Vue Green Line, Honda Civic Hybrid, Toyota Camry Hybrid, Chevrolet Tahoe 2 Mode Hybrid, and the Ford Escape Hybrid. For a luxury vehicle, check out the Lexus GS 450h and Lexus RX 400h. While some of us may be in the market for a new car or a trade in, the rest may just stick with the vehicle we purchased in undergrad or at some other point in our lives. Here are 10 tips to help mitigate the expenses:

1. Avoid accelerating rapidly and breaking hard
2. Abide by the speed limit
3. Remove excess weight
4. Limit idle time
5. Use cruise control
6. Use overdrive gears
7. Tune engine
8. Replace air filters regularly
9. Use the recommended grade of motor oil and change it on time
10. Keep tires properly inflated

Sticking to these tips will help conserve energy and gasoline. This is also a good checklist for those taking a long drive back to their hometowns for the summer and for those who enjoy taking long road trips.

Students Concerned About The Fate Of Coastal’s Environmental Law Program

Marika Sevin
Contributing Writer

Environmental law students voiced their concerns at Dean Goplerud’s student forum on March 24 regarding Professor Randall Abate’s plans to teach next year at Florida State University as a visiting professor. First, second, and third year students turned out seeking information about the Environmental Law Program’s fate and reassurance that their Environmental Law Certificates would remain valuable in the future. Dean Goplerud said the Environmental Law Program is important, and the school wants to create an Environmental Law Center. However, he did not provide students at the forum with concrete plans for how or when a center would be created.

“What I had hoped was that Dean Goplerud would give us more faith that the Environmental Certificate Program was not in jeopardy. I wanted to hear proposals for the future of the program, and we did not hear them,” said Avri Ben-Hamo.

Thus far, Professor Abate has directed the development of the Environmental Law Certificate Program, and, without his leadership and commitment, students in the program are afraid it will fizzle. “Not only has Abate managed the certificate program, he has placed nine students in environmental internships, helped seven students publish scholarly articles, coached the Animal Law Moot Court team, and is an active faculty advisor for the Environmental Law Community Action Team (ELCAT). This is all in addition to regular class preparation, mentoring students, publishing articles, and planning the Environmental Summit and Symposium,” said Justin McCarthy, 2L in the Environmental Certificate Program.

Students agree that anyone hired to fill Professor Abate’s position will have big shoes to fill, but they recognize that the fate of the program should not depend so heavily on one person; a point emphasized by Dean Goplerud during the forum.

“For the program to attract students in the future, our administration needs to do everything possible to hire and retain well-recognized and published professors, such as Professor Abate,” said Ben-Hamo. Students are most impressed with Professor Abate’s commitment to his students and his importance he places on practicing the school’s mission of student-centeredness.

“I believe Professor Abate’s most significant achievement during his time here was that, throughout all his efforts, he exhibited the utmost patience, consideration, and respect for his students as both a professor and a mentor,” said Joanna Wymsio, 3L. “He will truly be missed,” she said. Students could already see the impacts of Professor Abate’s absence when the tentative schedules for Summer and Fall were released, and only one environmental law class was offered for both semesters. Bridgette Waines, the Registrar, said the Dean of Students Office is looking into the issue.

“I noticed it when I was making the schedule because they had more classes offered before, and I don’t know if it is because they don’t have the professors to teach them or what,” said Waines. “But, thank goodness we have some time to figure this out, because it’s not fair to students for the school to offer a certificate program and then not offer the classes for it,” said Waines.

Dean Davilantes said the school is in the process of hiring more faculty members and expects to add more courses that will apply toward the Environmental Law Certificate. One environmental law class, Ocean and Coastal Law, was added to the updated schedule released on April 13. Twelve students met with Dean Goplerud on April 9 to discuss the status of the Environmental Law Program, but many of their questions remained unanswered.

“The only reassurance Dean Goplerud gave us was that he would support the continuation of the environmental law externship program into the Spring, but he would not commit to offering more than 3 or 4 classes for the environmental program for Fall and Spring,” said McCarthy. “Overall, I was disappointed, but not surprised,” he said. Many of the students in the Environmental Law Program agree the program does not get the support it deserves.

“I thought the Dean showed a genuine interest in our concerns and in the program,” said Krystle Macandang. “But, I don’t know if the administration really recognizes the benefit an Environmental Law Center will have on the school. The students in the Environmental Law Program are very driven and passionate about it, and Abate is a true mentor to us,” she said.

While Macandang has confidence the problems can be worked out if Dean Goplerud stays true to his word, McCarthy remains unconvinced that the administration is willing to give the Environmental Law Program the support it needs to be successful.

Photo of The Gate gas station sign by A. DiRose

Contributing Writer

Hala Ezeldin

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Sports Law Goes Global

GEORGE SINGELTARY
SPORTS EDITOR

This summer, Florida Coastal will offer classes overseas for the first time. The exciting program will take place at the University of Auvergne in Clermont-Ferrand, France, from May 25 to June 27. Two Florida Coastal professors, Rick Karcher and Cleveland Ferguson III, will teach the classes. I sat down with Professor Karcher to discuss this new frontier in international education at Florida Coastal.

Q: What is your experience in international sports law and the sports law field in general?
A: I have worked, taught, and written articles in the sports law field for many years, and, as a sports law professor and scholar, international sports law is an important area to stay on top of. Basically, professional sports in the U.S. is global now, and, thus, foreign laws come into play with its activities.

Q: What course are you teaching in France and what will it entail?
A: “International Sports Law” is the name of the course and it will take place this summer, in Clermont-Ferrand, France. The topics will include regulation of Olympic sports, methods for challenging an official call/suspension, “doping” in the context of Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) decisions, international student athletes, etc. Also, the course will compare and contrast European legal concepts with those found in U.S. law. For instance, there are limited conflict of interest concerns in the European football (soccer) player-agent business. In Europe, it is typical for “dual representation” of both the team and the player by the same agent!

Q: Are you taking any extracurricular trips in connection with the class you are teaching in France?
A: Right now, I am hoping to take a trip to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland. The trip will not be mandatory. It will likely take place during the 2nd or 4th week of the program. It will likely include a tour of CAS and possibly a guest lecture. I think Professor Ferguson is also planning to take his class to the EU Parliament and the Human Rights Court.

Q: What other opportunities are there for students who are interested in international sports law at Florida Coastal?
A: Professor Hogshead-Makar’s Amateur Sports Law class touches on the subject. Also, last semester, I taught a sports law seminar which focused on international sports law issues, and this might be offered again. For those interested in sports law in general, Florida Coastal offers a Sports Law Certificate. In order to fulfill the requirement, students must complete both the Amateur and Professional Sports Law courses as well as the Sports Law Seminar (which satisfies the ALWR). For more information, go to http://www.fcsl.edu/centers/LawAndSports/curriculum/.

Media Ethics In Sports: A Hazy Line

KYLE SILL
STAFF WRITER

Have you ever had an “off the record” conversation occur in your life? Are you an athlete? Well, if you answered yes to both of the above questions, your “off the record” private matter may not be so private after all.

Rick Karcher, Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Law and Sports, said with respect to athletes, “the media can pretty much say whatever they want; they get a free pass.” This proposition was most recently highlighted in California, when a “John Doe” action was filed in California State Court on behalf of an unnamed cyclist. The plaintiff claimed the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency violated its own policies for the sports media. The plaintiff asserted that the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency and the California State Court, among others, were necesary to the “John Doe” façade. Was it legal for the media to ascertain, release, and damage the reputation of a plaintiff who attempted, at great length, to remain anonymous?

Professor Karcher said, “this is not a N.Y. Times v. Sullivan defamation issue, but this is certainly an ethical issue.” Shouldn’t the sports media hold themselves to an ethical obligation not to release this type of information so arbitrarily? Lawyers are governed by a code of ethics with strict enforcement policies. Generally speaking, there are no similar enforcement policies for the sports media. Until the sports media decide to enforce the ethical guidelines it has set for itself, amateur and professional athletes alike will run the chance of the unscrupulous reporting of every private decision they make and action they take. Professor Karcher summarized it best by asking, “do we really need to know?”

STUDENT LOANS: LAW AND BAR

Law school is challenging. Affording every opportunity it offers shouldn’t be. That’s why Citi offers an array of student loans for law students so you can focus on the next three years without stressing over your financial well-being in the ones to follow.

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Congratulations! You’re in law school. The path to a prestigious and profitable career lies before you. You’re sharpening your research skills, learning to analyze contracts, and studying for difficult exams…but all you really want is a date! Let’s face it, being single in law school is no fun, and that is further confounded by the fact that there are so many good looking people at Florida Coastal. It’s virtually impossible to pay attention in your Torts class because you can’t stop staring at that hottie two rows in front of you; admit it! The good news for all of the “Coastal singles” (let’s call them CS’s) is that if you play your cards right and understand the rules of law school dating, you won’t be single for much longer. This guide will help you do just that.

THE FIVE TYPES OF FLORENCE CS’S

The first and most important thing in your quest to break from the ranks of the Coastal singles’ club is an understanding of your options. The single law student needs to acquire the skills of a trained hunter. As a hunter knows the different kinds of prey available for hunting, so must a CS understand the types of possible dates out there. So far, four extremely date-able groups are within reach at Coastal.

THE ATRIUMITES: These are the people you see sitting around the atrium all day pretending to study. The interesting thing about Atriumites is that most of them are single just like you, and they have picked the one location on campus that allows them to see and be seen. They hide behind their computer screens and property textbooks, look pretty, and communicate to you with their eyes as you walk by, silently calling out, “hey, look at me! You find me attractive, don’t you? Well then, don’t be shy, come over and say hello.” Should you find yourself attracted to an Atriumite, your best chance for success lies in your ability to infiltrate the group and become an Atriumite yourself. Put on something nice, find a seat with good visibility, and, sooner or later, your target will notice you too.

THE SOCIALITES: This group of date-ables is the most fun. They are the ones who never miss a school social and love the nightlife. The theory at work here is that the cutie from class will be a lot more approachable when he/she is out with friends having a good time. The only downside to the Socialites is that they seem to be complete opposites on campus. The Springers is the only group that most socialites look to for guidance on everything from academics to where to hang out. A savvy CS will dazzle a Springer with his/her knowledge of adverse possession, then prove his/her versatility by showing the Springer a fun time at the Landing. The down side to Springers is that they are usually so overwhelmed by the demands of being first semester law students that dating is the last thing on their minds.

THE FACE-BOOKERS: Face Bookers are those students obsessed with social networking websites. They update their status every four hours and add pictures to their profile after every weekend event. The upside to Face Bookers is the fact that you don’t assume too much risk should you decide to make the first move. All the information you need for success is usually right there on their face book page. You can figure out whether they are single and what they like to do for fun, all with just a click of the mouse. Plus, there are usually plenty of pictures to cipher through to help make your decision easier (“Yep, he/she is a hottie!”). You have to proceed with caution however, because there is a thin line between cute and creepy. Your target may either be flattered that you took the time to find him/her on face book (“Awww, he/she sent me a message, how sweet.”) or he/she may assume you’re a crazed stalker (“OMG! Who is this?”). You never know until you try though. So, get out your laptop and search away!

THE NERDS: These are the students in the top five percent of their class. They get the A’s, mess up the curve, and are generally hated by everyone else in class. Dating a nerd can be depressing because he/she is going to be smarter than you, which is never good for the ego. However, some of their smarts may rub off on you and help you make the leap from your Cs to B’s. Hang around the library and the knowledge bars for a chance to meet a Nerd. When you do, build a “study buddy” relationship and let the chips fall where they may. You know what they say, “the way to a Nerd’s heart is in the pages of a criminal procedure textbook.”

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And remember, the Boardwalk Cafe is open all summer!
Resturant Review: Harpoon Louie’s

VERONICA OWENS STAFF WRITER

If your humdrum heart has a hankering for something more slapdash than swanky, then head out on Harpo Louie’s. Located at 4070 Herschel Street, this hole-in-the-wall hideaway has long been a Jacksonville favorite for fish tales and fine dining, in the loosest sense of the word.

For your first visit to Harp’s, as the regulars kindly call it, parking may be your biggest problem. You may have to squeeze your Scion in between some jacked-up bubbba trucks next door, but don’t be alarmed; that is how they do it here, and the neighbors don’t mind too much. More importantly, a full lot is a very good sign.

The décor is anything but deliberate. However, Harpoon Louie’s boasts all the essentials: a bar, T.V.s to Harp’s main draw is its menu. From soup to salad and steak to seafood, everyone here has a favorite: mine is the chicken and wild rice. It’s the best in town and better than Biscotti’s. Peter Penrod, 2L, said his favorite is the aptly named School Loan Special, a pitcher of beer and a dozen wings “Karl’s Way,” tossed twice and grilled to first class perfection. Others prefer the prime rib sandwich or the catch of the day. Stop by and check your law school blather and frou-frou school awkwardly singing “Billie Jean.” Unfortunately, America’s own Brooke White continues to impress judges with her pure folk sound, especially while playing guitar during her rendition of Carly Simon’s “You’re So Vain.”

The atmosphere is comfortable and ordinary, and there’s nothing wrong with that. In fact, I’d venture to say it keeps most of us from forgetting where we came from.

Alexis’ Assessment:

Michael Jackson Is Just As Thrilling 25 Years Later, But Drillbit Falls Short

ALEXIS HALLPERN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Before I was asked to write this article, I had no intention to even think about Michael Jackson’s 25th Anniversary Edition of “Thriller.” I have come to terms with the fact that myself, like many others, forget that before allegations of plastic surgeries, child molestation, and animal abuse at Neverland Ranch, Michael Jackson was “The King of Pop.” He is an artist who is praised for his musical abilities and public appeal, a talent he has possessed since he was a child. I was again reminded of Jackson’s great musical nature when I reluctantly purchased “Thriller: 25th Anniversary Album,” which was released in the United States in mid-February. The album contains the original album, a DVD, and previously unreleased, remastered tracks featuring Fergie, Akon, will.I.am, and Kanye West. While the old tracks are just as amazing and amusing as they were years earlier, the remixed tracks have awesome beats and a whole new flare. The new “Thriller” is definitely a great purchase—no buyer’s remorse here! And if we haven’t met before, I’m the one who has been walking around school awkwardly singing “Billie Jean.”

DRILLBIT, NOT A HIT

I thought that it might be nice to take a break and grab some quick comic relief. I decided to head to the theater to see “Drillbit Taylor.” I figured that a screenplay by Seth Rogen, the same guy who developed the screenplay for “Superbad,” must be good. The plot was typical: 3 young, high school geeks hire “body guard” Drillbit Taylor (Owen Wilson) to protect them at school, yet the boys have no idea that the body guard is a homeless man with no experience. Some awkward romance blooms and “the little guy” finally catches a break. Generally, those of us learning to be an advocate would love a story like this; right? Wrong.

The movie is a dumbed-down version of “Superbad,” with the addition of Owen Wilson, who employs the same tone and style he possesses in every other movie under his belt. Any kind of break from studying the law is a nice break, but I think that my 12-year-old brother would have been far more satisfied with this pick.
The Cooking Corner: No Sauce Pasta

KYLE SELFI
STAFF WRITER

It’s quick, it’s easy, it’s no sauce pasta! This recipe was adapted from Giada De Laurentiis, the host of Food Network’s Everyday Italian. With some additions, substitutions, and subtractions, I have turned her original recipe into a quick, easy, fast gallore for any law student.

INGREDIENTS:
Salt, Garlic powder Black pepper 1 lb. penne rigatoni pasta 3 tbsp. butter 1 lb. Portobello or Baby Bella mushrooms, thinly sliced 1 lb. broccoli, cut to size, removing most of the stems 1 cup mascarpone cheese 3/4 cup walnuts, toasted and chopped fairly small 3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese 4-6 Chicken breasts (1 for each diner)

Season the chicken breasts with salt, pepper, and garlic powder and bake at 350 degrees for about 30-40 minutes, making sure there is no pink left. Meanwhile, slice the mushrooms, broccoli, and walnuts. Place the mushrooms and butter in a pan and sauté on medium-high heat for about 7 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste. Next, add the broccoli to the same pan and continue to sauté until cooked to your liking, which should take about another 7 minutes. After placing the mushrooms in the pan, boil a pot of water for the pasta and add salt. Boil the pasta 8-10 minutes, or until al dente. Drain the pasta, but do not rinse. Combine the pasta, mushrooms, broccoli, and walnuts with the mascarpone cheese. The cheese will bind everything together and create a sauce. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Add the parmesan cheese and more nuts on top to garnish. Serve the pasta over or along side the chicken breast. Makes 4-7 servings of pasta heaven. Enjoy!

MICHAEL BUBLÉ WOWS JAX WOMEN

DANIELLA DIAZ
ENTERTAINMENT CO-EDITOR

The men of North Florida probably couldn’t wait to drown themselves in drinks as their wives or girlfriends dragged them into the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. They must have been wondering to themselves what they were going to get in return for sitting through two hours of crooning by a pretty-boy Italian from Canada.

This is a routine scene for Michael Bublé, a 32-year-old bona fide crowd pleaser and quite possibly the closest thing this generation will get to a member of the Rat Pack. Bublé, with his baby face and typical black suit, is no stranger to the world of women professing their love for him. While he has only achieved mediocre success in the U.S., he’s a chart-topper in his native country, as well as in England and Australia. Bublé’s single, “Everything,” quickly followed his smash hit, “Home,” one of the songs featured in the film, The Wedding Date. He recently released his third album, Call Me Irresponsible, which sold more than 11 million records. Before Bublé hit the stage, the crowd was left literally speechless by Naturally 7, an all-male “vocal play” group from New York. Sharply dressed in all white, the seven gentlemen wowed the audience with a handful of cover songs and a couple original tunes, but with a twist. They used their voices to emulate various instruments rather than using actual instruments. I was most impressed by the member whose part was the electric guitar, as well as the group’s cover of the Phil Collins hit, “Against All Odds.” Bublé began his set with “I’m Your Man” and “Meglio Stasera (It Had BetterBeTonight).” Behind the Canadian crooner was his entire band, a cast of 20 or so, whom he refers to as his family. Dressed in his standard black suit and tie, Bublé dazzled the crowd with his flawless voice and clever one-liners. Other songs included in the mix were “I’ve Got the World on a String,” “Me and Mrs. Jones,” “Fever,” “That’s Life,” and the very popular “Feelin’ Good.”

Although he is well-known for his fresh new spin on classics, Bublé reminded audience members that he can also write his own heartfelt lyrics. Bublé’s first chart-topper, entitled “Home,” from the album, It’s Time, was written while the singer was away in Italy and is a description of how much he missed his then-fiancée. He subsequently wrote the track, “Lost,” about their break-up, and informed the audience that he hopes to see it be his next big single. Bublé joked about his cheesy lyrics after belting out “Everything,” his most recent original hit and musical “love letter” to his new girlfriend, British actress, Emily Blunt.

Tickets for the concert were expensive, but the crowd definitely got what they paid for. If you missed Michael Bublé, you should definitely try to pencil him into your schedule the next time he rolls through Duval. I guarantee you’ll be more than impressed.

MICHAEL BUBLÉ Wows JAX Women

The Pearl: Jacksonville’s Most Valuable Bar

ALICIA CASSIDY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Imagine a place where everyone is welcome, the refreshments are cheap, and there is something for everyone. Now, imagine that that place exists right here in Jacksonville. The Pearl, located at 110 North Main Street in the Springfield district, is on its way to being one of the hottest bars in Jacksonville.

Upon entering The Pearl, a pool table and a long bar reach the entire left side of the room. In front of the bar, a giant tree trunk fills out into a tree with purple Christmas lights glowing on the branches. The bartenders quickly take orders and serve drinks with speed and precision.

There is a dance floor and a number of large projection screens on the right side of the room, where movies are often shown with subtitles while a DJ plays the latest music. Entering the patio area, a fully stocked bar sits to the right and loud booming speakers are above so patio patrons can still shake it while they enjoy the fresh air. Trees with wooden benches litter the patio area, giving patrons additional seating. On the first Friday of each month, The Pearl hosts a costume party with 80’s music. On Saturday nights, the bar vibrates from a mixture of hip hop, indie, 80’s, and rock music. On Tuesdays, The Pearl showcases “Trash Tuesdays” and plays old school grunge and hip hop. On Wednesday nights, ladies enjoy free beer and free games of pool.

With the financial situation and the stress most law students suffer, The Pearl offers quality nightlife at “law student friendly” prices. For more information on The Pearl, check out their MySpace page at www.myspace.com/thepearlofspringfield.
Faculty Spotlight: Professor Shawna Baker

ADAM BEAUGH
STAFF WRITER

In her first year at Florida Coastal, Professor Shawna Baker came to us as a graduate of the University of Tulsa College of Law. While in law school, Baker participated in mock trial and wrote for the law journal. She was also the SBA Vice-President and was invited to participate in the Appointments Committee, the committee at the law school which looked at potential hires. This allowed her to see the hiring process from the administration’s perspective.

A self-professed nerd, Baker was enrolled full time in a Master’s Degree program for Biological Sciences while still taking a full law school course load. She said she enjoyed taking courses that were very different, so that each provided an escape from each other.

After graduation, Baker began working at Doerner, Saunders, Daniel & Anderson, L.L.P., a large civil defense firm in Oklahoma. While working, she also taught advanced trial practice as an adjunct professor at the University of Tulsa and served as a mock trial coach.

As a defense attorney, Baker realized that many of her family law clients needed estate planning following their involvement with the firm, and that there were not many firms in Tulsa that would cater to the gay and lesbian community. She decided to begin a boutique law firm that specialized in estate planning and family law for the LGBT community.

Baker eventually decided to begin studies at the University of Columbia to receive her L.L.M. Degree and become a full time professor. After graduation, Baker went to Washington, D.C., for the Association of American Law Schools’ hiring conference. She interviewed with Florida Coastal and was instantly drawn to its commitment to the education experience and sense of camaraderie among its faculty. Florida Coastal was at the top of Professor Baker’s list and, after visiting the school, she decided that this was the place for her.

Student Spotlight: Brain Strickland Is A Scholar On and Off Campus

DANIELLA DIAZ
ENTERTAINMENT CO-EDITOR

If you didn’t get enough of Brian Strickland during elections, you’re definitely in for a treat. I had the pleasure of interviewing our newly elected Florida Coastal officer and finding out just how he made the big jump from class legislator to SBA President.

Born and raised on a farm in McDonough, Georgia, Strickland graduated from Valdosta State University in 2006 with a B.B.A. in Economics. He was a Hope Scholarship recipient for his exceptional grades throughout high school and was voted President of the VSU College Republicans, working very closely with the VSU College Democrats and winning a Grass Roots Army Award from the Georgia Association of College Republicans for his participation in the organization.

Strickland is a BAR/BRI representative and will be spending this summer interning with the General Counsel at the Executive Office of the President in Washington, D.C.

Strickland’s participation in undergrad politics made him truly realize his potential as a leader. Aside from being elected into office, he is a recent Florida Coastal Dean’s Scholar and received the Book Award in State and Local Government.

Strickland is relieved that the elections are in the past and is very anxious to work with the other elected officers. He was the frontrunner of the UNITED ticket and said the idea behind the campaign was to bring the entire student body together.

“We’ve made a lot of promises to students about the things we are going to do,” said Strickland. “I believe that our school is at a point where we have good numbers and can brag statistically, but people still don’t know our name. My biggest goal is to improve the value of our degree,” he said. Strickland also plans to get more Florida Coastal students volunteering in the community.

Many students would be surprised to know that coming to law school was a very last minute decision for Strickland. “I didn’t know anything about the law before coming here and was very confused, even with basic concepts. I didn’t even know what an appellate court was,” said Strickland.

He joked with friends during his first year about running for SBA President but never thought it would actually happen. “My first year was really rough, but I got through it and it’s only gone up from there,” said Strickland.

Although Strickland is extremely thankful to his friends for helping him get to where he is today, it’s his faith in Jesus Christ and relationship with Him that really gets him through day-to-day life.

Besides being involved in other school activities, such as the Florida Coastal softball team and Christian Legal Society, Strickland balances his legal commitments while still maintaining some time for himself. For instance, many of his colleagues are unfamiliar with his passion for music. He is a fantastic singer, plays guitar in his spare time, and even took a road trip last semester to Kansas City to see Garth Brooks in concert.

Strickland is an avid Braves fan and he loves to fish. In his spare time, he enjoys visiting his parents back in McDonough and playing on the farm like he did while growing up.
Are You Voicing Your Objections?

PAULETTE LAWRENCE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In life we are faced with tremendous obstacles and difficult situations that we would rather not be a part of. We may be in abusive relationships, hostile work environment, faced with lack of recognition, advancement, and sometimes even the opportunity to be taken seriously. We may be laughed at, ridiculed or simply ignored. We are frustrated because we don’t know where to turn for help or what the next steps should be.

In essence, we are in the courtrooms of our lives, before a jury, the spectators in our unpleasant situations, who are watching the events of our lives unfold. We stand before the judge (an authority figure) whom we hope is really impartial and objective, and if we are lucky, we may have someone with the characteristics of an eloquent defense lawyer who is diligent in looking out for our well-being and overall best interests. We do know that our rights are being violated, that no one is really looking out for our interests, and we yearn for a change. But to create a change, we have to first state our objections, now! We have to speak up and speak against that which is causing pain, pressure, and/or discomfort. Do not suffer in silence and hope that the situation will miraculously turn into utopia. Do not wait until the situation worsens, until there is a woven pattern of abuse that will be hard to unravel. Do not become a willing victim.

Sure, there is often irrevocable harm to one’s reputation in being whiny, the one who is always crying wolf, and those who appear super-sensitive. It is true that you often get more with honey than with vinegar, so that you often get more with honey than with vinegar, so the one who feels the pain. If you do not raise your objections, you will not know that you had an objection. Speak up in a professional and courteous manner, but the first step in effectuating a change is to voice your objection in a timely manner.

The Professional’s Corner

Here are some tips from the Communication and Other Professional Skills Sub-committee of the Professionalism Task Force:

Did you know...

As part of your Character & Fitness Evaluation, the Bar Association will consider your financial history, including writing bad checks?

Making even one spelling or grammar mistake in your resume can eliminate you from consideration for a job?

Employers routinely check candidates’ Face Book and MySpace pages prior to making their hiring decisions?

If you don’t raise your objections, that will be hard to unravel.

There will be an irrevocable harm to one’s reputation in being whiny, the one who is always crying wolf, and those who appear super-sensitive.

Speak up in a professional and courteous manner, but the first step in effectuating a change is to voice your objection in a timely manner.

Interviewers make a decision about you somewhere between the first 40 seconds to the first 4 minutes of the interview. Legal Writing is one of the most important job requirements for legal professionals. You should join some professional organizations as a student to begin the networking process.

Once you accept a job offer, you should withdraw yourself from consideration from other pending employment opportunities.

Being unprepared for a job interview is one of the biggest pet peeves of legal employers.

Answers for Last Issue’s Crossword Puzzle

Across
7 Third way to terminate power of acceptance
10 Elements required for a binding contract
11 A promise, or a set of promises
14 Laws that apply to merchants
16 Employer can fire employee at any time
17 Manifestation of willingness to enter a bargain
18 Stopping an action
19 Remedy as if the contract was performed

Down
1 Consideration given to hold offer open
2 “Unsualled” promise
3 Ultimate contract remedy
4 Second way to terminate power of acceptance
5 Invitation to an offer
6 Remedy that goes back to the starting point
7 Return of all benefits
8 Fourth way to terminate power of acceptance
9 First way to terminate power of acceptance
12 Signed, sealed, and delivered
13 Acceptance upon mailing
15 Solicitors protection

Tell us what you think!

Here at The Rainmaker, we welcome comments from our readers. In order to be considered for publication, letters should not exceed 400 words and must contain the author’s full name and a valid e-mail address. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Send all submissions to therainmaker@fcsl.edu.

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