

The Florida State University College of Law Program in Land Use and Environmental Law — Fall 2008 Update

by Professors Donna Christie, Robin Craig, David Markell, and J.B. Ruhl

The FSU College of Law's Program in Land Use and Environmental Law continues to try to improve upon its top-10 national ranking, according to *U.S. News & World Report*, in terms both of student preparation and success and in terms of programs.

The College of Law and its *Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law* are again sponsoring two *Distinguished Environmental Law Lectures* over the course of the academic year. On October 22, 2008, John Nagle, the John N. Matthews Professor of Law at the University of Notre Dame School of Law, delivered the Fall 2008 Distinguished Environmental Lecture, entitled "The Effectiveness of Biodiversity Law in the United States and Southeast Asia." That lecture may be viewed through the following link: <http://mediasite.oddl.fsu.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=c9ea1e8971b249a5a9cd9f467362804d>. An article based on Professor Nagle's presentation will be appearing in the *Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law*.

Professor Hope Babcock of the Georgetown University Law Center will deliver the Spring 2009 Distinguished Environmental Lecture. That event will occur on February 25, 2009.

In addition, the College of Law's environmental law program and the Florida State Bar's Land Use and Environmental Law Section will sponsor two *Environmental Forums* over the course of the school year. The Fall Environmental Forum was entitled *Balancing Needs? A Look At Big Bend Coastal Development*, and occurred on October 29, 2008. Jennifer Davis, a second-year student and President of the school's Environmental Law Society, introduced the Forum, which featured four experts on Big Bend ecology and development issues. These speakers were: Dr. Markus Huettel, a professor in the Florida State University's Department of Oceanography, whose research interests include coastal ocean sedimentary processes, transport processes at

the sediment-water interface, and the biology and ecology of sedimentary organisms; Howard W. Kessler, M.D., a Wakulla County Commissioner representing District 4 who has served on the commission since 2002; Patrick F. Maroney, the Kathryn Magee Kip Professor at the Florida State University College of Business and Director of the Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management Center; and James "Jim" O'Brien, the Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor in Meteorology and Oceanography at the Florida State University, who founded the University's Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies. Linda Jamison of the Florida State University's Department of Oceanography collaborated with Professor Robin Craig of the law school in planning the Forum. A video of the Forum may be viewed at: <http://mediasite.oddl.fsu.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=20fff6ef7c744e24a910a1d770b82808>.

The College of Law's students continue to train in land use and environmental law in increasing numbers. In May 2008, eighteen J.D. recipients graduated with *Certificate in Land Use and Environmental Law*: Colin H. Adams, Jeffrey S. Ainsworth, Christopher R. Bruce, Morgan G. Bourdat, Colin W. Bennett, Ginette A. Beard, Thomas L. Dickens, III, Matthew I. Flicker, Susan J. Kutkiewicz, Michael G. Green, II, Gregory S. Oropeza, Mary K. McEwen, Malinda Kressel, Lauren R. Moody, Sarah R. Rissman, Ellen L. Wolfgang, Allison R. Starr, Nathaniel A. Romanic.

Moreover, over 100 students are currently enrolled in the environmental law program. Three students will be completing the Certificate Seminar in Fall 2008, while another 12 began their seminar work this semester. Approximately seven students will complete the Certificate Seminar in Spring 2009, while another 18 will be beginning their seminar work.

In addition, our students continue to participate in a variety of externships. Third-year student Howard Fox is completing a full-time extern-

ship this semester with the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. More locally, Andrea Bose is externing at the Department of Community Affairs; Erica Greer Lybrand is externing at the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission; Jeffrey Patenaude is externing at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection; and Sean Seely is externing at the Leon County Attorney's Office.