From the Dean

Last month, as many of you may know, our own FSU President John Thrasher delivered the State of the University Address. In the address, President Thrasher highlighted our University’s commitment to research, innovation, and a culture of excellence. He also emphasized the importance of collaboration and partnerships, which is a key component of our institutional mission. As FSU Law faculty and staff, we are proud to be part of this vibrant and dynamic community.

Our focus continues to be on providing exceptional legal education and training to our students. This includes ensuring that they are well-prepared for their future careers, whether in private practice, government, or academia. This semester, we have launched several initiatives to enhance our curriculum and support student success. For example, our new mock trial competition, the Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Team, is providing our students with hands-on experience and valuable skills.

We are also committed to addressing the diverse needs of our student body. This semester, we have introduced a new program to support our LGBTQ+ students, providing them with resources and a supportive community. We are proud to offer this program, which is designed to create a safe and inclusive environment for all students.

Thank you for your continued support of FSU Law. We look forward to another successful academic year.

Sawela Smith-Gordon Portrait Unveiling

On Thursday, October 27, we celebrated FSU Law alumna Salesia Smith-Gordon’s lifetime of service to our institution. Smith-Gordon was a dedicated alumna who supported FSU Law financially, and her contributions have been instrumental in the growth of our institution. In recognition of her leadership, we unveiled a portrait of Salesia Smith-Gordon, which will hang in the lobby of the College of Law.

The event was a thought-provoking forum, where attendees had the opportunity to hear from FSU Law professor and author Michael Livermore, who discussed his book, "The Power of Capitalism." Livermore’s book, which explores the role of capitalism in protecting the Earth from human-caused climate change, was the focus of the event.

We are grateful to Salesia Smith-Gordon for her dedication to our institution and to the community. We look forward to continuing to partner with Smith-Gordon in the future.

Alumni Profile: Joshua R. Ford (’17)

Joshua R. Ford (’17) is a first-year associate at the law firm of Faraji Ford, P.A. Ford is a second-generation legal professional and earned his law degree from the University of Florida College of Law. After graduating, he served as a legislative fellow for the Florida House of Representatives, focusing on issues related to education and environment.

In his position at Faraji Ford, Ford provides legal counsel on a variety of matters, including corporate law, business transactions, and civil litigation. He is a member of the Florida Bar and the American Bar Association. Ford is also involved in community service, serving on the board of directors for the Tallahassee Bar Association’s Young Lawyer’s Division.

We are proud to highlight Joshua R. Ford’s contributions to our institution and to the legal profession.

Student Profile: Paloma Castaño

Paloma Castaño (’22) is a 1L student at FSU Law. She is currently a student advocate for the College of Law’s Research Center, where she conducts research for a large-scale evaluation project. Castaño is also a member of the Student Advisory Board for the Raising the Bar Professionalism+ Program.

In her studies, Castaño focuses on international law and policy, and she has served as a certified court interpreter in German and English. She also possesses basic French language skills. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Castaño after graduation, please contact her at pcastaño@fsu.edu.

We are proud to highlight Paloma Castaño’s contributions to our institution and to the legal profession.