

## **SPOTLIGHT ON TENNESSEE LAW SCHOOLS**

This year at the University of Tennessee College of Law...

By Chloe Akers

This year marked the 60th anniversary of the College of Law's Legal Clinic. The celebration included a writing workshop for current clinical professors and various scholarly presentations on emerging issues in clinical education. Also as part of the celebration, Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama and professor of law at New York University, delivered a moving keynote address.

While Professor Stevenson's speech at the clinic celebration was applicable to my personal study of criminal law, he was only one of a variety of distinguished and diverse lecturers to visit the law school this past year. Delaware Supreme Court Justice Randy J. Holland, ACLU attorney and voting rights expert Nancy Abudu, and environmental advocate and West Virginia University professor Patrick McGinley, are just a few examples of other speakers students had the opportunity to hear. Also, under the new leadership of Professor Penny White, the Advocacy Center presented lectures from renowned trial attorneys Michael Tigar and James McElhaney.

In addition to the speakers mentioned above the College of Law recently hosted a unique and creative program titled "To Do Justice." A five-hour CLE, the program centered on the war crime trials of the Dachau Concentration Camp. Joshua Greene, a documentarian, author of *Justice at Dachau* and professor of religion at Hofstra University, traced the work of prosecutor Bill Denson. Douglas Bates III, Centerville attorney and UT Law graduate, did the same for his father and lead defense counsel MAJ Douglas Bates II. Interestingly, Douglas Bates IV and William Grady, both third year law students, recreated the closing arguments from the trial.

Also this year, our faculty was supplemented by two visiting professors, both of whom I had the pleasure to learn from in class. In the fall semester James Van Nostrand came to the college from private practice to teach two classes: business associations and energy law/regulated industries. This spring Anne Marie Rhodes visited from Loyola Chicago and taught tax law.

Finally, and perhaps the most exciting news from the law school is the announcement we all have been waiting (and waiting) for. On August 1, professor Doug Blaze will begin serving as the new dean of the law school. Professor Blaze is always a favorite teacher and we all are hopeful to see what the future holds under his guidance and leadership.

As always, the University of Tennessee College of Law continues to grow and evolve to meet the changing needs of a wide variety of student interests. We all are excited to see what the next year has in store.

*Chloe is a 3L at the College of Law. She is currently working as a law clerk for Eldridge & Blakney PC in Knoxville. In the past she has clerked for the California Appellate Project in San Francisco and the District of Columbia Public Defender Service. Following graduation Chloe will work full time with the Philadelphia Defender Association in Philadelphia, Pa.*