The Student Alumni Association’s 12th Annual Law Career Conference (LCC) was held at UCR on Saturday, February 5. This year’s LCC attracted 115 students and 17 alumni participants—the largest law conference to date. Students were eager to hear what the morning keynote speaker, Judge Virginia Phillips ’79 had to say about her career as a judge. Judge Phillips made the historic ruling on “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” the military’s policy banning openly gay persons from serving in the military, declaring it as unconstitutional.

Impressed by the new look of UCR’s campus, Judge Phillips acknowledged how proud she is to be an alumna of one of the most diverse campuses in the country. She explained how she, from an ordinary background with no connections and no extraordinary amount of money, was able to work her way up to become a Federal Court Judge. Students whose interests vary from criminal defense to corporate law listened as Judge Phillips described the field of law. She said that being a lawyer is “not glamorous, but incredibly important,” and that “you are responsible for other people’s lives.” She warned that students who are looking to go into law for the money, the glamour, the prestige of the title and the ease of work will be sorely disappointed. She gave stories from her past cases illustrating the difficulties that lie ahead for those who are pursuing law as a potential career. She described how unglamorous the field really is especially when you often have to witnesses “the waste of human potential.” She also noted that working nights and weekends is a norm. After her enlightening speech, Judge Phillips also allowed for questions from students.

Just as Judge Phillips talked about the difficulties in practicing law, Estuardo Ponciano discussed the challenges that lie ahead in applying to law school. Estuardo Ponciano, Assistant Director of Admissions at UC Irvine Law gave a presentation entitled “Applying to Law School (Things I Wish I’d Known When I Applied)”. The presentation gave very valuable tips for students who are gearing up to begin the process of applying to law schools.

Directly after the morning speeches, students chose to attend two panels focusing on law. The morning panel choices consisted of: Employment and Civil Rights Law, Bankruptcy, Tax and Family Law, Litigation, and Life in the Courtroom. During the panels students learned what an average day of work looked like in various areas of law. Students got answers to questions that they had about law school, finding jobs, and what to expect in the day to day life of a lawyer.
Attendees were given the unique opportunity to talk with alumni individually over lunch. Alumni were dispersed among different tables while students were allowed to sit and network over lunch. This allowed for more personalized conversations and discussions between alumni and students.

The luncheon keynote speaker was Jack B. Clarke, Jr, ’80, prominent Riverside attorney and partner in Best Best & Krieger LLP. Mr. Clarke gave an engaging speech filled with hilarious anecdotes about his times at UCR and his specialization in school law litigation and labor and employment. He clarified what it meant to be a real lawyer. According to Mr. Clarke, a real lawyer is someone who is dedicated to something higher and who sees the profession as more than a means to a paycheck. He expounded on the idea that law is an honorable profession.

After Mr. Clarke’s speech, students attended a second set of panels. The afternoon panels included: Lives you can lead in law, Criminal law, and Researching the case. The LCC wrapped up by raffling off a scholarship to Kaplan.

By the end of the day, students found the LCC encouraging and enlightening. One student, Jacqueline Martinez, stated, “I found it very beneficial to me because it helped me realize that I do want to pursue a career in law. I was unsure, but after talking to a couple of alumni they made me realize that it is possible to make it in that competitive field and that there is always room for change.”

The LCC was a huge success for alumni and students alike. Our alumni were able to experience all of the improvements and changes on campus and students got a realistic insight into the future. The LCC is an important facet of our campus community. It increases the value of the UCR degree and it enhances the connectedness of our alum to our campus.
ASAP Awards

The Student Alumni Association is proud to announce that the organization received four ASAP awards for excellence in programming! Thank you to all the alumni and students whose hard work made this possible!

Interested in Business?

If so, take advantage of what the SAA can do for you by attending our annual Business Career Conference on Saturday, April 16, 2011 in HUB 302. We will be bringing alumni onto campus to talk to students about their profession, and students get a unique opportunity to network and forge useful relationships with successful alumni. Gain valuable information on the GMAT and a number of careers in business. The price is $10 for non-members. SAA members get in for FREE! The Business Career Conference also includes a breakfast and network luncheon in which students can talk to alumni one on one. This year’s keynote speaker is Jerry Swain ’89, founder of Jer’s Chocolates. Also, participants will be entered into a raffle to win a FREE GMAT prep course from KAPLAN! The deadline to register is April 11. Call or visit the Alumni Association to reserve your seat. Space is limited! Members must call 951-827-2586 to register.
On Tuesday, January 25, 2011, SAA was at it again, hosting our second Red Cross blood drive for the 2010-2011 academic year. The Red Cross drove their blood mobile to UCR early Tuesday morning and parked it in front of Olmstead Hall where they remained from 9am to 3pm collecting units of blood from the more than willing student population.

There was an excellent turnout of donors all throughout the day. SAA elicited 72 donor sign ups. Participants received a coupon for a $5 Gift Certificate from Daphne’s Greek Café, two Tickets to the LA Clippers & were entered into a regional drawing for a Vacation Getaway.

At the end of the day 40 good units were collected from the drive. Ultimately, we were able to achieve 95% of our goal of 42 units. These units of blood have the potential to save 120 lives!

SAA is very grateful for the philanthropic students, faculty and staff who waited in line to donate a part of themselves to those in need. The selflessness that everyone illustrated during this event really shows what it means to be a Highlander!

Keep a look out for future SAA hosted blood drives and other medical events. Don’t miss your chance to get involved and make a difference!
Are you a motivated student looking for leadership experience for next year? Are you interested in getting involved in a student organization? If so, then apply for the Board of Directors for the Student Alumni Association! SAA is currently the largest due-paying organization on campus with 510 members. The mission of the SAA at UC Riverside is to provide students with the opportunity to network with alumni and gain valuable insights into their prospective careers. Some of the benefits of becoming an SAA Executive Board Member are that you can get actively evolved in running SAA events, work closely with the alumni and build connections, represent the largest due paying organization on campus, and develop professional skills in yourself and others!

Completed applications must be turned in via email as a Microsoft Word file (.doc or .docx) to jlee155@ucr.edu. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact the office at (951) 827-3438 or Julia Lee at jlee155@ucr.edu. The deadline to apply is 4:00p.m. Wednesday, March 30, 2011. Interviews will take place from Monday, April 4 - Wednesday, April 13. Candidates will be contacted via email with interview dates and times no later than Friday, April 1, 2011 once. If you are chosen for a position you will be required to attend our Business Career Conference on Saturday, April 16 and our Board Retreat on Saturday, May 14.

SAA hosted two general meetings during winter quarter. The first took place on Wednesday, January 25 from 6:00p.m.-7:00p.m. The first general meeting featured Kristin Seiler from Alumni & Constituent Relations. Kristin discussed Alumni Association Scholarships and how the Alumni Association awards $80,000 every year in scholarships.

The second general meeting occurred on February 9, 2011 from 6:00p.m. -7:00pm. This meeting featured alumnus Ken R. Noller ’75 B.A., ’76 T.C., ’84 M.A. Mr. Noller has taught for 33 years in Riverside and currently teaches at Gage Middle School. He was the recipient of the 1997-98 Riverside Unified School District Middle School Teacher of the Year, the C.T.A. Award for political involvement, two Ted Bass Teacher-in-Politics Awards, and four W.H.O. Awards. Many students who were interested in teaching came out to this meeting to learn more about the field, make valuable connections, and seek helpful advice.

SAA’s next general will be held on April 6, 2011 from 6:00-7:00p.m. in Hub 265. We hope to see you there!
Board Members

JULIA:
Before taking on her role as the Student Alumni Association President, Julia served as the Publicity Chair from 2009 to 2010. She is currently serving as an Executive Board Member on the Membership & Marketing Committee and External Relations Committee in the UCR Alumni Association. She is also serving as the Head International Peer Advisor at the International Education Center. During her spare time, she enjoys photography and traveling.

GAURAV:
Gaurav is a second year Business student from Northern California. He is currently the Dinner with Alumni Chair for SAA and is participating in the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program this year. He hopes to go into accounting and get a job with one of the Big Four accounting firms after he graduates.

CHRISTINE:
Christine (noun): a woman obsessed with graphic design, coffee, farmers markets, and peanut butter.

SERENA:
Coming from the small desert town of Barstow, California, Serena's first exposure to city life was made possible by UCR. Besides from being the Public Relations Chair for the SAA, Serena is the Student Conduct Committee Chair and a Peer Counselor at the Academic Resource Center. After she graduates with a Bachelors degree in Business Administration in June, she plans to attend law school.

GAVIN:
Originally from Arcadia, California, Gavin entered UCR in 2009. Apart from being the Business Conference Chair of SAA, he is also Treasurer of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor society, as well as a volunteer tax preparer with VITA/CAP Riverside during tax season. His interests include the automotive industry and basketball.

JONATHAN:
Jonathan grew up in Madrid, Spain and moved to Orange County in his later elementary years. Aside from passionately majoring in Psychology, he is focusing on his pre-medical studies and has interned in international hospitals. He plans on going to Medical School after his studies at UCR.

BRYAN:
Bryan grew up in the Bay Area and is now a junior at UC Riverside. He is currently the SAM (Student Alumni Mentorship) Program Director for the SAA. He hopes to obtain his Masters Degree after graduating from UCR and to pursue a career in foreign affairs.

VICTOR:
Victor originally came to the U.S when he was 5 years old. He went to school in the inner city of Los Angeles. He is the first person in his extended family to attend college and hopes to continue his education with a graduate degree. Although he still has not committed to a specific career yet, he hopes to go into either the Medical Field or College Student Affairs.

LISA:
Lisa likes to constantly challenge herself to reach her highest educational goals. Besides being the Membership Director of SAA, she also has leadership roles in Phi Sigma Pi and UCR Dining Services. Her lifelong goal is to travel around the world and experience life in different cultures.

MAYDELI:
Maydeli Renteria Magana is a third year Art History and Administrative Studies major. She graduated from Hemet High School with Highest Honors and was the recipient of the UCR Carillon Scholarship along with the California Retired Teacher’s Association. She is currently serving as the Law Career Conference Chair on the Student Alumni Association Executive Board and is the treasurer of the Art History Association.