

Thursday

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Stetson University - College of Law

Admissions Live Stream Event - Student Affairs

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[Captioner standing by]

[The webinar will begin shortly, please remain on the line.]

[The broadcast is now starting. All attendees are in listen-only mode.]

>> CARMEN JOHNSON: Hello, everyone and thank you so much for joining us today. This is fantastic live stream we're about to having and it's our 11th installment. We appreciate you hanging out with you as we provide all this information about the Stetson law community and to help prepare you for the fall. And we also continue to celebrate your admission to Stetson University.

Without further ado I want to start by introduction myself. My name a

Carmen Johnson. I'm the Associate Director for Admissions and Diversity Initiatives.

We also have our fantastic Admissions Team joining us as well, including Assistant Dean Karla Davis-Jamison and Darren Kettles. We'll be hearing from Darren shortly because he is going to moderate the questions. So start getting your questions ready and we will start that when Darren comes on.

We also have Isaac Miller who will be helping to facilitate the live stream today.

We are very lucky to have three Student Representatives from the Office of Students affairs. The Office of Students Affairs plays a pivotal role in your experience here at Stetson. We all know that Law School is beyond just the classroom. The Office of Student Affairs gives you the help as you become a leader within the profession and in terms of wellness and more topics beyond that.

So the fun part is that I get to briefly introduce the three presenters we have today, and as they do their presentation, they're going to let you more about themselves so that you can start making some connections with these important people because you will stay in contact with them throughout your experience here at Stetson.

So first we're going to hear from Jenna Kelly. She is our Associate Director of Students Affairs and she is a fantastic resource. And she will be talking about student leadership opportunities and student organizations which play an important role at your time in Stetson as you try to get your footing in what your role as a lawyer will be outside of actual practice.

We're also going to hear from Alicia Norton. She our Student Success Coordinator and when you hear her title, she is part of a very important team here at Stetson Law that focuses on student success. She will be talking about the Student Ambassador Program and mentorship from other students, and also general programming here at the College of Law for Students Services.

And last, but not least, we'll here from Kathryn Pelham. Kathryn is the Associate Director for Accessibility Resources. She is fellow alum. She will be talking about our Accessibility Resources we have here at Stetson, which is a highly regarded program and she has done a fantastic for the equity and belonging for our students throughout the entire community.

So without further ado, thank you all for joining us.

And I'm going to toss it to, Jenna.

>> JENNA KELLY: Thank you, Carmen for that wonderful introduction. I want to share a little bit more about myself just so you know who is talking to you today. As Carmen said, my name is Jenna Kelly and I'm the Associate Director for Student Affairs. I am originally from Wisconsin and I moved down to Florida to attend college. I wish that I could say I had some sort of really academically strategic plan in mind when I moved to Florida, but really it was just about the weather. I think it snowed in the second half of April in Wisconsin this year and that is clearly no way to live, so I ended up in Florida.

I attended the University of South Florida for both my Undergrad and my Master's Degrees. I have my Master's in College Student Affairs, so my first job out of Grad School was in the Office of Student Activities at USF. And I have been at Stetson ever since then in the Student Affairs Office going on,

I'm at about six years, so time flies when you're having fun.

So I'm busy with work and when I am not I have a wonderful husband and a 1-year-old and a 3-year-old, so I'm certainly busy outside of the office as well and sleep has been tough to come by with the two of them.

But that's a little bit about me. I'm excited to be here today and share a little bit with you about what it is that I do and what it is that our office does.

So I'm going to give kind of brief, quick overview of our office and then we will delve into more specific initiatives and programs.

Generally speaking, we like to think ourselves as your touch point to all of the initiatives and services that happen on our college campus, kind of outside of the academic realm. Some of the things we oversee are Student Organizations, which I'll speak to more in a minute. Residential housing, if you were on the webinar a few weeks ago you probably heard from Tracy Rich about residential housing. We oversee a large-scale, traditional campus programs, including orientation.

The health and wellness initiatives largely come from our office, although of course anything that in arena is certainly a collective campus-wide effort. But we oversee intermural sports, which Alicia will speak more to, the fitness classes on our campus, as well as other-related initiatives.

We have a Mental Health Counsellor on campus, Sarah Siegrist, who is wonderful. She is available and free of charge to all enrolled students.

Our office handles Title IX initiatives, as well as our Leadership Program. Again, I will speak in some more detail on that here in just a minute.

And then you'll hear from Kathryn about our Accessibility Resources.

So in addition to all of the things I just mentioned, of course we are really here to connect with you and support you through your Law School journey in whatever way that it is that you might need support.

So we look forward to meeting you all and working with you. And you can see we are a staff of eight, you can see our pictures over there.

And without further ado, I will get into some more Student Org-related stuff.

So we have approximately, give or take, 45 student organizations on our campus. So given the size of our campus community, that's a lot. That really shows how engaged our student population is, which is a great thing.

So we have a variety of different types of organizations, of course. We have affinity groups, such as the Black Law Students Association, the Legal Society, the Hispanic Bar Association, et cetera. A lot of our Student Organizations, of course, are legal focused, they are tied to some area of law. The Intellectual Law Society, the Environment Law Society, so pretty much whatever area in law you are interested in pursuing, more than likely there is a connected organization.

And we, of course, have some special interest groups such as the Part-Time Student Society and the Student Wellness Society.

So a couple more things about Orgs, as I mentioned, we are a really engaged community. I would say on average, Monday through Thursday at noon. That's really that lunch hour break where nobody has class Monday through Thursday, it's really prime time for our student organizations events. We have on average I would say between three and four Student

Organizations events happening every day at noon. They all almost always include food, so that's a nice perk. And they include events such as guest speakers, just general Student Org meetings, networking event, et cetera. So organizations do a lot of really cool things.

And if for whatever reason you realize there's not an organization that kind of fits the niche you are looking for, students have the ability to start their own student organization, which happens every year. We just initiated several new ones this year including the Space Law Society.

So in speaking about the Orgs, for students I always like to give three little tidbits or pieces of advice, if you will, for how to kind of navigate the Orgs.

In the beginning of the year we have a Student Organization Affair. So we always encourage students to attend that and really get a sense of all of the Student Organizations have to offer.

But my three pieces of advice in terms of your 1L first semester year, attending Org events deciding what you want to be involved is choose to go to an event in an area of law that is interested to you. Right? That makes sense. If you are thinking you might be interested in Environmental Law, attend an Environmental Law Association. It's a chance to talk with like-minded students, Professors, et cetera.

On the flip side, I suggestion attending an area of law for which you have absolutely no interest in. Countless times I've heard from students, you know, I thought I wanted nothing do with, say, Tax Law, until I took Tax Law in my 2L, 3L year, but I'm pretty far along. So it's a nice way to dip your toe in the water and see if something may or may not be of interest to you because

oftentimes students are really surprised and it's a good way to test the waters before you get into your 2L and 3L years.

And my last piece of advice is to attend something because it sounds fun because that's important, too. It's learning in and outside of the classroom and it's important to strike a balance between the initiative-focused events and making sure you are doing things because you want to do them and they sound fun. And more often than not, you will learn something in the process as well. That's an important way to connect with students and make sure you are striking the right balance.

So those are my three tidbits as far as how to connect with Student Orgs right away in your first year.

So the other thing I wanted to talk a bit about is the Student Leadership Development Committee and Program. So the committee itself is comprised of a group of Stetson students and what those students really do is they put on a series of programs and initiatives throughout the year that are open to the student population at large to attend in various leadership-related topics. And students who attend enough of those events are able to earn what we call a Leadership Development Certificate upon graduation.

So it's a really cool, kind of, additional outside of the classroom thing to be able to show upon graduation that you've completed.

So in order to complete it, you need 15 credits, which you can earn through -- Alicia, if you want to flip to the next slide -- which you can earn through the monthly luncheons. We have a workshop each semester, as well as a spring retreat, and an essay contest each semester. Each of those things are awarding differing amounts of credits.

All of those programs are rooted in the six pillar, you will see management, communication, service, community, team-building, problem-solving, et cetera.

So like I said, our luncheons happen once a month and feature really great speakers. We like to focus our retreats and workshops on the hands-on interactive components of leadership, to hone your craft and practice your skill. We have gotten some really great feedback about those experiences from students. So I really encourage you to get involved in the program.

You don't have to enroll, per se. You simply begin attending events and we track attendance and credits accordingly. So it's not, you know, a huge commitment if you want to end up attending the first and second luncheon and then you get busy and don't complete the certificate, you are still welcome to attend and we encourage students to do so. So that's a bit about the LDC program.

And the other thing I wanted to highlight is our Student Bar Association. Our Student Bar Association, or SBA, is essentially our Student Government. So they allocate and distribute the SBA fees to various programs and initiatives, and, also, of note to all of our Student Organizations.

So each class has SBA Reps that are 1Ls, 2Ls, 3Ls, our part-time students are all represented within the Student Bar Association.

1L elections happen the first semester of Law School, so if that is something you are interested in, keep an eye on your e-mail for that early in the fall.

Some of the things that SBA does is they host alumni networking events. There's a traditional one in the spring that has grown and grown in popularity. That features our students, alums, Attorneys, so that's a great event to attend. They host socials once a month. Again, this goes back to my "do some things because they found fun." So they host a variety of socials. Some on the beach, some downtown, they try to mix it up so it's appealing to an array of students.

They host Diversity Week. And of course, they host the Barrister's Ball. It's a nice, formal event that happens in the spring. And I've listed committees here because, in addition to some of the more programmatic aspects we have talked about, there are committees that work under the umbrella of SBA. So there is a Diversity Committee specific to SBA. There is a Go Green Committee that focuses on environmental issues. They do a lot of really good work and ultimately kind of serve as the voice for the student body at large.

So I really encourage you to get involved with SBA, even if you're not planning to run as a Rep, to just stay connected to that group and what is going on.

So I am going to be staying on for questions, of course, and I'd be happy to answer any questions you have about Student Orgs, SBA, campus life in general, anything I have touched on here, I'm happy to talk more about.

But at this time, I'm going to throw it to our Student Success Coordinator, Alicia Norton, and she will highlight some of the other initiatives from our office.

>> ALICIA NORTON: Thank you, Jenna. I am Alicia Norton, the Student

Success Coordinator. In November I will have been at the College of Law for 16 years. I started working here because back when I was younger, I wanted to be a lawyer, but I didn't make it to Law School. I did things kind of backwards and had kids and got married, so the second best thing to me is working at a Law School.

This is an amazing place to work! The community is a family and that's why I drawn to it and now that I'm here, I'm even part of a bigger family.

I'm from Lorain County, Ohio. It's a little town called Columbia Station, not many people know where it is. I'm a country girl at heart. I have 29-year-old daughter. I have a 4-year-old granddaughter. And I love spending my time outside of work with family and friends.

And if you every want to talk Tampa Bay Lightning Hockey, come in my office and check out my wall of memorabilia I have and we can talk hockey. And when the season starts again, if you want to watch a game before you come to Stetson, just reach out to me and we can make that happen. I'm a pretty big hockey fan.

So that's pretty much everything about me, so I'm going to continue the presentation talking about our Intermural Sports Program, which is part of the SBA.

So on the SBA Exec board we have Calvin Kuenzel, he oversees the Sports Chairs. We have Sports Chairs for softball, soccer, flag football, tennis, basketball and volleyball. If you are an incoming 1L, if you would like to be a Chair for one of these sports, we encourage 1Ls to participate and it can be part of your program for the years.

Soccer, flag football are played at our small athletic field here. And

basketball is on our basketball Court. We have tennis courts here. And then the volleyball courts in Gulf Cove Beach.

Softball is very popular. There are generally nine or ten teams. The healthy competition that exists on the softball fields on Wednesday nights is amazing. That's one of the pictures from -- actually soccer in the corner. I didn't have anything for softball, but a lot of 1Ls have teams and it's just an amazing way for you guys to get together and to meet the upperclassmen and just get some healthy competition out of your system.

I'm going to talk next about the Stetson Ambassador Program and the Stetson Ambassador Program is key to you. Coming in as 1L students, every 1L student will be assigned a Stetson Ambassador. That will happen late summer, before you come for orientation, and you will connect with your Ambassador. They're going to guide you through your 1L experience. And we pair you with your Ambassador based on a questionnaire we're going to send to you to complete, and that will be sometime in July.

The Ambassadors are amazing resources. They will help you with study habits, with health and wellness. They're going to answer your questions about what's in our community. Where's the grocery store? The cool restaurants? The best places to go to do the different things that you like to do.

And if you have visited campus before, you were likely given a tour of campus by a Stetson Ambassador. You can see they wear the green shirts and they have a cool little name tag. And we want the Stetson Ambassadors to do the campus tours because we want you to have the student experience so you can get all your questions answered through them.

I already spoke on new Student Orientation and the Mentoring Program.

In addition, Stetson Ambassadors assist with alumni events. Any of our campus events and even off campus events of the Florida Bar Association. So if you are interested in being a Stetson Ambassador, those applications will be released in Fall 2021. And we have a fun interview process and it's a great program to be a part of.

Another amazing resource that we have in our office is Counseling Services. In addition to our on campus counselor, Sarah Siegrist, you have the connection of Well Connect, so you can come on campus and talk to Sarah or stay in your pajamas and connect with Well Connect.

We pride ourselves on having counseling and Sarah. When you are through with orientation, you can reach out to her and she is an amazing resource for our campus community.

And I think that's all I have for right now, but I'll be part of the question and answer session, so I'm going to go ahead and toss it off to Kathryn Pelham right now and I will come back and answer your questions later.

>> KATHYRN PELHAM: Hello! I'm Kathryn Pelham. I'm the Associate Director for Accessibility Resources and the ADA Coordinator at Stetson University - College of Law. I'm also an alum. I graduated in 2006 and passed the Florida Bar on my very first attempt. I'm proud of that. I came to Stetson working on Bar Prep. And I've been here almost eight years now and doing ADA work for about three and a half years now.

In practice, I was a Prosecutor. I was a Guardian Ad Litem attorney. I also had the opportunity to hang out my own shingle doing adoptions, as well

as Worker's Compensation for firefighters. My husband is a firefighter for the City of Tampa, so that's near and dear to my heart.

Doing ADA work I have a very unique perspective because I know what it's like to sit on the opposite side of the deck. In fact yesterday, I had an IEP meeting for my daughter. Both of my daughters receive services in school, so I know how anxious and sometimes frustrating it can be to ask for accommodations and to see what's available and what's reasonable.

So I know what it's like to ask for them.

I also know what it's like to have to figure out what's going to work. And so my job is to work with you on an individualized basis, through an interactive process, where we determine based upon your specific needs what is a reasonable accommodation at the College of Law because we want you, and we believe anyone here can be successful at the College of Law and should have equal access to their legal education.

So I work with students with disabilities. I with students who have temporary disabilities. God forbid, knock on wood, you break your hand and need some extra time to type your exams. I also work with students where English is their second language.

So what I'd like to do right now is just walk you through how to register with my office. So I'm going to go ahead and share my screen here. And if you notice, you are on the Stetson Law homepage. Now there are several ways to get to our site, but you can either search for "Accessibility Resources" or you can scroll down to the black band here and here in the column is our "Accessibility Resources." And there we are.

So you will see in the left nav, "Register and Request through the

Accommodate Portal." Accommodate is our software system that we use in order to process all of your accommodation letters.

If you scroll down, you'll find a plethora of information about what you need to know. And the very first thing is a checklist for first time registration. Those are for students who have never requested accommodations at the College of Law before. We need you to create your account in Accommodate. And there is a PowerPoint with a transcript showing you step-by-step how to do it.

The checklist below is very short and simple. We remind you to do a couple of things, review the academic calendar, review related policies. On the registration form itself, it will ask you to acknowledge and certify that you have read and understood certain policies before submitting your request for accommodation.

So you'll look at the documentation guidelines. You'll look at a couple of other policies that are very important.

But number three is where you would go to register for accommodations. And it is a fill-in form. And basically what you will do is scrolling down here, you will find different selections. Depending upon the selection that you pick, it will populate more questions.

In this program, you will have the opportunity to upload medical documentation and all of your letters and e-mails typically come from this program.

Now when should you apply? Usually we open up the registration period the day after the final exam period from the last session. However, during the summer we're going to open it up a little bit earlier for orientation,

as well as earlier programming that may be coordinated right now. I don't have an exact date for you, but we're working on that.

So the other thing I wanted to remind you is that each and every semester, if you receive accommodations at the College of Law, you're going to need to reapply. And what you do is you log into your personal Accommodate account using your Stetson credentials and you just submit a brief renewal.

And so we go through the same interactive process. It could be meeting in person. If you need something new, we could have a discussion about what those needs are based upon your new classes and what the learning outcomes in those classes are.

So I'm here to help. Diane Esty works in our office as our Accessibility Resource Specialist, she is here to help. We want you to be successful. We want you to have every opportunity to go out there and live your dream becoming a lawyer.

So with that, feel free to reach out to us at ada@law.stetson with any questions.

And I'm going to throw it back to Carmen.

>> CARMEN JOHNSON: All righty. Thank you so much, Kathryn. And thank you, Jenna and Alicia, for your presentations. We always learn little things when we hear from you, so hopefully all of the admitted students found the information helpful.

So in the process I'm going to ask Jenna and Alicia to come back on their screens so we can start the question and answer period. This is the fun part where we get to engage directly with you and answer your questions.

Right now we already have some great questions being posted in the question box. We ask you to continue keep your questions coming. And sometimes as you listen, other questions might pop up. We'll use this time to address all of your posts that you input. And if we don't get to something, we'll definitely work to follow-up with you afterwards.

So we can answer quite a few questions about the student experience. And I'm happy to open the floor to Darren so that we can start covering those questions.

>> DARREN KETTLES: Thank you, Carmen.

I, also, wanted to reiterate that I enjoyed that and I always learn so much from our departments on campus. They just do incredible work to keep our students engaged and to give them the experience that, you know, you're expecting. And we want to fill full that for you all.

So I do have some questions, but I thought I would just throw out this general one I have here and maybe to Jenna and Alicia because I think you both kind of emulate what we do in our Admissions Office, too, is to try to listen to our students and give them the best experience and connect them as much as possible because we are a tight-knit community and we will care about you and take an interest in your life.

So maybe between the two of you, including maybe some testimonials, can you share what you hear from most students about their student experience at Stetson? And what make it is kind of unique for them? Because clearly, there's tons of choices and all of our students, as we know, they all have choices and so what makes Stetson sort of unique with our student experience?

>> JENNA KELLY: Sure, I can start. Alicia, feel free to jump in.

I hear often what, Darren, you just said and what all of us have eluded is what really makes it unique is this community feel. As I mentioned, I was at USF before here, both as a student and as a professional, and that's my alma mater. It will always have a special place in my heart. It is very different having come from a large public, or just any larger institution, to the Stetson community. And that extends not only with our staff, but the students and our alum and really just the Stetson network as a whole.

Everyone really, for the most part, really does have each other's best interest at heart.

The other thing kind of anecdotally that I hear from students, the two things I would add, one would be how -- and these are kind of related, but how different offices aren't necessarily in competition with each other to get students to attend their particular programs or events or initiatives. It's really tailored to what makes the most sense for a particular students. For example I oversee Student Organizations.

It makes less sense for a student to take on an Executive Director role within an organization, but it makes more sense for them to really devote their time to a clinic or externship for a particular semester. That's what I encourage them to do.

And that, I think, is the same for all of our campuses -- or all of our offices around campus. And I really think that the students pick up on that and they appreciate it and it really underscores that everyone kind of takes an individualized approach and has the best interest of each student at heart.

And then related to that, more from a student perspective, what I hear

is how uncompetitive of an environment Stetson is for a Law School, relative to other law schools.

You know, we -- this is a secondhand story so I will keep it short, but we had heard oftentimes during orientation from one of our previous Deans who had coached our advocacy teams how they would have two teams from Stetson who made it to a final round competing against one another. And I think in one instance, one of the teams forgot their notes of the brief and the other team ended up running back and getting to them or they had a copy and gave it to them.

That may sound small, but that is not something that happens at every Law School, for sure. So of course, there is some inherent competition built into the structure of a Law School and that's kind of a given. But I think our students really appreciate that other students and the community at large really kind of minimize that.

Alicia, I don't know if you have anything to add.

>> ALICIA NORTON: [No audio]

>> KATHYRN PELHAM: While Alicia is working on her technical difficulties, you can tell you personally as an alum, the relationships I made during my Law School experience have lasted me a lifetime. My best friend practices in Georgia as an attorney. As a matter of fact, I just received a call on Monday from an alum who graduated two years ago, wanting to update me on what he was doing in his life after he did a Federal clerkship and now he is in JAG working as a Prosecutor in the Army. Those relationships are priceless and that's what sets Stetson apart from any other Law School.

>> DARREN KETTLES: Okay, it looks like Alicia is having a little bit of

technical difficulty with her laptop, so I'm just going to carry on with the next question and when Alicia is able to join us, then we certainly will have that.

While you were talking, Jenna, there was a question from one of our students that they wanted to know about the Leadership Certificate a little bit more that we offer at Stetson. We believe the JD is a professional degree, but it's also a Leadership Degree and we really emphasize and we really want to highlight that as part of your education to develop those leadership skills.

So can you kind of elaborate a little bit more on the Leadership Certificate? And the particular question, is it a free thing to participate in while you are at Stetson? So if you wouldn't mind touching on that.

>> JENNA KELLY: Of course. Great question. To answer the low hanging fruit of that piece of that question, yes, it is absolutely free to attend any of the SLDC, or Student Leadership Development Committee Programs, absolutely.

But as Darren mentioned, you know, we really pride ourselves on helping to foster and develop the whole student. And part of that picture, of course -- a large part of it is what happens in the classroom. But a piece of that, certainly, is what happens outside of the classroom and so what the SLDC program really, really tries to get to, I think at its core, is to develop some of the leadership skills that you may not necessarily get from a classroom experience.

For example, you know, with some of our workshops and retreats, we'll focus on team building, just basics on, you know, how do you run a meeting? How do you have difficult conversations with whether it be bosses or peers that you have come into conflict with? You know, those types of issues and

trying to navigate them kind of in a real practical way.

So the hope with the program is to introduce some of these concepts and give students the skills and some of the tools to be able to build upon what they're learning in an academic environment and be able to compliment that with some strategies to be able to be successful, you know, kind of once they have graduated and they are in the real world and dealing with things other than just having to intellectually know material. So that's really what the program prides itself on.

To speak a little bit more to how the credits work, I think I mentioned there are monthly lunches, those are each worth one credit. Our workshop is usually two hours and worth two credits. So if you are following the trend, it's roughly one credit for the amount of hours investment. And our Saturday retreat is an all-day thing worth five or six credits.

And we try also to be pretty conducive to whether it be our part-time or non-traditional students or really just any student who can't necessarily make the times of our programs, we offer essay contests as a way to earn credits. And we do record our monthly luncheons and make those available to view if you weren't able to attend in person.

I'm happy to answer any more questions if you have any specifics, but in nutshell, that's really what the program is aimed at doing. And, again, I mentioned I oversee it. It is a group of students who actually sit on the committee so it is student-driven as well.

>> DARREN KETTLES: Alicia, it looks like you are back with us.

>> ALICIA NORTON: I am. So sorry.

>> DARREN KETTLES: Alicia has been one of these people that has

been at Stetson since I've been there and I've been here a long time, too. She has really great relationships with the students, too. So circling back to the question of the student experience. People come in and they are nervous and trying to find out where a good allocation of their time is.

If someone comes in with a blank slate of, you know, how do I do this? Have you seen people that made good choices and you just saw them catch their stride while they got in Stetson and they really felt they were an integral part of the community and really developing in a good way? Can you maybe share a story or so about that?

>> ALICIA NORTON: Yes and recently we had the Ambassador interviews. We did them over teams this year. But the first question we asked every applicant was, why Stetson? The answers we got ranged from, I came for the campus tour and I was sold, the beauty of the campus, the engagement of the people while they were visiting, the campus tour itself.

Someone said when you go to a tour on a college campus, they are selling you. They are trying to sell you the product, but with Stetson, they are selling you what reality is. When you get here, how you are treated on your tour and your admission process and through that is how you are treated on campus.

And the custodians and faculty treat you the same. They walk in the hallway. They know your name. When you come to Stetson, you need to meet Danny. Danny will know your name, remember the sports that you like and he just, I don't know, he is the pride of Stetson. I think he is the pride of Stetson.

And some other things that were talked about in the Ambassador interviews is the Advocacy Program and Writing Program. Some people come

for different reasons. They come to be on a team or they come to write on a journal. And just the family community feel that they have, I know we have said that a lot, but it really does happen at Stetson.

>> DARREN KETTLES: Okay, great. Thank you.

So this one is now for Kathryn Pelham. So it's kind of a two-prong question. So the question that came through was, what testing accommodations are available for students with learning disabilities? And what are the accommodations for those who have English as a second language?

>> KATHYRN PELHAM: So I'm going to take the first part. It really runs the gamut. It depends on what your needs are. I can tell you some traditional accommodations include extra time, reduced distraction learning environment. Depending upon what your needs are, if you need to stand during an exam because you have a physical disability. We do provide a desk so you can stand while taking your exam. So it runs the gamut.

Part of my job is to really get to know you and to the extent you are comfortable the information that you share with me to figure out what accommodations are going to help level the playing field for you on that exam in that class and for each one of your classes.

Now for English as second language students, we actually have a policy for that, so when you fill out the form, if you are applying as English as second language, it will ask you to certify and acknowledge that you understood and read that policy, but basically there are testing modifications available. And that includes additional time on your exam and the use of a non-legal paper dictionary during the exam.

>> DARREN KETTLES: Okay, great.

And so there was another question sort of related to that and it was around the idea of note-taking. And I know that's something we do on campus as well, so can you kind of talk about more a little bit as another resource for our students?

>> KATHYRN PELHAM: Absolutely. So we have various forms of note-taking assistants on campus. The first one, the traditional one is having another student in the class take notes and share those notes with you. They are for your eyes only.

I have students apply, I screen their notes, and they receive not only pro bono hours for that service. It is also anonymous, so you won't know who the note-taker is and they won't know who you are. And all of that is housed on Accommodate. You will have a note-taker tab and login and click on which class you want and download the notes. And they are available to you for the rest of semester.

Another option we have, and we piloted it last fall, I want to say, is Sonocent, it's a note-taking software. It's fantastic! I used it when I attended a conference and you can upload PowerPoints to it. You can upload electronic documentation to it.

What it does is it's a license for your laptop that records the Professor and you can color-code the bars where the Professor is speaking. So if the Professor says, this is the Rule of Law in the case, maybe you want to color that black. That's the black letter law.

Or if this going to be on the exam, you are color that pink because you want to be able to sort and go to the most important parts of those lectures to

supplement your notes or do something that you might not have quite figured out in class.

>> DARREN KETTLES: Great. That's helpful. I didn't know how that actually worked, so thank you for that.

Just going to pivot a little bit, I do have a question regarding student mentoring and as students enter Stetson, you know, we did talk about everyone is kind of nervous and it is nice and we've established a Mentoring Program, too. I know this last year's incoming class, we actually developed a program and we can talk about it a little bit more, but it's matching incoming students with Stetson alumni, who are practices in different areas.

And as students know, when you submit your application, you can talk about your areas of interest and we do our best to try to match up students with alumni mentors. So I know that's one part. And we can certainly answer more questions about that for our students, too.

But can you talk about other types of mentoring? I'll throw it to you, Jenna, and you, Alicia, can you talk about that?

>> JENNA KELLY: Sure. Darren, you just mentioned what was the Pilot Program last year, which I think was definitely a success and I know we hope to continue to build upon.

As far as formal mentoring, I'll defer that to Alicia who can speak a little bit more to -- I know she touched on it, but she can speak a little bit more to the Ambassador mentor relationship that's formalized.

But just in general, a lot of, again, kind of informal mentor relationships are formed through our student involvement opportunities.

So Student Organizations is a great way for you to meet some of the

upper level classmen, you know when you start your 1L year, you are not only with specifically just 1Ls, but with your section. So it can be challenging sometimes to meet some of the, you know, 2 and 3L students.

And the advantage of that, of course, is they have already been through what you are going through and can offer some advice from a student perspective. Maybe they had a Professor that you currently have and they have some insight into how, kind of how to best navigate that class.

So a lot of that outside of the two formal students that we've mentioned tend to happen organically when you are putting yourself in a position to be able to interact with some of those upperclassmen. So I would encourage you, whenever possible, to attend Student Org events, to get involved in the Student Bar Association, to attend really on campus events or initiatives in which there is kind of a mix of students and let those relationships kind of organically form. And, you know, to the same end, I would say that a lot of our students have really formed, kind of unofficial, mentor relationships with members of our faculty and staff as well.

And I think it goes back to, you know, what we have kind of been underscoring that entire time how we really are a close-knit community where people want to get to know you on an individual level and I think that type of community really lends itself to kind of organically setting up these mentor relationships because when people know a little bit more about you, you tend to find some common ground and kind of be able to establish a relationship there.

So like I said, you know, from the student involvement perspective, get involved as much as you can. Speak with your faculty members after class.

If you just go to class, kind of do your thing and leave, I would say you are not fully taking advantage of the wonderful faculty that we have. So put yourself in the position to be able to kind of organically create some of those mentorships.

And Alicia, I know you touched on it, but maybe you want to talk more about the details about the Ambassador Mentor Program.

>> ALICIA NORTON: Definitely. As I stated, as part of step one of the online orientation curriculum, you will complete what is called a mental ranking sheet. And that information will be disbursed to our co-mentors and they will pair you together based on personal interests, legal interest, undergraduate, hometowns, there's so much criteria. And you'll rank how you would want to be mentored. And that's going to give them a foundation to assign you a mentor.

The good thing -- the cool thing about the Stetson Student Ambassador Program is that even if you are assigned a mentor, if you're in a group and that mentor is like, you know what, this person really would be better paired with, you know, Elizabeth or John or somebody, they will navigate you there. So you're going to have one stop shopping with your mentor, but they're going to point you in the direction where you want to go.

So if you, like I said, legal writing or advocacy, they will put you in touch with the Ambassadors or the department that can help you during your journey here.

And even though we say your Ambassadors are your mentor for one year, those relationships develop and they usually last throughout your Law School career. So

I have a soft spot for it because I'm the staff advisor to the program. The Ambassadors are amazing! If you want to know anything, find an Ambassador and they will direct you where you need to go.

>> DARREN KETTLES: That's the truth. They are student leaders on campus and there to help, just like we are in the Admissions Office. You can clearly see we will be there for you if you don't know where to go for something. Come to one of our offices and we will walk you over to where you want to go. That's just who we are.

I'll get to orientations for a couple questions.

One of the questions was, Kathryn had mentioned pro bono requirements Stetson has for our students and why we value that program. I mean, I've seen literally these kinds of opportunities translate into somebody's first law job right out of Law School.

So if you would touch on that, Kathryn, and talk about your experience, what you do pro bono while at Stetson.

>> KATHYRN PELHAM: Absolutely. With the pro bono program, there's a requirement that each student has to complete 60 hours pro bono. 30 of those hours have to be classified as legal and the other 30 can be classified as non-legal.

It was a long time ago, I'm trying to remember what I did for my pro bono. I do remember doing some research for Professor Henderson in her National Institute for Science Technology in the Law. I also participated in the Prosecution Clinic. It's really a semester-long internship. I got to handle cases and that's how I got my first job right out of Law School.

There's a pro bono page. There's plenty of opportunities.

Of course, near and dear to my heart, I ask students to be note-takers. It's a great way to help serve your Stetson community, as well as provide a vital service to our students.

So pro bono is about giving back to the community. I think I'm a glutton for punishment for public service. I was a public servant, I married a firefighter. A lot of people enter law because there's a need out there that is not met and if we have the ability to do so and pay is forward, that's what pro bono is all about.

>> ALICIA NORTON: And if I could add to that, in addition to what Kathryn has said, there are numerous Legal Aid organizations in the area and a lot of our students volunteer there. They can get their legal pro bono hours there.

There's a significant program that the Tax Law Society and ABA undertakes in the spring is the Tax Law -- the Writing Tax Law Assistance Program. If you are interested in taxes or you don't know if you are interested, you go through a training, you are able to do taxes for underprivileged, low income families in the area. All those hours count as legal pro bono.

And you'll see the pro bono site on Engage and you'll be able to access a lot of the organizations that we already have partnerships with. We already have those, but if you have an organization that is not part of our partnerships, let us know about it, we'll add them to the list and you can just continue with your organization. And when you are a student, get non-legal or legal pro bono with it.

>> KATHYRN PELHAM: And one more thing to add on to that is as a member of the Florida Bar, Attorneys are expected to do pro bono work, to

give back to the community as well. So as a professional, that is one of the expected requirements for the legal profession.

>> DARREN KETTLES: I know I've heard over the years, too, some of the good work our students have been doing with pro bono. Some of them working with migrant farmers who needed help. Stetson is a very military-friendly with our Veteran's Law Institute and I know many students have assisted Veterans with their legal questions and taxes as well. Real great stuff what our students get involved with and the breadth of it.

I have heard our previous Deans about how many pro bono hours our students have given back to the community. It's like 35,000 hours, it's some unfathomable number.

Regarding orientation, what is it going to be like? And can you give some of these students an idea of what they can expect? And what is the best way to prepare for that?

So, you know, maybe Jenna or Alicia could maybe field that question.

>> ALICIA NORTON: Yeah, absolutely. I'm actually part of the orientation committee, which is made up of Dr. Hudson, the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, the Associate Dean of Academics, Jason Bent, and numerous faculty members.

We are in the process of working on your curriculum. The online curriculum will go live sometime in July. You will have two Stetson online curriculum which will be getting to know the policies and procedures. We do put a bibliography on the page of some readings you might want to take on over the summer to prepare yourself.

If you haven't already, you can sign up for the prematriculation class

they will be having as part of Admissions. You can do that.

And then we will have an on-campus orientation. And I'm saying that because we hope to have on-campus orientation. We are planning for a variety of issues. We're all going to be on campus doing orientation. We're going to do hybrid. Some are doing it on campus, some online. It will look a little unique this year. We are still in the planning phases.

But, yeah, to get prepared I would say enjoy some casual reading because once you start your law classes, you wouldn't have time for casual reading. So take some time for yourself because when you start at Stetson, it's going to be more than a full-time job, but it's manageable. You guys can do it.

Kathryn, if you want to add, what did you do to prepare before you started?

>> KATHYRN PELHAM: I remember I got my acceptance letter on my birthday. It was the best birthday present ever. And what I did was I read a couple of books, and I believe Professor Adams has a book out, and the name is escaping me, but it has something to do with how to succeed in Law School. Right?

So reaching out to Academic Success is also really important. They can help set you up and the Law School classroom is a different experience than Undergrad. It's a professional school and so more self-directed learning is expected and so they can also help you develop those skills in order to prepare for Law School.

>> DARREN KETTLES: Okay, great.

So we do have a couple of questions regarding, you know, what's

going to happen in the fall and I know you have kind of eluded to that, Kathryn, there, too.

Maybe the Dean of Enrollment, Dean Davis-Jamison, she might pop on. I saw a couple of questions regarding what the announcement and what our plans are for fall.

At this point we are planning for on-campus orientation and enrollment, but we don't know exactly, we have not heard exactly the final decision. There's just a multitude of conversations, high level, in detail conversations going on.

And I don't know if Dean Davis could pop on and maybe just sort of reiterate because she has had, of course, exclusive conversations with the Dean about this. And I want to make sure it gets addressed because we want to keep you as up-to-date as possible.

>> KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: Yeah, no problem, Darren.

We have had a lot of questions regarding the plan for fall. It's high on everyone's list. It's even, I think, the most popular question for those of us who are already here, you know? So we certainly recognize it is a big question for those of you who will be joining us.

Our Dean Michele Alexandre is working very hard to make plans for the fall and contingency plans, so we have several different options based on what we're learning from CDC and Federal Regulations in terms of keeping our community safe.

She is working with, you know, guidance from our main University, so she is working closely with the President, the President Elect, and the Provost in order to make determinations for the fall.

In so doing, as I think Alicia eluded to, we're exploring lots of options. But the goal, our preference is we are back on campus, face-to-face, in person, and in a traditional format for starting your fall -- starting your experience in Law School. We hope that is possible, but we're planning in case it is not.

She is planning to make announcements in June. If any of you joined us for her live stream a couple of weeks ago, she indicated that she would have an update and provide announcements in June. You know, hopefully soon in June, but certainly not -- by the end of June she will be updating the community, including you admitted students, as to what our plan looks like for the fall.

So, you know, we realize that doesn't give you a whole lot of comfort, but we hope that, you know, just knowing that planning is underway and in progress and that updates are forthcoming and we hope that is helpful.

And she is probably going to deliver communication in a variety of different formats. That communication will come as an e-mail, written, she will likely also do some type of webinar to respond to questions, so just watch your inbox, your e-mail inboxes, so that you know what that update communication strategy is so that you have full opportunity to participate in the conversation.

I hope that helps.

>> DARREN KETTLES: No, that's great, Dean Davis. Thank you for that. I did get a couple questions for that, too.

While you are there, you know, not to put you on the spot, but there's a couple questions regarding our new Summer Enrichment Program and I know

we just launched invitation for that. Somebody asked about, you know, what -- if you could kind of maybe elaborate a little bit more on that and if you could just sort of clarify regarding the deposits being separate from, you know, the other deposits.

>> KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: Sure, sure, sure. Let me make sure I get the name of the program right, the Intro to Practical Legal Skills Program.

>> DARREN KETTLES: That's it.

>> KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: It's actually a workshop, not a program. And that begins June 19th and runs through July 2nd. So it's a ten day workshop. We just rolled out the communication for invites yesterday, so you are probably seeing that hit your inboxes now.

The workshop is an opportunity to engage with faculty and alumni prior to starting orientation. So it is a separate workshop, separate and distinct from orientation, online orientation. It is not intended to be a part of the orientation curriculum at all.

It is an opportunity though for you to begin building relationships with, as I said, faculty. Michele Alexandre, our Dean, will be teaching and participating in the workshops, so you'll have an opportunity to engage with her directly, which is exciting.

Associate Dean Jason Bent, Professor Adams -- Professor Kristen Adams, Professor Brooke Bowman, those are some of the faculty who are slated to teach and interact with students in this interactive workshop.

And it should be a great way for you to learn what it means to be a Stetson lawyer [audio froze], get a foundation for what you are getting into, what this experience will feel like.

It will be an online program, so it is a virtual, interactive workshop, and it's intended really to just, you know, make you feel a little bit more comfortable and confident as you start this process.

We are asking to register if you are interested in this workshop by June 3rd, so next Wednesday. And once you have registered by June 3rd, you are then required to commit to the program, to the workshop, by submitting a deposit, a \$500 deposit which will be applied to your student account, and then that credit will go towards your fall tuition. So it's a deposit toward your student account and it's just going to be held there until your Fall tuition is billed.

The workshop deposit, \$500, I think I mentioned that. And that will be due June 10th. So you have an additional week in order to submit that deposit.

And you go through the same deposit payment process that you use to secure your seat for the fall. So there's a deposit form that you would access through the landing page that we provided you and it's the same process you undertook to submit your deposit for Fall.

I hope that answers all of your questions. There won't be any, you know, you don't have to purchase any materials or books for the workshop. All of the material that you will need will be provided to you electronically and in a digital format.

>> DARREN KETTLES: Okay. Super. Thank you, Dean Davis, that's really helpful. And hopefully we can see some of you participating. We would love to have you part of this as we launch this. We have spent countless hours developing stuff that will be so enriching for all of you.

I think we are getting towards the end of the stream here and I'm going to invite Carmen back on to kind of wrap things up and encourage you all to revisit our previous streams that are all posted on our admitted student portal. By all means, if you want to go back and revisit some of those, I highly recommend that.

But you guys were all just terrific, so thank you very much for everything you did.

And I'm signing off, and Carmen, it is yours.

>> CARMEN JOHNSON: Thank you so much, Darren, for moderating the questions.

And thank you to our admitted students for asking great questions. I think we covered a lot of topics. I think our panelists will agree we covered a lot of topics today so great work everyone.

And also thank to Dean Davis-Jamison for popping on and answering some of the other questions.

Everyone, great work!

I do want to make sure we announce our next live stream coming up, it's going to actually be Thursday, June 11th at noon and it will focus on providing more information to our part-time admitted students. We have a live stream just for you.

Or, admitted students that have questions about the Part-Time Program or would like to learn more information about that. And you'll be engaging directly with current part-time students, so you'll just have a live stream to yourselves to be able to cover some great information.

So with that being said, thank you, again, Jenna, Alicia, and Kathryn for

your wonderful time and for answer those questions.

And thank you all to our admitted students. We look forward to seeing you next time.

And if you have any additional questions, feel free to get in contact with us. Hopefully we have your permission, panelists, we can get you in contact with these three wonderful representatives today.

So with that being said, we're going to sign off today. I hope you have a wonderful day and stay safe, everyone! Take care.

>> KATHYRN PELHAM: Bye.

[Live stream concluded]

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