The Greenwall Foundation awarded Georgia State University College of Law a grant to develop a model undergraduate bioethics course that seeks to engage diverse students’ interest in bioethics issues as well as support students who wish to pursue post-graduate education. Leslie Wolf, interim dean, Center for Law, Health & Society director, Distinguished University Professor and professor of law; Paul Lombardo, Regents’ Professor and Bobby Lee Cook Professor of Law; and Courtney Anderson, associate professor of law, will offer the course in the Georgia State Honors College in Spring 2020.

“We hope to inspire more students from underrepresented communities to incorporate bioethics into their studies and careers by demonstrating the salience of bioethics for these communities,” said Anderson.

Continued on page 2
2019 marks the 15th anniversary of the Center for Law, Health & Society at Georgia State Law and we haven’t slowed down a bit! It has been a busy year, including several title changes. Our law school dean Wendy Hensel is now the university provost and I am interim dean. Jonathan Todres is now a Distinguished University Professor. Lisa Bliss will be in the Czech Republic as a Fulbright Scholar this fall. In the meantime, we hosted our inaugural symposium for the Journal of Legal Medicine, our faculty members received two grants, and faculty members, graduates and students engaged in a variety of other exciting activities.

Best wishes,

Director, Center for Law, Health & Society

Diversity in Bioethics

Cases involving abuses of minority populations are staples of traditional bioethics courses. While the new course will not ignore this history, Wolf, Lombardo and Anderson intend to focus on positive examples within bioethics, particularly the work of minority scholars. Highlighting this work will also provide successful role models for students. There will be one public lecture in each year of the two-year grant showcasing the work a minority scholar working in bioethics.

The grant complements work being conducted by the new Georgia State Center for the Advancement of Students and Alumni to increase the number of minority students who successfully enter and complete a Ph.D., M.D. or J.D. program. “We look forward to working with CASA in helping students explore bioethics graduate work as part of their doctoral programs,” said Wolf. In addition to supporting the development of the new course, the grant will fund three students in a summer bioethics research project. Wolf, Lombardo and Anderson have also committed to mentoring students through the graduate school application process.

The professors know that many of the students in the course ultimately may not pursue a career in bioethics, so they intend to illustrate how bioethics principles can be applied in other contexts. “Students who take this course will learn how to systematically evaluate complex problems through the lens of ethics,” said Lombardo. “We think it will help them make better decisions, whether they end up working in business, health care or government.”

“Georgia State is an ideal place for this project,” said Wolf. “It is a national leader in supporting the success of its diverse student population, has a strong bioethics and health law faculty, and a history of collaboration with Atlanta’s historically black colleges and universities. If our work is successful, we will collaborate with other schools to adapt and implement this kind of bioethics course.”
Hensel Named University Provost, Wolf Named Interim Dean

Wolf is a leading national scholar in health law, public health and ethics, with a focus on research ethics. Her research has appeared in some of the most prestigious law and medical journals in the country and is widely cited nationally and internationally. In 2016, Wolf was appointed to a four-year term on the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections. That committee provides input on federal policy, making recommendations on the protection of human subjects in research to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Wolf joined the faculty at the College of Law in 2007 and was jointly appointed in the School of Public Health in 2015. In 2014, she was named director of the Center for Law, Health & Society. Under Wolf’s leadership, the center has grown to 12 full-time faculty members and is now ranked No. 2 in health law.

Wolf’s leadership and vision helped establish a foundation for Georgia State’s new master of jurisprudence degree with a concentration in health law for non-lawyers.

“I will continue to provide overall leadership for the center while taking on this new role,” Wolf said. “Fortunately, my health law colleagues will help ensure that the work of the center will continue uninterrupted.”
Jonathan Todres, professor of law, was one of only three Georgia State University faculty members named Distinguished University Professor in 2019. This prestigious honor recognizes faculty members who have an exemplary record of scholarship and a history of substantial contributions to the University and their field.

Todres is also the 2019 recipient of Georgia State Law’s Patricia T. Morgan Award for Outstanding Faculty Scholarship. This award recognizes faculty who have compiled a significant record of outstanding research and scholarly activity over the previous two years. Todres is the only professor to receive this award twice, the first time in 2011. Todres’ scholarship in the areas of children’s rights and child trafficking has been widely cited by both scholars and practitioners.

Todres is a leading voice on children’s rights law. He co-wrote Human Rights in Children’s Literature: Imagination and the Narrative of Law (Oxford University Press, 2016), which bridges children’s rights law and literature to explore how children understand their rights and the rights of others. Last year, Todres received a Fulbright Award to build on this research, spending a semester in residence at University College of Cork School of Law in Ireland.

He is also among the world’s foremost experts in child trafficking. His forthcoming book Preventing Child Trafficking: A Public Health Approach (Johns Hopkins University Press, Fall 2019) applies a public health framework to advance efforts to reduce trafficking and create more effective responses to the problem.

Todres is also a success in the classroom. Numerous students report that Todres’ courses in public health, children’s rights and family law are among the most meaningful aspects of their law school education. In 2017, he created a spring break study abroad course in Costa Rica exploring how children’s rights law is implemented in practice which was also offered in 2019 (see page 13).

Beyond the law school, Todres is active with a number of professional associations and nongovernmental organizations. He serves on the Board on Children, Youth, and Families of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, and previously served as chair of two sections of the Association of American Law Schools. Locally, Todres is a board member of the Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network.

“Professor Todres is a dedicated teacher and exceptional scholar whose interdisciplinary, cross-cutting research has significant reach and impacts local, national and international communities,” said Wendy Hensel, then dean of Georgia State Law. “This appointment as Distinguished University Professor is well-deserved.”

Lisa Radtke Bliss, clinical professor and associate dean of experiential education and clinical programs at Georgia State Law, has been named a Fulbright Distinguished Chair.

Bliss, who is also co-director of the Health Law Partnership (HeLP) Legal Services Clinic at Georgia State University College of Law, will teach students enrolled in the Human Rights Clinic and the Patients’ Rights Clinic at Palacky University in Olomouc, Czech Republic this fall. She will foster development of teaching excellence workshops, individual consultations and other academic events focused on experiential methodologies and innovative teaching techniques.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government to build lasting connections between the United States and other countries. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected based on their academic and professional achievements, record of service and demonstrated leadership in their respective fields. The Fulbright Distinguished Chairs Program comprises about 40 of the 800 awards given in 2019-20 and are viewed as among the most prestigious appointments in the Fulbright Scholar Program.
Each year, contaminated foods—from infected milk and poison hamburgers to rotten eggs and tainted spinach—cause 48 million illnesses, 128,000 hospitalizations and 3,000 deaths in the United States. In his new book, Outbreak: Foodborne Illness and the Struggle for Food Safety (Chicago University Press 2019), Georgia State Distinguished University Professor and professor of law Timothy Lytton examines how devastating foodborne illness outbreaks have spurred steady scientific and technological advances in food safety.

Lytton also does a deep dive into the politics of food safety regulation. “In the U.S., there’s an ongoing pitched battle between liberals, who believe that the government should pass aggressive regulations to protect the public, and conservatives, who think that the government should not interfere with successful businesses,” said Lytton. “However, if you really want to understand how regulation works in the U.S., it’s a mistake to get caught up in this debate about the bugaboos of big government and big businesses. Regulation is more complicated than that. As the food safety system demonstrates, effective health and safety regulation requires extensive collaboration between government agencies and private industry.”

The book identifies several major challenges to better food safety policy. Inadequate agency budgets restrict the reach of government regulation. Pressure from consumers to keep prices down constrains industry investments in safety. And the limits of scientific knowledge leave experts unable to assess policies’ effectiveness and whether measures designed to reduce contamination have actually improved public health.

Outbreak offers practical reforms that will strengthen the food safety system’s capacity to learn from its mistakes and identify cost-effective food safety efforts capable of producing measurable public health benefits.

When asked which of these might have the greatest impact, Lytton highlights two. First, he advocates for greater investment in the national surveillance system that identifies outbreaks and facilitates investigations into their root causes. “Without good surveillance and investigation, we’ll never achieve a good understanding of how much illness there is and what’s causing it—everything else depends on that,” he said.

Lytton’s second recommendation is to take a more experimental approach to regulation, doing a better job evaluating whether new regulations have worked. “Before the FDA or USDA pass a regulation, they hire experts to develop economic models and project whether the benefits will outweigh the costs. But afterwards, they spend little or no money figuring out whether the regulation worked. We need to spend more money on the back end evaluating the impact of new policies on human health.”

Leading food policy commentator Marion Nestle wrote that “Foodborne illness may seem like an intractable problem, but Lytton’s suggestions for dealing with it are well worth attention, as is everything else in this beautifully written, thoughtful, and readable account. I couldn’t put it down.”

READERS CAN FIND THE FULL INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR TIMOTHY LYTTON, FROM WHICH THIS ARTICLE IS ADAPTED, ON THE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY NEWS HUB.
Lombardo Speaks at National Constitution Center to Mark Eugenics History

Paul Lombardo, Regents’ Professor and Bobby Lee Cook Professor of Law, appeared in a panel at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on May 2, the 92nd anniversary of the Supreme Court’s decision in Buck v. Bell, in a program entitled “A Dangerous Idea: The History of Eugenics in America.”

Following a screening of clips from the documentary film “A Dangerous Idea: Eugenics, Genetics and the American Dream,” Lombardo joined Andrew Kimbrell, the film’s executive producer; and Dorothy Roberts, professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania, for a conversation exploring the dark history of eugenics and the Constitution. The panel was moderated by Jeffrey Rosen, professor of law at George Washington University and president and CEO of the National Constitution Center. The panel also included prize winning author and journalist Daniel Okrent, whose book The Guarded Gate, an analysis of the eugenically-tinged 1924 Immigration Restriction Act, was released the same week.

Lombardo answered a question from the crowd assembled at the Constitution Center, asking if Buck was the 20th century equivalent of the 19th century Dred Scott decision, which declared that black Americans were not “people” under the Constitution. Lombardo responded, “I would be happy to put both the Dred Scott decision and the Buck case in the Supreme Court’s Hall of Shame.”

Thompson’s Tweets Spark Public Engagement

On June 5, NPR Morning Edition host Cokie Roberts produced a segment on abortion laws. She claimed that the history of abortion was “as fraught as the politics,” and that historians who study abortion have exaggerated the fact that abortifacients and birth control items were widely advertised in 19th century newspapers because, as she told the host that day, she looked it up and did not find anything.

Lauren Maclvor Thompson, an expert on the history of birth control and abortion, faculty fellow in the Center for Law, Health & Society and lecturer at Perimeter College, went on Twitter to correct the record. In a 19-tweet thread that was retweeted and liked thousands of times, she explained that advertisements used coded language such as “female regulators” or “mother’s friend” to describe contraceptive and abortifacient products and were ubiquitous in 19th century newspapers. After the thread went viral, NPR posted a retraction and deleted the comment from the audio and transcript, while Thompson received several media inquiries on the subject. She has since been quoted in The Atlantic and other news outlets, received requests for op-eds and has been featured on the women’s radio show Sophie’s Parlor.

“The legal and social history of women’s reproductive rights before Roe v. Wade can help us understand current efforts to limit or effectively outlaw abortion,” said Thompson. “This experience highlights how important it is for historians to engage and inform the public and correct misconceptions, and for media to call on the work and voices of experts.”
Georgia State Law associate professor Erin C. Fuse Brown received a one-year grant of $93,190 from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation (recently renamed Arthur Ventures) to develop legal and policy solutions to protect consumers from out-of-network air ambulance bills. The grant is part of Arnold Ventures’ effort to address rising health care prices. Currently, there are no legal protections for consumers facing high out-of-network air ambulance bills, which make up the large majority of air ambulance transports. Even if the patient’s health plan pays a part of the bill, the air ambulance provider may balance-bill the patient for the difference between their full charges and the amount paid by the patient’s insurance, typically tens of thousands of dollars. Despite state legislative efforts to curtail air ambulance billing practices, federal preemption by the Airline Deregulation Act means that states are unable to protect their citizens.

The project aims to characterize the problem of out-of-network air ambulance bills for policymakers, to assess the legal barriers to protecting consumers from air ambulance bills, and to develop legal and policy solutions to protect consumers from out-of-network air ambulance bills. Ngan Nguyen (J.D. ’20) and Alex McDonald (J.D. ’21), two students with experience in health care administration and consulting, are assisting with legal and policy research for this project.

“This is a critical moment to push for air ambulance solutions when Congress is advancing protections against ordinary surprise medical bills,” said Fuse Brown. “We are hoping to convince Congress that out-of-network air ambulance bills are a particularly pernicious type of surprise medical bill and to extend surprise billing protections accordingly.”

More than one hundred experts in public health ethics, including three Georgia State Law Faculty members, contributed to the recently released Oxford Handbook of Public Health Ethics. The handbook covers numerous explores ethical issues of numerous public health topics, including communicable and chronic diseases, particular populations, health disparities, global health, environmental health, data and privacy and more. It was edited by Anna C. Mastroianni, Jeffrey P. Kahn and Nancy E. Kass.

Leslie Wolf, director of the Center for Law, Health & Society, Distinguished University Professor and professor of law, and Stacie Kershner, associate director of the center, co-wrote the chapter “The Intersection of Law, Ethics, and Public Health in the United States.” “Law outlines the limits of what public health actions are permissible, but often this leaves an array of possible options,” said Kershner. “Public health practitioners must use transparent, ethical decision-making processes to narrow down the range options and identify the most appropriate way to move forward.”

Paul Lombardo, Regents’ Professor and Bobby Lee Cook Professor of Law, wrote the chapter, “Eugenics and Public Health: Historical Connections and Ethical Implications,” which explores the intertwined relationship between public health and eugenics, particularly during the first half of the twentieth century. “Public health and eugenics were both grounded in achieving the greatest population health through ‘justified’ governmental infringement on individual rights,” said Lombardo. “This dark history needs to be considered in light of public health genetics today to ensure that new technologies aren’t used for discrimination against minorities, the poor or people with disabilities.”

The book is available from Oxford University Press.
Entering its 13th year, the Health Law Partnership (HeLP) Legal Services Clinic is as strong as ever. Founded in 2007 as part of HeLP, a medical-legal partnership among Georgia State Law, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, the HeLP clinic offers Georgia State Law students the opportunity to advocate on behalf of clients experiencing problems at the intersection of law and health.

HeLP clinic students simultaneously learn substantive areas of law and develop interviewing and other legal skills as they work on real cases with real clients, under the supervision of an attorney and clinical faculty member. “My time in the clinic has allowed me to gain unparalleled practical experience while serving the legal needs of families and children in the greater Atlanta community,” said Laura Trejo (J.D. ’19). “This experience will serve me well in my future legal practice.”

While some experiential options are not available to part-time students, the HeLP clinic has committed to doing so. “As a part-time law student working full-time, the clinic has provided me real-world law experience that I would not have gotten otherwise,” said Whitney Woodward (J.D. ’20).

The HeLP clinic legal team also includes fourth-year medical students from Morehouse School of Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine and schools across the country completing month-long elective rotations on law and medicine. These students serve as in-house medical advisors for the law students. “The interdisciplinary aspect of the clinic is vital,” said Logan Stone (J.D. ’19). “On our first case, we had about a thousand medical documents. I had no idea where to begin, but the three medical students here in house with us had those documents summarized, indexed and triaged by the next day. The ability to integrate our different practices and skills is vital to effectively serving the needs of our clients.”

The HeLP clinic is well positioned to train the next generation of lawyers and physicians to address the complicated, multi-faceted problems of today in a collaborative, dynamic way. “The HeLP clinic is one of the most valuable experiences I had in law school,” said Michelle Wilco (J.D. ’18). “No other class offers hands-on learning and real client interaction at this level.”

Training the Next Generation of Interdisciplinary Problem-Solvers

www.healthlawpartnership.org
HeLP Clinic Students Win Case for Child with a Disability

Three Georgia State Law students from the Health Law Partnership (HeLP) Legal Services Clinic won a victory for a child with a disability this spring. An administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration ruled that the child had erroneously been denied supplemental security income (SSI) benefits.

Meagan Beatty (J.D. ’20), Ragan Morrison (J.D. ’19), and Laura Trejo (J.D. ’19) represented the child’s mother on appeal. In his favorable decision, the administrative law judge relied on the evidence and legal arguments highlighted in the brief the students had drafted.

“After winning the case, our client felt vindicated the family was finally receiving the benefits to which they were entitled,” said Jimmy Mitchell, clinical supervising attorney and adjunct instructor of law. “The law students were extremely proud that they had made a difference in the lives of this family.”

The child had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. “Working on a case for a child with this type of diagnosis presents a challenge because, unlike a physical disability, such a condition cannot readily be seen by the eye,” Mitchell said. “The students needed to be creative and resourceful to demonstrate to the judge the severe challenges the child faces.”

To review the voluminous medical reports, the law students were assisted by visiting medical students from Morehouse School of Medicine and Emory University School of Medicine. The law students also spoke with the child’s parents, counselors, and therapists to develop signed affidavits to submit to the judge as evidence. The affidavits and support from the medical students helped the law students create a strong case for the child.

“These cases are a culmination of everything we do in the HeLP clinic,” Mitchell said. “We are training the students to become good lawyers while also helping clients obtain the benefits they deserve.”

Students Craft Brochures for Parents and Caregivers Needing HeLP

Peter Neilsen (J.D. ’19) and Mariam Slaibi (B.A./J.D. ’20), students in the Health Law Partnership (HeLP) Legal Services Clinic, created new HeLP brochures for parents and caregivers. They developed the brochures using skills gained through health literacy trainings offered by Iris Feinberg (Ph.D. ’15), assistant director of the Adult Literacy Research Center at Georgia State University College of Education and Human Development. The students consulted with Feinberg, Center for Law, Health & Society associate director Stacie Kershner, and HeLP’s partners Atlanta Legal Aid Society and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta to create the final product. Laura Trejo (J.D. ’19) and Gabi Medina-Nunez (J.D. ’20) translated the brochure into Spanish.

“The brochure now lays out what potential clients need to know about HeLP – what HeLP is, the services HeLP provides, the types of legal issues HeLP addresses, who may qualify for HeLP, and how to reach HeLP – in straightforward, easy-to-read language,” said Kershner. “We appreciate our students working to make information about HeLP more accessible to families who need it.”
On January 24 and 25, the Center for Law, Health & Society at Georgia State University College of Law hosted the Journal of Legal Medicine’s inaugural symposium, “Solving America’s Drug Pricing Problem.” The event focused on legal and policy strategies to address spiraling prescription drug costs in the United States.

Articles written by the speakers will be published in a forthcoming symposium issue of the Journal of Legal Medicine, a collaboration between Georgia State Law and the American College of Legal Medicine, edited by Leslie Wolf, interim dean, Center for Law, Health & Society director and Distinguished University Professor of Law at Georgia State University College of Law.

The Journal of Legal Medicine is an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed, internationally circulated journal that focuses on the intersection of health law, science and policy. Submissions of short commentaries (up to 3,000 words) and articles (up to 7,500 words), are now being accepted. Book and film reviews (approximately 1000 words) may also be submitted.

Visit clhs.law.gsu.edu/journal for more information.
Session I: State Efforts to Address Prescription Drug Prices
The first panel, moderated by Georgia State Law associate professor Erin Fuse Brown, examined state policies to combat rising drug costs. It included Trish Riley, executive director of the National Academy for State Health Policy, Jaime King, professor at University of California Hastings College of the Law, and Zack Buck, associate professor at the University of Tennessee College of Law.
State activity on drug pricing has been substantial. In 2018, 28 states introduced 171 drug pricing-related bills, 45 of which were enacted. Less than a month into 2019, 24 states had introduced 66 drug pricing bills. Approaches include regulating pharmacy benefits managers, pharmaceutical companies directly or using state programs to affect pricing, but the pharmaceutical industry’s efforts against bills or enacted legislation and federal laws, such as the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, can inhibit state innovation.

Session II: Pharmaceutical Competition and Innovation
David Hyman, professor at Georgetown University Law Center, Michael Carrier, Distinguished Professor at Rutgers University School of Law, Rachel Sachs, associate professor at Washington University School of Law, and Rebecca Wolitz, fellow at the Center for Law and the Biosciences at Stanford Law School comprised the second panel, which Georgia State Law associate professor Yaniv Heled moderated. This session explored laws and policies affecting competition and innovation in the market for prescription drugs, including antitrust law, FDA oversight and patent law.

Session III: Identifying Key Policy Tools to Solve the Drug Pricing Problem
Following the two open sessions, the symposium speakers adjourned to discuss legal and policy strategies and identify priority areas for further research, advocacy or policy development to contain rising prescription drug prices, moderated by then Georgia State Law associate professor Patti Zettler, now at Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University. “It was a wonderful opportunity to have some of the leading legal minds on drug pricing be able to come together for a wide-ranging discussion of these ideas,” said Zettler.

Keynote
Michelle Mello, co-author of the groundbreaking National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine 2017 report, Making Medicines Affordable: A National Imperative, delivered the opening keynote address. “We have allowed drug prices to rise to unsustainable levels. This increase in costs has led to one in four Americans not filling a prescription or skipping or cutting doses because they can’t afford their medications,” said Mello.

Mello framed the complex problem as having a mix of moral, market and political factors. “There is a natural tension between affordability and accessibility of drugs to patients and the cost investment in innovation of pharmaceutical companies,” she said. “We don’t all agree about what the balance should be.”
For Georgia State’s 2019 Law Week, Breaking Barriers, the Student Health Law Association hosted “Perspectives on Telehealth,” a panel exploring the recent increase in telehealth, potential benefits for patients and legal challenges to provider service delivery. Moderated by SHLA Co-President Ngan Nguyen (J.D. ’20), the panel included Barry Herrin (B.A. ’87, J.D. ’90), founder of Herrin Health Law, P.C.; Rachel Hulkower (J.D. ’13), public health analyst with the Public Health Law Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and Drew Seibert (J.D. ’22), founding telemedicine physician at HealthTap.

The speakers described various forms of telehealth, such as telemetry monitoring, teleconference consultations and patient information databanks. Herrin, who has represented health care providers for more than 25 years, emphasized that cost is driving the expansion of telehealth into different health care markets. One limitation, he explained, is concern about data privacy when care is provided remotely.

Quality of care is another concern. Seibert, who continues to practice medicine while attending Georgia State Law, stated that the standard of care is the same for a virtual interaction as an inpatient visit. That said, he acknowledges the limitations of telemedicine, such as not being able to listen to a patient’s breathing or heartbeat. He expressed the importance of establishing rapport and asking detailed questions so that patients will communicate honestly about their symptoms, better enabling an accurate diagnosis.

Studies have indicated that telehealth services do not necessarily lead to better health outcomes. However, Hulkower noted that telehealth has filled a gap in access to certain services. For example, the federal government has used telehealth services to increase patient access to opioid abuse treatment in rural areas of the country.

“Telehealth will likely continue to expand as a way to increase health care access and address costs,” said Nguyen. “This panel was a great introduction to the types of legal issues we might encounter as new lawyers facing new advancements in health care.”

SHLA Hosts Telehealth Panel

Last spring, hundreds of electric scooters suddenly arrived in the City of Atlanta. They could be spotted all over downtown and Georgia State’s campus, providing fun, fast short distance trips while simultaneously creating havoc as they whipped across roads, buzzed by pedestrians and blocked sidewalks.

Some cities have banned e-scooters. However, others are embracing them as a solution to the “last mile problem” associated with public transit while regulating them. In January, Atlanta passed an ordinance regulating “shareable dockless mobility devices.”

Jonathan Futrell (LL.M. ’18) and Amber Robinson (J.D. ’04), legal counsel with the City of Atlanta, presented the new ordinance as part of the Urban Fellows Program, an interdisciplinary initiative of Georgia State Law’s Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth.

Futrell shared factors considered in the ordinance’s drafting, including safety, cost and enforcement. “The City of Atlanta’s ordinance is designed to strike the appropriate balance between the need in urban areas for forms of ‘micro-transportation’ that reduce traffic and pollution and the interest of cities in protecting their citizens from the unintended consequences of the new technology,” he said.

Grady Health System estimates that it sees 20-30 riders and pedestrians per month with injuries ranging from facial lacerations to broken bones to head injuries. The new ordinance’s provisions for riders, including limiting speed, prohibiting riding on sidewalks and restricting parking, are designed to prevent accidents.

The ordinance requires e-scooter vendors to obtain permits and establishes fees and fines. Vendors must submit equity plans to promote access to residents of underserved neighborhoods, and explore alternatives to smartphones and credit cards for rental. Vendors must also share data about use that can be used to improve city planning.

Karen Johnston, Metro Growth’s associate director, and Stacie Kershner, associate director of the Center for Law, Health & Society, are now collaborating with Georgia State and Georgia Institute of Technology researchers to examine the impact of the City of Atlanta’s new ordinance on equitable access and injury prevention and compare it to those of other U.S. cities.
This spring, professor Jonathan Todres again led law and graduate public health students in the Global Perspectives on Children and the Law course on a weeklong study abroad program in Costa Rica. The program, offered in partnership with the United Nations University for Peace and its Centre for Executive Education, focused on the interrelated and interdependent nature of children’s rights.

The week included a mixture of class time and site visits. Leaders from international organizations, government agencies and local NGOs presented on the status of children’s rights and well-being in Costa Rica and challenged students to consider issues of conservation, education and human rights from the perspective of indigenous people.

Students visited an informal settlement of migrant families in San Jose and an indigenous territory in rural Costa Rica to see how law impacts the lived experience of diverse communities. The visits provided important insight into how health and human rights interventions can be culturally respectful.

“Seeing firsthand some of the innovative ways in which Costa Rica has sought to ensure the rights and wellbeing of migrant and indigenous children prompts us to rethink what’s possible in the U.S.,” said Todres.

The students also visited the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, to learn about the children’s rights case law of the court.

“Whether it’s an international tribunal or a local community initiative, ultimately the law is about people,” said Todres. “This program offered students an opportunity to see how the law affects people, in both positive and negative ways, and how they can use children’s rights to help secure better outcomes for young people.”

“Students Explore Children’s Rights in Costa Rica”

This was a once in a lifetime opportunity not only to bond with a group of highly educated people and experience the reality of Costa Rica on a deeper level, but also to look at human rights law and the seemingly insurmountable world problems with a different lens.

—Pamela Pedersen (J.D. ’19)

I have gained a great appreciation for the Costa Rican people’s implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, providing access to education and healthcare while maintaining their culture. Something so monumental requires the full support of the citizens and that is evident here.

—Ashley O’Neill (J.D. ’19)
Jasmine Becerra (J.D. ’20) received the Health Law Award at the 2019 College of Law Honors Day. The award recognizes outstanding student achievement in health law, including academic performance, writing ability, experiential learning and involvement in the health law community.

Becerra was also recognized with the ABA/BNA Award for Excellence in the Study of Health Law for her performance in Health Law: Finance and Delivery. Megan Walker (J.D. ’19) was awarded the ABA/BNA Award for her performance in Health Law: Quality and Access.

Andrew Brown (J.D. ’19), David Hymel (J.D. ’19) and Whitney Woodward (J.D. ’20) were presented the HeLP Legal Services Clinic Award, including a monetary gift sponsored by the HeLP Advisory Council, for demonstrating excellent legal analysis, writing, advocacy and professionalism in the delivery of legal services to low-income families served by the clinic. Brown is the first student to have been awarded this honor twice.

“We are proud of our talented health law students and their many accomplishments,” said Stacie Kershner, associate director for the Center for Law, Health & Society. “These awards are well-deserved.”

The Student Health Law Association is an organization for law students interested in health-related legal disciplines. The following students were elected as officers of SHLA for 2019-2020:

Ngan Nguyen–3L President (J.D. ’20)
Chase Johnson–2L President (J.D. ’21)
Alex McDonald–VP of Community Outreach (J.D. ’21)
Jasmine Becerra–VP of Programming (J.D. ’20)
Baylee Culverhouse–VP of Programming (J.D. ’20)
Lisa Hwang–VP of Student Outreach (J.D. ’20)
Morgan Schroeder–VP of Membership (J.D. ’20)

The positions of treasurer and secretary are reserved for incoming first-year students interested in health law and are selected at the beginning of the academic year.

Special thanks to the past SHLA board for an incredible year! In addition to Bioethics at the Movies, “Perspectives in Telehealth” and two American Red Cross blood drives, SHLA hosted two career panels comprised of local health law attorneys and graduates: “What is Health Law?” in October and “Health Law Deep Dive,” in February, co-sponsored by the Health Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia and Georgia State Law’s Center for Professional Development and Career Strategies.
Bioethics at the Movies

In February, the Student Health Law Association and the Center for Law, Health & Society sponsored the 13th Annual Bioethics at the Movies. This popular series explores health-related themes in film and television through lively discussion among faculty and students. The 2019 series included:

Rationing in Wakanda: Scenes from “Black Panther”
Moderator: Prof. Courtney Anderson

Government Intervention on Reproductive Rights: Scenes from “The Handmaid’s Tale”
Moderator: Lauren MacIvor Thompson

The Shady Side of Twin Studies: Scenes from “Three Identical Strangers”
Moderator: Paul Lombardo

On the Tricky Business of Having Children: Scenes from “Juno”
Moderators: Jessie Gabel Cino and Yaniv Heled

“Students look forward to engaging discussion with faculty in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.”

Student Receives Compliance Program Scholarship

Georgia State Law health law certificate student Ngan Nguyen (J.D. ’20) was awarded a scholarship to attend the U.S. Healthcare Compliance Certification Program held by the Seton Hall Law School Center for Health & Pharmaceutical Law & Policy. Nguyen was selected for the highly-competitive scholarship based on her academic achievements and commitment to a career in health law.

The week-long training provided an overview of state, federal and international law governing health care. Topics included ethics; fraud and abuse and government investigations; data analytics and privacy; and approval, regulation and marketing of new drugs and devices. Attendees, including lawyers, compliance officers, and health professionals, participated in case studies and group exercises to develop and apply compliance skills.

“Meeting health care veterans and receiving advice from industry professionals enhanced this great experience,” said Nguyen, who is also the co-president of the Student Health Law Association. “Compliance professionals in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology fields offered insight into current issues they are facing. The training improved my ability to spot these risks in future practice if they arise.”

“I am grateful to Seton Hall Law for the opportunity to attend this prestigious program,” she said.

Student and Grad Attend Legal Epidemiology Training

In June, Georgia State Law graduate Megan Douglas (J.D. ’12), director of health policy at the National Center for Primary Care at Morehouse Medical School, and student Claire Humston (J.D. ’21) attended an intensive two-day training on legal epidemiology hosted by the Center for Public Health Research at Temple University in Philadelphia.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Public Health Law Program, legal epidemiology is “the scientific study of law as a factor in the cause, distribution, and prevention of disease and injury in a population.” Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2019, Temple’s CPHLR has developed a variety of tools and resources on legal epidemiology. Attendees of the training were taught methodology of conducting policy surveillance, a critical feature of legal epidemiology, involving systematic tracking of laws and policies over time and across jurisdictions. Attendees also conceptualized potential projects and discussed strategies for dissemination of research results.

Douglas and Humston are excited to collaborate on future legal epidemiology projects. “This conference positions researchers from all disciplines to study the impact of law on public health,” said Humston.

“I was introduced to legal epidemiology in 2013, when the field was young,” said Douglas. “It is great to see how the science is evolving.”

In the U.S., health policy and law are increasingly intertwined, and the field of legal epidemiology is gaining traction as a powerful tool for understanding the impact of law on health. The training provided attendees with a solid foundation in the principles and methods of legal epidemiology, equipping them to contribute to this important field of research.

Douglas and Humston were thrilled to have the opportunity to attend the training, which they described as a transformative experience. “This conference positions researchers from all disciplines to study the impact of law on public health,” said Humston.

In the spring, Georgia State Law health law certificate student Ngan Nguyen (J.D. ’20) was awarded a scholarship to attend the U.S. Healthcare Compliance Certification Program held by the Seton Hall Law School Center for Health & Pharmaceutical Law & Policy. Nguyen was selected for the highly-competitive scholarship based on her academic achievements and commitment to a career in health law.

The week-long training provided an overview of state, federal and international law governing health care. Topics included ethics; fraud and abuse and government investigations; data analytics and privacy; and approval, regulation and marketing of new drugs and devices. Attendees, including lawyers, compliance officers, and health professionals, participated in case studies and group exercises to develop and apply compliance skills.

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Student Receives Compliance Program Scholarship

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“I am grateful to Seton Hall Law for the opportunity to attend this prestigious program,” she said.

Government Intervention on Reproductive Rights: Scenes from “The Handmaid’s Tale”
Moderator: Lauren MacIvor Thompson

The Shady Side of Twin Studies: Scenes from “Three Identical Strangers”
Moderator: Paul Lombardo

On the Tricky Business of Having Children: Scenes from “Juno”
Moderators: Jessie Gabel Cino and Yaniv Heled

“Students look forward to engaging discussion with faculty in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.”
The State Bar of Georgia offered a new three-day conference to address the crisis in the legal profession regarding attorneys’ increasing levels of stress, anxiety, depression, substance abuse and suicide. A Georgia State Law faculty member and two law graduates had the opportunity to participate in the conference, fittingly held in Carefree, Arizona.

Charity Scott, Catherine C. Henson Professor of Law, and wellness instructor and attorney Alisa Gray of Tiffany & Bosco in Phoenix, opened the conference with a workshop on mindfulness for lawyers. “Mindfulness can counteract hard-wired physiological responses to chronic stressors, lower stress levels and improve productivity,” said Scott.

“This wellness CLE program gave practical tips and useful stress management techniques to use every day’ said Lori Browne (J.D., ’02) a personal injury attorney at Lori Audra Browne and Associates, LLC. “It provided a great opportunity to decompress and reset through yoga, meditation and connecting with nature.”

Scott, Browne, and Lyonnette Davis (J.D., ’91) took a guided hike one afternoon. “Hiking through the beautiful majestic cactus plants while practicing the mindfulness techniques I learned at this conference was so enjoyable and rejuvenating,” said Davis, an attorney with Byrne, Davis & Hicks, PC, who concentrates on tax, estate planning and corporate law. “The techniques I learned at this conference will make me a happier and healthier person, both physically and mentally. I intend to incorporate them into my daily life.”

Browne also appreciated the candid stories shared by panel members and attendees about their own struggles of dealing with stress and the practice of law. She said, “I applaud the State Bar’s efforts to make emotional and physical health a priority to help attorneys deal with the everyday stressors of life and the practice of law in a positive and constructive way.”

Fundamentals Event and “Legend” of Health Law Education

Georgia State Law’s health law program was well represented at the 21st annual Fundamentals of Health Care Law conference, co-sponsored by the State Bar of Georgia’s Health Law Section and the Georgia Academy of Healthcare Attorneys.

Charity Scott, Catherine C. Henson Professor of Law, gave the plenary talk during the luncheon at the day-long event. She was invited as a part of the “Legends of Georgia Healthcare Law” series to discuss the evolution of health law education in Georgia during her over-30 years at the College of Law.

“When I started in 1987, it was just me teaching a single survey course on health law,” said Scott. “Since that time, health law and the health care industry have gone through extraordinary changes and expansions. We have learned from and partnered with both health lawyers and health care professionals across our community to ensure that our program was always timely and relevant.”

Several health law graduates spoke at the conference, including Brian McEvoy (J.D. ’97) on the criminal side of health law, Charlotte Combre (J.D. ’97) on federal health care regulations and Brittany Cone (J.D. ’08) on long-term health care.

Students Jasmine Becerra (J.D. ’20), Drew Seibert (J.D. ’21) and Grace Balte (J.D. ’20), appreciated attending the program, expanding on concepts learned in class and hearing about topics faced by health care attorneys on a daily basis.

Kathy (Jarman) Benoit (J.D. ’88), who also attended the conference, took Scott’s first health law course in 1987. Reflecting on the health program over the years, Scott said, “It’s truly wonderful to have been present for our incredible growth. And it is an honor today to see one of my very first students, our many graduates over the decades and our current students all come together at this annual event and contribute to building this vibrant health law field.”
• Christian Dennis (J.D. ’16) joined Chilivis Cochran Larkins and Bever as an associate in June representing health care clients.

• Jeremy Panter (J.D. ’15) joined St. Joseph’s/Candler in July as in-house counsel.

• Greg Tanner (J.D. ’16) joined Baker & Hostetler LLP in June as an associate focused on health care transactions and regulatory compliance.

• Angela Tompkins (J.D. ’18) joined Hall Booth Smith in February as an associate focused on health care clients.

• Kevin Wack (J.D. ’17) joined Emory Midtown as a clinical ethicist in January.

Do you have news to share? Send news and updated contact information to lawandhealth@gsu.edu.

From Scientist to Health Lawyer

Before attending Georgia State Law, Gregory Fosheim (J.D. ’14), who has a master of public health, was a microbiologist evaluating health care associated infections at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. While the connection to law may not be obvious, Fosheim found he spent a lot of time developing an understanding of the health care system and the interplay between providers, payors, and local, state and federal government agencies and their regulations.

Fosheim still works at the intersection of health, law and policy, now as an associate attorney with McDermott Will & Emery, LLP, in Chicago. “The projects I enjoy most marry my public health education, my science background and my legal passion to ensure the health care end user has the access they need,” said Fosheim.

Fosheim’s health care transactional and regulatory practice provides ample opportunities to engage in these types of projects and put his microbiology background to work. In one month, Fosheim worked on matters as varied as a hospital merger that needed to maintain the rural hospital’s community mission; creating an orphan drug consortium to negotiate discount pricing; and developing policy manuals for behavioral health centers to allow youth to self-advocate for substance use and mental health treatment.

Fosheim is an active participant in LGBTQ Bar Association and routinely mentors LGBTQ law students and young associates. “I was very fortunate to have numerous mentors from many walks of life, and I consider each one of them to have been instrumental in cultivating my legal self-confidence,” he said. “No one would ever say this profession is easy, but hearing that it’s both permissible and encouraged for law students and new lawyers to be their most authentic selves helps to remove the imposter syndrome that cripples many associates.”

Fosheim also is using his experience in health law to explore health-related issues members of the LGBTQ community face. “Electronic medical records are ripe for unintentional discrimination impacting LGBTQ individuals and particularly transgender patients who require preventative care that may not align with their gender markers,” said Fosheim, who presented at the Lavender Law Conference in Philadelphia in August. “Health care privacy is also a defining issue for many sexual minorities, influencing whether LGBTQ individuals seek and receive health care, such as preventative care, chronic care support, and substance abuse treatment.”

Fosheim was recently accepted into the American Health Lawyers Association Leadership Development Program for the Life Sciences Practice Group. He considers continuing to grow to be a key component of professionalism, something he learned while at Georgia State Law. “Professionalism is more than a buzz word,” he said. “It’s a lifestyle.”

Clients are requesting diversity; firms are wanting diversity; and young lawyers are demanding diversity.

—Gregory Fosheim (J.D. ’14), Associate, McDermott Will & Emery, LLP
Courtney L. Anderson
Anderson was invited to the Real Property Schmooze scholarship workshop at Texas A&M University School of Law. She published “Climate Change and Infrastructure” in the University of Houston Journal of Health Law and Policy. She presented “Hate Wins” at ASLME Health Law Professors Conference at Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

Jessica Gabel Cino
Cino continued her work on facial recognition and emerging DNA technologies, focusing on questions of accuracy and reliability. She recently welcomed twin sons Gabriel and Cooper to her family in March. Cino returned to the faculty full time in July after three years as the associate dean for academic affairs.

Yaniv Heled
Heled published the article “Why Healthcare Companies Should Be(come) Benefit Corporations” (with Liza Vertinsky and Cass Brewer) in the Boston College Law Review. With other law professors, he wrote amici briefs in two cases filed in Georgia involving claims against a sperm bank. Heled participated in the annual bioip Faculty Workshop at Boston University in April. He also presented on competition in the area of biologics at the “Changing the Regulation of Pharmaceuticals” at the University of the Pacific and ASLME Health Law Professors Conference at Loyola University Chicago.

Paul A. Lombardo
Lombardo published “U.S. Public Health Service STD Experiments in Guatemala (1946-1948) and Their Aftermath” in Ethics & Human Research. He was interviewed by The Scientist concerning recent revisions to human research regulations. He spoke at the Wake Forest University Symposium marking 50 Years of Bioethics and he gave the Dr. & Mrs. Lonnie Herzog Endowed Lecture for the University Medical Partnership at the University of Georgia.

Lisa R. Bliss
Bliss presented on best practices for law clinics at the conference of the European Network for Clinical Legal Education in Torino, Italy in September. In November, she gave presentations at the conference of the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education, and at a pre-conference workshop on reflection held at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

Erin C. Fuse Brown
Fuse Brown received a grant from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation to develop policies to address out-of-network air ambulance bills. She presented “Federalism, ERISA, and State Single-Payer Health Care” at Stanford Law School and the ASLME Health Law Professors Conference at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She also presented her work on hospital mergers and state Certificates of Public Advantage at a workshop hosted by the Federal Trade Commission.

Stacie P. Kershner (J.D. ’08)

Timothy D. Lytton
Lytton’s latest book, Outbreak: Foodborne Illness and the Struggle for Food Safety, was published by the University of Chicago Press in April. He presented research findings from the book at the Public Law & Policy workshop at the University of California Berkeley. Lytton was quoted in news articles and interviewed by radio programs about gun violence, foodborne illness outbreaks and clergy sexual abuse.
Margaret Middleton
Middleton completed her first semester teaching in the HeLP Legal Services Clinic, and soon after, her family welcomed baby girl Harriet in January. She presented “National Landscape of Medical-Legal Partnership Activities, Impact and Potential” at the ASLME Health Law Professors Conference at Loyola University Chicago. She also has been working on updating the HeLP clinic curriculum to increase in-class skill trainings and social justice learning.

Charity Scott
Scott continued to present on mindfulness as a tool to prevent professional burnout and improve lawyer well-being. She spoke on this topic in Orlando to the American Bar Association’s Health Law Section, to lawyers affiliated with Legility in Atlanta and at a conference offered by the State Bar of Georgia in Arizona. Scott was also the keynote speaker at the 21st annual Fundamentals of Health Care Law conference, co-sponsored by the State Bar of Georgia’s Health Law Section and the Georgia Academy of Healthcare Attorneys.

Jonathan Todres
Todres was named a Distinguished University Professor at Georgia State University. He co-wrote a book chapter, “Article 8: The Right to Preservation of a Child’s Identity” in The Convention on the Rights of the Child: A Commentary (Oxford University Press, 2019). Todres also presented on children’s rights in U.S. immigration at Emory University School of Law and was appointed to the advisory board of the International Journal of Children’s Rights.

James E. Mitchell
Mitchell continued his work in the HeLP Legal Services Clinic, supervising law students as they represented several clients seeking disability benefits for their children at hearings before federal administrative law judges. In the spring, Mitchell also supervised more than a dozen medical students from Morehouse School of Medicine and Emory University School of Medicine as they completed their law and medicine elective rotations at Georgia State Law.

Lauren Maclvor Thompson
Thompson’s latest op-ed, co-authored with Dr. Samira Mehta, appeared in the Washington Post in February. In April, she presented on birth control law and birth control activism in the early twentieth century at both the annual meetings of the Organization of American Historians and the American Association for the History of Medicine.

Leslie E. Wolf
Wolf has been named Georgia State College of Law’s interim dean. She is the principal investigator on the Greenwall Foundation funded grant, “Engaging Diversity: Pathways to Bioethics for Minority Students.” She had papers published in Genetics in Medicine (with Laura Beskow) and the Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics (with Holly Fernandez Lynch and Mark Barnes) and a book chapter published by Oxford University Press (with Stacie Kershner).
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