A standing room only crowd was on hand for the premiere of the Historic Black Church Program’s Oral History film, “Someday We’ll All Be Free: The Desegregation of Miami,” part of the University of Miami School of Law’s Center for Ethics and Public Service.

The screening, along with dinner and an awards ceremony, was held at the Elizabeth Virrick Park in Coconut Grove last Saturday night. Cristina Favretto, Head of Special Collections, and Beatrice Colastin Skokan, Special Collections Librarian, were both honored with the 2013 Friend of the Center Award.

The evening was a celebration of the campus-community Oral History Film Project and its partnership with the Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance (CGMA), Ransom Everglades School, the University of Miami Schools of Communication and Education, the University of Miami Otto G. Richter Library Special Collections, and FIU College of Law Clinics.

“The CGMA is grateful to God for blessing us with the UM School of Law,” said Pastor Jeffrey Hamilton of the New Life Christian Worship Center. “This year the students took the preservation of our history to another level. The film documenting the struggles of integration was outstanding. The information shared by those involved is a valuable lesson to our youth. Our youth can relate to those that were involved in the film and see the importance of education. The CGMA applauds their efforts and is looking forward to next year. Our thanks go out to Professor Alfieri and Cynthia McKenzie for the time and efforts they have devoted to working in our community.”

The Historic Black Church Program is part of the Center for Ethics and Public Service’s ongoing long-standing effort to help Miami’s distressed Coconut Grove Village West community. Another component is the Community Education and Community Research Projects providing multidisciplinary resources in education, law, and social services to underserved residents by establishing congregation-based church partnerships through the West Grove’s sixteen-church Ministerial Alliance. The Program offers University of Miami students and faculty opportunities for civic engagement, service-learning, and community-based research.
This year, in addition to developing new presentations for its annual visits to many local organizations, PREP traveled to Tampa to conduct an ethics training for the statewide Legal Services Housing Umbrella Group. This year’s trainings included:

**Bar Associations & Law Firms**

- Bankruptcy Bar Association (Dade & Broward), Broward UM Alumni Association, Caribbean Bar Association, Coral Gables Bar Association, Cuban American Bar Association, Dade County Bar Association, Florida Association of Women Lawyers, Gwen Cherry Bar Association, South Miami Kendall Bar Association, State Farm’s In-house Law Firms National Webinar, West Palm Beach UM Alumni Association, White & Case

**Nonprofit Legal Service Providers & Public Sector**

- Americans for Immigrant Justice (formerly Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center), Catholic Charities, Dade Legal Aid Society, Legal Services of Greater Miami, Legal Services Housing Umbrella Group, Miami-Dade Public Defender’s Office, Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office

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**Legal Ethics in Motion Blog**

By Danielle Singer, Robert A. Ades Fellow

This year marks the one year anniversary of the Legal Ethics in Motion blog, founded by members of the Professional Responsibility and Ethics Program (PREP). PREP is designed to allow students to research and write about hot-topic legal ethics issues and to go out into the community and discuss their findings with legal professionals throughout South Florida. The blog was created by some of the students in PREP to provide an outlet for student commentary on topics that affect the legal community here and now, including social media, technology, and other news. Student articles can often be found discussing important and influential issues within hours of stories being released by the press.

As I began my first year in PREP, I had no idea I would become so interested in the blog or take a leading role in maintaining its presence. I did not have a lot of blogging experience, but was interested in improving upon my own writing skills, as well as helping others with that same skill, and learning more about legal ethics issues that attorneys face every day. My involvement originally consisted of writing two blog posts and editing some posts written by other students in the program. By my second semester, I, along with a small group of PREP students, wrote blog posts every week and edited all of the blog posts submitted by the other students in PREP.

By taking such a leading role in ensuring the blogs’ success, I have improved my writing and editing skills and I have learned an extraordinary amount of information about legal ethics issues. I see how quickly things change and how difficult it can be for attorneys to keep themselves up-to-date on the effects of technological developments on the practice of law. I constantly talk to legal professionals that I meet out in the community about PREP and the Legal Ethics in Motion blog and they often ask questions about my opinion on how a particular advancement or change in technology will affect how they do their job. Over the past year I have seen how much the Legal Ethics in Motion blog has grown and I predict that it will continue successfully as an outlet for students to discuss the major issues that may come to have a monumental impact on lawyers’ ethical duties. I am proud of myself and my fellow PREP students for working so hard to make this blog such a success. I truly believe that by taking a leading role in maintaining the Legal Ethics in Motion blog, I have developed a valuable skill that I will utilize for the rest of my legal career.
Diving Into Bankruptcy by Learning the Ethics of Practice
By Shayla Waldon, Akerman Senterfitt Fellow

After my 1L year, I worked as an intern for the Honorable Paul G. Hyman, Jr., the Chief Judge for United States Bankruptcy Court in the Southern District of Florida. I sat in on motion calendar and evidentiary hearings, and I drafted orders on cases. When I began PREP in my second year, my time at the court would prove to be invaluable.

While a PREP intern, I used the knowledge I gained while at the court to help with preparing ethics presentations for the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida (BBA). I had the opportunity to work directly with the Honorable Laurel M. Isicoff, with whom I worked closely over my two years in PREP to develop the hypotheticals for our ethics presentations. When our bankruptcy group met with Judge Isicoff, we heard lots of stories about incidents in her courtroom—some of which we could not believe initially—and we always incorporated her real life stories into our hypotheticals. We enjoyed “diving in” to bankruptcy by learning about the problem areas for practitioners.

The presentations I participated in focused on a variety of issues, such as third parties and their financial involvement with a debtor’s case; dual representation of corporate debtors and their principals; ex parte contacts; and the importance of candor in all communications to the court. Through my work with Judge Isicoff, as well as additional consultations with Professor Patricia Redmond, I learned so much about bankruptcy simply by learning about the ethical issues that arise within the practice. While I will not be practicing bankruptcy immediately after I graduate, this “dive” into the ethics relating to bankruptcy practice was certainly a great experience!

PREP Through the Eyes of a 3L
By Joshua L. Plager

I had the unusual opportunity to join PREP as a third-year law student. At first, I did not know what to expect or with whom I would be working, but I involved myself and quickly discovered that I was surrounded by a wonderful team.

In March, I presented with two other students to the Miami Law’s Broward Law Alumni Association. We covered a variety of ethical issues, with a focus on social media and emerging technology. I was familiar with the model rules, ethics advisory opinions, and caselaw, but presenting them to practicing attorneys and judges was an entirely different experience than learning about them in the classroom. Instead of analyzing rules and hypotheticals, I was able to see how the rules operate in the workplace, and I answered questions about how the rules affect attorneys in practice—not merely in the abstract.

PREP gave me the opportunity to sharpen my research skills, as I delved into docket sheets and pored through various advisory opinions. It was fascinating to learn how different jurisdictions treat similar issues, for example, the oft-asked question of whether attorneys and judges can be friends on Facebook has drastically divergent answers depending on where one practices. The practice of law is in many ways location-specific, and attorneys must know ethics rules governing their jurisdictions.

In all, PREP is in many ways about team-building. There is simply too much to do by oneself, and—in a program filled with so many exceptional students—collaborating on research, creating a legal memo analyzing specific ethical issues, and presenting it to legal professionals is the culmination of a semester well spent.

PREP: Traveling Throughout a Wide Spectrum of the Legal Community
By Matthew Friendly, Steven E. Chaykin Fellow

In my law school career, the Professional Responsibility and Ethics Program afforded me and my classmates the opportunity to give presentations on a variety of legal ethics issues to an array of bar associations, non-profit organizations, and big law firms. As my PREP teammates and I answered audience questions and discussed changes in the Florida lawyer advertising regulations at the Dade County and Palm Beach Bar Associations, electronic discovery obligations at White and Case LLP, or the formation of an attorney-client relationship at Americans for Immigrant Justice, I realized time and again the importance and value of the service that PREP provides. PREP not only allowed me to become a legal ethics expert but also awarded me the privilege of giving back to the legal community by sharing the precious knowledge and education that law school and the study of professional responsibility provides. PREP took me to many different places in the past two years and I will undoubtedly take each of those experiences with me in my future endeavors.

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Historic Charles Avenue Project

By Matthew Fowler, David P. Catsman Fellow

Charles Avenue, a short three-block long street running from Main Highway to Douglas Road, contains the largest, most undiluted concentration of historic structures in the City of Miami. Originally named Evangelist Street because of the many churches along the street, significant landmarks include the Coconut Grove Playhouse, Stirrup House, Charlotte Jane Memorial Cemetery, Macedonia Baptist Church, Odd Fellows Hall, Mariah Brown House, St. James Church, and Christ Episcopal Church. Many of these structures actually pre-date the founding of the City of Miami. Other structures along the street include Bahamian-style single-frame houses, vernacular shotgun houses, and Bahamian “conch” cottages - all offering a glimpse into Miami’s pioneering past nearly unparalleled in South Florida.

In recognition of these significant historical assets, Charles Avenue received City of Miami designation as a “Historic Corridor.” The new designation allows for significant improvements to the street, and the City of Miami Planning Department requested citizen input for the redesign of the street and other enhancements. In partnership with the Coconut Grove Collaborative, Inc., the Historic Black Church Program’s Community Research Project fellows and interns have helped to form a community focus group, facilitate discussion in monthly meetings, and develop strategies to promote, preserve, and protect Charles Avenue.

Efforts began in December 2012, when HBCP students, assisted by visiting students from Dartmouth College, conducted a survey to gauge local residents interest in historic preservation issues. Results were overwhelmingly positive, and, at the first community meeting, students presented the findings and assisted residents in developing goals and objectives for enhancing this historic street. As resident interest and participation in the monthly meetings has grown, subcommittees have been created to focus on legal issues such as historic resource designation and historic preservation ordinance code enforcement, design issues such as streetlights, signage, and historic marker selection, and cultural issues such as an oral history video project and a heritage festival. In addition, these efforts will support future initiatives to strengthen the Neighborhood Conservation District regulations currently under review by City officials.

The Community Education Project: Confronting the “School-to-Prison Pipeline” Crisis

By Historic Black Church Program Community Education Fellows and Interns

Miami-Dade County Public Schools comprise the largest school district in the State of Florida and the fourth largest district in the United States with a student population of 345,000. Each year, several thousand of these students are suspended. Statistics show that suspensions often result in students falling behind and/or dropping out of school. Many of these students end up in the “school to prison pipeline” which refers to policies and practices that push children out of classrooms and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. For many students, the path to the “Pipeline” begins with suspensions. In the spring of 2013, the Community Education Project provided training to attorneys and advocates from a number of local and national non-profit organizations to address the “Pipeline” problem in Miami-Dade County and throughout the State of Florida.

The Legal Interns and Fellows in the Project, with the assistance of their supervising professor, Laverne O. Pinkney, created brochures and power points and presented workshops and seminars about mainstream and special education, bullying, and school discipline to parents, children and adolescent youth, and community members and advocates. The presentations were interactive with real life examples of the issues, and opportunities for the parents, students and advocates to give feedback and share their concerns and experiences. At one presentation, students and parents worked through the Miami-Dade County Public School (“M-DCPS”) District’s Code of Student Conduct. Suspensions and expulsions are based on the Code of Student Conduct. However, many of the participants were not aware of the Code or had not reviewed it. Shortly after the presentation, one student and his parent shared their success in speaking with the school and advocating against an unfair and unsubstantiated school suspension. To date, the Project has empowered more than 2000 parents and students with knowledge of their educational rights and methods for challenging schools when they know or believe that their rights have been violated.

During the 2013-2014 school year, the Community Education Project will continue to bring interactive presentations to Miami’s Coconut Grove Village West and other distressed communities in Miami-Dade County with the primary goals of providing essential education information to the community and combating the “school to prison pipeline.”
**Trolley-Bus Maintenance Facility**

*By Matthew Fowler*

In December 2012, private developers began construction of the City of Coral Gables Trolley-Bus Maintenance and Repair Facility on Douglas Road. West Grove residents objected to the construction of this facility, alleging that it is a prohibited industrial use within a mixed-use commercial and residential neighborhood. A community steering committee formed to organize public protests, pro-bono attorneys volunteered and filed a lawsuit on behalf of abutting property owners, and HBCP Community Research Project fellows and interns assisted in these efforts by conducting legal seminars for residents and providing legal research for the attorneys.

HBCP students prepared and led seminars to provide general information and teach community members how to prepare an ethics complaint against public officials, as well as how to prepare a Title VI complaint with a federal agency. Students also provided referrals to practicing attorneys who could make themselves available for questions and aid in advancing an ethics or Title VI complaint. Additionally, students supplied members of the community with standard forms and applicable laws readily available to the public from the respective websites of the applicable commissions on ethics and federal agencies.

Not only did this HBCP experience allow students to cultivate their legal research and writing skills, it has also nurtured their ethical and public interest values.

**Historic Black Church Program's Oral History Documentary Film Highlights Desegregation of Miami Schools**

*Continued from Page 1*

“The Oral History Film Project works not only to document and preserve the important cultural and social history of the West Grove, but also to facilitate campus-community collaborations between the University of Miami and inner-city nonprofit groups in order to better serve our common communities and educate our graduate students in public service and professionalism,” said Anthony V. Alfieri, Professor of Law, and the Founder of the Historic Black Church Program.

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**The Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance (CGMA) Prisoner Reentry Support Program**

The CGMA Prisoner Reentry Support Program is a network of service providers that work together toward the successful reentry of prisoners returning to Coconut Grove and surrounding communities. Thus far the CGMA Prisoner Reentry Support Program consists of Prison Fellowship Ministries, Bridge for Hope, Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, the University of Miami Center for Ethics and Public Service, and the Miami-Dade Reentry Task Force.

**Development Process Pamphlet**

To help residents better respond to the commercial and residential development of the West Grove, the Historic Black Church Program created a pamphlet called “Developments In Your Community.” This guide contains information about the development process, as well as the City of Miami’s approval process for various types of zoning applications. In addition, this guide outlines the ways in which community members can become civically engaged in their communities, and have their voices heard when it comes to new developments. “Developments In Your Community” is currently being edited, based on suggestions solicited from the members of the West Grove community. We hope to be able to have it ready to distribute in Fall 2013.

**Oral History Documentary Film Project — April 2014**

This year’s film, as yet untitled, will focus on “Old Smokey,” the city of Miami’s trash burning incinerator shut down as a public nuisance by court order in 1970 after 45 years of operation in the West Grove.

“They burdened a Jim Crow community with an incinerator for 45 years without any benefits and then have apparently, for 43 years, either suppressed information or neglected their public health duties to investigate and report it.”

—Professor Anthony Alfieri, CEPS Director

Old Smokey stands as a local monument to environmental injustice and social irresponsibility. The premier is scheduled for April 2014 at Virrick Park in Coconut Grove.
Environmental Justice Project
By Zachary Lipshultz, Post-graduate Fellow

Since its inception in the fall of 2012, the Environmental Justice (EJ) Project has been active in addressing environmental and public health concerns in underserved communities of Miami-Dade County. To date much of our efforts have been focused in West Coconut Grove, including providing assistance to the community in its fight against a City of Coral Gables trolley maintenance facility sited for construction within a residential neighborhood. Through public presentations and identifying pro bono legal representation we have worked with affected residents to strengthen their collective voice and increase awareness of the public health concerns and legal questions associated with the facility.

The EJ Project will be offered through the Historic Black Church Program (HBCP) seminar for the 2013/2014 academic year. Students will explore the historic development and current status of the EJ movement in the United States, with a specific focus to its context in Miami-Dade County. In doing so the course will draw from case studies that express the complex, interdisciplinary nature of the movement, as well as the legal and social justice frameworks that are used through federal, state and local levels.

Through our partnerships with representatives from the University of Miami School of Medicine and the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, the EJ Project provides legal, scientific, and public health support for EJ communities in Miami-Dade County. Over the span of the course, students will work with EJ communities in Miami-Dade County to address concerns related to food justice, health care access, environmental awareness and education, and scientific communication. Additionally, the EJ Project is partnering with the HBCP’s Oral History Project and the Ransom Everglades School to create a documentary film exploring the history of environmental justice in West Coconut Grove.

Turning Dreams Into Goals:
Law Student Helps Youths Avoid Pitfalls of Delinquency and Abandoning School
By Amir Whitaker, Greenberg Traurig Foundation Fellow

I joined scholars from around the world in Chicago to present the Historic Black Church Program’s work at the annual conference of the American Society of Criminology. Most of the conference’s presenters were professors from the disciplines of Criminology and Sociology. I brought the legal perspective by presenting the efforts of our Community Education Project.

It focused on a phenomenon called the ‘schoolhouse to jailhouse’ pipeline, about which Professor Anthony V. Alfieri has written extensively. Attending the conference allowed me to engage in critical discourse with other scholars about issues of race and crime, sharing some of the work we are doing here to combat these issues.

The presentation discussed the community lawyering work I do as part of the Historic Black Church Program as a plausible means to dismantle the Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Pipeline.

“The Historic Black Church Program is incredibly blessed by Amir’s contribution to our Community Education Project this fall in terms of both student leadership and academic knowledge,” Professor Alfieri said. “His personal experience and professional training have earned important credibility with the inner city communities we serve, and his vision and research have brought a new and exciting dimension to our interdisciplinary collaboration with other academic units at the university.”

The presentation also focused on my research and insights on race and crime, and the systematic policies and practices related to race. Growing up in Plainfield, N.J., I recalled visiting my parents while they were incarcerated. As a 15-year-old, I was arrested, deepening my immersion in the juvenile justice system. I later earned a Doctorate and a Master’s degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Southern California, and a Bachelor’s degree in Art History from Rutgers University.
At the end of the 2012-2013 school year, the Center held its annual spring reception to honor the achievements of our graduating fellows and interns. We also honored Laverne Pinkney, FIU Professor and Adjunct Professor in the Center’s Historic Black Church Program, with the Friend of the Center Award. The Award was established in 2001 to honor either individuals or groups who have provided long-standing and on-going support, assistance, and collaboration with our CEPS program and students.

The Hoeveler Award was created in honor of the Honorable William M. Hoeveler, senior U.S. District Court judge, as a lifetime achievement award for a lawyer of outstanding ethics and public service. In 2013, the Center for Ethics & Public Service (CEPS) awarded Justice R. Fred Lewis, JD ’72 the eleventh annual M. Hoeveler Award, for his contribution to ethics, leadership, and public service in the legal profession.

A former Chief Justice and founder of Justice Teaching, Justice Lewis was appointed to the Supreme Court of Florida in 1998. While serving as Chief Justice, he founded Justice Teaching, an organization that now has over 4,000 volunteer lawyers and judges placed with and active in Florida public schools, to enhance civic and law-related education through active programs in all levels of Florida schools. As Chief Justice, he also convened the first commission and statewide all branch mental health summit which developed and proposed a unified and comprehensive plan to address the increasing needs with the intersection of mental illness and the justice system.

Justice Lewis serves as liaison to the Florida Board of Bar Examiners where he has led the effort to require higher academic and character standards for applicants to the Florida Bar. He also led the effort to restructure the background fitness analysis process for Chapter 11—Certified Legal Interns. Currently serving as Chair of the Florida Professionalism Commission, his interest in maintaining high standards for all lawyers continues.

11th Annual William M. Hoeveler Ethics & Public Service Award

Justice R. Fred Lewis

Lawyers in Leadership Award

Miami-Dade Public Defender Carlos Martinez, a Miami Law alumnus, was honored with the CEPS Lawyers in Leadership Award by the Center for Ethics and Public Service. The award recognizes leading members of the Florida bar and bench who are distinguished by their dedication to public citizenship and leadership.

“Carlos Martinez’s career reflects an outstanding dedication to the pursuit of justice and service to our community,” said Professor Anthony V. Alfieri. “His integrity, passion and compelling life story will surely inspire our law students. It is our distinct pleasure to honor him with the Lawyer’s in Leadership Award.”

Miami-Dade Public Defender Carlos Martinez

CEPS Spring Reception

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CEPS Spring Reception
A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

By Nicole Pearl

The vast presence of CEPS, stretching far past the perfectly manicured perimeter of Coral Gables and into the heart of Miami, revealed itself throughout the 2012-2013 year. For those of us fortunate enough to participate in the Center, this year required dedication, courage, hard work, and insight into issues that are at the forefront of our society. The impressive and substantial work done by the Center and its members during the 2012-2013 year has raised the bar for all subsequent years; a new unspoken standard that the Center will meet and exceed with every passing year.