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Fools and Fellows Raise \$43,210 for Law Fellowship

FORT WORTH, Texas – Students, staff, and faculty at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law supported the Wesleyan Law Fellowship to the tune of \$43,210, and had a few laughs doing so, at the fall fellowship auction and fools night event on Friday, Oct. 3.

Showing an increase in funds raised from the 2007 auction, the event raised \$21,605 from live and silent auction items and a raffle, plus a matching donation from Dean Frederic White.

Organized by the Wesleyan Law Fellowship, funds raised through the fall auction provide stipends to law students who wish to commit their summers to working in public interest organizations such as Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, Catholic Charities Immigration Project, Tarrant County Probate Court One, and the Attorney General's Office.

“The fellowship program continues to contribute greatly to public service organizations in our community,” Patti Gearhart Turner, assistant dean of student affairs, said. “Students commit up to eight weeks of legal services each summer to organizations that cannot afford to hire additional legal assistance. While the auction is fun for the student body, the end result translates into huge benefits to members of our community who need legal services but can't afford to buy them.”

Dean White, along with professors James McGrath and Lynne Rambo were the evening's auctioneers, encouraging donations on items that included dinner at a professor's house, a private jet to Austin, and a game of pool with the dean.

For the first time ever, the auction included the Fools Night event, a series of skits performed by students and faculty. Audience members were treated to comical takes on topics such as how the world views law school and bad interviews, and musical performances by staff member Matt Pellegrino and Professor Wayne Barnes.

Funds from the 2007 fellowship auction provided stipends for 17 students who gave an overall total of 145 weeks of *pro bono* legal services this past summer.

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