

1939

1949

1947

1951



1944



1944



1957



1987



2004

Know Your History

Hats 'n Canes

In the fall of 1930, the *Reveille* reported a practice that would begin at the law school. “Walking canes will be carried, flourished and brandished” as a “badge to distinguish law seniors.” The canes had curved handles and a silver band engraved with the student’s name, year of graduation and the words, “The Louisiana State University Law School.” The Class of 1931 hoped to start a tradition that remains, albeit in an altered form, today. Under the leadership of Ward T. Jones, president of the law students for both the 1931-32 and 1932-33 terms, the seniors wore derby hats and carried canes.

In 1934, the *Reveille* reported that several seniors were seen swinging their canes, “but not menacingly as their older brothers sometimes do when they become infuriated.” According to Frank Purvis, president of the law students in 1935, the practice of wearing hats and carrying canes was an integral part of European law school tradition but had fallen into disuse in America. But at LSU, an annual photograph of law seniors so attired appeared in the *Reveille*.

The daily sight of hats and canes ceased in the late 50s, but the nod to our past continues with the Dean’s annual salute to the 3L class on Law Reunion Weekend. The Dean wears Paul M. Hebert’s homburg and is presented with the cane gifted to Dean Joseph I. Kelly – a gold-headed beauty bearing the inscription “From the pioneering Class of 1908.” While students have relaxed their attire, the “brandishing and flourishing” goes on once each year, reflecting a pride in the profession through the generations of LSU Law graduates.