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Marshall-Wythe News (Spring 2001)

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Donaldson Receives Jefferson Award – Ball Professor of Law John Donaldson received the College of William & Mary’s Jefferson Award on February 10. This is the highest honor the College gives one of its own, recognizing someone “who has demonstrated a deep devotion and outstanding service to the College and whose life, character and influence on the College exemplifies the principles of Thomas Jefferson.” Donaldson will retire in May after 38 years at Marshall-Wythe, three as a student and 35 as a teacher.

“Faculty Profiles” Brochure – This 85-page brochure, completed and printed last fall for the academic community, contains a biographical sketch, research and teaching interests, a compilation of publications, lectures, presentations and testimony, and service activities for each faculty member. The brochure captures the striking range of our faculty’s accomplishments. We sent copies to other deans, vice deans, and law librarians across the country.

“Wireless” Network Installed – Laptop computer users can now access the Internet and the W&M network from practically anywhere in the Marshall-Wythe building. The new system uses eight wall-mounted “black boxes” called “access points” that are wired to the W&M network. The access points use radio waves to communicate with nearby laptop computers that have a special “PCard.” Laptop users can purchase their own PCards or can check them out at the library’s circulation desk.

New North Wing to Open in Fall – This 21,000-sq. ft. addition to the Law School is rising from the ground. It will be ready during fall term, bringing badly needed classroom, office and meeting space.

U.S. News & World Report Ranking – We dropped to 34 in this spring’s results, though the Law School’s overall score went up by one point from last year. This is a game of relative position. Five schools are now ranked 27 (each with a score of 64), two schools are ranked 32 (each with a score of 63), and two schools, including W&M, came in at 34 (each with a score of 62). On to a better result in 2002!

Law Library – We have completed preliminary planning for an addition to, and complete renovation of, the law library. After a visit to our existing cramped facility by state officials, this project was given the highest “need” rating by the State Council on Higher Education in Virginia.

Moot Court Team News – In February, we hosted 19 other law school teams at the 30th annual Spong Moot Court Tournament, which was judged by federal and state judges. Our team recently advanced to the semifinals at the National Moot Court Tournament in New York City after posting a top finish at the regional round in Richmond. We also posted a 3d-place finish at Catholic University’s Telecommunications Moot Court Tournament. After winning the regional round of competition in Atlanta, our students will defend
their title at the final ABA Moot Court competition in Chicago in April.

National Trial Team News – We hosted a competition here in January between our team and one from the UNC School of Law. In February, we sent two teams to the National Trial Competition Regionals in Richmond. One of them advanced to the final round. In March, a team competed in the American Trial Lawyer’s Association Competition in Raleigh, and we sent a team to the ABA’s competition in Chicago.

Minority Youngsters Invited to Consider Law Careers – In February, 60 minority high school students spent a day at the Law School. They heard about legal study, had a demonstration of Courtroom 21, and watched a mock trial on the legality of racial profiling.

Institute of Bill of Rights Law – IBRL has sponsored 35 events at the Law School, with 69 speakers, this academic year. Among the highlights was a conference on the legacy of John Marshall, including “reargument” of Marbury v. Madison before a panel of federal appellate judges.

Courtroom 21 – Courtroom 21 has received a grant of $92,000 from the State Justice Institute to study the use of technology in the jury room and whether its use can enhance deliberations. The study’s results will be published in a manual for state courts.

Office of Career Planning and Placement – OCPP held its first job fair for William & Mary and Washington & Lee law students in New York City last August, attracting 20 of the most prominent firms in the country. Plans are underway for more job fairs in New York and Chicago. OCPP’s Video Interview Program, which allows students and employers to interview via videoconference, has been successful. Students also report good results using OCPP’s recently installed web-based, interactive software for their job searches.

Changing of the Guard – Tom Collins retired in June 2000, John Donaldson leaves this year, John Levy and Elmer Schaefer in June 2002. As mainstays of the faculty retire, however, reinforcements arrive – five this year: Professors Cao, Duffy, Dwyer, Hynes and Stein.

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