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Message from the Dean (Fall 2001)

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dear Graduates and Friends,

The Annual Fund has almost doubled in just three years – yielding a record \$808,000 this year. We're well in sight of our goal of raising one million dollars in annual contributions by June 30, 2003.

Your financial support bolsters our efforts in many ways. Two examples: (1) Student scholarships and fellowships were offered to about 40% of the student body in 2000-2001. With annual expenses of about \$22,000 for in-state students and \$32,000 for out-of-state students in that period such aid is essential if we are to continue to attract and retain the best students. (2) Thanks to your help, Moot Court teams participated in nine tournaments last year, including the National Moot Court Competition in New York City.

The Class of 2001 made a generous gift to the school: over \$86,000, pledged by 88% of the class. These new graduates understand that a gift to Marshall-Wythe is an investment in their own futures. The perception of a law school degree fluctuates with people's perception of the distinction of the school that granted it. The Class of 2001 wants the value of William & Mary law degrees to keep appreciating.

The Law School is an extremely efficient, cost-effective operation. Even so, we simply lack the resources to do some very important things. For instance, we are not able to help repay school debt burdening those of our graduates interested in practicing law in ways poorly compensated but with high social value.

It is good to be frugal, but distinction in every sector of American life costs money. There is no "free lunch" for law schools. In an increasingly transparent national market, law schools are judged by faculty, students, employers and the media in light of many measures, most of them heavily influenced by the adequacy of operating budgets.

Thanks for your continued support of a school launched brilliantly in 1779 by Jefferson and Wythe, and now moving with great success into the new century.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "W. Taylor Reveley III". The signature is written in a cursive style.

W. Taylor Reveley III