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Max Chu '22: Reflections on the Fall 2020 Semester

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Max Chu '22

Reflections on the Fall 2020 Semester

Can you please share some reflections on this past semester?

This past semester was challenging in so many ways. My peers and I had to adapt to a brand new learning environment, and many of us had to adjust our approach to studying and attending law school in general. However, the entire William & Mary Law School community displayed an amazing amount of resilience. I was inspired by so many of my classmates and professors who maintained their positivity and focus during these unprecedented times. Ultimately, I am very proud to have completed this semester as a member of this community.

In what ways did the law school community rise to the challenge?

My professors were extremely innovative in utilizing breakout rooms over Zoom, as well as recording lectures for us to watch before class. I was also especially grateful for the large tent outside the law school that allowed my friends and I to enjoy the nice weather that we experienced this semester. My classmates and I also found ways to maintain study groups and student group activities through virtual platforms. However, special mention has to go out to our 1L class. Despite beginning their law school journeys remotely, the Class of 2023 found ways to connect with each other, build community, all while excelling academically. They were presented with an extremely tough situation, but their courage and resiliency was a constant reminder to me about how special our law school family is.

What were some of the obstacles you faced in classes and other law activities? Do you feel you got past them satisfactorily?

There were many distractions that arose from attending law school in my apartment. Maintaining a work-life balance was challenging, especially when I was attending classes, studying, and sleeping all within the same room. Not to mention, the noises that came from the surrounding areas, as well as the occasional internet issues that occurred. However, I believe that professors were extremely accommodating. Most of them recorded their class sessions, and many were aware about "screen fatigue." Many of my professors even expanded their office hours as well. The law school administration also provided us with many resources on how to take care of ourselves.

Do you feel you were connected with the school and your instructors?

Yes, even though everyone was learning remotely, I still felt some connection to the school. Through the Student Bar Association's mentorship programs, I was able to connect with many 1L students.* My professors also organized their own virtual gatherings, and many went out of their way to connect with us. The Public Service Fund also organized meaningful events, like the Trivia Nights and the Outdoor Movie Night, that allowed us to come together.

What are your hopes for spring semester and beyond?

I hope that our community remains united and resilient throughout the upcoming semester. The start of every new calendar year is usually accompanied by a lot of uncertainty, but this new year will be the toughest of them all. I hope to continue doing my best, and to show myself some grace and patience when things get really stressful. I wish to further enhance my connections with my classmates, and to watch the 1L class develop into the amazing lawyers that they will become.

** Max is Vice President of the Student Bar Association.*