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By Wilford Kale

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WILLIAMSBURG - William Spong Jr., dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary, accepted the newly completed law school building yesterday on behalf of the faculty and students “as a gift from the people of Virginia.”

Spong told an audience of about 1,000 persons “this dedication is not only a symbol of our rich heritage, worthy of the training of great minds and worth of the faith of the people of the commonwealth.”

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A major feature at the ceremony was the announcement of two new endowed professorships at the law school: the John Stewart Bryan Professorship of Jurisprudence and the Mills E. Godwin Professorship of Law.

Bryan served as president from 1934 to 1942, credited with reversing the college’s depth of the Depression. His major objective was to increase the value and quality of the faculty: and to strengthen the departments and create a new emphasis on the arts with a fine arts department and its divisions of music, theater, painting, architecture and sculpture.

THREE OF THE STATE’S best known businessmen, Richard Jones Lanier, chairman of the board of Smith’s Transfer Corp. of Staunton, have pledged more than $100,000 to establish the professorship honoring the two-term Virginia governor.

Godwin, a William and Mary alumnus, Virginia governor from 1966 to 1974 and lieutenant governor from 1964 to 1966, has served in the General Assembly for 12 years.

Former Govs. J. Lindsay Almond, Mills Godwin, Albertis Harrison, Dean William Spong.