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Final Three Candidates for Dean Visit Law School

Davison Douglas

By Abby Murchison

"In life, you have to row your own race." Such was the theme of Douglas' presentation to the law school community as part of his candidacy for the deanship. It harkened back to his undergraduate days at Princeton, where he rowed on the varsity crew team. For the last thirty years, Douglas has remembered and reflected on his coach's words, asking what his own "race" is and how best to row it. William & Mary law school, he submitted, must engage in a similar quest.

Douglas articulated what he deemed were the school's three "non-negotiables" - the three essential aspects of the school that cannot be sacrificed during our "race." First, he said, we must maintain, at the absolute center of our mission, the teaching enterprise. Second, we must continue to employ a faculty of nationally and internationally recognized scholars. He noted that W&M has assembled the strongest faculty in its history, an achievement to preserve and expand upon. Third, W&M must remain committed to the cultivation of "citizen lawyers" who will play leadership roles in society.

Douglas set forth a number of specific tactics for bolstering these essentials. Improving the faculty-to-student ratio is a high priority, he said, for it strengthens the classroom experience and positively

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Technical Issues Plague the Virginia Bar Exam

By Jon Bolls

For those of us who want to go on to practice law after graduating from law school, the bar exam represents that final hurdle that must be overcome. Throughout the country more and more state bar examiner offices are providing applicants with the option to type their essay responses on their own laptops. The Virginia Board of Bar Examiners contracts with Extegrity to provide the software needed to take the exam. After their laptops pass security checks, all are encouraged to take practice tests in order to become familiarized with the software.

Having graduated from William & Mary School of Law last May, I took the July bar exam on laptop along with most applicants. During the test I experienced software glitches that should be of concern to anyone preparing to take the bar. The test took place on July 29th at the Roanoke Civic Center. At 9 AM I found my assigned seat, which was labeled with my photo ID. I was given a four-digit number to use for the test. There was also a green instruction sheet on how to prepare the Exam software for the test. This software is designed to translate the responses into an encrypted code, which is later translated for the graders. Missing, however, is a list of instructions on how to save the answers after the test, even though a USB port is provided for that purpose. After the first session, someone got onto the loudspeaker and began reciting a ten-step list of instructions on how to save the material. Once this process was completed, the USB drive was then used to transfer the data. It was at this saving stage that my own problem, as well as most of the problems I observed, occurred.

About halfway through the exam, instructions, a dialogue box appeared, which indicated that something was wrong and prohibited me from proceeding. This happened despite my having meticulously followed the instructions given. While the instructions continued to be given over loudspeaker, I then raised my hand to have one of the technicians on standby come over and assist. At that point I noticed that the entire team of technicians was busy working on other similar problems. In fact, when an announcement was made asking if there were any problems, a surprising number of hands shot up throughout the room. I don't recall exactly how many, but there were clearly more hands than there were technicians to go around.

I had my hand raised while a staff member was trying to direct an available technician to my table. In the meantime everyone else got into lines to hand in their USB drives. After about ten or fifteen minutes someone finally began working on my laptop hands-on, without explanation. I was then instructed to reboot the computer, again without explanation. Then, to make matters worse, the same thing happened after the second session. While saving the material after that session, I recall seeing the young lady who sat across from me stand up with frustration and then look over at me as if to say, "you too?!" before running off to get help. I received no reassurance or explanation from the technicians that worked on my computer. When I asked about the problem, I was instructed to reboot my computer and told to "save onto the USB drive" and that everything should be okay. Now, with an essay test that seems to be significantly underscored, I am not so sure.

When I put in a request to review or obtain my essays, the bar examiners refused to cooperate. So I decided to research the entire process. In my research I found some startling news about a case in New York's July 2007 exam where an applicant experienced a software glitch during the test, which resulted in portions

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Letters

The selection of our next dean will have a tremendous impact on the course our school navigates through the tumultuous economic times that lie ahead. I had the opportunity to hear each candidate speak at least once, and came away from each talk more convinced of one central point. Because the next several years will present both enormous opportunities and challenges, the W&M law school community would benefit most from selecting a candidate who has experienced a law school dean and doesn’t have to worry about learning on the job. Without going into the personalities or particulars of any individual candidate, it was clear to me that Ron Cass was the cream of this candidate crop. His experience and connections were second to none, and he clearly has the personal skills necessary to schmooze with alumni and enhance the reputation of the school. Additionally, his particular experience at Boston University proves that he knows how to help a school rise in the rankings and attract excellent faculty, two areas in which every candidate admitted W&M law could be improved. In my opinion, Mr. Cass would be the best choice for our next dean.

Shannon Debus (1L)

First about the process: It was a pleasure working with the other students who Jenny Case selected to be part of the small student panel. I thought it was a fair representation of the different interests at the law school. I was particularly impressed with the 1Ls: Stephen Barry, Joe Bargnesi, and Amy Paul played an integral role in asking questions about the future of the law school. They were particularly devoted to the cause and will hopefully play a roll in facilitating the relationship between whoever is selected as Dean and the rest of the student body. The dean candidate’s approach to students: Each dean candidate took a different approach to their meeting with us. Both Dean Ponoroff and Professor Mullinen took charge right away. Vice Dean Perdue seemed overwhelmed and unprepared for the questions that we asked. Professor Douglas had honest and thoughtful answers to all of our questions. Dean Alexander instantly fit in at William & Mary with his congenial nature. His comfort with students was immediately apparent. Dean Cass impressed us with his experience and charisma. My thoughts in general: I think both Professor Douglas and Dean Cass are extremely qualified to take over as dean. At this point, it is truly up to President Relevy. If either is chosen as Dean, I will be confident that the law school is headed in the right direction.

Amy Dardinger (2L)

The search for William & Mary’s next Law Dean is predicated upon first deciding what key leadership qualities the school wants. Do we want top-down leadership? A few dean candidates had specific plans for the school based on prior success or prescriptions for symptoms they can glean from our website. Or do we want bottom-up leadership? Other candidates were more apt to conduct “listening tours” upon arrival as dean that would then inform the collective direction of our academic community. Or do we want a combination of the two? Prof. Douglas already understands our collective thoughts and has specific ideas to chart our future course. Ultimately, the decision is not ours, as students to make (as much as we would like it to be or think that it is). The committee takes into account opinions from all the law school’s constituencies to provide a recommendation to the President and Provost. The decision resides in their hands to choose anyone, recommended or not. Especially in light of President Relevy’s long history with the law school, I trust that he and the Provost will make a decision that is in the best interest of the law school.

Laura Hogan (2L)

Like many, I’d like our ranking to rise and my analysis of the dean candidates was colored by that desire. One candidate I dismissed entirely because he admitted to discounting the ranking’s importance while Dean at another school. Two more I thought would pay rankings their due weight. One seemed like he cared about them...as much his other interests. Another, I’m quite certain would have us jumping the competition quickly and consistently. Ironically, she’s my last choice for our next dean.

In addition rankings I had to decide what I value as an institution what are we willing to sacrifice for rankings? Our sense of community? A faculty committed to student interaction and teaching? Our comparatively cheap tuition? The last candidate I mentioned answered these questions the wrong way.

I’ll be very disappointed if our next Dean sacrifices W&M’s core qualities for a 10 or even 15 spot jump in rankings. Given my values, Professor Douglas is my guy. Given what I’ve learned of Mr. Cass, he’s a close second. Both indicated and demonstrated their desire and ability to improve our school without sacrificing the qualities that attracted many of us to it in the first place.

Andrew Reeve (2L)

Join the Election Law Society for its third annual Election Law Symposium, “Campaigning and the Courts,” on Friday, March 20, beginning at 2:00 p.m. The symposium will feature a bipartisan panel of experts in U.S. election law. Scheduled panelists include: Benjamin L. Ginsburg and Robert F. Bauer. In both the 2004 and 2000 election cycles, Mr. Ginsburg served as national counsel to the Bush-Cheney presidential campaign. Mr. Bauer and served as counsel for Obama for America. The panel will be moderated by Michael Toner, a former chairman of the Federal Elections Commission. All are welcome!!!
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affects a metric crucial to the U.S. News & World Report ranking system. It is apparent that the new dean not overlook the curriculum taught during the 2L and 3L years, to ensure that the law school challenges upper level students to “pull together the strands” of what they have learned so far. He recommended an educational collaboration with the business school, in which law students advise MBA candidates as to the legal aspects of proposed business plans.

Lawrence Ponoroff

By Robert Bauer

The penultimate visit by a candidate for Dean was by Lawrence Ponoroff, Dean of Tulane Law School. Ponoroff began his presentation by discussing his view of the role of law school and legal education. Stressing that it is not a vocational school but a professional school, he described law school as ideally being like a “graduate liberal arts education,” focusing on equipping with the “intellectual armor,” analytic thinking, critical reasoning skills, and values to be leaders in not only the legal profession but in our communities as well. To Ponoroff, the issue is one of balance: it is a mistake to attempt to teach students how to practice law without first educating them on “what it means to be part of a society governed by the Rule of Law,” knowing the history and role of the law in American history, understanding how the law can be used to help improve our society, and how to think like a lawyer in general. At the same time, however, not all law students intend to become practicing attorneys. The skills learned in law school are valuable in a wide variety of fields, and the teaching of these professional, rather than vocational, skills is something unique to American legal education and must be preserved.

For William & Mary, Dean Ponoroff called it “the height of hubris” to come in from outside the school and purport to tell everyone what they have been doing wrong and need to do better. Instead, he spoke of his vision of our school as being a “destination school” for all of its students, rather than a fallback for some. Pointing out the advantages the school possesses in a very low tuition and a wealth of history, Ponoroff spoke of the need to differentiate and brand the school so as to attract increasingly “highly-qualified” students. Having shepherded Tulane Law School through the challenges due to Hurricane Katrina, including maintaining Tulane’s ranking and increasing donations to the school, he asserts that he is well-qualified to lead William & Mary through the impending economic crisis.

He also mentioned that one activity that can dramatically increase the name recognition of a school is to reach well-known professors from other schools, and Ponoroff points out that he has done this at Tulane.

As to what he would like to see here, Ponoroff pointed to a need for increased interdisciplinary and a focus on the international as ways to increase the school’s profile. At the same time, however, he cautioned against creating programs as mere “window dressing” and stressed the importance of providing a solid legal education while also projecting a strong external image. Like each other candidate, he also spoke of the need to hire more full-time faculty, as he estimated that we have about seven fewer professors in that category than a school of our size ought.

Frank Alexander

By Justin Meyer

Oozing with southern charm, and filled with compliments for the entire community, Frank Alexander of Emory University School of Law spoke on February 16, 2009, as the sixth and final candidate for dean. Without offering any specifics about his plans for the law school (Alexander claimed that he had not received any information from the search committee), Alexander presented his views on legal education and general ideas on how to improve schools. Alexander does not come without experience; he served for a year as Emory’s interim dean. He also founded the Emory University Center for the Study of Law and Religion, which fits in with his joint degrees, a JD and MTS from Harvard University in 1978.

At a well-attended luncheon presentation, faculty, staff and students all gathered for free pizza and heard Alexander talk about his three principles for legal education: that law is a calling, that being in legal education is a privilege, and that there needs to be a sense of community. He also talked about the direction that a law school should take—that it should be more a graduate school of legal studies than a professional school. However, he felt it important that every student, upon graduation, be able and ready to represent a client.

His perspective on the role of the dean in a law school is colored by his stint as interim dean. He found there that he had five constituencies: he was responsible to the faculty, the staff, the students, the alumni, and the college.

Like the other candidates, he spoke of faculty scholarship, but unlike other candidates who seemed to focus on publishing in the academic sphere, Alexander would encourage faculty to use scholarship to influence legal opinion in the real world. He also emphasized the importance of teaching, and the role that student evaluations would have in evaluating faculty. However, he further emphasized that faculty evaluations would also be based on service to the community, and he expected that service would include commitments where the faculty was using its talents.

Alexander spoke of how he could draw on his past experiences in leading a school. He would work with the staff, holding regular meetings to let them voice their concerns. He also believes in the importance of the relationship with alumni and fundraising. By working with alumni, Alexander believes that he can get a better picture of how the school is doing, and help the students as well—as Emory he had alumni mentor 1L students.

However, the single hurdle that Alexander seemed to stumble over throughout his talk was his unwillingness or inability to address the issues of William & Mary specifically: He talked in broad terms about budget issues; he spoke in broad terms about job prospects; but never once was he willing to speak in particulars. Many, it seemed, felt like the talk lacked the substance that those particulars would have provided.

Although Alexander is an engaging speaker, his lack of specific ideas for the law school seemed to hurt him; his unwillingness to discuss how he would fit in here—when other candidates did not shy away from the same topic—could keep him from getting the nod.
Conservative Nichol Tests Bias at W&M

By Mark Tyler

Would Gene Nichol still be president of W&M if he had been a Republican? The search for a new law school dean may provide an answer to this hypo, because one dean candidate, Ronald Cass, is in many ways Nichol's conservative doppelganger. Whether Cass enjoys better treatment than Nichol received should be viewed as a test of political bias in W&M's hiring process.

Last February W&M's Board of Visitors decided not to renew Nichol's contract as president of W&M. Nichol is widely accounts colorful, immensely talented, prodigiously active in the community, and frankly liberal. Opinion about Nichol was sharply divided due to his decisions—motivated, he said, by 1st Amendment concerns—to remove a cross from Wren Chapel and to allow students to invite the Sex Workers' Art Show to campus. In the run-up to the BOV's decision, conservative members of the House of Delegates summoned a handful of BOV members to Richmond to talk about the Wren Cross, the SWAS, and their general animus for Nichol. The lack of precedence for these hearings, their timing, and the fact that a House committee was responsible for confirming the governor's appointments to the BOV made clear that some of our representatives believe that intimidation is an appropriate technique for managing W&M.

In choosing not to bring Nichol back for another term, the BOV distanced itself from Richmond's shenanigans, stating simply that Nichol was a bad executive and fundraiser. However, the BOV was woefully unspecific in documenting Nichol's failures, and the BOV's rector appeared to be playing fast and loose with the truth when he described the BOV's decision as unanimous—a characterization that was immediately contested by another BOV member's press release and resignation.

Needless to say, the BOV's opaqueness and lack of gravitas left room for doubt. Some of Nichol's critics attempted to justify the BOV's decision when the BOV itself proved inept, by pointing to the credit that Nichol supposedly took for a large donation even after learning that the donor had revoked the gift in protest over the Wren Cross's removal. Students were left to (a) take it on faith that Nichol was a bad manager and fundraiser, (b) accept the reasoning of Nichol's detractors regarding the fundraising discrepancy, or (c) assume the worst: that the BOV sacked Nichol to save themselves, and/or that they privileged the partisan opinion of some vocal legislators and alumni over Nichol's overwhelmingly good standing with students and faculty.

Cass, a former dean at the Boston University School of Law, is remarkably similar to Nichol. His talent is undeniable:

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Drinking with Undergrads: Don't

By Ryan Ruzic

As I’m sure all of you are without exception aware, I am one of the law school’s intrepid young student senators; as such it is my job to get the undergrads in student government to give the law school more money. So when a group of student government undergrads offered me a spot on their Campus Golf team this last Saturday, I felt—while I hate drinking and batting tennis balls around campus in the middle of the day—obligated to attend. Such are the sacrifices I make for my law school. I was concerned of course that my old, tired law student body would not be able to keep up with my younger counterparts; I am twenty-four after all. Despite my worries, the day started out fairly well; we attached a variety of colorful streamers and beads to ourselves and hit the course. It was all of twenty minutes before I started bleeding. Yes, bleeding.

Standing what in retrospect was a bit too close to one of my teammates I was winged in the head with a golf club. The girls running the event, it was a sorority charity of some kind, were fairly horrified at the sheer amount of blood: “Do you want to go to the hospital?” Random Girl (undergrad) asked, but as an ambassador of the law school community I retained my trademark calm and collected demeanor, barely crying or threatening to sue the offending teammate at all. A bit dizzy, be it from the sun, the morning power hour, or the blood loss, I continued the game as best I could, though, since no score of any kind was kept, it is hard to gauge how well I managed this.

Once we had completed the course, or just given up (by this point it was hard to tell), we returned to one of the team member’s houses, where I was promptly thrown up on. Not near, on. Awesome, I said to myself, just what I had hoped for. Since the evening was winding down, and I was coated it equal parts blood and vomit. I decided this would be a good time to call it a day and return to my apartment for a shower and bandages. Of course as I began this process I was struck by one of the more painful hangovers I have had in my life.

Soon into this reprieve, however, I was called by a group of law students going out for the evening. When I tried to explain that I was not in the best shape, my friend encouraged me to overcome my current condition with a well meant “You’re such a girl.” (Eileen Earnhardt (1L)) Not one to let extreme pain get in the way, I went to meet them. “You look terrible,” Bradley Mainguy (1L) said as soon as he saw me; and as I sat at the table nursing my water I could not help but realize that this was the inevitable result of drinking with undergrads: a hangover and a head wound.

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It Is So Ordered

Steam that you can cut with the side of a fork. Do I have your attention? If not - if a buttery, lean filet cut so tender that it melts on the palette like foie gras doesn’t catch your attention even a little bit, move on now – we don’t want your sort reading this column.

The Trellis restaurant in Merchant’s Square prepared one of the finest filets I’ve ever had this past weekend. Before Barrister’s Ball my friends and I felt peckish and decided to sup at The Trellis, a lovely but widely overlooked restaurant in “downtown” Williamsburg. That The Trellis is overlooked is baffling to me. I’ve never had anything but the best food there, excellent service and I enjoy the posh yet unassumming atmosphere.

I can only surmise that it gets overshadowed (see below) between the more relaxed Blue Talon and The Fat Canary’s upscale dining.

Saturday night the restaurant was busy when we arrived for our 6:30 reservation, due in large part to the dedicated core of octogenarians that frequent The Trellis. That the waitstaff is able to juggle such duties as denture cleaning while properly corking and chilling a nice bottle of Lodi Zinfandel is a testament to the professional but warm staff.

I highly recommend the Tempura Vegetables with Lemon Mayonnaise for a hearty, zesty appetizer. It’s more than large enough to share and is delicious, though at times a slight bit too oily. The winter menu has two filet options, both of which I’ve sampled and would highly recommend.

Brian Spindler (II) sampled the Beet Fettuccini with Mushroom, Radish and Italian Cheese. Though somewhat off-putting to all those but the biggest beet devotees, the dish was perfect. The sweetness of the beets complimented by the salty hard cheese.

No trip to The Trellis is complete without the Death By Chocolate Cake. I will say no more. I strongly suggest pairing that dessert with a glass of their Sauternes, and then sliding off into a culinary coma.

The Trellis changes its menu seasonally and offers nightly specials (if they still have the flounder, go for it!). To “do it up proper” expect to spend $40-50 per person, exclusive of wine.

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as a university as prestigious as William & Mary tends to be more understanding of cultures and races. While it may be easy for some of us to discuss making strides, it’s clearly more difficult for others to do so.

Elyse: Yes, we are making strides. However, who are these “others” you talk about? As an African-American man, I really want to ask you, what specific sorts of progression would you like to see? And further, who should be effecting these changes? The government? The states? Nonprofits? Educational institutions? I guess I am just perplexed as to what Mr. Holder, and others specifically want to happen. Briar: We want understanding, we want racial tolerance. How do we affect that? Honestly I’m not sure. I really believe it begins in the home with parents expressing an understanding of other cultures, religions, and ethnicities. We provide social and non-profit programs to help underprivileged kids – majority and minority – aspire to reach better circumstances in life. We continue to allow colleges and universities to ensure their faculty, staff and student bodies are chock full of strong, intelligent, and diverse individuals, because at the end of the day I want Eric Holder to be wrong with all my heart. I want America to show him that we are a nation of warriors. How dare he say otherwise.

Elyse: I’m still at a loss as to how that plan is different from what is already happening. At the end of the day, understanding, tolerance and diversity must come from everyone. Maybe once there is an end to blaming and a beginning to action, then the final change we seek will move forward.
If You Like It Then You Shoulda Put a Bid On it:
PSF Raises $27,000 at Hollywood-Themed Auction

By Mairead Blue

Money! Money! Money! It’s a rich man’s world! On Saturday, February 28, law students gathered in Trinkle Hall to splurge on friends and prizes in a manner matched only by Hollywood starlets. One of the Public Service Fund’s largest fundraisers, this year’s gala channeled the romance, elegance, and even a little bit of that rat-pack raunchiness of old Hollywood.

Unlawful Falafel, otherwise known as Zan Khan, Andrew Gordon and Eric Scalzo, kicked the night off with a stunning ode to Marshall-Wythe. Were those mesmerized looks from the ladies in the audience a sign of school pride or a hint that many hearts had just fallen for our very own Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis, Jr.?

Not to be out-done by the men, our talented women quickly stepped into the spotlight. With the wink of a minx, Laura Collins strutted on stage joined by Lindsey Craven and Kate Kruk to sing an Andrews Sisters classic, “Shoo Shoo Baby.” Brook Williams caused all the boys’ jaws to drop with her stunning solo performance. High heels, grey gooses and a costume change? Someone definitely brought sexy back.

Speaking of begging, all those gents out there (and you know who you are) who may have been ogling the tempting trio of Latoya Asia, Genevieve Jenkins and Tiffani Wesley now have fair warning: If you like it then you shoulda put a ring on it. That pounding noise you hear? It’s the footsteps beating a path to Cartier.

Lest we catch ourselves too quickly in the goings-on of Marshall-Wythe’s fabulous singles, let’s visit the adventures of one of our school’s most infamous couples. Patrick Swayne may have peaked out in the ‘80’s but something tells me even the young ones in Saturday’s audience squealed with delight when Andrew English, a/k/a Johnny Castle from the movie “Dirty Dancing,” took the stage. Did anyone else sigh a bit at the sight of those hip thrusts? Unfortunately for his fans, Mr. English had eyes for only one dancer: Sherwin Ignacio, otherwise known as Frances “Baby” Houseman. Dressed innocently in white, Sherwin pushed all the right buttons. His coy stares and flirtatious dance moves charmed the audience and his dance partner’s heart. That lift at the end? Magical. Both Sherwin and Andrew renewed our faith in love.

Finally, there comes a time when an act is too unique, too creative and against the wall to fairly be categorized as anything other than bewilderingly independent and amazing. With “Little Miss Sunshine” as her inspiration, the fabulous Janice Craft stepped up to perform a burlesque-influenced dance that had at least five men rushing the stage. Who knew a tie could be used in such a tempting manner? And as our closing? Let’s just say Alan Kennedy-Shaffer found his cinematic doppelganger in Napoleon Dynamite. Tina would be so proud.

PSF is one of the major sources of summer funding for law students. Saturday night the students’ had a chance to give back. Thanks go out to everyone who set up, performed, bid and just generally gave away their hard-earned cash. You all did an amazing job!
From Page 4.

his CV is exemplary, and BUSL enjoyed an enviable rise in the USN&WR rankings during his tenure. He’s an engaging, colorful speaker: at his Q&A with students, he boasted that he “makes more money on the golf course than Tiger Woods” because of his prowess as a fundraiser. He is frankly partisan and a frequent editorialist for conservative legal positions, notably including a somewhat unique support for Harriet Miers’s nomination to the Supreme Court. And according to articles in the Boston Globe and BU’s student newspaper, Cass also has a checkered history as a fundraiser.

In 2004, BUSL was planning construction on a new building after Cass submitted pledge-based projections showing a banner $36 million year of fundraising. However, Cass’s $36 million projection ultimately yielded only $10 million. He resigned shortly after disclosing the shortfall, and construction was put on hold. A Globe piece on Cass’s $26 million fundraising discrepancy asked, “[W]as it fraud, or incompetence?” Another Globe article cited suggestions by some BUSL faculty members that Cass resigned in lieu of being fired.

Cass has been less than confidence-inspiring when given opportunities to explain the shortfall. A student at Cass’s Q&A asked the candidate about his biggest mistake at BUSL. Cass mentioned “minor fundraising discrepancies”—discrepancies which he claimed were due to his (1) not being a micromanager and (2) having delegated responsibilities to the wrong person. Cass explained the fundraising discrepancy differently in the letter announcing his resignation from BUSL’s deanship:

Our processes for recording and reporting gifts, pledges, and promises have differed in some respects from the system used by the University’s central development offices, and we are changing our processes to conform to those used by the University. The University is conducting a review which will help us to make that transition. It is important in this context to emphasize that, contrary to some speculation, all funds received are fully accounted for and every dollar received for our building and other capital funds is secure. None of these explanations fully convinces. Simply put, losing track of $26 million out of a total forecast of $36 million represents a terrible failure to manage. It cannot be chalked up to a reasonable refusal to obsess about the details, to reasonable mistakes made in personnel matters, to reasonable disagreements regarding effective accounting practices, or to some combination thereof. Perhaps Cass was the victim of forces beyond his control. Having no personal familiarity with BUSL’s finances, I cannot deny the possibility that Boston’s newspapers got it wrong. But there is no question that W&M must carefully scrutinize every candidate for top administrative positions for exactly these types of fundraising irregularities—both because it is important to have competent management at the helm and because W&M needs to reassure the many skeptics who believe that Nichol was ousted from the presidency because of his politics rather than his fundraising abilities. If W&M is to discourage meddlesome politicians and maintain (repair?) its reputation for academic independence, it cannot give Cass, a conservative administrator, a “pass” for a problem that it deemed fatal in Nichol, a liberal administrator. Conservativessandliberalsshould meet the same standards.

If the president and provost award Cass the deanship without first receiving a thoroughly convincing explanation for BUSL’s fundraising discrepancy, they will confirm what many of us have believed since Nichol’s ouster: politics matter in hiring at W&M, and clearly we tilt to the right.

Mark your calendars! The Fifth Annual ALC’S Run, a 5K run/walk, will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 21. The race begins at William & Mary’s Alumni Recreation & Wellness Center. Proceeds benefit the W&M Global Initiative. The event begins with a 5K run/walk at 10 a.m. with awards for winners in each division. The race will follow the W&M Blue 5K route. Registration is $15 for W&M students, $20 for non-students. For more information, contact the Athletics Department at 221-5101. Participants are encouraged to wear a T-shirt, which will be available while supplies last. For details, call 221-5101.

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The Last Page

25 Things About Marshall-Wythe

by JaMark Woolike

Here are the rules: Once your law school been tagged, you are supposed to write a note with 25 random things, facts, habits, or goals about the school.

1) Though it might seem like there's a motion-sensor in the library bathrooms to turn on the lights, there's actually somebody who is paid to watch you enter on video feed and then turn on the light switch. It's a GRF position.

2) There's a secret menu at Java City, much like In-N-Out Burger. Order your cappuccino "Scala Style" and they just give you coffee beans and a filter and a cup of lukewarm water.

3) The statue of Marshall-Wythe out front is not actually a statue; rather, it's paid actors who have been spray-painted gold. If you put a quarter at the base of the statue, they'll dance the robot. This is also a GRF position.

4) PSF is the original secret society.

5) If you look in the library stacks, under KF2979 .L47 (2004) there are 5 mixtapes of music inspired by 17 U.S.C. § 106. If you're one of the first 5 people to read this, go snag one.

6) Jim Heller reads this column.

7) If you give the folks at OCS a secret-handshake, they'll show you a secret binder full of paid summer job opportunities. Ask Dean Sein to show you sometime.

8) Rep. Michele Bachman earned an LLM at W&M. While studying here, she asked for an Honor Council investigation of all people who have left tupperware in the student lounge fridge for more than two weeks.

9) Client B is actually real. Legal Skills professors are just pretending it's fake so they can get free work out of you.

10) An episode of Battlespace Galaxy (the future) was filmed in the Center for Legal and Courtroom Technology. Ironically, the courtroom was originally modeled after the bridge of the Enterprise.

11) The mace in the fancy library room is a functional pez dispenser.

12) President Reveley's hair is actually black. He dyes it.

13) The Law School was actually founded in 1997. Don't tell Harvard.

14) The RZA was in the running for law school dean, but he withdrew when he realized there are no chessboards in the game room.

15) Pedro Almodovar teaches one of the W&M Summer in Madrid classes, but he's in costume so nobody recognizes him. "Hable Con Ella" is actually a parable about the hearsay exception.

16) Every 108 minutes, Professor Moliterno punches in 4 15 16 23 42 into the snack machine. If he doesn't, nobody knows what would happen. This also explains the pretzel shortage.

17) Don't ever order pizza from Domino's to be delivered to W&M. They will cut you out, especially if you ask why your pizza is more than an hour late.

18) Ever wonder why the Law Review office is so big? There's a trampoline in there. That's why you always hear giggling sounds emanating from that mysterious room.

19) The LLM program is being expanded to include a Ping Pong Fellow. Jan-Ove Waldner and Andrej Grubba are playing a best of five match for the slot.

20) The Date Auction was the subject of an FBI sting in the 70's, which explains why the person you "buy" doesn't actually have to date you.

21) The Gradplex is designed to take off for outer space in 2025.

22) The Java City sushi is made of people.

23) The Honor Code referendums were modified using the text from a Mad Lib.

24) Jim Heller is still reading this column.

25) Shocked Cafe really does make coffee. It's good. Seriously, check it out.