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Attack on America – All Marshall-Wythe graduates, as well as current students, faculty and administrators, are safe, though we know of September 11th deaths among family and friends. The Society of the Alumni has established a web site (www.wm.edu/alumni) to identify and remember those killed in the W&M family. As of late October, the number stood at six undergraduate alums and one MBA. While the continuing attack on America has taken a heavy toll on everyone here, it seems to have especially affected our younger JD students, who have no personal memory of the huge difficulties and threats the U.S. overcame from Pearl Harbor through the Cold War. Those of us “long in the tooth” have tried to provide perspective and reassurance. We had a “town meeting” at school shortly after 9/11 to talk about whatever people had on their minds and hearts. The conversation has continued in classrooms, halls and offices. The students themselves were marvelous in responding to the Red Cross’s call for blood and cash shortly after the attacks.

Class of ’04 – The second largest class of 1Ls ever enrolled at the Law School has joined us, chosen from over 2,600 applicants. Vital statistics: 205 students, median GPA 3.4, median LSAT 163 (90th percentile), average age 25, female 39%, male 61%, students of color 15%, from 35 states, D.C., Australia and England. Our LL.M program adds to this rich mix with students from Belgium, China, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, South Korea, Switzerland and Taiwan. We also have two visiting scholars from South Korea – a judge from the Seoul District Court (studying the American jury system) and a law professor from Pukyong National University (studying procedure, contracts and technology).

McGlothlin Courtroom and the Courtroom 21 Project – With unsettling prescience, the 2001 Courtroom 21 Laboratory Trial last April was a mock trial involving international terrorism. It showcased the Courtroom’s electronic prowess and included, for example, the questioning of a witness in Australia by a barrister in the U.K. beamed live to the judge and jury in the McGlothlin Courtroom. The simulated trial received extensive coverage on CNN and newspapers across the country carried the AP story. See www.courtroom21.net for more on the McGlothlin Courtroom and the Courtroom 21 Project.

Summer 2001 Abroad – The Law School’s five-week summer program in Madrid attracted 111 students. Twelve came from Spain and 99 from the U.S. (24 from Marshall-Wythe and the rest from 44 other law schools). The curriculum focused on international and comparative law.

Renovation and Construction – Significant renovation last summer of 4,400 sq. ft. of the existing Law School building has produced a much improved student lounge on the first floor (it actually looks like a lounge now) and a spacious new “office center” for many student organizations on the second floor, as well as a new moot court office there and new space for faculty secretarial support. The long-waited North Wing has also fully risen from the earth, though its internals remain unfinished. We expect to take possession of its 21,000 sq. ft before November ends. Formal dedication is tentatively scheduled for Charter Day on February 9.

“Virtual Interview Portal” Launched – Ours is one of nine law schools in the U.S. invited to participate in the VIP program at the request of the six large international law firms funding it. The program “interviews” students over the Internet, first having them answer written questions over the net and then having them respond “live” to oral questions posed during on-camera interviews. Based on the information so gathered, the firms decide which students to invite to their offices for further job discussions.

Reaccreditation of the Law School – Every seven years, law schools must be inspected by the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools to see if they remain in a state of
regulatory grace, worthy of continued accreditation. This is an extraordinarily demanding process, culminating in a four-day on-campus visit by a team of seven inspectors. The team visiting us will be here from November 4-7. It consists of two law school deans, a college president, two law school library directors, a law professor and a practicing lawyer. The team now has for its review a staggering mound of paper describing the school, which we prepared in response to regulatory interrogatories.

John Edward Donaldson – Professor Donaldson’s retirement last June after 38 years at the Law School (three as a student and 35 as a teacher) garnered much attention on the main campus as well as on South Henry Street. John's enormous contributions to William & Mary, the bar and the community – as well as his sterling personal qualities – were warmly remembered by a host of friends on many occasions. Of particular note, John’s former students, faculty colleagues and other admirers endowed a scholarship in his honor. Its corpus is over $134,000 and growing.

Using Our Website – If you haven’t already, do take a look at the Law School’s alumni & development website www.wm.edu/law/alumni. You’ll find an on-line alumni directory that can be searched in many ways, class notes and an events calendar. At www.wm.edu/law/careerservices, there’s a link to “Services for Graduates” on which you’ll find a placement bulletin, a spot where you can submit descriptions of available jobs and tips on job hunting via the net.

Annual Report – Our yearly accounting should reach you early in the new year. Among other news, the Annual Report will describe the Law School’s Annual Fund, which has doubled over the last three years and produced more than $800,000 in crucial support “at the margin” for the school’s operations in 2001/02. The Class of ’01’s pledges exceeded $86,000 with 88% of the class participating. Thanks to those of you who talked with law students calling during our September “Thank-a-Thon” to Annual Fund contributors. The students always love chatting with alums.

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