Gov. Kaine Praises Public Engagement at W&M

Governor Tim Kaine (standing) flanked by Judd Kennedy ’08 (left) and Cosmo Fujiyama ’07 (right). Photo by Alan Kennedy-Shaffer. Features Editor

by Alan Kennedy-Shaffer
Features Editor

Editors Note: The following article was previously published online in the W&M News.

Governor Timothy M. Kaine praised the College’s leadership in encouraging civic engagement in remarks at the University Center on Friday, Jan. 18. He advised students to always be humble and to make helping others a permanent habit. Speaking to a standing-room only crowd of over 300 students and members of the Board of Visitors, he said that Virginia must continue to break down barriers and invest more in education.

“ ”

Editors Note: The following article was previously published online in the W&M News.

Governor Timothy M. Kaine praised the College’s leadership in encouraging civic engagement in remarks at the University Center on Friday, Jan. 18. He advised students to always be humble and to make helping others a permanent habit. Speaking to a standing-room only crowd of over 300 students and members of the Board of Visitors, he said that Virginia must continue to break down barriers and invest more in education.

“ ”

The governor evoked laughter when he compared his friend Patricio to President Gene Nichol in an effort to drive home the lifestyle contrast between the American volunteers and many Honduran citizens. “Patricio was very big. He was like Gene Nichol, he hadn’t missed many meals.” Kaine followed the joke with a call for every student to be a “giver.”

“I’ve never met a person who wasn’t a giver who wasn’t happy and I’ve never met anybody who wasn’t a giver,” said Kaine. Kaine went on to say that the fact that every person on this earth has something to give “is much more important than where the next meal is coming from.”

Nichol, ever the gracious host, raved in his introductory remarks about the College’s “explosion” in the number of volunteer hours, international service programs, and students serving as Fulbright Scholars and in the Peace Corps. He said that William and Mary has the highest number of international service programs and per capita Peace Corps volunteers, of any American university. Thanking Kaine for participating in the panel on public engagement, Nichol said that...
Kaine Praises W&M

Continued from Pg. 1.

The students on the panel were just a handful of the thousands of students who last year contributed more than 323,000 service hours. Recent initiatives started by students include Building Tomorrow, the Phoenix Project, and the Back Porch Energy Initiative. The George Wythe Society of Citizen Lawyers has garnered considerable attention here at the law school.

A 2006 survey showed that more than ninety percent of Tribe alumni continue to volunteer in their community after graduation. One of those students is Cosmo Fujiyama, ’07, who co-founded Students Helping Honduras, a non-governmental organization based in Honduras. She attributed her “sense of commitment” toward improving the lives of the malnourished and the uneducated to her first service trip in college. “What makes [an international service program] a solution is the person behind it, with the energy to do it,” she said. She also emphasized that “the work is not done, not even close.”

With nineteen international service trips each year, however, William and Mary is certainly leading the pack and setting records for student participation in service programs around the world.

Fujiyama, acting on behalf of the College, ensured that Kaine did not leave empty-handed, giving him a tee shirt, coffee, coffee strainer, and an ornate box of letters from students who volunteered on a recent trip to Honduras. Fujiyama found the governor to be “sincere” in his support for the College’s efforts to get more students involved in lending a helping hand to those in need. “To me it is remarkable,” she said, “the intimacy between the governor and our university…I think [the governor’s] intentions are firm.”

Judd Kennedy, ’08, a middle eastern studies major, said that he appreciated Kaine’s willingness to share his personal experiences and to voice his support for service-learning partnerships. “It’s really compelling to see a public official visit William and Mary, talking to students about the need to break down barriers and become civically engaged,” he said.

Kennedy also said that he appreciated being one of ten students who had the opportunity to meet privately with Kaine before the panel. When it was Kennedy’s turn to discuss his involvement in the College’s diverse service options, he told the governor that he was proud of his involvement with the Sharpe Community Scholars program, a student initiative that partners with local non-profit and governmental agencies in the greater Williamsburg community.

Katie Ball, ’09, told the W&M News that she found the governor’s commitment to public service to be “inspiring.” “It was really encouraging and reassuring that [Kaine and Nichol] share the same sentiments in making it a priority of both the state and the college to maintain civic engagement…as an integral priority of every college,” she said.

Nichol, who joined the Student Organization for Medical Outreach and Sustainability (SOMOS) in the Dominican Republic over the winter break, ended by encouraging students to continue to follow former President John F. Kennedy’s charge to go “beyond these walls” and to continue to make William and Mary a leader in front-line public service and civic engagement.
Upcoming Events

Look to this space for news about speakers, meetings, and other events at the law school. If your organization has an event in the next month you would like advertised, please email TheAdvocateWM@gmail.com.

Wednesday, Jan. 23

Children’s Advocacy Law Society Meeting
In Room 133 from 12:45 - 2:00 p.m. For more information contact Megan Hay.

The Human Rights Speaker Series Presents Professor Mark Drumbl
Mark Drumbl, Director of the Transnational Law Institute at Washington & Lee will deliver a lecture entitled “Atrocity, Punishment, and International Law.” Focusing in part on the United States’ role in prosecuting terrorism and war crimes, Drumbl’s lecture will explore alternative methods of punishing perpetrators of these crimes. In Room 127 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Contact Professor Linda Malone for details.

PSF Bakesale & Assassins Sign-Ups
Kill your classmates with a plastic spoon for the small price of $5. Contact Eric Anderson or Julia Bishop if making it to the lobby would blow your cover.

Thursday, Jan. 24

Christian Legal Society Presents Professor Douglas
In Room 133 from 12:50 - 1:50 p.m. Contact Bradley Ridlehoover for more information about this event.

PSF Bakesale & Assassins Sign-Ups (see above).

Saturday, Jan. 26

Death Penalty Symposium Presented by the Black Law Students Association and Students for the Innocence Project.
Speakers include: Kirk Bloodsworth, the first person to have a capital conviction overturned on the basis of DNA evidence, now at The Justice Project; John Terzano, President of The Justice Project; John Tucker, author of May God Have Mercy: A True Story of Crime and Punishment; Professor Davison Douglas, speaking to the varying religious perspectives on the death penalty; and U.S. Magistrate Judge, Tommy Miller, who will act as Moderator throughout the Symposium. For more information, please contact Latoya Asia (lcasia@wm.edu) or Christina Murtaug (clmurt@wm.edu). A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. In Courtroom 21 and Room 133 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 29

Insiders’ Guide to the Bar Exam.
In Room 119 from 1:00 - 1:50 p.m. Contact Dean Rob Kaplan for details.

Wednesday, Jan. 30

Loan Repayment Assistance Program.
In The Faculty Room at 12 noon. Contact Dean Rob Kaplan for details.

Thursday, Jan. 31

The Human Rights Speaker Series Presents Mitchell Reiss
Lecture Entitled: “The Northern Ireland Peace Process: How Pertinent a Model for Other Conflicts?” Summary: What lessons can we derive from “the Troubles”? What do these tragic events have to say about fighting terrorism? About developing a political path away from terror? About the role of outside parties to the conflict? Are any of these lessons transferable to other civil conflicts around the world? In short, can Northern Ireland serve as a model for the peaceful resolution of other disputes? Summary Bio: Mitchell B. Reiss is Vice Provost for International Affairs at the College, and former Director of the Office of Policy Planning at the U.S. State Department and the President’s Special Envoy for the Northern Ireland Peace Process. This event will be held in Room 127 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. For more information about this lecture series contact Professor Linda Malone.

Friday, Feb. 1

100 Nights until Graduation.
At Trinkle Hall, Campus Center from 8:00 - 11:55 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 2

In the Courtroom from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Contact Amanda Tapscott for details.

Monday, Feb. 4

Lunch with Lawyers: Legal Careers in Local Government
OCS sponsors another lovely lunch with lawyers. Contact Judy Corello to RSVP for this event. In Room 133 from 12:50 - 1:50 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 5

Lunch with Lawyers: Health Care Law
Contact Dean Ramona Sein to RSVP for this event. In Room 133 from 12:50 - 1:50 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 6

Federalist Society guest speaker, Alan Gura
Alan Gura, lead counsel for the plaintiffs who successfully challenged Washington D.C.’s handgun ban, will address our chapter. In Room 127 at 1:00 - 1:50 p.m. Contact Will Sleeth for details.

Benjamin Rush Symposium
In Room 119 from 1:00-1:50 (see above).

Election Law Society Night at Paul’s Deli
Join the Election Law Society at Paul’s from 7:30-12:00 to watch the returns roll in! Door prizes and prizes for the best costume will be awarded.

– compiled by Jennifer Stanley, News Editor.
News in Brief

by Kelly Pereira & Tara St. Angelo
Co-Editors-in-Chief

Law Students Hit the Slopes

From Jan. 11 to 13 a group of law students ventured out of Williamsburg and on to the slopes of the Snowshoe Resort to enjoy West Virginia’s wildlife and nightlife (no joke) on the SBA’s annual ski trip.

The ski lodge is located in stereotypical West Virginia: the middle of nowhere. As a testament to its seclusion, attendee John Newton observed that the nearest Wal-mart was sixty miles away.

The party started on the bus drive there and did not stop until late in the evening. Just a few hours later, skiers and snowboarders alike were ready to show their stuff on both day and night trails. After relaxing in the indoor and outdoor hot tubs, there was another night and day to enjoy.

Students were able to stay in the main lodge, but most of the more senior skiers (2Ls and 3Ls) attending the trip had their own cabins. According to Newton, “The skiing was decent, but there was a lot of ice, since most of the snow was from the snow blowers and not natural.”

This trip, unlike last year’s excursion was blessed with nice weather and temperatures above Arctic levels.

No one was seriously injured on the trip despite the ice, an indication that the trip was a success and will continue to be an annual tradition at the law school.

Law Students Bleed for a Good Cause

On Thursday, Jan. 17 law students rolled up their sleeves and gave blood to the American Red Cross. Their generosity was rewarded with cookies and soda, which awaited them in the law school lobby. Shannon Revels, the Account Manager for Donor Resources in the Williamsburg area, was ecstatic about the number of donors signed up for the event and about the enthusiasm of the law school. The American Red Cross’s blood donor truck pulled up to the law school at 11 a.m. and did not leave until after 5 p.m. At the end of the day the Red Cross collected thirty-six pints of blood from as many donors, exceeding their target of thirty-five.

This is more than any other previous event at the law school. Last year only about twenty donors signed up for the event. This year was much different, as the event coordinators were forced to turn people away. The event’s coordinator, Alan Kennedy-Shaffer (2L), said, “By any measure, it was a success.”

Perfect Timing: Ribbon Cut on New Law Library

Sixth Months After Completion and at the Start of Exams

On Dec. 6, while the law library was packed with students frantically

Continued on next page.

News in Brief

by Kelly Pereira & Tara St. Angelo
Co-Editors-in-Chief

Law Students Hit the Slopes

From Jan. 11 to 13 a group of law students ventured out of Williamsburg and on to the slopes of the Snowshoe Resort to enjoy West Virginia’s wildlife and nightlife (no joke) on the SBA’s annual ski trip.

The ski lodge is located in stereotypical West Virginia: the middle of nowhere. As a testament to its seclusion, attendee John Newton observed that the nearest Wal-mart was sixty miles away.

The party started on the bus drive there and did not stop until late in the evening. Just a few hours later, skiers and snowboarders alike were ready to show their stuff on both day and night trails. After relaxing in the indoor and outdoor hot tubs, there was another night and day to enjoy.

Students were able to stay in the main lodge, but most of the more senior skiers (2Ls and 3Ls) attending the trip had their own cabins. According to Newton, “The skiing was decent, but there was a lot of ice, since most of the snow was from the snow blowers and not natural.”

This trip, unlike last year’s excursion was blessed with nice weather and temperatures above Arctic levels.

No one was seriously injured on the trip despite the ice, an indication that the trip was a success and will continue to be an annual tradition at the law school.

Law Students Bleed for a Good Cause

On Thursday, Jan. 17 law students rolled up their sleeves and gave blood to the American Red Cross. Their generosity was rewarded with cookies and soda, which awaited them in the law school lobby. Shannon Revels, the Account Manager for Donor Resources in the Williamsburg area, was ecstatic about the number of donors signed up for the event and about the enthusiasm of the law school. The American Red Cross’s blood donor truck pulled up to the law school at 11 a.m. and did not leave until after 5 p.m. At the end of the day the Red Cross collected thirty-six pints of blood from as many donors, exceeding their target of thirty-five.

This is more than any other previous event at the law school. Last year only about twenty donors signed up for the event. This year was much different, as the event coordinators were forced to turn people away. The event’s coordinator, Alan Kennedy-Shaffer (2L), said, “By any measure, it was a success.”

Perfect Timing: Ribbon Cut on New Law Library

Sixth Months After Completion and at the Start of Exams

On Dec. 6, while the law library was packed with students frantically

Continued on next page.
studying for their exams, 250 people gathered in the law school lobby and meandered through the library to cut the ribbon on the new and improved law library.

After two years of construction the new 57,100 square foot library opened over the summer. The new library takes its name from its benefactors Hank and Dixie Wolf. Hank Wolf is a William & Mary College and Law School alumnus and now serves as vice rector of the College’s Board of Visitors.

Dean Reveley was joined by College President Gene R. Nichol, College Rector Michael Powell, and members of the William & Mary Board of Visitors to dedicate the building.

One of the College’s a cappella groups, The Gentleman of the College, kicked off the celebration with a selection of songs.

Dean Reveley gave the opening remarks and a gaggle of people surrounded with scissors to clamp down on the ribbon. Dixie and Hank Wolf, Student Bar Association President Sarah Fulton, and Wolf Law Library Director Jim Heller were in the huddle.

The celebration moved upstairs in the library to the Gladys & Franklin Clark Reading Room. Dean Reveley continued his speech with a history of the law library, which included an acknowledgement of its previous lack of a permanent home. He also thanked the many donors who contributed to the success of the library project. President Nichol echoed Reveley’s sentiments and acknowledged the generosity of the Wolfs.

Library Director (and professor) Jim Heller continued the thank yous and recognized the project’s architects, Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern, and RCG, and contractors, W.M. Jordan. He also sang the praises of those that lurked behind the scenes of the library construction: Business Technologies, Office Movers, and the College’s project managers, Dave Rudloff, Ron Russell, and Steve Wasilefsky.

Heller also thanked the students for enduring the construction and studying even though “jackhammers were pounding from below and the smell of tar was coming from above.” During the ribbon cutting ceremony, noise would evict students from the library for the last time.

With only two more speakers to go, everyone was eying the food. Fulton kept her remarks short and focused on the library’s benefit to the law students. Hank Wolf ended the formal portion of the ceremony, giving his wife Dixie most of the credit for his family’s gift to the law school. He said that his wife taught him about the “great joy in giving.”

Students joined the faculty, alumni, and other honored guests for food and wine after the conclusion of the speeches. It was apparent as one looked around the room at the harried faces and sweatpant clad legs that most of the students present had wandered up the stairs during their study sessions in order to take a break and eat. The tired students were greeted with chocolate covered strawberries, spinach dip, and pumpkin cheesecake. Most took a glass (or two) of wine back with them to their carrels in order to make the night of studying go a little smoother.

Students for the Innocence Project (SFIP) sponsored a trivia night at Spectator’s on Thursday, Jan. 17. Twenty-three teams of four entered the tournament, helping SFIP raise almost $400. The night featured such teams as I Licked Hillary’s Clinton, McLovin, and Clusterf*ck.

The trivia tournament consisted of three rounds with ten questions each. Teams wrote their answers on pieces of paper and turned them into the officials at the end of each round. Round one featured such questions Continued on next page.
News in Brief

Continued from previous page. as “Who did the Redskins choose as their first round draft pick?” and a bonus speed question, “Name as many Denzel Washington movies as you can.” Round two was the most controversial round. The question “Who was the only non-Jedi to use a light saber in Star Wars?” sparked the controversy. The answer was Lando Calrissian. However, Jason Wool (2L), who responded “Darth Vader” was not happy with the real answer. He argued that Darth Vader was a Sith lord and was not the same person as Anakin Skywalker. The judges were so impressed by his answer, and probably felt sorry for him that he read that much into a question about Star Wars, that they awarded half credit for his answer. Round three ended with a speed question: “Name as many 80’s cartoons as you can.”

A team of 3Ls, The Will Shakely Project, won the first two rounds and the tournament concluded in a three-way tie among. The Will Shakely Project, Clustersick, and Barflies. The winners will be decided in a one question battle at the PSF date auction in February.

Students for the Innocence Project fundraiser’s for the Death Penalty Symposium with a bake sale and raised over $100.

Photo by Joelle Laszlo, Staff Photographer.

SFIP’s also extended their fundraising efforts to a bake sale in the law school lobby the day of the trivia tournament. They raised about $100. Their bake sale coincided with the blood drive, to the delight of the weary donors. SFIP offered cup cakes, lemon/lime bars, muffins, chocolate muffin cake, and different kinds of cookies.

In addition to all their fundraising, January marks a stellar month for SFIP. SFIP successfully lobbied and fundraised to add a new Innocence Project Clinic to the curriculum this semester in which law students earn academic credit by combating wrongful convictions.

Next week, SFIP and the Black Law Students Association are co-sponsoring a Death Penalty Symposium on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Courtroom and Room 133. Free breakfast and lunch will be provided and participants include: Kirk Bloodsworth, the first person to have a capital conviction overturned on the basis of DNA evidence; John Terzano, President of The Justice Project; John Tucker, author of May God Have Mercy: A True Story of Crime and Punishment; Professor Davison Douglas; and Judge Tommy Miller (moderator).

Sam Sadler Retires; There Goes New Mail

After forty-one years of service, Sam Sadler, the College’s Vice President for Student Affairs will retire this summer. Sadler’s emails have been a staple in law student’s inboxes (The Advocate columnist, Mike Kourabas, spoofed Sadler’s penchant for incessant emailing and delivery of bad news in a previous issue). Although many of Sadler’s emails were more targeted at undergrads, his sharing of College news and crises as well as seasonal greetings will be missed. The Advocate congratulates Sadler on his years of service and wishes him the best of health and luck.

Continued on next page.

NO GIMMICKS, JUST RESULTS.

CONSIDER THIS:

85% of students at Barry University School of Law used AdaptiBar to prepare for the July 2007 bar exam.

The school’s bar passage rate increased 7.1% to an all-time high of 79.1%.

COINCIDENCE?

AdaptiBar is your ONLY choice to prepare for the Multistate Bar Exam.

Here is why:

• AdaptiBar uses only previous bar exam questions, never simulated ones.
• AdaptiBar adjusts the presentation of questions based on your strengths and weaknesses in each subject AND subtopic.
• Only AdaptiBar calculates your optimal timing in each subject then tells you how much more (or less) time you should have spent on the question to maximize your results.
• Only AdaptiBar allows you to continuously compare your performance to other examinees in your state or worldwide.
• AdaptiBar has clear and concise explanations for every question.
• You can access AdaptiBar from ANY Internet-enabled computer, anywhere in the world.
• You can even answer questions from your cell phone by going to adaptibar.mobi.
• AdaptiBar allows you to e-mail our staff regarding both technical AND substantive questions.
• Only AdaptiBar has a 105% money-back guarantee!

Try AdaptiBar for free at www.tryAdaptiBar.com

So what are you waiting for? Enroll online at www.adaptibar.com or call us at 877.466.1250.

AdaptiBar is yours for only $345.00. Just use promo code WS345 when enrolling to receive the $50 discount.
Law Students Gamble for a Good Cause

William & Mary's Bone Marrow Drive raised approximately $1,200 at its annual poker tournament, held on Jan. 19 in the law school lobby. Fifty-six people participated, including law students, students from the other grad schools, and members of the faculty. Ed Nunes (1L) finished first in the tournament, with Jonathan Hyslop (2L) following in second, and Joey Smith (2L) winning third place.

The top ten finishers were able to pick their prizes. Nunes chose the Two-night stay at The Lansdowne Resort (a four diamond Virginia Resort). Hyslop chose a two-night stay at The Tides Inn on the Chesapeake Bay, and Smith picked a set of golf balls and a two-person golf outing to Golden Horseshoe Golf Club. Other winners from the law school included Ryan Stevens (3L) in fourth place, Rob Barrett (1L) in eighth place and Andrew English (3L) in ninth place.

The top ten finishers were able to pick their prizes. Nunes chose the Two-night stay at The Lansdowne Resort (a four diamond Virginia Resort). Hyslop chose a two-night stay at The Tides Inn on the Chesapeake Bay, and Smith picked a set of golf balls and a two-person golf outing to Golden Horseshoe Golf Club. Other winners from the law school included Ryan Stevens (3L) in fourth place, Rob Barrett (1L) in eighth place and Andrew English (3L) in ninth place.

Other prizes featured in the tournament were $100 donated from LexisNexis, four person greens fees to Williamsburg National Golf Course, a pearl necklace and earrings, giftcards (from American Express, iTunes, Olive Garden, The Funny Bone, and Newtown Cinemas), a poker set, and 5,000 Westlaw points.

Christina Murtaugh (2L) won a $100 American Express giftcard that was raffled off to people remaining in the tournament at the end of the first hour. Sadly no ladies remained in the top ten, but Kristin Smith (1L) was the last remaining female in the tournament.

Photos by Whitney Weatherly. Staff Photographer.
The Annual PSF Auction will be held Sat. Feb. 9 in Trinkle Hall!

Some of the amazing live and silent auction items this year include: the 6 best seats for the 3Ls’ 2008 graduation ceremony, 2 tickets to see Kenny Chesney live in concert, tickets to see the Wizards play, a digital camera, dinner packages, movie tickets, a meal with your favorite professor, and (get excited) 4 box seats to a Red Sox game.

Come to Trinkle Hall the night of Feb. 9 to bid on these items and more, see your friends show off their talent (or lack of) on stage, have a lot of fun, and support your Public Service Fund!

Questions about this awesome event? Email Jennie Cordis, jgcord@wm.edu Or Sarah Landres, sgland@wm.edu

It is admitted that a fox is an animal ferae naturae and that property in such animals is acquired by occupancy only.
Tomkins, J., Pierson v. Post, 3 Cai. R. 175 (N.Y. 1805).

Cartoon by L. Barrett
We Know What You Did Last Summer…

The movie reference may be outdated, but the Public Service Fund continues to support law students. Every year the Public Service Fund, in cooperation with the Law School, provides financial support to a large number of William & Mary students during the summer so that they can pursue opportunities with government and public interest organizations. Each issue of The Advocate will feature stories authored by the sponsored students.

A Sultry Summer in the U.S. Attorney’s Office

by Nicole Sornsin
Contributor

I find the topic of this article horribly reminiscent of some assignment I had back in grade school. The difference, of course, is that my summers were probably a lot more interesting back then. Back in the good old days I would spend my summers at water parks and skating rinks, but this summer I put in my time at the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Arizona. Nonetheless, the experience at the U.S. Attorney’s Office was still quite memorable. I expected to be holed up in some run-down basement of an office since everyone talks about how you can either be courted by fancy private firms or do the right thing (without the perks) at a government job. Yet, I was pleasantly surprised by my enormous window overlooking the entire city of Phoenix and did have a handful of free lunches.

The work wasn’t bad either. Nearly every day, I was invited to walk the half-mile to the courthouse in 100 degree weather to observe trials and various motion arguments. Although I worked in the violent crime department, I was also able to witness the demise of an enormous drug ring based in Arizona and a very rare successful obscenity prosecution. Although the experience was not exactly what I had expected, I was able to meet and work with very talented lawyers and wonderful students from across the country. The attorneys gave me many assignments, some of which showed me how to prepare for a five-year-old double-murder trial and analyze the many aspects of a confession to show it was voluntary. Although I do not intend on working as a prosecutor, I enjoyed my CSI-like summer for the excitement and the opportunity to learn more about the law.

Pro Bono Work in the Volunteer State

by Seth Eddy
Contributor

Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA) Organizations have been around since the 1980s. Therefore, you might be surprised to find out that in a city known as ‘Music City,’ the capital of a state known as the ‘Volunteer State,’ there was no such organization until 2006. Executive Director Casey Gill started Tennessee Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (TNVLA) in September 2006, just a few months after graduating from Vanderbilt Law School. I was honored to be the first summer intern at this organization, both for the opportunity to serve the Nashville arts community, and the chance to help the organization itself as it gets off the ground.

TNVLA’s mission is to aid low-income artists and arts organizations with legal matters relating to their art on a pro bono basis. It does this through several methods. One method is by producing publications explaining relevant legal matters in layman’s terms. One of my assignments was to produce one such publication, on the topic of my choice. I completed a publication on the copyright termination process, which has since been sent to the graphic designers and will be distributed to interested artists soon.

The most important service TNVLA provides is access to pro bono legal assistance. Simpler matters are handled in-house, while more complex matters are referred out to one of our volunteer lawyers. One particular matter that I helped with was a contract dispute between a sculptor and the Metro Nashville Arts Commission (MNAC). MNAC had commissioned the artist to design, sculpt, and install some pieces of art in a new park downtown. The artist, in reliance on the contract, began collecting supplies, quit his job teaching at a local arts college, and began work on the sculptures. About three months before the art was scheduled for installation, the Nashville Parks Department put in a one-year moratorium on placing any permanent fixtures in any Nashville parks. This placed the artist in a tough spot, as he knew it would now be at least a year before he could perform his end of the contract, and having quit his teaching job, was concerned about additional expenses he might incur. There were so many issues in this matter (offer and acceptance, frustration of purpose, impossibility, etc.) that the memo I prepared felt like it could have been the answer to a Contracts exam question. In the end, we advised the artist to contact MNAC and explain the situation. MNAC cut him a check for his extra expenses, most likely because the dispute wasn’t really between the artist and MNAC as much as it was between MNAC and the Parks Department.

That was just one of many instances in which we were able to help artists who were in dire need of legal assistance, but without the resources to pay an attorney. I got some great hands-on legal training, met some very cool attorneys and artists, and for the first time, saw first-hand the social benefits of pro bono work. I know now that wherever I practice law, I will be heavily active in the area VLA organization, and if where I practice doesn’t already have one, maybe I’ll just start one up like Casey.

Defense! Defense!:
My Summer at the Federal Public Defender’s Office

by Mike Smith
Contributor

Never did I think that after a mere two semesters of legal education, I would have the opportunity to engage the law as I did during my time with the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Virginia in Norfolk. I began the summer hoping to further develop my writing and research skills, and somehow benefit those in need of legal counsel who, but for the Federal Defenders, could not afford it. Not really asking for much else, I started the summer with a pretty open mind. Ten weeks hence, it is difficult for me to convey what an incredibly gratifying and fulfilling experience I had.

The summer began as one might expect. I shadowed attorneys for the first couple of days. Initial assignments tasked me with researching specific legal issues and preparing memoranda. Shortly thereafter, I met with clients, including those in federal custody. Before long, I was issue-spotting. Instead of giving me a specific question of law, I was presented with problems and asked to find solutions. The problems and potential solutions were real people, with real consequences.

I researched a variety of criminal issues including international criminal fraud, government seizure, unnecessary delay in taking a defendant before a judicial officer, evidence admissibility, the United States Sentencing Guidelines, and the authority of a federal magistrate to order the expungement of a misde-
The Iowa caucuses are important, enormously, absurdly, outlandishly—scandalously!—important. And here’s the thing: if we are going to drive a stake through the Iowa caucuses, now is the moment to do it.”

So says Jonah Goldberg of National Review, one of the most virulent critics of the democratic process in my home state. As a native Iowan who just participated in my third presidential caucus, I take quite a different view. Rather than the “racket,” “stupid process,” or “first-in-the-nation boondoggle” that Goldberg says the caucuses are, I believe we Iowans demonstrated this year that the caucuses are a pivotal piece of America’s republican democracy.

Before I share my own caucus experience, let me remind you of something many of you already know—the caucuses are hardly confined to one day. While we gathered with our neighbors and stood for our candidates on Jan. 3, most of the presidential candidates began campaigning in Iowa in early 2007—about a year before the caucuses began. For John Edwards, the campaign started not long after he and John Kerry were defeated in November 2004. The fact that Edwards spent so much time in Iowa over the last four years is a big reason why he did so well there this year.

Iowans have unparalleled access—with the exception, perhaps, of Granite Staters—to presidential candidates. This access creates the kind of personal experiences that people remember for a lifetime. The weekend before the caucuses, The Cedar Rapids Gazette published a full-page photo spread of two Iowa women who had had their pictures taken with at least a dozen of this year’s candidates. Familiar friends sometimes appear in candidates’ TV ads. My dad, a professional piano player, was asked by the Hill-ary Clinton campaign to play at an event for the half-hour immediately before Clinton came on stage. An acquaintance of mine, whenever she shakes hands with a presidential candidate, does not let go until she gets an answer to how the U.S. will liberate the Palestinian people.

Residents of Guttenberg, Iowa, my hometown, caucus for Barack Obama on Jan. 3. Photo by Rob Poggenklass. News Editor.

The result of all this is that by the time Iowans go to the caucuses, most of us are not moved by last-minute negative advertising, what the polls say, or the expectations of the pundits. We have met the candidates, discussed their positions on the issues with our friends, co-workers, and neighbors, and we show up on caucus night, fired up and ready to go.

We do not believe, as Goldberg puts it, that we deserve to be “king-makers.” It is entirely possible that neither Barack Obama nor Mike Huckabee, the Iowa winners, will go on to win their respective nominations. However, most Iowans cherish our first-in-the-nation status and take it seriously. As a friend put it to me in a recent email, “We never say we should make the choice—we only say, let us make our choice.”

This year, for a multitude of reasons, Iowa’s Republicans and Democrats showed up in record numbers to the caucuses. Most polls predicted that the Democratic turnout would be between 150,000 and 200,000—shattering the previous record of 125,000. On caucus night, Jan. 3, some 239,000 Iowans—long-time Democrats, independents, and more than a few Republicans—came to the Democratic caucuses. In a state that went for George W. Bush in 2004, that’s a pretty big deal.

The Republicans turned out 115,000 voters on Jan. 3—31,000 more than the last contested caucus, which Bush won on his way to the nomination in 2000.

Columnists for The Washington Post and New York Times have dis- paraged the Democratic tradition of standing publicly for your candidate. I, like most Iowa Democrats, happen to love it. (Iowa Republicans typically vote on caucus night by writing their candidate’s name on a piece of paper. I’ve done that, too, and it’s not as fun.)

This year I had the opportunity to walk to the caucus in my hometown of Guttenberg with my mom, a first-time caucus-goer. Around 6:00 p.m. on Jan. 3, we put on our coats—no hats or mittens needed, with the temperature a balmy twenty degrees—and walked a block down the alley to the Municipal Building. It was the same walk we used to take together almost two decades ago, when I was a Cub Scout and she was my Den Mother (in addition to being my real one).

We arrived to find our friend Jim, a local dentist and my former soccer coach, standing at the door. Jim was the caucus chair, the one who would provide directions throughout the night, make sure we adhered to the rules, and, finally, report the results to the Iowa Democratic Party. He greeted me with a smile and we each voiced our excitement. A college student who graduated from the same high school as I did offered me a “Standing for Obama” sticker. I displayed it proudly, then turned to smile at the Clinton precinct chair, a nice young man from Chicago who, for the next few hours, would lobby hard for the votes of people he had never met. It was going to be a fun night.

My first duty was to register. Thankfully, the Iowa Legislature passed a law last year that allows same-day registration. While it has always been okay in Iowa to change your party status on the day of the caucuses, this was the first time that registering to vote on that day has been allowed. I have always been an Iowa voter but had lived and voted in another town.

As I registered, I noticed other first-time Guthenberg voters doing the same. The volunteer at the table asked caucus-goers if some needed to change their party affiliation. “I’ve always been a Republican—until this year,” one man said.

I soon encountered my high school principal, Mr. Whalen, now retired. Last month The Washington Post featured him in a video about how the Iraq War was affecting voters’ minds in the key early states of Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina. He told the Post that he had voted for President Bush in 2000 and 2004, but that he now regretted the second vote. He was looking for a candidate who could end the war in Iraq and bring the country together. Obama appeared at Lakeside Ballroom in Guttenberg on Dec. 14 with this message, among others: “If there’s Republicans or Independents here, I want your vote.” On caucus night, Mr. Whalen told me he hadn’t seen or heard a candidate like Obama since John Kennedy, in 1960.

By 7:00 p.m., all 180 chairs in the room were full and nearly 100 more people lined the walls—an Continued on Pg. 12.
The Only Political Commentary You’ll Ever Need

by Michael Wakefield

Features Staff Writer

If you’ve followed this month’s political events at all, you’ve probably noticed that the word “change” has become more trendy for politicians than saying “I’m Rick James, B@$#!”! was for me my freshman year of college. Both parties are guilty of overusing the term, but I do enjoy listening to the Democratic candidates in particular argue about who’s the “changeist.”

But try not to lose sight of what change has meant to politicians since Jefferson’s time: shoving a particular ideology down everyone’s throat whether Americans actually want it or not. Oliver North said it best in South Carolina the other day: “If [a Democrat] becomes president next year, all we’re going to have is “change” in our pockets.” My sentiments exactly.

Barack Obama

After winning Iowa by cleverly inserting the word “change” or “new” at the beginning and end of every sentence, Obama has won the adoration of millions of Americans. His surprise loss in New Hampshire ended Obamamania early enough, shocking the thousands of college kids who told pollsters they’d vote, but then ended up getting drunk at “Go Obama” parties instead. He’s famous for claiming he will change politics in America and end partisanship bickering, but it only takes a glance at his platform to realize he’s not going to get a single Republican vote for any of his major policy proposals. I think Mrs. Clinton is the anti-Christ like everyone else, but at least she’s honest about what “change” means.

My principal criticism of Obama is ironically the same criticism Clinton has made: his grasp on reality sometimes mirrors that of a kid desperately believing in the tooth fairy. For example, he blamed the assassination of Paki- stani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto (who’s been getting death threats since before I was born) on the war in Iraq. Even more “out there,” during a Jan. 3 televised debate, he claimed that the steep reduction of violence in Iraq could not be credited to the “surge,” but was actually the direct result of the Democrats’ gains in 2006. In his analysis, he apparently assumed that the 160,000-plus combat troops in Iraq have been doing nothing but play Xbox all day since last summer. (Obama also made the claim that Clinton’s criticism of him is similar to criticism received by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement, but I won’t go there ... except to say that’s absolutely ridiculous.)

I’m willing to give Obama the benefit of the doubt since I suspect very few Democrats actually believe their own anti-Iraq rhetoric these days (does anyone else remember when some congresswoman blamed the California wildfires on Iraq?). But if he’s serious, God help us if he ever becomes commander-in-chief.

John Edwards

I won’t spend much time on Edwards because he’s dead in the water. His angry rhetoric about how rich folks are evil and poor folks deserve their stuff just turned everyone off this year. I do have to admit though; his socialist agenda certainly would give a poor guy like me all the incentive I need to stay poor forever. And to all you law students who are sinisterly planning on working your asses off to someday be a rich folk, don’t work too hard, because your paycheck’s going to end up in my back pocket. Suckers.

Hillary Clinton

Someone informed me that my article a few months ago criti- cized of Clinton is what derailed her campaign in Iowa. I do in fact take full credit for Obama’s surge in the polls. Still, Clinton shocked everybody when she upset Obama in New Hampshire after she nearly cried with voters at a diner, finally revealing her “human side” (she faked it). Despite the media’s newfound love with Obama, I hate to admit it, but I think Clinton’s still got the nomination in the bag. Hillary got my full attention last time I wrote, so I’ll limit my rant to one point...

Like Obama, Hillary has begun to claim that increasing signs of success in Iraq are only the result of Democrats’ continued vows to leave the country. Hillary on Meet the Press: “from my perspective, part of the reason that the Iraqis are doing anything is because they see this election happening and they know they don’t have much time.” Vomit. Come on, Tom Cruise sounds less crazy when he talks about Scientology. Since Hillary and the rest of the Democratic Party invested absolutely every bit of po- litical capital they had on the failure of our troops in Iraq, all they can really do at this point is attempt to take credit for our troops’ success.

John McCain

I won’t address the other GOP candidates because they are all either phonies or unqualified. A few facts about John McCain: John McCain doesn’t write books, the words assemble themselves out of fear. When John McCain falls in the water, John McCain doesn’t get wet, the water gets John McCain. There is no “crit’l” button on John McCain’s computer. John McCain is always in control.

The facts speak for themselves. But being a super bada** isn’t the only thing McCain has going for him. Allow me to explain. McCain is the only moderate in this race on either side, and because he’s not a cold-hearted conserva- tive, I personally disagree with more than a few of his positions (I’m sure I’ve sold many of you righties on that point alone). Take illegal immigration as an example. Most Republicans are right on point with the immigration issue. The only problem is that assum- ing we can simply deport most of the twelve million illegals in this country is a bit “Obama-ish” (read: hopelessly unrealistic). On the other side, Democrats have been shamelessly attempting to buy votes in exchange for citizen- ship, all the while claiming that the sizable majority of Americans who disagree with them are no more than ignorant racists.

Enter John McCain. He worked with members of both par- ties to bring about an immigration reform bill. It made Republicans vomit, Democrats don’t like aspects of it, but the bill would have been better than what we have now...absolutely nothing. Obama says that Americans don’t want to go left or right, they want to go forward. Even though Obama’s idea of moving forward equates to the radical left, liberalism, he’s got the general concept right.

McCain is the only candidate who has honestly embraced bipar- tisan solution-making on the tough national issues, all the while taking principled stances against the political tides when it counts most (the GOP would have never been able to keep Democrats from sabotaging the Iraq troop “surge” without McCain’s leadership). I’m about as opinionated and idealistic as a guy can be, but I came to the realization that the President of the United States can’t be an ideologue for the next four to eight years. Even though I disagree with him on stuff, there’s not a guy (or girl) on this planet I’d want to have in the Oval Office more. And again, he’s a super bada**. Vote McCain.

Defense! Defense!

Continued from Pg. 9.

meanor charge when the government concedes the defendant’s innocence (an issue of first impression in the Fourth Circuit). Motions, briefs, and orders that I wrote were submitted to the bench with little or no revision. Never did I think that after one year of law school I would get to see seasoned and highly respected attorneys in United States District Court arguing things that I wrote.

Rarely did my clients’ cases involve questions of innocence or guilt (a good thing, it would be alarming if the United States Attorney regularly sought indictments against wholly innocent people). They did quite commonly, however, involve issues of due process, questionable govern- ment behavior, and appropriate sentencing. The Office of the Federal Public Defender is fortunate to be extremely well-resource and com- posed of some of the best criminal defense lawyers around. We served not only as attorneys to our clients, but as counselors. Many of our clients were especially pleased, and somewhat surprised, with the high caliber legal representation they received from our office.

Representing those who society has cast out, and who risk unjust judgment because of their indigent status, is a most rewarding experience. It is one thing to proclaim that justice is blind; it is quite another to spend one’s life ensuring that it is. Thank you, Public Service Fund.
CAUCUSES
Continued from Pg. 10.

astounding turnout of 275 people in our sleepy river village. In West Branch—birthplace of the Great Humanitarian and our 31st president, Herbert Hoover—some 426 people flocked to the Democratic caucus.

That’s nearly a fourth of the town.

Jim, the caucus chair, instructed us to move toward one of the nine posters on the wall—one for each of the eight candidates and a ninth marked “Uncommitted.” He reminded us that “Uncommitted” is a real choice; “Uncommitted” won a plurality of Iowa caucus-goers in 1976, when Jimmy Carter finished second and claimed victory. On this night, however, only a half-dozen voters paused there until deciding on a candidate.

And so we moved to the various corners of the room, making our choices known to our friends and neighbors. From the Obama corner, I waved to former high school teachers standing for Joe Biden. While Obama (126 supporters), Clinton (roughly sixty), and Edwards (roughly forty-five) had garnered the fifteen percent of supporters necessary to remain viable, Biden and Richardson (to say nothing of Dodd, Kucinich, and Gravel) had not. Had Biden and Richardson packs combined, they may have had enough, but the two groups combined could not settle on one candidate or the other.

Precinct chairs and other supporters from the top three candidates moved toward the Biden and Rich- mond camps but as I suspected, most of them had already made up their minds for a second-choice candidate.

When the time came for realignment, the two packs moved almost as one to become supporters of Edwards. He was nearly everyone’s second choice.

In the end, Obama won the cau- cus and eleven of its twenty-three delegates to the county convention. Edwards passed Clinton to collect seven delegates, while Clinton won five.

The Guttenberg caucus mirrored the statewide result: Obama 38 percent, Edwards 30 percent, and Clinton 29 percent.

On the Republican side, the for- mer Baptist minister Huckabee won big for a number of reasons. If you listened to the national media, you surely know that he won because most Iowa Republicans are Evangelical Christians. While there is some truth to that, it’s also true that Rom- ney outspt Huckabee in Iowa by millions of dollars. Not long before Iowa, Huckabee was seen walking alone in airports, pulling his own suitcase behind him.

In the days before the caucuses, Romney ran a series of negative TV ads telling Iowans how Huckabee had raised taxes as governor of Arkansas.

Negative campaigns don’t play well in Iowa, as Romney found out. “The first thing we have learned is that people really are more important than the purse,” Huckabee said in his victory speech.

But Huckabee also won because of his populist message. “When one is elected to public office, one is not elected to be a part of the ruling class,” he said. “He is elected to be a part of a serving class, because we the people are the ruling class of America.”

Another gracious winner, Obama, had the right message for a raucous crowd in Des Moines on Jan. 3. “In lines that stretched around schools and churches, in small towns and big cities, you came together as Demo- crats, Republicans, and Independents to stand up and say that we are one na- tion, we are one people, and our time for change has come,” he said.

While Jonah Goldberg, David Broder, and The New York Times editorial board continue to slam the Iowa caucuses for their “anti-demo- cratic” ways, I am reminded why I love the process so much.

I wish those editorial writers could have seen the sweat and de- termination on the faces of young college students and precinct chairs, like Rachel Kann, Liz Smith, and Claire Bernhard, as they worked to count each and every hand as quickly as possible. I wish they could have seen the elderly couple who sat holding each other, the man firmly planted in the Obama corner, his wife a solid backer of Hill- ary Clinton. I wish they could have seen my best friend Rebecca, torn between supporting two candidates for President whose positions on the issues she supports—one of whom happens to be an African-American and the other a woman—and switching at a critical time from the former to the latter to make Clinton’s sup- porters viable.

Not thoughtful Iowan will tell you that the caucuses are perfect, that the process couldn’t somehow be im- proved or that other states shouldn’t get the same attention that Iowa does. But compared to a national primary, which would undoubtedly be won by the candidates with the most ad- vertsing dollars, the Iowa caucuses suddenly look a lot more democratic.

There can be no substitute for meet- ing candidates face-to-face, debating issues for months with friends and neighbors, and sweating for sup- porters on caucus night.

When a state that is 96 percent white delivers an eight-point victory for a first-generation African-Ameri- can, the process works. When a can- didate who went negative and spent between $6 million and $10 million on advertising dollars, the Iowa caucuses suddenly look a lot more democratic.

There can be no substitute for meet- ing candidates face-to-face, debating issues for months with friends and neighbors, and sweating for sup- porters on caucus night.

When a state that is 96 percent white delivers an eight-point victory for a first-generation African-Ameri- can, the process works. When a can- didate who went negative and spent between $6 million and $10 million on advertising dollars, the Iowa caucuses suddenly look a lot more democratic.
Courage Under Fire: Pakistan Pulled Apart by Bhutto Assassination

by Alan Kennedy-Shaffer Features Editor

“...I am not afraid. We cannot be afraid.” Benazir Bhutto’s final message to a surging crowd in Rawalpindi could easily have been overlooked or forgotten in the confusion surrounding Bhutto’s death and the speculation about the future of Pakistan. The assassination of the popular, former prime minister on Thursday, Dec. 27, 2007, left a void on the world scene that will take much courage to fill. An image of a survivor of the attack, his arms raised and his mouth open in grief and desperation, looked up at the world from the front page of The New York Times. Pakistan is still grieving, and still desperate, for courage in the wake of the assassination of the woman who was her country’s best hope for positive change.

Pulled apart by Bhutto’s assassination, the nuclear nation that President George W. Bush has repeatedly called upon for lip service in his unsuccessful war on terrorism now faces a difficult choice: fight for justice and democracy in the face of a violently repressive government or quietly live in peace. This is really a false dichotomy, however, because Musharraf’s regime is crumbling and there can be no peace in Pakistan without justice and democracy.

Immediately after the attack, there was a glimmer of hope that the Bush Administration would cut its ties to Musharraf and permanently realign itself with the courageous dissidents who backed Bhutto and others who support former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Alas, the relationship between the notoriously repressive regimes faltered, but did not fail. Remember that the former (and future?) general who came to power in a coup and has stayed in power with the assistance of our tax dollars and military first said that Bhutto died of the trauma of hitting her head against the roof of the vehicle in which she had been riding when she was shot. Remember that after international observers produced irrefutable documentary evidence that Bhutto was shot at point-blank range and then attacked by a suicide bomber, the government of Pakistan immediately blamed Al Qaeda for the assassination. Remember that after the United States and other nations raised doubts about the Pakistani government’s speculative pronouncements, Pakistan agreed to cooperate with Great Britain on a serious investigation into the assassination. As the Pakistani government’s repeated cover-up attempts make clear, Musharraf must not remain in power.

The increasingly widespread calls for Musharraf’s resignation in the last few months suggest that many nations heard the Pakistan people’s plea for change. But Bush did not act. Lawyers took to the streets to protest injustices perpetrated against an already fragile judicial system that may take years to reestablish and rebuild. But the world did not act. The front-runner in public polls and the leader of the largest democratic insurgency in Pakistan was assassinated as she told the nation not to be afraid. Will we act? Will we demand regime change in Pakistan and hope for an oppressed people? Will we condemn Musharraf’s regime and support those who struggle to salvage courage from the wreckage of dashed hopes and shattered dreams?

I posed the question to you in a prior article this way: would we have the courage to face the soldiers in our suites? I pose the question to you now in a new way: will we have the compassion to stand with our sisters and brothers who yearn for peace with justice? The former is a question of theory, a question that asks for soul searching and moralizing. The latter is a question of action, a question that asks for an iron will and unyielding commitment. And yet both theory and action will be needed as the White House changes occupants and Congress decides how to respond to the deadly blow dealt to democracy and international peace on Dec. 27. Both courage and compassion will be needed if the United States is to turn its back on Musharraf and look directly into the eyes of those whose last, best hope for a peaceful transition landed in a coffin three weeks ago.

The question of how Bhutto’s assassination will change the future of Pakistan is one that is open to debate and speculation. The question of whether the assassination of the Pakistan Peoples Party leader will change the future of Pakistan is one that can only be answered by the most courageous among us. The sniper’s bullet killed Bhutto, but it did not kill her dreams. Her dreams live on to inspire lawyers with the courage to face soldiers in the streets. Her message that we must not be afraid lives on, teaching others not to be afraid. I still believe that there will be justice in Pakistan. But I also know that it will take more than words and grief to create change. It will take courage. We must not be afraid.

Black Law Students Association & Students for the Innocence Project of William & Mary School of Law Present:

DEATH PENALTY SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, January 26, 2008
William & Mary School of Law

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.  Continental Breakfast
9:30 - 9:45 a.m.  Welcome: Megan Turner, President, NBLA
Introduction of Speakers: Judge Tommy Miller, U.S. Magistrate and Adjunct Professor of Law, W&M

9:45 - 10:30 a.m.  Professor Davison Douglas, Arthur E. Hanson Professor of Law, W&M
Religion and the Death Penalty

10:45 - 11:45 a.m.  Kirk Bloodworth, The Justice Project
First person to have a capital punishment overturned on the basis of DNA evidence

11:45 - 12:30 p.m.  John Terzano, President, The Justice Project
Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.  John Tucker, Director, “May God Have Mercy: A True Story of Crime and Punishment”

2:15 - 2:30 p.m.  Closing Remarks: Christina Murtaugh B.C., Genevieve Jenkins, Students for the Innocence Project, W&M

For more information contact Christina Murtaugh, cmurta@wm.edu

SHUG’S

Continued from Pg. 12.

...it. It’s not enough to simply balance law school with family, social life and exercise. We need that extra element. We need that person who can set us free from the world around. We need that person that can always turn to, no matter what life throws at us. We need that person that can set us free from the world around. We still need that person who makes everything better.

Your first baseman does not have to be your best friend. He or she does not need to be your spouse, significant other, or even someone you see every day. It just needs to be the person that has the innate ability to take you out of your world of familiarity, fix you, and then place you back where he or she found you. In other words, the person can make you stop thinking about the little things, stop analyzing every decision you make, and stop worrying... for just a little while... and then when you’re ready to go back, the person returns you to your normal life with peace of mind.

You must never forget that this concept is a two-way street. While you don’t have to hang out with or talk to the person every time something goes wrong, you do have to show some appreciation. He or she may not even know of this “first baseman” status in your life. But whether or not the person knows, don’t take it for granted. If you want the balance, the comfort, the security, you have to hold up your end of the bargain. To end all of this rambling, this is just a friendly reminder: Always thank your...
Features

Things to Do Before Graduation: A Comprehensive List of Lofty Goals and Impossible Possibles

by Rob Thomas
Features
Staff Writer

As much as my fellow 3Ls and myself hate to admit it, graduation is nigh, kind of like the Apocalypse. While wasting time with Super Mario Galaxy the other day, I realized that there are several things that I wish I’d done during my time here, and things that I’d still like to accomplish. Without further ado, here is my list of goals, aims, and aspirations for the next few weeks:

1. Bring the Crescent Moon and Star to the Wren Chapel—While it’s been established that the Christian cross is too “controver-
sial” for the likes of a 17th Century public school building, I haven’t heard any arguments against resurrecting the storied symbol of the Ottoman Empire. According to the internet, the founder of the Ottoman Empire, Osman, dreamt that the Crescent Moon would stretch to all corners of the Earth, very similar to the 19th century doctrine of Mani-
fest Destiny. To deny Osman’s wishes is kind of like denying Manifest Destiny, which would definitely be un-American. You’re not un-American, are you?

2. Wipe Karaoke Night at the HoHouse Off the Face of the Planet—I realize I’ve made swipes at the HoHouse before in previ-
sous columns, but I don’t care. The HoHouse is atrocious, and the Friday night Karaoke debacles are even worse. It’s one thing to go to a bar and be treated to overpriced, watered-down drinks. God-awful service, an utterly ludicrous line policy, and terrible music. But the wretchedness of the whole situation is compounded ten-fold when songs are belted incoherently by throngs of tipsy tone-deaf girls and creepy middle-aged townies. It’s no sur-
prise that every time I’ve ever been to the HoHouse, I’ve been glued to the bar, which is logical for two reasons: 1) it takes fifteen minutes to get a bartender to even glance your way, and 2) I need vast quanti-
ties of alcohol to make me forget where I am. The HoHouse sucks, and every self-respecting law student should boycott it.

3. Beat Dragonforce’s “Through the Fire and Flames” on Hard (Guitar Hero III)—Of all the goals and aspirations listed in this article, this is probably the least likely to happen. I encourage all of you to download this damn song, or check out one of the many videos on YouTube of people playing it, and then you’ll know what I mean. It seems that the best Guitar Hero players range from eight to fourteen years old, and their little dexterous hands and fingers can do things with a plastic guitar that my soon-to-be-arthritic meat paws simply cannot do. Still, this is a list of lofty goals, so who knows?

4. Ensure That My J.D. Will Be the Last Bit of Alphabet Soup at the End of My Name—As much as I’ve liked coming back to school and enjoyed its perks (Christmas/holidays, three to four day weekends, sleeping until noon, etc.), I do not want to become a Buster Bluth-type permanent aca-
demic. I have enough loan debt to worry about. Of course, to dodge this fate, I have to avoid screwing up and losing my job. This requires maintaining a modicum of aca-
demic activity, which runs contrary to the spirit of being a 3L in the spring. This is probably the most important item on my list, consider-
ing that the job market for law students today is about as reliable as my blood-alcohol content at any given time.

5. Wake Up During a Booze-
Soaked Weekend in a Random Undergrad Dorm Room—Frankly, I’m surprised this hasn’t happened already.

6. Follow “Dave” Goodman’s (3L) Lead, Change my Name to Bob, and Encourage Other Students to Do the Same—Do you have a name that you’re tired of using, even though hundreds of people know you by said name? Well, that’s easy enough to fix! Simply pick a name that’s moder-
ately similar to your old, crappy name, change your facebook ac-
count accordingly, and then insist that everyone follow your instruc-
tions! I, for one, am sick of all the Matchbox Twenty jokes, so now I’m Bob. That’s right, Bob. If you call me “Rob,” I will not only igno-
re you, but I will also dump used coffee grounds in your hanging file. I thought of using the name “Asim,” but that one is taken.

7. Actually Succeed in Com-
pelling Dan Leary (3L) and Chris Gottfried (3L?!) to Go Out…At the Same Time—O, I know that I’m grasping for straws here, but this needs to be said. In all likelihood, you’re reading this column and are probably thinking who’s Dan Leary?” and you’re *definitely* thinking “who’s Chris Gottfried?” I plan to change all of that. In re-
cent years, both of these young men have disappeared into the social void. Like so many young men be-
to them, they’ve fallen victim to the ultimate destroyer of male so-
cial lives: serious girlfriends. No amount of pleading that my friends and I do can get these guys to hang out more than a couple times a semester, if that. Therefore, I urge you all to join me and call, text, email, IM, or facebook message these guys, urging them to actually hang out for once, and then shame them remorselessly if they do not do as you say. The ultimate coup will be if the two of them are within the confines of the ‘Leafe at the same time at some point this year … well, a boy can dream, I guess.

8. Quit Smoking for Good, Eat a Better Diet, and Get More Exercise—Hahahaha, psych!! Oh man, I l-say me sometimes. I can’t look at this heading in class, or else I’ll completely crack up and people will think that I find the mental capacity requirements for executing wills to be terribly funny. Whoo, my stomach hurts… I’d better go lay down.

Spring Semester 2008 Outlook

by Sarah Fulton
SBA President

SBA has been busy planning a number of activities for this semester!

We know a number of you had a blast on the Ski Trip this past weekend. Showshoe will never be the same.

One of the biggest events of the semester, Barrister’s, will be held the evening of Feb. 23 at the Williamsburg Lodge in Colonial Williamsburg. We know this will be a fun, crazy, but safe, event. As the time gets close we will release more details regarding tickets, and we will also be asking for song requests for the DJ.

This year we are also planning a day-long Wine Tour in Charlottesville, VA. SBA will arrange for a bus tour of three Virginia wineries. It is tentatively scheduled for Sun-
day, March 16. Please email Zach Demeola at zdjemeola@wm.edu if you are interested.

SBA is also planning a kickball tournament to benefit Global Play-
ground at the end of March. More de-
tails will be released soon, and if you are interested in learning more about Global Playground, please email Brad Meacham at bpmmeac@wm.edu. Please also look for the announce-
ments for our weekly bar review and monthly Student/Faculty Mixers. Also look to the announcements for all of the activities of the other student groups on campus.

Additionally, if anyone has any concerns or questions, either for SBA or for the administration, please email Sarah Fulton at sarah.fulton@verizon.net.

Hope everyone has a great semester!

~SBA
Early Sunday Morning (1930), New as Automat (1927), Drugstore (1927), The focus throughout is on the period (arguably the intersection between by reference to theme and place
emphasize the statistics reinforces that the National Gallery chooses to I did not count myself, but the fact on display, including approximately forty-eight oil paintings, thirty-four about 100 of Hopper's works were seen outside New York in twenty-five years. To put the magnitude of the exhibit into perspective, we might consider the numbers for a moment: about 100 of Hopper’s works were on display, including approximately forty-eight oil paintings, thirty-four-fourteen watercolors and twelve prints. No, I did not count myself, but the fact that the National Gallery chooses to emphasize the statistics reinforces again the sense that this show stands as an almost record-setting first for the museum and the city.

The exhibit, housed on the second level of the East building, is organized by reference to theme and place (arguably the intersection between both forces is a defining quality of Hopper’s work), and includes spaces dedicated to “Early Work,” “New England,” “Urban Pictures,” “Theater and the Movies,” “Looking at the Overlooked,” and “Isolation.” The focus throughout is on the period of 1925-1950s when Hopper painted many of his most famous pieces, such as Automat (1927), Drugstore (1927), Early Sunday Morning (1930), New York Movie (1938), and, of course, Nighthawks (1942). “Edward Hopper” was originally organized by the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston where it debuted last spring before coming to the National Gallery; the exhibit will next travel to The Art Institute of Chicago where it will be on view until May 11.

Procedural History: For those who are slightly less familiar, I would like to provide a brief glimpse into Hopper’s biography and his influences. Edward Hopper (1882-1967) was born in Nyack, New York and developed an interest in depicting urban scenes at an early age and continued throughout his life, making his home in Greenwich Village. Hopper, however, also enjoyed traveling through New England (and packed with a Cod, Massachusetts, and Maine) and his car trips provided inspiration for many of the landscape scenes he painted, such as lighthouses, boats and automobiles as well as interiors, including hotel rooms and lobbies, most often featuring isolated figures.

Though he was educated in Paris at the rise of modernism, Hopper was never a part of the lost generation; he was a conservative Republican, not a bohemian painting under the green fairy’s influence. While we laud him as one of our national artists, embodying in his illusive images a distinctive American voice, Hopper believed that it was the personal, his particular viewpoint, inner life, vision, and memory that motivated his work.

Issue: Does it make a difference whether one sees Nighthawks or any of these other seminal Hopper works in D.C. as opposed to New York as opposed to Chicago? To what extent does re-seeing a favorite piece of art in a new city change the way we see the work or the artist?

Holding: Yes. By analogy to another medium he loved, the theater, we can and should consider Hopper as an environmental artist/observer. That is, to the extent that his primary subjects were spaces and places and the degree to which his orientation as an (and viewer of his subjects) shaped his methodology and style, there is no way for us, the viewers of his works, to say the space and place in which we view them does not matter.

Reasoning: Many Hopper fans may have shared in my initial reaction walking into the exhibit at the National Gal­lery: here are all the usual suspects. In fact, my friend and I, who visited the exhibit together, approached our viewing of works more as a kind of Easter egg hunt. “Where did they put this one? Oh, I found it—over here!” The space of the gallery itself was tighter than the last, sprawling Hopper show I saw at the Whitney in New York in 2007. The gallery rooms are carefully labeled and packed with, as with; in this particular space at the National Gallery, the viewer must continue up a narrow spiral staircase where the exhibit continues on the next floor.

In many cases I have noticed not only does the placement of the various paintings within a Hopper show seem to matter (it is as if there is some sort of narrative, albeit plot-less, his scenes create when lined up together), but the hanging of the individual works can impact the viewer’s experience. For example, at the Whitney, Nighthawks was one of the first paintings that one confronted when entering their Hopper show; in addition, it was hung unusually low such that it nearly felt as if the museum visitor was walking in on the scene depicted, as if she was a character in Hopper’s cast. In this case, the National Gallery situated Nighthawks somewhere near the effective middle of the show’s progression, and while it was hung low again, the painting was a bit lost in the shuffle of a crowded room. The panoramic, I’m-waling-in-on-something effect I felt in New York was lost in D.C., and my friend recalled how much higher the painting had been hung in Chicago when she saw it there (Nighthawks is owned by The Art Institute of Chi­cago), and how it had appeared to her even more awkward.

Though my experience of seeing Nighthawks in the crowded gallery in this exhibit was different than when I had last seen it in New York, I cannot help to acknowledge that there was a certain quality of happenstance and anonymity afforded Hopper’s works in this setting, which, I believe, he would have appreciated. This is to say that while each piece could be viewed in and of itself, the space at the National Gallery facilitated a different kind of filmic effect: instead of the wide shot or panorama, this show had captured the cutaway, the quick shot or break to some close-up detail or scene—the break in the action, but here without a cutback to action, but rather a series of cutaways seemingly in continuum. The analogy to film in consideration of Hopper’s work (at least in its subject matter and his artistic perspective) is not new. Look, for example, to perhaps my favorite of his paintings, New York Movie, to the way it is hung. While it is not what is on the screen that matters so much as how the female usher located on the margins of this frame tells an even more complicated story. And, in true Hopper fashion, this story is marked by its ambiguity, the way in which her stance and her expression simultaneously frustrates and motivate us to become curious, to write the meaning for ourselves. My suggestion is that we can also begin to view Hopper and articulate our experience of viewing the Hopper exhibit (as opposed to a single or a few Hopper pieces together) in terms borrowed from film and filmmaking.

In some respect, I would say the museum culture of D.C. seems to echo and facilitate this same cutaway effect. Much like New York, of course, the volume of exhibits and galleries and all matter of stuff, historical, artistic, etc. one can visit in any give day in D.C. is massive. But to the extent this encyclopedic array presents itself to the average museum go-er for the viewing (the price whether you live in the city or not) to run through the entries from A-Z is higher in New York than in D.C., where there appears to be a more relaxed feeling in the air, despite the crowds. In part, this most certainly comes down to the fact that the museums on the Mall, including of course the National Gallery, are free to the public. Even though you can actually gain entry to the Met for whatever change you have in your coat pocket (those prices they list are suggested donations, not actual fees required for admission), every visitor is still faced with some sort of hassled exchange in order to acquire that little colored button (which is required for entry). By contrast, at the National Gallery, there is no admission (well, there are the taxes we pay but . . .), no buttons—only the exchange between you and the art. There is no pressure to be productive; no fear that you are wasting anything if you don’t see it all. One can cut in and cut out, so to speak—although, one cannot be sure when the next Hopper exhibit will come to the National Gallery. a
Ski Trip ’08
Photos courtesy of Sarah Cohn, Andy Scott, Elisha C. Seaton, & Brooke Williams, Contributors.
Collage Design by Tara St. Angelo, Co-Editor-in-Chief.

Bone Marrow Drive Poker Tournament ’08
Photos by Whitney Weatherly, Staff Photographer.
Collage Design by Tara St. Angelo, Co-Editor-in-Chief.