

# Alumnus Profile

## The Winds Of Change

Dean Curtis must have been pleased with his graduating class of '48 as late May, 1967 brought exams to a close. Wayne "Flub" O'Bryan was certainly just as pleased with his receipt in that year of the American Law Student Association's Silver Key Award for leadership. As SBA President he increased student activity in the ABA and initiated the now traditional Barristers' Ball. In the process, he earned the W.A.R. Goodwin Scholarship, was listed in *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities*, and attended the American Law Student Association Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada.

1972 finds David Wayne O'Bryan a partner in the Richmond, Virginia firm of White, Cabell, Paris and Lowenstein and President of the William and Mary Law School Association. Mr. O'Bryan attended Benedictine High School and Richmond Professional Institute in Richmond before coming to William and Mary College in Williamsburg. In 1970, after a number of years association with White, Reynolds, Smith and Winters in Norfolk, Virginia, Mr. O'Bryan returned to Richmond for his present position. Just four and one-half years ago Mr. O'Bryan was working his way through law school as a wine steward at the King's Arms and sharing the house on Duffie Drive with a fellow student David Wittan. Those few years have seen a dramatic progression for him, not unlike the change from a law school of 290 students to 450 students. In fact, this sense of transition set the tone for a recent conversation with Mr. O'Bryan about his reactions to the changes at the law school and his enthusiasm for the growing Law School Association.

"Personally," Mr. O'Bryan reflects, "I'm glad to see the growth at Marshall Wythe. In order to grow in stature the law school had to grow in size. It was just absolutely too small before to become the outstanding professional school that it has the potential to be, though that stature may be obtainable at the present size of approximately 450 students."

The growth in the law school inevitably led to the growing community of Marshall Wythe alumni. "I was interested in alumni activities before I graduated. Our relation back to our school is the one thing we all have in common. and the fact that we all are graduates of the law school is enhanced by the recent progress at the school." Actually, Wayne O'Bryan, Steve Harris, and Jerry Franklin, the editor of their Law Review, left William and Mary with the clear intention of becoming immediately instrumental in shaping a stronger alumni community. Such determination was characteristic of "Flub" O'Bryan. The nickname, based upon a 286 pound SBA President, was totally inapplicable to the counselor at White, Cabell, Paris and Lowenstein of around 90 pounds lighter. That trait of perseverance was not lost in the group's efforts to "build a Marshall Wythe alumni and friends association." Their success is substantial.

Marshall Wythe is now honored with almost 800 alumni of increasing professional competency and geographical diversity. Mr. O'Bryan assumed the Presidency in April of this year. Several changes have resulted. "The Annual Association spring meeting is being moved to the fall. The meeting this year on Saturday, October 14 offered many more events of interest to alumni—from the morning seminars and the luncheon to the football game, followed by the cocktail party. We didn't expect everyone to come to every event but hoped instead that everyone would enjoy at least one program. This new time should prove more convenient and enjoyable to alumni. This year's program has taken a lot of work. I really appreciate the diligence of our Board of Directors members, the consistent work of Bob Dutro, and the efforts of Judge Hal Bonney in coordinating Homecoming."



Perhaps the most ambitious change initiated by Mr. O'Bryan is the renewal of a Marshall Wythe fund raising program this year. Originally contributions to the law school were applied to the Woodbridge Fund, established by the Association to eventually produce sufficient income to endow a "chair of law" at Marshall Wythe and furnish student scholarships.

There was consideration by Dr. Graves, President of the College of William and Mary that college-wide fund raising might be in the best interests of the law school as well as the various organizations and departments. But "there is a substantial feeling among the alumni and friends of the law school that I know personally, that whatever they contribute must go totally to their law school. Also, information from my attending a recent Fund Raising Conference in Washington suggests that a fund raising campaign run by the Association will yield the most benefits to the law school. It is the recommendation of the Board that while we will be able to use some college services, this will be an effort conducted by our Association."

Is 100% fund participation just a campaign drive away? "Well, alumni participation has been fairly consistent over the years that I've been associated--it's been poor!" But transition is in motion and the Association under Mr. O'Bryan's guidance has fostered the increased alumni interest. Between the new Homecoming schedule, issues of the Alumni Briefs, and the spirit of a fund campaign at a time when the law school is stretching its resources, increasing alumni interest is being reinforced.

Certainly, the changes in the law school and its alumni association have been pronounced, and at the end of our conversation there was a residual enthusiasm for what progress those next four and one-half years might bring. ★

---