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North Wing Dedication. The mood was jubilant at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new North Wing on Feb. 9. The dean’s opening remarks ("Hallelujah! It lives at last!") were warmly greeted by a crowd of about 200 alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends. Former dean Tim Sullivan noted to the throng that the addition was made possible by generous donations, student fees and “a faith that this kind of investment will make the Law School better than it already is.” SBA President Courtney Malveaux ’02 thanked donors for giving the school “more elbow room” and expressed students’ appreciation for the wing’s 6 classrooms. Members of the classes of ’98-’02, whose student fees helped fund construction, cut the gold ribbons at the doors.

What’s inside? Six classrooms on the first floor are wired for student laptops and will put the latest instructional technology at professors’ fingertips. Two can accommodate classes of up to 40 students; 4 smaller ones can be used for seminar-size instruction, as well as for moot court. Offices for alumni activities and fund-raising are located on the first floor and the second floor houses the Legal Skills Program, 13 faculty offices, and offices for staffs of career services and the Institute of Bill of Rights Law (IBRL).

The School’s growth over the last two decades made expansion a necessity. The faculty has grown by more than a quarter and the curriculum by a third. IBRL and Project 21 in the McGlothlin Courtroom have been created, greatly increasing symposia and other events. The Legal Skills program, also new since the “old” building came on line, uses large amounts of space. Student groups have flourished too; for instance, we now have 4 law journals rather than simply 1. We’ve added staff in career counseling, alumni affairs and development. And technology has burgeoned on all sides.

For photos of Feb. 9’s festivities and the wing’s interior, please go to www.wm.edu/law/alumni.

A Surge in Applicants. Competition is fierce to become a member of the class of ’05. Applications for 1L seats at Marshall-Wythe are up by 28%. As of April 1, we had received 3,374 J.D. applications from all 50 states, D.C. and 35 other countries; and from 645 undergraduate institutions.

Rankings. Like sap rising, the U.S. News & World Report rankings of law schools are out. We improved by 2 spots over last year – now 32, were 34. This year we’re tied with Fordham, Georgia, and UC Davis. Last year we were tied with Wake Forest, which fell to 36 this year.

New Faculty & Visitors. Eric Kades, a property law expert, joins the faculty this fall. Eric earned both his B.A. and J.D. at Yale, served as articles editor of the Yale Law Journal, and clerked for Judge Morton I. Greenberg on the Third Circuit. He has been with us since September as a visiting professor. William V. Van Alstyne joined us for the spring semester as the Distinguished Lee Visiting Scholar. A renowned constitutional lawyer and teacher from Duke, he is one of the most respected law professors of his generation.

Faculty Kudos. Walter Felton will soon don judicial robes as the newest member of the Virginia Court of Appeals. A faculty member for two decades, Walter’s been active in the state’s service as counselor and director of policy for Gov. Gilmore, deputy attorney general and administrator of the Commonwealth Attorneys’ Services Council. Dave Douglas was feted in Richmond in March when he received an Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education. A nationally recognized scholar on constitutional history, much-acclaimed teacher (winning 4 teaching awards since coming here in 1990), he serves as IBRL director.

Career Planning and Placement. Career services returned to NYC this fall for a job fair for our students, which attracted 25 employers from N.Y., N.J., Conn. and Mass. Our inaugural Chicago job fair had 15 employers participating. In January, 16 alumni volunteers “interviewed” law students and
critiqued their performance during the annual Mock Interview Program. A new program, "Career Conversations," debuted in March and gave students a chance to find out more about different practice areas through one-on-one or small group discussions with 24 alumni.

They'll be reading (and hearing) about Courtroom 21 in China. An article about Courtroom 21 titled "Trial Run for Virtual Court" will be reprinted in the July issue of Studio Classroom Advanced, an educational magazine with a readership of 100,000 in Asia and North America. Articles in the magazine are also broadcast to a Chinese listening audience (est. 4 million). The article originally appeared in The Futurist (35:6, 2001).

Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA) Team Wins Regionals. Some 225 teams from 126 law schools faced off in March in regional rounds of the Student Trial Advocacy Competition. Marshall-Wythe bested teams from Georgetown and George Washington, among others, to win the Washington, D.C., division and go on to face 13 other regional winners in Chicago at the finals.

Moot Court. This was another banner year for our Moot Court program. The Spong Moot Court Tournament in February was a great success, drawing 23 teams from around the country and beaming a U.S. district judge from Nevada into the McGlothlin Courtroom, electronically, to help judge the final arguments. Our own teams competed across the country in other schools' tournaments, doing especially well at capturing "best brief" and "best oralist" awards.

State Budget Woes. As is happening elsewhere, Virginia faces a revenue shortfall in the billions. William & Mary is trying to figure out how to accommodate a projected 15% decrease in state support over the next 2 ½ years.

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