Raduation ceremonies for the Class of 2002 took place under a crystalline sky, with a gentle breeze and temperature in the sixties. Perfect weather promises that nothing can go wrong, and nothing did. The graduates sat on Holcombe Green Lawn facing Clay Hall, surrounded by cheering friends and relations. After a stirring speech by Bob Wright, who managed to be both funny and serious, the graduates stepped up to receive their diplomas. On leaving the stage, each new lawyer was greeted by Allen Goolsby ’68, President of the Alumni Association, who welcomed them into the family of Law School graduates.

The “family” feeling among our graduates was brought home to me at the Association’s annual meeting on the Saturday morning of alumni weekend. At that occasion, Allen Goolsby read resolutions honoring Walter Wadlington, who is retiring after 40 years as a member of the faculty and 32 years as the James Madison Professor of Law, and Albert Turnbull, who is leaving after 36 years as Dean of Admissions. Both Walter and Al spoke movingly of their thoughts on completing their professional careers and of their gratitude, in Al’s words, for the privilege of getting to know the very best young people in the nation. There were applause and cheers and not a few tears as the ceremony concluded.

Al and Walter were also remembered in more tangible ways. The Class of 1962, of which Al is a member, renamed a scholarship fund in his honor. And the Class of 1967, whom Walter admitted back in the days before we had a full-time admissions director, dedicated their reunion gift to funding the chair that Walter held. The James Madison Professor of Law honors the fourth President of the United States, the principal author of the U.S. Constitution, and the second Rector of the University of Virginia. Unfortunately, the Madison chair was created at a time when no one foresaw the need for private support. In consequence, the most prestigious title in American law was endowed with almost no money. The Class of 1967 responded by raising nearly $400,000 to fund the James Madison chair in honor of Walter Wadlington.

I don’t know if the faculty and alumni of other law schools are bound together by such deep ties of respect and affection, but I’m glad we are. The members of the Class of 2002 have every reason to be grateful to be welcomed into our alumni family. —John Jeffries

No profession is more honorable than the law.

Bob Wright ’68 was the commencement speaker at the Law School’s 173rd graduation ceremony on May 19. More than 400 diplomas were awarded, including 361 J.D.s, 41 LL.M.s, and one S.J.D. Dean John C. Jeffries, Jr., ’73 congratulated the graduates for being “the most public spirited class ever” by doubling the pro bono service hours volunteered by any previous class, and for achieving the highest number of post-graduate judicial clerkships, 83, in the history of the school.

Wright, chairman and CEO of NBC and vice chairman and executive officer of General Electric, told the crowd of nearly 4,000 to reject the public’s tarnished view of lawyers, exacerbated by the Enron scandal. “The defenders of the Constitution, the guardians of our liberty, the advocates of just causes, no matter how unpopular, the protectors of the powerless, the wise counselors of our society – that is the role of America’s lawyers. This is what you have trained to become,” he declared.

Wright touted the responsibility young lawyers have to put their energy, knowledge, and integrity to the test. “Lay down true principles and adhere to them inflexibly,” Jefferson wrote. He understood what I hope all of us will remember … once you become flexible with your principles – as an individual or a society, your meanings are lost, and allegiance to liberty and justice is impossible.”

Wright ended by saying, “You have a terrific future ahead of you. Something tells me that a generation of new ideas and talent is about to change the world. It’s the only thing that ever does.”
Funds Honor Professors For Distinguished Careers

The Law School is losing two of its beloved community members to retirement this year, Professors Walter Wadlington and Al Turnbull. In celebration of their long and distinguished careers, both men were recognized and honored by members of reunion classes during recent Law Alumni Weekend festivities.

The Class of 1962 surprised classmate Al Turnbull by renaming the class scholarship the Class of 1962 Albert R. Turnbull Scholarship. Turnbull, who has admitted 36 classes of law students, was taken aback by the recognition because, as he says, “I’ve been a very lucky man. I’ve had the chance to interact with the nation’s greatest young people at the greatest institution.”

More than $200,000 has been added to the scholarship in Turnbull’s honor.

The Class of 1967 dedicated its reunion gift to funding the James Madison Professorship, the chair Wadlington has held since 1970. Although the chair is one of the Law School’s most distinguished, it has not been adequately funded. The Class of 1967, raising nearly $400,000 toward the professorship thus far, has a special affinity for Wadlington because he admitted them while serving as admissions director for one year.

When accepting the recognition Wadlington fondly recalled his years of service to the Law School: “I have never had any desire to leave here, the faculty and students are terrific.”

The Law School Foundation welcomes and encourages additional contributions to either fund. Professors Wadlington and Turnbull will be advised of the names of donors when gifts are made to the funds in their honor. For more information contact Foundation Executive Director Dave Ibbeken, toll-free at 877-307-0158, or dhi@virginia.edu.

There is still time to be included with your class! These numbers are current as of May 22nd, but the reunion campaigns run to June 30th.

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<th>REUNION GIFT CAMPAIGN RESULTS TO DATE</th>
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Grads Ante Up
Kendall Day ’02 (as former Student Bar Association president) reported at graduation that 51 percent of the Class of 2002 have made pledges to the Law School for a total of $78,938. Both the dollar total and the percentage of participation set new records!

Treasurer Stepping Down
Elizabeth K. Wharton is retiring on June 30 after 21 years with the Law School Foundation, 15 as treasurer. Wharton became treasurer, the portfolio under management was valued at $25 million. Today it is worth approximately $130 million. At its spring meeting, the Board of Trustees announced the creation of the Elizabeth Kemper Wharton Endowed Fund. Wharton worked closely with student organizations and interest earned on the fund will benefit these organizations for years to come.

Effective July 1, Assistant Treasurer Victoria W. Jones will become treasurer. Jones is a CPA who earned her B.S. in Accounting at Florida State University and her M.B.A. at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She previously worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for more than eight years, specializing in higher education and not-for-profit clients.

New Grad Job Report
More than 95 percent of the Class of 2002 had accepted positions by graduation. During the on-Grounds interviewing process for all Law students, the Career Services Office arranged a total of 7,284 interviews, representing 352 employers.

Tourney Shows UVA Number One at More Than Softball
Each spring the North Grounds Softball League invites more than 60 law schools to the Law School Invitational Softball Tournament. Profits are donated to local children’s charities. This year UVA took two championship titles, but as the following excerpt attests, the school is valued for more than softball. This letter appeared in full in the April 12 issue of the Virginia Law Weekly.

Dear Tournament Co-Directors:

Either Virginia attracts the finest law students in America or like this place, the school atmosphere, with the faculty’s concerted involvement I would bet, imbues the students with an ethic of care. You know how to compete hard without rancor or a loss of civility. You are gracious in victory. You have your lives in balance. I would recommend Virginia to prospective law students over any other school. Were climate, physical plant, value added per dollar spent, and congenial surroundings factored into the U.S. News mix, you’d be number one in a walkover.

Assoc. Dean Harvey Feldman
The Dickinson School of Law
Pennsylvania State University

Law Alumni Weekend

ANNUAL GIVING

This spring marks the end of my two-year term as Chair of the Law School’s Annual Giving Campaign. The insight into our Law School I have gained during my term has convinced me that we have every reason to be proud.

In his first year as dean, John Jeffries has focused on the Law School curriculum, and specifically, plans to bring the basics of a business education into the curriculum while maintaining our commitment to public law, public service, and litigation. Dean Jeffries has also increased the Law School’s commitment to fellowships and loan forgiveness for students who pursue careers in public service.

These improvements are being undertaken at the same time that the Law School has become almost completely self-sufficient financially. Last year, public support from the Commonwealth of Virginia was less than four percent, and next year state funding will fall to zero. If the Law School is to keep providing the substantive experience that fulfills its responsibility to the profession and enables current and future students to succeed at the highest levels, then we must continue to replace state funds and add to available resources. The Law School will of course utilize tuition to offset a portion of the loss from termination of state funding, but to maintain its top-tier competitive position, we must also increase private support.

If you believe, as I do, that annual giving is a good measure of “customer satisfaction,” then you will not be surprised that Yale and Virginia have the highest rates of participation in their respective annual funds relative to their peers.

What should surprise you is that fewer than half of the Virginia Law alumni support the Law School each year. I believe each of us has a responsibility to ensure future generations receive the special education that remains the hallmark of the Law School. Thank you for your support over the years; it is important to the Law School that you take the time to make a gift before this year’s Annual Giving Campaign ends on June 30.

Roger H. Kimmel ’71
Chair, National Appeals Committee

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