Dean Rod Smolla Raises the Bar

Summer interns work for public interest
Married to the law
Entering Class Proves Highly Selective

The Law School this year saw the largest number of applications in its history — 2,431 — exceeding by a substantial margin the previous high — 2,108 — recorded in 1991. Over the last five years, the number of applicants has increased 95 percent.

Faced with this applications boom, the Law School accepted just 23 percent of those who applied, making the entering class one of the most selective ever. Michelle L. Rahman, director of law admissions, said the class has “the highest credentials in our history” in terms of grade point average and LSAT scores. It also is the most diverse in terms of geography and ethnicity. “I think we’re in for a banner year,” she said.

Students come from 28 states, three foreign countries (China, India and Korea) and 76 U.S. universities.

The median LSAT score is 160, up from 158 last year, 157 in 2001, 158 in 2000 and 157 in 1999.

The median GPA is 3.36, up from 3.30 last year, 3.21 in 2001, 3.12 in 2000 and 3.18 in 1999.

The class includes 72 students from Virginia. Other states sending the most students to the Law School are Texas (11), North Carolina (9), New York (8) and Pennsylvania (7).

(Some numbers may have changed slightly since the school year began.)
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Schlesinger calls on graduates to balance public, private rights

Federal Judge Harvey E. Schlesinger, L’65, told the 157 members of the 2003 graduating class of the University of Richmond School of Law that their responsibility is “to preserve and pass on our heritage of liberty and freedom.”

Quoting legendary jurist Learned Hand, Schlesinger told the “soon-to-be” lawyers, “Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women. When it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it. No constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it.”

The country is undergoing many changes, Schlesinger said in his May commencement address, the chief of which is trying to find a “balance between public and private rights” in the wake of the “unprecedented attacks” of Sept. 11. He warned about increasing assaults on Americans’ liberties that “start as a trickling stream but could soon become a torrent.”

“No American need ever be ashamed of this country,” Schlesinger said. “For over two centuries, we have practiced a representative government based on the divine right of the individual” and the “greatest good for the greatest number.”

Americans enjoy greater personal freedom than in any other system, he said, and the graduates “will be caretakers” of that system.

Schlesinger is a recipient of the law school’s William Green Award for Professional Excellence. He is judge of the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida.

Speaking for the faculty, Rodney A. Smolla told the graduates that Chief Justice John Marshall came to him in a dream the night before and imparted two words of advice: family and justice. Smolla, then the George E. Allen Professor of Law, became dean of the law school July 1.

“One of the hardest things in life,” Smolla said, “is to balance the needs of one’s family with the demands of professional life.

“If you lose friendship and companionship and love, you lose the meaning of life” Smolla said. “If you let your job take over, you may conquer the universe but lose your soul.

“I believe [lawyers] will always be keepers of our great tradition of justice,” Smolla said, “a condition that marks the progress of the human race.”

“All of the issues that decide our character and our place in the world, lawyers are part of,” Smolla told the class, but “the law must evolve as you must evolve.”

Student speaker John N. McPadden jokingly told his classmates, “If the accounting scandal keeps up, lawyers will no longer be the most hated people in America.”

Lawyers do serve a useful function, however, he said, “Without lawyers, McDonald’s might have the temerity to serve hot coffee.”

On a serious note, he said he had “never met a better group of people” than he had at the law school.

By Randy Fitzgerald, R’63
Awards at Commencement

ABA/BUREAU OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS INC. AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
Heather King Hays
Emily Domalski Kinzie
Lisa Marie Medina

CUDDIPP MEDAL
Emily Domalski Kinzie

FAMILY LAW AWARD
Georgia Smith Hamilton

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF TRIAL LAWYERS STUDENT ADVOCACY AWARD
Jacqueline McClenny-Neal

NINA KESTIN SERVICE AWARD
Lauren Jeanne Brown

LAW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
Michael Austin Culpepper

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS AWARD
Heather King Hays

CHARLES T. NORMAN AWARD
Lauren Jeanne Brown

ORRELL-BROWN AWARD FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE
Michele Kathleen Burke
Devon Williams Cushman

PRO BONO AWARDS
Jaime Hibbard Blackmon
Kathryn Jane Cook
Debi Michelle Dorfsman
Tara Ann Manson
C. Hailey Vaughn Robertson
Lisa Marie Sommermeyer

VIRGINIA TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION ADVOCACY AWARD
Darcey K. Donahay

ORDER OF THE BARRISTERS
Suzanne O. Cress
Devon Williams Cushman
Darcey K. Donahay
Carl Eldred
Jennifer Noelle Hicks
Charles Jerry Homiller
Emily Domalski Kinzie
Tara Ann Manson
Jacqueline McClenny-Neal
Amanda Gail McDonald

1 John C. Ivins Jr., Law School Association president; John R. Pagan, former dean; June R. Aprille, provost; William E. Cooper, University president
2 Kathryn Cook
3 John D. McPhaul II
4 Student processional
5 Judge Harvey E. Schlesinger, L'65
6 Professor Jonathan K. Stubbs left) and Earl H. McClenny Jr., L'80
7 Michael Freeman (left) and former Professor Michael Allan Wolf
Eight Richmond law students spent last summer earning a few dollars, plenty of hands-on experience and heaps of praise by working at agencies that practice law in the public interest.

The eight were selected from 42 applicants for $1,200-$2,700 fellowships provided by the Virginia Law Foundation, the Public Interest Law Association and Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity. Each selection was based on an essay and on demonstrated commitment to public interest work.

The fellowships enable students to put law school theories into practice while sensitizing them to the importance of public service work, said Beverly Boone, director of career services at the law school.

They also provide organizations that employ the interns with skilled, enthusiastic workers they otherwise would be unable to afford. The organizations serve indigent clients, facilitate the administration of justice or assist with government functions.

The Legal Information Network for Cancer (LINC) is one employer that counts on the program. According to Victoria Pearson, client services director, "Ours is a small office with a three-person staff and we greatly depend on the interns' contributions."

Interns screen clients, assess issues and assist clients by reviewing documents and contacting lawyers who work with LINC, usually on a pro bono basis. They often shadow the attorneys to lend a hand and to see the process through.

"They are excellent with the clients," Pearson said. "We've found that they are not only eager to learn, but they also bring great insight to the work. A lot of problem-solving goes on here and the interns are very helpful, very involved in that."

Rodney A. Smolla, law dean, hopes to see the program grow.

"We need to dramatically increase the number of these summer intern options for our students, both to provide opportunities for our students and as a measure of our commitment to the community. It will be a priority."
John K. Karanian, Psy.D.

On my third day at the Commonwealth of Virginia's Office of the Capital Defender, Central Region, three attorneys and I visited a client charged with capital murder. The discussion centered on the client's decision to accept a plea bargain for life in jail or opt for a trial, which could result in execution. Each attorney discussed the risks and benefits of the choices, and the client listened intently. I stood and listened and considered the difficulty and gravity of such a decision. The client then looked directly at me and asked, "What do you think?"

I chose the internship because of the complexity of capital murder litigation, my interest in criminal law and the significant role mental health plays in the mitigation portion of capital trials. My interest in criminal and mental health law developed from my practice as a clinical and forensic psychologist that included performing psychological evaluations for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, Central State Hospital's maximum security forensic unit and the CIA.

Last summer's work allowed me to apply the didactic training I received in the Capital Murder Litigation course. I met with capital murder defendants, reviewed medical and psychological records and evaluations, and assisted in formulating mitigation. I briefed topics such as Batson challenges in voir dire and application of the "triggerman rule." Because the office is small, I collaborated with each of the attorneys, the investigator, and mitigation specialist.

The fellowship I received allowed me to explore the area of law in which I am interested and enabled me to develop an understanding of the complexities of capital murder defense. It helped me prepare to answer the next capital defendant who asks, "What do you think?"
**Ryan D. Frei**

I accepted my internship with the Alexandria public defender’s office because of its reputation, the comprehensive range of practical legal skills I would be able to apply and for the opportunity to use one of my college majors — Spanish. Several friends and professors had told me that a public defender’s office, typically small and limited in resources, would need my assistance and would thrust me into legal contexts with a wide range of responsibilities.

The experience was everything I expected.

On day one, I accompanied an attorney to the Alexandria Detention Center to translate for Spanish-speaking clients. At one point, I was within 10 feet of the cell housing Zacarias Moussaoui, the “20th hijacker.”

During my second week, my attorney gave me transcripts from defense motions and trials and essentially told me to learn the facts, get a sense for appellate issues and draft a brief for submission to the Court of Appeals of Virginia. I learned Virginia appellate procedure and formalities largely on my own, crafting an original argument to question our client’s convictions on felony charges.

Each week, I assisted my attorney in preparation for court proceedings, ranging from arraignments to post-trial sentencing hearings. By participating in the numerous stages of the criminal process, I gained valuable experience in litigation while learning evidentiary rules and criminal procedure.

The most rewarding aspect of my job was working with my attorney on one of her biggest trials. I visited our client in jail weekly, contacted witnesses and interviewed them in Spanish, followed leads and tips, completed subpoena orders, helped draft motions and brainstormed with my attorney to develop defense strategies. I felt as though each case was, in a sense, my case.

As a cash-strapped law student, I would not have been able to experience substantive and procedural law without the grant.

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**Stacie Cass**

When diagnosed with cancer, people are bombarded with previously unimaginable issues that reach beyond the medical. The Legal Information Network for Cancer (LINC) is a non-profit, community-based organization that assists individuals with some of the legal concerns they face following diagnosis. Founded in 1996 by breast cancer survivors Phyllis Katz, ’82, and Ann Hodges, a Richmond law professor, LINC strives to free cancer patients from their worries so they can focus on treatment.

Through an extensive network of attorneys and counselors, LINC helps patients navigate the frustrating and frequently urgent legal issues that threaten to leave them without housing, medical care or other necessities.

LINC, which relies on about 70 referral lawyers, has helped over 1,600 central Virginians understand health insurance issues, the Family Medical Leave Act, custody matters, wills, powers of attorney and advanced medical directives. It helps them locate housing assistance and child-care.

As an intern with LINC, I evaluated the issues facing callers to determine whether they needed assistance from a referral attorney, a counselor or staff member. I learned a great deal about a wide range of legal issues, including housing, employment, Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid, bankruptcy, domestic and insurance law. I often took calls from individuals who had been told they had only a few days or weeks to live.
The urgency of problems faced by LINC clients taught me about the law and helped develop my time management and issue prioritization skills. I also was reminded how important it is that people who cannot represent themselves have good legal help.

Some of our clients felt alone and called seeking more than legal advice. I frequently found myself listening to people who had nowhere else to turn to express their fears, concerns or hopes. Their strength in the face of devastating odds remains an inspiration to me. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my community.

Lauren Brady

I was first exposed to public interest law during summer 2000, when I interned at Blue Ridge Legal Services in Harrisonburg, Va. Working for dedicated attorneys and staff who had chosen to devote their careers to legal aid and public service inspired me to seek a career in public service advocacy. Interning at Blue Ridge was stimulating and rewarding.

Last summer I continued to pursue my interest by working as a volunteer intern at the Housing Litigation Bureau of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, the largest municipal housing agency in the nation. The department’s mission is to improve the availability, affordability and quality of housing.

I worked with bureau attorneys, assisting tenants with actions against landlords who refused to make needed repairs at multiple dwelling residences.

My internship allowed me to take an active role in providing legal assistance to disadvantaged tenants who find themselves with little bargaining power. I spent two days a week working at the Manhattan office, preparing for court and performing legal research. The remainder of my week was spent attending housing court at the Bronx courthouse.

I worked directly with department attorneys, participating in settlement negotiations and obtaining court orders, communicating with disgruntled tenants and interacting with the landlords’ counsel. Each day I gained valuable practical experience by working for and with the public sector of one of the largest and most effective mayoral agencies in our nation’s largest city.

This year’s fellowship recipients were:

Aaron Ahlquist, L’04, Rochester, Minn., Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, Richmond
Lauren E. Brady L’05, Richmond, New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development
Stacie Ann Cass, L’05, Middlebury, Conn., Legal Information Network for Cancer, Richmond
Theresa J. Gryder L’03, Midlothian, Va., Commonwealth’s Attorney, Chesapeake, Va.
John K. Karanian, L’04, Richmond, Office of the Public Defender, Richmond
Karri B. Seaman, L’04, Vesuvius, Va., Commonwealth’s Attorney, Chesterfield County, Va.
By Anne Buckley

The law school grind often acts as a bonding agent, drawing classmates together in an atmosphere that is part shared adventure and ambition and part shared misery.

Many graduates of the University of Richmond School of Law find those bonds turn into lasting professional alliances. Some prove even more personal — as husband and wife.

When both spouses practice law, issues that purely professional partners never face can make simple events like dinnertime interesting, either because the occurrences of the day beg to be hashed out or avoided to preserve confidentiality.

Greg and Jennifer Golden, like a number of married
Richmond law graduates, realize there are a plethora of ethical concerns that could arise. Some lawyer couples work around them by practicing together. Others find professional niches where conflicts rarely present themselves.

Greg, L'96, is a corporate attorney in Washington, D.C., for a large Texas firm, Baker Botts. He handles issues such as mergers and acquisitions, securities offerings and project finance.

Jennifer, L'97, is a real estate attorney for Hunseker, Lyon & Leggett, in Vienna, Va. Because they practice in distinctly different fields, there is little chance Greg and Jennifer will butt heads professionally — which they both appreciate.

The closest they ever came to a conflict was when Jennifer worked on Capitol Hill as counsel for a congressman who sat on a committee that had oversight of energy issues — an area in which Baker Botts is deeply involved.

"Some of our partners would show up in her office and she would have meetings with them," Greg said. That led to some quiet evenings at home.

The potential for conflicts between married lawyers is considerable.

In Virginia, the Rules of Professional Conduct specifically address how married couples, or people related in any fashion, should handle potential conflicts.

Three years ago, Virginia's code was changed to allow married attorneys to represent clients on both sides of an issue as long as the client has been told of the situation and has given consent. Prior to 2000, the code had been interpreted as saying that marriage posed a non-waivable conflict of interest, according to James McCauley, ethics counsel of the Virginia State Bar.

Even with the code change, Richmond law professor Jonathan K. Stubbs said married lawyers on opposite sides of a case is not the best idea.

"You have to deal with the appearance of professional impropriety," Stubbs said. "Lawyers have to be concerned that the justice system not only works well and is fair, but also that it appears to the public to be fair.

"It's not going to appear fair if a husband is on one side and the wife on the other," he said. "It doesn't pass the sniff test."

In law school, Stubbs said, professors teach students to err on the side of showing standards that are too high, rather than too low.

McCauley agreed with Stubbs.

"I'm not sure that the loosening of this restriction was wise," he said. "The lawyers and their clients are in a situation in which there has to be a high degree of trust and confidence."
"Any type of issue or set of circumstances that tends to cast doubt or shadow on that trust is probably not healthy for the [lawyer-client] relationship," he said. "Even though the [new rule] would permit lawyers to seek waivers from their clients, lawyers need to think, and clients need to think, very carefully about whether that's in their best interest."

Some lawyers feel uneasy just thinking about squaring off in court. Some find sharing their expertise and concerns with a spouse who is a lawyer to be helpful and comfortable.

Andrew Wood, L’67, and Cheryl Wood, L’70, are partners in the Richmond general practice firm of Wood & Wood that deals in a variety of civil and criminal matters.

"It's great to have a built-in second opinion," Cheryl said.

Their partnership does impose some limits on them.

"If we had a divorce [case] and I got the husband, she could not represent the wife," Andrew Wood said. "We're always on the same side. That's why we practice together. It's too complicated to do otherwise."

Two lawyers in one marriage also means both spouses understand the stresses of courtrooms and clients, and both can benefit from a trusted second perspective on the legal landscape.

"You can talk about your frustrations, or what's frustrating about the other side, or strategies," said Margaret Nelson, L’87, a criminal defense lawyer in Lynchburg. "What would you do with a judge? What's that lawyer like? That's what helps make it such a positive thing when you're with someone who knows exactly..."
what your tensions and anxieties are in a trial.

“We are both trial attorneys,” she said, referring to herself and her husband, William Phillips, R’82, L’85. “It takes a lot of time to prepare for a jury trial. It helps the other one to know what the other one is going through.”

“We’d avoid [representing different interests in a case] at virtually any cost,” said Phillips. “Even with the consent, it would probably be too stressful.”

For many lawyering couples, the inevitable disagreements that arise in discussions at home highlight what ineffective adversaries they would be.

“We’ll have some pretty absurd arguments,” said Josh Rahman, L’98, whose wife Megan, L’98, practices at a different Richmond firm. “They usually end in laughter, but in the heat of the moment you try to use logic when you’re being completely illogical. I don’t think I’ve ever won an argument with her.”

Greg Golden said he hasn’t won one either, and his disagreements with Jennifer sometimes lapse into legalese, courtroom-type objections and the works.

“And it’s not nice to hear the point you’re making is irrelevant,” he said.

Josh Rahman does business transactional work for Durette Bradshaw in Richmond, focusing on commercial real estate. Megan works for Troutman Sanders in Richmond and focuses on commercial and business litigation and white-collar crime.

While their firms sometimes oppose each other, the Rahmans stay out of those cases. Work stays at work, and home is a place where outside life takes center stage, with allowances for the late days both sometimes put in.

“By the time we get home at night, all we want to do is decompress,” Josh said. “The nice thing about having a spouse as a lawyer is you don’t have to explain your day.”

“I don’t have an expectation that she’ll have a hot meal waiting for me,” he said. They eat at Ukrop’s a lot. “Whoever has the time does what needs to be done.”

Megan agreed.

“We understand that sometimes you just can’t control your schedule,” she said. “It’s not a 9 to 5 job by any means.”

Juggling schedules soon will take on a new dimension for the Rahmans, who are expecting their first baby in August.

It was that kind of schedule juggling that kept the Woods practicing together.

“I decided when we had children I needed to arrange my practice around them,” Cheryl Wood said. “I never set an appointment I couldn’t change to accommodate the children’s schedules. I could only do that if we practiced together.”

The arrangement sometimes yielded days that looked more like an episode of “Family Affair” than “L.A. Law” at their Richmond firm, which included a nursery space in the early years.

“It’s been an easy and good way to raise a family,” Andrew Wood said. “When the kids were born, she stopped work and then just started back working as they grew. She’s always been at home when they got out of school and had dinner for them on the table.”

Whether married lawyers arrange their lives to suit their careers, or vice versa, funny moments surely arise.

Phillips recalled an instance at the Lynchburg courthouse, where most everyone knows he and Nelson, who retained her maiden name, are married.

“We had cases in the same court one day and happened to be sitting next to each other,” Phillips said. “My hair was sticking up, and she took her hand and smoothed it down.” One of the deputies took note and let it be known that “he was surprised Ms. Nelson would do something like that to Mr. Phillips” right there in the courtroom.

Anne Buckley is a Richmond-based writer.
An Open Letter to the Law School Community

from

ROD SMOLLA

DESIGNING A NEW FUTURE

Our law school has a proud history of high achievement in teaching, scholarship and service to the legal profession and surrounding community. In its 131-year history, the law school has been home to many wonderful teachers, scholars, administrators and staff, and its graduates have risen to places of high esteem and leadership in the bar, the judiciary and civic life. We are now strategically poised to rise to new levels of excellence in our educational mission, our scholarly accomplishment and our service to society. All the ingredients for new levels of greatness are in place: a loyal and distinguished group of alumni, an energetic and enthusiastic student body, an accomplished and ambitious faculty, a dedicated staff, and a surrounding University that is intellectually vigorous, supportive of the law school's mission and anxious to engage in partnerships in the pursuit of excellence.

The ingredients are indeed at hand. And now it's our job to stir them, mix them in creative ways, and make exciting things happen. Nothing stands between our school and new levels of greatness. All it will take is exuberance, energy and creativity. I do not have the answers, but I have some of the questions. I am sure that for every impish question I pose, others will come up with five more.

Let's play 20 questions

What I set forth in these questions is not my "agenda." But it is an invitation to us all to devise an agenda. What steps must we take to become the greatest law school we can be? How can we improve what we are doing now? How can we create, innovate and collaborate to add new programs and initiatives, explore new approaches to legal education, new ways to integrate legal study with practical experience and connection to the community, new ways to bring the cutting issues of law and social policy through our building, contributing to society and the profession?

Are there ways to better combine serving students with serving society?

Students are the life of the school, and the reason for its existence. In serving students, we serve society. What society most wants and needs from our nation's law schools are: students who will enter the profession imbued with a commitment to delivering legal services of the highest quality to clients; students...
Rod Smolla likes to mix it up — in the classroom, in the courtroom, in virtually every venue of his life.

In July, Smolla became dean of the University of Richmond School of Law where he had been George E. Allen Professor of Law for the past five years. Professionally, he is a prolific writer, teacher and litigator — an amazing amalgam of all three. Personally, he is restless and tireless. He seems capable of doing everything, incapable of doing nothing.

In one of his 11 books, Smolla jolts awake from a nightmare after being shot between the eyes in front of his two little girls. Coming to his senses, he checks on the sleeping children and heads for the kitchen.

“I could pull out a beer and hope to relax myself enough to get back to sleep,” he wrote. “Or I could give up on the night, make coffee, and start the day…. I made the coffee.”

Smolla’s nightmare was triggered by his reluctance to represent the families of three murder victims. (Two of the victims were shot through their eyes.) They were killed by an assassin who followed instructions from a book called Hit Man: A Technical Manual for Independent Contractors. Attorneys for the victims’ families were suing the book’s publisher, Paladin Press, and they asked Smolla to join their legal team. But the suit challenged his basic beliefs about the First Amendment, and he refused.
Later that day, Smolla could not stop thinking about the case as he watched his girls at the playground. “Not all in my life was what it seemed,” he wrote in Deliberate Intent, his book about the case. “The façade looked real pretty, but beneath the surface...Something was missing. A line from a Sheryl Crow song kept running through my mind: ‘If it makes you happy, then why the hell are you so sad?’

Growing up in Chicago, Smolla played sports and board games with his younger brothers nonstop from dawn till dusk. And at 50, he still makes time for some sibling rivalry.

“I have a daily online chess game with one of my younger brothers as a way of keeping in touch,” he said. “My brothers and I still have that camaraderie.”

Smolla went to Yale as a football recruit, but he blew out his knee during his freshman year, and he turned his attention to American studies. “I had no inkling whatsoever that I might want to be a lawyer when I was in college,” he recalled. “My fantasy was being drafted — football, basketball, baseball, it didn’t matter. I was a typical, fun-loving jock.

Even as a senior at Yale, Smolla wasn’t sure what he wanted to do with his life. Law school was an option, but he had only a dim concept of what it would mean to be a lawyer.

“I showed up at Duke Law School and was completely taken by it,” he said. “I started to realize how relevant the law was to social issues and to policy conflicts, how richly it was steeped in history.”

After practicing law in Chicago, Smolla began a teaching career that took him to law schools at DePaul, the University of Illinois, the University of Arkansas, the College of William & Mary and ultimately the University of Richmond.

In the past 10 years, Smolla has become more active as a practicing attorney, and he believes that experience has made him a more effective teacher, scholar and writer.

As a teacher, Smolla looks for creative ways to present material, including simulations and role-playing exercises. “Sometimes these experiments work and sometimes they don’t work,” he said. “But any time you can empower students and get them to use a fuller range of their skills, you make the experience richer.”

Smolla always respects student views, said Lauren Brown Sigler, L’03. “That comes from what he does when he puts his ‘real-world’ lawyer hat back on. He must deal with very opposing views in his cases, and I am sure he deals with his opponents in the same respectful manner.”

Sigler took two of Smolla’s classes, constitutional law and First Amendment law. “He constantly reminds students that what you are learning in the classroom is ‘live,’” she said. “The subjects we learn are affecting people’s daily lives.”

Smolla rarely misses an opportunity to bring the courtroom into the classroom, said John G. Douglass, professor of law at Richmond. “Prior to his oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court in Virginia v. Black, Rod did a number of things involving students,” he recalls. He met with the John Marshall scholars for a lunchtime debate, and he invited undergraduates to a forum on campus.

Law schools need to find ways to take what students learn in the classroom and apply it to what
lawyers really do, said Daan Braveman, professor of law at Syracuse University and co-author with Smolla on Constitutional Law: Structure and Rights in Our Federal System. Smolla excels in both arenas, Braveman said. "The law school is fortunate, not only to have him on the faculty, but now as its dean."

Smolla's life seems filled with creative tension — adversarial roles in his court cases, heated discussions in his classrooms and terse prose in his books. He also contends with the tension between personal and professional obligations.

"There's a constant tension between paying attention to your family and the spiritual sides of life and meeting the demands of your job," he said. "Part of the art of a good life is learning to balance them."

Smolla and his wife, Michele have five children in their blended family. "I definitely have learned the art of multitasking," he said. "I can be driving to a basketball game for one of my kids while I'm composing a book chapter in my head."

This is not recommended in driving or parenting manuals, but Braveman has confidence in Smolla's ability to do two or three things well at the same time. "He is one of the most efficient, well-organized people I have ever met," Braveman said.

Often, it is this combination of roles that enables Smolla to function so effectively. "My experiences in practice have deeply affected my views of the law — on the theoretical side and on the human side," he said. "I've been able to see what happens when these theories and doctrines are really put to the test."

The Hit Man case put Smolla's convictions to the test, and he had a change of heart — professionally and personally. One of the victims was a boy named Trevor, an 8-year-old quadriplegic.

"The thought of poor little Trevor and the accident that had left him paralyzed left me maudlin," Smolla wrote in Deliberate Intent. "A superstitious Catholic, I made the sign of the cross and said a short prayer for my [daughters'] safety. My prayers too often tended to be like that — sporadic, transparent, self-serving."
So I said another prayer of thanks on behalf of all humanity. It made me feel magnanimous. I doubt God was much impressed."

Perhaps not, but Smolla was left with the unmistakable impression that he needed to take the case. "I finally knew where my conscience was trying to take me," he wrote. "I knew in my heart that the First Amendment simply could not plausibly be interpreted to protect a book like Hit Man.

Smolla joined the legal team, and one business day before the case went to trial, the insurance company for Paladin Press agreed to pay a multimillion-dollar settlement to the victims' families. Paladin also agreed to stop selling the book.

Four years later, Smolla stood before the U.S. Supreme Court to defend the First Amendment rights of Barry Elton Black, a Ku Klux Klan member who had violated a Virginia law against burning a cross in public. Smolla argued that cross-burning alone does not prove a person's intent to harm someone, and therefore it is protected by the First Amendment.

"The two cases are in tension, to some degree, in terms of my own feelings about freedom of speech," Smolla said. "They defined the boundary between what I thought was speech that was highly offensive but still protected in the cross-burning case and speech that crossed the line from merely being offensive to being physically harmful in the Hit Man case."

Smolla sleeps better these days, but he still has to contend with friends and colleagues who disagree with his position in either of those high-profile cases. "And that's natural," he concluded. "That's what happens when you get involved with those kinds of tough controversies."

Karl Rhodes is a freelance writer based in Richmond.
Are there creative new ways to package legal education, integrating theory and practice?

Are there fresh new ways to place community experiences and service more centrally into the law school experience? Rather than simply follow the well-worn paths, maybe we can create an experience that is truly unique, that becomes an example for others, that will attract even stronger students and faculty because it is built around insights and innovations that mark it as distinctive and specially meaningful. Are there new ways in which to engage our students in the education of the “whole” lawyer? Are there new ways to explore and discuss issues such as balancing professional, personal and family life, maintaining one’s mental and emotional equanimity in times of high stress, steeping students in traditions of professional civility, exploring how one makes the practice of law the pursuit of the “good life,” in the sense of a life that is at once challenging, balanced, rewarding and meaningful?

Should we institute a pro-bono service requirement for our students?

Any such requirement would undoubtedly need to have an eclectic definition of what counts as pro-bono legal service and accommodate the various levels of competency that students have as they progress through their law school years. There are many intriguing possible benefits. Above all, this would be a statement of our values and our sense of what it means to be a lawyer. At the individual and institutional levels, it would send the message of dedication to our community, of connection to society. It would provide students with interesting practical experiences and opportunities for growth. And it would be an engine of creative endeavor. Does the idea merit exploration?

How can we make use of emeritus faculty and retired judges and lawyers?

We have a lot of untapped experience and wisdom around us. It starts with our emeritus faculty, colleagues who have given tremendously of themselves to the school. Our alumni include many senior judges and lawyers nearby who have much to offer the newest generation of incoming students. What kinds of things might we do institutionally to facilitate more interaction with these professors, judges and lawyers?

Should we become a center for judges and judicial training?

Many of our graduates have gone on to distinguished careers at all levels of the state and federal judiciary. We are in the city that is home of the state’s two appellate courts and the 4th Circuit. Judges already teach in our school, attend many of our events and are part of our extended family. Are there ways to create new programs that will enhance and solidify these connections in creative ways? Should we consider permanent judicial training and continuing education programs or programs to train law clerks as part of our “staple diet” of activities?

Should we create academic centers, speciality programs, concentrations, certificate degrees?

We currently have the Merhige Center in environmental law. It is something to be nurtured and expanded. Should we also look for ways to create new centers, speciality programs, concentrations or certificate degrees. Are there entrepreneurial or philanthropic opportunities to partner with other organizations, finding financial resources to start new programs that would contribute in some genuine way to society, enhance the educational opportunities of our students and bring fresh new spark and

Are there ways to connect with the city and region in a manner that will attract national attention and esteem?

Are there distinctive ways to take advantage of what the region around us offers, integrating the school with the community in ways that few other law schools have tried?
DESIGNING A NEW FUTURE

buzz to our program? Are there programs that we could start that would serve society, filling a need, and at the same time be attractive enough to other institutions, individuals or foundations to make it possible to garner the resources to create them?

How can we build interdisciplinary connections and partnerships with other branches of the University?

A great liberal arts university is made all the greater by a great law school. And in these times, a law school, if it aspires to greatness, must encourage ongoing collaboration — formal and informal — with other disciplines. We already have many interdisciplinary ties. But how might we create more?

How do we tend to the infrastructure while being innovative?

Creativity is a good thing. So is solidity and tending to the foundations. We desperately need more scholarship support for students. We need more faculty. We need to continue to improve the quality of our library. We need to remember the basics of solid legal education — the fundamental subjects, the building blocks of legal analysis and professionalism, and basic skills, such as good writing, effective communication, learning to listen and developing sound judgment. Please don't think for a moment that my spur to creativity is a slur to the fundamentals. I was raised on them and I’ve to teach and promote them. My final question, then, is as basic as it gets: How do we combine the tried and true with the fresh and the new?

Making it happen

These questions, I hope, will spur more questions, trigger more creativity, generate more introspection and debate. The brainstorming should then give way to decision-making. After we organize, analyze and prioritize, we can come to consensus on a new blueprint for the future of the school, design the timetables and implementation strategies, and then dive energetically into the happy work of making it happen. Let’s roll.

For all of us, I hope this will be a labor of love, an enterprise of joy. We are an extended family. Generations help generations. Seniors mentor and support juniors, who in tum energize us all. We need to raise money, raise expectations, and raise morale. With energy, hard work, and new resources, we can attract and retain faculty members of national stature, recruit the country’s best and brightest students, create new academic programs, generate partnerships with other academic units on the campus, forge alliances and joint ventures with other groups and entities and contribute to our surrounding community and our national life. At the end of the day, we can take pride in having helped make the school stronger, knowing that in doing so we have contributed to the profession and to society.

For my own part, I accept this challenge with humility and with the knowledge that inevitably we will have our ups and downs. But above all, I accept it with great optimism and a strong spirit of creative camaraderie. "Pragmatic idealism" might capture it.

I am delighted to have the honor of a leadership role in this collective enterprise. Let’s be creative, professional, dedicated. And let’s have fun.

Born and raised in Chicago, Rod Smolla graduated from Yale with a degree in American studies. He finished first in his class at Duke Law School and returned to Chicago to practice. He began teaching at DePaul, and he continued his academic career at the University of Illinois, the University of Arkansas and the College of William & Mary. Smolla came to the University of Richmond in 1998 as George E. Allen Professor of Law, and he became dean of the law school on July 1.

Smolla is a nationally renowned expert on constitutional law, particularly First Amendment issues. He has written 11 books that range from legal casebooks and treatises to popular fiction and non-fiction. He also has represented clients in high-profile First Amendment cases across the country, including an appearance before the U.S. Supreme Court in a highly-publicized recent case involving cross burning.

"Rod Smolla is as creative, imaginative, energetic and eloquent a scholar and teacher of free speech and press as we have anywhere in this country," said Robert M. O’Neil, director of the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression at the University of Virginia. "We all learn constantly from him, and are continually dazzled by his productivity, as well as his courageous commitment to defend First Amendment principles in the most important cases.”
FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Margaret Ivey Bacigal, clinical professor, received a Story Award from the Bonner Scholars Program and the Office of the Chaplaincy for her work to improve the lives of children and families in the community. The awards are given annually to honor members of faculty, staff and student body who have made outstanding contributions to the University and the Richmond community. Bacigal also was re-elected president of the board of directors of the Virginia Poverty Law Center. Hamilton Bryson wrote “The Winchester Law School, 1824-1831” 21 Law and History Review (2003), and volume 60 of the Virginia Circuit Court Opinions. He also presented papers at legal history conferences in Maastricht, The Netherlands, and Dublin, Ireland. David Frisch contributed to the 2004 supplement to The Commercial Law of Intellectual Property, published by Aspen Publishing Co. He also wrote “An Overview of the Amendments to U.C.C. Article 2” for the U.C.C. Bulletin, West Publishing Co. Mary Heen has been appointed to a three-year term on a committee on academic freedom and tenure with the American Association of University Professors. The committee, which is chaired by Joan Wallach Scott, professor at the Institute for Advanced Study, formulates association policy in areas of academic freedom and tenure, and makes recommendations to the association’s annual meetings. As editor of the Journal of Maritime Law and Commerce, John Paul Jones co-hosted a symposium on “The Use of Evidence in Admiralty Cases” at Newport, R.I. Corinna B. Lain took part in a Virginia CLE panel discussion on “What’s New in Civil Procedure” in May. Her topic was a discussion of State Farm v. Campbell, a 2003 punitive damages case. Michael Allan Wolf, former professor of law and history, has been named the initial occupant of the Richard E. Nelson Chair in Local Government Law at the University of Florida’s Levin College of Law. Wolf, who came to Richmond in 1987, taught a wide range of courses to law students and undergraduates, including property, land-use planning, environmental law, American legal history, local government, Faulkner in the law, Camelot in the courts, American immigration and ethnicity, and Jews in the American mind. He also served several years as adviser to the University of Richmond Law Review. A native of Lakeland, Fla., Wolf said, “My wife, Betty, and I take a lot with us as we make our move to Florida: memories, enduring relationships, and the good wishes of our friends and colleagues.” Contact Wolf at wolfin@law.ufl.edu.

Visiting professors

Carl Tobias, professor of law at the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, is the visiting Williams Professor for 2003-2004. Tobias earned his bachelor's degree at Duke University and his law degree at the University of Virginia. From 1975-98, he was a professor at the University of Montana School of Law. He has visited on the faculty of law schools including Georgetown, North Carolina, Seton Hall and Temple. He has written extensively on federal civil procedure and federal courts, publishing in journals including California Law Review; Cornell Law Review; Stanford Law Review; Columbia Law Review and Harvard Journal on Legislation. He will teach torts, products liability and constitutional law.

James Gibson, an intellectual property specialist who taught at the Law School in 2002-03, returned this year as visiting assistant professor of law. Gibson received his bachelor's degree, cum laude, from Yale University and his J.D. from the University of Virginia, where he was a member of the editorial board of the Virginia Law Review and was elected to the Order of the Coif. Gibson clerked for Judge Karen Nelson Moore of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. He served as attorney-adviser to a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission and later worked for Williams & Connolly in Washington. He will teach intellectual property and John Marshall Scholars seminars.

Marci Kelly, an experienced tax law specialist, returned to the faculty as visiting professor of law. Kelly served as associate dean and director of the LLM program in taxation at Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco. She earned a B.A. at Vassar and a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. She also holds an LLM in taxation from the New York University School of Law. She has served as adviser to a U.S. Tax Court judge and worked for New York City's human resources administration. She will teach wills and trusts, and federal income tax.

Bernhard Grossfield, a prominent German expert on corporate law, returned to the faculty this fall. Grossfield, who holds a J.D. from the University of Muenster and an LLM from Yale, will teach comparative law.

Thomas Odom, assistant professor of law at Oklahoma City University School of Law, is teaching civil practice and professional responsibility this fall. He holds a B.A., magna cum laude, from Rutgers University and a J.D., cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

Henry L. Chambers Jr., the James S. Rollins Professor of Law at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law, will teach criminal law and white-collar crime during the spring semester. Chambers received his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Virginia. He was a litigator at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson in Washington.
This fall, my classmates and I from the Class of 1983 will celebrate our 20th reunion. As I reflect on the occasion, I find myself pondering two questions: Can I be this old? And do I look this old? Those questions also are interesting and appropriate for alumni to consider about the law school itself, which has now passed its 130th birthday. The alumni, in large measure, must maintain the heritage and traditions of our school. And they must, through active participation in activities and through financial support, seek to ensure that the school’s “looks” are maintained. By that I refer to the physical plant and to the way the law school is perceived among prospective students, prospective employers, the bar and the judiciary.

Competition for the best and brightest students is as high as ever, with law schools all over the country raising money at record levels. We have a great school, and our recent successes with the Virginia Bar pass rate, improvements in our U.S. News ranking and the dramatic increase in applications for admission (an all-time high this year) illustrate that we are a law school on the move. This fall, whether you are a recent graduate or have long since passed your 20th reunion, let me encourage you to place the Law School at the top of your list of priorities. Come to Fall Gathering, take a look around, meet our new dean and talk with the students. Our school is a great place that desires and needs the support of every one of its alumni. It needs you. I hope to see you this fall.

By John C. Ivins Jr., President, Law School Association

Patricia H. Krueger, L’83, has been named clerk of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Krueger had served as chief deputy clerk of the court for 13 years. She succeeded David B. Beach, L’76, who had been clerk since 1984. The transition from Beach to Krueger took place July 1.

Before coming to the court, Krueger, who earned her undergraduate degree from Duke University, worked in private practice and in the Office of the Public Defender in Richmond.

At the Law School, she was a finalist in the 1981 Carrico Moot Court Competition and co-chair of the Moot Court Board.

The clerk's office receives, processes and maintains records of appeals to the state's highest court. It also maintains a list of qualified attorneys.

In response to her appointment, Krueger said, “This appointment is a great privilege and I look forward to serving the Supreme Court and the Commonwealth.”
Meeting the challenge
Benjamin wins pro bono award

Steven D. Benjamin's career has included high-profile white-collar cases, capital murder defenses and well-publicized dealings with heavyweight politicians.

But it was a pro bono case involving a trespassing charge that landed him in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

"That," said Benjamin, L'79, "was the most intense professional experience I've had."

For his longstanding commitment to representing poor Virginians, Benjamin was presented the Lewis F. Powell Jr. Pro Bono Award by the Virginia State Bar last May at a conference on campus. The award is named for the late Justice Powell, who championed legal services for the poor throughout his career.

Benjamin, who practices in Richmond, has worked for years to increase the pay of court-appointed lawyers so that indigent defendants are more likely to receive adequate representation. He won a case in Virginia that resulted in a requirement that the state pay for forensic expert assistance in some indigent criminal cases.

He has worked voluntarily with the Virginia legislature on matters ranging from the execution of the mentally retarded to DNA defense issues to reorganization of the criminal code. He also is a founder of the Virginia Indigent Defense Coalition.

A native of Swansboro, N.C., and a graduate of East Carolina University, Benjamin's practice is almost exclusively criminal defense.

"I love the challenge that comes with the work as well as the fact that I'm doing something worthwhile for people who need help," he said.

He and his law partner, Betty Layne DesPortes, provide pro bono help because "that's the way my parents raised me, and that's what I learned at law school.

"People come to us with problems that we just can't walk away from. To not represent someone who faces some unconscionable charge because they don't have the money would be like a doctor walking away from a catastrophic accident. It's our obligation as lawyers to help."

Away from work Benjamin also seeks challenges. He participates in ultra marathons, such as the 140-mile Marathon de Sables in the Sahara desert, which he has run three times, once finishing as the fastest American.

He has raced from Athens to Sparta (156 miles) in 35 hours, 19 minutes. Why? "It's the challenge," he said. "Intensity, focus of effort, determination. That's my recreation."

The same characteristics were valuable when Benjamin stood before the highest court on behalf of Kevin Hicks. Hicks had been charged with trespassing as he delivered diapers to his child in Richmond's Whitcomb Court housing project.

Benjamin challenged the city housing authority's right to use trespassing laws to keep people it viewed as undesirable out of the projects. The Supreme Court in June refused to invalidate the policy and sent the case back to Virginia courts to consider related issues.

Benjamin, who is often on campus as an adjunct faculty member teaching scientific evidence, said understanding the fundamentals of constitutional law was the most important part of his law school education.

"We learned what a powerful tool the Constitution can be to restrain abuses of power and to give voice to the defenseless," he said. "As a lawyer, I can do what others often cannot."

—By Rob Walker
Hon. George F. Tidey, B'55 and L'63, has been recognized as a life member of the Virginia Bar Association.

The Hon. Von L. Piersall Jr., R'61 and L'64, retired from the Circuit Court in Portsmouth on Dec. 31, 2002, after eight years. He previously served 24 years as judge in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and was a commonwealth’s attorney for seven years.

James Hutton, L'65, has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*. He is with Sadler, Ingram, Sutherland and Hutton in Blacksburg, Va.

Irving M. Blank, L'67, has formed the Richmond firm of ParisBlank LLP, with Leonard A. Paris, L'62.

Michael Rigsby, L'69, is an attorney with the firm of Carrell, Rice & Rigsby, which focuses its practice on federal and state civil litigation, administrative law and corporate issues. He continues to represent attorneys, law firms and other licensed professionals.

Mike Ferguson, B'57 and L'70, and his wife Anne Margaret Larson Ferguson, W'69, have homes in Smith Mountain Lake and Roanoke, Va. Their son Stephen is pursuing an acting career in California.

Conard B. Mattox III, R'71 and L'76, has joined McCandlish Holton as a director and member of the health care group.

Greer P. Jackson, L'73, has been elected secretary of the board of directors of Commonwealth Catholic Charities.

Harold Kestenbaum, L'74, has joined Farrell Fritz in Long Island, N.Y.

Ben R. Lacy IV, L'74, has been selected as one of *Virginia Business*’ “Legal Elite.” The list features the top 400 attorneys who practice in nearly every major specialty of law throughout Virginia.

David B. Beach, L'76, retired July 1 as clerk of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Glenn W. Pulley, R'73 and L'76, has become a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is a senior partner in the law firm of Clement & Wheatley.

His son, Drew, graduated from Richmond in May and his son Jeffrey, '01, is a law student at Fordham.

Wilson R. Trice, L'76, has joined Thompson & McMullan as a director. He has a general business law practice.

Katrin Belenky Colamarino, L'76, continues to practice technology and e-commerce law at JP Morgan Chase Bank in New York City, where she manages a team of 16 lawyers and paralegals. She and her husband, Len, enjoy weekends in Woodstock, N.Y., which she says is still a hip, artistic town. They have three grandchildren from Katrin’s daughter, Rachel, who is a psychological counselor living in Israel.

Steven M. Edmonds, L'77, has been elected chairman of the board of directors of Gateway Homes of Greater Richmond. He also has been named vice president and general counsel with Ethyl Corp.

Paul D. Fraim, L'77, an attorney in Hampton Roads, Va., was inducted as a fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation.

Conard B. Mattox III, R'71 and L'77, has joined McCandlish Holton PC as a director and member of the firm’s health care team. His practice focuses on representing health care providers in transactional matters, joint ventures and strategic planning.

John C. Shea, L'77, has been appointed to the faculty of the Virginia College of Trial Advocacy. He is an attorney with Marks & Harrison.

Michael A. Classer, L'78, an attorney in Hampton Roads, Va., was inducted as a fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation.

John Miller, L'78, owns his own firm in Springfield, Mass.

Sara Redding Wilson, L'78, has been appointed to the Commonwealth Competition Council by Gov. Mark Warner. She is director of the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management.

Craig Rascoe, B'76 and L'79, was elected vice president of Williams Mullen. He is chairman of the firm’s tax section.


Vasil Fisanick, L'50, of Northern Cambria, Pa., and his wife, Rita, are celebrating their 44th wedding anniversary this fall. *Richmond Law* regrets that it incorrectly stated in the last issue that Mrs. Fisanick had passed away.

Boyce C. Wornom, B'51 and L'54, has been recognized as a life member of the Virginia Bar Association.

James T. Edmunds, L'55, and his wife, Harriett, are retired and live in a small community on Colington Island in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, where he serves as president of the Bay Cliff Association.


Hon. Buford M. Parsons Jr., B'58 and L'62, has been recognized as a life member of the Virginia Bar Association.

James E. Spinks, L'62, has been recognized as a life member of the Virginia Bar Association.

RICHMOND LAW
Marion S. Cooper, L'81, has joined Wallace Pledger as an associate.

Patrick C. Devine Jr., L'81, was appointed chairman of the Virginia Bar Association's health law section. Devine, an attorney with Hofheimer Nusbaum, is listed in The Best Lawyers in America in the health law, corporate mergers and acquisitions, and securities law categories.

Carol Wingo Dickinson, L'83, is board member and president of Jackson Feild Home for Girls.

Steven L. Higgs, L'83, of the Roanoke, Va., firm of King & Higgs PC, has been recertified in consumer bankruptcy law by the American Board of Certification. He has been certified in consumer bankruptcy law since 1998.

William Henry "Hank" Sipe III, L'83, has been included in The Best Lawyers in America. He is an attorney with the Rock Hill, S.C., office of Kennedy Covington Lobdell & Hickman.

Lucia Anna Trigiani, L'83, has been appointed to the Virginia Board of Health Professions by Gov. Mark Warner.

T. Daniel Christenbury, L'84 and GB'85, has joined the Philadelphia office of Piper Rudnick LLP, as a partner and head of the intellectual property group in that office.

William J. Rogers, L'84, has been named managing attorney for the business services group at the Framme Law Firm.

Carolyn Lavacchia, L'85, has received the Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association Women of Achievement award.

Peter M. Mellette, L'85, is with Hancock, Daniel, Johnson & Nagle PC, in Glen Allen, Va.

Aubrey Russell Bowles IV, L'86, and his wife, Louise, have triplets: Aubrey Russell Bowles V, Drury Wood Knight Bowles and Mary Madison Bowles. They join sister Carrington Southall Bowles, 2.

Mark Kevin Ames, L'87, has been named managing attorney for the consumer services group of the Framme Law Firm. He concentrates his practice in administrative and judicial appeals of state and local tax issues, commercial litigation and personal injury.

Malcolm P. "Mic" McConnell III, R'84 and L'87, was lead counsel in obtaining what is reportedly the largest medical malpractice verdict in Virginia history, $6.5 million. He is chief of the medical malpractice section of the Richmond-based firm of Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen. He also is the editor and co-author of Medical Malpractice Law in Virginia.

Donald T. Floyd, L'92, wins awards for what he calls his "retirement hobby" — providing free legal assistance to people in need.

The Virginia State Bar awarded Floyd the 2002 Lewis F. Powell Jr. Pro Bono Award, honoring him for thousands of hours of professional service without compensation. He also received the 1997 Pro Bono Publico Award of the Bar Association of the City of Richmond.

Floyd said he was surprised at the recognition. "The work at legal aid with staff and clients was personally satisfying to me."

Floyd's legal career began at an age when most people are considering retirement. He entered the University of Richmond School of Law in 1989, graduated in 1992 and passed the bar exam at age 60.

He and wife, Judy, were looking for a new life after his service in the Air Force and a 31-year insurance career, mostly in central New York.

"I didn't want to retire and just go play golf," he said.

He decided to pursue a third career — a lifelong interest in law. Floyd chose the law school because of its comfortable size and the lifestyle of the area.

"It turned out to be a good fit," he said. "I wish I had gone to law school right out of college. It's a good education regardless of the field you pursue."

After graduation, he found the job market weak and the long hours unappealing.

"I decided I didn't want to get into that meat grinder, starting out at the bottom and working your way up," he said. "I didn't want to be tied down."

Henry McLaughlin, executive director of the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, took Floyd under his wing. CVLAS gave him a chance to develop his own cases without a strict schedule.

"It was the best of both worlds," Floyd said.

He soon decided to forego private practice altogether. Instead, he devoted about 20 hours weekly to CVLAS, working on everything from foreclosures to estate squabbles and insurance disputes.

Although CVLAS has experts in fields such as housing and employment, "a lot of the problems that came to legal aid fell in between these areas," said Floyd, who took on "miscellaneous cases" that needed attention.

After eight years with CVLAS, Floyd and his wife reluctantly decided it was time to move to Bethlehem, Pa., to be closer to family.

Floyd never thought about the money he could have made in private practice.

"I was happier doing what I was doing," he said.

At 71, Floyd still seeks opportunities. He and his wife travel extensively, and he makes numerous trips to the Far East with his son, who lives in Taiwan. He also is seeking more pro bono work.

"Almost all of my contemporaries are retired, but I don't particularly like retirement," Floyd said. "The pro bono work adds structure and a sense of accomplishment to my life."

— By Betsy Powell Mullen
In Memoriam

Helen K. Bailey, L’81
May 24, 2003

Sidney Barney, R’40, L’59
May 10, 2003

Duncan M. Byrd Jr., L’68
July 16, 2003

Chris A. Christie, L’68
May 16, 2003

Carle E. Davis, L’53
April 9, 2003

John L. Dillow, L’25
March 10, 2001

John W. Edmonds III, R’53, L’56
May 21, 2003

Edward Brodnax Haskins Jr., L’59
May 31, 2003

James L. McLemore, L’40
June 9, 2003

Bernard E. Oslin, L’29
November 23, 1998

William V. Rennie, L’35
October 15, 1998

A. Grey Staples Jr., L’66
March 30, 2003

William David Temple, L’40
April 9, 2003

Herbert T. Williams III, L’55
December 29, 1998

James Wilson Jr., L’87,
has formed Abacus
Mortgage Corp., a mort­
gage loan brokerage in
Mount Pleasant, S.C.

Stanley P. Wellman, L’87,
has been elected to the
board of the Greater
Richmond SCAN (Stop
Child Abuse Now).

Sallie Hunt, L’89,
has been named West
Virginia’s chief privacy
officer, focusing prima­
arily on HIPAA
compliance issues.

Daniel M. Koliadko Jr.,
L’89, has joined the
Chattanooga, Tenn.,
firm of Leitner, Williams,
Dooley and Napolitan
PLLC. He focuses his
practice on broad-based
health care, professional
and general liability
litigation, employment
and general corporate
practice.

Blair Jacobs, L’90, is a
senior attorney with
Pillsbury Winthrop in
the firm’s McLean, Va.,
office.

K. Ruppert Beirne, L’91,
and his wife, Danise,
welcomed a daughter,
Samantha Jane, on
March 20, 2003. She
joined brothers Adam,
12, Daniel, 10, and
Jonathan, 7.

Brett Geisler, L’91, has
been appointed Vir­
ginia Circuit Court
judge for Radford and
Carroll counties.

Heather E. Fairbanks,
L’91, has transferred
from the Office of Staff
Counsel, U.S. Court of
Appeals for the 4th
Circuit, in the U.S.
Department of Justice
Civil Division. She is a
member of the Septem­
ber 11th Victim
Compensation Fund.

George L. Miller, L’91,
will direct the new
international business
program within the
Southwest Virginia
Higher Education
Center.

Victoria Narro, L’91,
presented a workshop,
“Community and Legal
Responses to Post
9/11 INS Worksite
Enforcement,” at the
Low-Income Immigrant
Rights Conference in
Washington, D.C. His
“Running for Dignity
immigrant workers
marathon team recently
completed its 20th
marathon in Palos
Verde, Calif. Narro
ran his personal best,
4 hours and 22 minutes,
and his team raised
money to support a
cooperative project for
immigrant gardeners in
Los Angeles.

Andrew T. Shilling, L’91,
opened his own firm,
Givando & Shilling in
Chesapeake, Va. He has
a daughter, Whitney
Lynn, who is 18 months
old, and a son, Spencer
Franklin, 3.

Jerry M. Wright Jr., L’91,
is an associate with
Chadwick, Washington,
Olters, Moriarity & Lynn
PC in Glen Allen, Va.
He previously served
six years as senior staff
attorney with the
Supreme Court of
Virginia.

Lisa Frisina Clement, L’92,
has been elected a share­
holder of PennStuart in
Richmond.

Kathleen C. Dolan, L’92,
and her husband, Jim
Weidman, have two
children, Trent and
Meg. She writes a
weekly newspaper col­
umn on religion. Her
first novel, Langleys’s
Choice, is scheduled for
publication this fall.

Alison Wright Feehan,
L’92, and Tim Feehan,
L’92, have a son, Hugh
Timothy, Nov. 28, 2002.

William T. Fitzhugh,
L’92, has joined Bowen,
Champlin, Carr &
Rockefeller. He will
concentrate in domes­
tic relations and
adoption law.

Hon. Garland L. Bigley,
L’92, is serving as a
judge in the 11th Judi­
cial District of Virginia,
sitting in Nottoway and
Powhatan counties.

Judge Bigley and her
husband, Dr. H. Alan
Bigley Jr., are the proud
grandparents of Parker
Abbott Bigley, the first
girl born into the Bigley
family in 65 years.

Penny A. Land, L’92,
has been named partner in
the law firm of Kluever
& Platt LLC in Chicago.
She specializes in mort­
gage foreclosure, bank­
ruptcy and real
estate.

Jeffrey K. Mitchell, L’92,
has been elected to the
board of directors of the
Virginia Public Safety
Foundation.

Brian R. Pitney, L’92,
has been appointed to the
fund development com­
mittee of the Children’s
Museum of Richmond.
He is an attorney with
Sands Anderson Marks
& Miller’s business, fi­
nance and real estate
practice group.

Henry R. Pollard V, L’92
and GB’93, has been
named a partner in the
Richmond firm of
Christian & Barton LLP.
He joined the firm in
1995 and concentrates in
environmental law.

Stephen Robert Wills,
L’92, and Christie
Meredith were married

Ellen Brown, L’93, and
her husband, Orran,
had a son, Andrew

Richard Barton Campbell,
L’93, has been elected to
the board of trustees of
Trinity Episcopal
School.
Stephanie E. Crana, W'90 and L'93, has been elected president of the Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association.

Brad Jacob, B'89 and L'93, and his wife, Julie, had a son, Henry Bradford, Jan. 24, 2003.

Anne D. McDougall, L'93, was appointed by Virginia Gov. Mark Warner to the Board of Regents of the James Monroe Law Office Museum and Memorial Library. She is an attorney with Freed and Shepherd.

Edward F. Rockwell, L'93, is serving as lead legal counsel to Hewlett-Packard's Services business in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He is based in Milan, Italy.

John T. Pendleton, L'93, who is with the firm Gottesman and Hollis, recently received the 2002 Robert E. Kirby Award at the New Hampshire Bar Foundation's 25th anniversary celebration dinner.

Margaret Smither, L'93, is past chairwoman of Commonwealth Catholic Charities.

Jeremy Sohn, L'93, has joined Snell & Wilmer's Tucson, Ariz., law office as an associate. His practice concentrates on estate planning and taxation issues.


Lisa Spickler Goodwin, L'94, with Hirscher Fleischer, is immediate past president of the board of directors of Barksdale Theatre.

John C. Lynch, L'94, has been elected to partnership at Troutman Sanders LLP. He is a member of the complex litigation practice group.

Samuel L. Tarry Jr., L'94, has been named a partner at McGuireWoods. He is a member of the products liability and litigation management department.

Elizabeth Trahos, L'94, has been named a partner with Holt York McDarris and High. She focuses on land-use, municipal and administrative law.

Travis R. Williams, R'91 and L'94, has been appointed to a six-year term as a substitute judge for the 12th Judicial Circuit and the General District and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court for Chesterfield County and Colonial Heights, Va.

David F. Bernhardt, L'95, has joined Florance, Gordon and Brown PC as an associate. He will practice in the firm's residential and commercial real estate department.

Tim Dorsey, L'95, was named partner at Williams Mullen. He practices in the firm’s Virginia Beach office.

In 1997, Robin Starr made a dramatic career move, trading the courthouse for the doghouse. She left her position as partner in a prominent Richmond law firm to become CEO and executive director of the Richmond SPCA.

Starr, L'79, had every intention of spending her career practicing law. She worked as in-house counsel of the A.H. Robins Company before joining Williams Mullen Clark and Dobbins where she became a partner in the business section. But a part of her itched to make a serious contribution to her community and to leave an important legacy.

When she heard the SPCA's executive director would resign soon, Starr leaped at the opportunity.

Starr cites her educational experience at the law school as an extremely valuable part of her life, and she applies lessons learned there to her work today.

Using her legal education regularly on behalf of the SPCA, Starr is in charge of everything from care of the animals to balancing the books. She runs the SPCA's annual fund campaign, manages its $3 million budget, and recently directed a drive to raise funds for the humane society's new $14 million, 64,000-square-foot building. The facility has drawn national attention to the Richmond SPCA. It features a spay-neuter clinic, and a track and training center. The center also offers educational programs aimed at addressing the area's homeless pet problem.

For all her efforts, Starr finds her new career rewarding. Since joining the Richmond SPCA, a no-kill humane society, it has reduced the deaths of homeless animals in Richmond by 41 percent, Starr said.

"That's what's rewarding — saving animals who are wonderful pets for somebody's home and life."

The rewards outweigh the substantial pay cut that Starr took when she left her law practice, though she felt some guilt initially.

"It's amazing once you start doing something that you feel is a huge contribution to your community, it doesn't matter anymore that you make less money. You take such pride in what you do that the paycheck doesn't matter as much."

Through the changes, Starr's family has supported her decision. Her husband, Edward H. Starr Jr., also graduated from the law school in the class of 1979. They have a daughter, Tyler. The two met in the registrar's office the first day of law school.

"Ed has been extremely supportive and has always thought that I would love it and that I should do it. Tyler is nine, and of course she loves it because I have absolutely the coolest job of any parent in her class."

As for the future, Starr said that although she initially saw herself returning to law, she has no plans to leave the SPCA. "I love what I do. It is very rewarding and inspiring. I think I'm here for life."

— By Sara B. Walker
Class Actions

David DuVal, L'95, has been named partner at Williams Mullen.

John M. Holloway III, L'95, has been named a partner at Hunton & Williams.

Christopher A. Jones, L'95, has been named a partner of LeClair Ryan.

Charles A. Rohde, L'95, and his wife, Susan, have a son, Denton Tree.

Elizabeth S. Byrd-Roberts, L'95, and her husband, John Eric Roberts, had a son, Joshua Hale, on Jan. 10, 2003.

L. Scott Seymour, L'95, is a partner at Kaufman & Canoles in Newport News, Va.

Sharon England, L'96, has received the Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association's Women of Achievement award.

Susan Parrish, L'96, has joined Duane, Hauck & Gnapp as an associate.

Stephanie Lindsey Hiss, L'97, and her husband, Alan, welcomed a son, Daniel James, on Jan. 4, 2003.

Kristine Dalaker Kraabel, W'92 and L'97, and her husband, Tom, have moved to Shanghai, China, where she works for the law firm of White & Case.

Elizabeth Musick, L'97, has joined McGuireWoods Consulting as an assistant director in government relations.

Matthew Farley, L'98, has been elected to the board of directors of the metro Richmond division of the American Heart Association.

Jason P. Livingston, L'98, has been promoted to assistant director for contract administration for United Network for Organ Sharing. He continues in the role of staff attorney in the corporate counsel department.

Melissa M. Riahei, L'98, has joined Wildman Harrold as an associate in the firm’s Chicago office. She will work in the areas of complex corporate litigation, commercial and governmental matters.

Alan Porter Vaughan, L'98, is an associate vice president with Davenport & Co.

Relenee Cook, L'99, is an associate at the Rhea & Miller law firm in Staunton, Va.

Jeffrey Lee Harvey, L'99, is an associate at Troutman Sanders LLP, in Washington.

Deborah Faye Barfield, L'01, has been appointed assistant director of Virginia Commonwealth University’s Nonprofit Enterprise Institute, an administrative faculty position in the department of political science and public administration.

Leigh Archer Brabrand, L'01, and her husband, Jonathan Brabrand, B'97, had a daughter, Lauren Grace, Jan. 6, 2003.

Jennifer C. Hunt, L'01, and David W. Kazzie, L'99, were married on Nov. 9, 2002, at Cannon Memorial Chapel. They live in Richmond.

Philip Landau, L'01, has joined the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., office of Akerman Senterfitt as an associate in litigation.

Christine Nguyen Piersall, L'01, has joined the Portland, Ore., office of Hofheimer in Richmond.

Eric Gregory, A'96 and L'02, has joined Morris and Morris as an associate. He will concentrate on civil litigation.

Robert F. Holland, L'02, has joined McGuireWoods as an associate in labor and employment.

Christopher K. Peace, L'02, is assistant vice president in grassroots issue management with McGuireWoods Consulting LLC. His primary areas of concentration are multi-state government relations and local and state lobbying.

Eric C. Reed, L'02, has joined Kaufman & Canole's commercial section in Norfolk, Va.

Shane Jimison, L'03, married Kristin Marie Weber, A'01, on Dec. 28, 2002. Included in the wedding party were Julie Rumble, A'02, and David Hudson, L'03. The couple lives in Richmond.

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Comey takes Manhattan

When a federal grand jury indicted Martha Stewart this June on charges of securities fraud and obstruction of justice, the man in the media glare with the official version of the news was very familiar to many law alumni.

James B. Comey, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, taught as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Richmond School of Law for several years in the 1990s.

Comey, who was appointed U.S. attorney for the Manhattan district in 2002, is no stranger to the bright lights of high-profile cases. He served as lead prosecutor in United States v. John Gambino et al., a six-month mafia racketeering and murder trial. In the Eastern District of Virginia, he handled the Khobar Towers terrorist bombing case, arising out of the June 1996 attack on a U.S. military facility in Saudi Arabia, which killed 19 airmen.

Comey graduated from the College of William & Mary with a double major in religion and chemistry. He went on to graduate with honors from the University of Chicago Law School.

He worked in the U.S. attorney's office in New York early in his career where he was mentored by prosecutors such as Louis Freeh, who would become FBI director, and Rudy Giuliani, who would become mayor of New York City.

Comey and his young family returned to Richmond in the early 1990s with an assist from Richard Cullen, L'77, who was with the U.S. attorney's office here.

Because of a hiring freeze in that office, Cullen recommended Comey to the McGuireWoods law firm. Comey soon made partner. When Cullen rejoined the firm in 1993, the two worked on the same team.

"It was apparent to us all that Jim had immense talent in and out of the courtroom," said Cullen, who would go on to serve as Virginia attorney general before returning to McGuireWoods. Cullen is godfather of one of Comey's children.

Comey joined the U.S. attorney's office in Richmond in 1996, filling the position that opened up there when John G. Douglass left to join the law school faculty. The two remain friends.

Comey helped create Project Exile, a widely praised and imitated approach to reducing crime during a particularly violent period in many U.S. cities in the mid to late 1990s. Project Exile required that all firearms violations meeting minimum criteria for federal involvement be prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's office. With federal attention, crime rates in the city plunged.

Comey taught trial advocacy and appellate advocacy in the lawyering skills program at the law school, which Douglass directs.

"Jim brought his astonishing breadth of experience to our lawyering skills program," Douglass said. "He was a talented professor, whose example challenged his students to seek the highest level of professionalism. We miss him a great deal and expect him to return once he gets things straightened out in New York."

Recently, Comey said he stays in touch with Douglass and several other law school colleagues as well as former students.

"I have many happy memories of the law school," he said. "It was a great experience to get to watch the students as they blossomed into trial lawyers during the second year trial skills program. I think they all dreaded it at the start but came to see it as incredibly valuable. John Douglass deserves the credit for that. He designed and ran a terrific program."

"We knew he would be successful when he returned to New York," Cullen said. "The only surprise may be that it happened so quickly."

- By Rob Walker
ONE GIANT STEP
Shoulder to shoulder with his classmates, Patrick Sean Bolling of Pound, Va., enjoys a cheerful moment on a day of celebration of hard work and accomplishment. From Commencement, the class of 2003 marched on.