

8-2000

## Who Are You, Class of 2003

Michelle Rahman

*University of Richmond*, mrahman@richmond.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/whoareyou>

---

### Recommended Citation

Rahman, Michelle, "Who Are You, Class of 2003" (2000). *Who Are You Class of...Orientation Speeches*. 17.  
<http://scholarship.richmond.edu/whoareyou/17>

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the T.C. Williams Law School Archives at UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Who Are You Class of...Orientation Speeches by an authorized administrator of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact [scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu](mailto:scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu).

# MLR 2000 Orientation Speech

Once again, we express a sincere welcome to the class of 2003 - all 160 of you. I thought it would be appropriate, this morning to tell you, and the faculty, who you are. Can you guess who is who? Well - you've got the next three years to find out!

From Texas, from Louisiana, big cities and small, you've come to us from twenty-eight states. Of those enrolled from out of state, 11 are from North Carolina followed by 7 from New York, 4 from Florida, 4 from Louisiana, 3 from Missouri and 3 from the great state of Washington. Others are from Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, California, DC, Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Nearly 40% of you are from out of state.

Forty-Eight percent of this entering class is female - 2% more than last year. This class's average age is 25. One of you is only 20 and one is 46. Eighteen of you are 30 or over. Nineteen of you are married and quite a few of you have children.

While graduates of 382 (8% more than last year) colleges and universities in the US and 22 foreign countries applied to this Law School, you are graduates of 67 American colleges and Universities, 2 from Canadian Universities and 1 from a university in the Czech Republic. The highest number of you - 27 - graduated from UVA and 17 from the College of William & Mary. Four of you are from Hampden Sydney, 8 from UR, and 7 from Virginia Tech. Seventeen of you have advanced degrees - one with a PhD.

Your median LSAT score places you in the top 22% of the 310,816 test takers during the past 3 years. The top quarter of your class achieved an LSAT that places you in the top 14% of all test takers over the same period. One of you scored higher than the 99<sup>th</sup> %ile. Your median GPA is 3.12 and 1 in your class achieved a perfect 4.0. Thirty six different majors are represented with the greatest number - 31 graduating in - no surprise - Political Science. Twenty-four of you were History majors and seventeen majored in English. Ninety five - or 59% of you have been away from formal studies at least one year.

There are many of you who graduated Magna Cum Laude. Three of you were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Many, many of you have been on the Dean's List and have been inducted into ODK. You represent membership in a variety of prestigious honor societies. Two of you attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Fifteen of you are John Marshall Scholars - our most prestigious scholars selected by a blue ribbon panel amongst whom are 2 justices of the Virginia Supreme Court. Many of you received scholarships and many have lived, worked and studied abroad. You are fluent in Arabic, Czech, French, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish. You have lived and studied in the Africa, UK, Germany, British Virgin Islands, Paris, Japan, Israel, Norway, Australia, Scotland, Hong Kong, Spain and Greece. One of you owns 2 patents to help solve the problems of pollution Three of you are Civil Engineers - one a woman. One of your classmates, who directs a Children's choir, was just discharged from active duty in the Army, a woman from the Navy, and yet another from the Marines. One of you has just left a career as a development officer at the Virginia Poverty Law Center and is a member of the City of Richmond School Board. Two of you have been on long term LDS missions - one in Paris and another in California.

There's a high school teacher in your midst and the two nurses need to meet the dedicated EMTs amongst you. One of you taught English in Chile. Another has had an exciting career working as a Forensic Chemist/Drug Analyst/Toxicologist/Peace Officer in Texas. This man actually attended SWAT school - not that we want him to demonstrate his techniques. One, the first in his family to attend college, has been a bulldozer operator. Another has a US Coast Guard Captain's license. I was pleased to meet a member of Families of the China Moon who went to China to adopt a child and bring her back to the USA. So many fascinating careers, hopes and dreams amongst your classmates: one grew up in the coal fields and wants to represent victims of black lung disease, another helped create an on-line course, "The Vietnam Experience"; an associate minister, a German Specialty Philatelist; an inmate hearing officer; even a woman bail bonds/process server; a brick maker in Colonial Williamsburg. I hope I never need the services of the Cardiology Social Worker in your class. One woman in your class was the spokesperson to the national media on critical safety, legislative and regulatory issues and worked with the White House Press Corps. Would you believe that one of you grew up in a hippie commune? I'm awed by the woman who has left a career as a research biologist having previously won a Cell and Molecular Biology Training Grant from the National Institutes of Health. A woman in your class is the published author of an article on academic reform in higher education in the Czech Republic. This article led to her being one of five from her country chosen by the Open Society Institute in New York to participate in their Virtual University - two weeks of cross national dialogue among students from the Soviet Bloc in Prague and Washington. I know at least one professor who will be anxious to meet the Union Steward amongst you. Imagine the experiences lived by the one amongst you who lived in Germany and worked

on the implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords in Bosnia-Herzegovina. I definitely need to speak to the former State Trooper sitting out there about a certain ticket I just got!

I hope you identify the fellow in your class who carries a famous name. Ask him about his name and the money he won because of it.

Politics seem to entice a great many of you with you demonstrating your interest by working on political campaigns and being members of staffs of Congressmen and Senators. Governors Fellows, legislative aides, judicial intern, senate interns, lots of you have made your political mark.

You have a serious commitment to public service. You gave thousands of hours to Women's Shelters, Rape Crisis Centers, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Adopt a Grandparent, working with the infirm and the elderly, in soup kitchens, shelters and crisis hot lines. You've worked countless hours in hospices, with sexual assault victims, at a camp for autistic children, helping youths gain skills to make better lives; as well as for many other worthy causes. You've demonstrated the art of "giving back." You've helped raise millions of dollars to eradicate disease and to help kids with cancer and cystic fibrosis. Those of you who have given so much of yourselves are surely our hope for the future!

Excitement isn't missing from your lives. Many of you not only played a variety of sports but volunteered to coach underprivileged children and inner city children so that they too

might learn and love your sport. Some played baseball, volleyball and basketball - one of you is a golf pro. Someone out there was captain of a team of riders in a bike race which was the theme of the movie "Breaking Away". Look around you and see who may have been an athletic trainer for Notre Dame or who was the professional horsewoman, trainer and coach. Wouldn't you love to watch a performance by the member of your class who was a member of a NCAA Division I gymnastics team? I'd advise you to be careful if a woman in your class asks you to play tennis with her - it may well be the #1 singles tennis player from Yale. Oh yes - I almost forgot - one of you can bench press 380 pounds. Wonder if he'll make friends with the fellow in your class who was an NCAA wrestler? One of you fellows was a cheerleader for a major university and another, a free lance writer who covered professional wrestling shared with me that he "covers the bodyslams and piledrivers for rasslin's premier publication." One of you I had to beg not to go skydiving again until after Orientation. Wow!

The arts have not escaped your interest and you play many instruments. We have so much talent sitting out there! I was fascinated to learn about one of you who was a member of a rock band which released several singles and CDs not to mention full length albums.

Ultimately she had to choose between being a traveling performer and continuing her education. A gospel singer, a violinist, the principal flutist for two orchestras; a dancer who was a member of the NIKE International Dance Team, a columnist for the Scripps Howard news service; a member of VA Tech's Marching Band; a male cheerleader for a major university, a classical pianist - imagine all the talent waiting to be tapped for the benefit of your class!