

8-2001

Who Are You, Class of 2004

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Recommended Citation

Rahman, Michelle, "Who Are You, Class of 2004" (2001). *Who Are You Class of...Orientation Speeches*. 16.
<http://scholarship.richmond.edu/whoareyou/16>

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Who Are You - 2001

Once again, we express a sincere welcome to the class of 2004 - all 169 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 California, from all over the country, big cities and small, you've come to us from twenty-five states. Of those enrolled from out of state, 10 are from North Carolina, followed by 8 from Pennsylvania, 6 from Florida, 6 from New York, 6 from South Carolina, 4 from California, 5 from Maryland, 3 each from Texas, Delaware, Connecticut, Tennessee, New Jersey and the great state of Michigan. Others are from Minnesota, D.C., Massachusetts, Washington State, New Hampshire, Idaho, Georgia, Arizona, Ohio, Louisiana and West Virginia. Forty-four percent of you are from out of state - the greatest number of out-of-staters since 1993.

Forty-Eight percent of this entering class is female - the same as last year. This class's average age is 25. One of you is only 19 and one of you is 55. Thirty-six of you are age 30 or over - twice as many as last year. Twenty-four of you are married

(at least at the time of your application) and quite a few of you have children.

While graduates of 411 US colleges and 11 foreign countries applied to this law School (8% more than last year and 16% more than the prior year), *you* are graduates of 86 American colleges and Universities - the same as last year. The highest number of you - 20 are graduates of UVA and 11 from the College of William & Mary. Eight of you graduated from Virginia Tech, 7 from VCU, 7 from James Madison, 6 from Hampden-Sydney, 5 from the University of Richmond, 4 from Davidson College. Fourteen of you have advanced degrees - two with a PhD and one is an MD. Ninety-Six or 56% of you have been out of college for at least one year - one of you graduated in 1975 and 2 of you graduated in 1985. Your median LSAT score places you in the top 26% of the 315,704 test takers during the past 3 years. The top quarter of your class achieved an LSAT that places them in the top 17% of all test takers over the same period. Three of you scored in the top 4% of all test takers over the same period. Your median GPA is 3.21 and two in your class achieved a GPA of 3.98. Forty-five different majors are represented with the greatest number - 38 graduating in - no surprise - Political Science. Twenty-six of you were History majors and 16 majored in English. Thirteen of you graduated Magna Cum Laude and 8 of you were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. A full 29% of

you had scholarships - some several - while you were undergrads. Many, many of you have been on the Dean's List and 4 have been inducted into ODK. You represent membership in a variety of prestigious honor societies. Five of you attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Nine of you are John Marshall Scholars - our most prestigious scholars selected by a blue ribbon panel chaired by the Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court with one of the members being another justice of the same court. Many of you have lived, worked and studied abroad in such countries as London, Korea, Japan, the Dominican Republic, Spain, Israel, Poland, New Zealand, Thailand, Russia, Turkey, Costa Rica, Columbia, Mexico and India. You are fluent in German, Vietnamese, Spanish, Vietnamese and Korean. One of you is a citizen of France. Four of you are dedicated EMTs and give many, many hours in emergency service. One of you is a firefighter, another has worked on a farm. I'd like to meet the two chemistry and physics teachers in this class. Last year's Miss America is a member of your class. Another says she's been occupied in a career as a household manager. The chemical engineer and the electrical engineer will surely make valuable contributions to your class. One of your classmates has had a career working for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality as an environmental specialist. Another of you has won an award as a poet with the best collection of work at his University. Won't you find the classmate who was raised on a Navajo

Reservation interesting especially since she studied the linguistics of the Hopi language to reestablish a link with her reservation childhood? I'm looking, selfishly, for the fellow in your class who moved from England only 2 years ago from "a town that prided itself upon not having changed since Queen Victoria was on the throne." I'm looking for him particularly as he graduated from cooking school after which he spent 2 years working for a patissiere from the Basque. Gotta beat the cooking in the dining hall. Impressive careers abound such as the one amongst you who has just left a position as the Administrative Director/Assistant Professor in the Office of Educational Affairs, Department of Internal Medicine at MCV where she oversaw a fellowship program for 14 subspecialty divisions of the department of Internal medicine...or the fellow who has just left a career as physician and Ass't Clinical Professor in the department of family practice at MCV. I'm fascinated by the member of your class who has a Psychology doctorate in Clinical Psychology which he put to use as a clinical psychologist with the CIA. During his career he has been an assistant professor in the Dept. of Psychiatry at MCV and has provided training on topics such as stalking and pedophilia at places such as UVA's Institute of Law, Psychiatry & Public Policy, MCC and the CIA. Nuclear Engineering is the advanced degree of one of you who has lived in 35 locations worldwide during his career in the navy. Don't you think it would have been fun to be a speechwriter and

Campaign Coordinator for a member of parliament in the British House of Commons...see if you can figure out who that was. Our gain is the Citadel's loss as amongst you is the former Ass't to the President of The Citadel. I need to speak to the licensed Veterinary Technician who sits with you today....I have a dog she'd love to meet. Of course, I'd also like to meet the fellow who has worked long and hard at the Buddhist Biker Bar and the one who has just left the Army who is a horn player with the Richmond Symphonic Winds and the Brass Consort. I hope I don't need the services of the registered operating room nurse out there but I'm awfully glad she's here. I have great respect for your classmate who is an accomplished writer who has written for several literary magazines as well as the "Daily Princetonian" - he's versatile - he recently completed a 3 month solo trek across New Zealand and took a mountaineering course in Alaska. I'd like to talk to the cop in your class...he may show up on TV as he says he has "survived in the wilderness on next to nothing in the harshest environments that North America has to offer". I also have great appreciation for the former law clerk in your class who has been working with pre-eminent Holocaust restitution attorneys on claims against the German government, German industry and European banks and insurers. Can you figure out who is the commercial bass fisherman in your class?. He anticipates getting his Master of 100 Tons captains license and that might just be a

first for us. I'm ready to fly with the former flight attendant in your class!

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 aids, judicial interns senate interns, lots of you have made your political mark. Perhaps you can identify the White House intern amongst you.

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, 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, dispatching 911 calls, volunteering with the victim's witness program, with LINC's cancer volunteers, recording for the Blind and Dyslexic and as an instructor at a Therapeutic Riding Center helping to meet the needs of children and adults with physical and non physical disabilities. I particularly admire the man among you who was a volunteer missionary in Korea and is now fluent in the language. You've demonstrated the art of "giving back." You've raised 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 have volunteered to coach underprivileged children so that they too might learn and love your sport. Some have played at the varsity level in baseball, soccer and tennis. Wouldn't you love to watch a performance by the member of your class who is an accomplished dancer? One of you was part of a sailing team which won the McMillan Cup which is the oldest trophy in collegiate sailing and one of the most prestigious events in the nation. Wouldn't you love to know who was the Attractions Host for the Tower of Terror at Walt Disney World? There's a woman in your class who flew a glider for the first time at age 13. I'm also anxious to get to know the student among you who is alleged to have mooned someone at Mardi Gras!

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 and another who had a part in a Japanese T.V. show and in the ABC movie Double Platinum. I'm dying to know if the head of Michelangelo, which has been the muse for one of you, has taken up residence in a library carrel.

Interesting - in this class are many who have family ties to the Law School.

Relatives such as cousins, aunts, uncle, father in law, sister in law, father, brothers and a sister are alumni of this Law School. Thirty seven of you have worked in a law firm and 11 of you are paralegals.

And so it goes - 169 different stories and 169 different factoids as they're sometimes called around here. But, half the fun is getting to know those who are going to become your life-long friends so I'll stop now and wish you good luck and good fun on the adventure upon which you are embarking.