

8-2002

Who Are You, Class of 2005

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Recommended Citation

Rahman, Michelle, "Who Are You, Class of 2005" (2002). *Who Are You Class of...Orientation Speeches*. 15.
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1Who Are You - 2002

Once again, we express a sincere welcome to the class of 2005 - all 178 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-three states and the District of Columbia. Of the 43% of you from out of state, 9 are from North Carolina, followed by 7 from Florida, 7 from New Jersey, 6 from Pennsylvania, 5 from Maryland, 4 from Michigan, 4 from Georgia; 3 each from Indiana, California, Delaware, Connecticut, and New York. Others are from Illinois, D.C., Massachusetts, Washington State, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas and West Virginia.

Exactly 50% of this entering class is female - up from 48% last year. This class's average age is 24 - a year younger than last year. Two of you are 42 years old and one of you is 56. Twelve of you are age 30 or over (24 fewer than last year). Twenty-five of you are married (at least at the time of your application) and quite a few of you have children. One of you is getting married tomorrow.

While 1864 graduates of 442 US colleges and 44 foreign universities applied to this Law School (42 more schools than last year and 60 more than 2 years ago) - not to mention an additional 33 foreign universities from the previous year, the greatest number of you - 29 are graduates of UVA and 16 are from James Madison University - edging out William & Mary by 1. Nine of you are from the University of Richmond, 7 graduated from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, 6 from Virginia Tech; 6 from Mary Washington College, 3 from University of Pennsylvania, 3 from Cornell, 3 from Duke, and 3 from Hampden-Sydney. Thirteen of you have advanced degrees - one with a PhD. Ninety-Nine, or 56% of you have been out of college for at least one year - one of you graduated in 1967 and 2 of you graduated in 1987. Your median LSAT score of 158 places you in the top 23% of the 345,917 test takers during the past three 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. Seven of you scored in the top 5% of test takers and 19 scored in the top 10% of all test takers. Can you believe that the *bottom* quarter of this class (in terms of LSAT score) actually scored 157 or the top 25% of these same test takers? This class brings to the Law School the highest GPA in our school's 132 year history. The top quartile of your class has a GPA of 3.53; your median GPA is 3.30 and one of you achieved a GPA of 4.03; 3 of you have perfect 4.0 GPAs. Forty different majors are represented with the greatest number - 32 graduating in - no surprise - Political Science. Twenty two of you were History majors and 16 majored in Economics and 16 in Psychology. Thirteen of yo

you graduated Magna Cum Laude and 5 of you were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. A full 22% of you had undergrad scholarships - some several. Many, many of you have been on the Dean's List and 6 of you have been inducted into ODK. You represent membership in a variety of prestigious honor societies. By the way.....there are so many of you there will be a Tri Delt meeting in room 101. One of you have attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Eleven 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. Many of you have lived, worked and studied abroad in such countries as Morocco, England, Israel, Greece, Ireland, Switzerland, Germany, Amsterdam, Italy, Canada, Russia, Belgium, Australia and Japan. You are fluent in Arabic, Hebrew, German, French, Vietnamese, Punjabi, Greek, Spanish and Russian and Korean. One of you is a citizen of Canada and another a citizen of Russia. One of you was born in Kabul, Afghanistan. Several of you are dedicated EMTs and give many, many hours in emergency service. One of you is a firefighter and many have served their country in the armed forces one of you having joined the Marines at age 18.. I have the greatest admiration for two of you who worked on farms for many years - one managing livestock and cash crop production the other who was a full time farmer for 4 years who told us, "I drove tractors, fed pigs and cleaned turkey houses by day and studied Aristotle and practiced Beethoven by night".

You have had some pretty amazing careers pre law school. Can you believe 28 of you have been paralegals? A police officer and a detective sit among you. One of them teaches 4th amendment law and narcotics investigation to area law enforcement officers - as well as marksmanship....but you can feel protected by the Special Agent for the US Department of State who was in the Secretary of State's protective detail or by the fellow who is a shooting coach; It will be interesting, in your environmental law class, to hear from the student who worked for a nationally recognized leader in the field of environmental safety and health regulatory compliance training or the woman who worked at one of the largest and most successful environmental organizations in the world. One of them said, "I've trained thousands of people from all areas of industry, government; public agencies and corporations, all branches of the military, higher learning institutions and other lawyers including one who went on to Yale Law School"; Or, here's a fascinating career.....someone in your class spent time isolating DNA samples from toe and tail samples of mice. Well.....we said there was great diversity in your class! Impressive careers abound in your class with people doing such interesting things in the areas of teaching (and winning awards for excellence), environmental science, government, politics; there is a personal fitness consultant, bartenders, cruise director aboard ship, mechanical engineers, a child advocate with a multi-discipline sexual abuse investigation unit; someone who founded and operated a fresh water lure company and guide service; One of you and has been a lawyer in Russia. I need to speak to the veterinary technician who sits with you today....I have a dog she'd like to meet. Professor Jones, who has worked on the constitution of Albania will surely be trying to identify the woman here who has worked with the ABA's Center and European Law Initiative which sends lawyers as volunteers to developing countries in Central and Eastern Europe to improve their legal systems. Her speciality was the former Yugoslavia and Albania. Oh - you know

who you are.....the SBA would like to meet the bar tending instructor and the bartender/manager of "one of the top 10 bars in the USA". I'm anxious to get advice on an antique from the student here who has been a vetting and content coordinator at Sotheby's. Professsor Heen and the rest of us will want to know who the senior tax accountant is among you. Can you figure out who, in your class, holds a U.S. Coast Guard's Master Captain's license and competes in national bass tournaments? There are two women out there that I would be careful of around the pool table in the down under - they're members of the American Pool Players Association. One of you is from a family of 11 children and several of you are the first in their families to go to college. I admire the woman who wants to work against the "hush hush sexism that still thrives in the American Justice System; and the dedication of one of you who has already observed 100 hours of courtroom trials while he graduated in 3 ½ years and put himself through school as a landscaper on the grounds of an estate is impressive; Wouldn't you love to have had the job of a commercial clearance editor for a TV Network...you could change the face of national television....we need to find out who that was. I know the faculty will be as curious as you to know which of you has already been published in two law reviews - Arizona and Miami.

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. During difficult times one of you stepped forward and founded the Sikh-American Association dedicated to educating the public about that culture subsequent to 911.

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 abused, inform and elderly, in soup kitchens, shelters and with crisis hot lines. You've worked countless hours in hospices, with sexual assault victims, instructing at such places as therapeutic riding centers helping to meet the needs of children and adults with physical and non physical disabilities. It's heartwarming to know that many among you have taken missionary trips; served the homeless; maintained hiking trails. How about the selfless young man among you who has been a bone marrow donor for a man with leukemia thereby saving his life? You've demonstrated the art of "giving back." You've raised millions of dollars to help eradicate disease and help kids with cancer and muscular dystrophy. 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 have not only played a variety of sports but have volunteered to coach underprivileged children so that they too might learn and love your sport. Try to meet the woman sitting with you who taught underprivileged children living in Watts, California the game of hockey. Some of you 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 a member of the professional Latin Ballet of Virginia? I know Dean Marzolf and perhaps some others of you, would be anxious to meet the young woman whose father wrote the Atlanta Braves playbook. I had a thought of putting together a showcase utilizing the talents of your group - the one of you who is a member of a Klezner Band, the contemporary gospel singer, another who teaches and plays the guitar, the sax players, the fellow who won several music awards, the actor in a movie who also happens to have a 2nd degree black belt; the classical dancer, the law student who has toured the world in a concert choir, the member of a rock band, the light opera performer and the song writer and see what comes from this mix. Now listen up - there's t-shirts at stake....there's a ringer out there that you should draft for your intra mural soccer team. This is it! This woman, while in college, was on the All American Team three times, was a finalist for a trophy similar to the Heisman. While at William & Mary she was their Athlete of the Year and soccer career record holder. I'm telling you - we can beat those undergrads this year - she played in the inaugural season of the first professional women's soccer league - an accomplishment only 159 women in the world can brag about. You heard it here first!

I was surprised to learn how many in this class have family ties to the Law School. Relatives such as a wife, 4 fathers, 1 father in law, sister, brother in law, cousin, uncles, aunts and 2 grandfathers attended this law school prior to those who sit in your group today. One of you has a grandfather, uncle and brother who are alumni of this Law School - very nearly exactly 25 years between each matriculation except for the last two brothers.

And so it goes - 178 different stories and 178 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.