

8-2007

## Who Are You, Class of 2010

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 2010" (2007). *Who Are You Class of...Orientation Speeches*. 10.  
<http://scholarship.richmond.edu/whoareyou/10>

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).

## Who Are you – 2007

I thought it would be appropriate, this morning, to tell you, and the faculty, who you, the Class of 2010 are. The trick is to guess who is who. Well, you've got the next three years to find out!

From across this great country, from California to Massachusetts, big cities and rural areas, you've come to us from 30 states (9 more than last year's class) and the District of Columbia. One of you is a citizen of Thailand and one of you grew up in rural Indiana. One of you was born in the former Yugoslavia and survived the terrible, and very personal, trauma of war which raged around your home and in the bomb shelter in which you spent so much time.

Fifty-one percent (51%) of this entering class is female. This class's average age is 24 – the same as last year. Thirteen of you are married (at least at the time of your application) and several of you have children. You come from diverse backgrounds and experiences. In fact, this entering class is 20% minority – 2% more than last year. We are pleased that many of you are following in the footsteps of family members who are attorneys including one of you whose parents are both alumni of this fine school another, two of you are the son and nephew of graduates from here and several of you have had cousins graduate from our school.

Applications were received this year from applicants in 6 foreign countries. While nearly 1900 graduates of 431 US colleges applied to this law school, 73 universities are represented in this particular class. Ten of you have advanced degrees – one of you a PhD. Another of you was half way down the path of becoming a dentist when you detoured to begin law school instead of completing your DDS. Entering the law school with your class,

although not technically 1L students, are students from India and Nigeria.

Ninety-five or 60% of you have been out of college for at least one year – and one of you graduated in 1989. Your median LSAT score of 160 places you in the top 18% of the 416,643 who took the LSAT over the last three years.

The top quarter of your class achieved an LSAT of 162 which places them in the top 14% of all test takers in the same period. Your median GPA, 3.45, is the highest in our 137 year history. The top quartile of your class has a GPA of 3.66 – the absolute highest in our history. The bottom quartile of this class, in terms of GPA is 3.23, again the strongest academic showing we've ever had.

One of you achieved a GPA of 4.05; seventy-three - 20 more than last year - have a GPA of 3.5 or above. Forty-three different majors are represented, with the greatest number – 36 graduating in – no surprise – Political Science. English runs a distant second as a major in this class. One of you is a Registered Nurse and one of you majored in Chemistry; 4 in Biology. Summa, Magna and Cum Laude - thirty – 5 times the number last year - graduated with Latin Honors and 6 were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa – twice as many as last year. Many, many of you had undergrad scholarships - some several. You represent membership in a variety of prestigious honor societies. Six have attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Eleven of you are John Marshall Scholars.

Many of you have traveled extensively, lived, worked, done mission trips, studied and performed as good will ambassadors all over the world. You speak many different languages – French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Polish, Hmong and Korean. Several of you are dedicated EMTs and give many, many hours in emergency service. Many of you have studied abroad – all over the world.

You've had some pretty amazing careers pre law school. Twenty-four of you have been paralegals or legal assistants. Many of you have been teachers – not just in the classroom but as tutors to inner city children, teaching children to ride horses for therapy and for fun, teaching English as a second language both in foreign countries and at home. One of you has mediated 7 cases professionally and another taught creative writing class for imprisoned women. Another of you created a medical interpreting service for a hospital. There's a classmate of yours who has built homes on an Indian reservation as well as in other poverty stricken areas throughout the Southwest in addition to having an internship focused on lobbying for Indian Affairs and yet another has served as a child search volunteer. Someone in your class joined a start up company during the dot com boom selling music on line and as well as being a music content provider. One of you won an NIH cancer research training award and has a long list of professional publications. I am anxious to get to know more about your colleague who developed a photo exhibit titled "The Holocaust of American Indians" to try to communicate the pain and suffering Native Americans have encountered in the history of this country. Another of you won a prestigious law firm's award for her work with CASA. One of you was disillusioned after spending 2 years trying to prove the innocence of a convicted murderer only to discover that the man was guilty. I will be looking, next April, for the woman in your class who is a CPA. There is someone in your class who is the author of numerous policies and procedures passed by the State Board of Elections and was responsible for amending the standards for conducting a recount and the specific procedure to carry out a fair and equitable count of votes under the direction of the Circuit Court. I know you'll be interested in meeting Maryland's Sheep and Wool Princess (serious stuff – entries came from 13 different states and Canada) and – here's a hint – she was also the first girl in the history of her high school to be on the

wrestling team – all 5 feet, 100 pounds of her. Oh yes – another woman in your class was a model for several years. Politics seem to entice a great many of you with you demonstrating your interest by working on political campaigns and being members of the staffs of Congressmen and Senators. Legislative aides, judicial interns, senate interns – lots of you have made your political mark.

Your interests and talents are varied and you are accomplished in so many areas. One of you has been busy running Carr's Hill, the President of UVa's home. A female class mate is a boxer and is proficient in driving a tractor – look for a **small** woman. Amongst you are talented musicians who play the trumpet, upright bass, piano, violin, guitar, acoustic guitar and percussion instruments – one has been an orchestra manager. Another has volunteered for several years in a program called Humorology which raises money for childhood AIDS causes. This multi-faceted fellow worked on a variety of television shows including Real Time with Bill Maher and Last Comic Standing – he also cooked for Dotty Dumplings. One of your classmates performed at the Kennedy Center with the National Symphony and another plays with the Virginia Chamber Brass and yet another is a member of a Gamelan Ensemble which plays a type of music from Bali. One woman's proudest achievement was getting her father to vote against the constitutional amendment ban on gay marriage. Several of you are published. You are poets, artists, singers, dancers, accomplished in playing a wide variety of musical instruments – several at the professional level. One of you fellows admits to winning a silver medal in jump rope in the Junior Olympics.

You have a serious commitment to public service. One of you works for a grant-making foundation and travels to places like Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and India spending her time with those running orphanages, hospitals, churches, microfinance institutions and other non profits. One of you wrote, "It is not enough for me

to be a good lawyer or even good and a lawyer; I intend to be a good person and a good lawyer simultaneously”. Your class has already embarked on these aspirations by volunteering countless hours working with the abused, infirm and elderly, in soup kitchens, shelters and with crisis hotlines. You’ve worked long hours in hospices, teaching the disadvantaged; distributing food to the needy; raising funds for charities and extending a helping hand wherever you see need. You adopt orphans for Christmas, coach children in sports you love, and volunteer in hospitals. You commit yourselves not only to those disadvantaged at home but seek to help those less fortunate in foreign countries as well. You believe in the American Dream and seek to take that dream to the world at large. You give so much of yourselves – you are our hope for the future!

Excitement sure isn’t missing from your lives. I was told by the 2L and 3L classes that they were in need of new blood for the serious sport of flag football but I think I may have gotten carried away in attempting to help in the constant search for t-shirt power (otherwise known as beating up on the poor undergrads). There is hardly a sport not represented in your class. Even ultimate frisbee! Varsity tennis, Varsity basketball, hockey, professional golf, lacrosse, triathlon, marathons, equestrians, sports competitions of all sorts – you play hard. One of you was an All State soccer player and another shows Border Leicester and Cheviot sheep and is an instructor in competitive dog obedience and agility training. One of you endured 50 hours of facial surgery after a horse fell on you.

Again this year I’ve been struck to so often see words such as, integrity, commitment, honesty, public interest, ethics, and loyalty permeate your narrative statements. Well...one did write about being a volunteer at the County Morgue. Another of you wrote, “Law must be the last defense against the most vicious impulses of human nature. I want to dedicate the rest of my life to preserving

it for future generations.” I’ve been thrilled to see that the reasons so many of you have chosen to go to law school remain the altruistic desire to contribute to making our world a better place to be.....to make a difference.....to contribute to mankind. Someone told me that life is a contact sport and so many of you are survivors of life’s more difficult times yet you endure and strive to be better. You don’t give up; you are winners.

I could go on telling you tidbits...or factoids as they’re sometimes called...about your class. There are 159 stories amongst you and all of them shed light on your personalities, hopes and dreams. But, half the fun of being in this law school 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 now embarking.