Distinguished Adjunct Receives Honor

Congratulations to Winchester, Virginia, native, John O. Marsh, who has been honored by the Virginia General Assembly with a Senate Joint Resolution that recognizes his many years of public service.

John Marsh, currently a Distinguished Adjunct Professor at the School of Law and a Senior Fellow at the National Center for Technology and Law, is a former Secretary of the Army and four-term U.S. Congressman from Virginia. Since Spring 2001, Secretary Marsh and Adjunct Professor Angeline Chen have taught the popular Cyberterrorism and National Security Law seminar.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 180 proclaims that the Honorable John Marsh “has served the nation with exceptional dedication and distinction in a variety of leadership positions.” Introduced in January by state Senator H. Russell Potts Jr. (R-Winchester), the resolution is “an expression of the General Assembly’s admiration and gratitude for John Marsh’s lifelong commitment to the Commonwealth and the nation.” Prior to the start of his political career, Secretary Marsh served two tours of duty in Vietnam as a major in the Virginia National Guard. In the Nixon/Ford administration, Secretary Marsh served in numerous roles, including Assistant Secretary of Defense, National Security Advisor, and Counselor to the President of the United States. In the Reagan Administration, he served as Secretary of the Army and retired after eight years in August 1989, having served the longest tenure of any U.S. military secretary in history.

The School of Law community is honored and grateful to have such a distinguished and knowledgeable public servant on staff.

Mason Alums Hit the Bar in Norfolk

As has become the tradition, the School of Law provided boxed lunches for alumni who were sitting for the February 2002 Bar Exam and hosted a reception to celebrate the end of the exam. This year, alumni who reside in the Tidewater area were invited to join the recent graduates and bar-takers at the celebratory reception. Over 100 alumni live in the Tidewater area, and this year’s attendees included attorneys from the government and private sector, a judge, a prosecutor, and a law school professor. Rodney Turner (‘93), President of the Law Alumni Association, joined Professor Costello and Assistant Deans Huber, Richard, Tanner, Wertzberger, and Wintrich at the celebration. Attendees gathered at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott, the location of the bar administration, to socialize and congratulate the most recent School of Law bar-takers. The next post-bar celebration will take place in Roanoke in July 2002. Alumni living in the Roanoke area are invited to join the School of Law in celebrating with the next batch of George Mason Virginia Bar takers!

Pictured left to right: John Callahan (‘91), Betsy Orsini (‘99), Professor Jack Costello, Mary Margaret Callahan Lyons (‘88), Judge Bonnie Schokley (‘85).

Jack Kitaeff, a December 2001 graduate, and Anne Richard, Assistant Dean and Director of Admissions.
From the President: The New Year Brings New Opportunities

by Rodney Turner, '93

In my previous contributions to *The Mason Law Quarterly*, I have made an effort to point out the opportunities the George Mason University School of Law’s Alumni Association has presented to you for strengthening or re-establishing your ties with your alma mater. Well, as I have often been told, I am nothing if not persistent, so here I go again.

As we all know, each New Year brings with it new opportunities for each of us to enjoy new experiences. This New Year is no different. Among other things, this New Year brings with it the opportunity for you to reconnect with the Law School and connect with the Alumni Association. During this New Year, there will be a number of opportunities to do so. In 2002, the Alumni Association and the law school will make available a number of events for you to attend throughout the Commonwealth. These events will be held in locales as geographically diverse as the beaches near the Tidewater area and the mountains of Southwest Virginia, as well as a few points in between. We hope that you will take advantage of the events near you and will join us for the opportunity to meet and network with other alumni.

The first of these events is the Tidewater Area Alumni Reception that was held on February 27th. I realize that by the time you receive this newsletter this event will have already occurred. Nonetheless, it bears mentioning. This reception was held in Norfolk following the February administration of the Virginia State Bar Exam. While the completion of taking the bar is certainly reason enough to celebrate, the Alumni Association and the law school’s Career Development and Alumni Services Office did not hold this reception only for those celebrants. This reception included all of the alumni who live and work in the Tidewater area who wanted to meet and network with fellow alumni. The reception also provided an opportunity for all of us to celebrate the success of our alma mater.

The Alumni Association is currently planning a Happy Hour to be held in Richmond this April. The event will take place on April 18 at the Tobacco Company Restaurant. (See ad on page 4.) We hope that many of our fellow alumni who are based in the Richmond area will make the time to join us. We look forward to sharing a good time, a few libations, and some laughs during the evening. Please stop by to share good times and a laugh or two with us.

In May, the Alumni Association and School of Law will co-host the Fifth Annual Judicial & Legislative Reception. As many of you know, at this event, the Alumni Association and the School of Law honor state and federal judges as well as legislators from the Commonwealth. While honoring these dignitaries at this event, we will also celebrate the success that the law school has become. Since you have had a hand in achieving that success, we encourage you to make plans to attend this reception. Attending the reception will not only provide you with the opportunity to meet and talk with judges and legislators, you will also have the opportunity to celebrate the success of an institution that you helped to build.

On Tuesday, June 4, the School of Law and Alumni Association will again celebrate with graduates being sworn into the Virginia Bar. As in the past, all alumni and their families, particularly those in the Richmond area, are invited to join the celebratory breakfast reception. For those Richmond area alumni who miss the opportunity to attend the Happy Hour in April, this reception will provide you with another opportunity to meet other Richmond area alumni, network, and share a good time. For those of you who will attend the Happy Hour, please consider joining us again in June.

In July, alumni will again gather in Roanoke, Virginia. The School of Law and members of the Alumni Association will celebrate with new graduates who have completed the July 2002 Virginia Bar exam. In addition, alumni living in and around Roanoke will be invited to join the festivities. With that in mind, I hope that our Roanoke area alumni will make plans to join us at this reception.

The Alumni Association hopes that you will take advantage of the availability of these events to visit with us and show your enthusiasm for the law school. It is my goal to attend most, if not all, of these events, and I hope to see you there. If you attend any of these events, please make it a point to stop by and say “Hello.” For more information regarding the upcoming events that I have mentioned, please contact the Career Development and Alumni Services Office (CDAS) at (703) 993-8020 or visit the web page at www.law.gmu.edu.

As you consider the new opportunities this New Year offers you, I hope that you will consider the opportunity to join the Alumni Association in our effort to celebrate the success of our law school and push it toward even greater success.

APIL Auction
Alumni and Friends are welcome!

Annual Auction hosted by The Association for Public Interest Law (APIL)

Thursday, April 11, 2002 8:00 p.m.

Whitey’s Restaurant
2761 N. Washington Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia

$5 admission includes beer tickets, food, and the chance to bid on a variety of items.

Proceeds help School of Law students doing public interest work.

For more information, contact ekohler1@gmu.edu
**Mason Mourns Sudden Death of Recent Grad**

by Rob Bartenstein, ’99

Douglas Ramsay Dervin was 34 years-old when he died at his home in Arlington on Monday, July 30, 2001.

You might have known Doug as a fellow classmate, or as a student at the School of Law in the late 90s; Doug graduated in December 2000. I say “might have known,” because Doug wasn’t a high profile character. If you did not know him, however, you missed out. Doug was the kind of guy who looked at everything from a different sort of angle. His view of the world was not just from a different angle; it was that he took your angle and his angle, added them to all the other angles, and he produced his own unique angle. Usually the result was something special. And from that result often came some of the best dry humor I’ve ever seen.

Doug was a quiet guy who came to the School of Law from the University of Virginia where he had done graduate work in English literature and modern studies under Richard Rorty. Doug loved to talk about literature, and he knew what he was talking about. He introduced me to Will James and pragmatism. He invited me to join his “Book and Dinner Club” where the group fought about the books they’d read and the quality of the restaurant where they had eaten. Generally, Doug reminded me that we had sold-out literature to “do something constructive with our lives.”

To say that Doug was quiet doesn’t really do him justice, and I don’t want you to get the wrong impression. Doug was no geek in the corner with nothing to add. He was a tempered soul who didn’t resort to bombast to make a point. Doug was, by no means however, a shrinking violet. In fact, Doug was a legend in our class, albeit a stealthy one. Here’s the story:

During our second year, I was in Professor Max Stearns’ Con Law class minding my own business and trying to learn something, anything. Meanwhile, Doug was in a classroom that abutted the Con Law room. (This was in the old building where the use of the word “abut” seems so much more appropriate.) It must have been about mid-semester because I was in the lost-as-hell stage of the class—as you know, that comes after clueless but before light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel. Anyway, Doug and his fellow Fed Courts students had been getting a two-fer from Professor Stearns all semester. They were getting Professor Anthony’s Fed Courts class and, because of his notorious volume, Professor Stearns’ Con Law, too.

Well, one day -- as Doug reported to me later -- he’d decided that he’d “maxed on Max” and that having to listen to Con Law lectures at the appointed time was enough without having the same lectures tacked onto his Fed Court time. Without consultation or remark, Doug decided to take the bull by the horns. One day, he simply got up, coffee mug in hand, walked out of Fed Courts and into my Con Law class.

Understand, I knew Doug, but most people, including Professor Stearns, did not. So when Doug walked into the classroom holding his coffee cup and in a very casual way made his way down the long aisle of the classroom toward the podium, no one thought anything other than, “message delivery.” Professor Stearns stopped his lecture and leaned in close to get the obviously important message. Doug’s appeal was direct and without flair, “Would you mind holding it down a little, we’re having trouble hearing our lecture next door…Thanks.” Then, as casually as he’d walked in, he walked out leaving about 75 stunned law students and one professor in his wake. Sublime. Two-thirds of the witnesses never discovered his name.

I was truly sorry to hear about Doug’s passing. Life is strange, and he knew it as well as anyone. He will be missed. Doug is survived by his parents, a sister, and his fiancée Kimberly Bucher (‘99).

---

**Mark Your Calendar!**

**The Fifth Annual Judicial & Legislative Reception**

**Wednesday, May 29, 2002**

“Wine and dine” with old and new friends while you meet and greet Virginia Judges and Legislators.

*This year, join the tradition!*
Come Socialize With Your Fellow Alumni in Richmond!

**Happy Hour**
Thursday, April 18, 2002
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m

Tobacco Company Restaurant
Victorian Lounge
1201 E. Cary Street
Richmond, Virginia

RSVP to Carson Hobbs
(804) 916-2647 or carson_hobbs@hotmail.com
by April 15, 2002

---

2002 Law Alumni Reunion

The Second Annual Law Alumni Reunion will be held on **Saturday, November 16, 2002**. Last year’s gathering exceeded the expectations of all involved, bringing together over 200 guests from throughout the area. See the School of Law website (www.law.gmu.edu) for details and photos. The Reunion Committee anticipates an even larger turnout this year and is organizing a stellar event to welcome all alumni back to GMU School of Law. A special invitation is extended to members of the ISL Class of 1977, who will be celebrating their twenty-fifth anniversary, and to the GMU School of Law Classes of 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002. Members of these classes who wish to assist in contacting classmates or helping with reunion arrangements may contact Reunion Chairman Larry Dunham (’77) during the day at (202) 647-1985, in the evening at (703) 876-2843 or by e-mail at deblarhouse@aol.com. You may also contact the Career Development and Alumni Services Office (CDAS) at (703) 993-8020 or lawalum@gmu.edu.

Further information regarding reunion activities will be forthcoming. In the meantime, mark your calendars for **November 16**, watch your mail, and check the law school website for updates.

---

Reach Over 4000 Top Tier Alumni

*Put your ad here!*

Do you have an advertisement or announcement for your fellow law alumni?

**Place it in The Mason Law Quarterly!**

You will reach alumni from the ISL on Rhode Island and our new digs. Your ad dollars will also support *The Mason Law Quarterly* and your Alumni Board.

---

George Mason University School of Law
Alumni Association
3301 N. Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22201-4426

Address Correction Requested