March brought the happy news that the School of Law climbed a remarkable seven slots from Number 47 to 40 in this year’s U.S. News & World Report annual rankings. The School of Law remains, as it has been for the past two years, the youngest law school in the nation’s elite 50. The question on everyone’s minds is how did the School of Law do it? U.S. News ranks law schools by reputation (25% for reputation among academics and 15% for reputation among judges and practitioners); acceptance rate, median GPAs and median LSATs of entering classes (25%); placement at graduation and nine months out (18%); expenditures (11.25%); and student/faculty ratio, bar passage rate, and size of the library (5.75%).

“This year we experienced a particularly significant increase in our reputational score among lawyers and judges,” says Dean Grady. “We expect our reputational scores to continue to climb as more and more people work with and read about our talented graduates in private practice, the government, and business.” The School of Law also earned substantial increases in its acceptance rate score, median scores of its Fall 2002 entering class, placement rate, and faculty reputation score. According to Director of Admissions Anne Richard: “The admissions office has never been busier. Our acceptance rate was the sixth lowest in the country. The candidates are outstanding this year, and the competition is stiff.”

Although other law schools in Virginia are also ranked in the top tier, George Mason was one of only two Virginia law schools in the top tier to rise in this year’s rankings. This year, George Mason tied at the 40th slot with Colorado, Connecticut, and Utah. The Dean and the entire School of Law community are not satisfied with the 40th slot, however. “We are leaping past our competition. Word of advice to William & Mary and George Washington: Objects in rear view mirror are closer than they appear,” says Rich Kelsey (’99).

Dean Grady, alumni, students, faculty, staff, and the Richard Murphy family gathered on Saturday, March 29 at Carpool in Arlington for the Fifth Annual Murphy Pool Tournament. This year saw the largest participation in the tournament’s history: 42 two-person teams and dozens of spectators, including Fairfax Circuit Court Judge Robert Wooldridge. Almost $3,000 dollars for the Murphy Scholarship was raised.

The competition was intense, with former champions returning to compete. Repeat competitors Dean Grady, Professor Bruce Johnsen and tournament founders Lizette Benedi (’99) and Rich Kelsey (’99) fell out early. Top honors went to Rich Kelley (’99), a former tournament champion, and his partner. Registration and appetizers were handled by SBA leaders Sunjeet Randhawa, Anne Mitchell, and Kristina Coffee, and the actual tournament was ably organized by Todd Heflin (’00), Will Consovoy (’00), and Lizette Benedi (’99).

Professor Richard Murphy, who passed away in 1997, was extremely popular with his students. A talented pool player, Professor Murphy routinely challenged his students to a few games at Carpool.

See Murphy pictures on page 2.
Sixth Annual Judicial & Legislative Reception

by Jennifer Hess, ’95

Be sure and join regional judges and legislators, fellow alumni, students and faculty at the Sixth Annual Judicial and Legislative Reception to be held at the law school on May 28, 2003, from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The Honorable Douglas Ginsburg, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, is scheduled to make a few remarks at the event. As in years past, attendees will be afforded the opportunity to sample some of the best Virginia wines and complementary appetizers. The atmosphere will be perfect for networking among dignitaries, catching up with colleagues, and reaching out to current students who often seek professional advice from alumni. It is the strength of the alumni base and its ever-increasing network that enhances the reputation of the law school and provides such an important connection between the law school and the community.

Last year’s event attracted over 270 guests and this year’s event should be even bigger as George Mason University School of Law celebrates its impressive advancement from 47 to 40 in the annual rankings published by U.S. News & World Report. The law school was one of only two Virginia law schools that moved up in this year’s rankings. The excitement at the law school is palpable and should lend additional spice to the Judicial and Legislative reception, one of the best-known events hosted by George Mason University School of Law and its Alumni Association Board.

Plan to be a part of this fun and exciting event. First-come, first-served parking will be available on site and in the parking lot of St. Charles Church next to the law school on Washington Boulevard. Additional parking is available on the street.

Alumni and Students Enjoy Murphy Pool Tournament

If you would like to contribute to the Richard Murphy Scholarship fund, please contact Director of Development Jack Wertzberger at jwertzb@gmu.edu.
The George Mason University School of Law Alumni Association (GMUSLAA) is pleased to announce the 2003 award recipients for the Dean Engle and George Mason School of Law Alumni Association Scholarships.

Jeremy Schofer, a rising third-year day student, has been awarded the Dean Engle Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Schofer is in the top 5% of his class and is an active member of the George Mason Law Review.

Brian Perryman, a rising fourth-year evening student, has been awarded the George Mason University School of Law Alumni Association Scholarship. Mr. Perryman is in the top 15% of his class, and is an active member of the George Mason Law Review and the George Mason American Inn of Court. Mr. Perryman also serves as a Writing Fellow for the Legal Research, Writing, and Analysis Program.

The Dean Engle Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a student in high academic standing who also demonstrates dedication to the School and the practice of law. The scholarship memorializes former George Mason School of Law Professor and Associate Dean, Charles Engle, who served the school with great distinction for three decades. Dean Engle was highly regarded as an outstanding professor of Civil Procedure and Virginia Practice. He was a great friend to students, regularly providing career counseling and excellent mentoring to the law school’s student body. As Associate Dean, he was instrumental in advancing the reputation of the school by imposing and supporting strict academic standards and actively promoting our young law school in the Washington-area legal community.

The GMUSLAA Scholarship is awarded to a student who exhibits dedication to advancing the GMUSL community through organizational participation and leadership. The GMUSLAA recognizes that the key to a strong law school is the support and connection between the alumni and the students. Together, we must be committed to establishing GMUSL as the preeminent law school in the Mid-Atlantic region.

The GMUSLAA is dedicated to the development of GMUSL’s student body and alumni. By awarding these scholarships, we support students who share our dedication to the GMUSL community. The GMUSLAA had the very difficult task of selecting two award recipients from a number of highly qualified applicants. We congratulate Brian and Jeremy on their accomplishment, and sincerely thank all of the students who applied.

Sixth Annual Judicial & Legislative Reception
Hosted by GMU School of Law and the GMU School of Law Alumni Association

Wednesday, May 28, 2003
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
GMU School of Law Atrium
3301 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, Virginia
RSVP (703) 993-8029
Individual Tickets - $30, Block of 10 tickets - $250

Did you miss the last reunion?

Check out the Reunion 2002 slide show!
http://www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/news.html

Mark your calendars for the 2003 Law Alumni Reunion!
Saturday
November 15, 2003
### Mark your Calendar!

**Wednesday, May 28, 2003**  
Sixth Annual Judicial & Legislative Reception  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., School of Law Atrium

**June 2003**  
Annual Alumni Picnic  
Time TBD, Fort Ward Park

**Tuesday, June 3, 2003**  
Virginia Bar Swearing-In Breakfast Reception and Ceremony  
9:00 a.m. - Noon, Richmond Marriott

**Saturday, June 21, 2003**  
Alumni Breakfast at the 65th Annual Meeting of the Virginia State Bar - All alumni are invited to attend  
8:00 a.m., Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Wednesday, July 30, 2003**  
Post-Virginia Bar and Roanoke Area Alumni Reception  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Roanoke Civic Center

**Saturday, September 13, 2003**  
Annual Law Alumni Association Golf Tournament  
8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start, Penderbrook Golf Club

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Alumni Association  
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