We’ve been Robb(ed)

Don’t panic though, it’s good news. George Mason University announced in the late spring that Charles S. Robb, former governor of Virginia and a two-term U.S. Senator, would join the university’s faculty as Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy.

University President Alan Merten welcomed the appointment. “Very few people in the country have the depth and breadth of policy experience that Chuck Robb will bring to the classroom. Because he has served both as governor and senator, he possesses a unique perspective on the issues that affect the relationship between state and national government. Our students are lucky to have the opportunity to learn from his experience, and we are very proud to be able to offer them access to such a valuable resource.”

Robb received a joint appointment in George Mason’s School of Law and School of Public Policy. His courses will concentrate on national security matters, state/federal relations, anti-discrimination policy in the public and private sectors, and budget and fiscal policy. In addition, he will advise the two schools concerning program development and curriculum considerations in the university’s expanding public policy offerings.

Robb was an active duty Marine Corps officer before and during the Vietnam War. He is a 1973 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law and served as law clerk for The Honorable John Butzner of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. He was Lieutenant Governor of Virginia from January of 1978 through January of 1982, Governor from January of 1982 through January of 1986, and U.S. Senator from January of 1989 through January of 2001.

School of Law to Hold Reunion

The School of Law and the Law Alumni Association will co-host a reunion of alumni on November 17, 2001. All alumni are invited to return to the law school for the occasion. A special invitation is extended to members of the International School of Law class of 1976, who will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of their graduation, and to the GMU School of Law classes of 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001, who will be celebrating special anniversaries as well. Arrangements for the event include tours of the law school facility, exhibitions and presentations by current law students, and a gala cocktail reception and reunion dinner.

For more information, keep an eye out for the mail, monitor the law school website (www.law.gmu.edu), or contact the Career Development and Alumni Services Office (CDAS) at 703-993-8020. Members of the reunion classes who would like to assist in contacting their classmates or with other final preparations may call Reunion ‘01 Chairman, Larry Dunham (’77) at (O) 202-647-1985, (H) 703-876-2843 or e-mail deblarhouse@aol.com or Assistant Dean Victoria Huber at 703-993-8009 or e-mail vhuber@gmu.edu.
S
ince this past Spring, there has been a palpable sense of excitement in the air at George Mason University School of Law and among its alumni. It is, in part, excitement born out of achievement. As you are certainly aware by now, in March U.S. News & World Report trumpeted to the world the news that we, the School of Law’s alumni, have always known: George Mason University School of Law is a top tier law school. While achieving this distinction merely confirmed our long-held beliefs, it nevertheless is cause for celebration. I must admit that I, like many of you, have enjoyed celebrating this recognition. And while doing so, I have talked to many students, alumni, faculty, and staff -- all of whom have expressed a commonly held belief that the School of Law has yet to reach its full potential. While the manner in which this message was conveyed to me varied, the ultimate message has been the same: As the School of Law sits atop its new perch among the nation’s elite law schools, we, as a law school community, have a wonderful opportunity to push the School of Law toward even greater success.

This year the School of Law Alumni Association will continue its work with Dean Mark Grady, the School of Law’s faculty and staff, and students to help the School of Law achieve greater success. Among other things, the Alumni Association, with Dean Grady’s support, will host its Annual Golf Tournament in October, a wonderful event where alumni, faculty, staff, and students can forge relationships while tackling a common foe, the golf course. While some participants, myself included, often experience more frustration than success on the golf course, we can take solace in knowing that proceeds from the Tournament go toward funding scholarships for law students. Each year this tournament has grown in success, and I hope that you can help us continue the trend this year.

As in the past, the Alumni Association will offer two scholarships to current law students: The Dean Charles Engle Memorial Scholarship and the The George Mason University School of Law Alumni Association Scholarship. Also, the Alumni Association will work to increase the endowment that funds the current scholarships and will strive toward creating new scholarships for incoming students. Your participation in this effort is greatly encouraged.

Next Spring, the Alumni Association and the School of Law will host what has become a greatly anticipated annual event: the Judicial and Legislative Reception. At this event, we honor state and federal judges and legislators of Northern Virginia. The date for this event has yet to be set. Look for an announcement of the date in future mailings.

The Alumni Association wants to encourage your participation. This year the Alumni Association will expand its outreach efforts to you. In addition to this quarterly newsletter, the Alumni Association will encourage the development of local alumni chapters. The local alumni chapters will be located outside of the Northern Virginia area, so those of you who are not geographically close to the school can maintain or re-establish your ties to the law school and the Alumni Association. If you wish to participate in this effort, please contact the Alumni Association via the Alumni Services Office at the law school (703-993-8020) or visit our web page (www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/association.html).

I look forward to serving you as President of our Alumni Association, and I encourage you to strengthen or re-establish your relationship with both the law school and the Alumni Association. Join the Alumni Association’s efforts in seizing the opportunity to propel George Mason University School of Law toward even greater success.

Remember that first-year Moot Court Competition?

Now -- It’s your turn to be the Judge!

Contact the Moot Court Board at 703-993-8158.
Taking a Different Road

by Rob Bartenstein ('99)

I spent three years learning the skills to practice law, and I dropped a high five figure sum to do it. While many of my friends and classmates are out there practicing law, I have decided to say no thanks. With my degree in hand, I took a turn down a different road. In this world, when you step off the path, you are on your own; but you can succeed. I chose the path less traveled and have found a rewarding career in investment banking with a major firm. All I had to give up was billable hours, a partnership track and any certainty of future income. Call it a drive for immediate gratification if you're cynical. To date, it's the best professional decision I've ever made.

My earliest dreams about what I'd be when I grew up are fairly standard middle American fare: the ubiquitous fighter pilot, cowboy, policeman and teacher all come to mind. But my first memory of anything related to a discussion of a "realistic" career path is dominated by some sage advice from my late grandfather: "a law degree prepares you for almost anything," said the general surgeon. How he knew is a matter of conjecture, but at 14 years old you didn't question the man, you listened.

My arrival at George Mason Law School came complete with dreams patterned on "The Paper Chase" and "LA Law." I soon realized that, when not starving on $10 an hour jobs, the skills and knowledge I was accumulating had a tremendous real world value, and not just in the billable world. My previous career as an investment advisor gave me an opportunity to view many classes in dollars and cents rather than theoretically. I often asked myself, "how would that fact benefit my investment clients" or "how could I market this knowledge to an investment bank if I don't want to practice." These thoughts and the promise of some sort of an expertise, kept me going as I studied torts while my former contemporaries rode the bull market to ever more lofty heights.

To be fair, I did not always yearn to return to investment banking. I followed the standard path for two years and worked at two large firms, one in Virginia, the other in DC. In both cases I enjoyed my work but found the environment constraining, the hours long and the future of associates often uncertain and disconnected. I wanted more autonomy, more earning power, more control of my time — without asking someone else’s permission.

I became aware of my current position as a result of a call I almost failed to make. An old friend suggested that I call a guy at a firm I’d scarcely heard of. That call led to a request for a resume, which led to a fax, that led to a plane ticket for an interview with Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette in New York. Roughly one year after joining DLJ, we were acquired by Credit Suisse First Boston, a worldwide banking powerhouse. CSFB now ranks first or second in virtually every category by which an investment bank is ranked.

My position as a private banker allows me to straddle the line between individual and corporate issues, hence my legal degree never goes unused. While I am not in the business of practicing law, I am in the business of helping my clients understand it and how they can work most effectively within it, a value-added service. In one day I may be involved in helping a company close a round of venture financing, planning an individual’s trust distributions, the sale of a block of restricted stock or structuring a municipal bond portfolio. This diversity of experience results in a position that is always challenging and rarely boring.

It's not quite as nice as being the King, but it's a fair start.

Rob Bartenstein is a member of the class of 1999 and former self-proclaimed King of the George Mason Law School. Rob, his wife Missy and their son Conrad live in Alexandria, VA. He can be reached via email at rob.bartenstein@csfb.com

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Third Annual Law Alumni Golf Tournament
Saturday, October 20, 2001

Place: Penderbrook, Fairfax, Virginia
Start Time: 8:00 am
Cost: $100 per player (includes greens fees, cart, prizes, and lunch)

For more information or to sign-up or sponsor a hole, contact Alumni Services at 703-993-8020 or e-mail lawalum@gmu.edu.

Or just call Craig Young ('82) at 202-662-2760.

Did your Class have a Yearbook?
You might still be able to buy one!

They are $35 and can be purchased in Room 347 or by contacting B.A. Pointkowski at Bpoinko@gmu.edu.

Also, for any alums interested in the first Tier One yearbook, they are available now to all alums!
If you didn’t make it to the JLR this year, you sure missed a great evening with old and new friends. Your law school and fellow alums played host to over 240 guests and alumni. Scores of Judges turned out for the event, as did a number of legislators. The evening featured fine Virginia wines from several wineries. In addition, the guests feasted on a wide selection of Virginia foods. Former Senator Chuck Robb addressed the crowd in one of his first official appearances as a member of the George Mason family.

This year, the JLR tradition became a signature event for the legal and legislative community in Northern Virginia. Next year, come home to George Mason and celebrate your success while seeing old friends.

Left-to-right -- Kathleen Senkus (‘98), wine expert Gordon Murchie, David Oblon (‘95) and Gerry Stegmaier (‘00)

Federal Judges Raymond Randolph and Douglas Ginsburg
Reception is a Huge Hit Again

Judges Roush, Keith, and Fitzpatrick

Judge Valentine

Penny Welke (‘85) and new JDR Judge Kimberly Daniel (‘81).
Alumni Celebrations in the North and South

Reaching out to the growing alumni community outside of the DC area, this past spring the law school hosted regional receptions for alumni living in and around New York City and Richmond. In April, Robert Callahan ('86) and his wife graciously hosted a cocktail reception in their New York City home. Thirty alumni and guests attended to celebrate Tier 1. Craig Young ('82), President Merten, and Dean Grady gave brief remarks.

In June, almost 50 alumni gathered at McGuire Woods Consulting in downtown Richmond to network with alumni and to continue the Tier 1 festivities. Ed Flippen, a partner at McGuire Woods and adjunct professor at Mason, graciously assisted the law school in arranging the event. Alumni attending both events took home an array of GMU trinkets and unofficially voted to make the receptions annual affairs.
Alumni Gather on Capitol Hill

Graduates of George Mason University School of Law and the Department of Economics gathered on Capitol Hill on May 10 to celebrate the law school’s success in *U.S. News* and to network with each other. Over 75 alumni - lawyers and economists who work or once worked as staffers on Capitol Hill, as lobbyists around town, or as counsel or advisors for the administration, government agencies, or trade associations – gathered in the historical Senate Commerce Committee Hearing Room in the Russell Senate Office Building for an early evening cocktail reception. The event was sponsored by the law school and the National Multi Housing Council, with whom Jay Harris (’94) works. In their brief remarks, David Landers (’93) and Dean Grady not only celebrated the law school’s Tier 1 ranking, but also congratulated Professor Tim Muris on his nomination to head the FTC and Professor William Lash on his nomination for Assistant Secretary for Market Access and Compliance within the Department of Commerce. Both professors have been confirmed in their posts.

The cocktail reception was the third event in the past year and a half that has brought together distinguished Mason alumni. The objective of this Capitol Hill Alumni Group, as it is informally known, is for Mason alumni who share an interest in Capitol Hill to connect with one another, to celebrate the increasing presence of GMU graduates on Capitol Hill, K Street, the federal government, prominent think tanks and other related environs, and to look for ways to help turn the Mason Capitol Hill alumni community into a resource for each other and the university. If you are interested in being added to the e-mail and distribution list for future Capitol Hill events and news, please contact the Alumni Services Office at 703-993-8020 or e-mail lawalum@gmu.edu.

Did we mention the Alumni Golf Event?

In case you missed our plug on page 3, here’s the info again:

**Saturday, October 20, 2001**

**Place:** Penderbrook, Fairfax, Virginia  
**Start Time:** 8:00 am  
**Cost:** $100 per player (includes greens fees, cart, prizes, and lunch)

For more information or to sign-up or sponsor a hole, contact Alumni Services at 703-993-8020 or e-mail lawalum@gmu.edu.  
Or call Craig Young (’82) at 202-662-2760.
Why are These Men Smiling

1. One of them is an Associate Dean at a top tier law school.
2. One of them is a graduate of a top tier law school.
3. They are both enjoying a night on Capitol Hill with Mason Law Alumni.
4. Neither of them paid three times the Mason tuition for a J.D. from American or Catholic.
5. Because at Mason, it's not just law and economics, it's law and economical.
6. They just found out they would be appearing in The Mason Law Quarterly.
7. All of the above.

Dean Moore and William Moschella (‘96)

Reach Over 4000 Top Tier Alumni
Put your ad here!

Do you have an ad or announcement for your law alumni?

Place it in The Mason Law Quarterly.

You will reach alums from the ISL on Rhode Island Ave. to GMU at our new Digs.
Your ad dollars will also support The Mason Law Quarterly & your Alumni Board.
Call CDAS at 703-993-8020 for details.

News to report?
Want to be included on school email lists?
Send your information electronically via www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/locator

George Mason University School of Law Alumni Association
3401 N. Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22201

Address Service Requested

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