NEW DEAN OF VLS APPOINTED

by Bill Rubert

The Villanova University School of Law has a new Dean. Nearly a year of uncertainty ended this month with the announcement that the University had reached an agreement with a well-known legal scholar and past head of the School, John E. Murray, Jr. Dean Murray will begin his official duties next fall. An interim acting Dean, Dr. Joseph Reuchlein, has run the School during the 1983-84 school year which is expected to be named soon.

Dean Murray is presently Dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, having held that position since 1977. He will stay in Pittsburgh as Dean for the full 1983-84 school year in order to honor his employment agreement with Pitt and to allow time for a replacement to be selected.

Dean Murray is one of the foremost experts on contract law in the country. At VLS he is best known to those students who used his Cases and Materials on Contracts, and to his hornbook. He has been a member of the American Law Institute since 1971, and has served on the Board of Directors of the Journal of Legal Education for five years.

FROM THE ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR

PAPER CHASE '86 BEGINS

By Sandy Mannix, Director of Admissions

WELL have you heard of Paper Chase '86? Although May of 1986 seems a long ways away, graduation will come before some of you have found the bottom stacks of the library or how to get the bill changer to give back your money! You are beginning three challenging, exciting, stimulating and sometimes frightening years of legal education, but you are not alone. Your classmates, the faculty, the administration and staff all want to be of help to you. Take advantage of the support and assistance offered to you.

Next year you will be able to provide the same type of help to 220 other people suffering the same excitement, anxiety and terror you now feel!

Have confidence! You are a bright, talented and different group. Your numerical qualifications are at least as impressive as those of any previous class. As of August 9, the following cold statistics described a warm and personal class — the class of 1986.

The class is almost equally divided by sex — ninety-six (96) men, ninety-four (94) women. You come from twenty-one (21) different states, one-hundred-twenty (120) of you from Pennsylvania. Twenty-one (21) gave New Jersey as your state of permanent residence, fourteen (14) list New York. There are also four (4) each from Connecticut, the District of Columbia and Massachusetts, three (3) from California, Vermont and Wisconsin, two (2) each from Delaware and Rhode Island, and one (1) each from Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Ohio, Tennessee, and Virginia. Six (6) of you identify yourselves as Black Americans, two (2) as Hispanic Americans, and two (2) as Asian Americans. One (1) is a member of the joint J.D./Ph.D. Program in Clinical Psychology (in conjunction with Hahnemann University).

The youngest of you was born in 1963, the oldest in 1940. Dividing by five (5) year birth intervals, one-hundred-twenty (108) of you were born from 1960 on, fifty-four (54) between 1955-1958, fifteen (15) between 1949-1949, nine (9) between 1940-1944.

You come with baccalaureate degrees in forty (40) different major areas. Forty (40) of you list political science/government as your major, eighteen (18) accounting, seventeen (17) English, sixteen (16) economics, fifteen (15) psychology, and thirteen (13) history. All of the other majors are represented by smaller groups of individuals. Some of the more unusual other major fields of study are: three (3) in anthropology, one (1) in food marketing, one (1) in intercultural studies, two (2) in nursing, one (1) in pre-med, one (1) in electrical engineering, one (1) in journalism, and one (1) in public administration. There are no chemists, math majors or physicians among you.

Twenty-five (25) of you list double majors, the most popular being English/political science with four (4). There were two (2) each in political science/communications, government and law, and philosophy and psychology. There were also double majors in the rather unlikely areas of finance/German, English/horticulture and business administration.

A year-long selection process has filled outgoing Dean O'Brien's chair, effective next fall.

DEAN SELECTION PROCESS EXHAUSTIVE

(Robert was a member of the Dean Selection Committee which recommended two finalists to the University President. — Ed.)

Last Fall, Dean O'Brien announced that he would resign as dean to found the Institute of Law and Morality. By the beginning of Winter, the faculty had formed a committee to organize the school's search for a new dean. This committee included Professors Packel, Perritt, Poulin and Tajgart, and was chaired by Professor Dowd. Letters were sent to every law school in the country and advertisements were taken out in major legal publications. The faculty committee also interviewed candidates at the American Association of Law Schools convention last December.

Through a preliminary screening, the list of serious candidates was narrowed to about 12. After more careful evaluation (and some voluntary withdrawals), six male finalists were invited to take part in the faculty interviewing process. According to several faculty members, the quality of these six men was such that any one of them could have stepped into the Dean's office and done a good job.

The University President, Father Driscoll, has the last word on dean candidates in every school that comprises Villanova. Both the ABA and the AALS, however, require that an accredited school give its faculty veto power over a potential dean.

The faculty took some time designing a structure within which this control could assert itself. As part of that structure, a separate committee was formed in April. This "University Committee" was designed to report on the dean candidates to Father Driscoll.

The new committee included Professor Dowd, John McConnell, counsel to the University, former partner at Morgan, Lewis, and Bockius, and a trial practice instructor this Fall; Tom Devine of Blank, Rome, Comisky and McCauley; Judge Glancy, an early graduate of Villanova Law School and President Judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court; Dean Al Clay of the School of Commerce and Finance; Chairman Rev. Patrick Rice, Vice President of Administration at Villanova: and Bill Rubert VLS '84, elected to the committee by a student vote.

When the University Committee met for the first time in April, it asked that a seventh candidate be added as a fifth face-to-face interview. Later, one of these candidates withdrew, leaving five remaining to meet the entire interview series.

Dr. Murray was interviewed for two days. He spent an hour with each faculty member, either individually or in groups, and an hour with each administrator of the school. On Monday evenings, the University Committee would meet with the candidate.

(Continued on page 2)
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Greetings from Juan Valdez,

Your coffee program was converted from automation to tender loving care during the 1964-65 academic year and it was operated by the Student Bar Association.

Contrary to popular opinion I didn't use a mule, but a suit of armor, because Jason Reusclcin hadn't completely backed the SBA, but if I remember correctly it earned Regents approval.

The original program was initiated to be a supplemental source of funds for the SBA, but if I remember correctly it earned about $1,000.00 per year. Yes, we did have public discourse of the funds. I'm sorry to disappoint you, but we did not use Colombian Llorona, we used a milder blend.

As to the mule, he eats too much, so we gave him to the cafeteria on the main campus. It can stay as it is, a well-respected school within the East, or it can become even better and go on to "national prominence." Apparently, all favor the latter road. And as this path is followed, the admissions standards will continue to rise and over the years VLS will become increasingly elite, supposedly a better school by virtue of its distinguished entering classes, composed of the best students from across the country.

Yet, perhaps VLS should not think in terms of "national prominence," but from the perspective of its role within the secular community. After all, what could be of more benefit to society as a whole, and the legal profession in particular, than this school's tradition of turning "hungry" students into good lawyers?

LETTERS CONTINUED ....

VLS CLASS OF 86

(Continued from page 1)

You received your baccalaureate degrees from two hundred and forty (240) different colleges and universities. The schools with the largest number of graduates who entered VLS are Villanova, nineteen (19), University of Pennsylvania, twelve (12), Boston College, and Temple University, eight (8). Lafayette, six (6), La Salle College, five (5).

You have received your undergraduate education at Macquarie University in Australia. There are three (3) graduates of the Faculty of Arts, three (3) of the Faculty of Science, and two (2) of the Faculty of Law.

Saying the questions students ask most about themselves until the close, we discover they have a median grade point average of 3.4 and an amazingly similar mean of 3.376. In an attempt to compare the old and new scores, the old scores were converted (by use of percentile rankings) to the new. The somewhat "incomparability" median for your class is 38, the mean 36. The highest score was 67, and more of you scored 40 than any other single score. (For "old test takers" the median and mean are roughly 400 and 460.)

As you can see from all of the data we have compiled, the Class of 1986 has really done it. All of you have the ability to succeed and will bring a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to the Villanova Law Community. We look forward to getting to know all of you.

THE DOCKET

The Docket is published monthly by the students of Villanova Law School, Villanova University, Villanova, Pa. 19085. Letters and articles are welcome from students, faculty, alumni and the community. Paid advertisements are also accepted. Please contact the Docket office for details.

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Faculty Advisor: Prof. John Cannon.

The EDITORIAL

A PHILADELPHIA HARBOR?

VLS's living legend, Professor J.E. Collins, has been known to lament over days gone by, the earlier years of this still young school when students were "hungry" to become good lawyers. But then, says the Professor, VLS took in far less naturally gifted students than it does today, yet turned out very good lawyers. Today's "material" is far superior, he says, but the end product has not seen a corresponding improvement.

Today, a new class makes its start; a class, in its turn, just a little bit "brighter" than the one which preceded it. In this edition of the Docket, our new Dean implies that VLS is at a crossroads; it can stay as it is, a well-respected school within the East, or it can become even better and go on to "national prominence." Apparently, all favor the latter road. And as this path is followed, the admissions standards will continue to rise and over the years VLS will become increasingly elite, supposedly a better school by virtue of its distinguished entering classes, composed of the best students from across the country.

Yet, perhaps VLS should not think in terms of "national prominence," but from the perspective of its role within the secular community. After all, what could be of more benefit to society as a whole, and the legal profession in particular, than this school's tradition of turning "hungry" students into good lawyers?

NEW DEAN CONFIDENT

(Continued from page 1)

The interview process began late in the semester and the only student meeting which was held during the actual school year was with Dean Murray. That meeting was encrypted, though student participation dwindled at later meetings. On the last day students left the area for the summer.

The Tuesday afternoon sessions in general were superficial, as the final candidate had already been selected, but the interviews dwindled at later meetings. On the last day students left the area for the summer.

When the interviews were completed, in early June, the faculty met to discuss the credentials of all candidates, which comprised a review of all candidates had been researched. A final board of the student candidates was considered by the faculty at this meeting, which lasted almost eight hours. Each member got to read and interview the final candidate. A preliminary vote was then taken to determine the number of candidates.

The faculty then took a few minutes to determine the relative strength of the credentials of the remaining candidate. The results of these votes were given to the University Committee, which unanimously recommended two final candidates to the Dean. Driscoll. Six weeks later, Father Driscoll reached an agreement with Dean Murray.
Chip was all smiles on August 28, 1978, his first day on the job. He was hired as the Alumni Office's assistant director, and he quickly became involved in alumni relations and fundraising efforts.

Q: How has the Alumni Association changed during your tenure here?
A: Under the leadership of President Arnold Cohen, the Alumni Association has undergone significant changes. It has become more active and engaged during my time here.

Q: What was the biggest challenge for you in your role as assistant director?
A: One of the biggest challenges has been ensuring that the Alumni Association continues to grow and evolve in response to changing donor preferences.

Q: What other activities has this office been involved in during the last year?
A: Last year, we were involved in organizing alumni events, such as the annual alumni reception, and in creating a database to better track alumni donations.

Q: What is the next step for this office?
A: The Alumni Office will continue to expand its programs and services, with a focus on increasing alumni engagement and fundraising.

Q: What will be the primary focus of the Alumni Office in the coming year?
A: The primary focus will be to increase alumni participation in the annual giving campaign and to expand our efforts to engage younger alumni in the community.

Q: What changes have occurred in the alumni association under your leadership?
A: Under my leadership, the Alumni Association has expanded its reach and increased its engagement with alumni, resulting in a higher level of donor participation and larger contributions.

Q: What do you attribute the increase in alumni participation to?
A: The increase in alumni participation can be attributed to a variety of factors, including improved communication and engagement efforts, as well as the development of new fundraising initiatives.

Q: What other new activities have been created since you took over?
A: In the past year, we have created a new alumni newsletter and a new online alumni directory to provide more opportunities for alumni to stay connected and engaged.

Q: What are some of the biggest challenges you have faced in your role as assistant director?
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OFF THE BOTTLE: A SPORTS COLUMN?

By Sean Abdul O'Grady

To the Man Who Has Done His Time: 
The letters, postcards, telegrams and other 1983:

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