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Dean's Letter

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DEAN'S LETTER

DEAR ALUMNI:

The big news on the University campus this year is the construction of our new law school building. It will cost over one-half million dollars and is the direct result of a large gift from Mr. Baron de Hirsch Meyer. The law school expects to move sometime in March.

The new plan will consist of four buildings. A two-story classroom building will contain six classrooms, each with a capacity of 75. One of the classrooms will be set up as a court room with a capacity of 75 students. Another unit will be a two-story library building with a sufficient foundation upon which to add a third floor when funds are available. At present the library is designed to hold 80,000 volumes, and will be crowded almost to capacity when our 75,000 law books are moved in. As a matter of fact, the third floor should be added presently (and would be if we had sufficient funds). Another unit, the office building, will have four floors and will house about 25 offices. The fourth unit will be a one-story structure for the student lounge. If, at this time, we could add two more classrooms and a third floor to the library, we would have sufficient room for many years to come.

The raising of our standards to require a bachelor's degree from a college or university before a student may enter the School of Law has not affected registration to any measurable degree. I think this is true because at least 75 per cent of our students for the past few years have had a college degree before entering the School of Law.

We tried an experiment last year by setting aside a whole week for legal institutes and conferences. This was done in cooperation with the Florida Bar and was held at the Roney Plaza Hotel. The experiment proved so successful that the Law School is setting aside the whole week immediately prior to the Easter week for five full days of institutes and conferences. The conferences for day students were so successful that we are going to include evening students in this year's program. The Institutes will include the Tax Institute, the fourth annual Insurance Conference, the Inter-American Institute, Medical and Legal Institutes, and Institutes on other timely subjects. Prominent local and national speakers will appear on the program.

The exhibit at the annual Law School Breakfast of the books, periodical articles and other writings of the members of the faculty at the University of Miami School of Law was indeed a successful one. It emphasized the fact that we have many scholarly legal writers on our faculty. Numerous articles have been published in a large number of leading periodicals in

this country as well as in foreign countries, with several books being written and published in English as well as in foreign languages.

Professor James A. Burnes has just returned from England after having completed a two years leave of absence to work on his Ph.D. degree in Law, which he expects to receive in late summer from Oxford University.

Professor Ralph Boyer will receive his J.S.D. degree in February from the University of Michigan Law School.

Professor David Stern expects to receive his J.S.D. degree in July from New York University.

Professors Thomas A. Thomas, Clifford C. Alloway, Richard Hausler, and Richard Touby expect to receive their doctors degrees within the next year or year and one-half.

Professor Richard Lee began his work for his doctorate at New York University during this past summer, and our Assistant Librarian, M. Minette Massey, expects to begin her work in June toward her doctors degree.

I point out the above to show that our faculty members are striving to make themselves better teachers.

This year the Miami Law Quarterly will publish the second survey of Florida Law with most of the writing being done by the professors in the University of Miami School of Law.

Our programs in Taxation, Inter-American Law, and Insurance are progressing satisfactorily, and we hope before the year is over to receive a grant from some foundation. We know that at least one foundation is interested in helping us. The Insurance industry has voiced an interest in establishing a chair in the Law School.

The graduate program is progressing. Thus far, we have graduated three; we expect to graduate four more this coming year.

So it seems that many of our dreams are beginning to come true . . .

RUSSELL A. RASCO
DEAN