Law School Announces New Duel Degree Program
Leah Desklin '21
Professor, Liaison Editor

Earlier this week, the Law School announced the creation of its new Duel Degree Program. The program, open by application to incoming students, 1Ls, and current 2Ls, allows students to supplement their legal studies with an education in “self-help” for when the legal system inexorably fails them and ultimately society as a whole. Students may concentrate on a duel degree in one of two weapons: sabre or pistol.

In a very progressive move for the era, the 1971 Virginia Constitution, written in part by our very own A.E. Dick Howard, removed Virginia’s constitutional ban on dueling. At first, no one thought anything of it, but in recent years, we’ve seen an uptick in the need for our graduates to be competent not only in traditional core skills of legal practice such as oral and written legal analysis and research and writing, but also vigilante justice and honor defense. “With generous financial support from Edward and Barbara Marsh (‘47),” said Professor Tony Tonseth, “we were able to establish the Duel Degree Program to meet this critical need.”

We applaud the Law School administration in its press release about the program.

“The Office of Private Practice and the Public Service Center both applauded the Duel Degree Program and touted its ability to help UVA Law students succeed as lawyers after graduation. In a recent statement from both offices, career counselors reiterated that ‘you never know when you’ll need to defend your honor as a lawyer. Perhaps you’ll have an otherwise-unresolvable discovery dispute in the middle of high-stakes commercial litigation. Maybe a prosecutor will insist your ability as a low-paid public defender to effectively advocate for your client. You’ll need a special tiereb ‘round’ after an intense, inter-firm summer, where you need duel training. Your duel education may prove crucial to the advancement of your legal career.”

Many students have expressed excitement about the launch of the Duel Degree Program. Phil Tonseth ’22 remarked that he can’t wait to augment his legal education with a duel degree.
**DUEL DEGREE**

continued from page 1

with such highly practical skills. He added, “I’m really glad UVA Law is putting together this fantastic program, I was also particularly happy to see that participation in the duel Degree Program will provide the six professionals we actually prefer pass/fail classes to the curve, the Duel Degree Program is a great way to avoid actually getting grades for the remainder of your law school career. The finals are necessarily pass/fail.” And Kolleen Gladden ‘21 noted that the program has the potential to make a real impact in the law’s quest for justice: “I grew up near the Ozark Mountains in Joplin, Missouri, so I have a lot of experience with things, well, not according to plan. Did you know that Bonnie and Clyde killed two police officers in Joplin in 1933? I’m planning on going back home for my legal career after graduation, and I know my participation in the Duel Degree Program will serve me well.”

But the program’s launch is not without controversy. Michael Berdan ‘22 discussed both pros and cons in his review: “The Duel Degree program will be absolutely vital to my legal studies at the Law School. Just imagine if I ander Hamilton had received such an incredible education in the duel. We would’ve known not to throw away his shot in his infamous duel against Aar- orn Burr. But, I can’t help but worry that elitism will play a role in how potential employers view students’ decisions to enroll in the program. Will I be looked down upon if I choose the pistol rather than the saber concentration?” Sam Pickett ‘21 echoed Michael’s worries, “Are students from wealthy families more likely to be able to succeed in the program than students from middle-class and blue-collar backgrounds? They had fencing lessons starting in middle school, and they’ve been hunting on their families’ vast land holdings clad in Barbour coats and riding boots since they could first pull a trigger.”

Douglas Graeber ‘21 explained that the Law School administration has a role to play here: “We’d like the administration to ensure that applicants accepted to the program display just as much diversity as the Law School as a whole. Frankly, that’s a pretty low bar. But nonetheless, we haven’t heard anything from them on this issue yet, and we need an answer.”

Hopefully, these potential issues will be resolved as part of the program’s implementation. In the meantime, Common Law Grounds has scheduled a lunch discussion on the topic of classism in dueling for next week.

The Duel Degree Program’s application system is up and running, and it will be accept ing applications until May 1. The Rod and Gun Club has offered to provide interested students with an advisor to assist them as they complete the application and will be hosting panels about dueling in the coming weeks.

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3L Returns to Law School for First Time All Year, Wonders Where Everyone Went

It was a beautiful day in the land of Charlottesville, Virginia. Spring had sprung. Larry Lopar ‘20, a 3L who gunned his way through 1L, narrowly missed the Law Review grade cut-off, and has never quite been the same since, decided to stay on this day: It was time for his first visit to the Law School during his 3L year.

Larry is your typical 2L—a hyper-gunner during his 1L year who had his hopes and dreams dashed by his decline in 2L and 3L. By 2L, he still managed to come to class at least twice a week, but by 3L he couldn’t be bothered. He started dating an early DROP and let his law school friendships fall by the wayside, but told himself he was just “too busy” to attend school. But after a long fall semester cropped up in his Ivy Gardner apartment this was his moment. He was going to return to the WB Halls, grab some food from his favorite table, and watch The Lion King in the back row of Ker- dama’s corporations class in true 3L style.

Larry walked down Massie Road to the Law School, feeling good that he was going to be on time for his 10 a.m. class (assuming he could find the room). “Hm,” he thought as he walked down the empty path past the North Grounds Rec Center, wondering where all the high-energy 1Ls were. “Must have gotten to class really early… gunners,” he chuckled. He made his way to the entrance of the building, pulled the large doors that adorn the front of the Law School, only to find them shut fast. “Peck, we’re still on lockdown after this Nazi shit?? It’s 10:00 a.m. on a Tuesday!” After ten minutes of emptying every remnant of dust and random paper from his backpack left over from his gunner days, Larry found his student ID card. “Huh,” he thought, “I hadn’t since 1L, and meandered to the side door to get in. "What the heck? Do I swipe my card???” He grumbled, before realizing the school had updated the key card and he had to tap his card to get in. "Stupid millennials,” Larry said to his 3L self. Larry entered under his breath.

Finally in the door, he walked the empty halls to WB 152. After seeing an empty corporations classroom even before class was supposed to start, he sat down and wondered what was going on. “Oh, maybe there will be something informative in my UVA email?” he thought, realizing he hadn’t checked it since the fall of 2L. “Nah,” he muttered to himself, “nothing informative ever comes in a UVA email.” He cringed as he realized there might be something important in his UVA email. After another fifteen minutes trying to figure out the Duo double-encryption security system that he had never seen before, and again cursing the millennials for “change,” he finally got to his email. Only reading the subject lines of the emails, Larry gathered that he was right; school was canceled for the semester. “What the peck is ‘COVID-19’? Graduation is canceled too? Sh*t, does this mean the softball tournament’s off??”

Truly worried now, Larry did what any reasonable 3L would and hurried to the only place that’d given him any real comfort since his dreams crashed and burned—the Biltmore. Seeing that this, too, was closed, Larry dipped into a reservoir of support he’d long neglected: his sec- tor of himself that was a UVA student.

*LOST 3L page 5*
Grades to Be Determined Based on Performance in Instagram Challenges for Spring 2020

Following UVA Law’s complete transition to online classes, students were left wondering how they would be evaluated for Spring 2020. Fortunately, on Wednesday, March 25, Dean Goluboff announced that courses would be graded on a C/NC basis. This means that students will not receive grades, rather than being graded on academic performance, which is what many students thought the system was. Students will be graded on whether they Can do (C) various virtual Insta- gram challenges, or whether they Can’t do them (NC).

The Dean endorsed a plan proposed by UVA Law’s Curri- culum Committee, which recommended the change because “A/C/NC system serves the function of assuring base- line competence (with societal norms) to students and employers, and because a C/NC system also seems to be better than any other system of alternative evaluation.” It also allows professors to grade students in a way that is consistent with how they’re likely spending most of their time these days.

1 See the 2019-2020 Cur- riculum Committee’s Memo- randum, emailed to Dean Goluboff’s email to the student body titled “Grading Policy.”

After surveying the internet, the Dean has decided to base students’ grades based on how well they perform in the fol- lowing challenges:

(1) The Ten Push-up Challenge
In this challenge, students who are tagged by their friends must perform ten pushups on their Instagram story and then tag another group of friends to do the challenge. While there may be a global pan- demic threatening to destroy the world, UVA Law believes in encouraging active lifestyles by grading you at least in part on physical fitness. How fast are you going on your push- ups? How quickly are you doing something clever while doing them, like eating a bag of chips? Please note: If you do one-handed pushups, you will be tagged for show-off and will be docked points for not following direc- tions.

(2) See a Shot, Take a Shot
Similar to the push-up chal- lenge, in this challenge, stu- dents take a shot of alcohol after being tagged by their friends. UVA Law values nothing if not connecting students to Big Law, showing off how it is not like a regular soul-sucking law school, but a fun, soul-sucking law school.

By making students take photos at home and tag their friends, the Law School is testing its students’ professional net- working skills and ability to fit in with UVA Law’s culture. No one wants to be the associ- ate who “can’t hang” when the partner starts ordering rounds of tequila shots at the firm-hosted happy hour.

(3) Fill-in Templates
In this challenge, students receive a blank template that they fill in with some of their favorite things, like favorite TV shows, favorite color, fa- vorite clothing item, etc. This is a way for UVA Law to judge your personality and to see how basic you are. Are your preferences the same as ev- eryone else between the ages of 22-25? If so, you may strug- gle on this test! Good news, this is also the perfect time to develop some new interests and hobbies. Start working through some Netflix shows so you have a quirky, memorable answer the next time you’re tagged.

(4) Drawing a Carrot (or other random vegetable)

In this challenge, students must attempt to draw a carrot on their Instagram stories after being tagged by their friends. This is a way for UVA Law to test your creativity—in- stead of coming up with clever solutions to fact patterns, can you somehow navigate Insta- gram’s features in order to draw a carrot with your finger? Can you make the carrot do something funny, like wear sunglasses or a hat? Fun add- itions like these are certain to earn extra points to help you stand out from the thousands of carrot drawings the Law School will have to look at.

So while some students saw the change to C/NC as an ex- cuse to relax and do less work, they have failed to realize the work this requires. These challenges are intended for grading students on their “so- cial capital”—do people care about you or do they? Like all of you who were holding out on social media, did you not understand that distraction or because you “don’t need validation from others” or because you value human connections instead of internet ones” are out of luck. Best get posting.

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2 Marc Petrine '21.

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2 Marc Petrine '21.
Not since 2008 has there been a buzz like this among the student body of UVA Law. While every effort is made to publish all materials meeting our guidelines, we regret that not all submissions received can be published.

The student body of UVA Law is excited to give back to the community. He got by, but we are set up to really thrive in this new economy.”

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While UVA alumni are equipped to succeed, some are wondering what their future holds. Loman is considering going back to his home state of Louisiana: “Online classes have been great, so maybe I’ll telecommute. Do law school online, keep up with my relationship with Chris online. Zoom chats with friends... I’ll never have to leave the bayou again!”

North Grounds remain empty, but the Law ‘Hoos are clearly full of ideas and optimism, ready to handle whatever the recession brings.

1 Note: I checked into this, and Ms. Stiles is right. The Office of Private Practice has replaced all their career pathway documents with links to the Financial Services website and Indeed.com.

R. Harmon: “I’m not preparing you to pass the bar, I’m preparing you to run the world.”

D. Brown: “Don’t ever commit to the search when you have 19 kilos of coke in your trunk.”

M. Collins: “I thought I’d finally said something intelligent.”

A. Bamzai: “Let me assure you, if you read all those cases you would get no further clarity.”

S. Ballenger: “If someone asks how tall I am on a dating site and I respond ‘the average adult male is six feet tall’ you’re gonna have some skepticism.”

M. Gilbert: “Eating an entire poster board is an extremely inconvenient way to take LSD.”

A. Coughlin: “No, there’s no such thing as a butt print.”

Heard a good professor quote? Email editor@lawweekly.org

DRESS GOODER continued from page 2
SBA Taken Seriously After Spearheading Pass/Fail Initiative

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. On Tuesday, the Student Bar Association (SBA) held a Zoom meeting.

They were able to get Roots to the school, which is really the most important aspect of the law school experience. I always thought that the SBA never got the credit it deserved," said Dominic Adducci ’21. "I think that the SBA’s open, transparent, and competent decision-making is the only thing that has kept the school going. Someone has to keep the lights on, and, to the SBA’s credit, they’ve been able to do it."

Indeed, a survey of the student body found that, of all the decision-making bodies in the school, students trusted the SBA to have their interests at heart and, most of them, that it was the most transparent. "It is nice to see people you vote for actually go to work for you, and to encourage pass/fail. I felt that my voice was heard throughout the process," one student said in the survey. "They are dealing with a lot of pressure, and they are truly helping with the most important issues to the students, like sending out emails from the main SBA account, or even regularly SBA members sending out emails," another student responded. "Perhaps they should be in charge of the $500 million endowment."

At press time, SBA members were seen discussing the possibility of retaining cookie-Fridays and making it a free event. "They were able to get Roots to the school, which is really the most important aspect of the law school experience. I always thought that the SBA never got the credit it deserved," said Dominic Adducci ’21. "I think that the SBA’s open, transparent, and competent decision-making is the only thing that has kept the school going. Someone has to keep the lights on, and, to the SBA’s credit, they’ve been able to do it."

However, some believe that the SBA is simply conducting “business as usual,” only that now they are finally being recognized as a group of decision makers who are an integral part of the administration’s decision-making process. They were able to get Roots to the school, which is really the most important aspect of the law school experience. I always thought that the SBA never got the credit it deserved," said Dominic Adducci ’21. "I think that the SBA’s open, transparent, and competent decision-making is the only thing that has kept the school going. Someone has to keep the lights on, and, to the SBA’s credit, they’ve been able to do it."

How you are passing your time? (a) Catching up on all the professor lectures I only listened to one time during the semester. (b) Netflix and chill from six feet away. (c) Tracking the coronavirus death count online. (d) Contact football three times a week.

What is your cooking like these days? (a) Replicating all meals in Mastering the Art of French Cooking and am now working through Shah Jaham’s cookbook. (b) I do my grocery shopping from the Whole Foods website, I put it with Chick-Fil-A sauce, place it on top of a Popeyes Chicken Sandwich, then make a sacrifice to Moloch before consuming my unhealthy meal. Now tally your score! (a) are 3 points, (b) are 2 points, (c) are 1 point, and (d) are zero points.

0-6 points: One or two kids! Congrats! You’ve overcome both entropy and natural selection, passing on your reckless behavior genes to future generations.

6-11 points: Zero kids. You will never have children and will die alongside pigeons like Nikola Tesla.

12-18 points: One kid. But the child will be a disappointment, despite your perfect planning.

19-24 points: More than three kids. Life is happy, so long as they all stay in the bunker with you. It is no longer safe in the upper world.

Fed Soc Zoom Event Turns into Conservative Talk Radio Special

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

Members of the Federalist Society last Thursday gathered to discuss the option to hold a Zoom event for the SBA. The event allowed members of the Federalist Society to hear from speakers who are experts on government overreach, who spoke on why providing healthcare to citizens is socialism and therefore bad, and who can explain why giving people free money is “not great.” The discussion started off well enough, with everyone talking about the need to balance SBA versus the greater good during times of crises, just like you eat a balanced breakfast in the morning.

Eventually however, the panelists seemed to realize that they were running out of material but clearly did not want to cede the microphone to questions just yet. Luckily, one of the panelists, Maura Ingraflimflam, started playing a song.

1. Maura Ingraflimflam is one of our most distinguished alum who put herself above and beyond the rest of UVA Law alumni when she ridiculed a kid whose high school was shot up. Several other distinguished alumni were invited to the panel but could not make it. The list included Perry Hallwell Jr. (distinguished for inviting students back to the dorms during a pandemic), Kirstjen Nielsen (whose name is weird enough but also the section-mate Sally Mae ’20), and Ted Kennedy (distinguished for killing a one of Obama’s press conferences during Superstorm San- dy, interrupting every ten seconds with a whoop and “what would have handled this situation.” When asked about the incident, one of the audience members told the Law Weekly that “it was his favorite part, but he said he had to be reminded that Obama was the president at one point.”

Things took an even more dramatic turn when one of the panelists, Rashmima Rampra, started fielding questions from the crowd. One member of the audience, identified simply as Jerry, asked how he knew the truth when he said he is a big fan of Fed Soc and listens on the Zoom “pretty much every day,” went on a four-minute diatribe about how his cousin in Italy knows it was spraying chemtrails.

"I thought it was spraying chemtrails. It was spraying chemtrails!" Larry thought, exasperated. Larry hung up and sent the message over whether it was a government drone spraying on all of us. There was disagreement about whether it was a government drone or not, but everyone did conclude that it was a tax on everything.

I have never seen a more transparent group of individuals, and they are ready to take on even more work than they already have.”

Oh, I think that they definitely represented our interests and probably were the ones to force the administration to change our grading system to pass/fail,” said Matthew Wager ’21. “I think that, going forward, I will definitely tune into the SBA meetings—they showed clear leadership and the ability to effect changes on things that truly matter within the school, like debt, grading, job selection, and more.

Others felt that the SBA has finally found its “mojo.” Marc Szczepanek ’20 said, “I think that they have a real chance to get a high level of involvement from the student body going forward. This virus has brought people together, and there is no more important decision-making body in the school than the SBA.”

Marc’s roommate, Vikram Vivek ’20, agreed. “The level of work being done by the SBA right now, what with those emails being sent out, is just unprecedented. I think that they’re a highly motivated group of individuals, and they are ready to take on even more work than they already have.”

"They were able to get Roots to the school, which is really the most important aspect of the law school experience. I always thought that the SBA never got the credit it deserved," said Dominic Adducci ’21. "I think that the SBA’s open, transparent, and competent decision-making is the only thing that has kept the school going. Someone has to keep the lights on, and, to the SBA’s credit, they’ve been able to do it."
Other Breaking News

“UVA to Refund Spring Semester Tuition for All Due to Coronavirus”

“Administration Reverses Pass/Fail Decision, Switches to B-Curve Average”

“Virginia Law Review Loses All Records of Journal Tryouts”

“‘I did this all on my own,’ Insists Upper-Middle Class, White, Incoming 1L Who Has Two Lawyers as Parents and Paid $150/hour for LSAT Tutoring”

“Architect of Wizard Prison Sues UVA Law for Copyright Infringement, Alleging Substantial Similarity Between Azkaban and the Law School’s Facade”

“Study Finds Being in Law School Comprises 91.7% of Your Personality and You Should Absolutely Continue to Act Like It”

“Virginia Sports & Entertainment Law Journal Files for Bankruptcy”

“Professor John Cannon Reveals He Chose Property Because He Was Good At ‘Settlers of Catan’”

“Goluboff and Kendrick Friendship Revealed to be a FRAUD: Major Rift Happened Over Snack Choice in Student Affairs Office”

“Newly Admitted Student Coron A. Virus Excited to Tour North Grounds and See How Far UVA’s Collegiality Really Extends”

“Old Man Withers Makes Appearance in Empty Withers Brown Hall”

“New Vending Machine in ScoCo to Offer Self-Confidence, Lost Youthful Innocence, and an Adequate Sleep Schedule in Addition to $5.00 Cold Brew.”

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Solution

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April Fools!

The Law Weekly wishes everyone a Happy April Fools’ Day. Everything printed in this edition is fake news. See you all next week.