

FROM THE DEAN

During the first weekend in May the Law School held its 49th Annual Spring Program which featured, among other things, class reunions. This year we had special reunion events for the Classes of 1942, 1952 and 1967. Several other classes (1957, 1962 and 1982) are holding their reunions this fall in conjunction with football games. Regardless of when they are held, reunions are interesting events from a variety of perspectives.

On the other hand, there are the class members who may not have seen Madison or any of their classmates during the intervening years. For them a reunion is a time of great contrasts. The building they remember may be gone and, like me, the hair they remember is either gone or gone gray.

Spouses of graduates form a special group — some shared the law school experience, even financed it. Others became spouses years after their husband or wife graduated. For them reunions are probably something they have to tolerate occasionally.

The Law School encourages reunions because generally they are positive events and foster the “bonding” between



Dean Daniel O. Bernstine

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the graduate and the School. Increasingly, reunions have also become fund-raising activities. I emphasize, however, that the decision to include a class gift in a reunion is the choice of those members who organize the class events. I usually mention class gifts to the reunion committee but we want our alumni back with or without an organized class gift. Perhaps the finest example of a class gift was that raised by the 50th reunion Class of 1941. Immediately after their reunion members of the Class combined their resources to make a six-figure gift to the Law School. A similar effort is being organized by the members of the Class of 1967 and a number of other classes have raised significant sums as part of their reunions. The Class of 1972, during its 20th reunion, has already announced plans to raise a class gift to be presented at its 25th!

With the growing importance of reunion activities we are modifying the traditional calendar for such celebrations. To give everyone an extra, albeit non-deductible, excuse for returning for a reunion, we are changing to fall semester reunions during football weekends. Fellow graduate and Athletic Director Pat Richter ('71) is now on the spot to have the football team not only be entertaining but also to win each of the games at which we have reunion groups. As I mentioned, several classes will hold "football" reunions this fall with all reunions to be scheduled for the fall of 1993. In recognition of the popularity of fall reunions, in 1993 we will not hold a "Spring Program". Its events will, however, take place in an "Annual Program" which will coincide with the reunion weekend. Since 1993 is also the fabled multiple anniversary year — 125th year of the School, 100th year on Bascom Hill, 50th Annual Law School Program, and 25th anniversary of the General Practice Course, we not only expect football wins on the weekend we celebrate, we expect that the celebration will continue in Pasadena on New Year's Day. How about that, Pat. A



Dean Bernstine meets with alumni during the 1992 Spring Program

double treat for me would be to have the Badgers play the Golden Bears of the University of California (my undergraduate alma mater) in the Rose Bowl. If that happens, I promise to cheer for the right team.

One final word about Law School reunions. If it's your turn, why not come? While problems occasionally crop up — my authority as Dean does not extend to the Wisconsin weather — I don't remember anyone without some positive memory. After a few years even the disasters that occurred in the classroom or library become something to laugh about with friends, old and new.