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Message from Dean Nils Olsen

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A toast to our progress

In many respects you are what you look like. Through the generosity of alumni, we are restoring the professional environment of the Law School to the level that our students deserve. We are now well on our way to presenting an appearance that is commensurate with our educational quality. Last month, I was privileged to participate in the third classroom renaming ceremony in O'Brian Hall when members of the Hodgson Russ law firm cut a ribbon opening the newly spruced-up Room 106. Previously, Tony Renaldo '50 and Bill Niese '61 also came to O'Brian for ceremonies when we rededicated classrooms in their honor. We anticipate two additional renaming celebrations this year—one for Harvey Kaminski and one for Gordon and Gretchen Gross. All of these classroom renovations and namings recognize generous gifts to the Law School, and all of us—especially the students—deeply appreciate it. Our next major project will be the lower level of O'Brian Hall, which we hope to convert to recreational space and student offices for our many student organizations.

I am especially happy to report that our Annual Fund total this year exceed-

ed our goal of \$750,000 and reached \$800,610. Most importantly, over 25 percent of our 8,900 alumni made contributions. That is a higher rate of participation than many of the elite Law Schools.

We are delighted that one of our longtime faculty stars, Lucinda Finley, has been appointed vice provost for faculty affairs for the university. She will remain a faculty member of the Law School and will continue to teach in the Law School. Another one of our old friends, Peter Pitegoff, has moved on to the University of Maine Law School, where he will serve as dean. We wish him and his family all our best.

As you read through this issue of the 2005 *Law Forum*, I know you will be impressed by the scope and quality of our programs, the accomplishments of our faculty and students and the generosity of our wonderful donors. All of us at the Law School hope you share our sense of pride in our school.

