[GAIL]

Thank you, Dean Levi, for that very kind introduction, and for inviting us to speak about our commitment to Duke and to financial aid. Prentiss and I are honored and pleased to be here today.

More than 40 years ago, we each set off to North Carolina to begin our studies at Duke Law School. We came from very different parts of the country – Prentiss came from a small town in western Massachusetts; I from a small town in rural Missouri. Neither of us had ever been to North Carolina before, much less seen Duke.

We both arrived in Durham on a typical, hot August day with little idea of what lay in store, either in terms of law school or our future careers. While we did not yet know each other, we were both starting law school right after college with no work experience, other than summer jobs.

We both had already benefited from financial aid in our undergraduate careers. Prentiss had paid for his college education at Cornell University through an ROTC scholarship. I had attended the University of Missouri on a full tuition scholarship.

We were both paying for our law school education ourselves. We each had some savings from summer jobs during college, but attending law school required borrowing money and obtaining some type of financial aid.

Fortunately, the law school had offered each of us a combination of loans and grants so that we could embark upon our legal studies at Duke. Were it not for that, neither of us would have been able to attend Duke Law.

[PRENTISS]

Taking a step back to that hot August day in 1973, I should note that, at that time, Duke offered limited housing for graduate students—rather ugly red brick apartments on Swift Avenue. [They are still standing, and appear not to have been renovated in over 40 years.] Because we had never been to Duke before, and knew nothing about Durham, we had both requested housing in the Duke graduate student apartments. I met my two law school roommates that day and we started moving our few possessions into our apartment. Gail’s two roommates were not law students and would not be arriving for another week. It may be hard to believe, but there were only 14 or so women in our law school class.
We met that first day when she accidentally locked the keys to her apartment and her car inside the apartment. My two new roommates and I were busy finishing moving in and getting to know each other – probably also enjoying a cold beer – when Gail sheepishly knocked on the door of our apartment and explained her predicament. We all were probably a little taken aback when she told us her story—she claims to have been mortified-- but I decided to be the friendly neighbor who offered to take her back to the graduate student housing office to get a new key.

The rest, as they say, is history – best decision I ever made.

The law school was very different in 1973, but it possessed the same qualities that make Duke so attractive today – a smaller class size relative to other law schools; a presence on the campus itself rather than located somewhere distant from the campus in an urban setting as many law schools are; a small city environment; easy and comfortable access to professors; and most important, a friendly atmosphere that encouraged friendships and camaraderie with other students to help get through the difficult three years that make up law school.

We both thrived in law school – for years, we have been able to look back and say we genuinely enjoyed it (well not all of it, such as exams and papers, but certainly most of it). We participated in a wide range of activities and developed some very good friendships.

Duke continued to provide financial aid through loans and grants in our second year of law school. We decided to get married in August prior to our third year of school. We would now have only one rent payment (living in the luxurious Chapel Towers Apartments just down Moreene Road from the Law School). Nevertheless, when we looked at our finances the spring of our second year, we realized that our small savings were depleted.

If both of us were to continue as full time students our third year, we would need more money, notwithstanding that we both had good summer jobs.

We asked the law school if we might be able to obtain additional financial support. Duke came through for us with additional grants, loans, and work-study jobs in the law library. It was particularly important to us to graduate with an indebtedness that was manageable, because I had a four-year commitment to the Army. My income during that time would be limited. Additionally, we had no idea where I might be posted or what job opportunities might be available for Gail to earn a reasonable salary in some of the locations that were possibilities—remember that we were graduating in 1976—most law firms had very few or no female attorneys, and women were frequently paid less than their male colleagues.

The willingness of the law school to be creative in providing the additional financial support that we needed so that we would not be juggling myriad jobs in order to stay in school meant a great deal to us at the time. It continues to mean a great deal to us to this day, which is why we supported the law school’s annual fund from the day we graduated.
In our third year, I learned of a possible opportunity to serve my ROTC commitment in the office of the Secretary of the Army at the Pentagon if I was selected to be part of this small group of lawyers advising the Secretary. Because of our additional financial assistance, Gail was able to devote time to a job search in the Washington DC area in the event I was selected for the position at the Pentagon. We were both delighted when I learned that I would be able to work at the Pentagon and Gail would be able to start her legal career with a law firm in the area.

Of course, we went from having no idea where we would be living or practicing after law school to settling in Washington in 1976 and never leaving. Gail practiced law for many years with her firm and served on the management committee and as head of the real estate practice of Hazel & Thomas, a large firm located at that time in Northern Virginia (today part of the global law firm Reed Smith). She then retired and focused her efforts on raising our children and on service to our local community through leadership positions on numerous nonprofit boards, most recently as President of The Board of Visitors of Childrens' National Medical Center.

I joined Hogan & Hartson in 1980 – at the time a “big” law firm with all of 140 lawyers, all in one city. That really was big at the time. I have never left, but the firm certainly has changed over the years. Today we are Hogan Lovells, with more than 2500 lawyers in more than 45 offices around the world. [In the town that I grew up in, there were only two lawyers, and they were sole practitioners.] I have practiced tax and corporate law throughout my career, working on many large transactions – my goal when I was in law school. I have been fortunate to serve as head of our tax practice, and for a number of years now as the global chief financial officer for a $1.9 billion business with challenges and opportunities I never could have dreamed of.

Who could have guessed all of that back on that hot day in August 1973 when we first arrived in Durham?

[GAIL]

Prentiss and I are very fortunate. We have both experienced rewarding legal careers and fulfilling lives. We have been blessed with two wonderful children. Attending Duke Law opened many doors for us and helped us pursue our dreams. Our Duke education provided valuable training, not only in how to practice law, but in how to solve problems and be effective leaders in the many arenas in which we have both worked and volunteered.

Through the years, we have increased the size of our gifts to the Annual Fund and supported the numerous building and renovation efforts that the Law School has undertaken.

When Duke embarked upon its university-wide financial aid initiative encouraging alumni to establish endowments to support scholarships, we knew that it was our turn to help current students in the same way we had been helped. This initiative inspired us to establish a
scholarship to provide support for students who need financial assistance in order to attend Duke Law School. We wanted the privilege of changing the lives of even a few Duke Law students so that they could pursue their dreams and make a difference in a way that might not be possible if burdened with substantial debt after graduation – just as Duke had been able to do for us more than 40 years ago.

It is our hope that these gifts will help our scholarship recipients reach their full potential at Duke Law so that they can lead lives of purpose and fulfillment after graduation from Duke.

Perhaps someday, one or more of our scholarship recipients will be in a position and feel inspired to help future generations of students at Duke in the way they were helped by the law school.

We are grateful for all that Duke has given us. Thank you.

We are now pleased to introduce a member of the Class of 2016 -- Chantalle Carles. Chantalle is a Mordecai Scholar. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Florida and obtained her Masters in Public Policy & Administration from Northwestern University after teaching in rural North Carolina for Teach for America. Prior to starting law school, Chantalle completed a two year fellowship with The Duke Endowment. Here at Duke Law, Chantalle is on the Moot Court Board, the Mock Trial Board, the Editorial Board of Law and Contemporary Politics, and is a case manager with the Innocence Project. Chantalle is also a research assistant for Professor Marin Levy. Chantalle will work next summer as a Summer Associate at Kirkland & Ellis in Washington, DC.

Certainly an impressive background.

Please welcome Chantalle.

Gail and Prentiss Feagles
February 28, 2015