On June 30, 2004, our Building on Strength capital campaign came to a triumphant conclusion, far exceeding our goal of $20 million by raising more than $28 million. This was a strikingly broad-based effort with gifts from 4,102 alumni and friends of this School.

What made this achievement especially significant was that this was the second major capital campaign supported by our alumni within the past decade. The earlier Building for a New Century campaign culminated in the opening of Anheuser-Busch Hall in 1997.

The Building on Strength campaign allowed us, during the past five years, to create new faculty chairs; to significantly expand our support for student scholarships and tuition remission; and to support a significant number of new programs, including the Whitney R. Harris Institute for Global Legal Studies, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, David M. Becker Public Service Fund, and Mel Brown Family Loan Repayment Assistance Program.

I speak for all of us at the School of Law in articulating our gratitude. Our alumni are the ultimate reflection of what is taught and learned here. Your generosity has helped us in recent years to take the quality of scholarship and teaching to new heights.

It is worth underlining that the School’s gratitude to our alumni and friends goes well beyond their financial support. Our alumni have increasingly helped our students with job advice and networking, particularly in cities outside of St. Louis. Our alumni also have helped the Admissions Office persuade talented students to apply to our School or to accept our admissions decisions.

As a dean, I have a different reason to say thank you. Over time, so many of you have become friends. When visiting a city for the fifth or sixth time, there is something very special about not only recognizing many of the alumni I meet, but recalling their stories and having the joy of learning more about their experiences and often those of their spouses or significant others and their children.

In the years to come, there will be new challenges for the School of Law, many new achievements, and great progress. But it is one of the great skills in life to realize that not all living is striving. There is a place for celebration. And after the recent generosity and support of so many of our alumni and friends, this is a particularly appropriate time to simply say THANK YOU. ✡