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Tribute to Professor Sally Wiant

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Tribute to Professor Sally Wiant

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Tribute to Professor Sally Wiant



Photo taken by Patrick Hinely, Washington and Lee University Photographer

Laura N. Gasaway*

I have known Professor Sarah K. Wiant for more than forty-five years. Our careers have tracked each other's, and we have remained great friends over the years. We met in 1970 at an institute conducted by the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) at American University in Washington, D.C., where we shared a room. We continue to do that until the present, most recently at the 2017 Association of American Law Schools (AALS) annual meeting in San Francisco. Not only do we have parallel careers and remain close friends, but we frequently travel together, last summer a Viking River Cruise to China, which was fabulous! We have two additional Viking cruises planned for 2017.

Sally is well-known, respected, and loved in both law library and law school circles. Professor Wiant began her career as a law librarian in 1970 at Texas Tech University. I was at the University of Houston then, and we were able to get together at state, regional, and national meetings. In 1972, Sally was recruited and hired by Washington and Lee as Assistant Law Librarian, where she received her J.D. degree as a member of the first class that admitted women. Six years later, she became Director of the Law Library and Assistant Professor of Law. Over the years, she modernized the law library, bringing it into the computer era and professionalizing the staff. She was promoted to Associate Professor and then to Professor of Law. Professor Wiant was also responsible for a number of administrative duties for the Law School, such as developing and supervising the Media Department, overseeing the mail, managing the art gallery, and performing various administrative tasks relating to maintaining the building. While serving as Director, she also taught law courses in admiralty, copyright, and trademark law. Since 2010, she has been a full-time law teacher and added torts to her course repertoire, which also includes legal writing.

Professor Wiant treasures her students and has participated in virtually every law school activity at Washington and Lee. She assists students in finding clerkships and full-time jobs. Her

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students—even from many years ago—stay in touch with her, demonstrating how important she has been in their careers and their lives. Sally has placed and supervised judicial clerkships and the judicial externship program; she also has offered the Intellectual Property Practicum as part of the third-year practice program. She has served on and chaired many law school committees and, as one of the few women faculty members on campus, been a member on more than fifteen university committees over the years.

Not only has she made major contributions to Washington and Lee, but Professor Wiant has been a leader in the AALL. Sally served a three-year term on the AALL Executive Board and has chaired many of the important committees of the association. She was Program Committee chair in 1987–88, the committee responsible for all of the programming for the annual meeting. Additionally, she has chaired the Economic Status Committee, the Special Committee on the Future of AALL, the Copyright Committee, the Bylaws Committee, and the Education Committee, which had tremendous responsibility for all educational workshops, institutes, and programs because the AALL had no professional staff at that time.

For the American Bar Association, she served on at least eighteen site evaluation teams for the Accreditation Committee and several for the AALS. She was a member of the AALS Accreditation Committee in 1991–93 and chaired the Section on Law Libraries in 1990–91. Sally has been active in the Southeastern Association of Law Libraries, the Special Libraries Association, the Virginia Association of Law Libraries, and she was president of the Virginia Special Libraries Association in 1980–81. Professor Wiant has also served on advisory and editorial boards for West Publishing Company, the *National Legal Ethics Reporter*, and *Legal Reference Service Quarterly*.

Sally received AALL's highest award in 2015—the Marian Gould Gallagher Award. She has also received its President's Certificate of Merit, the Special Libraries Association's John Cotton Dana Award, and the Distinguished Service Award for the Southeastern Association of Law Libraries. She represented the AALL at the Conference on Fair Use.

Professor Sally Wiant has also contributed to law librarianship literature, copyright law for librarians, and

specialized legal research in admiralty law. She is frequently an invited speaker on copyright law, law library management, and licensing. Sally is often called on to testify in various government hearings.

Sally is also active in the community. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Kendal at Lexington and continues to chair its Long-Range Planning Committee. She has also served on the Board of Trustees for the Rockbridge Regional Library.

In addition to all of her accomplishments, Sally is also known for her wonderful sense of humor, her kindness and concern for others, and her beautiful smile. She is loved and admired in our profession and has a real gift for making friends. I know of no more supportive friend than my colleague and co-author Sally Wiant.

James S. Heller*

Let me say what a privilege it is to be asked to write a tribute to Sally Wiant. I should add that this is one of the easiest projects I have ever been asked to do. I have known Sally for nearly forty years, not long after I took my first professional job at the George Washington University Law Library in August 1977. I moved to Washington, D.C., from California and didn't know a single person in the nation's capital. It wasn't long before I received a call from someone at Washington and Lee welcoming me to the area. Not only did I not know who this person was, but I didn't even know of W&L. Little did I know about the "force" I would soon meet—Sally Wiant.

Others can write about Sally's professional accomplishments, which are many: chair of five different American Association of Law Library (AALL) Committees, a member of twenty-one American Bar Association (ABA)/Association of American Law Schools (AALS) law school site evaluation teams, author of more than two dozen books, book chapters, and articles. The list goes on and on. But it's Sally Wiant the person I want to write about.

* Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law, Professor of Public Policy at The College of William & Mary.

If you are near a computer, take a look at Sally's photo on the W&L web page. You see a striking, smiling woman . . . someone who is, in a word, *alive*. That's the person I met not long after moving to D.C. "Hi, I'm Sally Wiant. You must be Jim Heller. Welcome. It's so nice to have you in the area!" Then a firm handshake, followed by a conversation that I can't recall. But I'm sure it wasn't about Sally. She wanted to know about me: my background, why I came east, and my interests.

Sally and I connected both on a personal and professional level. In the late 1970s, we both became interested in copyright law as it affected libraries. Sally and I had similar ideas about the rights of libraries and their users, and we decided to co-author *Copyright Handbook*.¹ For the next two decades, we would often appear together on panels and enjoy a meal before or after the "show." I say "show" because that's what it is when Sally is on a stage. She's articulate, she's smart, and she's funny. I remember Sally moderating a panel I was on, and her telling me and the other speakers that if we went over our allotted time, "I will start singing, and neither you nor the audience will want to hear that." Funny, and ironic . . . Sally has a superb singing voice.

Speaking of allotted time, mine is just about up. Sally, thank you for forty-six years of being a law librarian and serving our profession. Thank you for being a strong advocate of user rights under copyright law. And thank you for being my colleague . . . and most importantly, my friend.



Tribute: Sally Wiant

Ann MacLean Massie*

"Sally is magic!" This statement might not have sounded strange coming from someone in the Law School, but the speaker was in fact from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and we were attending a law teaching conference at the University of New Mexico in the

1. JAMES S. HELLER & SARAH K. WIANT, *COPYRIGHT HANDBOOK* (Wm. S. Hein, 1982).

* Professor of Law, Emerita, Washington and Lee University School of Law.

summer of 1987. I had just completed two years at W&L as a half-time faculty member (I joined the faculty full-time a year later), but already I could vouch for the truth of the sentiment. Like all newcomers and visitors to the law faculty, I was immediately greeted and shown around by the School's indomitable Library Director, who made sure that newbies felt at home by drawing them into the School's and University's social and cultural life. We were already fast friends, and part of the beauty was that our husbands, Bob Akins and Kent Massie, were instantly compatible as well.

Sally has been a fixture at Washington and Lee since 1972 when, as the new Associate Librarian, she insisted on learning law in order to better serve her new post, and she became a member of the first class of women at W&L along with her administrative duties. As to how she got here, a now-retired colleague told me that when legendary Dean Roy Steinheimer brought her to meet the faculty, he told them, "You can do what you want, but you won't find anyone better." Sally quickly proved him prescient with her formidable organizational and administrative skills; our library—and our librarian—became the envy of much larger and (at that time) better-known institutions.

What should not be overlooked is the extent to which Sally was a true pioneer, both at the Law School and at the University. There were six women in her class, and women would not be admitted to the undergraduate school for another thirteen years. Even Pam Simpson, W&L's first female tenure-track faculty member, did not arrive on the scene until 1973, followed by Nancy Margand in 1975. Sally followed suit in the Law School in 1978, when she completed her J.D. and simultaneously became Law Library Director and Assistant Professor. Meanwhile, she took on the challenge of establishing her right to full participation in the life of the school—for example, making known her wish to share in the privileges of the University pool. When told that the men liked to swim nude (in other words, don't force us to integrate), Sally, who had a houseful of brothers, said, "That's okay, they can do what they want. But I'll be there." (Needless to say, the men changed their habits.) No wonder she became such a wonderful mentor to both women law students and succeeding women faculty members!

From the beginning of her career here, Sally has carried the flag of W&L throughout the U.S. An active member of the

Association of American Law Libraries (AALL), Sally soon became a sought-after speaker for both regional and national conferences, sharing her scholarly insights into the opaque and frequently-changing world of copyright law and its effects on academic libraries. She spent so much time on airplanes that it should probably not be a surprise to learn the gregarious Sally met her future husband on a delayed flight! Nor should it be a surprise that the AALL, which she served so well in so many capacities, saw fit to honor her in 2015 with its highest award, the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award, established “to recognize extended and sustained service to law librarianship, for exemplary service to the Association, or for contributions to the professional literature.” Sally hit the ball out of the park on all three criteria.

Within the Law School, Sally has been a pied piper among the students. Even as Library Director, she taught a course every year (Admiralty Law, anyone?) and served as both the Advisor to the burgeoning Women Law Students Organization and head of the Judicial Clerkship Program. But even if she didn’t have them in class, Sally knew everyone—including alumni—and countless numbers of students have benefitted from her sage advice on everything from their curricular choices to their love lives, as well as assistance in obtaining hoped-for interviews and jobs that were just right for them.

Since stepping down as Library Director in 2010, Sally has taught both a practicum in Intellectual Property and small writing sections of Torts. Her students adore her, but they learn not to take advantage. One day in the Brief Stop (our in-house lunch place), I heard a student sum it up perfectly: “She’s really cool,” followed by the admonition, “Don’t mess with her!” The latter undoubtedly referred to Sally’s famous reaction to written work not turned in on time: “You’ll need to write a motion about why I should read this.”

In a word, Sally Wiant is inimitable. Washington and Lee Law School and its students have been enormously enriched by her career here. Fortunately for Lexington, she is just as active in the community as she has always been in her chosen profession, bringing the same infectious cheerfulness and can-do attitude to any undertaking. She is a steadfast friend and engaging companion. May she continue to contribute her multiple talents for many years to come.

Brian C. Murchison*

For decades, Sally Wiant has fostered a sense of family and belonging in Lewis Hall, giving the School of Law a rightful claim to the word “community.”

New members of the faculty relished her friendship, especially her humorous introductions to the history and sometimes baffling traditions of both Lexington and Lewis Hall. For years, she opened her home and heart to newcomers and visitors. I can attest that there was never a dull moment at her dinner parties, which could feature fires in the kitchen, foreign accents of every kind, and lively tale-telling as guests moved from one delicious course to the next.

But veteran professors also depended on Sally: she helped us keep the spring in our steps. We could always stop by her office for a restorative chat or a full-blown analysis of the latest film or novel. She offered teaching tips, sent us blurbs about shocking new cases, walked over the footbridge with us to lectures on Faulkner and Fitzgerald, and shared beguiling stories of her world travels and multiple careers—as librarian and professor. When we were down in the dumps, she used a patented blend of chocolate, whimsy, and understanding to get us back on our feet.

Her students would say the same. Wherever you travel throughout the United States, you will come across grateful alums who learned Admiralty, Intellectual Property, or Torts from Sally Wiant. Invariably they will say that they never had a more caring or devoted instructor. Many will add that they landed a key job interview through her determined intervention. And some will estimate that she supervised more published *Law Review* Notes and prize-winning student papers than anyone else on the faculty.

To put it plainly, Sally Wiant’s career helped make Washington and Lee Law something sturdier than its bricks and mortar, something more lasting than its blackboards and stacks. She made sure that those of us who worked or studied here—whatever our function—knew that we counted. To our strivings

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large and small, she offered time, counsel, and encouragement. As she retires, we thank her for being a builder of Lewis Hall's identity and ethos, a colleague in the law, a friend in life.

A Tribute to Sarah K. "Sally" Wiant, Our Own Renaissance Woman

Caroline L. Osborne*

A renaissance woman as defined by the Oxford English Dictionary is "one with many talents or interests, esp. in the arts and humanities."¹

When I think of Sally, the picture my mind depicts is that of a highly accomplished woman who excels at everything she does. She is a blur, perhaps a colorful blur, someone in constant motion—be it teaching, doing committee work, singing in the choir, walking the Chessie trail, babysitting Chatham, cooking a fabulous dinner, offering advice and support to students and colleagues, advising on note topics, and the list goes on ad infinitum. She is a woman of many talents possessing knowledge on a vast array of topics from copyright to admiralty to opera. She is intellectually curious. By anyone's definition, she is a renaissance woman.

Raised in the mountains of Colorado and with the death of her mother at an early age, Sally's initial education derived from her father, an executive with the Boy Scouts, and four brothers. Graduating from Western State College with the goal of becoming a medical librarian, she already had demonstrated her path to being accomplished in multiple areas. She graduated from college with a major in social studies, minors in American history and physical education, a certificate to teach high school, and one course shy of a major in biology. Her next step was a pursuit of a master's degree in library science at North Texas State University in Denton, Texas. Because Sally lacked the B.S. degree required

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1. *Renaissance Woman*, OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY, <http://OED.com> (last visited Feb. 8, 2017) (on file with the Washington and Lee Law Review).

for a medical librarian, her path took an unexpected turn and veered towards law libraries. At that point, her destiny was set. She began her career in law libraries as a catalog and circulation librarian at Texas Tech University. After six years at Texas Tech she accepted Dean Steinheimer's dual offer for the Assistant Law Librarian position at Washington and Lee and a place in the first co-ed law class. Sally's future was set. Not one to simply specialize in one area of law, she became an accomplished scholar in the areas of copyright, intellectual property, admiralty, and ultimately torts. The combination of law librarian and copyright scholar was a perfect match for our indefatigable renaissance woman as it opened up the world for exploration of fashion, pop culture, patents, movies, and minions. Weighing in on questions as diverse as "did a popular movie violate the rights of a popular local artist by using similar art in their movie without the permission of the artist" to questions regarding three-dimensional printing was a normal day for Sally.

Sally's work in the library was also varied and transformational. Her career at Washington and Lee began at Tucker Hall and often included an afternoon break and walk to the co-op for a "DDP" (for those not familiar with the abbreviation—a diet Dr. Pepper) with Linda Newell. For those who believe the rules permitting dogs in the building are new, they should have a conversation with Sally about the German Shepard who routinely took up residence under her desk while his owner was in class. The move from Tucker Hall showcased Sally's inner designer as she worked with Payton Neal and others in the design of the law library. Dean Roy Steinheimer gets credit for recognizing Sally's potential, first for hiring her and paving the way for her to receive her law degree and then moving her into the classroom (Sally will say she was 'Royed') and ultimately into the director's position. Sally's expertise was in constant demand as she operated an art gallery in the law school featuring local artists, supervised a law school textbook store, created Law Media and the recording of

classes, all in addition to running a mail service for students and faculty, and supervising the Judicial Externship program and the Burks Scholar program. In 1996, her exceptionalism was noted as she was honored by the Women Law Students Organization as Professor of the Year.

On a personal note, I consider myself to be privileged to have worked for and been mentored by Sally. I will always recall the first time I met Sally. I did my Masters of Library Science degree at Chapel Hill and had come to know Sally's dear friend and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill colleague Lolly Gasaway, so I was predisposed to meet the other half of the "wonder twins." Her reputation as a librarian preceded her. She was accomplished and respected by her peers, and she was the one I wanted to work for. She was also fun. In my first year at Washington and Lee, she was boss, mentor, and friend. She introduced me to people in the community, made certain I had soup when I was sick, and taught me more than I might have imagined about libraries and, perhaps, most importantly, how to embrace change with grace.

I am but one of many whose life has been positively impacted by this amazing woman. A woman who as a child learned to hold her own with four brothers and who arrived as a young single female at what was then an all-male school. To call her a trailblazer is to acknowledge that she literally knows how to blaze a trail through the woods but also to recognize the contribution she made to the women faculty and administrators at Washington and Lee. It was her inner renaissance woman that provided her with the innate ability to pave the way for women here at Washington and Lee.

Sally, your contributions are wide and numerous and fitting of that woman in constant motion, constantly learning, constantly evolving.



Tribute to Sally Wiant

Christopher B. Seaman*

One of the great privileges of my academic career has been the opportunity to serve as Sally Wiant's colleague for the past five years. I distinctly remember meeting Sally when I visited Washington and Lee for the first time as an entry-level prospective hire on a beautiful fall afternoon in November 2011. Her boundless enthusiasm for intellectual property law—and the Law School more generally—was immediately apparent. She was incredibly interested in what I thought about the latest IP-related Supreme Court case, what I was currently working on in my IP scholarship, and my reaction to the latest news story on an IP-related issue. As I came to learn, this was classic Sally—always curious about new ideas and developments in our shared field, and always genuinely interested in what others in the Law School community were doing, thinking, and feeling.

Sally's career here at Washington and Lee has been truly remarkable. Starting as an assistant law librarian, she was a student in the first Law School class that admitted women. Remaining at W&L after graduation, she became Director of the Law Library, then a tenured faculty member, and then a full Professor of Law. She has devoted thousands of hours of service to the University and Law School, both formally and informally, as well as the greater Lexington community, including her work at Kendal. And she has been a longstanding leader in the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), recently receiving the AALL's highest honor, the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award.

Anyone who knows Sally also knows how much her students adore her—and they have expressed their feelings in a tangible way. Her office is filled with gifts, memorabilia, and trinkets from generations of her small-section and intellectual property

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students. One of the most sought-after events at the annual student-run charity auction is a dinner that Sally co-organizes and cooks. Sally also has an amazing ability to establish a rapport with almost anyone she interacts with—whether it be a distinguished federal judge or a first-semester law student trying to wrap his or her head around Cardozo’s and Andrews’s opinions in *Palsgraf*.

I am particularly grateful for Sally’s open door policy, as I have taken frequent advantage of it. Sally has been incredibly generous in listening and dispensing sage advice to students and colleagues on all manner of issues. And there is always a well-stocked cup of chocolate miniatures on Sally’s desk to partake from, which puts everyone in a better mood than when they entered her office. In short, Sally is one of the people who has made Washington and Lee Law a truly special place.

Joan Shaughnessy*

Recently the Dean circulated an e-mail with the agenda for the law faculty’s upcoming retreat.¹ Item one on the agenda was a discussion of how best to maintain and strengthen our community. It was a discussion we needed to have because, with Sally’s retirement, we are losing our *genius loci*—the protective spirit of our place.² It will take all of us, working together, to take over from Sally the task of maintaining and strengthening our community.

Sally has been the protective spirit of Lewis Hall since it was first envisioned. She had a hand in designing this space and, over the decades, her responsibilities included oversight of the building. She worked tirelessly to keep Lewis Hall as pristine as the day it

* Roger D. Groot Professor of Law, Washington and Lee University School of Law.

1. E-mail from Brant Hellwig, Dean, Washington and Lee University School of Law, to Law Faculty Permanent (Nov. 29, 2016 5:17 pm EST) (on file with the author, in the vanishingly unlikely event that anyone would wish to see it).

2. *Genus loci*, WIKIPEDIA, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genius_loci (last visited May 3, 2017) (on file with the Washington and Lee Law Review). Not a citation that ordinarily belongs in a law review, as Sally would be the first to tell you, but perhaps allowable in a tribute.

opened, even as students, faculty, and staff heavily used it over the years. She worried about the plantings outside and the carpets inside; about the stubborn leaks in the ceilings and the dust in the stacks. She was certainly a guardian of our physical space. But more important, she has been the protective spirit of our community for as long as any of us can remember.

As I write, the law school home page has a picture of Sally in her office, engaged in intense discussion with a student under the heading “A close-knit community.” Pete Jetton, our Director of Communications, chose well. Sally is a community-knitter par excellence. Her community-building began when she was a part-time law student and full-time librarian. Because it took her six years to earn her J.D., she had classmates in many law classes, and she took every opportunity to see them when they visited Lexington or when her path crossed with theirs during her frequent travels.

Since she joined our faculty, she has mentored generations of students, coming to know their professional aspirations and their personal hopes. She worked closely with individual students as a writing section teacher, a supervisor of judicial interns and of Burks Scholars, and an advisor on countless student Notes. She made the library the welcoming center of student life on campus. She eagerly used her wide alumni network to seek out jobs for students and, in time, those students became new members of that network.

Genius loci are frequently represented as a figure holding a cornucopia.³ What an appropriate symbol for Sally! She and her late husband Bob Akins tirelessly wined and dined newly arrived faculty—visiting and permanent alike. Much of the work of maintaining and strengthening our community was done around the table at Colston Place. Sally did her utmost to make every faculty member feel welcome and to provide each one of them with the support they needed to succeed—visiting classes, reading

3. *Id.*

articles, and providing introductions to colleagues at other schools. She kept up that support even when faculty members moved on from Lewis Hall. It seems that every other e-mail from Sally is forwarding news of a former colleague.

All of us in the Washington and Lee community will miss the daily presence of our genius loci in Lewis Hall. We are fortunate that Sally remains in Lexington and continues to connect those of us here with the many who have moved on to other places, but who have left a little of their spirit here, under Sally's protection.



Joseph E. Ulrich*

I met Sally in 1972, when she was hired as an assistant librarian. She did not fit my expectations of a librarian—a controlling type primarily concerned with protecting his or her own domain. Sally, in contrast, exhibited a strong desire to be helpful, a good sense of humor, and a fun-loving nature. Forty-six years later, she has not changed, but my view of librarians has.

In addition to working, Sally went to school. Along the way she took several of my classes. Had she asked me to write a recommendation for her, I would have told any recruiter that if the firm wanted a completely reliable worker, a persuasive advocate, and a person with the ability to learn quickly, Sally fit that bill. It should be noted that Sally's skill as an advocate has benefited many student with law firm recruiters.

We moved into Lewis Hall in the fall of 1976. In the spring of 1978, we had to hire a librarian, an extremely important decision given the extensive expansion planned. There were three or four outside candidates, all veteran librarians from other law schools, as well as Sally, who would graduate at the end of the term. Sally was a friend, but as a good academic, I thought that friendship could not be decisive on such an important matter.

Fortunately, Roy Steinheimer was the Dean. Roy had a clear method for faculty hires. He vetted all candidates and if they met his criteria, he passed the hiring decision on to us. In his ten years

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as Dean, I had never heard him express an opinion in a faculty meeting about a candidate. On this occasion, however, he expressed a very firm opinion: “You cannot do better than choosing Sally Wiant.” Roy stressed that he had worked with Sally for six years, the last six months of which she had been in charge, and was highly impressed by her performance, especially her judgment on how the library should develop. History proved him right.

Roy showed how highly he regarded Sally in one other way. Because at the time most law librarians did not teach, they did not have faculty status. For this reason, Roy insisted that Sally receive a tenure-track appointment. At the time of decision, Sally had not yet graduated. Sally quickly became an excellent teacher. I have relied on her expertise in intellectual property on several occasions.

Sally’s library operated much like Sally: efficiently, helpfully, and courteously. Sally possesses a real talent for administration, one greatly appreciated by users. This is evidenced by her capacity to choose and retain an excellent staff.

That Sally was an excellent librarian and teacher was beneficial for W&L, but I think of her as a friend and colleague. Ever good humored, always helpful (a stern critic when necessary), an interesting conversationalist, and a person with a better sense of faculty politics than most makes up a short list of why our relationship was valuable to me.

•••••

Sally Wiant: Achiever of Firsts; Always A Friend First

Christopher Wolf*

Sally Wiant has amassed a collection of impressive “firsts” during her five decades at the law school. She was in the first class

* Of Counsel, Hogan Lovells US LLP, and Founding Chair, Future of Privacy Forum; Graduate of the 1980 Washington and Lee Law Class.

of women at the law school—a challenge at a tradition-bound school—made even more challenging by the fact she was working tirelessly as a library professional at the same time. She was the first woman to serve as Law Librarian in Lewis Hall, managing a new building, eventually managing the renovation of that building and the technological changes sweeping over the library profession. She was the first Law Librarian at W&L to accomplish the creation of archives for a Supreme Court Justice—the Lewis Powell Collection. She curated the expansion of the Law Library collection from 50,000 volumes when she arrived to 500,000 volumes when she handed over the reins to her successor.¹

Sally was one of the first women at the law school to serve as a law professor, helping W&L catch up with the times, and teaching an impressive amalgam of copyright, trademark, and admiralty law (and other courses) at the law school. She also was the law school's first representative to serve in extensive leadership positions at, and to be honored by, the American Association of Law Libraries, among other professional organizations. In addition, Sally has a bibliography of books, articles, and speeches confirming her status as a respected scholar.

As impressive as these “firsts” and her scholarship are, what truly has distinguished Sally Wiant is how much she has cared for the people in her life. Fellow faculty members and administrators have fond memories of Sally's warm hospitality, much of it with her beloved late husband Bob Akins at her side. Library staff knew Sally as a boss who was genuinely interested in their lives and who made time to be a caring friend. Students experienced her keen personal interest in their budding careers, with Sally making key connections with alums and others in the legal profession for them. Alums have been eager to keep Sally in their lives because of how much she cared about them long after they left the law school. And so many in Lexington and Rockbridge County have come to know Sally as an interested citizen and caring friend.

For me personally, Sally was one of the first people to greet me in Lewis Hall when I came to the law school in 1976. I am sure I looked lost, as I careened from the now-outmoded Lexis terminal

1. In the digital era, law libraries likely will not be measured by the number of physical books in the collection, so that milestone was not only a first but probably the last such measurement of library progress.

to the even more-outmoded decennial digests. Sally recognized my dazed look and offered a smile and guidance around the library. From that introduction, we became fast friends. Sally's invitations to dinner at the Orchard House on the grounds of the Munger property were a highlight of my time in Lexington and a welcome respite from studies. I loved reciprocating, with invitations for Sally to join me for dinner at Bean's Bottom (flood conditions permitting). Trading recipes became part of our routine, as did listening to the latest LPs and cassettes of Broadway musicals.

I couldn't wait to introduce Sally to my visiting family, including my gregarious father and my Class of 1972 Law alum brother, John, and his family. They connected with her just as I did, and Sally effectively became a member of my family, and has remained one ever since. Even as our respective visits to Lexington and Washington, D.C., get less frequent, Sally is a devoted correspondent, on the phone or in emails. I light up when I see 540-XXX-XXXX on my caller ID, indicating a call from Sally. She is faithful in inquiring about nieces, nephews, and other family members, and she warmly welcomed my husband Jim into her circle of friends.

Over the years, Sally has been the first to share news of the latest Broadway hit or to share recipes with me (continuing our law school habit), in addition to engaging in conversations about new technologies and related developments in the law. Sally was always on the lookout to give me opportunities to come back to Lexington to speak in one of her classes, knowing how much I valued my return trips. A professional highlight for me was the chance to conduct a program with Sally at an American Bar Association meeting in the mid-1990s, in which we introduced lawyers to the Internet as a tool for research.²

2. The timing of our presentation, pre-Google, made it seem mysterious and arcane to the attendees.

In 1920, Robert Frost wrote “A Time to Talk,” a short poem about the importance of focusing on friends even as work beckons.³ Although written decades before her birth, and even longer before her professional life, *A Time to Talk* captures Sally Wiant’s life philosophy perfectly. Sally knew that as demanding as work could be, friends were equally important. As she reaches a milestone in her professional life—her retirement from the law faculty—Sally should take enormous pride in achieving that rare balance of professional achievement and staying true to one’s friends. How lucky the law school, the profession, and her friends have been for having Sally Wiant in their lives. How lucky I am to call her a devoted friend.

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3. A Time to Talk by Robert Frost:
When a friend calls to me from the road
And slows his horse to a meaning walk,
I don’t stand still and look around
On all the hills I haven’t hoed,
And shout from where I am, ‘What is it?’
No, not as there is a time to talk.
I thrust my hoe in the mellow ground,
Blade-end up and five feet tall,
And plod: I go up to the stone wall
For a friendly visit.