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Dean's Remarks

*Peter M. Gerhart**

This twenty-fifth year of the *Journal of International Law* provides us with a wonderful opportunity to contemplate the ways in which institutions grow and prosper.

A new dean soon learns to be a farmer — to plant and nourish the seeds of new ideas and programs. At this law school the dean also learns to nourish the seeds planted by students, because at our law school the students have many ideas and much energy. So it was that twenty-five years ago a particularly promising seed was planted. Student leaders came to the dean with an idea for this journal. The dean nourished it with a little money, a lot of encouragement, and an admonition to set high standards. The idea was timely; indeed, it was ahead of its time. It built on the central educational mission of the law school. It not only fell on fertile soil, but it helped other seedlings to sprout and flourish. Thanks to the hard work of many people, it prospered.

The story of the *Journal of International Law* is not just the story of a new publication in an increasingly crowded field; it is the story of the transformation of a law school that was once strong, but local, into one with global ties and aspirations. Through this enterprise, the law school made the statement that it wanted to be part of the international intellectual community. This would not be an astounding statement today, but it was when made in 1967. The law school was then emerging from seven lean years, and had not a single full-time faculty member teaching international law. The boldness of the statement foreshadowed the blossoming of the law school. What followed it is the happy story of hard work and good fortune, expanding the global presence of the law school. In relatively quick succession, the school hired Professor Sidney Picker as the first full-time international law scholar; it launched the Canada/US Law Institute; it brought in Professor Henry King to teach private international law; and it created the Gund Foundation International Law Center. All of this grows from, and builds on, that initial seedling that sprouted twenty-five years ago.

The story of the *Journal of International Law* is also the story of a great deal of hard work by talented students over a quarter of a century. The hours of toil, the pleasure of taking pains, the disappointments and

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triumphs have turned into many thousands of pages of scholarly work. The sweat equity that students put into the *Journal* produced important contributions to our understanding of the global community. It also produced magnificent results for those students, who are now drawing on that equity as they enliven our profession and contribute value to their clients, enterprises, and communities.

All of us associated with the law school owe a great debt of gratitude to those who have contributed so much to the *Journal of International Law*. They have had a distinguished past, and they allow us to aspire to an even more ambitious and distinguished future.