Dean Makau W. Mutua
New leadership
Editor’s note

With this issue of the *Forum*, we are excited to introduce you to our new look featuring a re-designed cover and format. You will notice that this *Forum* is less than half the size of previous editions. In recent years, we published only once a year, and it grew significantly. We will now publish more frequently so that many of the articles will be more timely. We will also publish a special report to donors covering all of our development news, including our honor roll of donors.

We hope you enjoy reading about your Law School, and I know I can count on you to give me your honest feedback. I welcome it and appreciate it.

Ilene R. Fleischmann

*UB Law Forum* is mailed free to alumni, faculty, students and friends of the University at Buffalo Law School. Send your comments or suggestions to:

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As we welcome
Makau W. Mutua
as 18th dean of the
University at
Buffalo Law School,
we look back at his
distinguished predecessors.

Buffalo Law School
Deans
1887 — 2007
What are your goals as the 18th dean of UB Law School? An excellent public law school is defined by four important factors—a faculty with star scholars and great teachers; an academically strong student body; supportive alumni; and a committed tradition of philanthropic giving; and a vital relationship with the central university and the state. Luckily for me, UB Law has a long history and tradition in all these key areas, even though we have been buffeted by some challenges in the recent past. But my mission for UB Law is clear and straightforward. I will return the Law School to glory and put it among the top 50 law schools in the country by building on our strengths and addressing areas that require attention. I will recruit and hire faculty with star potential, raise the academic profile of our student body, and build stronger relationships with our alumni and the state. I will invest in building the Law School of the future in which technology, endowed chairs, faculty scholarships and cutting-edge education will be the centerpieces.

What role can our alumni play in helping to achieve these goals? No U.S. law school has ever achieved academic greatness without a critical mass of dedicated alumni who are generous, devoted and proud of their alma mater. In this respect, philanthropic commitments by the alumni are the difference between successful and lackluster law schools. With a shrinking base of state support for education, it behooves UB Law to create a bond of partnership with its alumni. Happily, we already have active alumni. But we will have to do more to increase participation and support if we are to become competitive with our peers and be counted among the top 50 law schools in America.

How can we reverse our recent decline in the national rankings? The first thing that I have done is to recognize that rankings matter to the alumni, prospective applicants, employers and the general public. Even though the matrix used to calibrate rankings is highly questionable, it would be foolish to pretend that they do not impact the Law School. As a law school, we operate in the marketplace with about 200 other competitors nationally. That is why I am working hard with our faculty, staff and alumni to raise our reputation by hiring more and better faculty, raising the academic profile of the students we admit, making sure that the vast majority of our graduates are placed soon after graduation, and letting the world know about the great and innovative things that are happening at UB Law. I am confident that we are doing all we can to arrest the decline and that we should see some improvement in our rankings soon. An example is the class that entered in September. It is one of the strongest we have ever admitted and is a very important step in the right direction.

How does philanthropy affect our rankings? Philanthropy is the critical factor in the development of academic excellence for a law school. Philanthropy gives the resources to invest in your academic programs and attract great faculty. It is the source of endowed chairs without which it is difficult to attract and retain faculty who are sought after. Currently, we have no chairs at UB Law. We have two endowed professorships, which is a good start. However, chairs attract faculty who will raise our reputation in the legal academy and among practitioners. Similarly, philanthropy will allow us to give more tuition scholarships to attract students with higher LSAT scores, a variable that is critical to rankings.

You have been critical of proposals to create three new law schools in New York State. What role can our alumni play in these efforts? The first is to recognize that rankings matter to our alumni and strengthen those ties. While there will be some cuts, I do not expect them to affect our ability to hire tenured faculty or to interfere with our core functions. We will use our resources wisely, save where we can, stretch our dollars and emerge stronger.

What have been your greatest challenges so far during your time as dean? The work itself is not really difficult, even though the volume of demands is high. I have a collegial and consultative style of governance which helps legitimize decisions and involve the entire Law School in the life of the community. I have an extremely able leadership team—Professor Rebecca French, the new director of the Externship Program; Professor Isabel Marcus, the director of the International Law Colloquium and the Human Rights Colloquium; and Professor Errol Meidinger, the vice dean for academics; James Newton, the associate dean for administration; Professor James Gardner, the vice dean for external relations, IT, career services, and opportunity for us to reach out to our alumni and strengthen those ties. But it is also a wake-up call for me, as I was elected dean by the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Law. It is an important part of my psyche, and I treasure UB Law, which has been my intellectual home for a decade. That is why I eventually took on this responsibility.

How is the state’s budget crisis affecting the Law School? Clearly, the budget crisis is a drawback for UB Law, and comes at a time when we are faced with other challenges. But it is also a wake-up call and opportunity for us to reach out to our alumni and strengthen those ties. While there will be some cuts, I do not expect them to affect our ability to hire tenured faculty or to interfere with our core functions. We will use our resources wisely, save where we can, stretch our dollars and emerge stronger.

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UB LAW FORUM • FALL 2008

The Magazine of the University at Buffalo Law School
The State University of New York
U.S. tax court judge argues for more regulation

In an appearance sponsored by the libertarian-leaning Federalist Society and UB Law’s Moot Court Board, a U.S. Tax Court judge played the contrarian, arguing in favor of more government regulation—just not in the tax arena.

“Why Tax Regulation Is Good” was the straightforward title of Hon. Mark V. Holmes’ address, and Holmes acknowledged he was making a challenging argument. “Usually for those of us on the right, especially for those of us on a libertarian persuasion, praising regulation seems perverse,” he said.

And he recognized widespread suspicions that the complexity of tax law amounts to a full-employment act for tax attorneys. But, he said, many who specialize in tax matters are no fans of the proliferation of tax law. Instead, it is regulations—issued by taxing entities like the Internal Revenue Service rather than by legislative bodies—that tax lawyers prefer.

“Judges have to use some tools to clarify the tax law’s ambiguity and apply it to the case at hand,” Holmes said. “In tax law in particular, the number of regulations that meet the precision test of a good law is likely to be very large. Precision is a criterion for good law, and it also helps to explain why regulation might be good, even better than case law.”

What are campaigns for?

The common complaint, Professor James A. Gardner said, is that presidential campaigns are not thoughtfully enough, not rational enough, too thin, too superficial, and driven by personality and image rather than substance.

“But the question we like to ask in the Law School is, compared to what?” he said.

That comparative critique of campaign styles across the centuries of the American experiment was the basis for a lecture by Gardner to nearly 200 people in the free UB this Summer lecture series. It was called “What Are Campaigns For?” and was based on Gardner’s upcoming book of that title.

Sure, he said, modern voters grumble about the quality of campaigns. But a look back shows that each era of American electoral history has had its failings, some of them unthinkably by today’s standards: everything from presidential campaigns for tax attorneys. But, he said, many who specialize in tax matters are no fans of the proliferation of tax law. Instead, it is regulations—issued by taxing entities like the Internal Revenue Service rather than by legislative bodies—that tax lawyers prefer.

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Gardner said dissatisfaction with campaigns comes as campaigns fall short of reasoned persuasion and understanding, and voters fail to inform themselves about the issues. Part of the problem, he said, are the laws regulating ballot access and public campaign financing.

“So what are campaigns for?”

Mostly, Gardner said, campaigns are not about winning votes over to a candidate’s side. Instead, “they are about making sure that people vote the inclination that they brought into the campaign. Campaigns orient voters to select the candidate they should prefer. That does not mean that people are not making up their minds, they are just making them up outside of the campaign.”

Therefore, he concluded, “we need to worry about something else, and that is how people form their political opinions outside the campaigns. It seems to me that we need to worry much more about inequality of access to the tools of communication and the concentration of mass media ownership.”

“Traditionally, they have been the same and they have been the same,” he said. “But there is a great deal of difference in what we can access and how we access it.”
Legal fiction

Every so often, Paul Goldstein says, people will approach him at a conference and say, “I read your book, and I loved it.”

He knows, he says with a laugh, that they are not talking about his four-volume treatise on U.S. copyright law. More likely those readers passed a pleasant weekend with Errors and Omissions or, now, A Patent Lie (Doubleday), his second novel in the legal thriller genre.

A new novel, a courtroom drama built around Goldstein’s continuing hero, Buffalo lawyer Michael Seeley, and his quest to find the truth amid the shifting allegiances of an intellectual property lawsuit. Seeley goes to San Francisco to argue on behalf of his estranged brother’s biotech company, which is defending its patent on a gang, and at age 33 was briefly put under house arrest after falling in with a gang, and at age 33 was briefly locked in the courtroom basement after stabbing his father with scissors. The climax of the story explores the issue of law versus justice, when the sheriff decides not to prosecute Boo for killing a man who was threatening to hurt the children.

Professor Stephanie Phillips spoke of the social and political context in which the novel was released. It was published in 1960, she noted, “at the height of the civil rights movement, and before Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act. It reminded the nation of some of the issues that were on the table right then.”

SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Elizabeth Mensch went deeper into the character of Atticus Finch, saying that he is “part of a declining Southern gentry culture” who derives his authority from that position of privilege.

“Never has copyright and intellectual law been so thrilling and so dangerous,” the book’s publicity enthuses.

“The first article I published took me a year to write, and I probably threw away three-quarters of it. It took me a while to figure out how to work efficiently.”

New York’s clean team

An environmental advocate fighting the good fight with the New York State attorney general’s office brought some war stories and some words of inspiration to a UB Law School class on public-service environmentalism.

Katherine “Kit” Kennedy is special deputy attorney general for environmental protection, and chief of the state’s Environmental Protection Bureau.

Kennedy detailed the work of that office. “It is an incredibly fascinating and challenging job,” she said. “The bureau has a broad range of responsibilities and duties that touch on every area of environmental law,” including enforcing state and federal environmental laws, and defending the DEC and other agencies when they are the targets of lawsuits brought on environmental grounds.

The work, she said, runs the gamut from very complex nationwide cases—such as a recent challenge by New York and other states that struck down the federal Environmental Protection Agency’s toothless regulations on mercury emissions by coal-fired power plants—to small, local law enforcement actions.

Because of the ruling in the EPA case, Kennedy said, the federation will need to rethink its system for limiting mercury emissions by power plants. “This is a significant case in Buffalo and Western New York,” she said, “as well as in other parts of the country, because mercury affects the Great Lakes.”

Other recent efforts by the Environmental Protection Bureau include lawsuits to slow global warming, clean up contaminated urban sites, improve water quality in the Iroquois River, Hudson River and Seneca Lake, stretch, and prevent invasive species from gaining a foothold in the Great Lakes.

C o n t i n u e d...
The power of apology

A new book by Nick Smith ‘97, I Was Wrong (Cambridge University Press), explores the nature of apologies and the power of a simple statement of wrongdoing. From the apologies of politicians when they mispeak or make a mistake, to collective national apologies for past offenses, to issues as intriguing as “Should I apologize to my dog for forgetting to fill his water bowl?”, the book examines the theory and practice of this most human custom.

He got into the subject, Smith says, while considering the commodification of law – how harms ranging from racial discrimination to wrongful death are measured in dollar signs. Surprisingly, he found, expressions of contrition, regardless of their sincerity, can dramatically decrease the likelihood of costly litigation. "Legal actors do in fact care about their public image, which is why apologies are everywhere. Just about every politician when they misspeak or misbehave, to national collective apologies for past offenses, to issues as intriguing as 'Should I apologize to my dog for forgetting to fill his water bowl?', the book examines the theory and practice of this most human custom."

He got into the subject, Smith says, while considering the commodification of law – how harms ranging from racial discrimination to wrongful death are measured in dollar signs. Surprisingly, he found, expressions of contrition, regardless of their sincerity, can dramatically decrease the likelihood of costly litigation. As he worked on the subject, says Smith, who now teaches philosophy at the University of New Hampshire, he came to realize that "apologies are everywhere. Just about every day I was working on the book, someone appeared in headline news apologizing for something."

"Asking a few simple questions can take us to the heart of the meaning of an apology: Did the offender explain what she did with an ap-"prise the principles she violated? Does she promise not to do it again and to redress the problem she caused? These questions tend to lead to further questions about the meanings of any given apology, but they are a good starting point." So does he really apologize to his dog sometimes? "I do," Smith says, "in part because I think my dog is an important member of my moral community. Likewise, some Native Americans give thanks to killed prey by blowing tobacco smoke into its nostrils, or ask forgiveness from a tree for harvesting its bark. Because such a worldview considers a broad scope of beings within its moral horizons, it extends opportunities for gratitude and contrition beyond most other traditions that strictly delimit the class of moral interlocutors deserving of apologies."

Good for the neighborhood

Four Western New York nonprofits scrambled for a major grant from Buffalo’s 21st Century Fund, but only one – the Massachusetts Avenue Project for the past 10 years," said clinical instructor Lauren Breen. "This new center is a very exciting model to build small businesses and, in the process, physically revitalize the West Side."

The U.S. federal system is a mature system and a good source for the young compared to the young Spanish constitutional system as we try to learn, and improve it."

The result is a planned joint project between both constitutional systems but searching for a universal and international application. I am very excited to be in a position to work with someone like Professor Gardner. Even in his personal heritage, Abad exemplifies the cross-cultural nature of his legal academic work. "I define myself as a Mediterranean," he says. "I am a Catalan who was born in Valencia and grew up in Mallorca. My first surname is a Catalan name with Persian, Jewish and Arab origins – like my country, a mixture of ancestral cultures."

"The U.S. federal system is a mature system and a good source for the young Spanish constitutional system as we try to learn, and improve it."
Marianne Mariano ’94 heads federal public defender’s office

Marianne Mariano ’94 has committed herself to a career in public service, most of it with the Office of the Federal Public Defender in the Western District of New York. Now she has been appointed to head that office and its staff of 25, including 11 attorneys.

The office, which covers both Buffalo and Rochester, represents people who have been accused of federal crimes and cannot afford to hire an attorney. That means a lot of cases — about 1,000 new clients each year, a number bolstered by Western New York’s proximity to the Canadian border.

Mariano, who has been an assistant public defender since 1995, said the caseload is heavy with drug cases, both local trafficking cases and cross-border smuggling, as well as other border-related cases such as alien smuggling and false documentation.

“We will represent a client from Day One,” she says, from an initial bail or detention hearing, through hearings on evidentiary issues, and on to trial and appeal if necessary. The office also includes a manager who coordinates the work of private attorneys appointed to represent federal defendants under the Criminal Justice Act, a collaboration that Mariano hopes to strengthen.

“This office enjoys an outstanding reputation for its representation of its clients,” Mariano says. “I feel so fortunate and honored to have been given this opportunity, especially so soon in my career.” She succeeds Joseph B. Mistrett ’71, who has retired.

A native of Niagara Falls whose father, John E. Mariano ’60, was a Niagara Falls City Court judge, she clerked for U.S. Magistrate Judge Carol E. Heckman after graduating from the Law School. “I went to law school knowing I wanted to go into public service,” she said.

She joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender at a time when it was doubling its staff to four attorneys; “I was at the right place at the right time,” she says. Her career ever since has been for the defense – a commitment so all-encompassing that she even named her dog, a Wheaton terrier, Atticus Finch, after the heroic defense lawyer in To Kill a Mockingbird.

“The attorneys in our office feel privileged to serve the community by representing those least able to help themselves when faced with such serious charges,” Mariano says. “It is that commitment that make us successful.”

As an assistant public defender, she has served on the Federal Sentencing Guidelines Working Group and the Federal Defender’s National Sentencing Guideline Committee, an advisory group to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

One of the challenges of running the Western District office is managing attorneys and staff in two cities. She generally makes the 90-minute drive to Rochester once a week, and an instant messaging system keeps staffers in constant touch with each other. She will maintain her own roster of cases. The office also is charged with providing two Continuing Legal Education seminars each year for the defense bar.

At UB Law School, where she graduated cum laude, Mariano served on the Moot Court Board, and honed her litigation skills in national and local moot court competitions. “That experience helped a lot,” she said. “Moot court, coupled with my one-year clerkship, taught me that everything I learned in Law School could translate into any area of the law.” She also cites the Trial Techniques program as a formative experience.

In the federal Second Circuit Court of Appeals, Mariano is the first woman to head a public defender’s office.
A TEACHER’S TEACHER

PROFESSOR ELIZABETH “BETTY” MENSCH, who has taught at UB Law School since 1985, retired at the close of the 2007-08 academic year. An acclaimed teacher – she was named a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor in 1994 – Mensch is a UB Law alumna as well; she graduated with the Class of 1978 before going on to Harvard to earn the master of laws degree.

In her Law School tenure, Mensch has taught in the areas of torts, contracts, legal history and church/state relations, among others. Her publications include the 1993 book The Politics of Virtue: Is Abortion Debatable?, written with her husband and fellow UB Law professor, Alan Freeman, who passed away in 1995.

The seventh floor of O’Brien Hall was undergoing renovation, and Mensch’s office was stripped almost to the bones, when UB Law Forum caught up with her to ask her to look back – and forward as well.

Why retirement? Why now? As the saying goes, the decision was overdetermined. I now have four grandchildren and want to move closer to them so that I can be a real grandmother, not just someone who hurriedly breezes in for visits from time to time. Moreover, I want more time for volunteer work. Initially I came to law school for the sake of gaining some extra skills related to my teaching work with secondary school students who were becoming lost and neglected within the whole educational, social and legal system. I have never forgotten my concern for such kids – it haunts me – yet I have given it far too little of my time. Finally, of course, inescapably, there is age. I am almost 66 and want to retire before I start to lose the energy and enthusiasm for big classes. I enjoyed last year’s classes immensely; yet it is good for the school to have the fresh approach and perspective that newer faculty can bring to students. In recent years we have hired some terrific new colleagues; they are adding immeasurably to the vitality of the school.

Continued on page 16
You are known for the quality of your teaching. Have you developed a philosophy of teaching? Do you think about method, or does it just come out of who you are?

I think of method not at all, although to say so might be an admission of irresponsibility. My focus has always been on content—on helping students to uncover and grasp the basic structure and tenets within various doctrinal areas, and on helping them to use their knowledge and to fashion arguments to understand cases.

I also firmly believe that students learn different things from different teachers. Our school has many strong scholars and teachers from whom students can learn a variety of different skills and perspectives. Therefore, I have always accepted my own limitations.

I am not good at grilling students, for example, and I do not try, even though I think a little grilling can add a valuable edge to the class. And I would waste everyone’s time if I tried to fumble with the mechanics of visual aids or computer technologies, yet I know many teachers use them very effectively. So my “method” has probably just been a function of my own areas of inexperience. I have always, however, tried to draw pictures on the blackboard; students have been patient in putting up with my lack of artistic ability.

Students have said that they will, in the first 10 minutes of a lecture, teach a higher level and talk to the brighter students in the room. Do you do this consciously?

No, I do not think of students in terms of more or less bright. Some are just more interested and engaged than others. But I do like to keep pointing out that questions which at one level can seem very technical (measures of damages in contract law, for example) can at another level actually embody very complex questions about the meaning of ethical responsibility. Sometimes very small questions can also be very large questions, and are best understood within that broader framework.

And I do want students to keep encountering the fact that there are often no easy answers to those broader questions. That recognition leads to greater flexibility and sophistication in fashioning legal arguments. It is also a lesson about ethical responsibility: acting responsibly sometimes means choosing between conflicting ethical claims in situations where the right answer is not always obvious, or clearly decided by rules.

You have written in a great number of areas: animal rights, abortion, a lot of history, advertising, even a piece about Dr. Seuss. Would you call yourself a generalist?

Maybe that is a generous word to describe a pretty whimsical approach to scholarship. I have produced no systematic body of work; although I have written a fair amount about various moments in the long history of thought’s simultaneous influence and challenge in relation to legal thought, there has been a fully sustained development.

How have you chosen the topics you have written about?

I have followed my nose, and often the proddings of others. For example, my late husband and I wrote a book about abortion even though we had no plan to do so. We had taught a seminar on animals and then had given a few little talks on the subject, and written a couple of short articles. Our interest was in the pesky status of animals at the border of conventional ethical and legal thought. Norms for the treatment of humans did not seem wholly relevant to animals, yet the treatment of animals did seem, for most cultures and religious traditions, at least to raise a moral question. Then people kept asking whether abortion did not raise a similar “border” question. We had to admit to ourselves that it did. So, somewhat reluctantly, we switched focus.

Can you talk a little more about the work that you and your husband did together?

We did a lot together, often just to have fun with topics. For example, we wrote some essays for Irish Prose. Of course I have missed him a lot. When I was a new teacher, students seemed less worried about career opportunities and therefore more willing simply to enjoy the luxury of being in school. More were eager to believe that legal reform could usher in sweeping progressive social transformations.

Now students seem, in a sense, more realistic. They like to see a relationship between their Law School experience and the skills they will need for practice. They are also more skeptical about broad transformational goals and more interested in the specifics of concrete problem-solving; and they are more open to seeing dilemmas rather than easy answers. I do not see those changes as at all negative so long as students retain their enthusiasm and continue to enjoy the challenge of learning to do serious legal analysis.

A TEACHER’S TEACHER

I came back to this school because I think it is a really special law school.

You are an alumna of the Law School. How did you make the transition from being a UB Law student to being a UB Law professor?

Much to my surprise at the time, there was still an intellectual challenge as much as I enjoyed the luxury of being in school. I did not worry about career opportunities; for example, my late husband and I wrote a book about abortion even though we had no plan to do so. We had taught a seminar on animals and then had given a few little talks on the subject, and written a couple of short articles. Our interest was in the pesky status of animals at the border of conventional ethical and legal thought. Norms for the treatment of humans did not seem wholly relevant to animals, yet the treatment of animals did seem, for most cultures and religious traditions, at least to raise a moral question. Then people kept asking whether abortion did not raise a similar “border” question. We had to admit to ourselves that it did. So, somewhat reluctantly, we switched focus.

Can you talk a little more about the work that you and your husband did together?

We did a lot together, often just to have fun with topics. For example, we wrote some essays for Irish Prose. Of course I have missed him a lot. When I was a new teacher, students seemed less worried about career opportunities and therefore more willing simply to enjoy the luxury of being in school. More were eager to believe that legal reform could usher in sweeping progressive social transformations.

Now students seem, in a sense, more realistic. They like to see a relationship between their Law School experience and the skills they will need for practice. They are also more skeptical about broad transformational goals and more interested in the specifics of concrete problem-solving; and they are more open to seeing dilemmas rather than easy answers. I do not see those changes as at all negative so long as students retain their enthusiasm and continue to enjoy the challenge of learning to do serious legal analysis.

You are an alumna of the Law School. How did you make the transition from being a UB Law student to being a UB Law professor?

Much to my surprise at the time, I found studying law at UB great fun. Never had I enjoyed an intellectual challenge as much as I enjoyed law school. Professor here, who were extraordinarily generous with their time and encouragement, nudged me to pursue an academic path. At the time, there was still something of a presumption against ever returning to one’s home school as a professor. After some further study and some experience and job offers elsewhere, however, I was asked to return and was delighted to do so. By then I was convinced that the quality of the intellectual life at UB was unsurpassed anywhere; so too was the quality of the challenging but supportive environment UB provided for students.

You have seen a couple of decades of students go by; Have you noticed broad changes in the students you teach?

I have never found it difficult to like students. They have always amazed me with the rich variety of their experiences, the depth of their seriousness of their goals. That reality has stayed so constant that changes seem superficial. Yet it is probably fair to say that changes seem superficial.

What have we forgotten to ask? I came back to this school because I think it is a really special law school. It has had a really great past in certain special ways, like the emphasis on interdisciplinary research. Some of those perspectives have been picked up by other schools, and so what used to be very distinctive about UB has become kind of ordinary.

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What have we forgotten to ask? I came back to this school because I think it is a really special law school. It has had a really great past in certain special ways, like the emphasis on interdisciplinary research. Some of those perspectives have been picked up by other schools, and so what used to be very distinctive about UB has become kind of ordinary.
Cindy Cooper ’03, she does what she does for the love of a city. The City of Buffalo, that is — so different from California, where she grew up, but a place she has treasured ever since she came to the University at Buffalo to pursue a law degree and a doctorate in sociology. She lives with her husband — Mark Lukasiewicz ’95, a civil law attorney — in a beautiful Victorian fixer-upper on Richmond Avenue, in the shady shadow of Kleinhan’s Music Hall. And she works for the city’s Law Department as an assistant corporation counsel under Corporation Counsel Alias A. Baldey. Cooper came to Buffalo to do graduate work in sociology, the recipient of a Gilbert Moore Fellowship from the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, as an academic exercise, fully expecting that she would end up teaching sociology on the university level. "I was not thinking about practicing law at all," she says. "I went to Law School to research the law and understand the law, so I could be a better sociologist."

"I took a lot of seminars," she recalls, "I liked the smaller environment, and I enjoyed writing papers. It was more like graduate school classes. I remember a great class on Law and Religion taught by Betty Mensch. There was a lot of heated debate in that class." But in the end, she realized she was not ready to devote herself to academia. "I wanted to be engaged in the world," she says, "I wanted to get out and get in touch with more of the real world and become more actively engaged with what people were struggling with and working on." I was living in the city and driving to Amherst every day to study the city. I finally realized that did not make sense."

She took the bar exam more than a year after her Law School commencement. Now she sees the nitty-gritty of the housing market up close, sometimes driving with a city building inspector into some of Buffalo’s roughest neighborhoods to see for herself the condition of the roof or the masonry. Her own experience in rescuing her home, encumbered by an IRS tax lien before she bought it, has given her empathy for those who struggle to repair their older homes.

"I feel strongly about fixing up houses in the city and doing the best with what you have," Cooper says. "It is a lot of work, but it has to be a labor of love. I have an old house — I know what it is like."

"You cannot just leave abandoned property lying around," Cooper says. "I do not want the city getting stuck with it. So there is a triangle among the homeowner, the bank, and the city, and we are trying to achieve a common goal to get someone to do something with the home other than the city. It is a matter of the city not assuming liability. These big companies have large portfolios, and risk is part of their business. On a micro level, there are going to be losses. When a company passes on that loss to someone else — in my personal opinion, I see that as corporate welfare."

Cooper, in her work in Nowak’s Housing Court. She then worked for two years on a grant-funded project to reconfigure the court, helping to make it more of a problem-solving institution with the goal of helping stakeholders find the resources necessary to rescue houses at risk. Her dissertation in UB’s Sociology Department dealt with the role of banks in residential abandonment and why they should be held accountable for property-code violations. She went to Law School, Cooper says, as an academic exercise, fully expecting that she would end up teaching sociology on the university level. "I was not thinking about practicing law at all," she says. "I went to Law School to research the law and understand the law, so I could be a better sociologist."

In Housing Court, Cooper insists that lenders keep the homes in good condition until a buyer can be found, donate them to community groups, or pay for demolition. When lenders ignore summons for code violations, the city can enter a default judgment and seize the property, which can then be sold. "When lenders keep the homes in good condition, they are taking responsibility for those who struggle to repair their homes."

Cooper grew up in a small New York town, ahead of the housing market downturn, but she has seen what it is like. "You cannot just leave abandoned property lying around," Cooper says. "I do not want the city getting stuck with it. So there is a triangle among the homeowner, the bank, and the city, and we are trying to achieve a common goal to get someone to do something with the home other than the city. It is a matter of the city not assuming liability. These big companies have large portfolios, and risk is part of their business. On a micro level, there are going to be losses. When a company passes on that loss to someone else — in my personal opinion, I see that as corporate welfare."

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Bright path ahead.

UB Law graduates chosen for prestigious Presidential Management Fellowships

In good company
Top five universities in Presidential Management Fellowships for law students, 2008

- Harvard University
- Georgetown University
- University of Maryland
- College of William & Mary
- University at Buffalo

A federal program to attract the best and brightest to government service has chosen its 2008 group of Presidential Management Fellows—and six are new UB Law graduates.

Only four schools nationwide had more law students win the prestigious fellowships. Lisa M. Patterson, associate dean for career services, said the achievement reflects students’ broader awareness of the program’s extraordinary opportunities. From a single Presidential Management Fellow in 2006, the ranks grew to four in 2007, and to six in the current class.

“This is a great opportunity, but not everyone is keyed into it,” Patterson says. “One of the drawbacks has always been that the PMF program is not geared toward lawyers specifically. The Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other agencies have their own programs for law graduates. And especially with our concentrations here, lot of times students will have an idea of the government agency they want to work for. But this program is a very good foot in the door to the federal system.”

Because the program is open to students in all disciplines—not just lawyers—Patterson says the work is less specifically oriented to legal practice. “You might come in as a policy analyst or some other title,” she says, “but just because you are not called an attorney does not mean you are not doing legal work.”

Of the six, five—Harold Babcock-Ellis, Daniel Christiansen, Emily Conley, Glenn Howard and Brian McCarthy—have chosen to accept the fellowship and enter government service.

BRIAN MCCARTHY says his posting to the Office of Clinical Affairs, part of the Department of Veterans Affairs, is a perfect fit for his dual degree in law and public health. He will analyze the health care that the VA provides and advocate for public policy that enables better care.

“I am very excited about it,” McCarthy says. “I like to deal with policy as it is implemented, to create a continuum of care within the veterans system. My office is the national office that oversees everything.”

The position calls on many of the skills he learned in earning his dual degree. “Public health is an interdisciplinary degree that gives you a background in biostatistics, epidemiology, health-care policy and health-care financing,” he says. “It gives you the global picture of the various factors that go into crafting an equitable and appropriate health-care policy.”

In her Presidential Management Fellowship, EMILY CONLEY will be entrusted with responsibility rarely given to freshly minted lawyers: As part of the Asylum and Refugee Division of the Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services, she will serve as an adjudicator, hearing up to four asylum cases daily, and writing decisions on those petitions.

“I was interested in working for the government when I graduated,” Conley says. “I knew I did not want to work for a law firm and do anything too traditional. This was just a really good way to get into government work.”

“And I wanted to do something that would let me travel internationally. I was not really interested in litigation or anything formal. I wanted to be more on the policy end of it. This program seems like a good investment in the long run in myself and my career.”

She will undergo rigorous training before she starts hearing cases. Even so, she recognizes that she will hold in her hands the fate of would-be immigrants to the United States, and she knows that emotions will run high.

“My suspicion is that at first it is going to be hard to say no,” Conley says. “There will always be things that hurt your heart and things that you wish you could make work. But through my Law School training, I know that everybody does not have a legal claim.

“I have always been interested in policy and politics in general; I was a political science major as an undergraduate. And I have just finished the New York City program in finance, so that was really valuable experience.”

For HAROLD BABCOCK-ELLIS, the fellowship will lead him to the Space and Missile Systems Center, a division of the Air Force. There he will negotiate construction contracts for equipment like satellites.

“The federal government, with rare exceptions, does not hire students right out of law school,” Babcock-Ellis says. “I will not actually be a practicing attorney for this, but it is a two-year program, and I can stay on there or transfer to an attorney position in the federal government.

“I consider this public service. I definitely want to give something back.”

Among the recipients of Presidential Management Fellowships: Daniel J. Christiansen ’08, Emily G. Conley ’08 and Harold T. Babcock-Ellis ’08.
New York State should take advantage of a golden opportunity to become a leader in developing clean, renewable offshore wind power, an alternative energy source that could trigger an economic renaissance and a greener image for the Western New York community, according to a report by a University at Buffalo Law School clinic.

The report, prepared by the school’s Environment and Development Clinic, proposes a strategy that would capitalize on what its co-authors call “enormous” potential to harness offshore wind power.

“New York’s Great Lakes offer the potential for clean, renewable energy, as well as an opportunity to develop a new industry for the 21st century.”
— Robert S. Berger, UB Law School professor

Continued on page 24
The report outlines a blueprint for developing clean, renewable wind power from turbines located in Lakes Erie and Ontario in a prudent, efficient way that would benefit the public and individual communities. The strategy would create a demand for wind-power energy, as well as large-scale manufacturing of wind power turbines and components in Western New York.

“New York’s Great Lakes offer the potential for clean, renewable energy, as well as an opportunity to develop a new industry for the 21st century,” says Robert S. Berger, UB Law School professor and director of the clinic. “Western New York’s proximity to the Great Lakes,” the report states, “provides an opportunity to again become the leader in the generation of clean, renewable energy as an engine for regional economic development and to leverage the region’s technological and manufacturing infrastructure to further an economic renaissance centered on alternative energy and a reputation as a clean, livable community.”

Berger said the opportunity and interest to build wind turbines in Lakes Erie and Ontario already exist, and stressed others will take advantage of that opportunity whether New York develops a coordinated plan or not. But his report suggests a comprehensive strategy in which New York can systematically determine how and where to put wind turbines in Lakes Erie and Ontario for the greater good of the community and its residents.

“Rather than have the uncoordinated process where private developers just try to place them in whatever way they decide,” Berger says, “we’re advocating a coordinated, comprehensive process that will allow all interested groups—citizens, environmental groups, fishermen—to come together to develop the best environmental and civic plan.”

The report does not recommend how many or where the wind turbines should be built. Instead it points out the vast energy potential of an industry just beginning to have an impact on the state’s energy needs. Berger and UB clinic student Dwight Kamyack, co-authors of the report, said a similar number of new turbines anchored in the water could produce several times the power generated by the eight turbines now operating at the Steel Winds farm located on the former site of Bethlehem Steel in Lackawanna. The eight turbines of Steel Winds are rated at 20 megawatts of power – 2½ megawatts each – which supply annual power for about 9,900 homes, according to the UB Law team. If more turbines are built, the capacity to produce power increases proportionally. Even if only 10 percent of the wind power potential for Lakes Erie and Ontario was used, about 8,200 megawatts of electricity could be harnessed for private and commercial use, according to Kamyack.

That’s more than 400 times the capacity of the eight turbines operating at Steel Winds, enough power to meet the annual needs of about 360,000 homes, using the existing scale of demand.

Eighty-two hundred megawatts would be equivalent to adding the renewable energy capacity of more than three power plants the size of the Robert Moses Niagara Hydro-Electric Plant, according to the report.

“This level of development would significantly offset the greenhouse gas, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury emissions associated with coal power generation and provide a stably priced supply of energy for years to come,” the report states.

But it is unequivocal in its urgency to look at the energy and economic opportunities as soon as possible. The report also recommends that New York State Energy and Research Development Authority and New York State Power Authority—the groups that should implement the policies. The report also recommends the Wind Action Group, a local wind power organization that asked UB to prepare the report, should act as an educator and advocate to move this plan forward.

“We are excited about the idea of fostering a community-based discussion of how we as a region and state can make the most of this natural resource,” says Robert Knyser, chairman of the Wind Action Group, “all in harmony with all of our other goals as a state and region.”

There currently are no offshore wind facilities operating in the United States. Offshore projects are generating about 1,000 megawatts of power in Europe, according to the UB team. The UB report also urges the state to pursue financial incentives and power purchase agreements to encourage the appropriate development of the state’s Great Lakes wind power. “We are suggesting that there actually be a requirement for local content that the state puts in its purchase agreement that would then jump-start a wind turbine manufacturing plant with the associated component parts,” Berger says.

Creating a Public Plan for New York’s Great Lakes Offshore Wind Power

A Strategy for Energy and Economic Development

The report stops short of specific recommendations on how many or where the turbines should be built. And it stresses the environmental implications, including migratory bird paths, recreation and fishing, of building these wind turbines in the water. The need for a full discussion of these issues is particularly important because wind turbines would be placed in bodies of fresh water that are sources of drinking water for millions of people, “the report states.

The report also stresses the economic development opportunities for communities that embrace offshore wind power. Quebec, for example, expects to attract more than $4 billion in investment and generate 1,500 full-time jobs, with significant expansion possible, according to the authors.

A Strategy for Energy and Economic Development

Executive Summary

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ERESA MILLER, a professor in the University at Buffalo Law School specializing in criminal punishment, knows all too well the stereotypes of law students visiting prisons. People naturally assume the students are the unselfish ones, and the inmates – who have little to lose and time to waste – get all of the benefits.

Encountering Attica, a documentary film that chronicles a year of meetings between a group of first-year UB law students and inmates from the Attica Correctional Facility, stands that stereotype on its head.

The students are the ones with the most to gain, Miller says. They’re seeing how the effects of the laws they’re studying in class play out in the lives of real people with real stories. In this case, the men are serving long sentences, many of them for murder. Legal studies for these students become flesh and blood.

And the inmates, who most people assume would welcome the chance to occupy their ample time explaining their plight to eager young law students, are the ones willing to help, at their own peril.

“One of the things we’re trying to do in this documentary is to show that the law students are learning a great deal from the encounter, and for the inmates, it is risky for them to participate,” says Miller. “Other inmates hear they are participating in something like this, and they assume they are doing something with the administration, assume they are snitches or moles, and that is a dangerous label to carry in prison.”

And word travels fast in the highly routinized world of Attica, Miller says. If one inmate wants to send a harsh or violent message to another for something like participating in a prison documentary, the attacker often can get to his victim.

“Easily,” says Miller. “It turns out the inmates are not the lucky ones.”

That’s the dramatic setting of Encountering Attica, which shows how inmates convicted of the same crime often are treated differently and receive different sentences. The documentary is part of the ongoing effort of the law school’s Projecting Law Project to demonstrate...
One of the reasons it is so important to do this project and study what is going on in prison is because prisons have an increasingly profound effect on every layer of society as we rely more heavily on them; we put so many people away.

“...when people come out after having lived 15 or 20 or 30 years behind bars, or just having a whole population of young men that do short terms, but keep cycling in and out of jail, those institutions are forming the society we will have in the near future, the world my kids are going to grow up in.”

Tim Gera, a UB graduate student in media studies and the videographer for the project, notes: “The only time we think of inmates in a positive light is in the movies when it’s Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. The big surprise is to go in there and connect with them so easily. There was not as much difference between us and them as you would have believed.”

How new media can be used to study legal issues.

“It is easy to make a judgment when you are reading about a case in a textbook or a news story,” says Siana McLean, a first-year law student from Toronto and one of three UB Law students actually going behind the bars into Attica. “When you actually hear a person telling his story, it can change your perspective.

“This is not to take away blame,” says McLean, “but to actually see the effects of circumstances like growing up in poverty and preconceived notions that go along with race. As a person of color, I look at it as more of a reason to be in law school.”

“...reading the word has always been a big part of Miller’s work, and Encountering Attica is a prime example. She hopes to obtain permission for another digital video project next year that would look behind the walls of Albion Correctional Facility, a prison in Orleans County that houses only women.

The crew making Encountering Attica showed early takes to other Law School students, and Miller took part in an assembly at Bennett High School during which she showed parts of the documentary-in-progress to students in the Law Magnet program.

“The students asked very practical questions,” Miller says. “They were not completely unfamiliar with the prison system.” Which, for Miller, is exactly the point of doing the project.

“The more people are put away for long, long periods of time with no thought to what they are going to be like when they get out, the more we harm the society they are released to,” she says.

One of the things we’re trying to do in this documentary is to show that the law students are learning a great deal from the encounter, and for the inmates, it is risky for them to participate.”

— Professor Teresa Miller
Law School Report

Baldy conference examines the promise and pitfalls of pro bono programs

Professor Deborah Rhode of Stanford Law School gave the keynote address.

Along with the speakers, the location sent a message at an April 24 event kicking off a Baldy Center conference on "Private Lawyers in the Public Interest: The Evolving Role of Pro Bono in the Legal Profession." The event, held in downtown Buffalo’s Main-Seneca Building, opened a two-day conference that explored developments in pro bono work and the opportunities and limitations of pro-bono in expanding access to the justice system. Then-Baldy Center Director Ira Matther said the downtown site was chosen in order to build the Law School’s ties to the Buffalo legal community and make it accessible to practicing lawyers.

“This is the first conference in my six years as director in which we have partnered with the legal profession,” Matther told the audience in the marble lobby of the former bank building. “There are two complementary aspects to this conference: the theoretical and academic, and a real engagement with the community. We want to be working with judges and private lawyers to ask, how can we really make a difference?”

Conference organizer Robert Granfield, chair of UB’s Department of Sociology and an expert on the legal profession, laid out the challenge of the gathering when he said, “Pro-bono often expresses what is most admirable in the profession. But a broader commitment to pro bono often is more theoretical than actual.”

Introduced by Hon. Rose H. Scione’s ’73 of the New York State Supreme Court, 8th Judicial District, the keynote speaker was Deborah Rhode of Stanford Law School. Rhode began by acknowledging a truth that often goes unspoken when lawyers provide pro bono service: “In practice it has never been only about what is good for the public, but about what is good for lawyers in order to enhance their practice and reputation.”

Part of the challenge, she said, is measuring pro bono work done by lawyers. “We do not really know what it is or how much there is,” she said. Only five states require lawyers to report their pro bono work, she said, “and many attorneys take considerable liberties in how it is defined.”

As it is, she said, attorneys’ broadly average about 30 minutes weekly of pro bono work, “and much of that does not go to serve low-income clients.” Only two-thirds of lawyers at the nation’s 250 most profitable firms contribute at least 20 hours a year to pro bono work, Rhode said.

Working for free does touch many attorneys’ charitable impulses, she said. “Pure selflessness is an impossible ideal,” Rhode said, “but some measure of altruism is what makes the pro bono tradition so valuable to maintain. Certain parts of what individuals find rewarding in volunteer work is that they are putting private morals into action to serve a societal objective.

“We know that pro bono provides lawyers with their most tangible personal and professional benefits. It offers a way to feel like they are making a difference, and to express the values that sent them to law school in the first instance.”

With such service, she said, comes increased contacts and visibility for the attorney. And there are other benefits: junior attorneys gain experience; attorneys facing retirement may continue to contribute on a less demanding schedule by doing pro bono work; each week enhances the reputation of the profession as a whole, and it increases morale within law firms. “Everyone feels they touched a life,” Rhode said, “and no office picnic or party can make that happen.”

But what would seem to be a win–win situation—the public benefits from free legal advice, and the attorneys who provide it feel good and help their careers—can be tainted in the execution, Rhode said.

Junior lawyers may provide poor-quality representation, she said, and law firm associates may find themselves working for the partners’ favorite causes and organizing events their clients paid for. A lawyer who spent much of his pro-bono time drafting letters to the Internal Revenue Service on behalf of the church that a senior partner attended. Most importantly, Rhode said, firms often lack a strategic focus in their pro-bono work.

“Many firms are strikingly unprepared in the way they structure their pro-bono program,” she said. “The result is missed opportunities for both the profession and the public.”

Seldom do they even attempt to monitor the satisfaction of their clients or the success of public initiatives. Such oversight, she said, leads to a lack of accountability for the consequences of pro bono work.

The conference continued the next day in O’Brian Hall at the Law School, with panel discussions on pro bono in the context of law practice, law schools’ relationship with pro bono work, pro bono as a tool for social change, and pro bono in the life of the legal profession. Attendees also heard from keynote speaker Karen Mathis, immediate past president of the American Bar Association. Mathis said that increased awareness of pro bono work is a cornerstone of the Baldy Center’s efforts to encourage pro bono service.

“Lawyers serve, when we actually acknowledge that we are part of a greater whole, and through service each of us becomes better, stronger and more valuable to the world we live in. I think we are at our highest and best use,” she said. “Whether we are lawyers or judges, scholars or students, whether we prosecute or defend, draft legislation or help our clients comply with a raft of different rules, we are at our highest and best use, when we actually acknowledge that we are part of a greater whole, and through service each of us becomes better, stronger and more valuable to the world we live in.”

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“Pro bono programs, she said, generally carry such insurance for their volunteers.

“I no longer have office space and administrative help,” Mathis said, “and allow retirees to continue to use office space, equipment and secretarial help for pro bono service.

“Low-income people don’t need our area of specialization,” Mathis said, “but they can be divided into discrete tasks including brief writing and counseling, mentoring, legal advocacy, co-counsel arrangements and drafting briefs.

“I have relocated and do not have the proper license.”

“Twenty-five states and the District of Columbia have created emeritus rules, giving senior lawyers limited admission to the bar, or an exemption from the requirement of admission, for the purpose of pro bono work.

As a resource, Mathis pointed to the ABA’s “Second Season of Service” campaign, launched in 2006. A Web site, www.secondseasonofservice.com, maintains a database of volunteer and pro bono opportunities.

Robert Granfield and Lynn Matther are now editing a new book on the topic of the Baldy and its 15-year paper. They will be contacted at the conference and have a contract with Oxford University Press to publish the volume in 2009.
They have organized a network within the Law School of professors who share their passion for training professionals to address domestic abuse, cultivate advocacy for victims, improve the legal system’s response to domestic violence and support research on related subjects, such as women prisoners returning to society.

“The issue of domestic violence is a very compelling one, and it has international as well as national and local dimensions,” says Marcus, who previously chaired UB’s Department of Women’s Studies and recently was named director of international programs at the Law School. “If you start thinking about it as a framing category for work and for thinking about the world, then you can find people who suddenly say, ‘That is a topic I should include in my studies.’”

“Our work and advocacy are from the ground up,” she adds. “We’re all grass-roots people, so we all believe you do not take the structure from the top and then say, ‘How does everybody fit in?’”

The informal group is called “Domestic Violence: Different Voices.” Marcus and Tomkins said it is an extension of an overlapping domestic violence advocacy network – at UB, in Western New York and at the national and international levels.

“We’re growing our program at the Law School to include not only more U.S. lawyers, but also young attorneys from around the world interested in violence-against-women issues. We work with our colleagues from other countries and share ideas. In that process, our law students are exposed to issues and solutions from other parts of the world,” says Tomkins, who directs UB Law’s Women, Children and Social Justice Clinic. “What we hope to accomplish

Continued on page 34
T he list of related activities organized by UB Law School professors includes:

- The Women, Children and Social Justice Clinic. Students work in legal service agencies, social service agencies, and prosecutor or legislative offices, and participate in a range of legal counseling, advocacy and research. The clinic also serves as a resource throughout New York, helping communities to create a coordinated response to domestic violence.

- The Domestic Violence Task Force, a volunteer organization open to UB Law students. Among the task force’s activities is an annual spa day for residents and clients of Haven House, a shelter for targets of domestic violence in Erie County.

- Development of a new eight-week course meeting with local professionals dealing with domestic violence issues. Creation of the program follows the yearlong studies of Brazilian prosecutor Eduardu Machado, who came to UB last year to study strategies to increase the effectiveness of several hundred people grew to 2,000, including legal professionals, law enforcement officials, medical providers, law faculty, students and people from the community. “The response was overwhelming,” Tomkins says. “I went to the women’s police station, to the docks, and met with people from the community. Everywhere I went, people would be lined up to tell me their stories or ask me whether I was aware of how many women who were victims of domestic violence were killed in a particular area. It was clear to me that the country is poised to create significant change in its response to domestic violence.”

- Marcus has lectured extensively at Eastern European universities and has worked with nongovernmental organizations in that region. She established an International Visiting Scholar award for a women’s rights lawyer from the region, taking a salary reduction to help pay for the scholar to study domestic violence issues at the UB Law School. The lawyer, Maia Jaliashvili, 24, from the former Soviet republic of Georgia, was “absolutely exceptional,” Marcus says. Upon her return to Georgia, Jaliashvili began planning a domestic violence clinic in a law faculty in her country. It will be the first in Georgia and the first in the Caucasus region. Shortly after her arrival, she was asked to assist the prosecutor in representing a Peace Corps volunteer in Georgia who alleged that she was raped. “Rape and domestic violence are very subversive topics in patriarchal societies like Georgia because they challenge the way in which the state handles the most common forms of crime against women — by ignoring, dismissing or minimizing them,” Marcus says. This year, Marcus is asking her colleagues at UB to contribute money to bring three women’s rights lawyers who work with nongovernmental organizations to the Law School as visiting scholars. They are from Azerbaijan and Poland.

- “When you bring people together,” says Marcus, “the vision expands exponentially.” “We really don’t let anything stop us,” adds Tomkins. “This has all been built by sheer determination.”

UB Law’s involvement in the fight against domestic violence continues as the school welcomes two Domestic Violence International Scholars for the fall semester. Khalisa Shabvordyeva, right, is a lawyer in Baku, Azerbaijan, and the founder of the Azerbaijani Women’s Bar Association. Dorota Trypnia is a law student in her final year at the University of Warsaw (Poland) Faculty of Law. She works with the Center for Women’s Rights, where she specializes in domestic violence.

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The work done in the clinic is priceless, because there’s a unique way of presenting your experience, sharing it with others and then discussing it in class that makes it so significant. With the help of the remarkable staff of the DV clinic, I also had an opportunity to participate in DV activities around the state, attending meetings and conferences to talk in person with well-known experts in this field. The whole program was organized in such an effective way that I learned everything about DV in just four months. I think this fellowship is a unique opportunity for a lawyer, and I am fortunate to have this opportunity. Maybe after I set up this kind of DV clinic in my country, I will feel more comfortable having finally achieved the primary goal of this fellowship.

Editor’s note: The late-summer conflict between Russia and the Republic of Georgia has added a level of uncertainty to Jaliashvili’s plans to open a domestic violence clinic in Georgia. Professor Isabel Marcus and Suzanne Tomkins have offered their assistance if needed.
A number that matters

Dean’s Advisory Council focuses on our rankings

“A chorus of solos” is how Thomas E. Black Jr. ’79 describes the Dean’s Advisory Council, the consulting board of alumni where Black has served for six years and which he will now lead as its chair. “There is just so much talent in that room and so many very impressive people,” says Black, who will serve a two-year term. “Because it is a large group, and a diverse group of some of the most successful people who have graduated from the Law School, there are lots of opinions. The job of the chair is to keep them all singing the same song.”

Black, a recipient this year of the Distinguished Alumnus Award from UB Law School, practices in the area of regulatory compliance for mortgage companies, with the firm Black, Mann & Graham in Flower Mound, Texas. A Buffalo native, he did his undergradu- ate work at the University of Notre Dame, and now is back at Notre Dame part time pursuing a master’s degree in business administration.

The Dean’s Advisory Council, he notes, does two things at once: It enables Dean Makuw Mutua to seek the advice of alumni practitioners on issues such as curriculum, and it provides a forum for alumni who have issues or concerns they want to bring to the dean’s attention.

“Our purpose,” Black says, “is to provide our advice to the dean on issues that the dean feels are important. The agenda for DAC meetings is set in conversation between the chair and the dean.”

“Raising the average LSAT score of incoming students,” Black notes, “is to make sure all of that happens.”

“Continuing to recruit and maintain a top-notch, highly respected faculty.”

“Increasing the rate of job placement for Law School alumni.”

The Council’s plan to help the school toward that achievement, he said, comes with three goals:

- Increasing the rate of job placement for Law School alumni.
- Continuing to recruit and maintain a top-notch, highly respected faculty.
- Raising the average LSAT score of incoming students.

Black notes that requires substantially more funding than the school currently has two endowed professorships but no endowed faculty chairs, a position that requires substantially more funding.

“We need to focus on the state, on the overall University administration getting funds to the Law School; we need to look at the income we receive from students; and we need to look to the alumni for assistance. Part of our job is to make sure all of that happens.”

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D.C. dreaming

The dream of practicing law in Washington, D.C., came to UB Law School in the spring semester with a first-of-its-kind Washington Day event. Sponsored by the Office of Career Services, the event brought students—both those on the cusp of beginning their legal careers and those pondering what specialization they should pursue in Law School—face to face with a wide range of alumni who work in the nation’s capital. In addition to professional advice, the conversations ran to such practicalities as housing, transportation and social life.

“There is more and more interest from our students in working in Washington,” said James R. Newton, associate dean for national outreach and strategic planning, who organized the program. “And Washington, as the city of government, provides opportunities you cannot find anywhere else.”

Washington Day included panel discussions, a closing cocktail reception, and individual mentoring meetings between students and alumni.

“The day was intended to give students an insider’s track on finding a job in D.C., to receive mentoring from those alumni who have had success, and to talk about their potential job search,” Newton said.

Eleven UB Law alumni took part in the event, flying to Buffalo at their own expense. They ranged from government attorneys to private practitioners focusing on congressional offices, or on a committee staff where you learn an area of expertise. It can be a job in one of the federal agencies. Interestingly, it can be a job in one of the law firms.

The key is to be patient, lay the groundwork, and be ready for that moment when it happens.”

“Give yourself the time to get your foot in the door,” advised Jane Mago ’78. “There are lots of what I call starter careers in Washington. It can be a job on Capitol Hill working in one of the congressional offices, or on a committee staff where you learn an area of expertise. It can be a job in one of the federal agencies. Interestingly, it can be a job in one of the law firms.

There are actions Newly minted lawyers can take to increase their chances of finding the right niche, these alumni said.

“It is really important to develop a specialty, something you know in greater depth than most of the people around,” said Judith Ittig ’71. “‘People will turn to you for that expertise, and Washington is a good place to develop that.”

Warned Kristin Koehler ’94: “D.C. has more lawyers per capita than any other city in the United States. We have more than 1,300 percent more lawyers than New York, and New York is the second-highest concentration. As a result, there is tremendous competition in the workplace. You have to be committed, work hard, persevere and use every possible networking opportunity you have, and you have to start now.”

In the bright side, though, said Dave Franasiak ’78: “When things are bad in the country, Washington does well. The way Washington looks now, it is going to look different in five years. It is going to be bigger. The big government of Lyndon Johnson is coming back. There are going to be programs to solve some of these problems, and half of them are not going to work, and half of them will work but not as they were intended to work, and there are going to be lawyers as thick as thieves every five feet. We are at the beginning of a huge lawyer boom.”

The participating alumni were Leslie Darman ’94, an attorney with the Environmental Protection Agency; Dave Franasiak ’78, CEO and senior partner of Williams & Jensen; Suzanne Hill ’91, director of employment and professional development at the University of Maryland Law School; Judith Ittig ’71, partner in Ittig & Ittig; and Kristin Koehler ’94, senior staff attorney with the Federal Trade Commission; Kristin Koehler ’94, a partner in Sidley Austin; Jane Mago ’78, senior vice president and general counsel for the National Association of Broadcasters; John Simmons ’78, executive director of SoundExchange; Mike Surgalla Jr. ’82, an attorney with the Department of Justice; Bari Talente ’97, associate vice president for state and local government relations with the National MS Society; and Adam Vodraska ’89, assistant general counsel for information technology with the Government Accountability Office.
The law in action

New York City program in finance and law finishes third year

UB Law School’s New York City Program in International Finance and Law – “the only program of its kind in the country”, according to program director Amy Deen Westbrook – completed its third year with some impressive numbers:

- 25 UB Law and JD/MBA students who spent the spring semester of 2008 studying and learning hands-on about the intricacies of world financial markets.
- Six student teams that, under the guidance of professional sponsors, completed real-world projects on such issues as the subprime mortgage crisis, regulation of financial instruments, and the trading of U.S. futures contracts on foreign exchanges.
- UB Law Professor Philip Halpern in residence in New York City for the whole semester and seven additional UB Law faculty members, including Westbrook, who spent time in New York teaching in their areas of specialization.
- About 60 UB Law alumni, from 2007 grads to longtime practitioners, who took part in the program as speakers, project sponsors or student mentors, plus about 15 non-alumni practitioners.
- It was the first year the program operated independently – in prior years it collaborated with SUNY’s Levin Graduate Institute in New York City and with the UB School of Management.
- “The program certainly has expanded,” Westbrook says, “though there is a limit to how far it can expand and still offer the experience we want to offer. When we take the students to a briefing or a site visit at the New York Stock Exchange, for example, we want them to learn about law and finance in action, instead of just being a big parade.”

For the students, the key benefit of the program was the chance to practice working in teams – the way it is done in the “real world.”

“Some UB Law alumni speakers bring their colleagues, who almost always walk out saying, ‘I was enormously impressed. I had no idea,’” says Gerard Gitera ’80, counsel at Davis, Polk and Wardwell, who sponsored a student team project on the subprime mortgage crisis. “The students did a very good job of analyzing the issues. They became very sophisticated in understanding the issues and presenting those issues in a concise and simplified manner. We have done this for three years, and each time the student groups have been very good.”

Westbrook says alumni are “the backbone of the program. They help us with advice in terms of topic areas that are hot in the market or of use to new lawyers; they help us in terms of their expertise; they come and they talk. If these were topic areas we could teach easily in the classroom in Buffalo, we would. In fact, they are topic areas that it takes a practitioner to explain. ‘This is the only program that is a mix of practice exposure and academic academic instructional. Nobody else does this.’

For the students, one benefit of the program was the chance to practice working in teams – the way it is done in the “real world.”

“There are a lot of strong personalities in every group,” says Armi Ilhanot, now a third-year student at UB Law.

“The beauty of this program is that it forces us to become cohesive teams and work together and be able to solve complex problems with synergy.”

“Our professor and sponsor feed-back was phenomenal. They helped us to get out of our shells.”

“One of the key things that we did that helped us really pull together as a cohesive group was to figure out our strengths and weaknesses as group members,” says Jordan Marks, also now entering his third year at UB Law.

“It is finding that balance within the group to really work together and finding out who can lift the next person up. In our group we had four dynamic personalities that really complemented each other, and that led to our success as a group.”

For others, the chance to learn some of the technical complexities of international finance and law was the program’s most rewarding aspect.

“I learned more about futures exchanges and futures commission merchants than I ever thought I would,” says Michelle Rokoli ’08. “You realize there is a light at the end of the tunnel and you can achieve these high levels of practice. In the classroom, you do not get the opportunity to apply the theories you learn to real-world projects. It really solidified my intent to service clients.”

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“I learned a great deal from our projects,” says Stephanie Seitz ’08, a JD/MBA student. “It is really interesting now to be able to turn on the news or read the Wall Street Journal and know what they are talking about. My favorite part of the program was the practitioners who came in to speak to us. It gave me a sense of what it is really like to work on these kinds of deals.”

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An outstanding hiring record

A degree from the University at Buffalo Law School is a precursor for success in a wide variety of practice settings. Our graduates are practicing in the most prominent law firms and public interest settings across the nation, as well as holding leadership positions in all levels of government. Our Research and Writing program has been credited by employers with producing some of the best prepared, most highly skilled graduates in the market today. We pride ourselves on teaching how to think and work like an attorney—right from the start. An employment survey of UB Law’s Class of 2007, conducted less than a year after graduation, showed that 99 percent of graduates had found a job or were pursuing advanced degrees. Starting salaries for UB Law graduates in the Class of 2007 reached a high of $160,000. Taking into consideration the practice area, employment location, and cost of attending UB Law, the return on investment is the best in New York. As a nationally renowned law school, UB Law finds its graduates at major metropolitan areas around the world.

Class of 2007 salaries

These graphs and more are available on the CSO Web site at www.law.buffalo.edu/cso/

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Graduating class of 2007 employment statistics

Geographic Distribution: Last year, over 38% of our new lawyers accepted positions outside of Western New York in New York City, Washington, D.C., 22 states and four countries.

Practice Area Breakdown:
Here is the breakdown of practice areas, as well as details on firm sizes for the graduate in private practice. Note that “Academic” refers to faculty and administrative positions in higher education. In addition to these charts, we had 11 grad pursuing further graduate degrees.

Firm Size Distribution

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Admission
Class of 2011 Profile
law.buffalo.edu/forum/fall08/class2011.asp

CSO
Hire a student
law.buffalo.edu/forum/fall08/hire.asp
Challengers, celebration and congratulations were the order of the day at UB Law School’s 119th Commencement, held May 17 in the Center for the Arts. Degrees were awarded to 237 J.D. candidates and 18 master of laws candidates.

Professor Makau W. Mutua, just named as the Law School’s permanent dean, issued the first challenge to the newly minted lawyers amassed in the auditorium. “From today onward,” he said, “you will be forever known for your identity as a lawyer. Today begins the rest of your life, and today you must begin to contemplate in real terms the meaning of the phrase ‘the rule of law.’ Whether as a judge, prosecutor, plaintiff’s attorney, criminal defense lawyer, public interest lawyer, policymaker or legal scholar, you will constantly have to ask yourself the meaning of the rule of law.

“Does it mean the peaceful settlement of disputes? If so, why do we still have the death penalty?

“Does it mean that we must rehabilitate those who have offended the rules of civilization so that they can become better human beings? If so, why do we have a violent prison culture that destroys instead of reforming?

“Does it mean the least among us deserves to be heard in a court of law? If so, why are so many unable to get justice?

“Does it mean equal justice under law? If so, why are the poor and the unpopular treated differently?”

Professor Lucinda M. Finley, bearing greetings from the faculty as well as the University administration, urged the graduates to “join the growing ranks of Buffalo Believers” and advocate for the University’s wide-ranging expansion plan. “The ambitious UB 2020 goal of securing UB’s place as one of the great public research universities of the 21st century is interdependent with the excellence and premier status of its law alumni,” she said. “UB Law is the law school of the state of New York, and we all must work together to ensure that it has the resources and commitments, including those from the state, necessary for it to flourish in that status.”

After a welcome by UB Law Alumni Association President Margaret P. Maspoch ’77, the student address was given by graduating student Katie E. Woodruff.

“When we take that oath to uphold the laws of the U.S. Constitution,” she said, “we are becoming part of an iconic and fundamental system of the United States. It was lawyers who created this country and lawyers who continue to run it today. We will hold someone’s freedom, children, money, marriage or property in our hands. The one thing we can hold onto as we take this plunge into esquiredom is that UB has given us everything we need to practice.

“This has been a life-altering experience. For better or for worse, we are forever changed.”

She concluded with a quote from Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.: “The world has its fling at lawyers sometimes, but its very denial is an admission. It feels, what I believe to be the truth, that of all secular professions this has the highest standards.”

The keynote address was given by Robert W. Gordon, the Chancellor Kent Professor of Law and Legal History at Yale Law School.

“Law is a great engine for the enhancement of autonomy and life plans, and a defense against harassment and exploitation.”

— Robert W. Gordon, the Chancellor Kent Professor of Law and Legal History at Yale Law School

Continued on page 48
UB Law students receive Commencement awards

Matthew D. Valauri of New Canaan, Conn., the American Bankruptcy Institute Medal for Excellence in Bankruptcy Law.

Danieille E. Drayer of Bellmore, the American Bar Association/Bureau of National Affairs Award for Excellence in the Study of Labor and Employment Law.

Tannera M. McGuiness of Endwell, the American Bar Association/Bureau of National Affairs Award for Excellence in the Study of Health Law.

Sheila P. Iasi of Buffalo, the American Bar Association/Bureau of National Affairs Award for Excellence in the Study of Intellectual Property Law.

Kristina M. Hellman of Jamestown, the American Bar Association/Bureau of National Affairs Award for Excellence in the Study of Intellectual Property Law.

Peter M. Jay of Williamsville, the American Bar Association/Bureau of National Affairs Award for Excellence in the Study of Intellectual Property Law.

David A. Goldberg of Buffalo, the American Bar Association/Bureau of National Affairs Award for Excellence in the Study of Labor and Employment Law.

Kristi M. Rich of Cohoes, the American Bar Association/Bureau of National Affairs Award for Excellence in the Study of Labor and Employment Law.

August 2008 UB Law School Report
“We are not talking about lawyers who are bottom feeders at the fringes of their profession, lawyers whose only office is a cell phone and who hang around in the back of courtrooms trying to drum up business, but lawyers with very fancy resumes and graduates of distinguished law schools,” he said.

The good news, Gordon said, is that “for every instance of lawyers caving in to that pressure, there were others who did not.”

“There are choices to be made in how to live in this profession,” he concluded. “Nobody ever regrets having been of concrete help to people in trouble. Nobody regrets trying to make our justice system more effective and efficient.”

Prior to the awarding of prizes and degrees, Mutua recognized the Class of 1958, many of whom were in attendance on the dais, and noted that on that very day they had presented him with a gift to the Law School in the amount of $58,000. Next year, he said, they had challenged the Class of ’59 to do the math and make their own gift.

“UB was my first job in law teaching, and I still think of it as my best job ever,” he said. “No enterprise I have been involved with since has given me such sustained excitement.”

He went on to sketch out some of the professional choices the graduating class will face. “The law is very unusual in the staggering range of its opportunities and its dangers,” he said. “Practicing law gives opportunities to do both great good and great harm. The occupation of lawyer is an eminently useful one. We give practical advice at crucial moments to people who are often in much worse trouble than they deserve. Law is a great engine for the enhancement of autonomy and life plans, and a defense against harassment and exploitation.”

Gordon cited two real-world examples of legal situations in which lawyers had to make ethical choices: Justice Department attorneys who were asked to advise the government on the legality of severe treatment of detainees in the war on terrorism; and letters “written by eminent law firms” on behalf of the Enron Corp.—letters which enabled the sham financial transactions that eventually brought the company down and erased the pensions of thousands of stockholders.

“Receiving Latin honors”

Summa cum laude
Robert A. Crawford, Priscilla E. Hampton, Tatiana Markel, Thomas M. Zarrabito.

Magna cum laude

Cum laude
Receiving Latin honors

Summa cum laude
Robert A. Crawford, Priscilla E. Hampton, Tatiana Markel, Thomas M. Zarrabito.

Magna cum laude

Cum laude

Master of Laws degree with honors
You will pass your bar exam, but what you will have to decide is where you will make your future and where you will give back," the mayor said. "All of you graduating law students have a wonderful opportunity. You will have the opportunity to give something back to some community. It is my hope as mayor that you will use your talent, your legal education, your ability and your creativity and consider accepting a position in the City of Buffalo."

After dinner—and a spirited dance routine by members of UB's Latin American Students Association—the jurist went on to sketch out some lingering societal problems that he said lawyers have a duty to address, including:

• Inequalities in education that disproportionately affect people of color.
• Sentencing disparities in drug crimes, such as lesser sentences for powder cocaine than for crack cocaine, which is more prevalent in the black community.
• The United States' expanding jail population; 1 in 9 blacks, and 1 in 36 Hispanics, are in prison, Green said.
• The government's use of waterboarding as a tool of interrogation.
• The rising number of home foreclosures.

"As you go out," Green said, "especially those of you who are graduating, do not forget those you are leaving behind. You can help by mentoring; you can also help by sending back some funds every now and then."

Organizers also presented Distinguished Alumni Awards to H. Todd Bullard '87, a partner in the Rochester law firm Harris Beech, and Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres '98, a Buffalo City Court judge, as well as the Trailblazer Award to John M. Staley, assistant vice provost for faculty affairs at UB, and the Jacob B. Hyman Professor of the Year Award to Professor Susan Vivian Mangold.

After the graduating law students were recognized individually, the dinner concluded with the groups' traditional "passing the light" candle-lighting ceremony, to the sounds of The Prayer sung by Louise Calixte '09.

Co-chairs for the Students of Color Dinner were Janelle L. Whitaker '08 and Shereefat Balogun '09.

Students of Color Dinner honors grads-to-be and community leaders

"Lifting as We Climb" was the theme for the 19th annual Students of Color Dinner, and with everything from music to dance to candlelight, the event lifted spirits as well as aspirations.

The dinner, held in the Buffalo Niagara Marriott, celebrates the achievements of the Law School's minority students and honors the work of community leaders. It is hosted jointly by the Black Law Students Association, the Latin American Law Students Association and the Asian American Law Students Association.

Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, in his first Law School-related appearance, gave opening remarks in which he encouraged the graduating students to consider staying in Buffalo as they begin their professional lives. "There is opportunity in this community," he said, citing economic development projects totaling more than $4.5 billion that have been announced in the past few years.

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Celebrating present and future at the Buffalo Law Review dinner

The Buffalo Law Review year that has looked to the journal’s future as well as its present was toasted at the 19th annual Buffalo Law Review Dinner, held at the Buffalo Club.

The journal, UB Law School’s premier legal publication, released five issues during the academic year, including a special commentary devoted to the Dalai Lama’s 2006 visit to the University and the 2007 James Mc Cormick Mitchell Lecture Issue. The journal also published articles dealing with international law, tax, religion and law, conflict resolution, corporate law, regionalism and family law.

But the year was especially marked by administrative initiatives that should ensure the Law Review’s strength and quality well into the future. Under editor in chief Amy C. Frisch, the journal created an independent Alumni Board of Consultants to advise editors on short- and long-term development strategies.

The goal of these efforts is to strengthen membership in the organization, increase the quality and frequency of publication, and achieve national visibility for the Law Review.

“Increased alumni involvement in the Review will be the key to our organization’s continued advancement in the years to come,” Frisch said. “The outgoing Executive Board of the Buffalo Law Review is proud to have participated in the founding of the Alumni Board of Consultants, and we extend our sincerest thanks to its members for their guidance this past year.”

At the dinner, two tax attorneys who graduated from UB Law a decade apart were honored for their professional achievements and for their service to the Law School.

Paul A. Battaglia ’72 was a research editor for the Law Review and is now a partner in the Buffalo law firm Jackel, Fleischmann & Mugel. He focuses on tax planning and international taxation. He also serves as an adjunct faculty member at the Law School.

In his remarks, Battaglia noted that he “has observed over the years that most people do not have an appreciation for what it is that tax lawyers do.” That, he said, is because with all the movies and television shows about lawyers, almost invariably they feature litigators. “You would have to look long and hard to find a movie or a television program that deals with tax lawyers,” he said.

But he made that search and came up with only two examples. One is Mitch McDeer, lead character in John Grisham’s book The Firm, and the movie that was made from it. “The movie part was played by Tom Cruise, which I thought was quite appropriate casting,” Battaglia said. “Mitch was a tax lawyer. His problem, of course, was that he was doing tax planning for the mob.”

The only other tax lawyer in popular culture, he said, was a minor character in the old TV show L.A. Law — the tax partner in the featured firm whose claim to fame was that he died at his desk in the 1986 pilot episode. Battaglia quoted the character Stuart Markowitz’s eulogy: “When I think of Chaney, one word comes to mind: fiduciary. And the eulogy went downhill from there.”

Battaglia remembered the life-changing tax course he took from Professor Louis Del Cotto — Federal Tax I. He asked a fellow student what to expect, and heard this: “With Professor Del Cotto, to do even remotely well in his course you have to do three things: know the law cold, be able to recite it particularly on an exam, and be able to go on to critique it and explain where Congress and the courts went wrong.” By the time I was done with his course, I knew I wanted to do nothing other than become a tax lawyer. There is no doubt in my mind that I am a tax practitioner today because of the training I got at UB Law.”

The evening’s student awards were as follows:

The Carlos C. Allen Award, to the senior making the greatest contribution to the Law Review, went to Buffalo Law School’s 2007 James Mc Cormick Mitchell Student Award Winner, Jeffrey P. Gleason, for his article about the recruitment of international hockey players, “From Russia With Love.”

The Justice Philip Halpern Award, to a senior for excellence in writing, was to Jeffrey P. Gleason, for his article about the recruitment of international hockey players, “From Russia With Love.”

Associate Publication Awards, to four associates for excellence in writing: George T. Stiefel III for “Hardball, Soft Law,” on the issue of steroids and performance-enhancing drugs in professional sports; Allyson B. Levine for “Failing to Speak for Itself,” about what happens when a child shows signs of abuse and his parents cannot explain how such injuries occurred; Jeremy Murray for “The Death of Copyright Protection in Individual Valuation,” identifying a difficult problem in commodities valuation; and Keith A. Gorgos for “Lost in Translation,” which calls on the courts to modernize the methods they use to capture the record of court proceedings by adding video and audio recordings.

THE BEST IN PRINT

Left to right: Jennifer Pacella ’08, Amy C. Frisch ’08, Regina L. Readling ’08 and Jeffrey P. Crandall ’82

Frisch remembered the life-changing tax course he took from Professor Louis Del Cotto — Federal Tax I. He asked a fellow student what to expect, and heard this: “With Professor Del Cotto, to do even remotely well in his course you have to do three things: know the law cold, be able to recite it particularly on an exam, and be able to go on to critique it and explain where Congress and the courts went wrong.” By the time I was done with his course, I knew I wanted to do nothing other than become a tax lawyer. There is no doubt in my mind that I am a tax practitioner today because of the training I got at UB Law.”

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BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL
The sometimes elusive balance between teaching and scholarship is one of the factors that made UB Law School attractive to a new faculty member who specializes in what he has called “law school’s most dreaded subject.”

Professor Stuart Lazar arrives from Tulane University Law School in New Orleans, where he spent an academic year as a visiting professor. Before that he taught at Thomas M. Cooley School of Law in Lansing and Rochester, Mich., and in the Graduate Tax Program at Boston University School of Law.

“I have been teaching now, either full time or as an adjunct, for about 10 years. I think I have done a good job on the teaching side, and where I want to focus my growth as an academic is on my scholarship,” Lazar says.

“Buffalo offered me an opportunity, and it is a great opportunity, both in terms of the classes I am going to teach as well as the ability to do meaningful scholarship. I interviewed with a number of schools, but there was just such a wealth of so many different things at Buffalo – the personalities of the people, the intellect, the interest in scholarship. In the interview process, people from all different legal disciplines had questions and comments and suggestions about my scholarship. It was just such an amazing place to share my knowledge and my thoughts.”

As for the “most dreaded subject,” it was one that captured his fascination from his first exposure to tax law at the University of Michigan Law School. (A New York City native, Lazar studied economics at Michigan as an undergraduate. He also earned an LL.M. in taxation from New York University School of Law, attending classes at night while he was working in private practice.)

“I really love tax. I think it is the most fascinating area of the law, and I could not picture working in another area.”

“Students have misperceptions of what tax lawyers do,” Lazar says. “They think it is filling out forms and working with numbers. I always find it a compliment at the end of the term when a student says to me, ‘I was really afraid to take this course, but it was not that bad.’”

“Whenever I tell people I am a lawyer, they say, ‘That is really interesting,’ and then they ask, ‘What area?’ When I tell them tax, it is always, ‘Wow! Wow! But I really love tax. I think it is the most fascinating area of the law, and I could not picture working in another area’.”

His research and writing has covered issues in income taxation, primarily in the areas of individual and business taxation, as well as an article-in-progress on the craft of teaching tax law through “active learning.” They are interests Lazar continued to explore while he worked at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in New York City, where as a tax associate he worked with investment bankers, clients and other attorneys on mergers and acquisitions, restructuring and spin-off transactions, real estate transactions and other tax issues relating to corporations and partnerships, and at Edwards & Angell in Providence, R.I., and Boston, where as a partner he did similar work with a focus on both corporate and partnership tax issues.

He says he found the transition from practice to teaching a seamless one. “I realized that I liked the theory and teaching of tax law better than the practice of it,” he says. “My time in New England was a transition between the two because I was teaching as well as practicing. Now, not only do I have the theoretical underpinnings but I can say, ‘This is how it happens in real life.’”

At UB Law, Lazar will teach Corporate Tax, Corporate Reorganizations, Partnership Tax and likely some basic tax courses, such as Federal Income Taxation and Tax Policy.

In his spare time, Lazar hopes to be able to spend more time watching movies, a hobby that he has grown to love even more since he began doing legal work for the Newport International Film Festival back in 1997. “I am more of a film watcher than a knowledgeable connoisseur,” he says. “Growing up, I went to the movies every week. I just enjoy the experience.”

If his love for writing is not quenched by his academic pursuits, Lazar will also continue to try his hand at fiction, including the “Great American Novel” that is an ongoing project – a detective/action story featuring a tax lawyer.

And because Buffalo is just a six-hour drive from Ann Arbor, he expects to take an occasional autumn road trip back to Michigan to watch Wolverine football. “It is,” he says of the experience of spending a fall Saturday in the “Big House,” “the most amazing sight.”
A healthy combination
Ruqaiijah A. Yearby will direct J.D./MPH program

With expertise and extensive experience in both law and public health, Ruqaiijah A. Yearby joins UB Law School this fall to teach and to direct the school’s J.D./master of public health program. Her appointment is jointly with the Law School and UB’s School of Public Health.

“One of the goals I had set for myself was to be director of a J.D./MPH program. Thus, I am excited and honored to be joining the UB faculty,” Yearby says. “At UB, faculty members truly respect one another, including interdisciplinary work, which I enjoy. Moreover, I think it is a wonderful opportunity to be able to help students and to be of service to the community.”

The nexus of the law and public health, she says, is becoming increasingly significant in American life. “We are going to need more people with this particular expertise as we address issues concerning bioterrorism, putting an end to the epidemic of violence, and making our food supply safe. You cannot turn on the news without seeing another food scare,” she says.

An emergency, like a recall of tainted food, brings up “lots of public health law issues, such as how should take precedence in ordering such a recall, the state or the federal government? It is never clear. People need to understand the laws and who actually has the authority to step in. That was one of major problems in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Should the federal government have stepped in sooner? Did they have the authority to do so? You definitely need people who have expertise in law as well as public health to deal with these situations.”

Yearby comes to Buffalo from Loyola University, in Chicago, where she held a joint appointment in the School of Law and the Stritch School of Medicine. A biology major as an undergraduate at the University of Michigan, she earned her master of public health degree from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore, and her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. Her resume also includes periods in private practice, as assistant regional counsel for the federal Department of Health and Human Services and a clerkship in the U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit.

At Loyola, she did extensive work in bioethics and on issues of racial disparities that affect access to health care. As part of the school’s Access to Health Care Initiative, she helped develop a course focused on increasing access to health care through health savings accounts, Medicaid and Medicare; chaired a symposium on health care access focusing on immigrants; and worked to give students more opportunities to get involved in the community.

She is currently preparing a major research study examining whether race is a factor in the quality of long-term care an elderly patient receives.

“The U.S. health care system was built on the basis of private insurance, and we rely on employers to provide that insurance,” Yearby says. “Nevertheless, much of the work force cannot get access to full-time jobs and those benefits, or work full-time but are forced to bear the cost of health insurance. There are also issues about where you live. Do you live in a rural area, where a lot of the community hospitals have closed, or do you live in an area with a high concentration of physicians and several hospitals?”

“The relationship between doctor and patient also interests her. “Does the doctor value the patient, have time to listen to the patient, and answer questions?” The answer may depend on what kind of health insurance you have and how your insurance pays your doctor. Additionally, the doctor-patient relationship is affected by perceptions based on gender, age, race, ethnicity or culture.

“We are not going to fix this by passing a law that says everybody has health care, as evidenced by the passage of Medicaid and Medicare. These programs provide health care coverage to the indigent, disabled and elderly, yet these populations still remain without access to quality health care. Thus, granting access to health care is a continuous process.”

Yearby thought about going to medical school, but changed her mind after she received a fellowship to go to South Africa to do public health research. “That definitely changed my outlook,” she says. “Because I originally wanted to be a physician to help patients. In public health work, however, I could work on global issues and improve the lives of thousands rather than improving the health of one patient or 10 patients.”

Yearby and her husband, an officer in the Navy, are parents of a 1-year-old son, Malcolm.
U B Law Professor Re-becca Redwood French, a Roger and Karen Jones Faculty Scholar, has been named director of the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy at the Law School, Dean Makau Mutua an-nounced. An international authority in law and anthropology, French did her landmark research on the Bud-dhist legal system of Tibet.

French’s appointment took effect Aug. 16. She succeeds Lynn Mather, a distinguished political scientist in the area of law and the courts, who came from Dartmouth College to Buffalo to head the Baldy Center in 2002. The Baldy Center is an endowed, internationally recognized institute that supports the interdisciplinary study of law and legal institutions. More than 100 UB faculty members from 17 academic departments participate in Baldy Center research, conference and scholarship activities, as do an increasing number of graduate students. The center maintains cooperative ties to other interdisciplinary research centers and co-sponsors a regional network of socio-legal scholars in New York State and Canada. The Baldy Center also hosts distinguished scholars from around the world as visitors, speakers and conference participants.

“I am delighted that Rebecca French has agreed to lead this crucial component of the Law School’s research mission,” Mutua said. “Her experience in studying comparative law, and her enthusiasm for the possibilities of interdisciplinary approaches to the law, can only strengthen the unique mission of the Baldy Center at the University at Buffalo and beyond.”

— Dean Makau W. Mutua

The Baldy Center is an endowed, internationally recognized institute that supports the interdisciplinary study of law and legal institutions.

French was instrumental in bringing to UB the Dalai Lama, the exiled religious leader of the Tibetan Buddhist community, for a much-heralded three-day visit in September 2006 which included the first-ever discussion and conference with the Dalai Lama on law, Buddhism and social change. In addition, Cambridge University Press next year is publishing the first comprehensive volume on the topic, The Cambridge Companion to Law and Buddhism, edited by French. A current major research project involves bringing the tools of anthropology to bear on 2,500 cases involving religion in the United States.

French also has appointed Laura Mangan, a longtime Baldy Center staff member, as deputy director of the center.

Rebecca French named to head Baldy Center

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Vice Dean Meidinger advocates for UB Law scholars

“T he world of law school scholarship is expanding very rapidly. All of our competitors are stressing scholarship. This makes it more important that we do a good job at disseminating our full profile, so that it is clear that in this growing cacophony of research-oriented law schools, Buffalo stands out.” So says Professor Errol Meidinger, vice dean for research and faculty development, whose administrative role increasingly is devoted to getting the word out about UB Law faculty research and publications.

The research and writing that UB Law faculty members do, he says, benefits the school in two ways. “The value added that faculty bring is to develop innovative and incisive understandings of the legal system and of legal institutions,” Meidinger says. “That is why we have academic law schools. If you have professors at the cutting edge, then what students learn is that much more helpful over the long term.”

“Second, faculty scholarship is the currency for respect and recognition in the larger world. What matters is that you are seen as generating new ideas and deeper understandings. But historically we have not been very good about promoting ourselves.” That is changing, especially with the now-annual publication of a UB Law faculty scholarship brochure, created in the Law School Office of Communications, that is sent to all legal academics, partners of hiring law firms, judges, students and “anyone else interested in the work that is being done here.”

The brochure, Meidinger says, lists recent publications by UB Law faculty, but also describes what they are working on and where their research is headed. “It allows the reader to see what a very interesting and impressive collection of faculty members we have, how diverse their work is and how much of the broad world of legal research is represented here,” he says. Beyond the faculty scholarship brochure, the Law School has expanded its workshop series in which faculty exchange ideas about their current research, begun a Buffalo Legal Studies Series as part of the online Social Sciences Research Network, and worked to keep faculty fully informed of outside opportunities for research funding.

“Scholarship benefits everybody,” Meidinger says. “A serious research program improves the teaching for students, sometimes in fairly hard-to-see ways. It is a core part of the mission of the university-based law school, and it is absolutely essential to our stature in the larger law school world.”

A focus on scholarship

RECOMMENDED READING

Faculty publications from 2002 to the present include 53 books, 140 articles, 101 book chapters, 22 book reviews, and 13 reports and electronic publications. Here is a small sampling of recent faculty scholarship:

Kenya’s Quest for Democracy: Taming Leviathan (L. Rienner Publishers), by Dean Makau W. Mutua

“Second, faculty scholarship is the currency for respect and recognition in the larger world.”

Tracing the trajectory of postcolonial politics, Dean Mutua – a native of Kenya who is intimately familiar with that nation’s politics – maps the political forces that have shaped contemporary Kenya. He also critically explores efforts to reframe the state by both civil society, which he sees as a key player in Kenya’s hoped-for reassurance, and the political opposition.

“In the wake of voting that followed Kenya’s hotly contested December 2007 election, violence that left hundreds dead, Mutua argues that the failure of a common national identity has hamstringing efforts to create democratic rules,” he says. “The nation’s ‘lazy and opportunistic’ political class, he says, has been unable to overcome ethnic cannibalism and tribal manipulation.

“Analyzing the tenuous efforts that have been made to create a sustainable democratic state, the author uses the struggle over constitutional reform in the path that a defendant is actually insane, found insane, the public is usually outraged,” Ewing says. “In homicide cases especially, they believe that the defendant got away with murder.” In reality, he says, “the defense is rarely tried, rarely applicable, and even more rarely successful. And when it does succeed, the defendant usually loses his or her liberty for many years, sometimes for life.”

The book also debunks myths of popular opinion regarding the insanity defense. “In homicide cases especially, the reader is presented with facts that a defendant is actually insane, found insane, the public is usually outraged,” Ewing says. “In homicide cases especially, they believe that the defendant got away with murder.” In reality, he says, “the defense is rarely tried, rarely applicable, and even more rarely successful. And when it does succeed, the defendant usually loses his or her liberty for many years, sometimes for life.”

Says project co-editor Christopher L. Tomlinson: “It is most definitely not intended to be an encyclopedia, but rather a collaborative work of scholarship involving numerous scholars, each with the expertise to write an original synopsis of the history of law in America.” The Buffalo Law contributors focus topics as diverse as law and religion in colonial America; the nature of the legal profession in the 19th and 20th centuries; the changing American economy of the 20th century (Schlegel); and the role of law in the changing American economy of the 20th century (Schlegel).
Among our best  
UB Law Alumni Association celebrates luminaries of the school

Above, left to right: Daniel T. Lukasik '88, Francis M. Letro '79, Dean Makau W. Mutua, Denise E. O'Donnell '82, Hon. David J. Mahoney '76 and Thomas E. Black Jr. '79

A long tradition of UB Law alumni gathering to enjoy each other’s company, and to salute some of the best among them, added a new chapter with the 46th Annual Dinner of the UB Law Alumni Association. Held at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo, the event culminated with the presentation of Distinguished Alumni Awards to five graduates and one non-alumnus — then-interim Dean Daka Makau Mutua. After a welcome by Margaret P. Gryko ’77, president of the UB Law Alumni Association, Mutua spoke of the alma mater as real-world examples of the Law School educational experience. “If anyone has any doubts about the quality and excellence of our faculty and our students,” he said, “all they have to do is look at our alumni. You are the best testament, the most visible evidence, of the quality of the education that UB provides. Your success, your own accomplishments, speak to the in-

UB Law President John B. Simpson presented the award to Professor Makau W. Mutua, who was then serving as interim dean of UB Law School. Mutua was honored for outstanding service to the university and the community by a non-alumnus.

Through UB 2020, the University is pursuing a course of sustained academic excellence that we believe will lead to UB’s being recognized as one of the great public research universities of the 21st century,” Simpson said. “Professor Mutua has contributed and will continue to contribute in outstanding ways to that mission. He has provided instrumental and timely leadership as the Law School continues its strategic pursuit of excellence.”

Noting that Mutua was the founding director of the UB Human Rights Center, he said, “As one of the world’s foremost authorities in the area of human rights law, his impact has been truly global in scope, shaping human rights in political practice in the United States, in Africa and in a multinationa

tal context. In short, he has distinguished himself and our University on an international scale through his scholarship and through his profound meaningful applications of that scholarship.”

Also serving on the Annual Dinner Committee were Kenneth W. Africano ’83, Hallie C. Banker ’96, Vincent E. Dow ’71, W. O’Brien Jr. ’77.

The University — and UB Law — have benefited greatly from the many contributions made by UB Law alumni who have dedicated their time and energy to the betterment of our community, ” was introduced by Gryko, who noted the honorees’ efforts on behalf of lawyers facing the illness of depression. “Lawyers are susceptible to depression, yet they do not always confront their illness,” Gryko said. “During his own recovery, Dan Lukasik was unable to find an online resource and support network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and produced a network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and produced a network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and produced a network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and produced a network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and produced a network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and produced a network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and produced a network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and produced a network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and produced a network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and produced a network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and produced a network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and produced a network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and produced a network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and produced a network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and produced a network geared toward lawyers facing depression. So in 2007 he launched and prod...
UB Law Alumni Association elects officers and directors for 2008-09

Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden ‘83 has been elected 2008-09 president of the UB Law Alumni Association. Ogden was appointed to Buffalo City Court in June 1995, and has been elected twice to serve a 10-year term as a City Court judge. In January 2001, Judge Ogden was appointed an acting Erie County Court judge, handling all levels of criminal cases involving domestic violence. The appointment was expanded to acting Family Court judge in January 2003. She is the first and only African-American woman to serve Erie County Family Court.

Robert L. Boreanaz ’89, senior partner at Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria, is the new president-elect. Vice presidents are: Laurie S. Bloom ’83 of Nixon Peabody, Richard F. DiGiacomo ’76 of Nemer, Perfer & DiGiacomo; and Gayle L. Eagan ‘85 of Jaeckle, Fleischmann & Mugel.

Treasurer is Paula M. Ciprich ’85 of National Fuel Gas Distribution Corp.; assistant treasurer is Hon. Craig D. Hannah ’95 of the Buffalo City Court; secretary is Marion K. Henderson ’65, retired; and assistant secretary is Mary Penn ’99, of Hambrecht & Weiss.

Immediate past president is Margaret P. Gryko ’77, of Delaware North Cos. Benes R. Fleischmann, UB Law vice dean, continues as executive director. Lisa M. Mueller, assistant dean, serves as assistant director.

New directors elected for terms ending in 2011 are: James W. Grable Jr. ’96 of Comron & Vilardo; Pietra G. Lettieri ’91 of Harris & Beach; Amy Martoche ’99 of Comron & Vilardo; Gregory A. Mattacola ’98 of The Mattacola Law Firm, Kevin D. Robinson Jr. ’96 of Comron & Vilardo; and Lisa J. Allen ’90 of Harris & Beach.

Other directors include: Lisa J. Allen ’90 of Harris & Beach; Marc W. Brown ’99 of Phillips Lytle; Hon. Gail A. Donofrio ’85 of the Monroe County Family Court; Hon. Lenora B. Foot-Beavers ’97 of the Erie County Family Court; Terrence M. Gilbride ’98 of Hodgson Russ; Robert P. Heary ’91 of Hiscock & Barclay; Brian M. Melber ’96 of Personius Melber; Tasha E. Moore ’99 of the New York State Division of Human Rights; Catherine E. Nagel ’98 of Nemer & Nagel; Donald W. O’Brien Jr. ’77 of Woods Oviatt Gilman; Lawrence M. Ross ’79 of Hurwitz & Wirz; Mark J. Stahlmiller ’96 of Computer Task Group; and Mark M. Warren ’83 of M&T Bank.

For more information regarding bringing UB Law to you, contact:

Lisa M. Mueller
Assistant Director of the UB Law Alumni Association
(716) 645-3176
lmueller@buffalo.edu

Reaching out to you

The UB Law Alumni Association may be coming to a location near you! Regional chapters will be formed in those areas with the highest population of UB Law alumni and the greatest level of interest. Plans for Rochester and New York City chapters are already under way. Do not let your area miss out! Let us know if you are interested in helping to develop a chapter in your area, or are willing to assist with a regional event in your hometown.

For more information regarding the UB Law Alumni Association, contact:

Lisa M. Mueller
Assistant Director of the UB Law Alumni Association
(716) 645-3176
lmueller@buffalo.edu
Bethany J. Gilbert ’04 has been elected president of the 2008-09 UB Law GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Group. Gilbert, an associate at Hodgson Russ, focuses her practice on health care reimbursement and regulatory and compliance matters. She is a member of the American Health Lawyers Association and serves on the editorial advisory board of Medical Devices Law & Industry Report, a publication of the Bureau of National Affairs.

Jesse Baldwin ‘04 of Damon & Morey is president-elect. Secretary is Molly L. Mallia ’03 of Damon & Morey; secretary-elect is Jennifer M. McCann ’04 of the Williamsville Central Schools; treasurer is Jeffrey Lloyd Kingsley ’02 of Goldberg Segalla; and treasurer-elect is Brent J. Nowicki ’06 of Hodgson Russ. The immediate past president is Pietra G. Lettieri ’01 of Harris Beach.

New directors elected for terms ending in 2011 are: Stephanie J. Calhoun ’08, Matthew J. Makowski ’07 of Lipsitz Mathias Wexler Friedmann; Carla J. Miller Montroy ’06 of the Law Office of Carla J. Miller Montroy; and Gretchen Nichols ’01 of Nesper, Ferber & DiGiacono.

Other directors are: Jessica M. Baker ’03 of Hiscock & Barclay; Natalie A. Grigg ’02 of Rupp, Baase, Pfleder, Cunningham & Coppola; Scott T. Hanson ’02 of Harter Secrest & Emery; Kevin W. Hourihan ’99 of Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria; Kathleen J. Martinez-Nieves ’99 of the Law Firm of Francis M. Letro; Attorneys at Law; Rebecca Z. McCauley ’03 of the Law Offices of Rebecca Z. McCauley; David W. Polak ’00 of the Law Offices of David W. Polak; Danielle Shainbrown ’05 of Rupp, Baase, Pfleder, Cunningham & Coppola; Christopher D. Smith ’02 of the Law Office of Christopher D. Smith; Jacia T. Smith ’07 of Harris Beach; Amber Storr ’06 of Damon & Morey; Jack Trachtenberg ’02 of Hodgson Russ; and Stephanie Williams-Torres ’00 of Kaleida Health.

Irene R. Fleischmann, UB Law vice dean, continues as executive director. Patricia Warrington serves as assistant director.
Regional grips & grins

Alumni say “cheese” at Albany, New York City and Rochester

ALBANY:
74 State Street Hotel, Jan. 16, 2008

Above: Janis Cohen ’82 and Michelle A. Crew ’94

NEW YORK CITY:
The Brasserie, Aug. 13, 2008

Above: Michael D. Mann ’86 and Associate Dean James R. Newton

Above: Sheila R. Hand ’84 and Rachel MacVein ’07

Above: Michael D. Mann ’86 and Associate Dean James R. Newton

Above: Lawrence D. Mancuso ’11 and Caitlin E. Howe ’11

Above: Nathaniel S. Bank ’11, Hon. Eugene F. Pigott ’73 and Danielle G. Smith ’11

ROCHESTER:
Judge Van Strydonck’s chambers, Hall of Justice, Aug. 19, 2008

Above: Joshua R. Henry ’06, Michael Kruger and spouse Nikki Baldwin ’07, and Andrew Guglielmi ’06

Above: Kimberly Ann Fassnitt ’99 and Matthew S. Lerner ’99

Above: Hon. Thomas M. Van Strydonck ’73 and Michael R. Wolfor ’68

Left: Vice Dean Admissions and Financial Aid Lillie Wiley Upshaw

Above: Benjamin J. Kallos ’05 and Stephanie M. Paladino ’06

Above: Elizabeth A. Fiorelli ’09, right, with her sister Pia Teresa Fiorelli

Left: Janis Cohen ’82 and Michelle A. Crew ’94

with gratitude, the Law School recognizes those alumni and friends who have given their time and energy to help organize, plan and attend their reunion event. Though every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the reunion pages, we apologize for any inadvertent errors or mistakes. If you have any questions or wish to report an inaccuracy, please write Amy Hayes Atkinson, assistant director of reunions and alumni services, 419 O’Brian Hall, Buffalo, N.Y. 14260-1100; call (716) 645-6224; or e-mail aatkins@buffalo.edu

Thank you! We hope to see everyone at your next reunion.

Save the date for your reunion!

Gerald S. Lippes ’64 received the Knox Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Arts Council in Buffalo and Erie County’s annual Arts Award luncheon. Lippes is founder and senior partner of the Buffalo firm Lippes Mathias Wexler Freedman. He also serves on the board of directors of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, the New York State Council on the Arts and the University at Buffalo Foundation. Lippes is a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association’s Jaeckle Award and Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is an emeritus member of the Law School’s Dean’s Advisory Council.

Hon. Samuel L. Green ’67 was the keynote speaker for the Student of Color Dinner, April 3. He was honored by the Bar Association of Erie County and the Minority Bar Association of Western New York for serving for 25 years in the Appellate Division. Green is a judge of the Appellate Division, 4th Department, in Buffalo. He was the first African-American Supreme Court justice to serve the 8th Judicial District and the first African-American outside the New York City area to be named to an appellate division. In addition, he is the longest-serving associate justice in the Fourth Department. Green is a former recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association’s Jaeckle Award and Distinguished Alumnus Award. He lives in Buffalo.

Robert P. Fine ’66 is CEO and chair of the board of directors of the Buffalo firm Hurwitz & Fine. He previously served as president of the UB Law Alumni Association and focuses his practice in business/corporate law and estate planning. Fine is a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is the son of the late Robert Fine ’68. Robert P. Fine ’66 is an adjunct faculty member at UB Law School. He lives in Williamsville, N.Y.

Gordon R. Gross ’55 has given a $1 million gift to the University at Buffalo to establish an endowed professorship for the Institute for Jewish Thought, Heritage and Culture. In addition, UB Law School has named one of the school’s most-used lecture halls the Gordon and Gerchen Gross Classroom, in recognition of their $250,000 gift to the Law School. Gross is a senior partner in the Buffalo firm Gross, Brownstein & Grimm. He is a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumnus Award and is a resident of Amherst, N.Y.

Maryann Saccomando Freedman ’58 of Buffalo was honored by the Bar Association of Erie County for her trailblazing efforts. She is the only woman to have served as president of both the Bar Association of Erie County and the New York State Bar Association. Freedman is of counsel in the Buffalo firm Cohen & Lombardo.


Members of the Class of 1958 gathered for their 50th reunion on the weekend of May 16 and 17. On Friday, classmates met at the picturesque Wootwood Country Club in Williamsville. Special guests included former professor Donald Lubiak and former adjunct professor Hilary P. Bradford ’53. Classmates came from as far as Hawaii to get reacquainted for this milestone reunion.

On Saturday afternoon, several classmates joined Dean Makau Mutua for lunch in the Law School Conference Center, on the fifth floor of O’Brian Hall. After lunch, the class was seated on stage with faculty, VIPs and other dignitaries for the Class of 2008 Commencement ceremony at UB’s Center for the Arts. As part of the ceremony, the Class of 1958 was honored for its accomplishments.
Ralph Cesario '72 has joined the Buf- falo-based law firm Phillips Lytle as spe- cial counsel, specializing in product li- ability defense. Cesario was formerly with the law firm of Quackenbush Ces-ario & Hamlin in Buffalo. He lives in East Amherst, N.Y.

Isaac Fromm '72 has been appointed to the New Jersey governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Immigration Policy. Fromm is a partner in the firm Barzini & Marmar in New York City, practicing immigration and nationality law. He resides in Teaneck, N.J.

Hon. Rose H. Sconiers '73 received the Outstanding Jurist Award from the Bar Association of Erie County in Buffalo. She also was honored with the Judicial Excellence and Leadership Award from the Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of New York State. Sconiers is a New York State Supreme Court justice, 8th Judicial District, in Buffalo, where she resides. She is a past president of the UB Law Alumni Association and a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association's Distingui shed Alumna Award.

Mark I. Mahoney '74, a Buffalo resi- dent, received the Thurgood Marshall Award for Outstanding Practitioner at the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers annual din- ner in New York City. Mahoney is a partner in the Buffalo firm Harrington & Mahoney. He is a member of the board of directors of the National Asso- ciation of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the first board member from Buffalo in 50 years.

Douglas S. Coppola '75 was honored with the Charles H. Dougherty Civil Rights Award at the Bar Association of Erie County's 121st annual dinner in May. A past president of the UB Law Alumni Association, he is a solo practitioner and resident of Buffalo.

Pamela Davis Heilman '75 has been named a member of the University at Buffalo's Council, the University's local governing council. She is a partner in the corporate and securities and inter- national/cross border practice group of the Buffalo firm Hodgson Russ. Heil- man, a Buffalo resident, is also a mem- ber of UB Law School's Dean's Advisory Council.

Arthur A. Herdzik '75 spoke at a New York State Bar Association 9L pro- gram, "Introduction Strategies on Ethics and Civility in Everyday Lawyer- ing," and participated in a panel discus- sion on ethics and civility with other program faculty, at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in Amherst, N.Y. Herdzik is an officer of the firm Czesheck Herdzik Sperry & Monte in Buffalo. He lives in Lancaster, N.Y., where he is village attorney and treasur- er of the Lancaster Lions Club.

Charles P. Jacobs '75 of Eggertsville, N.Y., was named in the 2008 edition of Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business. He was also named head of the business and finan- cial-services department in the Buffalo office of Nixon Peabody. Jacobs is a partner in the firm, practicing in the ar- eas of investment funds, private equity and fund formation.

Richard M. Miller '76 has joined the firm Cowan Lebowitz & Leibman as a partner in the New York City office. He will also spearhead the firm's new office in Princeton, N.J. Miller lives in Hopewell, N.J.

Robert N. Convissar '77 has been elected vice president of the Bar Association of Erie County in Buffalo and serves on the board of directors of the bar association's assigned counsel program. He is a Buffalo solo practitioner and resides in Hamburg, N.Y.

Leah Haggstrom '77 has been pro- moted to first assistant county attorney for Allegany County, N.Y. She has pri- mary supervision of attorneys repre- senting the Department of Social Ser- vices in child welfare matters. In addi- tion, she serves as district lay leader for the Mountain View district of the Unit- ed Methodist Church and as president of the Allegany County Area Founda- tion. Haggstrom lives in Angola, N.Y.

Kenneth A. Manning '77 received the 2008 President's Pro Bono Service Award from the New York State Bar As- sociation. He was honored at the Bar Association of Erie County's Law Day Luncheon in Buffalo and the New York State Bar Association Law Day Lun- cheon in Albany. Manning is a partner in the Buffalo-based firm Phillips Lytle. He currently serves on UB Law School's Dean's Advisory Council, is a past presi- dent of the UB Law Alumni Associa- tion and a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Hon. Marilyn O'Connor '78 received the 2008 Distinguished Jurist Award at the Center for Dispute Settlement's 18th annual awards dinner in Rochester, N.Y. O'Connor is a retired Monroe County Family Court judge in Rochester.

Mark G. Pearce '78 has been elected a fellow by the College of Labor and Em- ployment Lawyers. He also has been appointed to the New York State Indus- trial Board of Appeals and serves on the New York State Commission on crossing Diversity in the State Govern- ment Workforce. Pearce is a partner in the Buffalo firm CirencePearson Johnson & Garos. He is a Buffalo resi- dent.

Vikki L. Pryor '78 delivered the com- mencement speech at Bronx Commu- nity College June 6 in Bronx, N.Y., and received the 2008 Bronx Commu- nity College Presidential Medallion. Pryor, a former student at the school, was honored for her leadership, philan- thropic efforts and commitment to higher education. She is president of SBLI USA Mutual Life Insurance in

T he Class of 1983 con- tinued its reunion tradition in grand fashion for its 25th reunion, held May 2 and 3 in Buffalo. The weekend got under way with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and breathtaking views of Lake Erie and Buffalo's skyline at Shanghai Red's in the Buffalo Harbor. The night was spent mingling and swapping stories in the grand ballroom overlooking the harbor.

Saturday morning, the class reconvened at the Law School for brunch, followed by a tour. Current UB Law students took the opportunity to show the alumni all the changes that have taken place at the Law School.

That evening, the class enjoyed dinner at the historic Mansion on Delaware, featuring music by the Thom Duna Band with lead vocalist and classmate Lynn Clarke. During the band's intermission, classmate Rick Roberts provided additional entre- tainment with a comedic routine to further lighten every- one's mood.

Class Action 1983

New York City; a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association’s Distin-
guished Alumni Award and a member of the UB Law School Dean’s Advisory Council.

David E. Smith ’78 of Clarence, N.Y., who is a partner in the law firm of National Fuel Gas Co. in Williamsville, N.Y., Smith has been with the company since 1968 and serves as its chief financial officer. He is a member of the UB Law School Dean’s Advisory Council.

Thomas E. Black Jr. ’79 was awarded a special agent award to recognize his extraordinary performance in business. He was honored at the UB Law Alumni Association’s 46th Annual Meeting and Dinner on May 1 at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Black, chair of UB Law School’s Dean’s Advisory Council, is managing partner in the firm Black, Brennan & Smith in Flower Mound, Texas.

Paul M. Moskal ’79 has retired as a supervisory special agent and chief division counsel of the FBI in Buffalo. Moskal began his career with the FBI as a special agent in 1979. He has been on multiple assignments, including investigations in Honolulu and the Republic of Haiti, and he also served as an assistant legal attaché for the FBI in the U.S. embassies in Rome and London. Moskal is leaving the FBI to work in a private/public consortium.

Ronald J. Tanski ’79 has been named president of National Fuel Gas Supply Corp. in Williamsville, N.Y. Tanski retired from National Fuel Gas Co. in 1979 and will continue to serve as principal financial officer. He lives in Tonawanda, N.Y.

Jeffrey P. Crandall ’82 was honored on April 10 at the Buffalo Law Review Dinner at the Buffalo Club. Crandall is a partner in the Buffalo firm Davis Polk & Wardwell, practicing in the corporate practice group. He is chair of the municipal and school law committees of the Erie County Bar Association. Crandall previously practiced in the firm Chadbourne & Parke in the New York City office.

Gary DeWeal ’80 was appointed managing director and group general counsel for Newedge in New York City. He is a member of the firm’s executive committee that oversees Newedge and is responsible for the legal, compliance and anti-money laundering departments. DeWeal is a resident of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Stuart P. Gelbrich ’80, a Garden City, N.Y., attorney, has been named the Thomas Malago Pro Bono Attorney of the Year by the Nassau County Bar Association.

Anna Marie Cellino ’81 has been appointed president of National Fuel Gas Distribution Corp. in Williamsville, N.Y. She previously served as vice president and is the first woman to lead the company. Cellino resides in West Seneca, N.Y.

Hon. Melanie E. Cynoglos ’81 has been appointed to the firm Out- bourg Steindler Houston & Rosen in New York City; practicing in the creditors’ rights and insolvency practice department. Cynoglos was a U.S. chief bankruptcy judge for the Eastern District of New York for 1 year and is a member of the executive committee of the commercial bankruptcy section of the New York State Bar Association. She is the director of the New York Bar Institute of Credit, was previously a member of the women’s division; and was a past recipient of the New York Institute of Credit’s Trustee Award.

Robert J. DeWaal ’80 is a senior member of the Buffalo firm Underberg, Hurwitz & Fine and an adjunct faculty member at UB Law School. DeWaal is a former president of the UB Law Alumni Association.

Katherine M. Gladstone ’83 received the 2007 Hon. Michael E. Dillon Law Guardian Award from the 76th Judicial District for her work on behalf of children. Gladstone practices in Rochester, N.Y., where she resides.

Hon. Jeannette Ogden ’83 has been named a partner in the Buffalo firm Ullman, Schipper & Krumhaar. Ogden is a former assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of New York. She is a partner in the firm Harris, Ullman & Klees. Ogden previously practiced in the firm Chadbourne & Parke in the New York City office.

Edward P. Yankelewicz ’82 was named a partner in the Buffalo firm Underberg, Hurwitz & Kesler. He practices in banking, creditors’ rights and litigation. Yankelewicz was a partner in a Buffalo law firm and is a former assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of New York. He is a resident of Williamsville, N.Y.

Laurie S. Bloom ’83 was elected deputy treasurer of the UB Law Alumni Association and will continue to serve as the treasurer in the firm Nixon Peabody in Buffalo, where she resides.

Eric T. Borson ’83 has become a senior associate in the firm Mura & Strott in Buffalo, practicing insurance coverage and defense litigation. Borson lives on Grand Island, N.Y.

Hon. Donald E. Cerio ’83 of Canastota, N.Y., was named New York State Court of Claims judge, 6th Judicial District, in Buffalo, in 2007. Cerio was previously a Madison County district attorney in Wampsville, N.Y.

Jeanne-Marie Waldman ’88 has been appointed senior vice president at the Canadian Consolidated General Export USA Mission. Waldman is a partner in the Buffalo firm Jardine Freeman & Magel, practicing in the immigration, international business, business and intellectual property practice groups.

Karyn Vampotic ’84 is an assistant at- torney general in the State of Arizona. She is one of four team leaders in an Ariz.

James M. Appler ’82 has been named a partner at Hurwitz & Fine and an adjunct faculty member at UB Law School.

Mark S. Mulholland ’82 is co-manag- ing partner of the firm Ruskln Moscou Farber & Fantell in Utica, N.Y. He has been voted “Best Law Firm on Long Island” in a reader poll conducted by Long Island Business News. Mulholland is co-chair of the firm’s litigation department. He resides in Bayport, N.Y.

Lisa Bloch Rodwin ’82 has been named a partner at Shearer & Krumhaar in Buffalo. She is the former chief of the Erie County district attorney’s office and was a special agent in the FBI.

Joel E. Ross ’85 has joined Raskin Moscou Shifer & Shifer in the Buffalo office of U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York. Ross is a former U.S. attorney for the Western District of New York and is a former special agent in the FBI.

Lauren Fordson ’85 has been named an associate at the firm Jardine Freeman & Magel. Fordson is a partner in the Buffalo firm Hurwitz & Fine.

Rita Hubbard-Robinson ’86 was named corporate training director at Erie County Medical Center Corporation in Buffalo, where she is a partner in the firm Ullman, Schipper & Krumhaar.

Rita Hubbard-Robinson ’86 was named corporate training director at Erie County Medical Center Corporation in Buffalo, where she is a partner in the firm Ullman, Schipper & Krumhaar. Hubbard-Robinson was formerly executive director of the Erie County Commission on Civil Rights and Community Relations.

Ross P. Lanzante ’86 has been elected chair of the law school section of the New York State Bar Association. Lanzante is a partner in the firm Harter Searle & Emery in Rochester, N.Y., where he resides.

Mark R. Muterer ’86 has been named a partner in the law firm of Newedge in New York City. Muterer is a partner in the firm’s litigation practice group and was previously a partner in the firm Chadbourne & Parke in the New York City office. He is a member of the firm’s litigation practice group and was previously a partner in the firm Chadbourne & Parke in the New York City office.

John P. Koliha ’85 presented a CLE program about the New York Old-Spin

Art (Article 12 of the New York Naviga-
tion Law) at the Lockport Country Club in Lockport, N.Y. Koliha is a partner in the environmental practice group of the Buffalo firm Jardine Freeman & Magel.

Births

To Jeanne-Marie Waldman ’88 and Been Paley, twins, Sarah Judith and Matthew Simeon Paley-Waldman, on April 7, 2008, in South Orange, N.J.

To Victoria Hunter Hay ’93 and Mark E. Duminz, a daughter, Margot Kirn, on May 14, 2007, in South Korea, adopted on Jan. 23, 2008.

To Daniel Ullman ’97 and Erin Barcay ’98, a son, Miles Jeffrey Barcay Ullman, on Dec. 8, 2007, in Washington, D.C.

To James M. Appler ’90 and Carrie Parks Appler ’93, a daughter, Marina, on Dec. 20, 2007, in Buffalo.

To Kate I. Lill ’94 and Justin Hill, a daughter, Lauren Anne, on Jan. 25, 2008, in Buffalo.

Death

Katherine M. Gladstone ’83 received the 2007 Hon. Michael E. Dillon Law Guardian Award from the 76th Judicial District for her work on behalf of children. Gladstone practices in Rochester, N.Y., where she resides.

Hon. Jeannette Ogden ’83 has been named a partner in the Buffalo firm Ullman, Schipper & Krumhaar. Ogden is a former assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of New York. She is a partner in the firm Harris, Ullman & Klees. Ogden previously practiced in the firm Chadbourne & Parke in the New York City office.

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Karyn Vampotic ’84 is an assistant at- torney general in the State of Arizona. She is one of four team leaders in an Ariz.
Dinner on May 1 in the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. All was joined at the UB Law Alumni Association’s 46th Annual Meeting and Distinguished Alumnus Award at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. All was honored for his many contributions to the betterment of our community. Lukasik suffered from clinical depression and created a first-of-its-kind Web site for lawyers with depression, www.lawyerswithdepression.com. In addition, he received the Public Service Merit Award from the Bar Association of Erie County at the New York State Bar Association’s annual meeting. Lukasik is a partner in the firm Cantor Lukasik Dolace & Panepinto in Buffalo. He lives in Lancaster, N.Y.

John S. Manning ’88 has been promoted to director, domestic planning, and senior tax counsel for Lockeed Martin Corp. in Bethesda, Md. He resides in Washington, D.C., with his wife and their three children.

Joseph W. Allen ’89 was the moderator at the fifth annual Western New York Bankruptcy Conference sponsored by the Bar Association of Erie County and the Monroe County Bar Association at the Hampton Inn in Batavia, N.Y. He is also a presenter for the Bankruptcy Law and Litigation Seminar sponsored by the National Business Institute at the Hampton Inn in Batavia. His topic was “What Every New Lawyer Needs to Know.” He was also the guest speaker at the Youth Award Luncheon sponsored by the Lake Erie District Exchange Club at the Comfort Inn The Pointe in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Newcomb is of counsel at Jourard Partnership in Buffalo. He is a resident of West Seneca, N.Y.

Naomi L. Adler ’91 has become president and CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam in White Plains, N.Y. Adler was previously CEO of United Way of Rockland County. She is a former recipient of the Forty Under Forty Award and was named a “Hero of Humanity” by Rockland County for her leadership in working with underserved populations.

Sean P. Beiter ’91 of Ambert, N.Y., received the Silver Beaver Award from the Greater Niagara Frontier Council of the Boy Scouts. The award is the council’s highest service award of the Boy Scouts of America. He has served as council president since April 2007. Beiter is a partner in the firm Jackel Fleischmann & Mugel in Buffalo. He lives in East Amherst, N.Y.

Bella Anderson ’88 joined Gilbert Straniou Hentz & Smith as managing attorney in the New York City office. She focuses her practice on civil litigation, representing commercial clients. Anderson previously worked for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, World Trade Center Unit, which handled complex litigation arising from the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. She has almost 20 years of legal experience in New York City in both the public and private sectors.

Molly C. Dwyer ’88 has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Buffalo National School Boards Association for the Buffalo School District. She has served the board as an administrative officer for the largest federal unit in Washington, D.C. She is a former recipient of the Forty Under Forty Award and was named a “Hero of Humanity” by Rockland County.

Peter Beiter ’91 was the moderator at the fifth annual Western New York Bankruptcy Conference sponsored by the Bar Association of Erie County and the Monroe County Bar Association at the Hampton Inn in Batavia, N.Y. He is also a presenter for the Bankruptcy Law and Litigation Seminar sponsored by the National Business Institute at the Hampton Inn in Batavia. His topic was “What Every New Lawyer Needs to Know.”

Naomi L. Adler ’91 has become president and CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam in White Plains, N.Y.

Bella Anderson ’88 has joined Gilbert Straniou Hentz & Smith as managing attorney in the New York City office. She focuses her practice on civil litigation, representing commercial clients. Anderson previously worked for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, World Trade Center Unit, which handled complex litigation arising from the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. She has almost 20 years of legal experience in New York City in both the public and private sectors.
Jennifer M. Demer '93, Jacqueline A. Brunner '92 was inducted into the National Federation of State High School Honor Associations Hall of Fame at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. Brunner is a four-time state-girls gold medalist and varsity champion from Sweet Home High School in Amherst, N.Y. In addition, she won three NCAA championships while attending Arizona State University, was on the U.S. National Figure Skating team, was on three Empire State Games titles and won the U.S. Figure Skating National Champion in the Three Coronation event. Brunner, an attorney licensed to practice in California, Colorado and New York, lives in North Tonawanda, N.Y.

Thomas P. Cunningham '92 was named chair of the law and practices committee of the bar, insurance and compensation law section of the New York State Bar Association. Cunningham is an attorney in the Buffalo firm Bugaj Paspalis Pufall Cunningham & Coppola. He lives in East Amherst, N.Y.

Brendan P. McCarthy '92 has been named special counsel special counsel in Buffalo office of Magavern Magavern & Grimm. He practices in business trusts and estates, and business law.

Anne M. Noble '92 has become president-elect of Canisius College's Class of 1961's alumni association, and was a partner in the Hartford firm Leatherman, Smith & Noble lives in Burlington, Conn.

Eric C. Nordby '93 received the Volunteer Service Award from the Federal Court Bar Association for the Northern District of New York. Nordby practices with Hanson & Estabrook in Syracuse, N.Y., where he resides.

Kevin D. Robinson '92 has been named to the UB Law Alumni Association's board of directors. Robinson is also an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. attorney general's office, Western District of New York, where he resides.

Suzanne E. Tomkins '92 received the 30 Years, 30 Leaders Award from the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She was recognized for her work to end violence against women. Tomkins is a professor and director of the Criminal Justice at UB Law School.

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Suzanne E. Tomkins '92 received the 30 Years, 30 Leaders Award from the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She was recognized for her work to end violence against women. Tomkins is a professor and director of the Criminal Justice at UB Law School.
Sarah J. Delaney ’99 was named vice chair of the insurance coverage committee of the New York State Bar Association’s torts, insurance and compensation law section. She practices in the Buffalo firm Goldberg Segalla handling matters regarding insurance coverage analysis and litigation and appellate practice. Delaney lives in Amherst, N.Y.

Toi L. Fraim ’99 has joined the Buffalo firm Goldberg Segalla. She is an associate concentrating in commercial litigation, toxic tort litigation and personal injury. Prior to joining the firm, Fraim practiced in the Buffalo firm Kowinsky Cook.

Deborah A. Hagen ’99 was recognized for her work on behalf of children with the 2007 Honor, Michael F. Dillon Law Guardian Award from the 8th Judicial District. She is a sole practitioner in Pavilion, N.Y., where she resides.

Amy C. Martorho ’99 has been elected to the UB Law Alumni Association board of directors. She is a partner in the firm Connors & Vilardo in Buffalo, where she resides.

Mary Moseman Penn ’99 has joined the firm Hamberger & Weiss in the Buffalo office. She is an associate practicing administrative law, administrative hearings and adjudication, personal injury and workers’ compensation. Penn is a member of the board of directors of the UB Law Alumni Association and a past president of UB Law School’s GOLD Group.

Maureen Blake ’00 has joined Verizon Business commercial practice as a contract attorney. She resides in Purcellville, Va.

Jorge S. delRosas ’00 has joined the Buffalo firm Mattar D’Agostino & Gottlieb as an associate. He handles matters of criminal defense, administrative law and family law. He is a Buffalo resident.

Shelia Dickinson ’00 of Buffalo is a recipient of the Hon. Michael F. Dillon Law Guardian Award from the 8th Judicial District. She was honored for her advocacy on behalf of children. Dickinson practices in Buffalo.

Steven K. Erickson ’00 has completed the MIRECC fellowship at Yale University. In addition, he has accepted a visiting faculty position as a John M. Olm Fellow in Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School for the 2008-09 academic year.

Rafael O. Gomez ’00 was honored by Hispanics United of Buffalo at the annual Nuestro Orgullo Latino Gala on June 14 at the Statler Towers in Buffalo. He was honored for his professional success which has inspired the youth of the community. Gomez is a Buffalo resident.

Thomas J. Sheehan ’00 has become a partner in the Buffalo-based firm Phillips Lytle. He practices in pharmaceutical and biological products liability litigation. Sheehan is a Buffalo resident.

Elizabeth B. Snyder ’00 has been promoted to associate attorney for the State of New York, Mental Hygiene Legal Service, Appellate Division, 4th Department, in Utica, N.Y., where she resides.

Emilio Colaciocovo ’01 has become a partner in the firm Bonner Partnership in the Buffalo office, practicing matrimonial and family law. Colaciocovo serves as associate counsel at the Erie County Family Court and is counsel of the Erie County Republican Committee. He resides in Kenmore, N.Y., with his wife, Kimberly Colaciocovo ’06.

Gabe DMAiao ’01 has become the program director of Classical 94.5 WNYE-FM, a station of the Western New York Public Broadcasting Association in Buffalo. He was previously assistant program director at WROB, the University at Buffalo public radio station. DMAiao is a member of the board of directors of the Public Radio Program Directors National Association and is an adjunct faculty member at Buffalo State College and UB.

Pietro G. Letteri ’01 has been named to the board of directors of the UB Law Alumni Association. She is immediate past president of UB Law School’s GOLD Group and practices as an associate in the Buffalo office of Harris Beach. Letteri is a resident of East Amherst, N.Y.

Gretchan M. Nichols ’01 of Williamsville, N.Y., has joined the UB Law Alumni Association board of directors. She is a associate in the firm Nesper Berber & D’Giacomo in Amherst, N.Y.

Shannon S. Oliver ’01 has formed the firm Notaro & Oliver. The general practice firm has offices in West Seneca and Williamsville. N.Y. Oliver is a Williamsville resident.

Radhonda M. Jackson ’02 was elected president of the Rochester Black Bar Association in Rochester, N.Y. She is an associate in the Rochester office of Hiscock & Barlow, practicing in health care and human services and insurance coverage litigation. She recently made a presentation on public nuisance law at the annual meeting of the American Bar Association insurance coverage litigation committee in Tuscon, Ariz. Jackson lives in Webster, N.Y.

Lt. Paige Junker Orlmiston ’02 completed her tour as civil law branch head at Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily and is serving as the assistant command judge advocate for the USN. Abrahm Lincoln, a Nimitt-class aircraft carrier home ported in Everett, Wash. Her duties include managing the discipline program for the crew and embarked elements of over 5,000 personnel, coordinating the tax and customs programs, and providing legal assistance such as consumer law, family law and estate planning to the crew.

Michael M. Chelus ’03 has been elected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association. He is an associate in the firm Schott, Hendrick, Spyer & Monte in Buffalo, focusing on insurance defense litigation, insurance coverage, trials and appeals.

Marybeth Priore ’03 has been named president of the Western New York Chapter of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York, in Buffalo. Prior is an associate in the Buffalo law firm Colucci & Gallaher, practicing in products liability, intellectual property and general litigation. She is a resident of East Amherst, N.Y.

Michael L. Amodeo ’04 has joined the Buffalo-based firm Damon & Moore as an associate. He practices in the litigation department in the areas of automobile/transportation, premises, products and labor law litigation. Amodeo lives in West Valley, N.Y.

Deborah A. Hagen ’99 has joined the Buffalo firm Goldberg Segalla handling matters regarding insurance coverage analysis and litigation and appellate practice. Delaney lives in Amherst, N.Y.
Molly Donnelly ’06 has accepted a position at the Office of Chief Counsel for Buffalo Place Inc., where she resides.

Morgan L. Lytle as an associate in the Buffalo office. She practices in the firm Hodgson Russ in Buffalo and resides in Amherst, N.Y.

Michael L. Nisengard ’07 has been named a member of the Amherst, N.Y., office of Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel as an associate. He practices in the Buffalo firm Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, focusing on commercial litigation and corporate matters. He is a Buffalo resident.

James M. O’Keefe ’07 is an associate in the Buffalo firm Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola. O’Keefe concentrates his practice on commercial litigation and corporate matters. He is a Buffalo resident.

Matthew J. Makowski ’07 has accepted a position as an associate in the Buffalo office of Magavern Grimm, counseling clients on estates, trusts and elder law. Makowski resides in East Amherst, N.Y.

Elizabeth A. Steger ’06 has accepted a position as an associate in the Law Office of Edward A. Pace in Orchard Park, N.Y. She concentrates her practice in real property, matrimonial and family law, bankruptcies, business, wills, trusts and estates. Steger is a resident of Hamburg, N.Y.

Tara S. Evans ’08 has joined the firm Chclus Herdik Speyer & Moore as an associate. She practices litigation and general practice matters in the firm’s Buffalo and Cheektowaga, N.Y., offices. Evans is a Buffalo resident.

Jennifer G. Flammery ’06 practices as an associate in the Buffalo firm Damon & Moore. Flammery concentrates her practice in estates and elder law, and corporate law. She lives in Williamsville, N.Y.

Beverly A. Blythe ’07 has accepted a position as an associate in the Rochester office of Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola. Blythe concentrates his practice on commercial litigation and corporate matters. He is a Buffalo resident.

Jason G. Ulatowski ’07 is practicing as an associate in the Buffalo office of Magavern Grimm. Ulatowski concentrates his practice on commercial litigation and corporate matters. He is a Buffalo resident.

Raymond W. Walter ’07 has accepted a position as an associate in the Buffalo office of Magavern Grimm. He advises clients on estates, trusts and elder law. Walter lives in East Amherst, N.Y.

Vivian Magavern Grimm, counseling clients on estates, trusts and elder law. Grimm is a resident of the Amherst, N.Y., office of Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, counseling clients on estates, trusts and elder law. Grimm is a resident of East Amherst, N.Y.

Stephanie A. Mack ’08 has joined the Buffalo firm Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola. Mack concentrates her practice in commercial litigation and appeals.

Kathy Hedges ’05 has joined the Buffalo firm Chclus Herdik Speyer & Moore as an associate. She will handle litigation and general practice matters. Hedges lives in Williamsville, N.Y.

Andrew J. Wells ’06 has joined Philips Lytle as an associate in the Buffalo office. He will handle cases involving commercial litigation, including contract and business-related disputes. In addition, Wells is a U.S. Army Reserve Civil Affairs sergeant. He lives in Cheektowaga, N.Y.

Collene M. Allen ’07 of the Buffalo firm has accepted a position as an associate in the Buffalo office of Harter Secrest & Emery. She practices in the employee benefits group, helping clients with plan documents, summary descriptions and administration of medical flexible spending accounts, dependent care assistance programs and health savings accounts. She lives in Buffalo.


Paul Ivan Bizon passed away Aug. 30 in Rochester, New York. A nationally known specialist in matrimonial and family law, Bizon was a founding member of the U.S. Chapter of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and the Western New York Association of Matrimonial Lawyers. Bizon taught Evidence and Family Law as an adjunct for over 20 years; he retired from our faculty in 2006.

In Memorium

The Law School extends its deepest condolences to the families and friends of the following: Allan A. Brofman ’70, Buffalo Robert N. Worms ’37, Lockport, New York Hon. Rosalie Y. Jones ’88, Rochester, N.Y.

Caroline Bala Brancatella ’07 has been appointed executive director of the Office of Tax Counsel for the State of New York. Brancatella is a Buffalo resident.

A. Daly ’07 has joined Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola in the Buffalo office. Daly is an associate practicing insurance defense, including New York State Labor Law, automobile, premises liability, and product liability. She resides in Hamburg, N.Y.

Ryan A. Lown ’07 has become an associate in the Rochester, N.Y., office of Philp & Emery. He practices in the employees benefits group, helping clients with plan documents, summary descriptions and administration of medical flexible spending accounts, dependent care assistance programs and health savings accounts. She lives in Buffalo.

Brian S. Bennett ’07 practices in the Rochester, N.Y., office of Harter Secrest & Emery. He concentrates his practice in business and commercial litigation and creditors’ rights. Bennett is a Rochester resident.

Jason G. Ulatowski ’07 is practicing as an associate in the Buffalo office of Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola. Ulatowski concentrates his practice on commercial litigation and corporate matters. He is a Buffalo resident.

Raymond W. Walter ’07 has accepted a position as an associate in the Buffalo office of Magavern Grimm. He advises clients on estates, trusts and elder law. Walter lives in East Amherst, N.Y.

Mark J. Williams ’07 of Orchard Park, N.Y., practices with Lewis & Lewis in Buffalo. He is an associate in the litigation department, specializing in personal injury.

Donald A. Young ’07 has joined Boyd Brown Code Vipper & Wilson in Rochester. He will handle cases involving commercial litigation and general practice matters. He is an associate in the litigation group, focusing on commercial litigation, creditors’ rights and taxation and lives in Rochester.

Tara S. Evans ’08 has joined the firm Chclus Herdik Speyer & Moore as an associate. She practices litigation and general practice matters in the firm’s Buffalo and Cheektowaga, N.Y., offices. Evans is a Buffalo resident.

Stephanie A. Mack ’08 has become an associate in the Buffalo firm Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola. Mack concentrates her practice in commercial litigation and appeals. She also handles research and writing on legal issues including motions and appeals. Mack lives in Eggertsville, N.Y.

UB LAW FORUM • FALL 2008

Class Action

Leastons T. Gillett ’07 is an associate in the firm Hodgon Russ in Buffalo, where she resides.

Sean J. Mackenzie ’04, Lewiston, N.Y., resident, has become an associate in the firm Magavern Gittum, practicing in the Buffalo and Niagara Falls, N.Y., offices. He specializes in corporate law, litigation and appeals.

Mr. John M. Condon ’05 has accepted a position as an associate corporation counsel with Steven Foodis Inc., in Elma, N.Y. Condon is a resident of Kenmore, N.Y.

Joseph M. Hanna ’05 was named Defense Research Institute Outstanding Service Young Lawyer of the Year. Hanna is an associate in the firm Evans & Fox in Rochester, N.Y., and resides in Amherst, N.Y.

Katy Hedges ’05 has joined the Buffalo firm Chclus Herdik Speyer & Moore as an associate. She will handle litigation and general practice matters. Hedges lives in Williamsville, N.Y.

Kenneth R. Kraus ’05 has been associated with the firm Evans & Fox in Rochester. Kraus resides in the firm Hodgson Russ in Buffalo and holds a position in estates and elder law. Kraus is a Buffalo resident.

Bethany J. Gilbert ’04 has been named a resident of Orchard Park, N.Y. She concentrates her practice in real property, matrimonial and family law, bankruptcies, business, wills, trusts and estates. Gilbert is a resident of Hamburg, N.Y.

Trevor M. Torcello ’07 has joined the Buffalo firm Gussman Brandle & Gillsman as an associate. He practices in corporate law and personal injury litigation. Torcello lives in Buffalo.

Jason G. Ulatowski ’07 is practicing as an associate in the Buffalo office of Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola. Ulatowski concentrates his practice on commercial litigation and corporate matters. He is a Buffalo resident.

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FOUR THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP OUR LAW SCHOOL

1. BE AN AMBASSADOR. Let your partners, peers, clients, friends and prospective law students know that you are a proud graduate of UB Law.

2. HIRE A STUDENT. If you are in a position to hire a student or new graduate, consider our students for internships, or open a door in any way, please do so.

3. GIVE. We ask that you rededicate and raise your philanthropic commitment to the Law School to help us compete.

4. ADVOCATE for UB Law and communicate why funding another New York State law school is bad public policy. Please reach out to New York State legislators and other government leaders and tell them that the best use of state resources is investment in UB Law.

For more information e-mail:
law-deans@buffalo.edu

Visit us at www.law.buffalo.edu