UBLAW FORUM

The Magazine of the University at Buffalo Law School
The State University of New York

Ma'ata Mutua named interim dean
Dean Olsen returns to the faculty

Going global
WINTER 2008
Editor’s note

“...The world is a book,” wrote St. Augustine, “and those who do not travel read only one page.” So travel with us into this issue of the Forum, which takes note of the increasingly international quality of UB Law School. That globalisation is cemented with the naming of Professor Makau Mutua, a scholar with deep roots in the African nation of Kenya, as interim dean. It ranges from current students’ globe-trotting internships in human rights and other public-interest law, to scholarly contacts in South America, Russia and Thailand, and to our alumni in far-flung places, including China and Korea.

International students are attracted to Buffalo for our LL.M. program, visiting scholars mingle with our students and faculty, and our International Law concentration continues to develop.

As the world in which we live gets smaller, UB Law is extending its reach and its influence far beyond Western New York. Happy travels!

Irene R. Fleischmann
UB Law Forum
Editor

Message from Makau Mutua, Interim Dean

Let me begin by saying how honored I am to have been asked by University at Buffalo Provost Satish K. Tripathi to serve as Interim Dean of UB Law at this exciting time in our history. I also want to express my appreciation to my friend and colleague, Nils Olsen, for his many years of service to the Law School as our dean. We made enormous strides during his tenure, and I wish well in his future endeavors.

I look forward to working with our students, faculty, staff and alumni on all the important matters facing our institution. The continued hard work, enthusiasm, and support of our alumni, colleagues and friends in the legal community will be of immense value to me as your interim dean and colleague.

In keeping with this transition, I am very pleased to announce several new appointments to the administration of the Law School. Professor Jim Gardner has kindly agreed to assume the responsibilities of Vice Dean for Academic Affairs. In this connection, he is working closely with Professor Susan Mangold to ensure a smooth transition in that office. I want to take this opportunity to thank Professor Mangold for her invaluable service to the Law School in the past four years. Her devotion, dedication, and energy—all offered with incredible warmth and sensitivity—have resulted in more coherence and greater organization for the Law School’s academic programs.

I have also asked Professor Errol Meidinger to take on an expanded role as the Vice Dean for Research and Faculty Development. In this new role, Professor Meidinger will add to his responsibilities matters relating to faculty development to more comprehensively support faculty scholarship and to ensure greater recognition of their many accomplishments.

To create greater coordination of our administrative activities, I have asked Mr. Jim Newton to assume the new post of the Associate Dean for Administration. Mr. Newton will coordinate the activities and services of the various administrative offices in the Law School, and will continue to direct employer relations efforts, national outreach, and reporting to the Law School’s accrediting agencies.

These changes come in the midst of the Law School planning process which is underway and the dean search process that is ongoing. I am happy to report to the Law School community, especially our beloved students and alumni, that UB Law is in great shape and is poised to achieve even greater heights.

Sincerely,

Makau Mutua, Interim Dean

Farewell message from Dean Nils Olsen

As I complete my term as dean of this extraordinary institution for which we all bear responsibility, it is with a sense of pride in all that we have accomplished together.

That is a vital word—together. For it is only through the power of teamwork and collaboration—the magic of talented people of good will working toward a common goal—that great things happen, in the Law School or anywhere else. Individual leaders can set the tone, but it takes a team to turn a vision into reality.

And so from this soapbox in UB Law Forum, I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the contributions and gifts of so many who have made a difference:

Our extraordinarily gifted and talented faculty, whose scholarship and collegiality is matched only by their focus on effective pedagogy.

The support of our University administration; a great Law School cannot exist only in the context of a great University.

Students and alumni arc key. I have learned as much from the best of my students as I have been able to share with them. And our alumni, in so many ways, continue to contribute to the Law School in myriad ways that make an enormous difference in the quality of the education we provide.

I am especially pleased that the alumni have so generously supported my deanship. I deeply appreciate the many increased gifts which have been made to this year’s annual fund in my honor.

Our faculty and staff administrators shoulder much of the work of running the school; their talents have advanced our mission in ways large and small.

My family, particularly my wife, Sandy, and our children, have been endlessly supportive throughout my years as dean, and it is to them I owe my greatest debt of thanks.

I am not going away! After a leave of absence at the beginning of 2008, I will return to UB Law and continue to teach the course in civil procedure that I have taught for many years, as well as pursue research in the areas of federal post-conviction remedies and environmental policy.

I have every confidence that the Law School will continue to grow, improve, and carry on its mission under a new generation of leadership. I look forward to being part of that promise, and to all that we will continue to accomplish—together.

Sincerely,

Nils Olsen

Visit us at www.law.buffalo.edu
A s chief of the Erie County dis-

trick attorney’s domestic vio-
cence bureau in Buffalo, Lisa
Bloch Rodwin ’85 is used to

speaking in front of a court-

room. But in two highly rated Oprah Win-

frey Show appearances in May and another in November, Rodwin found her biggest

audience yet – and used it to help victims of
domestic violence craft a plan to find safety.

Rodwin went on the May 8 show with
Susan Still, a complainant whose case be-
dame one of the most-publicized domestic
violence cases in America. Still was repeat-

ingly victimized by husband Ular Let Still, and had his adolescent son videotape a 50-
minute assault. Rodwin’s prosecution led to a 36-year felony sentence for the perpe-
trator.

The television appearance was the op-
portunity of the prosecutor’s usual methodical
preparation. “Oprah wants spontane-
ity,” Rodwin says. “Her producers told me
the topic, but none of the questions –
which makes it move nerve-wracking.

“Her whole focus was not on exploiting or
sensationalizing one family’s tragedy, but
using Susan’s experience to reach out
to women and families across the country.

The theme was, this is the day you plan
your escape. ”

Susan Still told her story, and excerpts
from the videotape were shown. Then
Rodwin listed some points of information
about their injury. The latter, she

said, is to counter the usual defense in such
proceedings. There is even translation avail-
able for 110 languages.

Rodwin is proud that since the center
opened, Erie County has not recorded a sin-
gle family violence homicide.

Services at the Family Justice Center
are

an innovations, sponsored by Zonta International, is called Behind Closed
Doors. Posters are being put up inside rest-
rooms in women’s restrooms throughout the
area, such as in grocery stores, health care
clinics and movie theaters.
Tibor Baranski '87 practices corporate law in Beijing

In a global business environment, it has become cliché to say that players are operating between two worlds. For Tibor Baranski ’87, two worlds are not enough. He has a foot in at least five.

Born in Toronto to parents who fled Hungary after that country’s 1956 revolution, he is a citizen of Hungary, Canada and the United States. He is also a permanent resident of Yokahama, Japan. But he practices law in Beijing, China, and lives with his family in the suburbs of that fast-growing, cosmopolitan city.

After studying the economic history of Japan and China at Princeton University, and graduating with honors in 1980, Baranski became the first foreigner to formally complete a course of study in law in China after 1949 when he graduated from the Peking University Law School in 1984. He then returned to the States to study at UB Law School (his parents and older brother still live in Western New York). He also has studied at Yale University, the National Taiwan University, Kanazawa University in Japan and Columbia University.

He speaks English, Chinese, Japanese, Hungarian and German.

All of which comes in handy at Jun He, he says, was founded in 1989 in China. It has become cliché to say that players are operating between two worlds.

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mally complete a course of study in law in China after 1949 when he graduated from the Peking University Law School in 1984. He then returned to the States to study at UB Law School (his parents and older brother still live in Western New York). He also has studied at Yale University, the National Taiwan University, Kanazawa University in Japan and Columbia University. He speaks English, Chinese, Japanese, Hungarian and German.

All of which comes in handy at Jun He Law Offices in Beijing, where Baranski has been of counsel since 2002. From his 20th-floor office, he works with business clients looking to invest in China, especially Japanese firms, with extensive experience in merger-and-acquisition projects.

Jun He, he says, was founded in 1989 and is China’s first private law firm; previously, lawyers were state employees. “There are about 160,000 registered Chinese lawyers,” Baranski says. “But the number of high-quality Chinese lawyers is 2,000 tops. The rest you can forget about for all intents and purposes. Out of this number, the highest concentration by far is in Beijing.”

His firm, he says, “has a very strong atti-
tude of fiduciary duty toward the client. In the United States, the practice of law has become overly commercialized. The trust

between persons, or between lawyer and client, has been lost. They talk a lot about fiduciary duty and give lip service to it, but there is no trust.” In Beijing’s close-knit le-
gal community, “You do not have to look over your shoulder, you do not have to worry about politicking too much. You can just concentrate on getting the work done.”

Working on projects including telecommunication, R&D centers, corpo-
rate restructurings, even power plants, Baranski has established himself as a bridge between the Chinese and Japanese business worlds. “I started in the ‘80s,” he says, “and I have been doing it so long that the Japanese and the Chinese communities know me. I deal with a lot of Japanese at the high end of the business community both in China and in Tokyo. I am in contact with them all the time. Clients tend to come to Beijing, but I also go to Japan frequently. I am in Tokyo up to 10 times a year. I have a Japanese green card, so I can do everything the Japanese can do.”

It is a rare specialization — “Very few
lawyers can do Japan-China legal work,” he says.

Part of the challenge is the nuance and the complexities of language, managing complex transactions while bridging the cultural and linguistic divide between Chinese and Japanese. “Language is the ultimate tool for a
lawyer,” Baranski says. “If you do not read or write the language, you are essentially il-
literate; you have no business engaging in the work. Knowledge and language are the ultimate tools. American lawyers emphasize how im-
portant it is to read and write English well, but then they go outside the border and do not recognize that they are illiterate. You lose critical nuances along the way that are absolutely fundamental when you are dealing. The details and words are like a chess game, and they are not fixed. Defini-
tions do change; usage changes. You can lose really big deals if you are not careful. It is not a mechanical process.”

Complicating the work, he says, is that the concept of separation of powers does not apply in China. “China does not have an independent judiciary. The Supreme Court is beneath the People’s Congress, and the Communist Party is above govern-
ment. It is modeled on an old Stalinist structure.” Part of practicing law in China, then, is to network with those in power at all levels of government — central, provincial, municipal and local — in order to more effectively advocate for one’s client.

The Chinese education system, Baran-
ski says, focuses more on rote learning than critical thinking. “I am in contact with them all the time.”

– Tibor Baranski ’87
James C. Thoman ’02 is going downhill fast – and he has the trophies to prove it.

Thoman, who practices bankruptcy and corporate law with the Syracuse, N.Y., law firm Menter, Rudin & Trivelpiece, in March ’07 won the United States Ski Association’s Class 1 masters skiing championship in Big Sky, Mont. Competing against “a dozen or so” skiers in his age group, 20 to 29, he won all three of the competition’s events to take the overall title.

It was the second year in a row that he has won the age-group title. “Last year it was much more of a struggle,” he says. “I didn’t sweep all three events. This one, I beat up on the other guys pretty good.”

“It was a really great trip,” he says. “I went out there with a couple of guys I race with in the New York masters series. It was basically my spring break. We went out a day early and got to ski 5,000 vertical feet instead of 500. And you get to compare yourself with some of the best skiers in the country.”

Thoman has been skiing since he was knee-high to a mogul. He grew up across the street from Western New York’s best-known ski area, Kissing Bridge, was on the slopes at age 4 and was racing by 10. “Some friends of my family had a daughter who was into ski racing, and they talked my parents into letting me do it,” he says. “That way I could ski real fast and not terrify my mother.” He raced with Kissing Bridge’s travel team throughout the state, and kept skiing through his undergraduate years at the State University of New York at Geneseo.

At UB Law, he says, he got involved with some adult racing leagues and a “beer league” at Kissing Bridge, skiing Tuesday and Thursday nights throughout the season and coaching at another ski area, Holimont, on weekends.

Now, as a masters skier, he is joined by athletes from 21 to 90 in all age groups. “If you are not on a developmental team and you are done racing in college, if you want to keep going, masters is what you do,” he says.

The competition is in three disciplines: the slalom, in which the skier negotiates tight turns while threading through “one gate per second, or even less”; the giant slalom, with slightly bigger turns but at faster speeds; and the super G, with lots of space between gates but at speeds approaching 70 miles per hour. Points are awarded for one’s performance in each event, and these points determine the overall champion.

To qualify for the national championships, Thoman competed in the New York Masters Skiing league, a series of races from January to March. He won that series in 2006 and tied for second in 2007 among all age groups.

He also says Menter, Rudin & Trivelpiece has been supportive. “They did a little blurb on our Web site about it. They basically view it as, if not directly a marketing opportunity, one more thing to get my name and the firm’s name out there. They are very encouraging.”

And working in a somewhat less demanding environment, he says, is important to him. “That is the beauty of working in upstate New York,” he says. “You are not stuck in your office until 9 at night. My quality of life is much greater because I have something like this in my life and the time to enjoy it. I would not want to have a job where I could not do this.”

During the off-season he stays in shape, and he gets serious about strength training in the fall to prepare for the ski season. But the course ahead could be tricky: This year Thoman will be 30, and competing against a whole new class of highly experienced skiers.

Nevertheless, Thoman says, the rush is still there. “I have no interest in just going skiing,” he says. “It bores me. But when you set up a course and train to race a race, it becomes exciting.”

“James C. Thoman ’02 on the slopes and in his office.”

James Thoman ’02 repeats as national skiing champ

“I have no interest in just going–skiing. It bores me. But when you set up a course and train to race a race, it becomes exciting.”

–James Thoman ’02
“I never learned to say no.”

“...I just loved the game. I always went out and played with the guys,” says Theobald, who at 86 still knows her way around a tennis court. “I loved the game so much I used to sleep with a racquet under my pillow.”

On Oct. 5, Theobald was one of seven individuals inducted into the UB Athletics Hall of Fame. She received the Pioneer Award, which honors “the accomplishments of outstanding participants during the years in UB history that women were not given an outlet for their athleticism.”

Theobald was a hometown girl who moved from Maine as a child and grew up playing on the municipal courts of Niagara Falls. She won that city’s championship, as well as titles in Rochester. She competed on the 1940 tennis team that lost only one match and won seven. She played mostly sixth singles and second doubles in 1941. Even though one player from Hobart College refused to play her, “to me it was just fun,” she says. “I just loved tennis.”

She lost her husband in December 2006, but eight of her 10 children, and five of 20 grandchildren, were present when she received her award in October.

“The Law School would like to give special recognition to Belle Theobald as a long-time donor. Scholarships and on-campus jobs helped support her education at UB, and for this reason she gives back to help others. We are very grateful for her gifts.”

— Makau Mutua, interim dean

At UB Law School, “I hat those books like crazy,” Theobald says. At first she worked the graveyard shift at a defense plant, until a sympathetic dean got her a job as a proctor at the law library. She lived not far from what is now the UB South Campus, and took the trolley downtown to West Eagle Street for her law classes. After graduation, she went into the Army as a legal affairs officer, rotating through bases in Maryland, Georgia, Virginia and New Jersey, advising newly discharged soldiers on their legal issues, and winning the Army women’s tennis crown in 1946. After her own discharge in 1947, she took her GI Bill benefits to Columbia University, where she earned a master’s degree in public administration. She also did coursework toward a Ph.D. in political science at Rutgers University.

Theobald ended up living outside Asbury Park, N.J., raising her family and pursuing all sorts of projects. She served for many years on her local board of education, including a stint as president. She joined the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Mayflower Society.

Her musically talented family was even featured on a Merv Griffin television show called One in a Million. She earned a private pilot’s license. And she did a little traditional lawyering as the need arose—defending her kids in minor scrapes with the law, writing the leases for properties the family owned, advocating for a fair settlement when their home was claimed by eminent domain.

“I never learned to say no,” Theobald admits. “I did not do much in law, but it opened the door for me. Because you have more education, you are always asked to do things.”
Elizabeth Beiring Kim ’94 renewed her ties with the University at Buffalo when she spoke about her work at the Law School on April 23, in a lecture sponsored by the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy. But her connection to UB runs deep, because she holds not only the J.D. but also a doctoral degree in marine ecology from the University. The accompanying essay on her life at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where I lead EPA’s programs on cruise ship discharges and ocean dumping management. Sure, the job is glamorous (like touring a sewage treatment plant in the belly of a cruise ship at port) and high-paying (after just 10 years I earn well over half what a first-year attorney makes), but that’s not why I do it. On a planet of over 6 billion people, I am one of the luckiest. Protecting the environment is my way of repaying the fates. How did I get here? A long and winding road from the Honors Program! After a very rewarding undergraduate career at UB studying psychology and biology, I started a Ph.D. at Berkeley in cognitive science. After my first year, I knew that I did not want to be a professor. So I came back to Buffalo—and to my teacher, mentor, and friend, Dr. Her- mind—I was a marine scientist. He read about Kathryn Fuller, then head of the Biology Department, and my Ph.D. advisor, Howard Lasker. I finished this nontraditional combination after eight long, hard years. Along the way, I met my future hus- band, Kiho, who remains a card-carrying biologists of our own. We spent last summer in Puerto Rico, where I taught them the trick of paradise, made with sugar cane walls and a tin roof, and surrounded by vibrant tropi- cal reefs.
Jaeckle and Fleischmann: a merger of titans

Author uncovers the rich history behind one of Buffalo’s premier law firms

Jaeckle. Fleischmann.
If you have spent any time in the Buffalo legal community, you know the names. But you may not know the personal stories behind one of Buffalo’s premier law firms.

A new book by Edward L. Cuddihy, a UB Law School’s most famous alumni, The Merging of Titans: A History of the Law Firm That Began Their Names is a two-year project that began when the firm commissioned Cuddihy to write its corporate history.

“They wanted to do this while there were still people around who remembered Manly Fleischmann and Ed Jaeckle when they were alive,” says Cuddihy. One of his key sources was founding partner Adelbert Fleischmann, Manly’s baby brother, who just celebrated his 95th birthday.

I was happy to be interviewed by Ed Cuddihy several times for this book, and I did the best I could to recall the events and personalities that shaped our wonderful firm,” says Adelbert Fleischmann, who is now retired from practice.

Cuddihy did a little research; a quick survey of the New York Times database yielded 175 stories on Jaeckle, around 80 on Fleischmann. The Washington Post and Time magazine yielded more material. Cuddihy decided, “These were big-time national figures that people in Buffalo may not know. They were the kind of people that, if they lived in our time, you would see them on the news all the time.”

So he returned to the firm with a proposal that the book comprise short biographies of each man, as well as a corporate history. After voluminous research (much of it by Cuddihy’s wife, Irene E. Cuddihy, Ph.D.) and interviewing, the result is a detailed, packed narrative of two very different lawyers, a generation apart in age, and the influence each had on the politics and legal community of his day.

“The excitement for me is to get down in writing these two major figures that could easily be overlooked by history,” Cuddihy says. “The way people do not get overviewed is by someone writing about them.

In many ways, they were an unlikely pairing. Ed Jaeckle was a progressive Rockefeller Republican and a would-be kingmaker who backed New York Gov. Thomas E. Dewey in two losing presidential campaigns. In their Buffalo law practice, “he was the rainmaker,” Cuddihy says. “He knew everyone in Buffalo who was up-and-coming, and he knew how to get things done. He was the hand-shaker, the back-patter, the consummate politician.” Always impeccably dressed, he could often be seen in the back of his chauffeured limousine.

Jaeckle saw politics as a means to the greater end of public service, and he believed in the responsibility of lawyers to contribute to civic affairs.

By contrast, Cuddihy says, Manly Fleischmann, a registered Independent, was “almost apolitical. He was by all accounts a brilliant lawyer. Fleischmann also was on the national stage, taking on positions of enormous power and influence in the federal government.

During the Korean War, President Truman appointed him Administrator of the National Production Authority and head of the Defense Production Administration.

For two years he oversaw the allocation of scarce materials, balancing the interests of an increasingly consumerist society with the needs of the war effort. Said Harper’s magazine: “Fleischmann is the main whose decisions determine how many television and radio sets will be built next month and next year. He decides... how much steel Detroit may have for passenger cars, how much rubber Akron may have for tires.”

Fleischmann also was commissioned by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller in 1969 to study public education in New York, including the way it was funded, and to recommend improvements. The result was a massive two-volume report, and Cuddihy says, “If you read it today, you see that they were dealing with fundamental issues we are still struggling with today—financing education, how to serve students with special needs.

As UB Law School graduates, along with fellow founding partner Albert R. Mugel ’41, they remained close to the University. Cuddihy says, “Because Al Mugel was an adjunct professor all during this time, the firm was hiring the best people from UB Law School.” And, of course, the Law School’s highest award is named for Edwin F. Jaeckle. Manly Fleischmann served for many years as a trustee of the State University system.

Cuddihy says the project fed his lifelong interest in Buffalo and New York State history. “The most fun,” he says, “was reliving Ed Jaeckle’s political life, being able to piece together, step by step, Jaeckle from the time he met Dewey in Saratoga Springs (for the 1938 state Republican Convention) to the time he addressed goodbye to Dewey in 1948. I was reading and hearing about Alf Landon and Wendell Willkie. These were names out of the past, but they were talking to Ed Jaeckle. To me, that was real history.”

The Merging of Titans, was privately printed for in-house use, but those interested in obtaining a copy may e-mail mcinnoelle@jaecckle.com.

“Cuddihy did a damn good job,” observed Adelbert Fleischmann.
In the war on terror, the main casualty has been the rule of law. . . .
Terrorism must be confronted, but it must be confronted within the framework of human rights.
– Irene Zubaida Khan, secretary general, Amnesty International
Fear allows leaders to consolidate their own power. I think today the biggest test of human rights and the rule of law is fear. In the fear of terrorism and counterterrorism, you see the most specific manifestations of fear and what fear can do to human rights.”

—Irene Zubaida Khan, secretary general, Amnesty International

One consequence, she said, is that the United States’ moral authority has been impaired on the world stage. As Russia and especially China emerge as major economic powers, they need to be encouraged to make the human rights of their citizens a priority – but now, she said, the United States is in no position to make that argument.

Khan concluded her remarks by urging another way of looking at things, an approach based on sustainability rather than insecurity. A sustainable strategy promotes both human rights and democracy. Sustainable approaches to human rights require a global approach and multilateralism. It means rejecting the Cold War style of supporting your favorite dictator. We all get afraid from time to time, it is leadership that makes the difference whether we are ruled by fear or whether we manage that fear."

And she does see signs of hope, Khan said. As one instance, she pointed to international criminal courts operating in Uganda and Congo, cracking down on the recruitment of child soldiers. But “possibly the biggest sign of hope,” she said, “comes from civil society,” the non-government organizations that serve as a check on government abuses. Last year, she said, Amnesty International and Oxfam conducted a massive campaign to gather petition signatures, but photographs of individuals endorsing a treaty controlling the international trade in small arms. Despite opposition in the United States led by the National Rifle Association, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for the drafting of this treaty.

“IT is a dismal, dark picture out there,” she said. “But I do believe that there is hope for us.”

The James McCormick Mitchell Lecture, first given in 1951, is funded by an endowment by Lavinia A. Mitchell in memory of her husband, an 1897 graduate of the Law School who later served as chairman of the UB Council.
Distinguished jurist examines the state of the ‘Great Writ’

One of UB Law School’s longest-standing traditions, the annual Mitchell Lecture, had a historical tenor of its own when Hon. James Robertson, U.S. district judge for the District of Columbia, delivered the 2007 address on March 21.

Robertson, a former Mississippi civil rights lawyer, was appointed to the bench in 1994. In November 2004, he issued the initial decision in a case granting a Guantanamo Bay detainee’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus, a decision that was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. He also served on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court for more than three years, stepping down in December 2005 after the Bush administration disclosed the National Security Administration’s warrantless surveillance program.

His address, titled “Quo Vadis Habeas Corpus?”, was delivered in Lippes Concert Hall. In it, the jurist discussed the origins and development of the “Great Writ,” an essential legal tool and safeguard against overzealous government action.

“Recent events reveal how little understood is the writ of habeas corpus, and how much the writ is at risk of becoming a rather impotent legal anachronism,” he said. “The writ has been reduced in our own time to a procedural quagmire for jailhouse lawyers, and it has been treated by our judiciary, I fear, as a nuisance.”

The concept, Robertson said, stems from the Magna Carta in 1215. “Habeas corpus,” he said, “does not mean ‘produce the body,’ It means, ‘you have the body.’” The sense, he said, was “you have the body of William. Bring him to me and show me what legal cause you have for detaining him.”

“That was the gist of a writ of habeas corpus in the 16th century.”

Robertson told his listeners some of the writ’s long and complex history, including, from the start, demands for exceptions from habeas corpus in times of threat to the public security. He noted that Article 1, Section 9, of the U.S. Constitution specifies that “the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.” Habeas corpus, he noted, was the only common-law writ mentioned in the Constitution.

“The exceptions are where it gets tricky.” Robertson cited, for example, an instance in 1806 when President Thomas Jefferson asked Congress to suspend habeas corpus for three months because of a suspicion that Aaron Burr and two others were engaged in a treasonous conspiracy to seize U.S. lands. The House of Representatives rejected the request. President Abraham Lincoln, too, suspended habeas corpus often during the Civil War. “There was no effective opposition to what Lincoln did,” Robertson said. “His Republican Party controlled Congress, the Southern states had withdrawn, and the courts were at a low point in their power. The president had a clear field upon which to act, and act he did, issuing further proclamations suspending the privilege of the writ throughout the country, and authorizing the arrest of any person guilty of any disloyal practice annoying and comfort to rebels against the authority of the United States.”

By 1945, Robertson said, habeas had become a vehicle for challenging convictions outside the facts, such as denial of the right to consult with counsel. The number of such cases has grown dramatically, especially in capital cases, spurring the 1995 Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, which imposed a one-year limitation on filing habeas petitions.

“In my opinion, is nowhere, unless attention is paid to several problems.”

These, he said, include delays in moving habeas applications through the judicial system; procedural obstacles that confront prisoners seeking review of their convictions; and the jurisdiction-stripping provision of the Military Commissions Act of 2006. “When Congress silences the judiciary, it abdicates its historic role in the system of checks and balances,” the judge said.

“Congress may soon consider legislation that would restore habeas to where it was before the Military Commissions Act,” he said. “My suggestion, my wish, is that Congress do more than that. We seem to be at one of those moments in history where the vectors of power are changing. At such moments, the writ of habeas corpus has been vulnerable or it has been ascendant. Now is the time when Congress should not only restore full habeas corpus jurisdiction to the federal courts, but also revisit its history and the fundamental purpose of the Great Writ, and repair it.”

Specifically, he said, lawmakers should consider “removing or reducing the procedural barriers that so often frustrate habeas petitions; insist on prompt, timely handling of habeas petitions, perhaps by enacting public reporting requirements; and most importantly, proclaim that the federal writ of habeas corpus shall run to any place in the world where people may be detained or otherwise deprived of their freedom by officers or agents of the American government, so that American justice may be and maybe seen to be present whenever America shows her flag, projects her power and influence, and trumpets her values of liberty and freedom.”
Building up, reaching out

The Law School will play a major role in the University’s civic engagement and public policy initiative

The Law School is an integral element of UB 2020, the University at Buffalo’s far-reaching plan to expand, improve academically, and achieve national prominence. Nowhere is that more apparent than in the segment of the strategic plan focused on civic engagement and public policy.

UB Law has a long history of making a difference in the community. Such strengths as the school’s extensive clinical legal education program, the Regional Institute, and the interdisciplinary Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy have long been a positive force in the community, particularly in the area of public policy. So the Law School is in a position of leadership as the University looks to identify and build on such strengths.

The new focus on civic engagement and public policy, says former Dean Nile Olsen, “has an educational as well as a scholarly component. It also pulls together a lot of other activities that the University has been engaged in previously without much coordination or self-identification.”

“T his is an area in which people are already extraordinarily engaged, obviously,” Olsen says. “We have a terrific body of scholarship that demonstrates that we are committed to civic engagement and public policy.”

“Faculty research and scholarship is often informed by pressing or persistent concerns,” Mangan says. “We want to encourage faculty to continue to do this kind of research. We are a public research university, and part of our mission must be to serve the public.”

Mangan has the multicircled responsibility of coordinating work in civic engagement and public policy throughout the University. In the position, she will work in cooperation with and under the guidance of the Faculty Advisory Committee overseen by the Dean’s coordinating Committee. She notes that the strategic strength has five initial areas of focus:

- Creating resident communities and sustainable economies.
- Reaching across borders.
- Improving public health.
- Advancing pre-K through 16 education.
- Preparing leaders in public policy.

In those broad categories, she and her colleagues will build on a campus culture of current faculty research and teaching, and will bring together groups of faculty from multiple disciplines in each research area. One measure of success, she said, will be the fertile cross-pollination, so familiar in the Baldy Center, that takes place when scholars in different disciplines find common interest in scholar- ship and research projects. This should lead to more external grants coming to UB, many research grants targeted for interdisciplinary endeavors.

“Civic engagement is not going to be for everybody,” Mangan acknowledges. “Members of the law faculty could be involved in other strategic strengths. Getting the University as a whole to reconsider the value of applied research is one of the great challenges and opportunities.”

Nevertheless, she said, Olsen has been a champion of civic engagement and public policy for the Law School and University-wide, and much recent and current activity in the Law School is in fact tied into this area. “The service learning” work of the Law School and the extended reach of the School, for example, “serves mostly the local community, but what they do also has national and international applications,” Foster notes also that as UB expands geographically, the Regional Institute will be one of the flagship tenants of a third, downtown campus located in the UB Downtown Gateway — the former M. Wile Building.

“Regional Institute
Building a better Buffalo Niagara

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O nce the signature ways the Law School engages with the Buffalo Niagara community, and exerts its influence to improve the region, is in the Regional Institute. With its mission of “providing regional understanding and promoting regional progress,” the institute is a major source of unbiased information for policymakers, as well as a sponsor of scholarly study, conferences and projects that benefit the birational Buffalo Niagara region.

The Institute for Local Government and Regional Growth, as it was then known, was founded in 1997 by former State Sen. John R. Sheffer III, who maintains a presence at the Institute as a senior fellow. Under the direction of Kathryn A. Foster, who took over in 2005, the institute has become a unit of the Law School and has broadened and deepened its work. In January 2007, the program changed its name, adopting the shorter moniker Regional Institute.

The Institute marked its 10th anniversary in 2007 with a series of events, foremost among them a successful Symposium on Change that convened regional leaders and community members in October. It was also announced that the Regional Institute, which has been housed in Beck Hall on UB’s South Campus, will become an anchor tenant of the University’s planned third campus in downtown Buffalo, a key support for UB’s push to develop civic engagement and public policy presence.

At an anniversary reception following the Symposium on Change, Dean Nile Olsen reflected on the institute’s work and its place in the Law School. The realignment that brought the institute into the Law School, he said, “has provided the Regional Institute with an academic home to reflect its dual mission of scholarship and public service. That placement makes sense in a lot of ways, because it reflects the interests that we in the Law School have in common with those who are deeply involved in the work of the Regional Institute, and we can build on the synergies that result from those common interests.”

As examples, Olsen pointed to law faculty participation in a research project on the implications of the region’s aging population, and in a project investigating alternatives to incarceration in Erie County.

The Regional Institute also co-sponsors a Law School conference on governance of the region’s water resources, he said, and works closely with the Center for Law and Social Policy on research projects, working groups and forums.

“Even though it is housed within the Law School, Olsen noted, “the institute also engages in 10 other units at UB, including engineering, arts and sciences, architecture and planning, social work and public health. It truly is an example of how we as scholars can work together, across disciplines, in a central player in the University’s efforts toward civic engagement and public policy.”

The Law School examples of civic engagement:

- Law students in Professor Teresa Miller’s classes have documented and publicized stories of sur- vivors of domestic violence and the experi- ence of incarceration in Erie County.
- Professor Isabel Marcus’ longitudinal re- search on women’s international human rights work in Latin America, including ex- change programs with scholars from Cen- tral and Eastern Europe, and planned travel- ing for domestic violence prosecutors in Latin America.
- A planned 2009 interdisciplinary confer- ence on water quality and boundary is- sues to coincide with the centennial of the Boundary Waters Treaty between the United States and Canada, in partnership with Onta- rio’s Brock University and other local acade- mic institutions, as well as exchange, including conference grants to students from Cen- tral and Eastern Europe, and planned travel- ing for domestic violence prosecutors in Latin America.
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The Clinics and their clients

UB Law’s Clinical Legal Education Program achieves real-world results

The law students, Renz said, worked with a block club to become a 501(c)(3) organization, helping them with technical assistance but also budgeting and the like. The clinic also helped prepare the funding application that won a grant for the project. “The reason we were picked was that we had this collaboration among local groups,” Renz said. “It was neighborhood people, not imposed from outside.

It really helps organize a community—it gives them experience in advocating for themselves, planning, all sorts of things. It cannot have been a better project.”

Playground equipment worth $35,000 was donated, and the block club had to raise $10,000 to match it. Law students dealt with the issue of charging sales tax on fund-raising fish fries, and managed the legal aspects of other fund-raisers, and the clinic has stayed on legal counsel for the club as it considers other ventures.

“The Neighborhood Legal Clinic,” Renz said. “I think the students do a great job.”

The Women, Children, and Social Justice Clinic places many students in legal service agencies, including Neighborhood Legal Services. Cindy Chandler is a staff attorney and director of the Family Law Unit.

“The last intern I had for a full academic year was very knowledgeable about the subject area. It was a pleasure working with her,” Chandler said.

“Students do everything from interviewing clients to sitting in on negotiations between attorneys and the court, drafting papers, filing the papers, photocopying, returning phone calls, legal research and writing memos, sometimes going to special meetings such as the Minority Bar Association, the Erie County Bar Association or the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence. Students can even get a practice order so they can appear in court with me and can speak in court,” she said.

It is good networking for them to meet the people in the community and explain the legal ramifications of where the two sides stand,” Chandler said. She used deals with family offense cases, child custody, support and divorce. “The clinic has expanded,” she explained. “Overall I think it is a very worthwhile program for the students and for my office. It helps my office especially, we are not for profit, and our support staff is not always up to par with where or how to do it.”

The Affordable Housing Clinic was instrumental in building Corbettstone Manor in downtown Buffalo. The clinic secured $10.7 million in financing for the project, a three-story residence for women who have substance abuse problems and their children. With its on-site medical center, skilled nursing educational facilities, and its enclosed courtyard playground, the Affordable Housing Community is going to be there for a long time, “Isaacson said. “Easements are a tool to protect those on the trail. "If we develop a trail, we want to know it is going to be there for a long time, "Isaacson said. "We needed some good research into this." The clinic’s work included helping to prepare applications for the New York State Department of Housing and Community Renewal, and following that process through to its conclusion.

Because Corbettstone has four times the space of a prior facility," McLaughlin said, "it allows us to serve up to 120 women and children, many of whom could never have been served here. The children can stay there two or three years, in fact, we encourage it. That has helped to make a significant impact on the poor and homeless population that we serve.

Students in UB Law’s Mediation Clinic help to resolve disputes in Family Court, the Center for Resolution and Justice, and in other areas where people are at odds with each other. One of the firm’s small claims court judge Geoffrey Klein said that he has benefited from having these mediators at his side.

“We mediate the cases because they can take the personal conflict and explain the legal ramifications of where the two sides stand,” Klein said. “They hear both sides, then give them some feedback back and forth. What they are doing is applying the law.”

The difference is that they cannot impose a decision. They just try to get the two sides together and have them agree on something. It probably comes down to something I would have imposed anyway. They resolve things pretty much along the lines I would.

Each judge has a calendar of 12 to 15 cases. If they can settle half of those for us, we have saved a lot of time. I cannot compliment these students enough. The only thing they have got done is pass the bar. They are ready to go.”

The William and Mary Foster Elder Law Clinic recently settled a class-action lawsuit in federal court, recovering $11 million on behalf of nursing home residents who had overpaid for their care. Harold Belote Jr. of Depew is the son of one such resident. Belote said the clinic helped his family access money from his father’s Social Security and pension benefits to help support his mother, who was living independently. Staffers also helped obtain a refund on co-pays remitted for medical equipment his father used, and Belote’s father became part of the class-action settlement. The money involved totaled thousands of dollars.

It was a long process, he said, but gratifying in the end.

“As I go through the papers now,” Belote said, “this many years later, I am astonished that they could take such interest and do this for us. We never would have gotten this money, for my mother to continue her life, without them.”

Students in the Law and Social Work Clinic are pursuing joint degrees in law and social work, and they serve in field placements in the community, including the Law Guardian Unit of the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo. Pamela Neubek, 80, heads that unit. "JD/MSW students are getting more legal work opportunities here than they would in a pure social work setting. Neubek said. "They are given a caseload in conjunction with the lawyers and work these cases from both the social work and the legal aspect.”

Cases include: Alzheim disease cases and Persons in Need of Guardianship proceedings. "This is not about money. This is about people’s lives," Neubek said. "The social work background that JD/MSW’s bring to this work can be invaluable. It is a plus for us, because a lot of the students come with really fresh ideas and experiences that we have not considered. They are not shy about bringing their new ideas to us.”

We really appreciate having them, because it helps us, too—from a world wide standpoint, of course, but also in keeping connections with the Law School. It is a plus to have a good relationship with the school.”

Wind power has been a recent focus of the Environmental and Development Clinic, which has done research for the Wind Action Group, a Western New York advocacy organization.

"It has been excellent," said the group’s Bill Nowask. "It is really helpful and resources that we had and are fresh ideas that we probably would not have considered. They are not shy about bringing their new ideas to us.”

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In another research project examining how to attract businesses that would invest in wind energy. A third examined the Canadian experience with offshore windmill siting. “There is an enormous potential for Western New York both on land and offshore,” Nowask said, “and we have seen these resources available to anybody who is interested in doing that development, and being part of the process, as invaluable.”
The innovative visions of Archdeacon Orton, Clifford Still and Sam Francis mingled with the life-changing insights of decent, low-cost housing at the fourth annual Upstate Affordable Housing Conference, held Sept. 25 in Buffalo’s Albright-Knox Art Gallery.

Co-sponsored by UB Law School as part of its celebration of Affordable Housing Month, the conference drew about 325 attendees—from attorneys to financiers, developers to government regulators.

According to Dean Nils Olsen, the work of the UB Law School’s Affordable Housing Clinic is part of the 2020 emphasis on civic engagement and public policy, which is fostering University-wide intellectual strengths on understanding and finding solutions to social problems that are confronted by the community.

Other sponsors included the state Division of Housing and Community Renewal, the New York State Association for Affordable Housing, and the New York State Bar Association.

Six breakout sessions covered such topics as tax-exempt housing bonds, low-income housing tax credits, a case study on funding, a roundtable on the Qualified Application Plan by which the state allocates funding, and a roundtable on the Qualified Application Plan by which the state allocates funding for affordable housing.

The conference culminated in a roundtable on the Qualified Application Plan and how the agency’s scoring system determines how to divide its finite resources. Among the requirements, he said, is that the proposed housing fills their Community Reinvestment Act mandate. “There is so much room in these things that can go wrong that it is remarkable how well they go, and that is a testament to the lawyers who put these things together,” he said.

And Arno Adler, representing the New York State Division of Housing, spoke about the Qualified Allocation Plan and how the agency’s scoring system determines how to disburse its finite resources. Among the requirements, he said, is that the proposed housing units are restricted to tenants earning no more than 60 percent of the area’s median income.

Two of the panelists also highlighted the importance of green building and energy efficiency in affordable housing. According to Dean Nils Olsen, the work of the UB Law School’s Affordable Housing Clinic is part of the 2020 emphasis on civic engagement and public policy, which is fostering University-wide intellectual strengths on understanding and finding solutions to social problems that are confronted by the community.

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poor. asthma, disproportionately present in the for example, 20 million people suffer from pollution. In the United States, climate change threatens low-lying coastal areas. CLINICS: IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY Law School Report

Painting the town green

Bold ideas on affordable housing and the environment

ome facts for your consideration:

- A compact fluorescent light bulb saves up to 60% of your household’s energy use.
- People with low incomes suffer the most from pollution. In the United States, 20 million people suffer from asthma, disproportionately present in the poorest of any city. That makes housing more affordable.
- Rents in Buffalo are famously low, Magavern said. "That could be the future of our city," he warned.
- The challenge, he said, is to persuade developers and residents that "green" elements are worth the initial investment. "The single most important thing we can do for affordable housing and the environment is to fight sprawl and revitalize the central city.

Adding to the burden, he said, are utility rates that are 30 percent higher than the national average. So weatherizing existing homes, replacing inefficient appliances with Energy Star brands, installing compact fluorescent bulbs, and moving toward solar-powered water heating and home heat, are essential. Such moves not only reduce a home’s impact on the environment, Magavern said, but also make housing more affordable.

The challenge, he said, is to persuade developers and residents that "green" elements are worth the initial investment. "The single most important thing we can do for affordable housing and the environment is to fight sprawl and revitalize the central city."

For Buffalo, whose housing stock is the oldest in the country, green life of a home, a greener home will save the money we can spend. Sometimes a developer may not be rewarded for doing things that will save the tenant money over the long run, and are adjusting their point systems accordingly.

Thomas Van Nortwick, regional director of New York State’s Division of Housing and Community Renewal, spoke from the funder’s perspective and acknowledged the shift in attitudes toward environmentally friendly projects. "We want to say to the development community, it is really a partnership," he said. "Yes, utilize the least amount of our resources to do what you are going to do. The expense of doing affordable housing is not going down. These green elements can cost more in the short term. We are saying to the developer, we will give you more points if you use less money from us. But we have added points for less than your competitors.

Aaron Bartley, executive director of the advocacy group PUSH Buffalo, noted that “poor people in Buffalo are our greatest environmentalists. They consume fewer utilities; they tend to walk a lot more. The car ownership rate in Buffalo is second or third in the nation. That could be the future of our city,” he warned.

Michael Riegel, vice president of the non-profit housing group Belmont Shelter Corp., spoke about the tricky business of securing funding to build affordable housing. "The extent to which we are able to use green techniques is dependent on the source of funding," he said. "The rules and regulations of public funding sources – federal, state and local governments – really dictate a lot of the things we can do and the money we can spend. Sometimes a developer may not be rewarded for doing things that will save the tenant money over the years. You get rewarded for doing more for less than your competitors."

Competition for funding is fierce, and projects are rated on a point system. Fortunately, he said, funders are starting to realize that "green" construction saves money over the long run, and are adjusting their point systems accordingly.

Kevin V. Connors, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Architecture, addresses the forum.

UB Law instructor Sam Magavern: “The single most important thing we can do for affordable housing and the environment is to fight sprawl and revitalize the central city.”

Law School Report

CLINICS: IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

UB Law instructor Sam Magavern: “The single most important thing we can do for affordable housing and the environment is to fight sprawl and revitalize the central city.”

UB Law Forum

WINTER 2008
Law School Report

Building for the future

Affordable Housing Clinic launches endowment

One of UB Law School’s signature clinics is building on the momentum of its 20th anniversary celebration to launch an ambitious endowment campaign.

The Affordable Housing Clinic, established in September 1987, marked the anniversary with a series of events. They included the fourth annual Upstate Affordable Housing Conference, which attracted about 330 people to the Albright-Knox Art Gallery; an economic justice conference called The High Road Runs Through the City, a roundtable on affordable housing and the environment; and a symposium on supportive and senior housing, held at UB’s Center for Tomorrow. In recognition of the anniversary, the University also recognized September as Affordable Housing Month.

Clinical Professor George Hezel, who has directed the clinic since its inception, told WBFO Radio, “We are celebrating the fact that we have helped to build or rehab 2,000 housing units in Western New York. We are celebrating the fact that we have brought $165 million of economic boost to the western region of New York. And we are celebrating the fact that we have equipped our students at the Law School with the skills necessary to take them into the marketplace where they can get good, productive jobs serving the public interest.”

UB President John Simpson has cited that combination of educational value and community service as he advances his UB 2020 strategic growth plan and works to expand the University’s strategic strength in community engagement and public policy. The president’s “Buffalo Believers” campaign has featured Kathleen Granchelli, chief executive officer of the YWCA of Niagara, who is enthusiastic about the help her organization received from the Law School’s clinics as the YWCA built Carolyn’s House, a residence for women who have suffered domestic violence.

Now, as the Affordable Housing Clinic enters the next phase of its work, it has launched a campaign to build a substantial endowment that will ensure its future. As the Law School and the University continue their transition away from dependence on state funding, Hezel said, it will become increasingly important to generate operating funds from sources like endowments. He has done fund-raising for Canisius High School, where he served on the board, and for other not-for-profits, but never with this ambitious scope. But he is enthusiastic about the possibilities.

Fortunately, he said, the endowment campaign is a relatively easy sell for the Affordable Housing Clinic. “The significance of housing for homeless people is hard to ignore,” he said, “and it is hard not to feel warm about it.”

Income from the endowment will help to fund faculty positions in the clinic, as well as make it possible to bring an adjunct faculty from time to time. “If I am running the program alone,” Hezel said, “there are a limited number of students I can work with and a limited number of clients we can serve. We want to continue the good work we have done over these 20 years, and we want to magnify that.”

Administrative support and guidance for the endowment campaign, which will continue over several years, are being provided by Deborah J. Scott, vice dean for development.

The effort has already secured more than $100,000 in gifts and pledges, and five corporations have provided substantial support:
- Citizens Bank, which also gave a grant of $75,000 to support the Community Homeowners Resource Center at the Clinic.
- Community Preservation Corp.
- Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP
- Local Initiatives Support Coalition/National Equity Fund Inc.
- R&P Oak Hill Development, LLC

In addition, two Law School faculty members—Hezel and an anonymous donor—have each pledged $25,000 toward the endowment.

The development effort on behalf of the clinic to which he has devoted much of his professional life is a new endeavor for Hezel. He has done fund-raising for Canisius High School, where he served on the board, and for other not-for-profits, but never with this ambitious scope. But he is enthusiastic about the possibilities.

“What we are doing in the clinic is a great service to the community,” he said. “In our clinics generally we are providing a very valuable service. The people who are working on the programs know the best and know what the benefits are for the community, so it is only natural that we should be working to ensure their future.”

UB Law students have leveraged more than $165 million in the past 20 years funding 2,000 units of affordable housing in Western New York for low income families, the elderly, targets of domestic violence and persons with disabilities.

UB Law School Report

CLINICS: IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

Building for the future

Affordable Housing Clinic launches endowment

Left to right: Anthony J. Rizzo, senior vice president and regional manager of corporate banking for Citizens Bank, presents a check for $75,000 to Clinical Professor George Hezel and Dean Nils Olson as a grant for the Affordable Housing Clinic.
Author McKibben sees climate change as an opportunity for transformation

"Only in the last couple of years is the world starting to understand just what an unbelievably chaotic force global warming is going to be, both physically and politically."
— Bill McKibben

n acknowledged prophet of the environmental movement gave a stirring call to action in delivering the keynote address of a UB Law-sponsored economic justice forum on Sept. 28.

Bill McKibben, whose book The End of Nature first brought the threat of global climate change beyond the scientific community and into the public debate, spoke to the Hyatt Regency Buffalo.

McKibben's most recent book, Deep Economy, addresses the shortcomings of the growth economy and envisions a transition to local-scale enterprise. But his remarks were couched in the urgency of the global climate change crisis as he explored how it might affect humanity's social, political and economic life.

"Only in the last couple of years," he said, "is the world starting to understand just what an unbelievably chaotic force global warming is going to be, both physically and politically."

McKibben's book, The End of Nature, was the first to bring climate change into the public consciousness.

The conference, co-sponsored by the Law School's Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy and the Industrial Labor Relations School of Cornell University, focused especially on the health of cities and featured speakers on the living wage, worker protection laws and accountable development.

McKibben's remarks were presented in the form of a slide presentation.

The key issue, he said, is the increasing scarcity and cost of petroleum-based energy. "We are on the verge of losing our magic fuel," he said — the oil and natural gas that has been cheap, plentiful, and relatively easy to obtain and transport.

And as the world realizes that its oil supply is not infinite, economic and political change will surely follow. "There are reasons to think," McKibben said, "that what we are now undergoing will, in very profound ways, change the course of economic gravity and cause it to work differently than it has worked in the last few generations.

The logic of a world that took global warming seriously as it takes individualism."

And so, for example, he said, it is good news that farmers' markets are proliferating — not only do they feature local produce, which takes less energy to bring to market than foodstuffs from across the country or across the world, but they also foster human community. One sociologist's study, he said, showed that shoppers at farmers' markets have 10 times as many conversations with each other as super-market shoppers do.

McKibben concluded with a call to activism by people concerned about official inaction on climate change. "The scientists tell us that we have only a few years to succeed in this effort," he said. "And I have to tell you, I am not completely certain we are going to make it. The name of the book I wrote 20 years ago was The End of Nature; so I am not the most incredibly optimistic person in the world. But I am heartened by the action I have seen on this.

As one example of that transformation, he said, "It is quite possible to contemplate that the ascendence of the suburb in American society may be coming to an end. The suburbs were built on cheap fuel — 4,000-square-foot houses, and people driving 60 miles each way to work in semi-military vehicles. That is the world that cheap fuel built. Over time, the economic force of gravity will work in the direction of more localized economies with much more real work being done."

Besides the economic shift, he said, "we need a real philosophic shift in how we understand ourselves. Cheap fuel produced a certain kind of mass affluence, it filled the atmosphere with carbon, and it allowed us to become the first people on earth who had no practical need of our neighbors. There have never been human beings before like us."

"The transition has to be back toward a world that takes community at least as seriously as it takes individualism."

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A controversy in context

other countries is going in the other direction.
• “This broad mix of distinct perspectives was thought-provoking and helped advance our understanding of some of the reasons abortion is contentious and the import of different legal regimes around the world.”

Diverse panel discussions dealt with Buffett’s position as a focal point of abortion politics, whether legal change is more doable through courts or legislatures; the new litigants on both sides of the abortion discussion; human rights and reproductive rights; and the experiences of health care providers.

Some voices from “Abortion Controversy in Perspective”:

Eyal Press, journalist and author: “Defendants were not able to be here last year. “

Two generations of women and men have grown up thinking this is secure. There is a sense that they may chip away at the protections, but I will not have to be in a panic, situation if it get precedent. On the other side, the existence of Roe, the idea that this is ultimately in the court’s hands, has enabled Republicans in Congress and the Senate to speak rhetorically in favor of a goal they do not actually support. This political support for abortion means legislators do not really want to overturn Roe.”

Sanda Rodgers of the University of Ottawa Law School: “Abortion is included in the state, universal-provided health care we enjoy in Canada. Sixteen percent of hospitals provide the service. Coverage and provision varies by province.”

“Barriers to the service include misinformation given by anti-choice doctors and hospital switchboard operators. Doctors sometimes also delay access, or direct women to anti-choice organizations. Also, RU-486 has not been approved for use in Canada.”

To focus on abortion rights without focusing on those women who cannot access abortion is an insufficient focus – women who are young, who are poor, who have to travel large distances. Our attention has to be there as well.”

Corinne Schiff of the American Civil Liberties Union’s Reproductive Freedom Project, on the U.S. Supreme Court’s affirmation in Gonzales v. Carhart of a ban on “partial-birth” abortion: “This does not come out of nowhere. It is the next step in a very carefully planned long-term strategy to take Roe apart bit by bit. In Carhart, the court gives a strong boost to the anti-abortion side. Throughout the opinion, women are referred to as ‘mother’ – even women who have never had children. Specialists are called ‘abortion doctors.’ The fetus is repeatedly referred to as an unborn child or a baby.”

Left to right: Martha T. McCluskey, William J. Magavern Fellow and professor, and Athena D. Mutua, associate professor

Left to right: Alyson Salmon Gereaux, professor of law and women’s studies, Columbia University; Susan Christopherson, president of NOW; Michele Goldberg, professor of English and gender studies, University of California, Santa Cruz; and Jay Johnson, director of the Center for Reproductive Rights.

“Perhaps most critically, the court no longer holds that women’s health is paramount. The court says it has to be there as well.”

Helena Silverstein, a professor of government at Lafayette College, on laws now in place in 10 states that require a woman choosing abortion to be given the option to see ultrasound images of the fetus: “Even optional viewing legislation is problematic because it suggests to a woman that there is something she ought to see, and if she does not look at it she is being irresponsible. This is paternalistic, manipulative, it intrudes on her freedoms – it is problematic in many ways.”

“We might say that it is emotional blackmail to do this, and I agree. But the court at this point accepts emotional blackmail.”

Caitlin Borgmann, of City University of New York Law School, on “the rhetoric of life and motherhood in the abortion debate”: “Abortion rights opponents have attempted to cast the fetus as a person, with some success. The rhetoric portrays women as mothers, therefore abortion is seen as slashing the bonds of motherhood. Legislation is portrayed as protecting women from exploitation by abortion providers.”

“I argue that defenders of abortion rights should begin head-on by addressing the issue of the fetus as a person and affirmatively reject it as a basis for legislation. This requires that we examine the language of life and motherhood and fetal personhood. They use these terms, and rarely is it demanded in the public discussion that they define the terms. Once fetal personhood is no longer the defining trope of discussion about abortion, a very different discussion of abortion can begin.”

Mark Steinier, a professor of communications studies at Christopher Newport University: “It really does upset me when I look at what passes for critical engagement and public dialogue, as someone who identifies with the pro-life movement. “The rhetorical strategies are really very similar on both sides. If you look at the way the National Organization for Women argues publicly, it is almost identical to the way Operation Rescue argues. In my rhetoric class, I brought in copies of direct mailings from NOW and from Operation Rescue, and all my students had a eureka moment: ‘Wow, all you have to do is change the labels and it is the same letter.’

Each side tries to monopolize the symbols of the debate, present your side as the defender of American values; portray the other side as extremist, and use hyperbolic discourse.”

Baldy conference explores many sides of the abortion debate

A controversy in context

of the abortion debate

Provost for Faculty Affairs and Frank G. Ratchke Professor of Trial and Appellate Advocacy, and author Eyal Press.

C ut short by the freak October snowstorm, a Baldy Center conference on a perennially contentious issue, “Abortion Controversy in Context: Protest & Policy,” came together a year later with sunny skies and a diversity of viewpoints.

“Everyone who came last year came back,” reported Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Lucia Finley, co-organizer of the conference.

“In contrast to other law school symposia that have focused on the legal doctrines surrounding abortion, Finley said the Baldy Center effort took an approach that included the perspective of the social sciences. One purpose of the conference was to look at social and religious movements and international activism around both sides of the issue, to get a perspective on why abortion has been an issue of such enduring controversy in our society,” she said. “There was also a subtheme centering around why, at a time when governments around the world are able to be here last year.”

The 2007 gathering, held Oct. 11 and 12 in the fifth-floor conference room of O’Brian Hall, expanded on the original 12 in the fifth-floor conference room of Athena Mutua and Martha McCluskey, “and additional people came who were not able to be here last year.”

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**Law School Report**

**LEGAL THAI**

**Professor Engel teaches in Thailand — and UB Law students were there**

The trip of a lifetime is how some students characterize an unprecedented venture for the Law School: a January bridge course in northern Thailand led by a UB Law professor. The Law School has a long-established relationship with Chiang Mai University (CMU), located more than 400 miles north of Bangkok, Director of International Programs and SUNY Distinguished Service Professor David M. Engel, who served in the Peace Corps in Thailand and speaks Thai, has for many years taught CMU students via courses in their classroom and research methods during UB’s bridge term. Other UB faculty have done the same, taught through Thai interpreters.

But until now, no UB Law students have studied at CMU, because instruction is in Thai and the language barrier is formidable. That is what happened starting just after New Year’s, when the English as a Foreign Language (EFL) department at the University of the City of Chiangmai and some travel in this mountainous, culturally diverse area of northern Thailand that Engel loves.

Before offering the course, Engel was not sure there would be sufficient interest among the students. But 40 showed up at an information session in the spring, and a rigorous application process involving essays, transcripts, references and interviews produced the final class.

Why 10 students? Engel laughs. “It was for a very practical reason,” he says, “that is how many we can fit into a van to drive everyone around.”

It is said that travel is broadening; beyond that, Engel says, studying the Thai legal system can benefit law students. “I cannot think of anything better for our students than to gain exposure to legal systems, lawyers, scholars, judges, and law students in other countries,” he says. “Going to another culture or another society is the very best way to see your own more clearly. I have, everything about our own legal system seems inevitable. But once you look with fresh eyes, you start to see that, ‘Oh, our system represents this set of choices rather than this other set of choices.’”

Going to another culture or another society is the very best way to see your own more clearly. — Professor David Engel

The Thai legal system, like many legal systems of the world, is based on civil law rather than common law, although it has been influenced in some ways by the English and American systems. Buddhism is a pervasive influence in all aspects of Thai culture, including the behavior of actors within the legal system, yet in the formal sense, Thai law is resolutely secular. This disjunction between official law and its cultural context presents a fascinating issue for students to explore in particular subject areas, such as tort law or environmental law.

Of the students chosen for the course, Engel says, “They are just an outstanding group. Some have extensive international experience, but a substantial number have never been abroad and most have not been to Asia. Some of the students being part of the cultural context is very important to them. They are public health, human rights and women’s rights — and I am working to tailor the course to include those interests.”

Dean Nik Olsen, he says, has provided some scholarship support to help defray the cost of airfare, and alumni contributions are welcome. Engel’s hope is that other UB Law faculty will adopt this model and lead teaching excursions of their own.

For their part, the students packed their bags, expecting a life-changing experience. Jiradu Robinson, a third-year student, has a personal interest in Thailand. Her father, she said, was in Thailand on a military assignment in the early 1960s and brought back some mementos. They kept it next to the couch in her California home.

“Like a kid I was so fascinated by this,” Robinson says. “I thought what kind of a magical place would produce such a magical-looking book? So when I heard about this program, I knew I wanted to go.”

Robinson, who is pursuing a doctorate in philosophy in addition to her law degree, is interested in international human rights law, and says, “It is important for anyone going into international law to get a working knowledge of civil law countries. Since they are so widespread, it is most likely that human rights violations will occur in civil law settings.”

And, she says, “It is tremendously personally empowering to go to a place where no one knows you and you are thousands of miles away from everything that is familiar, and still find a way to be able to connect with people. It allows you to look at your own personal experiences and realize how much you have not questioned about your own culture. You really learn how American you are when you leave America.”

For second-year student Jason Wand, the experience was a chance to broaden his travel horizons. “I always wanted to study abroad when I was an undergraduate,” he says, “but I never had the opportunity to do so. I have always wanted to experience something of a different culture. I have traveled in Europe and been to Israel, and I thought Thailand would be an amazing opportunity.”

In addition, he hoped to extend the trip in order to see Bangkok and maybe Tokyo, and to visit a friend who is teaching English in China.

Says second-year student Brenna Terry, “I call myself a human sponge as far as culture goes. And it really helps to have someone who knows so much about the area and is able to give an insider perspective.”

Robinson says the Dalai Lama’s visit to UB Law School widened her horizons. “I had realized that culture does have an effect on law, but I had not really hit me until I heard the Americans asking questions from the perspective of punishment and justice. And the Dalai Lama responded from a Buddhist perspective. It is important to have a cross-cultural experience in general, and if you are going to work in the international community, it is a fascinating area.”

This was a once-in-a-Law School opportunity that I thought was unique.

Law students in Wat Phra Sing.

**Making UB into an international university**

A faculty task group has recommended that UB build upon its leadership in international student recruitment, overseas education and study abroad to create a comprehensive international strategy and identity.

With more than 4,000 international students, UB is ranked 10th in international student enrollment among U.S. colleges and universities. It is known for pioneering overseas programs, particularly in Asia, and for having one of the most entrepreneurial international education offices in the country.

Making UB into an international university would enable it to better train students for “the challenges and promises of the global community, facilitate globalized research and enhance understanding among the world’s peoples,” according to the report.
Training global lawyers to fight domestic violence

Build a better mousetrap, it is said, and the world will beat a path to your door. Develop expertise in identifying, preventing, and prosecuting domestic violence, and the same thing happens. That is what members of UB Law School’s Women, Children, and Social Justice Clinic are discovering as they continue to build bridges to activists against domestic violence worldwide. The world has come to UB Law in the person of a prosecutor from Brazil, Eduardo Muchado, and a young activist from the former Soviet republic of Georgia, Maia Jaliashvili. They are learning all they can, with the expectation that the conversation will continue after they return to their home countries to try to make the world safer for women and children.

We are talking about some ongoing collaboration, says Clinical Professor Suzanne Tomkins, a specialist in issues of domestic violence. “As a result of Eduardo’s experience a program has been formalized where more prosecutors would come to UB from Brazil. This has been a great experience on both sides.”

“We are not training academics,” says Professor Isabel Marcus, a member of the law faculty specializing in international human rights and domestic violence. “These are people who can take back the things that they learn here and use them in training others. We become an ongoing resource for them.”

In addition, Tomkins and Joanna Oreskovic, director of post-professional education, have been invited to travel to Brazil in March and present to interested parties there on policies and programs that have proved effective against domestic violence. And Jaliashvili has asked Tomkins and Marcus to do work with the Georgian Young Lawyers’ Association, the NGO for which she advocates for domestic violence issues.

More than the nuts and bolts of legal and social-assistance structures, though, the professors say working effectively against domestic violence in other cultures may mean changing deeply held attitudes. “It is about the transformation of consciousness,” Marcus said. “It is not just a law-and-order question. It is a much broader question about changing the consciousness of families and family relationships.”

Jaliashvili is in Buffalo under a fellowship that Marcus has privately endowed for scholars from nongovernmental organizations, believing that NGOs “are the watchdog for governments living up to their international obligations.” She is hoping that others on the faculty will fund similar fellowships in their own areas of specialization.

“In Eastern Europe there are a number of young, dedicated people who really want to accelerate social change,” Marcus said. “Maia is very clear on what it means to deal with these issues in a patriarchal society.”

But beyond the imparting of knowledge, the professors said, the presence of international visitors has enlivened classroom discussion of these issues. “This has opened up new doors for our students that would never be opened otherwise,” Tomkins says, citing for example Jaliashvili’s interest in and knowledge of human trafficking.

“Something is starting to happen in the domestic violence area in Brazil,” he says. “The government is so excited about this that we received two prosecutors this month in order to build a bridge to UB.” Muchado works as a prosecutor – a kind of public advocate – in the Minas Gerais state of Brazil. He said his government sent two prosecutors abroad for training – one to Italy to study organized crime, and himself to Buffalo. The Institute of Brazilian-American scholars, he says, “pointed me to UB as a good option.”

Now, he said, is an opportunity time for his training. “Something is starting to happen in the domestic violence area in Brazil,” he says. “The government is so excited about this that we received two prosecutors this month in order to build a bridge to UB. We just had the first public prosecution office open in Brazil to take care of domestic violence cases.”

Prosecutors, he said, are in a position to effect real change. “We can sue the government in order to really pursue changes in many areas,” Muchado says. “That is our major job today, to sue the government to make sure human rights are working. For example, we want to create some shelters, and we can use the government in order to oblige the government to make these shelters.”

“We are pretty naive about domestic violence in Brazil,” he says. “We have treated domestic violence like an anger management program. That is not working. We are spending money on these kinds of programs, and we have to change our focus so we focus more on the criminal act.”

Jaliashvili works on domestic violence issues for the Georgian Young Lawyers’ Associations, founded in 1994. With 60 members, it advocates for the rule of law and against human rights abuses, and provides free legal services to needy persons in Georgia. It also hopes to establish a law school in the former Soviet republic. Jaliashvili helped to create a shelter there – the only one so far. She also works as a consultant on human trafficking, representing both victims of domestic violence and victims of trafficking.

“In Domestic violence law is really new in our country, only about one year old,” she says. “The experience of people in our country with this is not very high. I am trying to get as much information as I can, to use for my country.”

Her organization advises the Georgian government on the drafting of laws, and Jaliashvili said what she has learned at UB Law will help her to recommend how to address shortcomings in the current domestic violence law. “As the law gets older, you understand where the gaps are,” she says. “As soon as I go back home, I know what I have to offer the government.”
Human rights interns tell of a rewarding summer’s work

For two third-year UB Law students who traveled abroad on international human rights internships, summer 2006 was one of high emotion and culture shock—and one when they learned firsthand how badly human rights work is needed.

Nicole Parshall and Aminda Byrd, members of the Class of 2007, lived together in Nairobi, Kenya, as they pursued separate internships in Africa—Byrd working for the Urgent Action Fund, Africa; Parshall with the Kenya Human Rights Commission.

Byrd attended the first East Africa conference on LGBTI rights, a four-day gathering that brought together advocates to define common goals and attracted funders looking for a targeted way to provide grants. The conference, Byrd said, was an early stage in Africa; advocacy groups exist, but as yet public support is minimal.

Parshall also worked on media aspects of the case, trying to get media coverage of the lawsuit in Britain as well as Kenya, and wrote grant proposals seeking funding to finance the lawsuit.

"These were intense sessions because you were talking to women who had never spoken of the type of sexual torture they went through," Parshall said. "Because you were talking to women who had never spoken of the type of sexual torture they went through. It was, she said, difficult to listen to these tales of inhumanity, and there were plenty of tears on both sides—though some of the women were fiercely proud of having survived these atrocities."

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Alex Karsten ’08 did the International Justice Network work notable not only for its content, but for its form. The IJC is run out of New York City, but Karsten said the start-up organization is pioneering an essentially paperless office. So he bought a laptop and, for 35 hours a week, telecommuted from Buffalo.

The group’s stated goal is to “lead human rights initiatives around the world by providing direct legal assistance and expertise to victims of human rights abuses and by creating a global network of legal professionals, non-governmental organizations and community-based human rights advocates in order to protect and promote human rights and the rule of law.” In his summer work, Karsten worked on several projects, including filing habeas corpus petitions on behalf of detainees at the U.S. air base in Bagram, Afghanistan; creating a “contact point” for justice advocacy groups in Namibia; and working on the IJC’s Web site and extranet, which allows interested parties to share documents.

“I am getting hands-on training in areas of technology that I really feel has begun to revolutionize the public-interest area,” he said. “We really do not have simple locational issues, and locational limitations are not going to be a stumbling block. We have attorneys in California, and it is not a big deal. I really am getting in on the ground floor not only of an amazing new organization, but using this new technology every day. It puts me in a great position for any other projects or organizations that use this technology.”

Working remotely, he said, is no handicap—“in fact, it made it possible for him to hold down a paying job at the same time.” “I do not necessarily feel that I am missing out on anything,” Karsten said. “I communicate with my boss multiple times a day via e-mail, we have a staff conference every week that we do through a conference call, and quite honestly, the amount that the attorneys are out of the office anyway, it really does not make much of a difference. Plus I am able to get

“Pakistan is going through a lot right now in terms of its democracy. It is trying to find its democratic voice. My role with this organization was to provide knowledge and advice, and to answer questions.”

— Emily Conley ’08, above left, in Pakistan

From Buffalo to Europe, the Middle East and Africa, more than two dozen UB Law students spent the summer exploring the byways of public-interest legal work. All benefited from cash grants made by the student-run Buffalo Public Interest Law Program, which raises money to make it possible for students to take unpaid or low-paying internships in public service.

UB Law Forum conversed with a handful of students about the lessons of the summer, and found that the richness of the experience was greater than any paycheck.

•••

Continued on Page 44

Continued on Page 44
my research done at midnight when I am ready to do that. It allows me to be em-
ployed and do this really important work that I love to do without having to swamp
myself by taking on another loan.
“It has really been a great and rewarding
summer.”

T
he long arm of the U.S. Navy some-
times gets stung with civil lawsuits, and
they end up in the small Maritime and Admi-
ralty Law office in Washington, D.C. That’s where Ericka Ensign ’09 spent her
summer as one of 28 interns nationwide
in the Navy’s Judge Advocate General Corps.
The office, she said, dealt with legal ac-
in arising from “any incident on navigable
waters involving the U.S. Navy.” For in-
stance, she said, if a visitor to a decommis-
sioned vessel serving as a floating museum
breaks his arm, her office would handle the
claim. Or maybe an aircraft carrier was in
the Navy’s Judge Advocate General Corps.

D
aria Dinsmore ’09 grew up in Utah
and for the summer lived with her
mother in the tiny town of Bluff,
Utah. But her internship with DNA Legal
Services Inc. in Mexican Hat exposed her to
a culture unlike she had ever known.
DNA (the name is an acronym for Indi-
an words meaning “Lawyers for the Revital-
ization of the People”) serves Navajo, Ute
and Hopi people on the largest Indian reser-
vation in the United States, called the Nava-
jo Nation. Working there enabled her to live
at home and do meaningful legal work in this
underdeveloped community. Bilingual cut
have reduced a four-attorney office to a sin-
gle lawyer, so Dinsmore came into a situa-
tion where dozens of open cases had lapsed.

She worked on some contracts and
guardianship cases, she said, but mostly she
tackled a pile of pending divorces, contact-
ing clients to see whether they wanted to
proceed with the divorce, and arranging to
file the necessary paperwork.
That was more difficult than it might seem.
Many on the reservation have no tele-
phones, and often she had to work with a
translator. “It is pretty easy to disappear”
on the reservation, she said, so finding both
parties in an action proved challenging.
“The hardest part,” she said, “is hearing
about their situation now. A lot of these
women are coming to us because they are
losing their benefits. They cannot locate the
father, the father’s name is not on the birth
certificate, and social services agencies say,
‘If you do not show us your divorce papers,
you are cut off from benefits.’
And the poverty of her clients, she said,
was shocking. “You realize that a lot of peo-
live without running water,” she said.
“There is a gas station, and they bring their
electricity to the gas station and fill up their
water tanks.” A lot of people do not have elec-
tricity. We hear every day about Third
World nations in such poverty, but it is hap-
pening right here.
But I definitely learned a lot about how
the Navajo Nation works and how they have
their own legal system and it does work.
They would rather the parties would talk it
out on its own, and when they get to court,
I think it is a good approach to law.
And the drive to and from work, she
said, could not be beat. “It is a 30-minute
commute,” Dinsmore said, “but it is proba-
bly one of the prettiest commutes you will
ever have.”

A
s BIFL’s vice president for fundrais-

And the experience has been
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works with. “The nature of the process
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The unpaid internship has left Ensign
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The 12th Annual Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Auction held last year raised nearly $26,000 to be used toward providing UB Law School students the opportunity to accept unpaid public-service summer positions. Through the combined dedication and support of Dean Nils Olsen, the UB Law Alumni Association, our generous public interest-minded alumni donors, the Student Bar Association, and the members and leadership of BPILP and co-sponsoring student groups, 22 projects in total received funding for the summer. In addition, six students were awarded national fellowships.

Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Fellows:
- Yasmine Adamy ’09 – Neighborhood Legal Services, Family Law Unit – Buffalo, NY.
  Co-sponsored by the Domestic Violence Task Force
- Sarah Brancatella ’09 – Kenya Human Rights Commission – Nairobi, Kenya
- Rebecca Hoffman ’09 – Vive, Inc. – Buffalo, NY
- Amy Kaslovsky ’09 – Empire Justice Center – Albany, NY
- James Lonano ’08 – US Attorney’s Office, Western District of New York – Buffalo, NY
- Sunny Noh ’08 – Legal Aid Society of Hawaii – Honolulu, HI
- Stefanie Svoren ’09 – Kenya Human Rights Commission – Nairobi, Kenya
- Olga Vinogradova ’09 – Legal Services for New York City – Brooklyn, NY

Dean’s Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Fellows:
- Darice Dimmone ’09 – DNA (Dine biiiná Náhiiłtu bi Agha’ií dah) Legal Services, Inc. – Mexican Hat, UT
- Lauren Welch ’09 – Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalucía – Cádiz, Spain
- Carrie Ann Wilkins ’09 – Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc., Public Defender Unit – Buffalo, NY
- Jodi Kay Williams ’09 – Foundation for Sustainable Development – La Plata, Argentina

UB Law Alumni Association’s Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Fellows:
- Ernest Himman ’09 – Erie County District Attorney’s Office – Buffalo, NY
- Brenna Terry ’09 – Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. – Buffalo, NY

Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Grant Recipients:
- Roopa Chakkappan ’09 – Tucker Sipser Weinstock and Sipser – New York, NY
- Ericka Ensign ’09 – US Navy, JAGC – Washington, DC
- Rebecca Town ’09 – Center for Justice and Democracy – New York, NY

Kaplan & Reynolds Fellows:
- Emily Conley ’08 – Human Development Foundation – Islamabad, Pakistan
- Shelly Pet-Lum Tsai ’08 – Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, Health Consumer Center – Pacoima, CA

Charles H. Revson Law Student Public Interest Fellowship Grants:
- Roopa Chakkappan ’09 – Tucker Sipser Weinstock and Sipser – New York, NY
- Jessica Gonzalez ’09 – Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem – New York, NY
- Rebecca Green ’09 – Sylvia Rivera Law Project – New York, NY
- Rebecca Town ’09 – Center for Justice and Democracy – New York, NY

Equal Justice Works Summer Corps Program:
- Sunny Noh ’08 – Legal Aid Society of Hawaii – Honolulu, HI

Mickey H. Osterreicher ’98 at the microphone was the auctioneer.
Sara Meerse (JD/MSW ‘96) developed “a sense of outrage” in law school, where she learned how to fight back and how to persuade. In her social work program, she broadened her perspective as she further explored critical issues in child welfare.

Meerse is one of a cadre of—depending on their occupations—lawyers with social work training or social workers with legal training. These dual-degree graduates function where the two fields intersect. The UB Law School produces a wide variety of dual-competent alumni.

Meerse won a prestigious two-year Skadden Fellowship which funds graduating law students who plan to provide legal services for the poor. She first went to work in Presque Isle, Maine, where she’d been an intern the summer before with Pine Tree Legal Assistance (PTLA), a statewide nonprofit legal corporation serving low-income clients. In 2004, now in Portland, Maine, she was a founder of the PTLA subsidiary, Kids Legal.

As its directing attorney, Meerse represents teens and parents in cases where an attorney is not provided by the state. Kids Legal handles cases concerning access to and participation in appropriate school programming for special-education, truant or disciplined students; homeless or unaccompanied youth; and health-related matters.

“Social work is about improving quality of life for individuals, families and groups,” Meerse says. “Law is about ensuring not only that laws are enforced, but also that citizens know what their rights are—definitely a quality of life issue.”

In dual-degree programs, students can count some courses toward both programs and reduce the total time required to earn both degrees. By carefully selecting courses, students can shorten their program for two degrees by up to a year. For example, UB’s JD/MSW students take the first year of one program, then the first year of the other, and then two years of coursework in both, finishing with the dual degree in four years.

Field placement, a standard part of social work education, is replaced in the JD/MSW program with a full year of law clinic work and a law and social work colloquium. During law school, UB’s Law and Social Work Clinic places students with legal service agencies, social service agencies, prosecutor offices, and in therapeutic courts.

Andrew Radack (JD/MSW ‘97) came to law from an extensive social work background, so combining the degrees was a natural. He now practices criminal and family law in Buffalo, and sits as a village justice in Silver Creek, N.Y. “I try to integrate my social work degree into my legal profession,” he says. “I’m able to help my clients as well as defendants who appear in front of me. I often suggest that people get the treatment they need, especially those with addictions. It is in their best interest to show the court that they’re doing something regarding counseling or treatment.”

Says Carolyn Siegel (JD/MSW ‘99), an education policy specialist and Colden, N.Y., town justice, “I figured I would either end up as a social worker with clout or an attorney with a heart.”

“Social work is about improving quality of life for individuals, families and groups. Law is about ensuring not only that laws are enforced, but also that citizens know what their rights are—definitely a quality of life issue.” — Sara Meerse ‘96

“I try to integrate my social work degree into my legal profession. I’m able to help my clients as well as defendants who appear in front of me.” — Andrew Radack ‘97
A high-profile book author and Fortune magazine writer came to the University at Buffalo to make a provocative argument: that corporate America is changing for the better, and making a better world in the process.

The appearance by Marc Gunther, author of Faith and Fortune: How Compassionate Capitalism Is Transforming American Business, drew an enthusiastic crowd, mostly students, to the Screening Room of the Center for the Arts on March 27.

“Many people think of big business as a force for harm, but I believe that business is a force for good,” Gunther said during his talk titled “Conscience of the Company.”

The lecture was peppered with real-world examples, such as Dell, the computer giant. In 2003, Gunther said, investors approached the company over the issue of the toxic waste generated when computers are thrown away. Dell thought little of the issue, but agreed to organize a computer recycling day in Denver, in the parking lot outside Mile High Stadium. “By the end of that Saturday,” Gunther said, “that parking lot was literally full of computers. Michael Dell realized that there was a constituency out there that cared about their computers when they are done with them.” Now, he said, customers can ship their old computers to Dell postage-paid: “the company is taking responsibility, but also connecting with customers at the end of the computer’s life and trying to sell them a new one.”

Another example is Wal-Mart, which saw that standard liquid laundry detergent, which is mostly water, take up valuable shelf space, are expensive to ship and produce lots of waste plastic. The retailer approached manufacturer Unilever, commissioned it to develop a smaller, more concentrated product now called Small and Mighty All, and featured the product prominently in its stores—a “win” for manufacturer, seller and consumer.

In the end, though, Gunther said, “There are limits to what companies can do, and those limits essentially are set by us. Ford, for example, would like to sell more hybrids, but the market is for sport utility vehicles. For these changes to continue to happen, we all need to be part of it. The way for this to happen is that all of us need to live our values every day.”

Left to right: Clinical Professor Thomas F. DiGrazia and Marc Gunther.

“You cannot run a business successfully today in the 21st century if what you are doing has values that are out of sync with the wider society and your customers, suppliers and employees.”

—Marc Gunther, author and Fortune magazine writer
Growing into the job
Placement statistics find UB Law grads ranging far and wide

How to improve on success?

That has been the challenge facing UB Law School’s Career Services Office, which, for two years has seen more than 97 percent of graduates either find work in the legal field or go on to further graduate education.

Now the placement statistics are in for the Class of 2006 – the industry standard is to look at the numbers nine months after graduation – and some interesting trends have emerged.

For one thing, grads’ average starting salary has increased for two years running; 18 states and several countries have new UB Law grads working there. Five years ago, only one-third of graduates left Western New York. Thirty-one percent of 2006 graduates started their careers at firms of 100 attorneys or more, an increase from 19 percent the previous year. Among the employers represented were such well known firms as Sullivan & Cromwell, Weil Gotshal & Manges, Shearman & Sterling, Ropes & Gray, Fried Frank and Skadden Arps.

Among those choosing public service, graduates have accepted positions as Presidential Management Fellows and at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., the National Labor Relations Board and the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. These results are the fruit of much labor – and the investments students make – in terms of their own success.

We have established relationships with all sorts of employers across the country. Our experience has been that when they hire one UB Law graduate, that person turns out to be a star, and they want to hire more.

Newton said starting enterprizes are surveyed as to the type of practice they want to pursue, and in what geographical region. The Law School, he said, measures its success by how closely those students’ jobs upon graduation match their initial hopes. “I think the theme of my job is to open up the best opportunities for the students as they define them, across the spectrum,” he said.

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“We have established relationships with all sorts of employers across the country. Our experience has been that when they hire one UB Law graduate, that person turns out to be a star, and they want to hire more.” — James R. Newton, associate dean for administration and national outreach

Class of 2006 employment statistics

Are You Hiring?

Does your organization have hiring needs? Whatever your needs—law clerk, part-time, entry-level or lateral—we hope you will turn to UB Law School for your recruiting. We offer several services free of charge to employers, from interview arrangements to resume collections and job postings. If you would like to discuss any opportunity, please contact us:

Lisa Patterson, Associate Dean for Career Services (716) 645-2056 or lpatter@buffalo.edu

The Career Services Office is happy to announce that access to our online job postings is now free. Last year, we posted approximately 700 entry-level and/or lateral jobs via our on-line portal, Symplicity. Please call the CSO at (716) 645-2056 to request access to our system.
The Law School’s 2007 Commencement ceremonies, held May 19 in the Center for the Arts, were all about relationships—the friendships that the students formed during their three years in O’Brian Hall, their continuing connection with the school as alumni, and the promise of relationships to come as these new lawyers pursue justice in all its human dimensions.

Two hundred fifty-five Juris Doctor Candidates, as well as 19 master of laws students, received degrees in front of an appreciative audience of friends and family. The ceremony was inaugurated by Professor Kenneth F. Joyce, who noted that the academic mace he carried was a version of the first weapon used by human beings against each other. This, he said, pointed up the responsibility of the new graduates as practitioners “dedicated to the rule of law and the supremacy of law over violence.”

Dean Nils Olsen called the 2007 graduates “a special class for me,” given that these were

Continued on Page 57
“In today’s world,” he said, “law school can present an extraordinary challenge. But the Law School at the University at Buffalo is much more than merely a place on the North Campus.” He cited the opportunities these students had realized for forming deep friendships and exercising focused intellectual growth.

UB Provost Satish K. Tripathi saluted Olsen for offering his “professional and life’s experience” to students under his care. Under Olsen’s leadership, Tripathi said, “UB Law School has become nationally recognized for its curriculum and the quality of its graduates, and as a bastion of academic scholarship.” Noting visits to the University during the past academic year by the Dalai Lama and Al Gore, Tripathi said the new graduates must consider the impact of their actions on the world as a whole. “We must ask how our education has prepared us to improve our local and global communities,” he said. “What responsibility do we have to contribute to the sustainability of our world and our communities?”

Following a welcome by Dennis R. McCoy ’77, president of the UB Law Alumni Association, Jason Joaquin Almonte gave the student address.

“Winters in Buffalo are very, very cold, and there is lots and lots and lots of snow,” Almonte said. “But even the grayest sky over Lake Erie could not dim the light in these students. As you graduate from law school, I ask you to remember the ambition that got you here in the first place. Use that ambition to follow your dreams.”

“My classmates are my family and they taught me some of the most important lessons of law school.”

— Jason Joaquin Almonte who gave the student address
Law School Report

COMMEMNEMENT 2007

UB Law students receive commencement awards

Jacia T. Smith ’07 is hooded by David M. Engel, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor.

UB Law students receive commencement awards

David P. Shaffer, of Geneseo, the Max Koren Award, given to the graduate who exemplifies the highest standards of the profession by service, Margareta Collin Award, achievement, leadership and dedication to the law school. Shaffer also received the American Bar Association, and the Order of the Barristers.

Award for professional excellence in the graduating class. Shaffer also received the Judge William J.规划 Award for law and the American Bar Association, and the Order of the Barristers.

UB Law students receive commencement awards

Trevor J. Barr

The award recipients are:

• Cheryl Louise Nichols, of Clarence, the Charles Dautch Award

• Paul Joseph Roman Jr., of Rochester. Nichols was also elected a member of the Order of the Barristers, a national honor society for orals.

• Kristin L. Paulding, of Clarence, the Virginia Leary Award, presented to graduating seniors who have made outstanding contributions to the Law School community.

• John M. Godwin, of Buffalo, the Judge Martin J. Jaques Appellate Practice Award for appellate advocacy. Godwin also received the Order of Barristers, a national honor society for orals.

• Kristin L. Paulding, of Buffalo, the President’s M. Jaffers Award for outstanding trial advocacy. Paulding also received the David Kochery Award for equality and justice for minorities.

• Amanda L. Byrd, of Buffalo, a Virginia Leary Award, presented in honor of LEARN, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emerita in the UB Law School, who taught civil procedure and the sequence of courses and legal ethics in international law at the school. Byrd also was elected a member of the Order of Barristers, a national honor society for orals.

• Leah R. Mervine, of Buffalo, the Linda R. Mervine Award for commitment to equal justice for public or oralists.

• William P. Johnson, of Scottsville, the Alpha Honor Law Faculty Award for Law School service.

• Kathleen E. Norton, of Buffalo, the Joseph William Kovac Bankruptcy Institute Medal.

• Justin Jay Fabello, of Buffalo, the Robert J. Connolly Trial Technique Award. In addition, Shaffer was elected a member of the Order of the Barristers, a national honor society for orals.

• Joseph William Kovac, of Buffalo, the Justice Philip Halpern Award for Estates and Probate Law.

• Of Counsel, and justice for minorities.

• Aminda L. Byrd, of Buffalo, the Justice M. Dolores Bernstein Award for commercial law.

• Judge Matthew J. Jasen Award, presented to graduating seniors who have made outstanding contributions to the Law School community.

• Simon C. Barlow, of Buffalo, the M. Jaffers Award for outstanding trial advocacy. Barlow also received the American Bar Association, and the Order of the Barristers.

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• Kathleen E. Norton, of Buffalo, the Joseph William Kovac Bankruptcy Institute Medal. Shaffer also received the American Bar Association, and the Order of the Barristers.
Almonte also noted the depth of friendships that developed among his classmates. In his second year, he said, he was very ill and almost dropped out of school; his fellow students bombarded him with calls, letters and flowers, and even took up a collection to help pay his medical bills. “My classmates are my family,” he said, “and they taught me some of the most important lessons of law school.” He concluded by quoting John F. Kennedy: “Your time is limited. Do not waste it living someone else’s life. Do not let the noise of other people’s opinions drown out your own inner voice. And do not forget the power of law to change the world. I have seen what you can do as law students. Now go show the world what you can do as lawyers.”

Delivering the afternoon’s keynote address was Hon. Eugene F. Pigott Jr. ’73, associate justice of New York State’s highest judicial body, the Court of Appeals.

Pigott began with a story from early in his private practice, when a client came to him with a compelling hard-luck story. As a college student, the young man had rented a car to drive to Daytona Beach, Fla., for spring break. Because he was under 25, the rental firm required him to promise that he would not take the car out of state. Knowing his plans otherwise, he signed anyway, drove the car south with some friends—and broke down in Georgia. They left the car there and hitchhiked to Florida, where the FBI promptly arrested him for motor vehicle theft and interstate flight to avoid prosecution. He served seven years in prison.

After his return to Buffalo, this man finished at the top of his class at a local college, graduating summa cum laude, and was seeking to become a registered nurse—but was denied a license to practice nursing because of dreams. Promise me that you will not ever let your music die.”

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After his return to Buffalo, this man finished at the top of his class at a local college, graduating summa cum laude, and was seeking to become a registered nurse—but was denied a license to practice nursing because of
his felony conviction. With Pigott’s help, he was able to obtain a presidential pardon and went on to become very successful in his profession.

The point, the judge said, was that proper representation at the point of this man’s arrest could have brought some proportionality to his punishment and not deprived society of his skills and talents for so long. That, he said, is the power of law to exercise true justice.

Pigott spoke to the quality of the graduating class, which, he said, represented more than 100 undergraduate institutions and collectively held more than 50 advanced degrees. And he left the graduates with what he called a “borrowed thought”: “We will not change what is wrong with our culture through laws. We will change it by small acts of courage and kindness. Aspire to decency, ethics and morality, and if periodically you fail, adjust your lives and not your standards. There is no mystery here: You know what to do, so now go and do it.”

Members of the Commencement Committee were Jamie L. Codjovi, Harven V. DeShield, Richard J. Friedman, Leah Mervine, Matthew J. Makowski, Jacia T. Smith, Michael P. Sullivan and Marguerite F. Walker.

Continued from Page 61
The Class of 2010

Hearing some of the 246 unique stories

Statistics tell a lot about UB Law School’s newest first-year class, but behind the numbers lie 246 individual stories of students who bring a wealth of diversity, talent and experience to O’Brian Hall. That’s the number enrolled in the Class of 2010, out of a pool of 1,518 applications, reports Lillie Wiley-Upshaw, vice dean for admissions and financial aid.

More numbers: 29 percent of the entering class is age 25 or older; 54 percent are male; and 12 percent arrive at UB holding an advanced degree. Their median grade-point average is 3.45 and their median LSAT score is 156. Continue to help grow the Law School’s reputation as academically selective.

Beyond the statistics, Wiley-Upshaw says, “a host of intangible qualities that admissions committees are looking for,” such as dedication and persistence. “It takes more than being academically gifted to succeed in life and in law school,” she says. “We have relied over time on applicants’ ability to reveal those intangibles about themselves as a great predictor of success in law school and beyond.”

“The hallmark of our program is that we are able to admit a talented group of people with interesting backgrounds,” Wiley-Upshaw says. “What is always unique about our class is that when you dig through the statistics, you find individuals with unique life experiences.”

— Lillie Wiley-Upshaw, vice dean for admissions and financial aid

“Modern life is so fast-paced and so rushed, and in order to focus on legal drafting, you have to focus on the details,” says Mary Idzior ‘84, director of the Office of Visa Services at Princeton University, and currently working on visas and immigration matters involving immigration and tax requirements. “Often I had to refer her students to immigration attorneys, and after a while, she said, ‘I became interested in what those attorneys were doing.’

Next stop: law school. A friend, Mary Idzior, did a class on legal issues at Princeton University, recommended UB Law. “She talked about it as being humane—not always a word that you associate with law school,” Idzior says. “I have never been a person who thrived in a cutthroat environment. I was looking for a place that is more supportive, that gives you room to push yourself.”

Idzior was attracted to UB for the extern-ship and clinical programs, particularly in immigration. “There are a lot of schools where you can get work with immigrant advocacy organizations, but it will be interesting to see from the government side how they address this,” Idzior says. “I thought I could get some practical experience that way.”

A Stanford University graduate, Schlarb spent three years in Indonesia working on small-scale economic development projects and teaching English, and then earned a degree in international agriculture and worked in Cornell’s Program on Environmental Conflict Management. Through it all, she says, “lawyers had the information and the knowledge. Lawyers were the people who knew the system worked. I wanted to know how the system worked, too, so I could help people.”

Her husband, Michael Richardson, is an associate professor of modern languages and literatures at Ithaca College, so they are doing a lot of driving these days.

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Ed Bartz is an athlete who came to it later in life. Bartz took up running in a serious way several years ago as he approached age 50. He was talked into running the Corporate Challenge race, he says, and "got instantly hooked." Now he has run five marathons, including New York City and Boston.

"I never envisioned myself as a marathon runner," he says. "But it has helped me to realize that if you really put your mind to something, you can pretty much accomplish anything you want to do."

Now, with the demands of law school, he is sticking to half-marathons and 10-mile races. But he still runs four days a week, including a long run on weekends.

A graduate of St. Lawrence University, Bartz had a successful career in investment banking. He worked in the trust department of M&T Bank for seven years, earning an MBA from UB at the same time; spent a like period at Key Bank, where he headed the trust department in the Buffalo office; and from 1990 to 2007 worked for an old-line private investment advisory company in Buffalo, Harold C. Brown & Co., becoming a part-owner of the firm.

But the idea of legal training nagged at him all those years. He had been accepted at the University of Miami Law School right out of college, but "it just seemed like the time was not quite right."

But "I kept on thinking about the law in the back of my mind," he says. "And at some point I decided, if I am ever going to do it, now is the time."

He applied again and was accepted at Miami, and at Penn State. But "the more I looked at UB in terms of the quality of the education, being able to stay here and keep my friends, and the cost, it just made too much sense to stay here as opposed to going elsewhere."

Now, as the senior member of his section, he has found "a great group of people."

"It is an awful lot of work," he says. "I was prepared for it, because you hear these horror stories from your attorney friends over the years, and it really is that much work. It just never ends. From the time you wake up in the morning until you go to bed at night, if you are not doing it, you are thinking about it. I am even dreaming about it."

But "I am really enjoying it. I thought it would be a bit drier than it has turned out to be. The courses are incredibly interesting."

Dina McCumber spent her undergraduate career at Princeton University, and made her mark on the ice as well as in the classroom. As a member of the Princeton Tigers women’s ice hockey team, she put to good use the skating and stick-handling skills she learned growing up playing with the boys on the Wheatfield Blades team. In her junior year at Princeton, her team went to the Final Eight for the first time and also won the Ivy League championship.

In her senior year, she played in all 33 games, led all Tigers defensemen with 24 points (three goals and 21 assists), and was ranked second among league defensemen in scoring. She also was selected to an all-star team that played the U.S. Olympic team in an exhibition game.

NCAA women’s hockey is a no-check game, but McCumber had a difficult time with that. "I grew up with hitting and physical contact," she says. "It was hard to make the switch to girls hockey." She notes with perverse pride that she holds an NCAA record for most penalty minutes, in a game against Minnesota.

Having interned with the U.S. attorney’s office in the summer after her junior year, and with a private defense attorneys firm this past summer, she knew that law school was her next step and that UB was the right place. "After being away at Princeton for four years," she says, "I wanted to come home to my family. And I love the people here. It is a different mentality than Princeton. The Ivy Leagues are pretty intense. The students and the professors here are a little bit more laid back. They are very willing to help you. It is not as cutthroat here. Everyone is willing to share and help each other out. I really like that."

And she still straps on the skates, coaching a girls 16-and-under team, playing in men’s "bar leagues" with some of her old hockey buddies, and learning to referee games.

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A year of accomplishment and outreach for the staff of the Buffalo Law Review was celebrated at the journal’s 18th annual year-end dinner. Managing editor Leah R. Mervine emceed the event, held in the elegant Buffalo Club on April 17.

Mervine noted that University at Buffalo School of Law alumnus John S. Paarchen, editor in chief, noted that fine print of the Law Review were published in 2006-07. The Class of ’07, he noted, was the first to publish 10 issues of the journal over two years. Paarchen also said that the Buffalo Law Review has improved its rankings among the nation’s law reviews, and that upcoming issues will include a tribute to the late UB Law Professor Lou Del Cotto and the text of the 2008 Mitchell Lecture, a scholarly examination of the writ of habeas corpus, by U.S. District Court Judge James Robertson.


"The Buffalo Law Review is distincting itself among its peers — and taking a chance — by publishing an annual issue almost unique among American law journals: the essay issue," McCoy said. The December 2007 issue will be the fourth devoted solely to essays. Whereas many law reviews feature an essay or two among the copiously footnoted articles and legal notes that are their bread and butter, Buffalo Law Review has pioneered the all-essay issue.

Essays, says Sachin Kohli ’06, editor-in-chief of the journal in 2005-06, tend to be shorter than articles, so the issue can incorporate more voices. And in style, he says, distinguish themselves. "The arguments are not really as built up and solidified. You want people to be creative and explore. We were definitely going for a more colloquial style, more informal."

Kohli, who now does merger and corporate acquisition work at Weil, Gotshal & Manges, in New York City, says the editors called upon UB law professors — including David West -brook, who has advised the journal on its essay issue and wrote the introduction to the first one — to identify authors who might be invited to contribute to the issue. "They helped us identify who would give us an essay and not just a law review article dressed up as an essay," Kohli said.

"All of you in the Law Review have been leaders," McCoy said. "The Law Review is the premier publication of the Buffalo Law School. Our challenge is not only to take the Law Review in a good direction, but the Law School as well."

Three student awards were presented to Law Review-staff members. The Carlos C. Allen Award, presented to the senior making the greatest contribution to the publication, went to Jeffrey A. Davis. The Justice Philip Halpern Award, which goes to a senior for excellence in writing on the Law Review, was given to Michelle A. Daubert. And the Annual Associate Publication Awards, for excellence in writing, went to Andrea R. OK, Jeffrey P. Glaunon, John T. Lynch and Regina L. Reading.

New this year, the staff members present the Bennett Casenote Award, to a Bennett High School student demonstrating excellence in writing. The recipient was Justin Surescyn. The incoming editor in chief of the Buffalo Law Review is Amy C. Frisch ’08.
A teacher’s tribute
Law Review special issue remembers Lou Del Cotto, 1923-2005

Vol. 55, No. 1, of the Buffalo Law Review featured a special tribute to the late UB Law Professor Louis A. Del Cotto. The journal featured tributes from colleagues and former students of the much-loved tax specialist, who died in 2005, and it evoked memories ranging from the most arcane points of tax law to Del Cotto’s love for jazz, sailing and classical guitar. Here are some excerpts from a tribute to a teacher who left a lasting mark on UB Law School and the profession.

Dianne Bennett '75, retired Managing Partner of Hodgson Russ LLP:

“I had to convince us of his regard for, and the worthiness of, the subject. I know that tax sometimes is considered on a lower rung of the law school curriculum. Some would say it is technical, it is black letter law, it is not conceptual, it is not socially relevant. Perhaps Lou’s greatest lesson to us was putting the lie to this trivialization of tax law. Lou taught us to regard tax law as a high form of the social compact in at least three ways; he taught us to look for what is right, to understand the basic concepts in ways few can imagine, and to appreciate beautiful writing.

“If you parse the basic principles, then you can ascertain what the answer should be. People may disagree over whether taxation should be progressive or not, how progressive it should be, or whether it should give incentives or not. But, one can analyze a particular statute in terms of whether it serves a particular purpose well, properly, and efficiently. Lou taught us to look first at that correctness, and then to look for the Code answer (which more times than not is not the ‘right’ answer, as we all know). In looking for the right answer, one also can understand the political influences in the tax law, in ways that are much more illuminating than simply being told those influences.”

Cheryl D. Block ’79, Professor of Law at George Washington University Law School:

“I n addition to opening my eyes to the big picture, Professor Del Cotto also provided a role model for my approach to teaching and to my students. Professor Del Cotto used what might be referred to as a ‘modified’ Socratic method very effectively. As I tell my students today, student mistakes in working through problems and cases can often be more pedagogically useful than correct answers. If one student misunderstands something, chances are that others do as well. Often the incorrect answer reflects an alternative way that Congress might have written the statute. Such ‘mistakes’ can serve as useful opportunities to discuss the larger policy issues at stake.

“Professor Del Cotto was challenging but not intimidating in the classroom—at least he never meant to be intimidating. I must admit to being terrified when he called on me in Corporate Tax. This was entirely due to the overwhelming complexity of the subject matter, however. Professor Del Cotto was always gentle and patient with students who were as confused by the material as I was.”

UB Law Professor Kenneth E. Joyce, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Law:

“T hank my esteemed colleague publicly for the intellectual ride we had together, both in class and in print. It began with that first summer before I started teaching tax, when he spent countless hours giving unsulliedly the insights he had gained over many years of thinking and teaching. It continued until the end, and although my debt to him may be non-recourse, it is—as he taught us that Crane taught—everything as real as is the debt my wife Rita and I owe Lou’s wife Bea for, inter alia, the meatball recipe, and as are the debts my children Mary and Michael owe ‘Aunt Bea’ and ‘Uncle Lou’ for being their proxy godparents and for being a loving part of their Buffalo family.”

Donald C. Lubick, former partner at Hodgson Russ LLP and former U.S. Treasury Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy:

“H e spent time in law practice prepared him well for the switch to a career where he achieved nonpareil status as an academician. He wrote a number of articles that were meticulous and thoughtful contributions to tax law learning. But his real place and most lasting achievements were as an inspirational teacher. In the classroom his care and helpfulness to young students were matched with his clarity and effectiveness in conveying understanding. As a practicing lawyer in Buffalo during the time he was teaching, I relied upon his imprimatur in recruiting the best, and best prepared, law students for my law firm. Almost all of them became my partners and stack up with the best practitioners of tax law in the country. All arrived with unlimited awe and admiration for the learning they had acquired from Lou Del Cotto.”

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—Donald C. Lubick

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Moot court competitions get future litigators on their feet

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Expanded externship program provides practical experience

The school also offers a field placement in Social Security disability law, in which students work in federal District Court to represent Disability Law and Practice. The work takes place during the bridge term: 24 hours a week in chambers for four weeks.

Spring 2008 offerings include placements with the City of Buffalo and the Town of Wheatfield, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, U.S. Customs & Border Protection, the UB Law Library, the International Institute, and more. "It is very different kind of work from academic work," said Gelernter, who welcomes contacts (gelert@buffalo.edu) from alumni who know of placement opportunities in non-profit or government situations.

"They work hard, but it is a very different kind of work from academic work," — Lise Gelernter, adjunct associate professor and director of the externship program

"The externship is really a great way to get your feet wet, because they literally say: ‘Here are the files’ and throw you in there.’"

The experience, she said, has included attending plea agreements, where the government offers a plea deal to a defendant in exchange for information in another case. "(It is like stuff you would see in the movies," Elwell said.) And there are research projects in which the students look at case law and write a memo proposing a course of action in a given case.

"What is cool," she said, "is that they have work for us to do, but also when there is not work to do, they say, come along with us on whatever. They primarily like for us to learn by doing. They will take us with them wherever they go and whatever they do.

"Elwell has applied to the Department of Justice’s honors program — the only way to work in federal prosecution right out of law school. She’s also interviewing at district attorney’s offices for prosecutorial positions.

Even in those applications, she said, the externship experience helps, because she has passed a background security check. "Going into the interviews," she said, "that is a huge plus."
A lively discussion on the American system of justice – its strengths, its limitations and how it might be improved – was the result of a provocative O’Brien Hall forum on capital punishment.

The April 19 event, “Inside the Walls: Three Perspectives on Life in Prison and the Death Penalty,” was hosted by UB Law School’s Capital Advocacy Project. Co-sponsors were the Prison Task Force, Witness to Innocence, and New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty.

Jim Michalek, president of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, noted that the state currently does not have a death penalty, but now has two new members of the Court of Appeals whose positions on the issue are unclear, raising the possibility that capital punishment could be reinstated. He listed some reasons for concern about the death penalty, pointing to the conviction of innocent persons; the penalty’s disproportionate imposition on persons of color; and the enormous cost of administering the capital system. In the years that the death penalty existed in New York, he said, more than $200 million in taxpayer money was allocated to capital cases.

Forming the center of the presentation were comments by three individuals who have had direct contact with the prison system. The first was Gary Beeman, who spent three years on death row in Ohio for aggravated murder before he was exonerated and freed.

Beeman asked those in attendance to remember a time they had been wrongly accused of some wrongdoing, perhaps as a child. “Think about the feelings that go along with that,” he said. “Fear, anger, betrayal, resentment, rage. It is a horrible experience. There is nothing I know to compare it to.”

Beeman told the story of his wrongful conviction, which came after a fellow inmate testified that Beeman had confessed the crime to him. His court-appointed attorney, he said, did no investigation and very little trial preparation, and Beeman was swiftly convicted of murder.

“I thought that innocence was all I needed,” Beeman said. “One thing I learned from this case is that innocence is irrelevant. It is a battle between two sides, and whichever side has the most power and the most maneuvering, that is the side that wins. Too often, if you are not affluent, you do not have a chance. "I swore at that time I would never put my life and liberty in the hands of lawyers. I have recanted that attitude. I know a lot of good lawyers. But that is the point at which I started working on my own case." He was sentenced to die in the electric chair. But an Ohio appeals court reversed his conviction, partly on the grounds of inadequate counsel, and in a second trial at which he represented himself, Beeman was found not guilty.

“My case shines a light on the lack of effective assistance of counsel in capital cases,” he said. And of those who are on death row: “They live every day on the edge of fear that their name will be called next.”

The Rev. Tim Buss, a former advocate of the death penalty, spoke next on his change of heart on the matter. “I spent 12 years as a youth pastor in the Niagara Falls area,” he said, “and I saw how easy it was for kids to slip through the cracks, how easy it was for them to get the short end of the stick in terms of academic and educational opportunities. I began to hear the facts, and suddenly I began to realize that, wow, we have got a real problem.”

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Those who advocate the death penalty as a deterrent to murder, Buss said, ignore the fact that most murders are either crimes of passion or committed when another crime, such as a robbery, goes wrong. And fairness, he said, is a problem: “If you are poor, a person of color or mentally handicapped, the chances of your being wrongly convicted of a capital crime skyrocket. The people who are most often wrongly convicted are those who are least able to defend themselves.”

As a pastor, he also says it is a myth that executing the killer brings closure to a victim’s family. “Say it takes 12 years to finally stop being a lawyer and be a prosecutor.” The day after the forum, sentence was handed down for Terrell Massey: 20 years to life in prison.

“T he final speaker was Nora Massey, an Amherst resident whose teenage son Terrell Massey was awaiting sentencing on charges of murder in May 2005 when her son went from school to a party and ended up in the Amherst town jail. Few people including her son were charged in the killing; only Terrell, she said, was denied access to a lawyer. She was never notified of his arrest; she learned of it while watching the 11 p.m. news. While she waited in the police station, Terrell was told that if he signed a statement, he could see his parents.

She contends that he was given drugs and alcohol at the party, and was dragged into a murder plot against his will.

“My question is, how just is our justice system?” Massey said. “I spent over $30,000 for an attorney. I did most of the footwork, I could have kept my $30,000 in my pocket and defended him better than she did.”

She also saw elements of racism in the process; her son was the only black defendant, and was convicted by an all-white jury, “some of them the same age as the victim.”

To the students in attendance, she said, “I want you to be able to distinguish between justice, fairness and innocence. If you are going into this field, you need to know that people are human beings first. If you think you cannot defend someone whether they are guilty or innocent, you are in the wrong profession. You should stop being a lawyer and be a prosecutor.”

The day after the forum, sentence was handed down for Terrell Massey: 20 years to life in prison.

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— Gary Beeman, who spent three years on death row in Ohio for aggravated murder before he was exonerated and freed.

Left to right: Jim Michalek, Nora Massey, Rev. Tim Buss and Gary Beeman
TIES may include requiring petty thieves to wear T-shirts or fluorescent bracelets announcing their crimes; displaying special license plates or bumper stickers revealing their conviction status; and posting warning signs on their property.

Alon Harel, whose areas of research include moral and political philosophy, criminal law, law and economics, and human rights, argued that both trends circumvent an important connection: the link between the state’s judgment of the wrongfulness of the act and the appropriateness of the sanction.

Privately run prisons, he said, are responsible for only one piece of that formula: the infliction of punishment. “Privatization undermines the very foundations of the criminal justice system,” he said. “Criminal sanctions should be grounded in the state’s judgment of the wrongfulness of the act and the link between the state and the sanctions it imposes.”

When courts impose sanction penalties, Harel said, “privately inflicted sanctions are grounded in the private beliefs of those who inflict them.” When the state asks “A” to impose sanctions on “B” – for example, by ostracizing him or limiting social interactions with him – it assesses “A” with a moral authority that properly belongs to the state.

Officials of the state – such as judges, prison guards and executioners – do not need to form private judgments of the appropriate punishment for an offender. Harel said, they are citizens functioning as an agent of the state’s judgment. But shaming penalties, he said, impose that duty on average citizens who come into contact with the offender. Except for those acting in an official capacity, he said, “it is immoral to inflict sanctions unless you exercise independent judgment.”

Questions from those in attendance dealt with plea bargaining, which enters the vast majority of U.S. criminal cases; the power of victims to influence what sanction is imposed; and the role of non-profit entities, such as faith-based groups, in the criminal justice system.

The book was published by Oxford University Press, an academic publisher. But a New York Times reporter got hold of a review copy, Knee said, and wrote a piece for the newspaper’s Sunday book review section. The review, he said, compared his book to You’ll Never Eat Lunch In This Town Again, a Hollywood expose, and The Devil Wears Prada, a story about the fashion industry.

“For the Accidental Investment Banker, the rest is history – it shot up to No. 34 on the Amazon best-seller list, and sold a phenomenal 35,000 hardcover copies. The New York Times Sunday book review placement, he said, “was an accidental best seller.”

Jonathan Knee, and he regaled a Center for the Arts audience on Oct. 25 with the story of the book, how it came to be published, and the anything-goes atmosphere of modern investment banking about which he wrote.

To the students in the audience thinking about the profession, he had these words of encouragement: “There is no other job like investment banking in terms of giving you access to and the ability to influence decision makers. I would submit that CEOs are a lot more important than your average congressman or bureaucrats. CEOs run villages that are called companies, some of which have hundreds of thousands of employees and have great impact on the world around them.”
The first-year mentoring program provides law students with a personal introduction to the legal community. It’s a win-win for everyone: For students, mentors provide invaluable guidance, advice and feedback on everything from interview etiquette to law office politics. Law students are able to ask their mentors questions and obtain information that they could not elsewhere or would be afraid to ask.

Mentors also benefit by having a firsthand view of UB Law School, current legal education and the new associates of the future. Attorneys received a free CLE, including training on mentoring, and met their mentees at a January reception in the Center for Tomorrow hosted by the Law School. Mentors are admitted attorneys who have been in practice at least five years. If you would like to volunteer, please call the Career Services Office at (716) 645-2056.
One of the most vocal critics of New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer’s controversial plan to issue driver’s licenses to illegal aliens found an audience both receptive and perceptive as he spoke about the issue Nov. 13 in an O’Brien Hall lecture room.

Robert Christman, Allegany County clerk, came to UB Law at the invitation of the Federalist Society, an association of conservative and libertarian students. “I was really, really pleased,” Christman said. “I was a little hesitant at first, because I was not sure what kind of reception I would get in the big city and the University. But I was warmly received, there was a great turnout, and the students asked a lot of really positive questions. I did not have to inform them of all the nuances. They were very well versed and educated in the issue, and we could really get into the nitty-gritty of it.”

As it turned out, the governor blinked first. The day after Christman’s appearance, in the face of vehement public opposition, Spitzer backed down on his controversial plan.

Jordan Marks, a second-year student who was president of the Federalist Society during the first semester, turned over the gavel to fellow second-year Seth Pullen because Marks is heading to New York City for a semester in the international finance transactions program.

“This organization was started to spark debates that do not take place in the classroom, and to really challenge people’s ideas about certain issues,” Marks said. “We are dedicated to the Federalist Papers, and the importance of judicial restraint and strict interpretationism.”

He said they invited Christman to speak because the issue had generated much heat but little light. “On the face value of the issue, I had an established view, but I did not know enough about the issue,” Marks said. “I noticed a lot of people were taking positions without knowing enough about the issue.”

Christman, he said, “explained what he faced as an employee of the state and the pressure he faced. No matter what your political party, the plan itself was just ridiculous.”

For example, Marks said, the plan would allow applicants to supply foreign identity documents, which would be scanned and sent electronically to the Department of Homeland Security, and within 120 seconds would be translated and verified. “I can barely get my credit card to go through that fast,” he said.

He said the Federalist Society “tries to stay away from political bashing. We are not Republican, we are not Democratic; we are open to all members.” He also said that alumni would be welcome to speak to the group if there is an issue they would like to address. “We would love to have a lot more discussion on our campus,” he said.
In keeping with the theme “Lifting as We Climb,” the Law School’s annual Students of Color Dinner brought together graduating students, continuing students, faculty and a wide variety of friends to celebrate achievement and call for a commitment to serve others as only lawyers can.

The April 12 dinner, held at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott, is a joint venture of the Asian American Law Students Association, the Black Law Students Association and the Latin American Law Students Association. It mixed solemnity – the annual candle-lighting ceremony in which seniors symbolically pass the torch of achievement to the next generation – with laughter, as distinguished alumni, faculty and others were honored for their achievements.

With a slide show of smiling Law School faces running continuously in the background, those honored shared words of thanks and advice with those who will soon be their colleagues in the legal profession.

“Looking out at this room, I see the future of this country as every room should look like,” said Clotilde Bode-Perez Dedecker, president of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, the evening’s keynote speaker. Dedecker, who immigrated to the United States from her childhood home in Cuba, recounted some of her life experiences – “in hopes,” she said, “that these might give insight and inspiration of your rights and responsibilities to be a player in the great experiment of our American democracy.”

She remembered the rationing of food in Cuba, and the long lines at government
stores. The black market flourished, despite the threat of prison. In 1964, Dedecker said, her parents asked the Cuban government for permission to leave, then had to endure three years of close scrutiny — including wiretapped phones — before they were allowed to leave the country. They had to relinquish all their possessions, allowed to take only 30 pounds of clothing apiece. They arrived in Miami with $10 and began anew. When the family moved to Buffalo so Dedecker’s father could study at UB, “the community provided for us for two years,” she said. “I know the power of community resources, because I have experienced them as a beneficiary.”

Dedecker has wide experience in public service and serves on several boards, and she challenged her listeners to tackle such problems as high poverty rates among African-American and Latino children in Buffalo. “I am very fortunate to tell you that I love my work and know that it matters,” she said. “Speaking to the 2007 graduates, I wish the same for you. I believe that only in giving to others do we discover our true selves. Only then can the promise of America be the practice of America on a day-to-day basis.”

Three graduates of UB Law School received Distinguished Alumni Awards at the dinner. They are:

Hon. Rose H. Sconiers ’73, justice of the New York State Supreme Court for the 8th District. Justice Sconiers was delayed in New York City by canceled plane flights. Cecelia Henderson accepted the award on her behalf.

Bradley Gayton ’91, assistant tax officer and director of tax operations for Ford Motor Co. Gayton said he had expressed reservations about the award to his mother, who responded: “This is not about you. People of color need to celebrate successes not for the individual’s sake, but so people can point to them and say, ‘If he can do it, so can I.’”

Nicole Lee ’02, executive director of TransAfrica Forum, the leading advocacy organization for African and the African diaspora in the United States. Said Lee: “I wish someone had said to me and my class more, do what is in your heart, because that is what you are going to be good at. That is what you are going to be successful at.”

The Trailblazer Award was presented to Rochester lawyer Michael R. Wolford ’68, managing partner of Wolford & Leclair. As president of the Monroe County Bar Association, Wolford initiated a program to develop lawyers of color, now entering its third year with 13 summer clerkships.

“This profession of ours is only going to succeed if we become more diverse, right up through managing partners and the judiciary,” he said.

Professor Dianne Avery ’82 was honored with the Jacob D. Hyman Professor of the Year Award, and used the occasion to speak of the accomplishments of Hyman, who died April 8. Avery cited Hyman’s tolerance and compassion as a teacher, and his “absolute passion for and commitment to social justice,” including a law review article four years before Brown v. Board of Education that argued for the dismantling of segregation in American education.

Finally, the Lift as We Climb Scholarship was awarded to Maryland native Patrice Harris, a senior at UB majoring in biomedical sciences and pre-law studies.

The 14-person Students of Color Dinner Committee was chaired by Carolina Felix ’07, with representatives from each Law School class.

“Looking out at this room, I see the future of this country as every room should look like.”

— Clotilde Bode-Perez Dedecker, president of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
Building a new Kenya

Professor Makau Mutua works to develop the next generation of ‘civil society’

As the world watches the struggles of newly democratic Iraq, another nascent democracy is working through its own growing pains—and a UB Law professor is wielding his considerable influence in that process. A native of the East African nation, Professor Makau Mutua traveled last summer to Tanzania and Kenya, working to build up non-governmental organizations and encourage the exchange of ideas. His aim is to see the country develop leadership skills that may be the key to a brighter future.

It was only in 1992, when Kenya first achieved democratic, multiparty elections, that the political class in Kenya is very resistant,” he says, because they were reared in a one-party state with no small degree of tension. He had put out feelers to some government officials he knew, asking them whether he might risk being arrested for his vigorous criticism of the Kibaki administration if he entered Kenya. They had assured him that if he lay low, he should be safe—the presidential campaign was drawing most of the spotlight. Nevertheless, he said, the 10 days he spent in Nairobi were ‘an anxious time.’

Mutua, a prolific academic writer and director of the Buffalo Human Rights Center, continues to write for a Kenyan newspaper in Nairobi. He also is publishing a book on the Kenyan constitutional review process, as well as the proceedings of a 2004 conference on NGOs operating in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. And he continues to monitor the progress of civil society in his beloved homeland, knowing that helping its key players to develop leadership skills may be the key to Kenya’s future.

Mutua says, “And as Kenyans debate who might succeed President Kibaki, Mutua and others have been working to develop leaders in ‘civil society’—the wide network of human rights organizations, women’s groups, associations and other non-governmental organizations. The current administration, Mutua says, has recruited the best and brightest from civil society into government. ‘That is to be the guardian of the national identity that transcends ethnic and religious identities. The purpose of civil society is to be the great anti-theocracy,’ he says.”

Mutua says, “And we hope that whoever runs the state helps to form a Kenyan national identity that transcends ethnic and religious identities.”

SUNY Distinguished Professor

Makau W. Mutua named interim dean of the Law School

Mutua, who also is Floyd H. and Iilda L. Hurst Faculty Scholar in the UB Law School, directs the Human Rights Center. He joined the UB faculty in 1996 after serving as associate director of the Human Rights Program at Harvard Law School. In addition, he was director of the Africa Project at the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights.

One of the world’s foremost authorities in the area of human rights law, he has conducted numerous human rights, diplomatic and rule-of-law missions to countries in Africa, Latin America and Europe, and has spoken at public forums in many parts of the world, including Japan, Brazil, France and Ethiopia. He is a member of the Executive Council and the Executive Committee of the American Society of International Law (ASIL), the most prestigious and largest organization of international lawyers in the world. Mutua is the author of Human Rights: A Political and Cultural Critique (2002), and his most recent book, Kenya’s Quest for Democracy: Taming Leviathan and Human Rights NGOs in East Africa: Political and Normative Tensions, will be published this spring. He has written numerous scholarly articles on topics that include international law, human rights and religion. He also has written human rights reports for the United Nations and leading nongovernmental organizations, as well as dozens of articles for such popular publications as The New York Times and The Washington Post.

Mutua has been a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, the University of Iowa College of Law, the University of Puerto Rico School of Law and the United Nations University for Peace in Costa Rica. In addition, he served as chair of the Task Force for the Establishment of a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission appointed under the authority of President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya in 2003. He was educated at the University of Nairobi, Kenya; the University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania; and at Harvard Law School, where he obtained a doctor of juridical science degree in 1987.

Kenya will elect a new president in 2012, and in Mutua’s eyes, it is time for a new generation to take power. “The political class in Kenya is very resistant,” he says, because they were reared in the old one-party system in which the state was “treated as a piggy bank.” In the 15 years since arap Moi’s election, “there has been a more open political process,” Mutua says. “But the same people who controlled the one-party state have migrated to the various political parties and now run these parties.”

This, he says, has meant that governing continues to be based on patronage, not merit, and has spawned an “anti-intellectualism” in which “the parties do not encourage big-picture discussions about the long-term interests of the country, about the problem of corruption, and even about the purpose of politics.”

Further complicating the Kenyan political picture, Mutua says, each party has identified itself with one of the country’s ethnic groups, so that political discussion has been “fractured and balkanized along ethnic lines.”

And as Kenyans debate who might succeed President Kibaki, Mutua and others have been working to develop leaders in “civil society” – the wide network of human rights organizations, women’s groups, associations and other non-governmental organizations. The current administration, Mutua says, has recruited the best and brightest from civil society into government service. “The most senior people are gone,” he says. “You have toddlers in civil society who have to learn how civil society works.”

For example, the Kenya Human Rights Commission, an NGO that Mutua chairs, has over the past two years pulled away from the Kibaki government to re-establish itself as an independent voice (and frequent critic of the administration), and while Mutua was in Nairobi in August, a new executive director and deputy were named. As other NGOs regroup, Mutua says, “and hope is that their leaders will form the nucleus of a new political generation, ready to govern with integrity and energy.”

“We want to create a state that is sensitive to differences, a state that is open and transparent, a state that takes into consideration the advantages and disadvantages that different groups enjoy and sees the disadvantages reduced, a state that is fair to everyone,” Mutua says. “And we hope that whoever runs the state helps to form a Kenyan national identity that transcends ethnic and religious identities.”

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—A very tall order,” the professor concedes. “But no country can rise to political and normative stature without a vibrant and vocal civil society. Our sense is that the current political class is myopic, visionless and very self-interested.”

He points out that, in a country where half the citizens live on less than a dollar a day, the 224 members of the Kenyan National Assembly are the highest-paid in the world—better paid even than members of the U.S. Congress.

“Kenyans,” Mutua says, “are hungry for non-traditional politicians. In 2012 there has to be a clear reformist candidate.”
New Faculty

A sense of place

Associate Professor Irus Braverman explores the nexus of law, geography and anthropology

These days, Irus Braverman is 'burning her way around Buffalo, having moved here in early June. But knowing east from west is proving to be somewhat difficult. It is, she says, mostly a question of acquired geography: “I grew up in Jerusalem and am used to having mountains around to keep me oriented. Here I mostly get lost.”

Indeed, it is that sense of inner-connectedness between the natural and the social worlds that informs Braverman’s work, which travels between the disciplines of law, geography, and anthropology. She joins the UB Law faculty from Harvard University, where she was an associate at the Humanities Center and previously a visiting fellow at Harvard Law’s Human Rights Program. She has also just defended her thesis for a doctorate in juridical science at the University of Toronto.

Braverman (her first name is pronounced Ee-rous) wrote her M.A. thesis in criminology on housing regulations in East Jerusalem, and about the governmental practice of house demolitions in particular. In her doctoral thesis, Braverman’s focus of attention has shifted from the space of the house to that of trees.

“In a way, one is no less of a human construction than the other,” she explains, “only that with trees people seem to believe that they are natural and therefore are not social or political constructs, which is precisely why trees provide such a fascinating research project.”

Her doctoral thesis, titled “Tree Wars: A Study of Natural Governance in Israel/Palestine and in Four American Cities,” deals with what she calls “the politics of nature.” Her awareness of the political power of natural things dates back to her practice as an environmental lawyer in Tel Aviv some ten years ago. Accordingly, the first part of her thesis focuses on the politics of pine and olive landscapes in Israel/Palestine.

“Trees there play a very important national role,” she explains. The pine was the main tree planted by the Jewish National Fund for decades and has come to be identified with the Jewish people, while the olive tree has become a symbol of Palestinian clinging to the land and resistance to the Israeli occupation. Tensions between the two groups have manifested themselves also in the burning of forests and the uprooting of olive groves.

At the same time, Braverman also clarifies that there is more to the picture than this binary tree affiliation. She explains that the dual identities can also be bypassed and confused by a set of sometimes surprising connections. For example, “the olive tree is used in various instances as a symbol of the Israeli state and Jewish settlers have increasingly been planting olive trees,” she says.

The second part of her thesis discusses the role of trees in certain American urban settings, and in four North American cities in particular, including Toronto and Boston, Mass. She explores the way human traffic is controlled through the placement of trees on city sidewalks, as well as the dynamic between tree management on city sidewalks and urban crime control.

Now that she is in Buffalo, Braverman is considering studying the October 2006 storm and its social and spatial effects. “Having trees play such an important role in Buffalo since the storm is a very interesting coincidence with my own research interests,” she states. She has already started interviewing various tree officials in town.

Buffalo’s location near an international border is another topic that triggers her interest, and there she finds further evidence that geography and politics go hand in hand. Her border experience dates back to her years in Israel, where she was active in a women’s group that routinely monitors Israeli soldiers’ behavior at various checkpoints in the West Bank.

Braverman has worked as a community organizer in low-income communities in Washington, D.C.; Boston; and San Diego, as well as in Israel. Now, at UB Law, she is excited at the prospects of legal scholarship that cuts across disciplines, and she admires the unique and eclectic scholarship of her new colleagues at the law school. She mentions the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy as an excellent place for scholars from different disciplines to come together. She wants to develop ties with other departments at UB, especially with the departments of geography, anthropology, and sociology.

She is also excited about teaching. This will be her first time teaching law to American students, and she is looking forward to the challenge. “When someone practices law, it is important that they are reflective about their work,” she says. “Teaching in general—and teaching in a law school in particular—is about providing law students with tools for critical thought and reflexivity, making law a living thing rather than something passive or stagnant that students feel they have no influence over.”

As she begins teaching, her courses will include topics such as Law and Nature and Law and Geography. Those courses will begin in the spring because of a personal blessing. Braverman and her partner, Gregor Harvey, a classical and folk guitarist and Irish mandolin player, had their first child at the end of August.

“Teaching in general—and teaching in a law school in particular—is about providing law students with tools for critical thought and reflexivity, making law a living thing rather than something passive or stagnant that students feel they have no influence over.”

— Associate Professor Irus Braverman
Rick Su knows how to make a summer internship pay off. In the summer after his first year at Harvard Law School he worked as a research assistant for Professors David Barron and Gerald E. Frug. The end result was a book that he co-authored with Professors Barron and Frug, called *Dispelling the Myth of Home Rule*. Although Su was initially considering a career in litigation, this experience changed his mind. Su discovered that he had found his niche.

“That summer really solidified not only my interest in legal scholarship but my interest in local government law,” he says. “I just fell in love with it.”

“It is not just how local issues get resolved, or how local democratic institutions work, but also how localities affect each other,” Su explains. “Issues like urban segregation, and the allocation of resources, are based on the geography of how we lay out our neighborhoods. The allocation of power between local governments and the state, and the kind of legal presumptions that go into those decisions, contribute or become a primary cause of a lot of problems.”

Throughout his career, teaching and scholarship remained Su’s primary goal. Su joined the UB Law School faculty in the fall, and he taught immigration law in his first semester and will teach local government law in the spring. He continues to work on immigration issues as well, and is working on several articles dealing with the intersection of immigration and local government law.

Having interviewed at a number of law schools, he says he was attracted by UB Law’s people and programs. “A big part of my decision was the kind of work, especially the interdisciplinary work, that people are involved in at UB,” he says. “The Baldy Center is a great resource, and it is exciting to see that the Law School and the rest of the social sciences are heavily integrated. Sociology plays a big part in my work, and from the immigration side, political science plays a big part as well.”

Su lives in Buffalo with his wife, Jessica Houston Su, a sociologist who continues to do welfare research for the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.
New Faculty

Behind the legal culture

Associate Professor Mateo Taussig-Rubbo brings the tools of anthropology to UB Law

U B Law School’s reputation as a place where the law and the social sciences mix it up took a step forward last fall when Mateo Taussig-Rubbo joined the faculty. Taussig-Rubbo is an anthropologist, having just completed the dissertation for his doctoral degree in anthropology at the University of Chicago. He is also a lawyer, having earned the J.D. at Yale Law School in 2001. He practiced for two years in the area of cross-border transactions at a New York City firm, and clerked for a U.S. District Court judge in the Southern District of New York.

Taussig-Rubbo’s recent paper “Outsourcing Sacrifice: Rethinking Private Military Contractors” looks at a private legal relationship — military contractors hired by the U.S. government to work in war zones — and discusses in what sense such workers embody the American ethos. The paper discusses a deadly attack on March 31, 2004, on contractors in Fallujah, Iraq, in which the bodies of four private security guards were burned and hung on a bridge. “This was a very spectacular, grotesque ambush,” Taussig-Rubbo says.

The status of these people for an American audience was transformed. Somehow America became visible again in their destroyed bodies. “How are we meant to talk about what happens in that kind of attack? Is it just meaningless, grotesque violence? We can get much more precise and in-depth in our thinking about our reception of that kind of consecrating violence, as I call it.”

Anthropology is no longer only about far-flung locations and times and places. It is also a study of any human community, and that includes the United States and modern legal orders. “Anthropology is no longer only about far-flung locations and times and places,” Taussig-Rubbo says. “It is also a study of any human community, and that includes the United States and modern legal orders. The discipline has a very rich tradition based, on one hand, on empirical ethnographic research and field work, and on the other hand, theoretical tradition that spans over a century and brings many categories and questions that can be brought to bear in the study of law.”

Traditional anthropological concepts such as gift, sacrifice and consecration, he says, can be ways of understanding the law and legal systems outside the usual tools of legal analysis.

For example, Taussig-Rubbo’s recent paper “Outsourcing Sacrifice: Rethinking Private Military Contractors” looks at a private legal relationship — military contractors hired by the U.S. government to work in war zones — and discusses in what sense such workers embody the American ethos. The paper discusses a deadly attack on March 31, 2004, on contractors in Fallujah, Iraq, in which the bodies of four private security guards were burned and hung on a bridge. “This was a very spectacular, grotesque ambush,” Taussig-Rubbo says.

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Privatizing such dangerous functions of government as military service, he says, is a way to make the nation’s sacrifice less immediate and personal. But highly publicized attacks like the Fallujah ambush makes it impossible for the American public to ignore that these workers, too, are sacrificing their lives in the war effort. As Taussig-Rubbo puts it, “This spectacular attack redescribes the bodies politic in the bodies of these individuals and demonstrates the difficulty that a policy of outsourcing sacrifice is likely to encounter.”

Taussig-Rubbo also has an interest in detention; his Ph.D. work dealt with U.S. immigration detention camps and the question, how does the state expel and eject people? He spent some time at detention centers in Los Angeles, interviewing guards, prison officials and detainees — non-citizens and legal immigrants who were in removal or deportation proceedings. “In a lot of court opinions around issues of detention, detention is really phrased as an act of beneficence,” he says — described in terms of what he calls the “sovereign’s gift” bestowed by an all-powerful state on an undeserving recipient.

He describes one telling detail. In one detention center, officials had installed one-way mirrors, but accidentally fixed them the wrong way. The guards could see only their own reflections; the detainees could see the guards. Officials decided to keep it that way. “To me, this spoke in powerful ways about the relationship between officials and detainees,” Taussig-Rubbo says. “For the guards, it was the position of seeing only yourself, the strange pleasure in other people looking at you and wanting to join you.”

“Anthropology is no longer only about far-flung locations and times and places. It is also a study of any human community, and that includes the United States and modern legal orders.” — Associate Professor Mateo Taussig-Rubbo

Rubbo, who has been teaching at the New School for Social Research, in New York City. “My work has been moving between anthropology and law, and everyone I met at UB with seemed open and interested in an approach to law that was serious in engaging with other disciplines. The openness to a variety of approaches impressed me,” Taussig-Rubbo, whose father is an anthropologist, saw a lot of the world while he was growing up. The family lived in Sydney, Australia, Colombia, New York City; and Michigan. It was good training for a social sciences discipline that studies the ways of humanity and human cultures.

“Anthropology is no longer only about far-flung locations and times and places,” Taussig-Rubbo says. “It is also a study of any human community, and that includes the United States and modern legal orders. The discipline has a very rich tradition based, on one hand, on empirical ethnographic research and field work, and on the other hand, theoretical tradition that spans over a century and brings many categories and questions that can be brought to bear in the study of law.”
A former dean moves on

Professor Filvaroff, civil rights advocate, transitions to retirement

Before joining UB Law School in 1990 as its 15th dean, David B. Filvaroff already had a broad career in the law. He had been in private practice, was a law clerk at the U.S. Supreme Court, served as a high-ranking adviser in the U.S. Department of Justice and had been on the law school faculties at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Texas.

Throughout Professor Filvaroff’s career, two constants have remained: his love of teaching and his commitment to advancing civil rights.

“It gives me great pleasure to look back on my 40 years as a teacher, half of them here at UB,” says Filvaroff, who is transitioning into retirement by reducing his teaching load to part time. “UB Law students are very smart, and they get smarter and more sophisticated all the time. I enjoy challenging students and having them challenge me. I know I’ll miss the excitement I feel every time I walk into the classroom.”

At UB, Filvaroff has taught torts, international law, civil rights, federal courts, constitutional law and international human rights.

He came to UB from the University of Texas School of Law, succeeding Wade J. Newhouse as dean and occupied the post for four years before returning to full-time teaching.

“I was attracted to Buffalo for a variety of reasons,” he explains. “Chief among them was the quality of the law faculty and its breadth of interests and willingness to challenge orthodoxy; its emphasis on the role of law in society; and not least of all, the diversity within the faculty and the student body.

“It has been satisfying to witness the increasing presence of women and students of color in the classroom,” says Filvaroff, commenting on changes which have occurred since he began teaching in the 1960s. “Law schools and legal education have changed — all for the better — as the U.S. Supreme Court recognized in a recent case involving the University of Michigan Law School. It is not surprising that Buffalo was an early leader in bringing these changes about.”

It was during Filvaroff’s deanship that the Dean’s Advisory Council was created. The purpose was to establish a forum for continuing communication with bench and bar. “We wanted to bring together a group of outstanding lawyers and judges who, along with our alumni association, could give us the benefit of their advice,” says Filvaroff. “It helps to bring the practitioners’ point of view very usefully and visibly to the Law School.”

An economics major as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin, Filvaroff was a 1958 magna cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School, where he served on the Law Review. He practiced with a Cleveland law firm for four years and then served as law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justices Felix Frankfurter and Arthur Goldberg.

Following his clerkship in 1963, Filvaroff joined the Department of Justice as special assistant to the deputy attorney general. After the assassination of President Kennedy and the subsequent resignation of Robert Kennedy as head of the Justice Department, Filvaroff became special assistant to the acting attorney general.

Filvaroff spent nearly all of the next year working on what was to become the Civil Rights Act of 1964. “It was exciting to participate in the shaping of the bill and to work with the Congress to get it passed,” says Filvaroff.

“There is often a tendency to romanticize the past. I try not to,” he says. “But at that time, and even now, I feel very privileged to have been able to work on such significant legislation.”

The resulting landmark act — the first major federal civil rights legislation since the Civil War — outlawed discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex and national origin in employment, in places of public accommodation (such as hotels, motels, restaurants, and theaters) and in federally funded programs. It also established the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to enforce its provisions.

In retirement, he says, “I have a good deal of reading that I want and need to catch up on. And I want to review what has been happening in constitutional and international law in the midst of the war on terror and to assess the effects on fundamental rights.”

He and his wife, Nancy Tobin, hope to travel widely, including trips to San Francisco and Chicago, to visit grandchildren.

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— Professor Emeritus

David B. Filvaroff

Facility
Corporate law as theater

‘Mysterious’ social structure of the corporation brought to light in new book

It is not unusual for a law professor to write a book about corporate law, but it is unusual that such a book would be so well received by social scientists and legal scholars alike. This is the case with *Between Citizen and State: An Introduction to the Corporation* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) by David A. Westbrook, the Floyd H. and Hilda L. Hurst Faculty Scholar and Professor of Law at UB Law. The book is now available in paperback.

Westbrook’s work is a departure from traditional corporate law books, which typically use statutes, cases and other texts to present the law as an object, if sometimes a tool of “policy.” Westbrook instead focuses on how corporation law presumes and creates a very familiar, yet somewhat mysterious, social structure.

In Westbrook’s view, the corporation can be seen as theater, as a play with three main characters — stockholders, directors and managers — who act out traditional corporate roles, each with their own set of complementary and conflicting motivations, goals and powers. From this perspective, Westbrook provides a unique and accessible account of how corporations are governed, and a way to begin understanding what corporate law means for society at large.

“Recent shenanigans at Enron, Adelphia, WorldCom and numerous other companies illustrate that while people do interesting and often funny things inside their companies, their actions are rarely truly surprising,” Westbrook writes. “Corporations have typical motivations and conflicts, even in settings, such as the corporation, where we might assume one single such logic. … In this author’s hands, corporate law reveals its logical complexity.”

Westbrook explains, “I wrote the book primarily for law students, so I have been delighted, and a little surprised, at the enthusiastic reception. Between Citizen and State has received from social scientists. I think it is useful for them because, instead of a single, monolithic entity, they begin to see the corporation as dynamically composed of many parts. The book gives them a much more detailed view of the actors within the corporation and an understanding of their roles in relation to one another.”

Sociologist Charles Lemert, in a foreword to Westbrook’s book, praises the author for helping to define the “mystery” of what exists “between” an abstract social structure, like the institution of the corporation in general — as opposed to some particular corporation — is a set of embedded, and often conflicting, cultural commitments that span our society,” he says. “The purpose of this book is not to preach my political view on particular issues. Instead, I am trying to present the ideas surrounding the corporation, at least as taught to lawyers, maybe with a very smile. I want to let people decide for themselves how they feel about how the social commitments reflected in our laws are likely to work out, which is not unconnected to how they feel about what is, after all, their own society.”

“Although the book is intended primarily for law students as a coherent account of corporation law, it is ‘a treat for the trees’ overview, Westbrook says anyone with an interest in the corporation would benefit from the book’s approach. ‘Corporation law is not nearly as difficult as lawyers like to think it is,’ he says. “Sociologists and others outside of the legal profession often have an abstract image of ‘the corporation,’ but are unsure about how it works, and have no idea how their academic conception hooks up with people’s actual lives,’ he adds. “That is precisely the need to be so abstract. Corporation law tells stories, or presents plays, that people actually live through in their economic lives. What Between tries to do is make those characters and their plots accessible.”

—Professor David A. Westbrook

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Faculty
Making the case – better

Gardner’s revised textbook emphasizes storytelling and professionalism

“...he is trying to win an audience. The way people communicate is by telling stories.
Even scientists tell stories when they are trying to communicate. It is all a matter of appealing effectively to the contextual expectations of your audience.”
— UB Law Professor and Vice Dean James A. Gardner, above left

T
o paraphrase Rod Stewart, every legal case is a story.
UB Law Professor and Vice Dean James A. Gardner wants to help lawyers-in-training commu-
nicate better. That means thinking more clearly, constructing logical arguments, and mak-
ing their case precisely and vividly — that is, telling the story.

Those are the goals of Gardner’s labor of love titled Legal Argument: The Structure and
Language of Effective Advocacy. A revised and expanded second edition of the legal text-
book has just been released by LexisNexis (suitable, Gardner notes, for law firm in-
house training for junior litigators, as well as for classroom use).

Gardner, who is the Joseph W. Belk and Laura L. Aydood Professor of Civil Justice
at the Law School, says the new edition was 15 years in the making. He says he wrote the
original, published in 1993, because “the stu-
dents I was teaching had the same questions
over and over. I had honed my answers, and I
realized it would save me a lot of time to
have them in book form.” Since then, he says, the publisher “had been after me for years
to do a second edition. Finally I felt like I had
something new to say.”

Legal Argument, which Gardner uses in
his classes and which has been adopted as a
textbook at Duke Law School among others,
focuses on civil law and the written advocacy
that makes up so much of the business of
civil litigators. “Most of what a civil lawyer
does is front-loaded,” Gardner says. “Only 1
or 2 percent of cases actually go to trial. Most
are either settled or dismissed on some mo-
tion.”

Now that he has taught for 20 years,
Gardner says, he is noticing a new set of chal-
lenge for today’s law students. They involve
both how to think and how to present a
written argument.

“They are not usually trained or placed
in an environment where they need to think
systematically,” he says. “People know what
they think, but they do not always know why
they think that.” Again and again in Legal Ar-
gument, the author comes back to that ques-
tion: What’s the thinking behind the argu-
ment?

As well, he says, students often need help
in using the most effective techniques for
pressing a legal argument. And because hu-
man beings think in terms of stories, he says,
a certain type of storytelling is the best way
to make a case.

“When a lawyer presents a case,” Gardner
says, “he is trying to win an audience. The
way people communicate is by telling sto-
rises. Even scientists tell stories when they are
trying to communicate. It is all a matter of
appealing effectively to the contextual expec-
tations of your audience!”

An effective lawyer, he says, will tell the
narrative of the case clearly; have a begin-
ing, middle and end to the story; introduce
the characters before they speak; tell the tale
in a transparent way; and command the at-
tention of the audience. But the
lawyer’s technique is different
from the novelist’s; for example,
Gardner says, a fiction writer
sometimes withholds important
information until the end, but that
would be suicide for a lawyer. “The
judge needs to be satisfied that the
law has been compiled with in every
case,” he says, “if your story is
opaque or misleading, you are only
hurting your case.”

The new edition of Legal Argument
also includes an exhortation on profes-
sional behavior — necessary, Gardner
says, in part because today’s students
have been raised on the anything-goes
communications atmosphere of the Inter-
net. “There is a certain informality that per-
vades communicative relations now,” he
says. “A lot of students come in not under-
standing that there are boundaries and that
as a professional you need to develop a repu-
tation for doing always excellent work. Part
of the perception of excellence comes from
being thorough, being timely, being concise.

“...being brilliant. But being

As for students who feel confused by
their legal education, the missing
part often lies in the middle. These stu-
dents can read and understand cases
and statutes, and they can write up and
defend sound legal arguments. The dif-
ficulty lies in producing the arguments. I
can read and understand the cases,
they say to themselves, and I would be
delighted to write a brief making the
best possible arguments, but what are
those arguments? How do I identify
them? How do I build an argument
that is sound, and persuas-
ive, and well-fortified
against attack? Cases and
statutes don’t yield this in-
formation. Once you
have assembled them,
they just lie there, inert-
ly, on the desk. How,
the ambitious law stu-
dent wants to know, do I make those little
suckers stand up and dance?”

From the introduction to
Legal Argument.
Podcasts look at law and society

A unique project brings legal scholarship to broader audience

By John Della Contrada
UB News Services

A conversation starter, legal research may seem too esoteric of a topic. But add to the discussion a little atmosphere – lunch at an Italian café, the chatter of fellow diners, a touch of jazz music in the background – and now you have the makings of an Internet talk show.

James Milles, vice dean and director of the Charles B. Sears Law Library, is producing podcasts of discussions with Law School faculty members and other prominent legal scholars. More specifically, you have a podcast on important ideas in law and society.

Within the niche world of podcasting, nearly anybody with the right digital recording equipment can inexpensively produce and post on the Internet a podcast on any topic under the sun. Likewise, nearly anyone with the right PC software can download and listen to a podcast from anywhere at anytime.

Debuting last semester among the eclectic mix of podcasts and audiences was a UB Law School podcast, “UB Law Faculty Conversations,” http://ublawpodcast.com, featuring discussions with UB Law School faculty and other prominent scholars.

Produced by Law Professor James Milles, the podcasts often are recorded during an informal dinner or lunch at an area restaurant and consist of one-on-one conversations between legal scholars. The intellectual exchange is lively and friendly, with Milles sitting silently alongside recording the conversation. The restaurant’s ambient sounds are pleasing and create a sense of place.

The UB Law podcast may be one of the only law school podcasts of its kind in the country, according to Milles, an expert on the intersection of law and technology, who occasionally hosts the podcast discussions as well.

“I have had perfect strangers say they’ve listened to me on their iPod when they went for a jog. This made me realize, vividly, that this is a completely new form of communication capable of reaching a wide audience.”

Milles, who produces a second podcast “UB Law Faculty Conversations” will include such diverse topics as strategic planning for community development, anthropological approaches to personal injury law in different cultures, and gender-based barriers to economic development.

“I came to the podcasts as a skeptic, and now I am an evangelist,” says Mangold, who occasionally hosts the podcast discussions as well.

“I have about 300 regular listeners each week for Check This Out! Most are librarians and introduce them to the podcast discus- sions as well.

“In the spring of 1996,” Mangold said, “I walked into my office and said to myself, ‘I have to do something about all this stuff that’s just riding around in my head.’”

“Now I am an evangelist,” says Mangold, who occasionally hosts the podcast discussions as well.

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To listen to “UB Law Faculty Conversations,” visit: ublawpodcast.com

MILLES RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

James Milles, vice dean for legal information services, director of the Charles B. Sears Law Library and professor of law at UB Law School, has been selected as the 2007 recipient of the Kenneth J. Hirsh Distinguished Service Award of the Computer Science Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries (CS-SIS). Milles was nominated by a group of CS-SIS current and past chairs. The award is presented to a member who has made outstanding contributions to the organization and who is well regarded for their service to the profession.

Milles was chair of CS-SIS in 1996–97 and was also American Association of Law Libraries Special Interest Section Council chair the following year. According to his nominators, “one of Jim’s most important contributions to law librarianship has been the role of mentor he has played for many colleagues and librarians in his field and mentors students in his library school classes. He makes it a point at every annual meeting to set aside time to meet with new librarians and introduce them to the profession.”

Milles received this prestigious award on July 15 during the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting in New Orleans.
With tenderness and words of appreciation, flutelike intervals and intervals of laughter, the UB Law School community gathered to pay tribute to a man whose work influenced the school for more than half a century.

Jacob D. Hyman, who came to the Law School in 1946 and would teach there through 2000, spent a critical 11 years as dean beginning in 1953. He died April 8 at his home in Edgewater, Fla., at age 97.

"In his 54 years of faculty service at the University, Jack more than any other person exemplified the values that we seek to achieve at the University of Buffalo Law School," Olsen said. "He was a good and decent man with a lifelong commitment to apply the legal skills first learned at Harvard Law School to achieve the betterment and advancement of society."

Hyman was "passionately committed to real diversity in the bar and in the student body," Olsen said, and was a pioneer in teaching and studying the law in its social and political context. "He was loved and respected by his former students and friends of all stripes, led off by current Dean Nils Olsen."

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Richard F. Griffin ’57 eulogizes Dean Hyman.

"Jack Hyman was the lawyer, the mentor, the friend, you saw the person each of us as lawyers should strive to become, and that is lawyers with the highest standard of professionalism, decency, compassion, wisdom and, above all, civility," Professor Thomas E. Headrick, a former UB Law dean, spoke of a school that was in trouble when Hyman became dean, with a sparse, poorly paid faculty and sinking enrollment. In Hyman’s first report to the University administration, he discussed moving away from the case method as the only teaching construct, foreseeing the advent of legal topics growing from new public policies, emphasized the changing role of lawyers in society; and argued that legal education had to incorporate the understandings of the social sciences and other disciplines.

"Most law schools have a culture, a set of shared desires and beliefs that shape their development and their place in legal education," Headrick said. "UB today is
dean of the Law School, and was a pioneer in teaching and studying the law in its social and political context. "He was loved and respected by his former students and friends of all stripes, led off by current Dean Nils Olsen."

The Oct. 13 gathering in his honor featured colleagues, former students and friends of all stripes, led of current Dean Nils Olsen."

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Richard F. Griffin ’57 eulogizes Dean Hyman.

"Jack Hyman made us learn how to judge, how to reason, and how to advocate with tenderness and words of appreciation, flutelike intervals and intervals of laughter, the UB Law School community gathered to pay tribute to a man whose work influenced the school for more than half a century.

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Karen Cowart, Vice Dean for Records and Registration, retires

Karen Cowart, Vice Dean for Records and Registration, retired from the Law School on Jan. 1. A Law School administrator since 1989, she has provided exceptional, professional service to the Law School community during times of significant change and challenge, according to Dean Nils Olsen.

"Without her flexibility and ability to work outside of the box, the Law School’s New Curriculum would have remained a dusty and unimplemented plan," he said.

"Karen and her staff have managed the academic functioning of the Law School and ensured that the trains arrive and depart on time. She also has kept abreast of and compliant with an ever-growing list of central University requirements and timetables that do not conform to traditional practices within the Law School. She has successfully performed these pressure-packed, deadline-laden tasks with competence, goodwill and professionalism.

"Please join me in wishing Karen the very best in her retirement and in thanking her for the often behind-the-scenes service that she has provided all of us," he said.

Beginning in 1994, Cowart worked in an environment that required her to modify the Law School’s calendar from two 14-week semesters to two 12-week semesters, complicated by a four-week bridge period in January with 30 to 40 one-credit courses offered to a large subset of students. She adjusted to a change in the scheduling of courses as well, as three-credit courses morphed from three 50-minute classes per week to three one-hour sessions. She also was challenged by a significant increase in the number of courses offered, growing from approximately 100 to a high-water mark of 200.

In addition to implementing these significant changes in the scheduling of courses, she has worked tirelessly to ensure that the instructional policies of the school are complied with. This includes, but is certainly not limited to, a broad range of responsibilities, such as accommodating six dual-degree programs that operated under separate and distinct scheduling and graduation requirements; scheduling, seating and supervising outside examination proctors; respecting and complying with the specific demands of faculty for time and location of individual courses; identifying and monitoring enrollment in all course offerings; working to ensure appropriate access to courses for LL.M. students; ensuring that transfer students complied with our course requirements while maintaining access to popular upper-division offerings; monitoring our returning enrollment so that appropriate admissions decisions could be made to ensure meeting but not exceeding enrollment targets; assigning and registering new first-year students in their sections; administering the Law School’s drop/add policies; auditing third-year students’ grades from five semesters to determine who is qualified to graduate; keeping a separate listing of top academic performers to inform faculty assignment of honors and awards; identifying missing grades required for third-year students to graduate and sit for the Bar exam; receiving all examinations, to ensure timely submission; entering all grades in both University and Law School databases for 760 students; conducting a final audit of graduation requirements to ensure that every third-year student qualifies to graduate; processing official transcripts for students taking the New York State Bar examination; preparing the orientation schedule for new incoming students in cooperation with Dean Melinda Saran; scheduling summer session courses; compiling and publishing fall, spring and summer course files; and certifying students for admission to a broad range of state bars.

“Without Karen Cowart’s flexibility and ability to work outside of the box, the Law School’s New Curriculum would have remained a dusty and unimplemented plan.”

— Dean Nils Olsen
Leadership Giving

Thanks for the memories

Harvey L. Kaminski ’77 gives back with a major donation

It is UB Law School experience has stayed with Harvey L. Kaminski ’77. Perhaps it should not be otherwise—one of his gifts is a comprehensive and detailed memory, and those years in Buffalo are fresh in his mind three decades later.

“My experience in Law School was a very warm experience in terms of people being very friendly and helpful, and I also received a first-rate education,” Kaminski says. “I did not lack for anything. Because of my training in the Law School, as I started to move on, nothing appeared so novel or so foreign that it baffled me. I had a very good background and training, so anything I did not know in depth, I could learn.

“Law School was not easy, but I enjoyed it very much—and that is why I give back to the school.”

For Kaminski, that giving has come in both dollars and time. A member of the Dean’s Advisory Council, he has served as a mentor for UB Law students and fielded plenty of calls from students seeking career advice. He also taught last year at the Law School’s New York City Program in International Finance & Law, educating students about the intricacies of the finance world he does through his company, Prestige Capital Corp.

He bought out his partner in the company, learned the business of secured “asset-based” lending, and in 1984 set out with a capital of $30 million to $40 million. It grew to the point that Prestige Capital now handles $150 million each year.

The business deals in factoring, also called accounts receivable purchasing. It helps clients improve their cash flow. Prestige Capital purchases their accounts receivable at a discount from the face value of the invoices, then collects the payments owed by the vendors. Prestige assumes risk in the transaction, but mitigates that risk by checking the background and credit of the client and calling the vendors to make sure that the receivables are actually due. Fraud is always a possibility.

“It is a very hands-on operation,” Kaminski says. “We are content doing less volume than a bank or finance company because our yields are much higher.”

The business is high finance, but his legal training “benefits me to no end,” he says. “We document the deals ourselves. The fact that we do not have to go to outside lawyers is utilized as a marketing tool. That means we can close deals faster. We are selling our quick response time.

“And in terms of collection issues, my knowledge of the Bankruptcy Code is invaluable. I am not going to be fooled or extended unnecessary time. I know the ins and outs. My legal background is critical to what I do.”

Kaminski and his wife, Helene, a gynecologist, live in Bedford, N.Y. They have two children: daughter Frances, an Emory University graduate who hopes to become a veterinarian, and son Philip, a George Washington University senior who just took his LSATs and is considering his choices for law school.

His father has some thoughts about that decision. “My son is still young,” Kaminski says. “I do not want him to go into a mill. Law school is hard enough that you want to have camaraderie.”

Like, perhaps, the warmth he found 30 years ago at UB Law. He has not forgotten.

“People should not forget the roots of their success or how they got there.”

—Harvey L. Kaminski ’77

from his parents, Holocaust survivors who emigrated from Poland in 1949. “They always gave me opportunities for education, and they were very supportive of me in Buffalo,” Kaminski says. “I was very fortunate. I was always taught to be positive and to look on the bright side.”

That attitude has served him well in the professional journey he has taken since graduating from UB Law. He practiced corporate law in Buffalo for a year and a half, and then decided to return to New York City to be near his family. “I was basically languishing until I developed a niche and an expertise in bankruptcy in the early ’80s,” he says. “Then, in an ironic way I got lucky. Interest rates rose dramatically, the economy crashed, and as a young lawyer specializing in bankruptcy I became a valuable commodity with many job offers.”

He took a position with a finance company, learned the business of secured “asset based” lending, and in 1984 set out with a partner on an entrepreneurial venture. Kaminski bought out his partner in the late 1990s, and the company began to increase dramatically in business volume as it opened six national sales offices. From an annual business of $30 million to $40 million, it has grown to the point that Prestige Capital now handles $150 million each year.
A ‘life-changing’ gift

David F. Smith ’78 funds one student’s full-tuition scholarship

David F. Smith ’78 knows what it feels like to work your way through law school. The coursework is tough enough; add in a job and a family, and three years can feel like an eternity at hard labor.

Smith and his wife, Lucy, were married and had a son by the time he started studying at UB Law School. He attended part time for a while, holding down a job as well, before the Law School began requiring all students to be full time. As a full-time student, he worked as a law clerk at National Fuel Gas Supply Corp.

Now David and Lucy Smith have made a major gift that will carry one student through her Law School years on a full-tuition scholarship. He says he intends to repeat the gift once the current scholarship recipient, Tonya R. Lewis, graduates.

“Without UB Law School,” he said, “I would have never had an opportunity to become a lawyer, to be in the situation I am in. My success is really as a result of the Law School and the opportunities provided by the Law School.

“Especially in a regulated environment, in utilities which are very heavily regulated, a legal background is critical,” he said. “His legal training, he said, was most useful. He worked as a law clerk at National Fuel Gas Supply Corp. before the Law School began requiring all students to be full time. As a full-time student, he worked as a law clerk at National Fuel Gas Supply Corp.

From that early job as a law clerk, Smith stayed on at National Fuel, becoming general counsel for the natural gas supplier. His legal training, he said, was most useful. “Especially in a regulated environment, in utilities which are very heavily regulated, a legal background is critical,” he said. “I think lawyers tend to have a certain thought process that they go through that is very helpful in business.”

Now, at National Fuel’s president and chief operating officer, Smith sees the value of paving the way for the next generation of legal practitioners. His gift establishes the Phyllis G. Smith Scholarship, named in memory of his late mother. “She was the one who always said that you can be whatever you want to be,” he said. “She really provided me and my brothers with our work ethic and the mindset to get out and succeed.”

A side benefit of the scholarship is that it can become part of the process of recruiting talented students who otherwise might not be able to afford a UB Law education. One criterion for awarding the scholarship is financial need.

But for first-year student Tonya Lewis, the first recipient of the Smith Scholarship, the news came after she already had arrived in Buffalo.

A 2006 graduate of the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, Lewis is married and has two daughters, ages 8 and 4. She studied physical geography and environmental studies as an undergraduate, doing field work in the rain forests of Belize, and was attracted to UB Law largely for its clinical program in environmental law. “UB just seemed to be the right fit for me,” she said. “I really like it.”

She and her husband had sold their home in Wisconsin, moved to Western New York and bought a house here. Then Lillie V. Wiley-Upshaw, associate dean for admissions and financial aid, called with good news: Lewis had been named the first Smith Scholar, and her three years at the Law School would be tuition-free.

“It is really a life-changing event,” Lewis said. “Prior to receiving the scholarship, I may have had to take a position that is high-paying in order to pay back my student loans from Law School. Now I have the freedom to take an environmental position that may not be so high-paying.”

Beyond that, she said, to be free of loan debt means her family will be better able to save for their children’s college education.

David and Lucy Smith had a voice in the selection process, and he said he hopes his fellow alumni will consider similar gifts. “It is important for the Law School,” said Smith, who is a member of the Dean’s Advisory Council. “I would encourage them to look at what the Law School has done for themselves and how they could help repay that.”

To learn how your gifts of stock can benefit you and the Law School, please call either Deborah Scott at (716) 645-2113, Alan Carrel at (716) 645-6222 or Karen Kaczmarski at (716) 645-6429, or e-mail them at law-development@buffalo.edu.
Retired Starbucks CEO honors Professor Bill Greiner with major gift to the Law School

A single undergraduate course, taught half a lifetime ago, has resulted in an extraordinary gift to UB Law School in honor of one of its best-loved professors. The course was Constitutional Law, and it was taught not at UB but at the University of Washington, where the instructor was a young Bill Greiner, who of course became a law professor, the 13th president of UB, and now continues to teach in the Law School.

The student? A senior by the name of Orin Smith, who would go on to a distinguished career in finance. He served as chief policy and finance officer of the state of Washington, and completed his career as chief financial officer and then president and CEO of the coffeehouse pioneer Starbucks.

Now retired, Smith has designated a major gift of $200,000 to UB Law in honor of his long-ago professor. In recognition, the Law School named its elegant new faculty reading room, on the fifth floor of John Lord O’Brian Hall, the Professor William R. Greiner Law Faculty Reading Room.

The newly renamed reading room was dedicated with a ribbon-cutting Nov. 30. “We happily made our toasts with Starbucks coffee,” says Dean Nils Olsen. “This is a nice recognition of Bill Greiner and his teaching. It is very special, and it is particularly appropriate because Bill has played a role building up the campus, adding to the quality of student life through the departments and all the other buildings that happened during his tenure as president,” says Olsen.

“It was completely and totally unexpected—almost dumbfounding, really,” Greiner said. “I remember Orin as a student, when I was in my early teaching days. We had lost touch for a long time, then he dropped me an e-mail. He wrote me this overwhelming note, and I was blown away.

“What more can a teacher ask than to have a student say, ‘You made a great deal of difference for me? It is really quite stunning, and it is a great honor.’

“It was in 1965 that Smith, in his final year at the University of Washington, happened upon a class in constitutional law, and enrolled. “It was class of 10, 11, 12 people, a pretty intimate setting,” he says. “We had a great time in that class. The interaction was terrific, and we had a great instructor. He challenged us with the issues of constitutional law, forcing us to think and speak and articulate our position. It was such a challenging course, like nothing any of us had had before.”

Constitutional Law, including surviving the Socratic method, build camaraderie, and the students became friends as well. Greiner came to their parties. He invited Smith to his house a couple of times, and a friendship developed. Greiner served as a mentor to the young business and political science major in his senior year.

The course also taught Smith into thinking more deeply about his future. Where before he had expected to graduate and plunge immediately into the working world, he found himself aiming higher.

“People in that class were applying to law schools or to graduate business schools,” he says. “I had been thinking about going to law school but had not done anything about it. But it was really as a result of that class that I ended up applying to Harvard Business School. I was a late applicant, so I charged in and took the admission test at the next opportunity. I was accepted in June.”

They kept in touch for a little while. Greiner moved on to Yale Law School, and Smith once or twice made the trip from Cambridge to New Haven for a visit. But then they went on to their respective careers. Smith returned to the Pacific Northwest, worked at the accounting firm Touche Ross & Co. for 12 years, served the state of Washington as chief policy and finance officer, then took a pay cut to join the fledgling Starbucks Corp. and its entrepreneurial young leader, Howard Schultz. It was a natural fit. Where Schultz was all ideas, Smith was all execution—the steady, experienced hand behind the scenes of the company’s meteoric rise to an international food service company. In his business memoir Four Your Heart Into It, Schultz calls Smith “an executive who can build the infrastructure the company needs without sacrificing the need for innovation. But [he is also] someone who understands the value of unconventional thinking.”

Smith was known for always carrying a pen and notebook in his pocket, to capture good ideas. But at a company like Starbucks, it was not always conventional business. He got his share of whipped cream in the face, for example, at the company’s annual pie-throwing contests to build employee morale.

He was promoted from CFO to president in 1994, and helped guide the company through its period of most explosive growth before retiring in March 2005. “I wanted to get away from 70- and 80-hour weeks,” he says. “The travel was pretty constant, I wanted to spend more time with my family, and travel a little bit where I could see something other than the inside of hotel rooms.”

In retirement, he has continued his involvement with charitable causes, particularly educational institutions. Having made several substantial donations to the University of Washington, he is chairman of the UW Foundation and is on the uni-
Clark '67 told of a Dean's Advisory Council from his accomplishments as dean to his famously rumpled style of dress. Tured a succession of speakers who discussed aspects of Olsen's life and work – everything in so many ways. Everything he and Sandra, director of the UB Art Galleries. His legacy at the University has been in leadership in linking the professional school to other schools and departments.”

Erie County District Attorney Frank J. Clark ‘67 told of a Dean’s Advisory Council meeting at which University President John B. Simpson said, “I cannot imagine the Law School without Nils Olsen as dean.”

“None said anything. It was silent,” Clark said. “Every vote just nodded. It was a given. It was black letter. Whenever you thought of the Law School, you thought of Nils. I cannot think of a higher compliment than that.

“When I think of him and the Law School, I see how the Law School reflects his personality in so many ways. Everything he has done, in whatever he does, he puts his own personality into it. It is not just the school and the curriculum that is important to him, it is the students.

“I have been here now nearly four years,” he said, “and during that time I have almost without fail, when I have needed a wise friend, a colleague, to help me unravel the University’s mysteries or to understand various aspects of how Buffalo works, I have turned to Nils Olsen. He has been for me a remarkable colleague and mentor as well as being a friend.”

Sampson also cited Olsen’s participation in the development of the UB 2020 strategic plan, and his support for the University’s renewed commitment to civic engagement. “If I could have a faculty with a hundred people, the equivalent of Nils,” he said, “I would have an absolutely remarkable university.”

It was University Provost Sarah K. Tripathi – saying, “For the University, he has truly been dean of deans” – who presented the Jaeckle Award to Olsen, with a sustained ovation from an appreciative audience.

Dean Olsen said of the first dinners meeting he attended, “I had shown up at work as a Grateful Dead shirt, blue jeans and running shoes. I had ended up borrow- ing a jacket, a button-down shirt with a col- lar, and boots from Phil Lapham. The provost at the time was heard to mutter that he could not believe that the acting dean of the Law School had come poorly. He actually mumbled it to me.”

But more seriously, Olsen said, “This in- stitution has nurtured me, supported me, and certainly taught me everything. I know about teaching and educational adminis- tration and the practice of law.”

He added, “A great law school does not stand in isolation, nor is it the product of indi- vidual administrative excellence. It is a unique organization, the result of the symbiotic relationship of a number of dis- crete elements. Those elements, he said, in- clude a personal relationship, knowledge of the educational community of scholars and teachers,” the support of the wider University community; and of students and alumni; and the talents of a series of administrators and staff mem- bers, many of whom he named individually.

“When you honor me,” he concluded, addressing the alumni in attendance, “you are in fact honoring our faculty, our stu- dents, the great research university we are a part of our administrators and, not insignifi- cantly, yourselves. I will always treasure and keep close your kind words and gener- ous support.”

Dr. Sandra H. Olsen congratulates her husband after he receives the 2007 Jaeckle Award.

E-B President Simpson, calling Olsen a “transformational” dean of law, expressed appreciation for Olsen’s guidance. “I have been

Some highlights of R. Nils Olsen’s tenure as dean of the UB Law School:

- Appointed dean effective for the academic year 1988–89, after 21 years on the faculty. He is the 18th dean in the school’s history.
- Expanded the academic administrative ranks of the school by naming several vice deans.
- Spearheaded an overhaul of the Law School’s signature building, John Lord O’Brian Hall, including a refurbished student lounge and the recent additions of the Francis M. Letro Courtroom – one of the only working law school courtrooms in the nation – and the Jaeckle Award ceremony room and conference facility, as well as six new classrooms. Made O’Brian Hall the first building on campus to offer wireless Internet access.
- Greatly expanded the number of joint degree programs in which the Law School participates, established the school’s first two Master of Laws programs, and grew the number of academic concentrations offered.
- More than doubled the number of applicants, raised median LSAT scores and GPAs significantly, and attracted more applicants from both top undergraduate law schools and from outside New York State. Increased student enrollment by 25 percent.
- Oversaw full implementation of the groundbreaking New Curriculum, designed to help bridge the gap between law school and practice.
- Greatly increased alumni support for the UB Law School, reducing dependence on state funding. The Annual Fund, with a stellar participation rate of nearly 26 percent, now raises about $1 million each year. Oversaw successful $13 million capital campaign.
- Created the Law School Village and other on-campus apartment housing reserved for law students.
- Grew and developed the Dean’s Advisory Council to draw on the expertise of distinguished alumni in guiding the Law School’s academic program.
- Established a mentoring program that pairs each first-year student with an alumni mentor.
- Held leadership positions for several key University initiatives, including serving as chair of UB’s Intercollegiate Athletics Board and the Corrigan Committee, which is studying the future of UB’s intercollegiate athletics programs.
- Educated leadership to the UB 2020 strategic planning group charged with strengthening UB’s focus on civic engagement and public policy.
- Successfully lobbied New York State for professional-school tuition for the Law School, and brought in revenue from courses and services into new services and facilities for students.
- Among many alumni initiatives, began an annual luncheon for which all alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago from the Law School.
- Oversaw the inauguration of UB Law’s New York City Program in International Finance and Law, a partnership with the School of Management.
- Championed the Law School’s thriving Executive LL.M. and S.J.D. programs, which combines the University’s missions of education and service to the community.

Some highlights of R. Nils Olsen’s tenure as dean of the UB Law School:

Dr. Sandra H. Olsen congratulates her husband after he receives the 2007 Jaeckle Award.
The University at Buffalo Law School and the UB Law Alumni Association announce the launch of its new online alumni community, Get Linked! Get Linked! provides an online forum where UB Law alumni can stay connected to their law school and their former classmates. The community features an alumni directory of over 9,500 law graduates. Alumni can update their online profile or search for and network with other alumni throughout the world. “It’s a great method to keep in touch with friends and colleagues or find a lost classmate and reconnect,” says Ilene R. Fleischmann, executive director of the UB Law Alumni Association.

The community’s Class Notes tool enables users to share professional accomplishments, personal news and photos with just a few clicks on the keyboard. Most notes submitted electronically are posted daily, and may also appear in the UB Law Alumni Association’s ongoing digital Oral History Project. Alumni can update their online profile or search our library collections, visit Career Assistance with Reunions, and check out the alumni services offered through UB Law’s new online alumni community Get Linked! and check out the UB Law Alumni Association’s ongoing digital Oral History Project.

Continuing Legal Education Programs – Your $50 membership includes free CLE credits through handwritten handouts. You will receive this number the first time you enter the community. Once registered, you will choose your own user ID and password. If you do not have a Social Security number, or if you experience any difficulty registering, contact Lisa Mueller at lmueller@ublaw.ub.edu.

UB Law alumni services

Networking is easy! – Need a printout of alumni/ae in your area? Give us the ZIP codes, and we will send you a list. Contact the Law Alumni office for assistance. Look for our new online alumni community coming shortly.

Career Assistance – Association members receive a reduced rate on the employment newsletter published by the Career Services Office. The CSG will also help alumni find mentors in their practice areas who can offer invaluable career advice. And our alumni office provides lists of alumni/ae by geographic area to assist alumni with their networking efforts.

Regional Events – Every January we sponsor a New York City alumni luncheon in conjunction with the State Bar meeting. Among our celebrity speakers have been Eliot Spitzer. The Association also underwrites events in Rochester, Washington, D.C., Syracuse and Chicago.

Recognize Distinguished Law Alumni twice a year – The coveted Jackie Award, the highest award the Law School and the Law Alumni Association can bestow, is presented to an outstanding alumnae/o in the fall. Five alumni are recognized at the Annual Meeting and Dinner in the spring. Awards are presented in the categories of private practice, judiciary, community service, business and public service.

All alumni receive UB Law Forum, UB Law Links, and UB Law Briefs. – Our annual award-winning magazine provides news of the Law School, faculty, graduates and students. Don’t be left out: be sure to send your news in or submit your news online. We also publish an electronic newsletter, Law Links, four times a year, and a brief print newsletter, Law Briefs, six times a year. All our publications are available online.

The Buffalo Alumni Mentor Project – A program designed to help law students and recent graduates make the transition from law school to the legal community.

Assistance with Reunions – We do class mailings, hire photographers, order favors and offer other support to alumnae who organize reunions. Class pictures and directory are provided free of charge to all reunion attendees.

Student Support – We help underwrite a printed photo directory for first-year law students, and host a welcome reception for the entire first-year class providing an opportunity for students to meet practitioners, faculty and members of the judiciary. Students are invited to many alumni events as guests of the Law Alumni Association.

Free parking – Paid members enjoy free parking in the Center for Tomorrow lot. O’Brien Hall is just a short shuttle/bus trip away.

Online Services – Join our new online community Get Linked! and check out the host of services available through UB Law’s online home at www.law.buffalo.edu. Alumni can e-mail our faculty and staff, search our library collections, visit Career Services Office, and join the Law Alumni Association or make a gift to the Law School. Subscribe online to UB Law Links, our e-mail newsletter, to receive the latest Law School and classmate news.

Bookstore Discounts – Paid members for the current membership year receive a 20 percent discount on UB Law logo and UB Law Alumni logo merchandise available at the Law School bookstore.
“It was a very difficult period in my life, but it was the best educational experience I can imagine. That’s why whenever the Buffalo Law School name is mentioned, I have nothing but absolute affection for it.”

— Dr. Changse L. Kim ’75, First Law Offices of Korea, in Seoul

1975 graduate is the Law Alumni Association’s first lifetime member

I t was 35 years ago that Changse L. Kim, a native of South Korea with a brand-new doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Rochester, came to UB Law School, the first Asian student ever admitted there. His first course: Torts, with Professor Jack Hyman. “That was really a wonderful experience for me in terms of my introduction to U.S. jurisprudence,” he said. “I still remember almost every case from that course. I enjoyed my life at the Buffalo Law School tremendously. That affection has stayed with him—and has led him to establish another “first.” Kim, a 1975 graduate of the Law School, has become the first lifetime member of the UB Law Alumni Association. Other life members are Eric Ian Robins ’03 and Karen Mathews ’80.

“It was a fun atmosphere,” Dr. Kim remembers. “The professors, even if they saw me at a far distance, they raised their hands—‘Hey, Mr. Kim!’ I think they did this to almost every student.”

Not that life in the classroom was stress-free. These were the days of relentless Socratic method. “I hated each moment of being called on to answer questions,” Kim says. “But I decided not to yield to the pressure. I always took the very front seat, so I was called upon in almost every class.”

He speaks also about his struggles with writing, even as a member of the Buffalo Law Review. “My articles were always the very last piece,” he says. “I never learned how to compose well, even in Korean. One of the senior students, who was sympathetic to my plight, told me how to write. He spent just a little time with me: ‘Let me read one page of your sample. Have you ever learned how to write? Do you know what ‘topic sentence’ means? Do you know what ‘connecting sentence’ means? Do you know about paraphrasing?’ It took him just a few minutes to explain it all to me, and after that I could write an essay that passed without any rejection. This was in 1974, and I was 32 years old. So at age 32, writing can be taught.”

“It was a very difficult period in my life, but it was the best educational experience I can imagine. That’s why whenever the Buffalo Law School name is mentioned, I have nothing but absolute affection for it.”

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The fee for lifetime membership in the UB Law Alumni Association is $1,000.

Contact Ilene Fleischmann at fleisch@buffalo.edu or call (716) 645-2107 for more information.

Discovering GOLD

Alumni enjoy The Sample, in Buffalo

Why write dues checks?

Do you know about paraphrasing? It took him just a few minutes to explain it all to me, and after that I could write an essay that passed without any rejection. This was in 1974, and I was 32 years old. So at age 32, writing can be taught.

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Lifetime Member

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Contact Ilene Fleischmann at fleisch@buffalo.edu or call (716) 645-2107 for more information.

Discovering GOLD

Alumni enjoy The Sample, in Buffalo

Why write dues checks?

Do you know about paraphrasing? It took him just a few minutes to explain it all to me, and after that I could write an essay that passed without any rejection. This was in 1974, and I was 32 years old. So at age 32, writing can be taught.

“It was a very difficult period in my life, but it was the best educational experience I can imagine. That’s why whenever the Buffalo Law School name is mentioned, I have nothing but absolute affection for it.”

— Dr. Changse L. Kim ’75, First Law Offices of Korea, in Seoul

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Celebrating our stories

Law Alumni Association dinner recognizes career achievements

Law School stories past and present were the focus as members of the UB Law Alumni Association gathered for their 45th annual meeting and dinner.

Highlighting the May 3 gathering at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo was a special presentation of the Harry Rachlin ’26 Oral History Project, a massive effort to collect and archive the voices and wisdom of dozens of Law School alumni and faculty to make them available to the generations that follow them.

The project was co-chaired by Hon. E. Jeanette Ogden ’83 and Robert L. Boreanaz ’89, and Boreanaz played some excerpts from the oral histories that have been collected. “Lawyers like to tell stories and to hear war stories,” he said. “It is important for young lawyers to have that opportunity as well. We are trying to capture as many distinguished individuals of the Law School and the legal community as possible, and lay down their insight, their perspective, their advice, so they can be retrieved sometime in the future.”

For example, he said, a future law student might see an interview with famed trial lawyer Herald Price Fahringer ’56, then access the Oral History Project and hear Fahringer’s voice recounting his days at UB Law. Ditto with Hon. Ann T. Mallon ’74, former Professor Leo Del Cotto, and former dean Jacob Hyman.

Boreanaz said the organizers hope to make the completed project accessible at such venues as Law School functions, the downtown public library, the UB Law Library and online.

The dinner was a special one for members of the Class of 1947, marking the 60th anniversary of their graduation, and the Class of 1957, marking their 50th. It was also bittersweet for UB Law Dean Nils Olsen, who is stepping down from administration in order to return to full-time teaching. Of all the things he did as dean, Olsen said, getting to know the alumni – some of whom he first met as law students – has been the most enjoyable.

Following dinner, six Distinguished Alumni Awards were conferred. The recipients and acceptance remarks were included in the evening’s printed program, and are excerpted here:

- Dennis R. McCoy ’77, president of the UB Law Alumni Association, presented the judiciary award to Hon. Thomas M. Van Strydonck ’73, a New York State Supreme Court justice in the 7th District. Van Strydonck, who serves on the Dean’s Advisory Council, is a former Monroe County Bar Association president and established a fund in that county to aid lawyers with addiction or mental illness issues.

- “When I was elected to the Supreme Court in 1999,” he wrote, “one of my partners suggested that I would find growing old as a judge was much easier than as a practicing lawyer. She was so right. I have tried to keep that in mind as I interact with the lawyers who appear in front of me. The pressures that come with the practice of law should not be exacerbated by unnecessary and unwieldy demands from the bench.”

- Mary M. Penn ’99 presented the award for private practice to Margaret W. Wong ’76, managing partner of Wong Wong & Associates. Wong’s firm, with offices in Cleveland, Columbus, Ohio; New York City; and Detroit, specializes in immigration law. She herself emigrated from Hong Kong as a teenager.

- “I feel so blessed that I am able to help thousands of thousands of immigrants to settle in the United States and to fulfill their dreams of living here,” Wong wrote. “Not only to survive, but to thrive. I would not have been able to do this without the UB Law School and the scholarship foundation.”

- McCoy returned to the podium to present the Distinguished Alumni Award for community service to Richard Lipsitz ’43, who is of counsel with the Buffalo law firm Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria. Lipsitz built his career on labor law, and serves as counsel and president of the Coalition for Economic Justice.

- “I have spent substantial non-billable time with a number of not-for-profit organizations, mostly involved in the advancement of civil liberties and civil rights, and in programs for assistance to economically disadvantaged persons,” he wrote. “That time was made possible by my partners’ indulgence and support, for which I thank them.”

- McCoy made the next presentation, the award for public service to Law School Vice Dean Alan S. Carrel ’67. Carrel has spent 30 years at the Law School, among other achievements founding the Dean’s Advisory Council and the alumni magazine, UB Law Forum. He also built the UB Law Alumni Association substantially as its director, and has been instrumental in the success of the school’s development efforts.

- “The best thing about my job,” Carrel wrote, “is that it has enabled me to interact with thousands of terrific students, alumni and co-workers, whom I respect, whose company I have enjoyed and from whom I have learned much. They are an important part of my life, and many have become close friends.”

- Penn presented the award for achievement in business to William E. Mathias II ’71, managing partner of Lippes Mathias Werker Friedman. His firm focuses its practice on corporate business loans and equity and debt issues, representing businesses from small family firms to large public-held corporations.

- “Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with many of the highly regarded national corporate law firms, yet I continue to be impressed by the skill and professionalism of my fellow members of the local corporate bar, many of whom are UB graduates.”

- The award for service by a non-alumni, presented by Laurie S. Bloom ’83, went to Frederick C. Attea, a partner in Phillips Lytle and a member of the Dean’s Advisory Council. Through the state Bar Association, Attea is working to include the Law School on an initiative to overhaul the state’s Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.

- “Those of us who, for many years, have been a part of the legal community in Western New York are fortunate to have had a law school which has taken such an active and vital role in shaping our legal community,” Attea wrote. “Unquestionably, Phillips Lytle’s capabilities have been greatly enhanced by the Law School’s alumni.”

- To close out the honors, McCoy presented the UB Law Vice Dean Ilene R. Fleischmann – who is marking her 23rd year as executive director of the Alumni Association – with a special award, a Steuben glass sculpture inscribed with appreciation for her “tireless and exemplary service.”

- Bloom and Penn were co-chairs of the Annual Dinner Committee, whose members also included Hilary C. Banker ’96, Richard F. Eficiamo ’76, Gayle L. Eagan ’85, David M. Faulkner, W. O’Brien Jr. ’77, Raymond J. Stapell ’75, Kevin D. Szczerpanski ’95 and Mark W. Warren ’83.
Some seminars have taken the GOLD Group to Niagara and Wyoming counties. And opportunities for socializing in no-pressure, low-key settings such as cafes, sporting events and the Fort Erie Race Track and Slots help to gel the friendships among recent UB Law alums.

The GOLD Group marked its 15th anniversary this year with a party at the Pearl Street Grill and Brewery. The event featured UB Law alumnus Michael Bly and his band. Says former President Marc Brown, an associate at Phillips Lyttle LLP, “It’s really just a group that likes to have fun, to extend their fun years.”

Reporter Jodi Sokolowski contributed to this story.

The GOLD Group rocks out to the music of alumnus Michael Bly at the Pearl Street Brewery in downtown Buffalo.

“GOLD Group members also serve as volunteers for our moot court and mock trial,” Fleischmann said. “They are invaluable in that way, and also help with our development efforts, mentoring program and our class reunions.”

Originally based on a similar program at Hamilton College, the GOLD Group was founded by a group that included Doug Dimitroff, Mark Brand, founding President Catherine Wettlaufer and Fleischmann, among others, as a way to ease the transition from law school into practice for new UB Law graduates.

“It became increasingly apparent to us 15 years ago that we needed a different kind of alumni structure to benefit our younger alumni,” said Fleischmann. “They needed opportunities to network with each other, and they wanted less formal, less expensive events than our older alumni.”

“There’s a wonderful camaraderie in law school, and students form seminars or study groups. The idea was to capture and retain that. Part of it was also to support our graduates and help them become successful members of the legal community,” said Wettlaufer, now a partner at Hiscock Barclay LLP.

Continuing legal education seminars are a core of the GOLD Group’s mission, and its UB Law Downtown Breakfast Series has presented a number of one-hour, one-credit courses skewed toward newer practitioners, as well as longer trainings.

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“GOLD Group is a volunteer organization that is completely integrated into the life of the Law School. They help with admissions and recruiting, and since they are young and recently graduated from law school, they can talk to our applicants about life at UB Law.”

— Ilene R. Fleischmann, vice dean and executive director of the UB Law Alumni Association

UB Law alumni mark 15 years of going for GOLD

By Annie Deck-Miller
Buffalo Law Journal

A group founded 15 years ago to meet the needs of recent UB Law School graduates has been a boon for the Law School as a whole.

“They are a volunteer organization that is completely integrated into the life of the Law School. They help with admissions and recruiting, and since they are young and recently graduated from law school, they can talk to our applicants about life at UB Law,” Ilene R. Fleischmann, a law school vice dean and executive director of the UB Law Alumni Association, said of the Graduates of the Last Decade, or GOLD Group.

“GOLD Group members also serve as volunteers for our moot court and mock trial,” Fleischmann said. “They are invaluable in that way, and also help with our development efforts, mentoring program and our class reunions.”

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Reporter Jodi Sokolowski contributed to this story.
Officers elected for 2007-08

Margaret P. Gryko ’77 has been elected president of the UB Law Alumni Association for 2007-08. Gryko is assistant general counsel for Delaware North Cos. Inc. A past president of the Niagara Frontier Corporate Counsel Association Inc., Gryko will be installed in November into the presidency of the UB Law Alumni Association. She succeeds President Margaret P. Gryko, Dean Ilene R. Fleischmann, Anthony J. Colucci III, and Mark W. Warren, who will step down after their terms end.

New directors elected for terms ending in 2010 are: Marc W. Brown ’99, of Phillips Lytle LLP; Robert P. Heary ’98, of Hodgson Russ LLP; Robert P. Heary ’91, of Hodgson & Barclay LLP; Catherine E. Nagle ’96, of Nussenzweig & Nagle; David R. Paladino Jr.’97, of Rupp, Baase, Paladino, Cunningham & Coppola LLC; D. Charles Roberts ’97, of Delaware North Cos.; and Mark I. Stuhlmueller ’99, of Computer Task Group.

Margaret P. Gryko ’77

Shouldn’t you be a member of the UB Law Alumni Association?

For more than 100 years, the UB Law Alumni Association has served our alumnus by sponsoring and/or assisting with events and programs that enhance the education and quality of life within UB Law School. We help to raise the national reputation and visibility of the Law School and provide invaluable opportunities to all of our graduates.

For more recent graduates, the UB Law Alumni Association’s GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Group provides additional low-cost educational and social programs and services designed to assist new graduates with the transition from student to attorney. Membership in the GOLD group is automatic and free upon graduation, and remains in effect during the graduate’s first 10 years out of Law School. The Law Alumni Association helps underwrite their activities. We encourage GOLD Group members to enjoy the full benefits of the UB Law Alumni Association by joining.

For more information on why you should join, please call our Executive Director Ilene Fleischmann at (716) 645-7347.
New Yorkers have long been dissatisfied with their judicial elections. In a sad parody of democracy, the real decisions are made not by the electorate, but by local party bosses who decide who will run and whether judicial elections will even be contested.

Last year a federal court pushed judicial election reform onto the state legislative agenda by invalidating the existing system. Unless that ruling is reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court, which recently took the appeal, the state must craft a new system or face judicial imposition of open primaries for judicial offices.

While public and judicial concern over New York’s dysfunctional judicial selection process is understandable, it is misplaced. There is nothing wrong with the structure of New York’s judicial selection institutions. The real dysfunction lies in New York’s present system is a reason for concern. Judicial appointees are elected by the electorate from holding any party accountable for the actions of the government. Because of the gerrymander, no party can be voted out of the chamber it controls, nor can a single party take control of the entire government. Since neither party can be disciplined by the voters, neither party has any incentive to be responsive to their wishes.

Most proposals for reforming New York’s judicial selection process would substitute either gubernatorial appointment or open primary elections. Yet neither reform is likely to make a difference until the party system is fixed.

Virtually all proposals for appointment would limit the governor to appointing candidates who have been cleared by a bipartisan screening commission. But if the parties are not accountable, there is no reason to expect screening commissions under party control to stop treating judicial appointments as party patronage.

Open primaries wouldn’t cure much better. Insider candidates supported by the party organization would have a huge advantage over outsiders because of their access to party campaign resources and expertise. And the parties could still make cross-nomination and noncompetition deals to crush outsider campaigns or co-opt serious independents.

Real party accountability will not be possible until, at a minimum, the bipartisan gerrymander of the state legislature is broken. Only when political parties are forced actually to compete with one another for control of the legislature can New York voters influence the operation of their government and the content of its policies.
Alumni Association

Regional grips & grins
Alumni say “cheese” at Washington, Rochester and New York City events

ROCHESTER: Chambers of Hon. Thomas Van Strydonck

Left to right: Mark C. Ferraro '10, Adam P. Desinger '10, Hon. Patricia Marks, David L. Simoni '10, Matthew A. Motwani '99

NEW YORK: The Brasserie

Left, left to right: Craig K. Beideman '10, Michael T. Birkby '10 and Gordon Hipworth '10

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Zaytinya

Left to right: Hon. Thomas M. Van Strydonck '73, Hon. Kenneth R. Fisher and Michael R. Wolford '68

Left to right: Mark C. Ferraro '10, Hon. Patricia Marks, David L. Simoni '10, Matthew A. Motwani '99

NEW YORK: The Lotos Club

Left to right: Hon. Elena Cacavas-Schietinger '85, Judge Eugene F. Pigott Jr. '73 and Joshua Agins '10

Left, left to right: Vice Dean Ilene R. Fleischmann, Candace M. Jackson '09, Michael D. Mann '96, and Anshu Pasricha '07

Assistant Dean Karen R. Kaczmarski '89 and Douglas W. Dimitroff '89

Left to right: Hon. Thomas M. Van Strydonck '73, Hon. Kenneth R. Fisher and Michael R. Wolford '68

Left to right: Sheikh Ahmad '09, Danielle M. Wangler '09, Candace M. Jackson '09 and Tyrone A. Wilson '09

Left to right: Neal H. Lipskis '73 and wife Geri

Hon. Elena Cacavas-Schietinger '85

Christopher A. Wightman '99 and wife Diane

Michael J. Surgalla Jr. '82 and Lucy P. Weaver '03

Neal H. Lipskis '73 and wife Geri

Thurman R. Bruner '79 and wife Sandy
Richard Lipsitz ‘43 received the UB Law Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumnus Award. He was honored for his many contributions to the betterment of the community at the association’s 45th annual meeting and dinner on May 3 at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Lipsitz is of counsel in the Buffalo firm Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria.

John Canale ‘47 has been included in Best Lawyers in New York State. Canale is special counsel at Bouvier Partnership in Buffalo. He practices in bodily injury litigation.

Joseph C. Vispi ‘49 was awarded the Charles H. Dougherty Civility Award from the Bar Association of Erie County at its 120th annual dinner at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Vispi is in private practice in Buffalo.

Hon. Mary Ann Killeen ‘52 received the Women in Law Award from the 8th Judicial District’s Gender & Racial Fairness Committee on May 23 at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Killeen is a retired Erie County Family Court judge.

Robert J. Plache ‘57 has been named one of the best lawyers in America in the Woodward White 2008 listing. He is a partner in the firm Damon & Morey, specializing in probate, trust and estate law in the Buffalo office. Plache is a former assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of New York.

What’s new?

Keep in touch with your former classmates, professors and friends by sending us your personal and professional news for publication. Please make sure the news you submit is accurate, complete and legible. Include a color picture if you wish.

Three ways to submit

Clip-out coupon: For your convenience, a clip-out coupon is printed on the back cover flap.

Add a photo:
Include a non-returnable color portrait with your press release and mail to: Cynthia Watts, UB Law Forum, 312 O’Brian Hall, Buffalo, NY 14260.

Via the Web:
Fill out the form at www.law.buffalo.edu. To include a hi-resolution color portrait (300 dpi minimum) e-mail a jpg to clwatts@buffalo.edu. For questions call (716) 645-2107.
Alumni Briefs

and a former lieutenant in the U.S. Navy.

Ronald D. Anton ’58 has published his second book, God’s Seven Ways to Ease Suffering. The book is dedicated to late UB Law Dean Jacob Hyman. Anton served on the UB Law faculty from 1960 to 1962. He is an attorney in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Maryann Saccamando Freedman ’58 was named president of the Buffalo Geological Society and was elected to the board of directors of Western New York Heritage Press for a three-year term. She is of counsel in the Buffalo firm Cohen & Lombardo.

‘60s

Hon. Charles F. Graney ’61 was honored by the Appellate Division, 4th Department, in Rochester, N.Y. He received a special award for his more than 20 years of service to the Law Guardian Advisory Committee. Graney is a retired Genesee County Family Court judge.

William A. Niese ’61 of Bonsall, Calif., has been named to the board of the University at Buffalo Foundation for a three-year term. Niese is retired from the Times Mirror Co. of Los Angeles.

Robert D. Kolken ’65 has formed the Buffalo firm Kolken & Kolken with his son, Matthew Kolken. The firm specializes in immigration and nationality law. Kolken is a Buffalo resident.

John A. Cirando ’66 was named to the 4th Judicial Department judicial screening committee. He practices in the Syracuse, N.Y., firm D.I. & J.A. Cirando.

Alan S. Carrel ’67, vice dean at UB Law School, received the UB Law Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumnus Award. Carrel was honored for his commitment to public service at the association’s 47th annual meeting and dinner at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo on May 3.

SAVE THE DATE for YOUR REUNION:


With gratitude, the Law School recognizes those alumni and friends that have given their time and energy to help organize, plan and attend their reunion event. Although every effort has been made to assure 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 contact: Amy Hayes Atkinson, Assistant Director of Reunion and Special Programs, 315 O’Brian Hall, Buffalo, NY 14260-1100 at (716) 645-6224 or e-mail atkins@buffalo.edu

Thank you! And we hope to see everyone at their next reunion.

Check out all the information at www.law.buffalo.edu/reunions. Contact Amy Hayes Atkinson at (716) 645-6224 or atkins@buffalo.edu.

SA V E THE DATE

50+ Reunion Luncheon Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008
Class 1953 55th Reunion June 26, 2008
Class 1958 50th Reunion June 16 & 17, 2008
Class 1963 45th Reunion June 28, 2008
Class 1968 40th Reunion June 6 & 7, 2008
Class 1978 30th Reunion June 6 & 7, 2008
Class 1988 20th Reunion May 2 & 3, 2008

For YOUR REUNION:


Continuing with their reunion tradition, the Class of 1952 gathered on June 21 to honor their 55-year reunion from UB Law School. The dinner was held at the historical Mansion on Delaware Avenue. Folks from Florida and Pennsylvania made the trip to visit with friends and classmates honoring this milestone.

Above: Robert E. Walter ’67, Sheldon B. Benaivitch ’67, and Alan S. Biernbaum ’67
Below: Hon. Dianne Avery ’82

3rd Row – Hon. Mary K. Carr, Harry P. Weinreb, Andrew Diakun, Nicholas A. Pierino, Dominic J. Terranova


Contact Amy Hayes Atkinson at (716) 645-6224 or atkins@buffalo.edu.

Continuing with their reunion tradition, the Class of 1952 gathered on June 21 to honor their 55-year reunion from UB Law School. The dinner was held at the historical Mansion on Delaware Avenue. Folks from Florida and Pennsylvania made the trip to visit with friends and classmates honoring this milestone.

Above: Dominic J. Terranova and Andrew Diakun
Below: Hon. Dianne Avery ’82

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Alumni Briefs

Frederick A. Wolf ’67, special counsel in the Buffalo firm Damon & Moore, was included in the land use and zoning law category in the 2008 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. Wolf also concentrates his practice in municipal, banking, and business law.

Robert P. Fine ’68, managing partner in the firm Harris & Fine in Buffalo, was named to the 4th Judicial Department judicial screening committee. He was also named to The Best Lawyers in America 2008. Fine is a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award and is an adjunct faculty member at UB Law School.

Giles P. Muanin ’68, a Buffalo attorney, was appointed vice president of the Bar Association of Erie County. He chairs the association’s senior lawyers’ committee and the international sister cities committee.

Vincent J. Moore ’69 was listed in The Best Lawyers in America, 2008. Moore is a senior partner in the Buffalo firm Damon & Moore and is chair of the firm’s real estate department.

Maryann Saccomando Freedman ’58

Robert P. Fine ’68

Cohen & Lombardo and concentrates his practice in civil litigation, corporate, environmental, estates, and trusts, and municipal law. Nossek lives in Lancaster, N.Y.

Paul A. Battaglia ’72 is listed in The Best Lawyers in America for 2008. He is a partner in the firm Jackel Fleischmann & Mugel in the Amherst, N.Y., office. In addition, he is an adjunct instructor at UB Law School.

Peter J. Battaglia was elected treasurer of the Bar Association of Erie County. He is a member of the firm Jackel Fleischmann & Mugel in the Amherst, N.Y., office. In addition, he is an adjunct instructor at UB School of Law.

Anthony M. Nossek ’71 was named village attorney in Depoez, N.Y. He is a counsel in the Buffalo firm by Business First and the Buffalo Law Journal. Brock is a partner in the Buffalo firm Jackel Fleischmann & Mugel and former vice president of the UB Law Alumni Association.

Hon. Mark G. Farrell ’72 was appointed to the Special Commission on the Future of the New York State Court System. He also was installed as an associate justice of the New York State Supreme Court. Farrell is a partner in the Buffalo firm Jackel Fleischmann & Mugel in the litigation practice group.

Christopher T. Greene ’74, senior partner in the Buffalo firm Damon & Moore, has been included in the 2008 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. Greene is a member of the UB Law School’s Alumni’s Distinguished Alumni Award and a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association.

Hon. Thomas M. Van Slydlock ’79 received the UB Law Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumnus Award on May 1 at the 47th annual meeting and dinner at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. He was honored for his conscientious and diligent performance in the judiciary. Van Slydlock is a New York State Supreme Court justice for the 7th Judicial District in Rochester, N.Y. He is a member of UB Law School’s Dean’s Advisory Council and a trial technique instructor.

Frank J. Buffomante ’74 was named Practitioner of the Year at the annual Attorney Recognition Reception of the Bar Association of Erie County’s Aid to Indigent Prisoners Society. Buffomante is a partner in the firm Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel.

Helen Osgood ’74 was named vice chair of Planned Parenthood of Western New York. She is also included in the 2008 edition of The Best Lawyers in America and is listed in “Who’s Who in Law” 2007.

John C. Spitzmiller ’72 was named program coordinator of Estate, Trusts, and Probate Group for the UB Law Alumni Association.

Hon. Lawrence Brenner ’73 was named to the board of the Public Service Commission. Brenner is deputy chief administrative law judge for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C.

James W. Gresens ’73 has become a partner in the Buffalo firm Duda Holzman Phohtiadis & Gresens. He was a former member of the firm Gresens & Gresens in Buffalo.

Hon. Van Gelder ’97

Daniel M.Fine ’68, a Buffalo attorney, was named to the New York State Court’s 2007th Class of 1957 was honored for their accomplishments. The weekend was met with beautiful weather, which further enhanced the momentous weekend.

On Friday, the acclaimed Rue Franklin restaurant was the setting for the Class of 1957’s reunion dinner. Classmates became reacquainted with each other over cocktails and a sit-down dinner in the Rue’s beautiful atrium. Saturday afternoon, several classmates gathered at the Law School with the dean for lunch in the recently rehabbed Law School Conference Center on the fifth floor. After the lunch, the class was seated on stage with faculty, VIPs and other dignitaries for the Class of 2007 commencement exercises at the Center for the Arts. As part of the ceremony, the Class of 1957 was honored for their accomplishments.


Richard A. Grimm Jr., William E. Keenan, and Thomas J. Shanahan

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Alumni Briefs

commercial lending and credit restructuring.

Gregory C. Yungbluth '74, a senior partner in the Buffalo firm Damon & Money, was included in The Best Lawyers in America 2008. Yungbluth is co-chair of the firm’s corporate department.

Diane Bennett '75 was appointed chair of the 4th Judicial Department (judicial screening committee) by New York Gov. George E. Pataki. Bennett is a partner in the Buffalo firm Hodgson Russ. She is a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumna Award.

Dale A. Ehman '75 was named "Who’s Who in Law” 2007 by Business First and the Buffalo Law Journal. Ehman practices in the Buffalo firm Bevoer Partnership. He specializes in ERISA/employee benefits, and Ehman will serve as the lead bridge course lecturer at UB Law School and a past president of the UB Law Alumni Association.

Anthony M. Nossek '73

Hon. Mark G. Farrell ’72

Harry F. Mooney '75

Harry F. Mooney ’75 received the 2007 Robert Kilbourn Memorial Award from the Defense Trial Lawyers Association of Western New York. He is also listed in Who’s Who in Law” 2007 by Business First and the Buffalo Law Journal, and was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2007. Mooney is a member of the firm Hurwitz & Fine in Buffalo, practicing product liability, professional liability, and large loss and catastrophic injury litigation.


Hon. Janice M. Rosa ’75 was re-elected to the board of trustees of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Rosa is a New York State Supreme Court justice, 4th Judicial District, in Buffalo, and is supervising judge for matrimonial matters.

William E. Savino '73 was recognized in the 2008 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. He is a senior partner and chairman in the business litigation and insolvency department in the Buffalo office of Damon & Money. Savino is also a bridge course lecturer at UB Law School and a past president of the UB Law Alumni Association.

Diane F. Bosse '76 was named to the Board of Trustees of the New York Board of Law Examiners and is a counsel in the firm Bender, Crawford & Bender in Buffalo.

Patrick J. Brown '76 was selected by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit to serve a three-year term on the attorney advisory group to the Second Circuit criminal justice act committee. Brown is a partner in the firm LaToimpens & Brown in Buffalo.

Richard F. DiGiacomo '76 was named assistant secretary of the UB Law Alumni Association. He is a partner in the firm Nesper Feder & WKamisco in Amherst, N.Y.

Louis P. DiMarino '76 was inducted into the Litigation Counsel of America, an invitation-only organization of managing partners in the firm bond Schoeneck & King in the firm’s New York City and Garden City offices. He is co-chair of the firm’s labor and employment law department.

Cheryl Smith Fisher ’76, a partner in the firm Mageve Nager Gruenin in Buffalo, has been selected for the 2008 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. She was honored in the area of ethics and professional responsibility (see, the first time the publication recognized this specialty). Fisher is president of the Bar Association of Erie County.

Edward J. Kelly ’76 of Jonesburgh, Tenn., was named a Senior Fullbright Specialist and spent the summer teaching alternative dispute resolution in Buk, Australia. Kelly is university counsel at East Tennessee State University and Quiller College of Medicine in Johnson City, Tenn. He also teaches at an Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, Va.

Richard M. Miller ’76 is a partner in the firm Fox Rothschild in Princeton, N.J., where he has been named co-chair of the international business practice group. He previously practiced in the firm Miller Mitchell, which merged with Fox Rothschild.

Rodney O. Personius ’76 was inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers at its annual meeting in Chicago. Personius is a partner in the firm Personius Miller in Buffalo.

John Stuart ’76 was reappointed to a four-year term as state public defender in Minneapolis, where he resides. Stuart has held the position since 1990.

John M. Thomas ’76 is resigning as dean of the University at Buffalo School of Management. He will continue to work with the school’s global business programs as a faculty member. Thomas has helped to establish the school as a leader in international business education. The school was named by Business Week as one of the country’s top five business schools for the fastest return on MBA investment. Thomas is a Buffalo resident.

Margaret W. Wong ’76 was honored with the UB Law Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumna Award on May 3 at the 45th annual meeting and dinner at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Wong was recognized for her leadership in UB Law Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumna Award on May 3 at the 45th annual meeting and dinner at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Wong was recognized for her leadership in UB Law Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumna Award on May 3 at the 45th annual meeting and dinner at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo.
Alumni Briefs

Garry M. Graber ’78

For the Year in Review is a publication for alumni and friends of the law school. It is published annually and contains information about alumni, faculty, and staff of the law school. It also includes news about the law school, its programs, and its activities. The publication is distributed to alumni and friends of the law school and is available online. It includes news about alumni, faculty, and staff of the law school. It also includes news about the law school, its programs, and its activities. The publication is distributed to alumni and friends of the law school and is available online.
Alumni Briefs

Unifirm Commercial Code Article 8 to promissory notes. Everett had lost the New York State Insurance Department in Albany, N.Y., where he resides.

Diane M. LaValle ‘83, of Buffalo, was elected to the nominating committee of the Bar Association of Erie County. LaValle is a trial advocacy and bridge course instructor at UB Law School.

Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden ‘83 was named president-elect of the UB Law Alumni Association. She is a Buffalo City Court judge and a bridge course instructor at UB Law School. Ogden is also a past president of the Minority Bar Association in Buffalo.

Robert W. Patterson ‘83 is listed in The Best Lawyers in America 2008. Patterson is a partner in Jasckle, Heitschmann & Magel in the employee benefits practice group. He is a Buffalo resident.

Hon. Sara Sperrazza ‘83 has been honored at the fifth annual Women in the Law Awards luncheon May 23 at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. She was recognized by the 86th Judicial District’s Gender & Racial Fairness Committee for her contributions to the bench, bar and community. Sperrazza is acting Supreme Court justice and Niagara County Surrogate Court judge in Lockport, N.Y.

Amy Ruth Tobol ‘83 has been named associate dean of the Hudson Valley Center of Empire State College in Hartstale, N.Y. She is also a tenured associate professor.

Perry Binder ‘84 co-organized and spoke at the Corporate Intellectual Property Institute of Georgia State University in Atlanta, Ga., where he is a Legal Studies professor in the Robinson College of Business. In addition, Binder nominated and introduced Mr. Brian Caullie, founder and chairman of Chick-fil-A restaurants, for the university’s IP Legends Award, which honors attorneys and business people who have made significant contributions in the field of intellectual property.

George W. Collins ‘84 of Amherst, N.Y., was re-elected for a second term as vice president of the board of directors of the Boys & Girls Club of Buffalo. He also was named to the 2007 listing of “Who’s Who in Law” by Business First and the Buffalo Law Journal. Collins is chairman of the litigation group in the firm Bouvier Partnership in Buffalo.

John F. Freedenberg ‘84 of Amherst, N.Y., was selected as the national chair of the Defense Research Institute’s product liability committee. Freedenberg is a partner in the firm Goldberg Segalla in Buffalo, practicing in product liability, catastrophic personal injury and intellectual property litigation.

Hon. Michael L. Hammsuzak ‘84 co-authored the article “Indemnity,” which appears in the 2001-02 Survey of New York Law. Published in 2007 by the Syracuse University Law Review, Hammsuzak is an Onondaga County family court judge in Syracuse, N.Y.

Patrick J. Higgins ‘84 has been named president of the Albany County Bar Association in Albany, N.Y. Higgins is a partner in the firm Powers & Santalo in Albany, where he resides.

Jennifer J. Parker ‘84 received the Business Person of the Year Award from the Minority Bar Association of Western New York. Parker is president and CEO of Black Capital Network in Buffalo, where she resides.

Nancy W. Sain ‘84 received the Special Service Award from the Bar Association of Erie County. She is a member of the association’s real property law subcommittee and was recognized for her efforts in creating the association’s new real estate contract. Sain is a Buffalo solo practitioner and a member of the board of directors of the bar association.

George E. Bellows ‘84 of Buffalo is listed in The Best Lawyers in America 2008. Bellows is a partner in the business and corporate and financial services practice groups in the firm Jackle, Heitschmann & Magel in the Buffalo office.

Sandi Cassidy ‘84 has become corporate counsel and vice-president of legal affairs for Plaintiff Support Services in Amherst, N.Y.

Paula M. Cipriano ‘85 was selected as assistant treasurer of the UB Law Alumni Association. She is general counsel at National Fuel Gas Co. in Williamsville, N.Y. N.Y.

Victor J. Angelo ‘85 has joined the staff of the New York City Liquidation Bureau as deputy chief of staff in the Manhattan office. Angelo was previously assistant attorney general in the claims bureau of the New York State attorney general in Manhattan.

Gayle L. Eagan ‘85 was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2008 in the trusts and estates category. She was also named to the 2007 listing of “Who’s Who in Law” by Business First and the Buffalo Law Journal. Eagan is a partner in the Buffalo firm Jackle, Heitschmann & Magel. She is treasurer of the UB Law Alumni Association and a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumna Award.

Virginia C. McElwoney ‘85 was named special counsel in the Healthcare Executive Forum of Western New York. McElwoney is special counsel in the firm Dammon & Money in the Buffalo office. She is a member of the firm’s business and corporate department and the firm’s health care group.

Lisa Blech Rodwin ‘85 was honored at the fifth annual It Happened to Alexa Foundation dinner on June 8, and also received the Susan Hill Prize in Courage Award from the Erie County Family Justice Center. Rodwin is chief of the Erie County district attorney’s office domestic violence bureau in Buffalo.

Alberto Benitez ‘86 is listed as one of the top faculty members, based on student evaluations of courses, at George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C. Benitez is a professor of clinical law and director of the immigration clinic.

Deborah A. Kirby ‘86 was named special counsel in the firm Colucci & Gallaher in Buffalo. She concentrates her practice in health and business law.

Kathleen A. Lynch ‘86 received the 2007 Liberty Bell Award from the Bar Association of Erie County. She is an attorney for the Western New York Law Center in Buffalo and coordinator of the Mayor’s Anti-Flipping Task Force.

Lisa McDougall ‘86 co-authored The New York State Photographic’s HIPAA Privacy Manual. McDougall is a partner in the firm Phillips Lytle in the Buffalo office and is coordinator of the firm’s health care practice group. She is a Buffalo resident.

Gregory Rabb ‘86 was elected city council president in Jamestown, N.Y. He is the first openly gay person to hold that position. Rabb is a Jamestown resident.

Victor R. Sidiari ‘86 became assistant general counsel for Mellon Financial Corp. in Pittsburgh. Sidiari is supporting the asset management business. Sidiari was previously a
Alumni Briefs

T he Class of 1972 gathered on the weekend of June 8-9. The weekend commenced on Friday evening with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres at the old Law School at 77 W. Eagle St. Alumni came to see how their old law school was recently transformed into a marvelous library facility while having an opportunity to catch up with friends. The festivities continued as classmates made their way over to Dubois on Niagara Street—a familiar and favorite hangout from their law school days.

On Saturday morning, Dean Nils Olsen welcomed the class to the “new” Law School on the UB North Campus. As a special gift, the Class of 1972’s senior yearbook pictures were compiled into a class composite, framed and hung on the third floor of O’Brian Hall with other class composites. All class members also received their own copy at the reunion dinner as a reminder of their days in Law School.

Classmates continued their reunion weekend with a stations dinner at Macrina’s Restaurant in Amherst, with dance music provided by the Sid Winder Band. It was a great opportunity for all to rekindle their Law School relationships and continue the class’ reunion tradition.
the Erie County Bar Foundation for a three-year term. Newcomb is special counsel in the firm Bouvier Partnership in Buffalo, where she handles matters involving toxic tort and personal injury litigation. She is a resident of West Seneca, N.Y.

Hou, Wendy S. Ricks '90 has been elected town justice in Pennsylvania, N.Y., for a four-year term. Ricks previously practiced in the firm Rask & Viviano Hayner & Martin in Kingston, N.Y., but recently opened her own practice in Saugerties.

Tina Marie Stanford '90 has been nominated by New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer to serve as chairwoman of the New York State Crime Victims Board. Stanford is an Erie County assistant district attorney in Buffalo.

Sean P. Beiter '91 of Amherst, N.Y., was named president of the Greater Niagara Frontier Council, Boy Scouts of America. He also is named in the 2008 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. Beiter, an Eagle Scout, is a partner in the firm Jachule Fleischman & Magen in Buffalo.

Joseph R. Bergen '91 is a partner in the newly formed personal injury firm Smith Reger & Schaffnader in Buffalo, where he resides. Bergen and Dean P. Smith '90 opened the firm in October 2007. Bergen previously practiced in the Law Offices of William Matar in Williamsville, N.Y.

LaMarr J. Jackson '92 has been appointed a partner in the firm Speyer Monte & Pajak in Buffalo. Jackson has been named national vice chair of the Defense Trial Lawyers Association and served on the Pennsylvania Bar Institute Litigation and Environmental Law Section's 2007 advisory panel. In addition, Jackson is a member of the Erie County Bar Association real estate committee.

Leslie Kirschner Rauhala, Class of '77

LaMarr J. Jackson '92 has been appointed a partner in the firm Speyer Monte & Pajak in Buffalo. He is a member of the Erie County Bar Association and served on the Pennsylvania Bar Institute Litigation and Environmental Law Section's 2007 advisory panel. In addition, Jackson is a member of the Erie County Bar Association real estate committee.

Michelle M. Parker '93 has been named national vice chair of the Defense Trial Lawyers Association and served on the Pennsylvania Bar Institute Litigation and Environmental Law Section's 2007 advisory panel. She is a member of the Erie County Bar Association real estate committee.

Russell I. Matsuzaka '92 was elected president of the Niagara Frontier Corporate Counsel Association. He is a legal counsel to HealthNow New York, in Buffalo.

Gregory V. Pajak '92 has joined the Buffalo firm Collins & Barnes as a partner, representing victims of toxic tort. He was a partner in the firm Cilia Hinklek Speyer Monte & Pajak in Buffalo.

Edward Tiejak '92 has become associate director of technology and commercial development at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo.

Christopher J. Bulter '93 was named a partner in the firm Kremer Sheldon Lapitok Nowak in Buffalo. He advises clients on matters regarding self-insured and insurance defense litigation, environmental and toxic tort litigation, and medical malpractice defense.

Michelle M. Parker '93 has been appointed a partner of the Erie County Bar Foundation 2007 campaign. Parker is a partner in the firm Asquith Merko Ellenberger in Buffalo. She is vice president of the Defense Trial Lawyers Association and a director of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute Litigation and Environmental Law Section's 2007 advisory panel. She is a member of the Erie County Bar Association real estate committee.

LaMarr J. Jackson '92 has been appointed a partner in the firm Speyer Monte & Pajak in Buffalo. He is a member of the Erie County Bar Association real estate committee.

Michelle M. Parker '93 has been appointed a partner of the Erie County Bar Foundation 2007 campaign. Parker is a partner in the firm Asquith Merko Ellenberger in Buffalo. She is vice president of the Defense Trial Lawyers Association and a director of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute Litigation and Environmental Law Section's 2007 advisory panel. She is a member of the Erie County Bar Association real estate committee.
Bellocchi previously served as a dangerous items and persons. He helps the country’s borders from produce legislation and policy to Washington, D.C. He helps Homeland Security, in Protection, Department of appointed assistant commissioner, since 2006.

Luke P. Bellocchi ’95 has been a principal in the firm practice group of Groom Law Group in Washington, D.C. She has been a local director of the Western Partnership in Buffalo.

Kevin E. Raphael ’94 is joining the Philadelphia firm Pietragalla Gordon Alfano Bois & Raviputi. Raphael was previously a member of Miller Alfano & Raviputi in Philadelphia, which has merged with Pietragalla Bois & Gordon. He was a guest speaker at the Pennsylvania bar Institute’s 13th annual Health Law Institute in Philadelphia, and was selected as a Super Lawyers Rising Star for 2007. He was honored for his work in white-collar criminal defense. In addition, he spoke at the Pennsylvania bar Institute’s “A Day on Health Law,” and at the Progressive Audiences Conference on the topic: Non-FDA Use and Off-Label Promotional Criminal and Civil Risks You Need to Know.”

Christian Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf, practicing in the Buffalo firm Damon & Morey, is a Buffalo resident.

Robert C. Schwenkel, Damon & Morey, practicing in the Buffalo firm Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft, is an Amherst, N.Y., resident.

Eric W. Schultz ’95 has merged his solo practice and formed the litigation firm, Andrews & Schultz in Buffalo, practicing in commercial, employment, intellectual property, and personal injury matters. Schultz previously served as a local district attorney in Erie County.

He was a guest speaker at the New York Chapter of the Women’s Bar Association in Buffalo, practicing in commercial, employment, intellectual property, and personal injury matters. Schultz previously served as a local district attorney in Erie County.

Kevin E. Raphael ’94 has been a principal in the firm practice group of Groom Law Group in Washington, D.C. She has been a local director of the Western Partnership in Buffalo.
D. Charles Roberts '97, corporate counsel for Deluxe North-Cor in Buffalo, was appointed to the board of directors of the UB Law Alumni Association. He is a past president of UB Law School's Gold Group.

Michael P. Stuewer '97 was selected a 2007 Up & Coming Attorney by The Daily Record. Stuewer is a senior partner in the firm Lipstik Green Scime Cambria and a member of the Defense Research Institute's Toxic Tort and Environmental Liability Claims. He is a partner in the Buffalo firm Goldberg Segalla and has accepted a position in the firm's litigation department.

Denise Gery '98 has been named an associate in the firm Fidelsky, Huffer, Freiberg & Schick in Las Vegas. She is a member of the firm's employee benefits, executive compensation and ERISA practice.

Shannon M. Hengeler '98 became a partner in the Stanger Law Firm in the Syracuse, N.Y. office. She practices in the firm's litigation department.

John J. Koeppel '98 was named a partner in the firm Neuswold, Pappas & Barcott in Buffalo. He handles cases involving fund formation, private equity, mergers and acquisitions, insurance and financial services and general corporate matters.

Tasha E. Moore '98 has been named to the Minority Bar Association of Western New York in Buffalo. She works for the New York State Division of Human Rights in Buffalo and is a member of the board of directors of UB Law School's Gold Group.

Heath J. Szymczak '98 was selected as a 40 Under 40 award recipient by the Buffalo Law Digest. He is a partner in the firm Debnam & Magel, handling cases involving business-related torts, complex commercial litigation and civil litigation. He is director of the Canisius College Alumni Association and a member of the Canisius College Pre-Law Advisory Council in Buffalo.

Carlise Toppin '98 has become an associate in the firm Paul Hastings. She is a partner in the Buffalo office and handles litigation involving banking law, SEC investigations and professional liability.

Peter C. Trimarchi '98 has been named counsel of the firm Safier, Cahn, Safier, Lerner & Schicker in Buffalo. He is a partner in the firm's litigation department and handles matters involving intellectual property.

John R. Athlon '99 received a special recognition at the Attorney Law A to Z: A Desktop Reference for the Legal Profession. He has been the firm's first-year professor for three years.

Tasha Dandridge '99 was elected recording secretary of the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, in Buffalo. Dandridge is an associate in the firm Harris & Hartman in Rochester. She is president of the Hispanic Women's Business Association and the immediate past president of the Minority Bar Association of Rochester, N.Y. She also received a Special Recognition Award at the Entre Nosotras 12th annual awards luncheon in Albany, N.Y., and the National Bar Association of Western New York.

Matthew Ciborowski '99 was named an associate in the firm Neuswold, Pappas & Barcott in Buffalo. He practices in the firm's litigation department.

Jenifer Ronk '99 went to law school at the University of Florida, and resides in Palm Beach, where she is an associate in the firm Harris & Hartman in Rochester. She is president of the Hispanic Women's Business Association and the immediate past president of the Minority Bar Association of Rochester, N.Y. She also received a Special Recognition Award at the Entre Nosotras 12th annual awards luncheon in Albany, N.Y.

Fildes was formerly a partner in the firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Pappas. She has been with the firm since 2001.

Timothy P. Noonan '99 received the Hon. Michael F. Dillon Law Guardian Award from the Appellate Division, 4th Department, Law Guardian Program in Rochester, N.Y. He received the award for his volunteer work as a guardian ad litem for abused and neglected children in New York. He is a resident of Rochester and practices in Buffalo.

Neddy S. Santucci '99 has joined the Buffalo firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Pappas as an associate practicing in the firm's litigation department. Santucci is a resident of Rochester.

Marc Y. Brown '99 was named the Hon. The Daily Record as a 2017 Up & Coming Attorney. He is an associate in the Buffalo firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Pappas. He is a resident of Buffalo.

Jennifer K. Dermer '99 is a former county attorney in Illinois and is currently in her second term in the Illinois State Senate. She is a resident of Illinois and practices in the firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Pappas in Buffalo.

Damon M. Grazer '99 has been named the firm Goldberg Segalla as an associate in the Buffalo office. He concentrates his practice in workers' compensation claims.

Amy C. Martorello '99 has been named an associate in the Buffalo firm Connor & Vallow. She has been with the firm since 2001.

Timothy P. Noonan '99 is writing a monthly column for State Tax Notes on New York State's New Economic Development and Siting Act. He is a resident of Buffalo and local tax practitioner. Noonan is a partner in the firm Hodgins Ross in Buffalo, where he is a resident of Buffalo.

Anshu Tacket '99 received the Hon. Michael F. Dillon Law Guardian Award from the Appellate Division, 4th Department, Law Guardian Program in Rochester, N.Y. She received the award for her volunteer work as a guardian ad litem for abused and neglected children in New York. She is a resident of Rochester and practices in Buffalo.

Lisa D. Primavera '99 was appointed as treasurer of the Women's Bar Association of Western New York, in Buffalo. Primavera is an associate in the firm Harris & Hartman in Rochester. She is president of the Hispanic Women's Business Association and the immediate past president of the Minority Bar Association of Rochester, N.Y. She also received a Special Recognition Award at the Entre Nosotras 12th annual awards luncheon in Albany, N.Y., and the National Bar Association of Western New York.

Lorena M. Vasquez '96 was honored in March at the fifth annual Queens Women in Business Network Award Event in Queens, N.Y., and the Latin American Business Jurisdiction Scholarship Program in New York City.

Ventura is deputy chief of staff for the New York State Democratic Conference, and has offices in Albany and New York City.

Marc Y. Brown '99 was named the Hon. The Daily Record as a 2017 Up & Coming Attorney. He is an associate in the Buffalo firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Pappas. He is a resident of Buffalo.

Jennifer K. Dermer '99 is a former county attorney in Illinois and is currently in her second term in the Illinois State Senate. She is a resident of Illinois and practices in the firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Pappas in Buffalo.

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Jennifer K. Dermer '99 is a former county attorney in Illinois and is currently in her second term in the Illinois State Senate. She is a resident of Illinois and practices in the firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Pappas in Buffalo.

Damon M. Grazer '99 has been named the firm Goldberg Segalla as an associate in the Buffalo office. He concentrates his practice in workers' compensation claims.
Burdan Gulisano & Hickey in Buffalo. The firm will handle cases involving catastrophic personal injury, particularly in trucking/transportation, insurance, premises liability, labor law and municipal law.

Roseanne McMorrow Lemon '91 has taken an attorney assistant general in the Buffalo regional office of the New York State Attorney General’s office. She was previously assistant district attorney in Erie County.

Pietro G. Lettieri '91 was elected president of UB Law School’s GOLD Group. He is an associate in the firm Harris Beach in Buffalo.

Patrick A. Makin '91 has accepted a position as an associate in the firm Germain & Brilly in Buffalo. He handles cases involving commercial and construction litigation, corporate and business transactions and commercial and residential real estate transactions and estate planning and administration.

Nicole B. Palmerton '91 became a partner in the Buffalo firm Brown & Kelly. Palmerton handles cases involving insurance defense litigation and the representation of municipalities and corporations. She lives in Williamsville, N.Y.

Erin C. Duggan Pemberton '91 of Jamestown, N.Y., is an associate in the firm Wolfe Snoedden Hard Luers & Ahl in Lincoln. She focuses her practice in medical malpractice litigation and personal injury, workplace accidents and insurance coverage. Dickinson lives in Buffalo.

Hillary K. Green '92 has accepted a position as an associate in the Buffalo firm Rupp Bauste & Fagg in Amherst. She specializes in contractual matters, including motor vehicle accidents, real property valuation and tax assessment, personal injury, workplace accidents and insurance coverage. Dickinson lives in Buffalo.

Tara Johnson '92 has become associate counsel for Excelus Health Plan in Rochester, N.Y. Johnson lives in Webster, N.Y.

Jeffrey L. Kingsley '92 has joined the firm Goldberg Segalla as an associate. He specializes in commercial litigation, bankruptcy and restructuring insurance coverage, and extra-contractual liability litigation. Kingsley is treasurer-elect of UB Law School’s GOLD Group.

Kevin J. Kruyppe '92 has become associated with the firm Rupp Bauste & Fagg Cunningham & Coppola in Buffalo. He concentrates his practice in insurance defense.

Robert J. Skutnik '01 is serving as academic liaison to the State University of New York Victim Assistance Academy. Skutnik is a program coordinator for the center for Health & Social Science Research Foundation at Buffalo State College.

Shelldon Smith '91, an Orchard Park, N.Y., resident, was reappointed to the board of directors of the Monroe County Bar Association of Western New York. Smith is an associate in the firm Nixon Peabody in the Buffalo office.

Jonathan S. Hickey '01 specializes in torts, products liability, insurance coverage and professional malpractice. He lives in West Seneca, N.Y.

Nadine C. Bell '01 joined the Syracuse, N.Y., firm Greco & Frenan. Bell practices municipal law, land use and zoning.

Tracie L. Corey '02 has accepted a position as an associate in the firm Bond Schoeneck & King in the Buffalo office. She is a member of the firm’s labor and employment law department, focusing on cases regarding the National Labor Relations Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Joanna Dickinson '02 is practicing as an associate in the Buffalo firm Phillips Lytle. She specializes in trial matters including motor vehicle accidents, real property valuation and tax assessment, personal injury, workplace accidents and insurance coverage. Dickinson lives in Buffalo.

Robert J. Skutnik '01 is serving as academic liaison to the State University of New York Victim Assistance Academy. Skutnik is a program coordinator for the center for Health & Social Science Research Foundation at Buffalo State College.

Shelldon Smith '91, an Orchard Park, N.Y., resident, was reappointed to the board of directors of the Monroe County Bar Association of Western New York. Smith is an associate in the firm Nixon Peabody in the Buffalo office.

Ellen B. Sturm '01 is a business litigator associate in the firm Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom in Wilmington, Del., where she resides.

Frank V. Hallon '02 has become associated with the firm Hinck V. Barclay in the Buffalo office. Hallon specializes in torts, products liability, insurance coverage and professional malpractice. He lives in West Seneca, N.Y.

Nadine C. Bell '01 joined the Syracuse, N.Y., firm Greco & Frenan. Bell practices municipal law, land use and zoning.

Tracie L. Corey '02 has accepted a position as an associate in the firm Bond Schoeneck & King in the Buffalo office. She is a member of the firm’s labor and employment law department, focusing on cases regarding the National Labor Relations Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Joanna Dickinson '02 is practicing as an associate in the Buffalo firm Phillips Lytle. She specializes in trial matters including motor vehicle accidents, real property valuation and tax assessment, personal injury, workplace accidents and insurance coverage. Dickinson lives in Buffalo.

Hillary K. Green '92 has accepted a position as an associate in the Buffalo firm Rupp Bauste & Fagg in Amherst. She specializes in commercial and employment litigation and is a Buffalo resident.

Natalie A. Gregg '92 is a state director of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York, Western New York Chapter, in Buffalo. Gregg is an associate in the Buffalo firm Rupp Bauste & Fagg Cunningham & Coppola. She practices in commercial and employment litigation and is a Buffalo resident.

Thomas Fain '93 was appointed as a senior legal advisor to the United Nations Development Programme in Jakarta, Indonesia, from January to July 2007. Fain provided legal advice on human rights issues, development assistance and the implementation of U.N. reform at the country level. He returned to New York in July, 2007 to assume the position as a senior policy advisor with the New Zealand government’s immigration policy division, where he focuses on international legal aspects of New Zealand’s immigration law and policy.

Scott T. Hanson ‘02 has joined the firm Harte & Stern in Emery in Buffalo. He practices in the firm’s litigation group, specializing in commercial litigation, products liability defense, and intellectual property prosecution and litigation. Hanson is a member of UB Law School’s GOLD Group and lives in Clarence Center, N.Y.

Tara Johnson '92 has become associate counsel for Excelus Health Plan in Rochester, N.Y. Johnson lives in Webster, N.Y.

Jeffrey L. Kingsley '92 has joined the firm Goldberg Segalla as an associate. He specializes in commercial litigation, bankruptcy and restructuring insurance coverage, and extra-contractual liability litigation. Kingsley is treasurer-elect of UB Law School’s GOLD Group.

Kevin J. Kruyppe '92 has become associated with the firm Rupp Bauste & Fagg Cunningham & Coppola in Buffalo. He concentrates his practice in insurance defense.

Temi Ofuya '02 has become vice president of the legal-geohydrological management group of Morgan Stanley in Purchase, N.Y. Ofuya was previously practicing in the firm Veil Coleth & Manges in New York City.

Jessica D. Owens '02 has accepted an attorney position with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Refugee and Asylum Law Division, in Washington, D.C. She will provide legal advice on asylum law and practice, overseas refugee resettlement programs, temporary protected status, T and U visas, special immigrant juvenile petitions and the Convention Against Torture. Owens previously worked for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in San Francisco.

Kimberly A. Stock '02 has been promoted to senior associate attorney in the legal division at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, in Washington, D.C.

The 20th reunion for the Class of 1987 was held on May 4-5 in Buffalo. An excellent turnout of more than 90 classmates and friends helped to create an ideal weekend for these alumni reconnected.

On Friday things got underway under a traditional Buffalo barry bale at the class former stomping grounds of the Steer Restaurant in the University District. The night provided plenty of laughs and opportunities to catch up with old friends.

Saturday morning brought the Class of 1987 together at the Law School. Dawn Nilc Olen hosted a brunch to welcome many alums back to the Law School for the first time since their days of studying in the library and classes with their professors. After the brunch, the class was given a tour so that they could see firsthand just how much things have changed since their days at the school. A favorite of all classmates was the third floor of O’Brien, where the class’ third-year composite hangs on the wall. Extra time was spent checking out all the pictures and seeing just how everyone has changed.

On the evening of May 5, the reunion was capped off at the historic Buffalo Club, where they were treated to a delicious meal with plenty of cocktails, food and great conversation.

Carol A. Fitzsimmons, Nancy Tantillo Holtby, Carol A. Falotico, Paul W. Ballman, Paul K. Holbrook, Hon. Donna S. Stine, Joan Carole Adams, M. Katherine Kremer

2nd Row – Gerald B. Saffert Jr., Peter H. Abdella, Steven J. Rizza, Mary M. Comerford, Amy J. Murphy, Karen M. Buckley, Carol Gavazza, Bridget J. Lipman, Phillips S. Chomat


Stairs (top to bottom) – Mark J. Kornack, Erica B. Swed, Hugh M. Buss III, Colin M. Storseth, Martin J. Zullinianni, Rachael A. Roth, Craig K. Watison, Paul J. Karp, Thomas C. Farkle Jr., Margaret S. Bennett, Robin E. Nuckman, John P. Thiedel, Mark G. Nuckman, G. Steven Fipson, Shaien J. Schwartz, H. Todd Ballard, Brian D. Borstein, Tina L. Stine, Martha M. Anderson
Alumni Briefs

Tiffany M. Szymank ’02 was named a state director of the Western New York Chapter of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York, in Buffalo. Szymank is a Buffalo attorney.

James C. Thomas ’02 won the U.S. Masters National Skiing Championship in Big Sky, Mont. Thomas is a member of the business restructuring and bankruptcy practice group and the commercial transactions practice group in the firm Menter Rudin & Tischler in Syracuse, N.Y.

Christopher G. Todd ’02 practices as an associate in the firm Phillips Lytle in Buffalo. He focuses his practice in commercial litigation and product liability. Todd resides in Hamburg, N.Y.

Jessica M. Baker ’03 and Mark A. Starosielec ’03 counsel clients regarding automobile liability and tort defense. Baker has joined the Buffalo firm Mathias Wexler Friedman in Buffalo. She practices in the firm’s real estate department and commercial litigation including automobile liability, premises liability and tort defense.

Mary Beth Prisek ’03 of East Amherst, N.Y., has been named president-elect of the Western New York Chapter of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York, in Buffalo. Prisek is an associate in the Buffalo firm Galucci & Gallahan, practicing in products liability, intellectual property and general litigation.

Christy Canali Lilley ’04 accepted a position as assistant division counsel for Corning Cable Systems, a division of Corning Inc., in Hickory, N.C. She was previously an associate in the corporate transactions and securities group of Alston & Bird in Charlotte, N.C., where she resides with her husband, James Lilley ’04.

James J. Lilley ’04 has been named vice president, financial planner, in the executive financial planning services group of Wachovia Wealth Management, a part of Wachovia Bank in Charlotte, N.C. He was previously a financial analyst for the Ayco Co., a subsidiary of Goldman Sachs, in Pittsburgh. Lilley and his wife, Christy Canali Lilley ’04, reside in Charlotte.

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Brett A. Nocici '06

Brent A. Nocici '06 has joined the firm of Brown & Moore in Buffalo as an associate in the firm’s business and commercial practice group. He has joined the firm’s business restructuring, creditors’ rights and bankruptcy practice group.

Joseph Gavulovicz ‘06 has accepted a position as an associate in the firm Harter Secrest & Emery LLP in Rochester, N.Y., office. He practices in the firm’s labor and employment law group.

Keith J. Gross ‘06 is assistant general counsel at Local 6-UNITE HERE in Manhattan. He specializes in corporate law.

Marilyn Sarah Kim ‘06 is an associate in the Buffalo firm Phillips Lyall. Kim focuses her practice in civil litigation involving commercial, corporate and estate law.

Colleen M. Mulhock ‘06 has joined the firm Lewis & Lewis in Buffalo, N.Y., as an associate. Mulhock specializes in insurance defense. She is a former social worker who advocated for the rights of domestic violence victims. She is a resident of Cheektowaga, N.Y.

Ryan K. Michals ‘06 practices as an associate in the firm Damon & Moore in Buffalo. He deals with corporate and labor law.

Carla J. Miller-Montovaro ‘06 has joined the firm Cherubini Hendrick Sprey Monte & Pajack in Cheektowaga, N.Y. She is an associate practicing in insurance law and is a resident of Cheektowaga, N.Y.

Brian Nocici ‘06 has joined the firm in the Buffalo office. Nocici practices in the business-homicide defense group, focusing in insurance coverage disputes. He is an associate and member of the board of directors of UB Law School’s GOLD Group.

Patrick A. Quinlan ‘06 has joined the firm Brown, BKSM &_nb_ Staley in Buffalo. He specializes in commercial real estate.

Elizabeth Fox-Solomon ‘06 practices in the firm Jackel, Heinich & Magul as an associate in the Buffalo office. She concentrates her practice in labor and employment law.

Dana L. Rappas ‘06 has joined the firm Harris Beach in the Pittsford, N.Y., office. Rappas practices as an associate in the public finance and economic development practice group. She is a resident of Batavia, N.Y.

Marywyn B. Brown to the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority board of directors. She is also one of 15 New York State unified court system judicial fellows and is currently assigned to Judge Sharon J. Treadwell, administrative judge of the State Supreme Court, 48th Judicial District, in Buffalo.

Edward J. Snyder ‘06 has joined the firm of Niskayuna, N.Y. He joined the firm as an associate in the firm’s corporate group specializing in general business matters including mergers and acquisitions and securities. He lives in East Aurora, N.Y.

Amber E. Sturve ‘06 has been accepted as a two-year program in the course in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Anne M. Burak ‘07 is an associate in the firm Hinckley & Barlows in the Syracuse, N.Y., office. As a former resident of Camillus, N.Y., she focuses her practice in commercial litigation.

Erica M. Dillman ‘07 has joined Hinckley & Barlows in the Rochester, N.Y., office. She concentrates in insurance, professional malpractice, and torts and products liability defense. She is a Rochester resident.

Monique E. Enid ‘07 has joined Hinckley & Barlows as an associate in the Buffalo office. She handles cases involving real property tax and condemnation as well as torts and products liability issues. Enid, formerly of the Bronze, N.Y., currently resides in Buffalo.

Amba Pariasca ‘07 is moving from the New York City office to the firm Sullivan & Cromwell in the Melbourne, Australia office. Pariasca will work on cross-border clients in Australia and New Zealand as well as other offices in the pacific. He will be focusing on issuer side capital markets.

Richard T. Tucker ‘07 practices in the Firm Phillips Lyall as an associate in the Buffalo office. He advises clients regarding litigation matters including business torts, construction, insurance coverage and premises liability. Tucker lives in Honolulu, N.Y.

Thomas Tiatori ‘07 practices in the environmental practice group in the firm Harter Secrest & Emery in the Rochester, N.Y., office. He joined the firm as an associate in 2006 and has 16 years previous experience as an environmental lawyer. Tiatori lives in Rochester.

Baldwin is a resident of Rotterdam, N.Y.

Peter H. Brown ‘07 has accepted a two-year post in the course in Johannesburg, South Africa.


Arnold E. Gilbu ‘55, Buffalo.


Hans E. Schmeltzer ‘58, Buffalo.

Donald H. Lischer ‘72, Rochester, New York.

Anthony M. Miranda ‘73, Hamburg, New York.

Michael J. Karger ‘74, Manhattan Beach, California.


Bette D. Patterson ‘78, Amsterdam, New York.

Sheila A. Meyer ‘80, East Amherst, New York.

Bobby Billig ‘88, Buffalo.

Jacob D. Hyman, former dean of UB Law School and a longtime faculty member, died April 8, 2007, in his Jacksonville, Fla., home after a brief illness. He was 97.

Milton Kaplan, a professor who taught at UB Law School for more than two decades, died Feb. 26, 2007. He was 91.

The Law School Extends Its Deepest Condolences to the Families and Friends of the Following Friends and Alumni/ae:

- George R. Blair Sr. ‘38, Elm, New York.
- Cruzan S. Meissner ‘58, Amsterdam, New York.
- Vincent S. White ‘00, Buffalo.
- Francis R. Whitaker ‘67, Silver Creek, New York.
- Edward J. Martz ‘78, Talia Church, Virginia.
- David M. Coffey ‘54, West Seneca, New York.
- Arnold E. Gilbu ‘55, Buffalo.
- Pascale A. Puce ‘55, Orchard Park, New York.
- George E. Henfling ‘58, Middletown, Virginia.
- Hans E. Schmeltzer ‘58, Buffalo.
- Donald H. Lischer ‘72, Rochester, New York.
- Michael J. Karger ‘74, Manhattan Beach, California.
- Bette D. Patterson ‘78, Amsterdam, New York.
- Sheila A. Meyer ‘80, East Amherst, New York.
- Bobby Billig ‘88, Buffalo.

The Law School extends its deepest condolences to the families and friends of the following friends and alumni/ae:
True believer

Ryan McPherson '02 guides UB Believers community outreach effort

What is good for the University is good for Western New York. That is the core message of UB Believers, an ambitious effort to build a constituency of supporters that reaches far beyond the campus limits. Through the University’s Division of External Affairs, the campaign has won the loyalties of more than 4,000 individuals — and counting.

“People will advocate for pre-K through 12 education, because they have kids,” says Ryan McPherson ’02, who coordinates the program. “They are attuned to issues around health care and the economy. But higher education seldom, makes it into that mix. People who see higher education as a critical investment in our future tend not to be as well organized as other groups.”

UB Believers aims to change that, reaching out to the Western New York community with a message that emphasizes the University’s incredible economic benefits for its region. When residents come to understand UB’s current and future potential for revitalizing the area’s economy, McPherson says, they will become advocates for the University and will make that support known to the community and their elected officials.

It is an easy argument to make, says McPherson, who serves as chief of staff for Marsha Henderson, vice president for external relations. UB’s economic impact for 2005-06 was estimated at $1.5 billion; with full realization of the UB 2020 plan, which would increase the student body by 10,000 students, the impact is projected to be $2.6 billion annually, or $206 dollars. And that figure includes everything from direct spending by the University’s students, faculty and staff, to construction spending, to the third of a billion dollars in annual research expenditures that UB contributes to the region’s financial health.

The goal is to have a ready core of supporters to lobby state lawmakers on legislation important to the University. That includes funding allocations, of course, but extends to policy decisions that affect UB as well. For example, McPherson says, the Legislature’s decision to allow differential tuition for UB Law School, rather than follow the one that led to New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer declaring, in his State of the State message, that “UB will become an economic engine for Buffalo, and a flagship institution for a world-class public university system.” "That was a great moment,” McPherson says,”to see the governor buy into the vision of UB 2020. It was something our university has been working on for a long time.”

Thanks UB alumni! You currently make up the largest group of UB Believers, which includes more than 4,000 members. But we still need your help to grow stronger. If you haven’t already, please sign up. Then encourage your friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors to join the UB Believers and advocate for a brighter future for the next generation. And for all of us.

See what’s new. Join up. Take action. Visit www.buffalo.edu/YourUB.
When you give back, we move forward.

**UB Law School is on the move.** We are always *looking forward.* We have an excellent faculty, a talented and diverse student body, a cutting-edge curriculum, and a strong alumni network. To compete with the top schools, your **support is crucial** as we take our Law School to even greater heights. To learn more about **giving back**, contact Deborah Scott, Vice Dean for Development, at (716) 645-2113 or e-mail her at djscott@buffalo.edu.