24th Annual Meeting and Dinner to Honor Reunion Classes

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DEAN'S CLUB DINNERS ATTRACT MAJOR DONORS

The lace curtained Rue Franklin restaurant was filled to capacity on the evenings of Oct. 28 and Nov. 11 as record numbers of alumni and friends turned out to generously contribute to the school—and incidentally, to devour a superb French dinner. According to Associate Dean Alan Carrel, who heads UB Law School's fund-raising efforts, two dinner parties were necessary to accommodate the growing number of alumni who wish to make contributions of $250 or more. Most of those in attendance donate $500 or $1,000 and thereby qualify for membership in the Dean’s Club.

After the last morsel of puff pastry was consumed and the last glass of wine downed, alumni were able to relax while Acting Dean John Henry Schlegel and Former Dean Thomas E. Headrick spoke briefly of the financial needs of the Law School. The law library and faculty recruitment were among the many special needs cited by Headrick that “the State of New York simply won’t address.”

Reflecting upon the growing success of these dinners, Associate Dean Carrel recalled that before 1977, no formal campaign for the Law School existed. Major fundraising began that year with the first phonathon, when 256 people contributed $10,000. By 1981, 642 people gave $40,000, but most of the gifts were $100 or less. Only five gifts totaled $250 or more.

“Because we needed larger gifts to support our programs, we decided to approach some of our more successful alumni with the idea of forming a Dean's Club of $500+ givers,” Carrel said. The first Dean's Club dinner, held at The Buffalo Club in 1981, attracted 15 people. The Carlos Alden Club ($250 to $500) was formed in 1982.

Since then, growth has been remarkable. In 1984-85, 140 people contributed $250 or more. Of those, 72 gave $500 or more. Current members of the Dean’s Club are listed on a large, attractive plaque which is prominently displayed in the first floor lobby of the law school. A photograph of the plaque is on page 28 of the UB Law Forum.

"Everyone has been so enthusiastic that we hope to have 180 members join the Carlos Alden Club and the Dean's Club for 1985-86," said Carrel.

“We will definitely have to schedule three dinners for next year."