Newsmakers

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SUNY Honors Mugel with Capen Award

The State University of Buffalo General Alumni Association honored Albert R. Mugel with the Samuel P. Capen Award, which recognizes extraordinary service to the university and its alumni. The ceremony was held June 5, 1987 at the 48th annual installation and awards banquet in the Center for Tomorrow on the Amherst campus. Bernard A. Verrico, chairman of the awards committee, presented the award.

Mugel, who currently teaches Future Interests in the Law School on a part-time basis, has close ties to the school that go back almost 50 years. He graduated from UB Law School in 1941, then served in World War II as a tank commander. In 1948, he returned here to teach law full-time; however, his teaching career was interrupted when he was called to fight in Korea from 1950 to 1952. He taught here full-time once again until 1955, when he helped to found the Buffalo law firm of Jaeckle, Fleischmann, Kelly, Swart and Augspurger, predecessor of Jaeckle, Fleischmann and Mugel.

Today, he is a senior partner in that firm and is recognized as a leading tax attorney. Since 1955, he has continued to teach here as an adjunct professor. Mugel is also a director of Norstar Bank and the Pfeifer Trust, among others.

Ducks Bring Nat'l Fame to UB Law

"No one can accuse Professors Alan D. Freeman and Elizabeth B. Mensch of ducking their responsibilities when it comes to practicing what they teach," wrote a reporter for the Buffalo News in a story that was picked up nationwide by the Associated Press. While teaching a course last spring that delved into animal rights, the husband and wife teaching team promoted animal rights by taking care of a dozen mallards - a mother hen and 11 baby ducklings - who decided to take up residency on the fifth-floor courtyard at John Lord O'Brien Hall. The couple fed the ducks and provided them with three fresh water "lakes" - actually children's swimming pools - for about three months, until the babies' wings had grown strong enough to clear high brick walls that surround the courtyard which are two-stories high.

The law course, which the couple teaches along with Professor Barry Boyer, is called Nature, Ecology and the Law. The animal rights portions deal with environmental issues such as protecting endangered species. Since the arrival of the ducks, they have been taking a look at what might be done to protect the runt of the flock from continual harassment and physical abuse by duckling brothers and sisters that chase it out of the swimming pools.

Said Freeman of such "fowl" play: "We're trying to figure out the proper animal rights position."

Jasen is Special Master for U.S. Supreme Court

The Supreme Court recently appointed former Court of Appeals Judge Matthew J. Jasen '39 as a special master on a case involving the Treasury Department. He will hear arguments and report to the high court on a South Carolina case brought against Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III on the tax status on the state's bearer bonds.

Judge Jasen also heads a State Bar Association task force that evaluates reports of inequities and inefficiencies in the thousands
of administrative hearings various state agencies conduct each year.

In addition, he is chairman of the Judicial Advisory Council for the Erie County Democratic Committee. He succeeds the late Charles S. Desmond of Eden. The 41-member council screens judicial candidates for the Democratic party, rating them either qualified or unqualified.

A Democrat, Jasen was appointed by former Gov. Averell Harriman in 1957 to fill a vacancy on the State Supreme Court. He won a full term in 1958, the first Democrat to be elected to Supreme Court in the eight-county, Western New York Eighth Judicial District.

Jasen was elected to the Court of Appeals in 1967 as an associate judge. He then was appointed by former Gov. Hugh L. Carey to another term on the court. Jasen left the court at the end of 1985 because of the mandatory retirement age of 70.

Judge Jasen is now in practice with the Buffalo law firm of Moot and Sprague.

Nina Cascio Receives Chancellor’s Award

Nina Cascio, international law librarian and head of the M. Robert Koren Center for Clinical Legal Education, is the recipient of a 1987 Chancellor’s Award. Presented by the State University of New York, the award was given “for excellence in performance of her duties.” Cascio, 32, is one of nine professionals at all campuses of the State University system to be so honored, and the only one from the University at Buffalo.

According to Associate Dean Ellen Gibson, who heads the Sears Law Library, Cascio was selected for her librarian skills, her service to the university and the profession, and her scholarship and continuing professional growth. Her award was announced by President Steven B. Sample at the university’s commencement exercises in May.

“We were extremely proud and pleased when Nina was given this very special honor,” says Gibson. “Her service in the law library has always been outstanding and creative. No doubt many alumni share this view, having benefited from her expertise as both a reference librarian and an audiovisual librarian.”

Cascio is a graduate of SUNY at Binghamton, the UB School of Information and Library Studies, and UB Law School, class of 1985. Her teaching interests include computerized legal research and research methods in human rights and international law. She is the author of “NEXIS for Academic Law Librarians,” which appeared last year in Legal Reference Services Quarterly, and several technical articles concerning micrographics and audiovisual subjects.

In addition, she has compiled a Human Rights File for the law library which contains up-to-the-minute information from various human rights organizations and agencies in North America.

Paul Friedman Probes Iran-Contra Scandal

Paul L. Friedman ‘68 was one of 12 aides appointed by Lawrence E. Walsh, the independent counsel probing the Iran-contra scandal.

A former Assistant United States Attorney in Washington and former Assistant to the Solicitor General, Friedman now practices in Washington, D.C. with the firm of White & Case. He is a past president of the District of Columbia Bar Association.