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Legal Methods Program Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The Legal Methods Program (LMP), which provides academic support for students admitted to the Law School through the Special Program Committee, observed its 20th anniversary April 27 at a dinner in the Center for Tomorrow. Forty-three LMP graduates, Class of 1990, lighted candles during a ceremony and “passed the legacy,” a flame symbolizing pride and achievement, to second- and first-year LMP students.

Prominent members of the black and Hispanic communities, University officials, faculty members and family members of the students all came to celebrate the rich diversity of the Law School and applaud the accomplishments of the students.

“The Legal Methods Program, deeply rooted in our Law School, has been with us in several different forms since the late 1960s when the Law School was located in downtown Buffalo,” noted William R. Greiner, University provost and longtime law faculty member, in opening remarks.

Greiner recalled that Professors Jacob D. Hyman, James B. Atleson, Marjorie Girth and Wade J. Newhouse, and Career Development Coordinator Audrey Koscielniak, were present when the program first got off the ground.

“There are many things about our Law School of which I am very proud. But there is nothing of which I am more proud — as a member of the faculty and as University provost — than our Legal Methods Program and the contribution that the Law School has made over the years to helping minority students and disadvantaged students advance them-



Gail I. Hallerdin '90, left, lights a candle for Kim M. Smith '92.

selves, their lives and the legal profession,” said Greiner.

“The University takes special note that we have in the Law School a greater proportion of minority students than is the case with regard to the whole of the general population. And as far as graduate divisions go, we have by far the greatest population of minority students in the Law School.

“The students enter, they achieve and they graduate at an extraordinarily high rate. That is the result of two things: the dedication of the faculty, which supports the enterprise; and the dedication of the students, who come to this University and decide that they’re going to make it.”

Also speaking at the dinner were

Dean David B. Filvaroff, who thanked the students for “what you have brought to the Law School: the ways in which you have taught us, have broadened our horizons, have contributed in a significant and very special fashion to the entire educational process.

“Tonight is simply a formal occasion in which we strive to recognize your witness — each and every one of you — to what ability, commitment, determination and mutual support can and does achieve.

“Special congratulations go to those who are graduating this year. We don’t want to see you go — but we won’t do anything to stop you,” quipped the dean. ■