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Commencement 1988

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1988 Commencement



Professor Kenneth F. Joyce, civil libertarian William M. Kunstler and Associate Dean Lee A. Albert applaud Mary M. Gennaro, far right.

*“President Sample . . .
On behalf of the Faculty of
Law and Jurisprudence,
I have the honor to present
these candidates.
They have met all the
requirements of the
University and are
recommended to you by
the faculty for the degree
of Juris Doctor.”*

—Dean Filvaroff

While a large crowd of parents, spouses, children and friends looked on, 263 Law School graduates heard those short but glorious sentences and marched across the stage of Alumni Arena to receive their coveted diplomas from the dean.

Evidencing both pride and satisfaction — and a few even a tinge of relief — the grads hugged, kissed, pumped arms, posed for snapshots, sipped champagne and contemplated careers bright with promise and possibility. To guide them on their way, speakers at the Law School’s 99th commencement exhorted them to cherish life, foster freedom, improve the world and shun materialism.

Chosen by her fellow graduates to give the student address, Mary M. Gennaro implored classmates to regard each day as sacred. “Graduation is special, but so too is each day. Each day we live can or should be for us a celebration of life, a celebration of all the good that exists in us,” she observed.

Other program participants included UB President Steven B. Sample, Dean David B. Filvaroff, Erie County Bar Association President Joseph D. Bermingham, Jr., and



Sparked by Kunstler

Law Alumni Association President Robert W. Keller. Professor Wade J. Newhouse presented the faculty address, and Professor Virginia A. Leary presided over awards and prizes. Professor Elizabeth B. Mensch served as marshal and Professor Kenneth F. Joyce was herald.

The student-selected speaker at this year's graduation was civil libertarian William M. Kunstler, the controversial lawyer-advocate who has spent most of his highly publicized career protecting the rights of political dissenters, protesters and the poor.

Kunstler, 69, urged the new graduates to join him in the struggle for human liberty. "Human freedom is the only truly worthwhile cause," he said.

Kunstler is well known for his representation of the poor and for his identification with civil rights and civil liberties. All his pro bono clients have one thing in common, he says. They come from groups in society which are oppressed. He describes them as "the poor, the persecuted, the radicals and the militant, the black people, the pacifists and the political pariahs."

Kunstler is also vice president and staff attorney for the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York City.

Critical of what he perceives to be our society's obsession with material values, Kunstler implored the law graduates to choose a higher road.

"It is vital that young lawyers think beyond the yuppie dream of BMW's, Porsches, condominiums, Wall Street portfolios and all the rest of the dross that burdens our lives," Kunstler said.

"The system has too many inroads into all of us to take away the concepts of ambition for both money and power. But I come from a philosophy which I guess Lord Acton personifies when he said, 'Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.'"

According to Kunstler, since the beginning of recorded time, people have struggled for freedom. "Even in the Third Reich, that spirit lived to the end . . ."

"We're here for such a brief period of time. Just imagine the passage of 50 years. How many of us will be here? It is vital, I believe, that you leave behind something more than the predictably unappreciative children who will share your wealth, and possibly fight over it.

"You can advance the cause of human liberty," he said emphatically to the graduates. "The choice is yours." ■



Left to right: John J. Williams, Krista A. Hughes and Denis R. Hurley, Jr.

1988 Graduates Receive Awards and Prizes

At the 1988 commencement exercises, Associate Dean Virginia A. Leary presented the annual awards and prizes to the following members of the graduating class:

| Award | Recipient |
|--|---|
| <i>Max Koren Award</i> | Bradley Bobertz |
| <i>John N. Bennett Achievement Award</i> | John Hilbert |
| <i>Dale S. Margulis Award</i> | Krista Hughes |
| <i>Charles Dautch Award</i> | Karl Niedermeier, Barry Stopler |
| <i>National Association of Women Lawyers Award</i> | Holly Baum |
| <i>Adolf Homburger Law Alumni Association Award</i> | Holly Baum |
| <i>Judge Matthew J. Jasen Appellate Practice Award</i> | Brian Martin |
| <i>David Kochery Award</i> | Jane Conrad |
| <i>Laidlaw Law Alumni Association Award</i> | John Manning |
| <i>Moot Evidence Award</i> | Nicholas Brodich |
| <i>Judge William J. Regan Award</i> | Dragic Stevanovic |
| <i>Birzon Prize in Clinical Legal Studies</i> | Karen Spencer |
| <i>Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Awards</i> | Susan R. Bernis, Maria I. Doti, Shelly J. Dropkin, Thomas J. Freed, Julie Freudenheim, Daniel A. Feurstein, Gerald J. Greenan, Michael E. Kilcoyne, Joseph T. Kremer, Andrew C. LoTempio, William J. Magavern, Brian M. Martin, Anne McGurik, Sujeet K. Mohanty, Sara S. Nichols, Maria S. Ogorek, Mary A. Oliver, Paul S. Piotrowski, Nancy E. Pringle, Susan W. Schoepperle, Thomas P. Theophilos and James M. Tierney |
| <i>Carlos C. Alden Award</i> | Harry Werner |
| <i>Justice Philip Halpern Award</i> | John Hilbert |

Edith and David Goldstein Award Lucy Maiorana

Niagara Falls Bar Association Award Randy Fahs

Prentice-Hall Award Helen Drew,
Barbara Kilbridge and John Manning

United States Law Week Award Dragic Stevanovic

Scribes Awards Randolph Sarnacki

Law Faculty Awards Douglas Hoffer,
Belina Anderson, David Wood, William Magavern, Mary (Molly) Dwyer, Sara Nichols, Festus Campbell, Taryn Chapman

Maurice Frey Award . . . Charles Naughton

Student Legal Ethics Award Belina Anderson

Minority Bar Association of Western New York Award Carole Livsey

Order of Barristers Cora Alsante,
John Christopher, Jane Conrad, Randy Fahs, Julie Freudenheim, Susan Gigacz, Barbara Johnson, and Brian Martin

State and Local Government Award . . . Andrew Bechard,
Michael Cuddy, Susan Gass, William J. Hart, James P. McClusky, Paul R. Prentiss, Pamela H. White, Carolyn Deanna Wright and Charles Naughton

Day-long Symposium Addresses International Law

In recognition of increasing interest in transnational issues and the fact that international law questions are becoming more common in many areas of legal practice, the Law School conducted a day-long program titled: "The Internationalization of the Law and Its Implications for Legal Education and Practice." The symposium was held Saturday, Nov. 5, 1988.

According to Associate Dean Virginia A. Leary, the event brought students who are interested in opportunities in international law together with practitioners and law professors. Students and faculty attended from Ithaca, Cleveland, Syracuse and Toronto, among other cities. ■

Head of the Class

Congratulations to our best and brightest who graduated May 22, 1988.

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Bradley Bobertz

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Belina Anderson
John Hilbert
Douglas Hoffer
Barbara Kilbridge
William Magavern
John Manning

CUM LAUDE

Holly Baum
Cindy Bennes
Michael Biehler
Jane Conrad
Maryanne Courtney
Robert Cuffney
Helen Drew
James Eiss
Karen Elinski
Randy Fahs
Thomas Freed
Mary Gennaro
Terrence Gilbridge
James Kennedy
Kurt Mieth
Robert Moore
Charles Naughton
Barbara Nectow
Sara Nichols
James Quinn
Sheldon Rothbell
Randolph Sarnacki
Susan Schoepperle
David Snyder
Barry Stopler
James Tierney
David Wood
Michael Zendan



Marlene Cook

Marlene Cook Wins SUNY Chancellor's Award

Marlene Cook was recently appointed assistant dean for resource management in the Law School. She replaces Charles H. Wallin, who plans to retire at the end of this year after a 17-year career.

Cook received the 1988 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. The medal and certificate was personally presented to her by University President Steven B. Sample at a formal ceremony in September. She was one of only two UB staff members selected from 54 honorees on 35 SUNY campuses.

It was the second consecutive year that a member of the Law School staff was recognized by the Chancellor's Award. Last year, Nina Cascio, an international law librarian, was presented with the 1987 Chancellor's Award.

"Marlene Cook will bring an impressive array of knowledge, enthusiasm and good judgement to the job," says Dean Filvaroff.

"She has already made a big difference, even in the few months she has been here," he added.

Her philosophy is "a little different from the norm," Cook believes. "Many people think that the numbers alone should dictate the academic program, but I feel the academic program should dictate the finances," she says.

According to some faculty members, she excels in being able to expedite matters through the state system with a minimum of hassle, a talent that is in great demand.

Cook was assistant dean in the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics from 1985 to the present. In that position, she was responsible for supervising a \$20 million budget. She also designed a computerized accounting system, and supervised the production of a departmental magazine.

From 1979 to 1985, she was assistant dean for academic affairs and financial management in the School of Management. During that time, she coordinated Management's move from Main Street to Jacobs Center. She also taught as an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Organizations and Human Resources.

Cook holds a Ph.D. from UB in educational administration, an M.S. degree in higher education administration from Buffalo State College and a B.S. in education, also from Buffalo State.

She serves as a senator in the Professional Staff Senate and is a Life Associate on the Board of Trustees of Studio Arena Theater. ■

Assistant Dean Charles H. Wallin to Retire

Charles H. Wallin, assistant dean since 1971, will retire at the end of 1988. Wallin's responsibilities included key budget and administrative functions.

During his 17 years at UB Law School,



Charles H. Wallin

Wallin has watched it develop into one of the country's leading public law schools.

"I feel that over the years we have made this much more of a national law school," he observed. "I feel good that I was a part of that."

In 1973, he was instrumental in the move to the Amherst campus. "The move was one of the reasons I wanted to come to the Law School. You could just feel that things were going to happen," Wallin said.

Wallin supervised the Admissions and Records staff, who maintain all student records and provide the first contact for students on matters relating to their academic programs, course selection and scheduling. For many years, he supervised the admissions procedure. His responsibilities also included management of Law School financial accounts and records and he compiled all class and exam schedules.

A resident of Tonawanda, New York, Wallin graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with a B.S. in Business Administration. Future plans include traveling with his wife, Lorraine. ■