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Faculty

Professor Headrick Named Provost of University at Buffalo

Thomas E. Headrick, Distinguished Service Professor at the University at Buffalo, has been named provost of the university.

Headrick succeeds Aaron N. Bloch, who died unexpectedly on April 8, 1995.

A senior counselor to UB President William R. Greiner, and a longtime dean of the Law School, Headrick now serves as the university's chief academic officer. He oversees academic units, budget issues related to academic affairs and appointments for the university's 15 schools and faculties.

"This appointment is an appropriate recognition of Tom's many contributions and skills," says Dean Barry B. Boyer. "He brings tremendous creativity, stability and experience to the job at a time when it is particularly critical."

"Tom is unique. He has strong administrative skills. He is organized, understands institutions and works well with other constituencies," says R. Nils Olsen, the Law School's vice dean of academic affairs. "But he is also a faculty member — and he brings the best of both worlds to the job."

UB Law professor emeritus and former dean Jacob D. Hyman concurs. Dean Hyman served on the original search committee when Headrick was hired as Law School dean.

"In addition to his unique university-administration experience, Tom brings to the job of provost a real commitment to the institution, which can be seen in the fact that he is always taking on new assignments. When he stepped down as dean, he didn't retire to a small corner of legal scholarship, but instead kept applying his interests in the larger academic community."

When the Buffalo Law Review honored Headrick at a dinner last April, President William R. Greiner's wife, Carol, characterized him as "that rare, contradictory and somehow magical being — a practical idealist. He manages to turn even the most thankless assignments into unmatched opportunities to do exciting things."

Mrs. Greiner, who met Headrick when he and her husband were students at Yale Law School, called him "a consummate diplomat, a persistent 'fixer,' a skilled negotiator, and a nearly instinctive navigator of even the most turbulent waters."

In his nearly two decades at UB, Headrick has held a wide variety of academic and administrative positions. He



joined the faculty in 1976 as dean of the Law School, holding that position until 1985, when he returned to the faculty as a full professor. He was co-director of the Canada-U.S. Legal Studies Centre in the law school from 1989-92.

Once again, he helped to manage the Law School, this time as associate dean for academic affairs, from 1992-94. Headrick led the team that was responsible for the school's recent curriculum revision. He served as acting dean for the Fall 1994 semester while Dean Barry B. Boyer was on sabbatical.

According to Olsen, "His fingerprints are all over this institution in terms of the Law School's culture and the way it is administered. He set the tone."

Outside the Law School, Headrick served as interim dean of the Faculty of Arts and Letters in 1990 and was chair of the General Assembly of the Undergraduate College from 1987-89. He has been a member of the university's Patent Policy Review Board since 1989. He also holds an appointment as an adjunct professor in the Department of Political Science.

Headrick was named a Distinguished Professor, the

Where in the World *Virginia Leary moves on to a new stage in a distinguished global career*

Looking back over her career as a lawyer, a professor and an international human rights activist, you could say Virginia A. Leary just did the expected. Her father was dean of the University of Utah Law School; it was no great leap of imagination for her to become an attorney, was it?

Or you could take a more realistic look, and marvel at

how this UB Law professor — now retiring after 19 years at the school — carved out a niche for herself that didn't exist for women, or indeed for anyone with an interest in international issues.

Bernadine M. Butler '94, who worked with Professor Leary in the Graduate Group on Human Rights, tells a Leary story that illustrates the point.

"In trying to determine what career to choose," Butler says,

"she went for vocational testing. When she met with the counselor, he said she had strong skills in analytical thinking, and law might be a suitable profession. The counselor then suggested that she might consider becoming a legal secretary. Those of us who know her well can see the humor in that."

Leary — who leaves SUNY as a Distinguished

highest position in the State University of New York system, by the SUNY Board of Trustees in 1993. The appointment to that rank "is just one index of the enormous respect, admiration and confidence he has inspired in virtually every quarter of our academic community," UB President William R. Greiner said. He received the Jaeckle Award, the highest honor that the Law School and Alumni Association can bestow, in 1986.

In addition to his administrative duties, Headrick has continued to teach law and other graduate and undergraduate courses. He has written numerous books and journal articles, and delivered papers at professional meetings. His recent publications have dealt with various aspects of global capital markets.

Before coming to UB, he served as vice president for academic affairs at Lawrence University and assistant dean at the Stanford Law School.

Headrick received a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from Franklin and Marshall College; a bachelor's degree in politics from Oxford University, where he was a Fulbright scholar; a law degree from Yale University, and a doctorate in political science from Stanford.

UB Law Professor John Henry Schlegel says Headrick's favorite verb is "to do."

"What Tom is interested in is first getting people to see that they can do things and then getting them to do them. And that's what he provided for us — a sense that we could do things, as well as do them differently. Tom is exactly the kind of person we need at a time when the institution of higher education is under fire."

Reflecting on his career at the Law Review dinner, Headrick said: "It's been fun. That's the important thing to me.

"There have always been interesting problems to work on, interesting people to work with, challenges to deal with, and that's what keeps you going.

"It doesn't matter very much what they call you or what your status and title may be. It only matters that you're doing something that's important to you and important to the other people around you, and you try in some way to make a difference.

"Whether I have made a difference or haven't, I suppose other people will come to judge. But I feel I have been trying, and that's what drives me along." ■

