Class of 1994 Commencement

UB Law Forum
Moving On, Moving Up
At 105th Commencement, congratulation and inspiration

UB Law School’s bittersweet ceremony known as Commencement had its 105th incarnation on May 15, sending 226 graduates into the world challenged, as one speaker put it, to “move from competence to excellence.”

Dean Barry B. Boyer and University Provost Aaron N. Bloch conferred the degrees in the Sunday afternoon ceremony, which was held in Alumni Arena.

In a demonstration of public-spiritedness, some graduates chose to donate the cost of their graduation gown rental to the school’s public-interest internship programs. These students wore blue-and-white lapel ribbons.

Before degrees were conferred and a raft of academic awards (see accompanying list) were presented, three major speakers addressed the candidates with words of congratulation and inspiration. First among them was Professor Emeritus and former Dean Wade J. Newhouse.

In his Faculty Address, Newhouse spoke of the “different and competing visions of justice” put forth by various members of the Law School faculty. “But beyond that diversity,” he said, “I hope that you have perceived among the faculty the idea that we are all obligated to have a vision of justice. Your commitment to our profession is a commitment to searching for, believing in and acting upon your vision of justice.”

Newhouse made note of the sometimes confusing diversity of opinion and academic thought in the Law School community over just what justice entails. But, he said, “if, after the deconstruction of some and the construction of others, if you sensed as most of us do a belief that the world can change for the better, and a commitment to exploring ways of achieving that change, then you understood the experience and what it’s been about. If you saw and understood, then you know in the indeterminateness of law is the leeway for your social vision, your vision of justice to make a difference.”

If he and his colleagues on the faculty have succeeded, he said, the graduates will go forth knowing that a lawyer’s every case, even the most mundane, has a part in that vision of justice.

“Few of us will be directly responsible for world-shaking causes and events,” Newhouse noted. “For most of us, life will be relatively anonymous.

“But small victories should not be scorned. As you perform those unglamorous, even mundane, tasks which are the grist for most lawyers’ mills, you will be no less concerned with justice. Those many unglamorous tasks make up a large part of that tangled web, the law, which when informed by social vision can make life in our communities at least tolerable, peaceful and just.

“Good luck. Go make some waves. Make a difference.”

James A. Lynch Jr., in his Student Address, also paid tribute to the value of the UB Law School experience. But, he said, “a legal education is neither complete, nor is professional development finished, until we have begun to take responsibility for the human revolution. We need lawyers to practice this human revolution because of the problems we have in this city, in this state, in this nation and in this world.”

Lynch spoke with conviction about those citizens left on the outside of the American dream: the one out of four American children who live in poverty; “disposable workers, without benefits, training or career possibilities;” suburbanites who extend the cul-
cement 1994

Professor Thomas E. Headrick and Hilda Koren

Steven Balet, left, and Bryce Baird

Senator David A. Patterson

PHOTOS BY JOE TRAVER
ture of alienation by fleeing our cities even farther, to the exurbs.

"Why not see how many people we can help, how many lives we can transform ... how much love we can share?" Lynch challenged his classmates. And he quoted John F. Kennedy: "In a free society, if we cannot protect the many that are poor, we cannot protect the few that are rich."

Lynch said: "We have the capacity to help ourselves and others dream great dreams ahead. To believe that their value as a human being is infinite not because the TV or the radio has ordained it, but because our shared understanding of the human potentiality recognizes that ultimate truth, that the universe is not made of disposable workers or disposable humanity."

And he suggested two concrete goals for the Class of '94: to continue interdisciplinary studies that foster interconnectedness among academic fields, and to double the amount of money contributed to the Law School by its alumni in the next five years.

"Great things," he said, "don't happen to people unwilling to get into the arena and try."

The keynote address was by David A. Patterson, a state senator whose district encompasses New York City's upper West Side, Harlem and Washington Heights. Patterson, who is blind, was first elected to the Senate when he was just 31 years old. He looked back even earlier in his life — to nursery school — as the starting point for his remarks.

Hofstra Law School, he said, was on the same block as the Little Red Train, where he attended nursery school. "When we think about people's ethics," he said, "we are really just trying to continue those values that we have learned at a young age. The rules of the sandbox continue to apply.

"The greater question," Patterson said, "is how one moves from competence to excellence.

"Many believe that excellent lawyers are born. They believe that you cannot turn a painter into another Michelangelo, that these abilities are born, they are not learned. However, we all must recognize that Michelangelo was a disciple of Donatello. He may have had a lot of talent, but he did have to learn certain skills. That's what we hope that we've accomplished in law school, and that's what we hope we continue in the greater profession."

As a technique for achieving excellence, Patterson advocated "innovative forms of thinking."

"Who are those people who are not going to settle for being competent lawyers, but want to be the very best? They are the same people who, when they were in the sandbox and they with the desire to please their brothers and sisters. The truth was their only goal. Their work was their only motive."

And Patterson, who has spent nearly all of his professional life in the public service, challenged the graduates to take an active part in governance. "I hope," he said, "that out of this class will come as many individuals as possible who want to make America, not only a society that cares, but a democracy that works."
At left: Judith Mejia
Below: Amy Stoecker

University at Buffalo
Provost Aaron N. Bloch
Awards and Prizes

Max Koren Award: 
John N. Bennett Achievement Award: 
The Dale S. Margulis Award: 
Charles Dautch Award: 

Christine D. Uba 
Bernadine M. Butler 
Joel M. Sunshine 
Leslie J. Darman 
Theresa A. Hopkins 
Robert Lowe Nieweg 

National Association of Women Lawyers Award: 
The Adolf Hamburger Law Alumni Association Award: 

Christine H. Farley 
1993 Christine D. Uba  
1994 Joseph W. Belluck 

The Judge Matthew J. Jasen Appellate Practice Award: 
The David Kochery Award: 
The Laidlaw Law Alumni Association Award: 

Joshua E. Kimerling 
Leslie J. Darman 
James A. Lynch, Jr. 
Marianne Mariano 

The Moot Evidence Award: 
The Judge William J. Regan Award: 
The Birzon Prize in Clinical Legal Studies: 

Carlos C. Alden Award: 
The Justice Philip Halpern Award: 
The Edith and David Goldstein Award: 

Andre A. Vitale 
Tamie J. Morog 
Madonna J. Beale 
Bruce D. Reinoso 
Francisco A. Duarte 
Paul F. Raimondi 
Kristin J. Graham 
Hope W. Olsson 

The Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Awards: 
Fall 1993 
Francisco A. Duarte 
James Han 
Joseph E. Horey 
Kathleen S. Korbuly 
Brian P. Mercer 
Charles E. Patton 
Gary Simpson 
Keelten J. Stern 
Sharon A. Swift 
Christine D. Uba 
Rolando R. Velasquez 
Stephen R. Weisbeck 

Spring 1994 
Madonna J. Beale 
John D. Craik 
Theresa L. Gray 
Michael P. Joyce 
Brian G. Reddy 
Brian S. Roman 
Robert W. Shaver III 
Joel M. Sunshine 
James A. Verrico 
Jane A. Wade 
John Wallace 
Kevin J. Woods 

Left to right: Christine Farley, Michael Breen, Julie Braverman and Christia Bowden.

Commencen
The Prentice-Hall Award:  
The Maurice Frey Award:  
The Ethics Award:  

The Minority Bar Association of Western New York Award:  
Bureau of National Affairs Inc.  
Law Student Award - U.S. Law Week Award:  
Callaghan and Company Award:  
Order of Barristers:  

Certificate Recipients  

In State and Local Government:  
Bryce M. Baird  
Karen J. Draves  
Charles J. Greenberg  
Valerie G. Knights  
Sharon M. Lo Vallo  
Robert L. Nieweg  
Patricia L. Swolak  
Kristin M. Vogel  

In Real Estate Development and Finance:  
Susannah M. Bochenek  
Michael D. Breen  
Guy C. Giancarlo  
Therese A. Hopkins  
Robin L. Kaplan  
Valerie G. Knights  
Lynn M. Montante  
Stephanie R. Nesbitt  
Robert L. Nieweg  
Steven M. Rosenfeld  
Patricia L. Swolak  
Nicole L. Wint  

In Education Law:  
Timothy D. Dietz  
Nadine M. Porter  
Vipan Singh  
Kathi S. Westcott  

In Environmental Law:  
Karen J. Draves  
Robert L. Nieweg  
Maureen M. Olives  

Kenneth A. Gomez Memorial Award:  
Law Faculty Awards:  

Francisco A. Duarte  
Andres Colon Perez  
Christine H. Farley  
Sharon L. Nosanchuck  
Joseph W. Bellick  
Kevin P. Collins  
Joseph W. Antonecchia  
(Posthumous Award)  
Elizabeth A. Bairing  
Susan Y. Soong  
John D. Craik  
Hope W. Olsson  
Kristin J. Graham  

Alexander Korotkin  
Jane A. Wade  
Joseph W. Bellick  
Christine H. Farley  
Kendra L. Burgos  
Madonna J. Beale  
Donna M. Suglia  
Joel M. Sunshine  
Michael O. Hueston  
Marianne Mariano  
Brian P. Mercer  
Robert Lowe Nieweg  
Kevin K. Ross  
Senta B. Sluda  
Sarah E. Swartzmeyer  
Michael A. Yehl  
Professor Kenneth Joyce  
(Honorary Recipient)