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Five Top Alums Lauded by Association

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sider the cultural context in which these technological advances are taking place, citing "Western society's love of science as projecting 'objective' facts into the world."

"There is an attempt to find biological explanations for a range of behaviors that we have trouble understanding," Marcus said. "This reflects our love affair with science and the laboratory. (But) you have to ask yourself, what is it we want to know and why do we want to know it?"

Marcus pointed out that even a seemingly straightforward issue as a question of paternity is socially constructed. The idea of the "real father" is a social one; for example, who is the "real father" of a child conceived with donated sperm?

Even the idea of race is socially constructed, Marcus said. She cited the case of a woman, the daughter of one black and one white parent. The woman's birth certificate listed her as black. The woman sought to have that listing altered to white. The U.S. Supreme Court said it didn't have the power to do so.

With the Human Genome Project, Marcus said, individuals' biology will become *visible*, and the danger is that society will "use biology as an explanation for behavior. It's a medical model of behavior and deviance."

The genome project, Marcus said, ignores the environmental factors that affect behavior. In the old nature-vs.-nurture debate, it comes down squarely on the side of nature.

"But if you focus on the biological," she said, "you lose the fact that the biological doesn't operate outside the environment in which it exists."

And the public policy consequences of the project, Marcus said, are frightening. What's being developed, she said, is no less than "a standard model of what is an acceptable range for a human being."

"When you ask the question, 'What is the knowledge,' you can't separate it from the question, 'What are you going to use it for?'" ■

Five Top Alums Lauded by Association



Left to right: Mark G. Farrell '72, Harold J. Boreanaz '56, Richard M. Tobe '74, Hon. Beryl E. McGuire '59, Pamela Davis Heilman '75 and William A. Niese '61.

The Hon. Beryl E. McGuire, Harold J. Boreanaz, Richard M. Tobe, Pamela David Heilman and William A. Niese were named distinguished alumni by the University at Buffalo Law Alumni Association.

The five outstanding alumni received the award at the association's annual meeting and dinner on Friday, May 7, at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo.

McGuire, U.S. bankruptcy judge for the Western District of New York, was honored "for his conscientious and diligent performance in the judiciary."

A member of the UB Law School Class of 1959, he lives in Amherst, N.Y. He has served as a judge in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for nearly 25 years. Prior to that, he was a confidential law clerk to the late U.S. District Judge John O. Henderson.

"Judge McGuire is considered an outstanding national authority in the area of bankruptcy," said the association's President Mark Farrell, when presenting the award. "He will be retiring at the end of September of this year and his departure leaves a void that

will be difficult to fill. His knowledge, ability, judicial temperament and scholarship have gained him the recognition of his peers and now of his law school." (See story on his impending retirement elsewhere in this issue).

Boreanaz, a member of the Class of 1956, is a partner in the Buffalo law firm of Boreanaz, Carra & Boreanaz. He was recognized "for his leadership by example as a private practitioner." He focuses his practice on criminal defense.

A resident of Williamsville, Boreanaz is a former secretary and director of the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association. He was named State Criminal Practitioner of the Year in 1987 by the New York State Bar Association.

"His career has been an example of outstanding dedication to and unflinching tenacity on behalf of the clients and causes he has espoused. His skill as a trial lawyer combines a thorough working knowledge of the law and a natural ability to deal with witnesses and evidence in the courtroom setting," said Farrell.

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Tobe, Erie County commissioner for environment and planning, was honored "for his commitment to public service."

Before joining Erie County government in 1988, Tobe, a Buffalo resident, was counsel and chief of staff for 12 years to the late state Assemblyman William B. Hoyt. A member of the UB Law Class of 1974, he also has served as counsel to the Assembly Committee on Energy and the Office of State/Federal Relations.



Joel L. Daniels '63, left, and Christopher T. Ross '50.



Friends and relatives congratulate Richard M. Tobe '74, far right.

"He has spent almost his entire professional legal career in public service...In Erie County government, he has been consulted on virtually every major public policy issue in the current administration, from the arena project, to NFTA, to the World University Games," said Farrell.

Heilman, Class of 1975, is a partner in the Buffalo law firm of Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear. She was recognized "for her many contributions to the betterment of the community."

Heilman concentrates her law practice in general corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, international commercial transactions and not-for-profit corporations.

A volunteer with the United Way

of Buffalo and Erie County for more than 16 years, Heilman served as campaign chair for the 1992 annual United Way campaign, and currently serves as chair of the board of directors and a member of its executive committee.

A Snyder resident, she also is a former board member of the Housing Assistance Center of the Niagara Frontier, Inc.; the Community Music School, and the Center for Women in Management at D'Youville College.

"Her energy is boundless and her enthusiasm in the area of community and charitable activities is almost without parallel," said Farrell.

Niese, senior vice president for law and human resources for *The Los Angeles Times*, was lauded "for his exemplary performance in business."

A member of the UB Law Class of

1961, he also has served as vice president and general counsel for *The Times*, and associate general counsel, assistant general counsel, assistant secretary and corporate counsel for Times Mirror Inc.

He is a member of the board of directors of Puente Learning Center, a multi-generational learning center that teaches basic educational skills to economically disadvantaged children, teens and adults; Lutherland of the West, an organization of Christian churches that manages a retirement home for the elderly, and the Los Angeles County Bar Foundation, a non-profit corporation that provides legal support services to the community.

"*The Los Angeles Times* is the largest metropolitan daily newspaper in the world," Farrell said. "Mr. Niese has gained a national reputation as both an innovator and force for reason in a sometimes chaotic environment. His even-tempered and professional style is renowned throughout the industry." ■