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Students of Note

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STUDENTS OF NOTE

UB Law students produce program on domestic violence

Mickey Osterreicher and Stephen Boyd, two third-year law students, combined their talents as journalists and law students to produce a video project examining domestic violence in Erie and Niagara counties. "Stop the Violence" was broadcast on WKBW-TV as part of a three-part series which aired on the 11 p.m. news. Osterreicher and Boyd both work at WKBW-TV, the ABC affiliate in Buffalo. Boyd is a reporter and weekend anchor, and Osterreicher is a photojournalist.

Both Osterreicher and Boyd are members of the Family and Domestic Violence Clinic at UB Law. They spent long hours in Family Court in Erie and Niagara counties, interviewing judges, prosecutors, probation officers and police officers. The two rode with Buffalo police officers as they responded to domestic violence calls, and followed victims of domestic violence through the process of applying for and receiving orders of protection, providing a more in-depth view of the domestic violence issue which

was broadcast on WKBW-TV during prime air time.

In 1997 they co-produced videotapes for Erie County Medical Center for staff domestic violence training and identification and also co-produced videotapes introducing parties to Family Court for Chief Justice Sharon Townsend. Later that year they developed a videotape introduction to domestic violence issues for the Erie County District Attorney's Office. A special segment for WKBW-TV aired in the spring. It was an interview with a felon convicted in the death of his girlfriend during a domestic violence argument.

They have supplied

copies of "Stop the Violence" to over 40 groups including: courts, hospitals, social agencies, community organizations, law enforcement agencies and area and statewide prosecutors; as well as inclusion in the official record of the New York State Committee Investigating Domestic Violence.

For their work they have received awards from the Associated Press, the Erie County Legislature and the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence. In February 1998 they completed a videotape introduction to domestic violence issues for the Niagara County District Attorney's Office. ■



Mickey Osterreicher '98, left, and Stephen Boyd '98

NAPIL awards summer fellowships to four UB students

Chosen from over 440 applicants, four UB Law students were awarded fellowships by the National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL) through the NAPIL/VISTA Summer Legal Corps Program. Fellows assist with a broad range of community development projects designed to impact urban and rural low-income communities nationwide. UB Law's Melissa Brown, Jennifer DeCarli, Robert Gutowski and Nelson Mar were selected to spend eight to 10 weeks working at VISTA and legal services programs throughout the country assisting with community outreach and education projects.

The students were chosen from applicants at 102 law schools for their strong commitment to public service through their work, volunteer experiences and personal experiences. The fellows attended a four-day national training conference in Washington, D.C., before departing for their assigned community development sites. They were taught such practical skills as how to launch legal outreach and education programs, and how to work effectively with community members.

The students were then placed at specific VISTA sites where they were given the opportunity to help improve the conditions of a disadvantaged community. Jennifer DeCarli was assigned to the Help and Emergency Response Unit in Portsmouth, Virginia. Nelson Mar spent the summer in Brooklyn, N.Y., at the Fifth Avenue Committee, and Robert Gutowski assisted at Neighborhood Legal Services in Rochester, N.Y.

Melissa Brown was assigned to the Connecticut Prison Association, a not-for-profit organization in Hartford, Conn. Brown found her experience last sum-

mer to be invaluable. "It was very rewarding to get hands-on legal experience," she explains. Brown, who is bilingual, helped Spanish-speaking prisoners prepare for re-entry into society by assisting them with such matters as housing, job training and preparing for the high school equivalency exam. In addition, Brown developed and implemented a strategy for the association to establish a for-profit subsidiary without losing its not-for-profit tax status.

"The fellowship was a good opportunity to apply what I learned at school and turn it into something positive and productive," says Brown, who intends to continue to work in the public interest sector after graduating from UB Law. "I'd like to do more community outreach work, providing legal services to those individuals who can not afford it." ■

Third-year law student receives postgraduate fellowship

Third-year law student Corinne Carey received a two-year postgraduate fellowship from the Center on Crime, Communities & Culture, a project of the Open Society Institute of New York. The Institute is a private operating and grant-making foundation that seeks to promote the development of an open society around the world by supporting educational, social and legal reform, and by encouraging alternative approaches to complex and often controversial issues.

Carey will work as a staff attorney at Housing Works Inc., in New York City, the largest minority-controlled provider in the nation of housing and supportive services to homeless people living with HIV and AIDS. She will provide representation to individuals facing criminal and civil penalties as a result of their use of illegal drugs, and will look at ways attorneys can address the complex needs of indigent drug users. ■

UB Law student goes to Washington on ABA internship

David Hutt, a third-year student at UB Law, received the 1997 John J. Curtin Jr. Justice Fund Summer Legal Internship stipend from the American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness and Poverty. Last summer, Hutt traveled to Washington, D.C., where he spent 10 weeks at the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. Hutt engaged in intense legal research on issues involving constitutional law, zoning regulations and mental health laws affecting the homeless and impoverished.

Prior to receiving the stipend, Hutt had participated in the Affordable Housing Clinic at UB Law as a second-year student. He was eager to apply what he had learned at the clinic to a program with a national scope. "I wanted to go to the D.C. area to see both the legal and political aspects of the issue on a national level."

Hutt returned to Buffalo with a new appreciation for the complexity and depth of the legal system. "I was amazed at how much research is required for even the simplest issues. I was quite impressed with the legal organizations I dealt with, and just how much they accomplished for public interest." ■