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Left to right:
Derek A. Thompson '02, Amy Weiswasser '02, Laura N. Tulyk-Rossi '02, Melissa A. Reese '02, Peter M. O'Hara '02 and Amy O'Hara '02.

CLASS OF 2002 - GRADUATING CLASS GIFT

Donors 35
Dollars \$2,675
Participation 15%

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New grads pitch in for class gift

Give UB Law School's Class of 2002 credit: They know a good idea when they see it. This year's graduating class took the ball — a first-ever class gift by their immediate predecessors — and ran with it, raising a 2002 class gift that will keep on giving to the Law School for years to come.

"The project itself was a lot of fun," says Derek Thomson '02, who led an eight-member steering committee under the direction of Associate Dean for Development Deborah Scott.

The committee raised \$2,675. The money will go for travel scholarships in the Law School's Career Services Office, helping job-hunters with the costs of traveling to out-of-town employment interviews, as well as toward the school's new courtroom project. In the courtroom, the Class of '02 (like the Class of '01) will have a plaque commemorating its gift placed on one of the spectator benches. It is hoped that future classes will contribute their own gifts, making this program a new UB Law tradition.

To rustle up support for the class gift, the steering committee mailed out pledge cards to every graduating senior, held a kickoff

bagel breakfast (with faculty servers), staffed a pledge table outside the Law Library and personally approached their classmates to offer an opportunity for giving.

Most students leave law school with significant debts, and the final semester of the three years is not the most fertile ground for soliciting donations. Says Thomson: "All the students on the committee were in the same boat. We all have debts and payments to make. So we did not have a minimum or maximum donation. People could give what they wanted."

To wrap up the campaign, the organizers held a bar night at a local tavern, making a presentation there and at Commencement 2002. The bar night was held in conjunction with the GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Group, giving these soon-to-be attorneys the opportunity to network and seek advice from UB-trained lawyers who have recently graduated.

Besides Thomson, the steering committee included Peter M. O'Hara, Katrina Rawlins, Melissa Reese, Keith Schallenkamp, Amy C. Snyder, Laura Tulyk-Rossi and Amy Weiswasser.