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## GOLD Group Launches Second Decade

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# Alumni Association

## GOLD Group launches second decade

**T**en years after its birth, the GOLD Group is more connected, more respected and still cool. UB Law GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Group has evolved into an active, integral part of the UB Law Alumni Association, organizing fresh and innovative programs that have become increasingly popular with both new and seasoned members of the legal community.

Under the leadership of its 2001-02 president, Gretchen P. Aylward '95, the GOLD Group celebrated its 10-year anniversary in stellar fashion, and began its second decade with a flurry of activity. Expanding its social, educational and recruitment events, the GOLD Group offered more programs than ever before, including informal socials in Washington and Rochester.

Aylward, an associate in the Buffalo office of Hiscock & Barclay, attributes the group's evolution to the hard work of its board of directors. "Throughout this past year, I have had the privilege of working with an outstanding group of attorneys who are dedicated to improving the future of UB Law School," says Aylward. "Despite busy professional and personal lives, GOLD Group board members commit both their time and their talents to the Law School, attending board meetings, chairing committees, and planning and attending our outstanding CLE programs and social functions."

The hard work shows. The GOLD Group's 10-year anniversary party was the premiere social event of the holiday season. On Dec. 7, 2001, the group celebrated its first decade of achievement at the Park Lane Restaurant, and honored the first 10 individuals to serve as board presidents and chairs. The event drew a wide array of friends and supporters from various facets of the legal community.

"The GOLD Group's anniversary party was a huge success," says Irene Chiu '00, 2001-02 social committee chair and associate at Hodgson Russ LLP. "We had

more than 100 people in attendance including judges, attorneys, law students, and members of the law school faculty and staff." John Bair of EPS Structured Settlements generously underwrote the expenses of the event.

The group's education committee experienced the same success with its most recent UB Law Downtown Breakfast series. The series is composed of three one-hour lectures held at the Hyatt Regency hotel in downtown Buffalo. Each lecture provides attendees with CLE credit, breakfast, and invaluable information on varying areas of law presented by some of the most outstanding members of our local bar.

The series began in November with a lecture on "Immigration Law Basics" presented by GOLD Group President Gretchen Aylward, a member of Hiscock & Barclay's International Business Practice Group. SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Kenneth F. Joyce followed in April with a presentation titled "All About New York's New Principal/Income/Unitrust Act." Associate Professor and local courtroom legend Paul I. Birzon completed the series at the end of April with "An Evidentiary Primer."

This year, the GOLD Group added a new element to its education programs debuting a three-hour seminar in January titled "Ethics in Practice." Designed to provide practitioners with a thorough overview of ethical considerations in day-to-day practice, the program also offered those highly coveted credits in ethics and professionalism. Presenters included Kathleen Boyd '90, associate counsel at the New York State Attorney Grievance Committee, Anthony H. Szczygiel, UB Law professor, and a panel discussion with Hon. Barbara Howe '80, New York State Supreme Court justice, and Hon. Leslie G. Foschio '65, United States District Court magistrate judge.

"The GOLD Group looks forward to presenting similar programs on a yearly basis," says Mari A. Moorman Penn '99, 2001-02 education chair and associate at Altreuter Habermehl. A similar morning-long ethics program was held in Niagara County during September.

**T**he board year ended with a spring bash on April 5 at Soho Bar and Grille in downtown Buffalo. The GOLD Group joined forces with the Law School's Student Bar Association. Students, alumni and members of the Law School came together to commemorate the Class of 2002's upcoming graduation, and to welcome graduating seniors into the GOLD Group.

"Once again, we had more than 100 attendees," says Chiu. "The evening peaked with the seniors' class gift presentation to the Law School to show their appreciation."

Next year promises to be just as eventful. The 2002-03 social committee, chaired by Jennifer DiCioccio '01, associate at the Buffalo office of Damon & Morey LLP, has kicked off the year early with the GOLD Group's first summer so-





**Front row, left to right:** Associate Director Lisa M. Mueller '93, Executive Director Ilene R. Fleischmann, Vice Dean Peter R. Pitegoff, Dean Nils R. Olsen, Antoinetta D. Mucilli '99, President Gregory A. Mattacola '98, President-Elect Mari A. Moorman Penn '99 and Carmen L. Snell '92

**Staircase, top to bottom:** Secretary D. Charles Roberts, Jr. '97, Marc Brown '99, Thomas S. Lane '97, Irene Chiu '00, Hilary C. Banker '96, Jennifer DiCioccio '01, Stephanie Williams-Torres '00, Kathleen J. Martin '99, Immediate Past-President Gretchen P. Aylward '95 and Brigid M. Maloney '98

**Not pictured:** Joseph N. Del Vecchio '96, Lt. Commander James M. Gerlach '97, Roseanne McMorrow '01, Sharon Nosenchuck '94, Michael Radjavitch '93, Jill M. Tuholski '95, Susan E. Van Gelder '97, and Stephen L. Yonaty '94

and Brigid M. Maloney '98, of the Erie County Attorney's Office, communications chair.

Additional board members include: Hilary C. Banker '96, of Burgio, Kita & Curvin; Marc Brown '99, of Harter, Secrest & Emery; Joseph N. Del Vecchio '96, of National Fuel Gas; Lt. Commander James M. Gerlach '97, of the Navy & Marine Corps; Thomas S. Lane '97, of Webster, Szanyi LLP; Roseanne McMorrow '01, of Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine and Huber LLP; Antoinetta D. Mucilli '99, of National Fuel Gas; Michael Radjavitch '93, of Cary & Radjavitch; Jill M. Tuholski '95, of Kenney, Kanaley, Shelton & Lip-tak, LLP; Susan E. Van Gelder '97, of Goldberg Segalla LLP; and Stephen L. Yonaty '94, of Hodgson Russ LLP.

The GOLD Group encourages interested alumni graduating within the past ten years to become involved with the organization. Contact Greg Mattacola at (716) 648-3030 or [gcola@cf-legal.com](mailto:gcola@cf-legal.com) for information on becoming a member of the GOLD Group board of directors.

cial. In August, GOLD Group members and friends gathered for an Ay Carumba Fiesta at Cozumel Grille & Tequila Bar, in downtown Buffalo.

"The GOLD Group enters the 2002-03 year stronger than ever," says incoming president Gregory A. Mattacola '98, associate at Chiacchia & Fleming LLP in Hamburg, N.Y. "Our goals include enhancing our CLE seminars, continuing the great tradition of bringing alumni together via our social events, and working with the Law School in student recruitment efforts so UB Law can maintain its excellence. It is a daunting task to take over such a committed, involved and proven organization, but one that I am excited to begin."

#### Officers of this year's GOLD Group:

Gregory A. Mattacola '98, of Chiacchia & Fleming LLP, president; Gretchen P. Aylward '95, of Hiscock & Barclay, immediate past president; Mari A. Moorman Penn '99, of Altreuter Habermehl, president-elect; D. Charles Roberts, Jr. '97, of Webster Szanyi, LLP, secretary/finance chair; Sharon Nosenchuck '94, of Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc. education chair; Jennifer DiCioccio '01, of Damon & Morey LLP, social chair; Irene Chiu '00, of Hodgson, Russ LLP and Stephanie Williams-Torres '00, of Hiscock & Barclay, membership co-chairs; Kathleen J. Martin '99, of the Law Offices of Francis M. Letro, recruitment chair;