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Message from Dean Nils Olsen

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Message from
Dean Nils Olsen

In October, I was privileged to participate in the investiture of the
14th president to take the helm at the
University at Buffalo. Dr. John
B. Simpson has a vision for UB that
will lead us to becoming a great public
research university. He and his new
provost and executive vice president,
Dr. Satish Tripathi, have already come to
the Law School to reach out to our faculty,
who are excited and enthusiastic at
the opportunity to help create a strategic
plan that will position UB Law as one of the premier public law
schools in the United States. I am
delighted to be working closely with their
senior team of advisers. This issue of
UB Law Forum features articles on both
of these extraordinary academic leaders.

The overwhelming generosity of our
wonderful alumni and friends continues
to help us provide a myriad of Law
School programs, courses and scholarly
activities which would not happen with­
out your critical supplemental dollars.
Our Annual Fund has now grown to an
unprecedented $718,000 in 2003-04,
during which 24 percent of our alumni
made a gift to the UB Law School. That
is one of the highest alumni participa­
tion rates of any law school in the coun­
try, and we are proud of the vote of con­
fidence that it represents. Planned gifts
are becoming popular and effective
charitable giving tools that many of our
supporters are utilizing to increase their
gifts and save taxes.

I take great pride in the new students
who make up the Class of 2007. Diverse
in age, geography, origins and life expe­
rience, they share a crucial ingredient for
success in law school: They are very
smart. Only 38 percent of our applicants
were accepted this year. Nearly one in
10 already holds an advanced degree.

This semester, I am teaching a section of
Civil Procedure, and I can attest to the
excellent academic skills of this newest
group of UB Law's future alumni.

Finally, it is with great warmth and
pleasure that I welcome back to O'Brian
Hall one of our best-regarded law pro­
fessors, Bill Greiner, who will be teach­
ing this spring. It's great to have him,
and Carol, home again.