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Class of 2004 Told to Grasp Global Realities

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With a world of opportunities lying before them, UB Law School's 2004 graduates heard an exhortation to be aware of global realities during commencement exercises on May 15. Held in the Center for the Arts, it was the Law School's 115th commencement. Receiving degrees were 20 master of laws candidates and 239 candidates for the juris doctor degree.

"While the journey may have seemed at times a long, strange trip, I am confident you will remember it fondly," Law School Dean Nils Olsen said in welcoming the Class of 2004. "Thank you for your contributions to the Law School community."

Also offering a welcome was the new president of the University at Buffalo, John B. Simpson, who spoke of learning yet to come. "Make no mistake, you are the future of your profession."

Simpson said, "You will shape the boundaries of both the theory and the practice of law. Fields of legal study will be determined and defined by your contributions and your knowledge and your desire to know more."

The student address was given by T.J. Fitzgerald '04, who spoke with poignance and humor about three years that changed the class and the world. "We did what everybody told us we would," Fitzgerald said. "We

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— Dr. John B. Simpson, president of the University at Buffalo
learned to love the law – well, mostly – and we learned to think like a lawyer, most of the time."

Among the memories, he said, were painful ones from Sept. 11 of their first year in law school: “Like me, maybe you remember that Monday after Civil Procedure with the crowds spilling out of the Law School lounge, and then going in to see the impossible and learn the unthinkable as the streets of heaven were crowded so swiftly with so many.”

Fitzgerald reminded his classmates, “Law does not live in big thick volumes on a library shelf. Law does not live on a Web site somewhere in cyberspace. Law lives in the minds of its students, where it is tempered by mercy and with our discipline and with our passion—in a word, with our humanity.

“Being a great lawyer is nothing compared to being a great spouse or a great parent or a great friend. Maybe as the rules of law speak to the tactician in each of us, the spirit of law will speak to the humanity in all of us.”

L

ongtime student favorite Virginia A. Leary, now retired from her UB Law professorship and pursuing her work in human rights law from her home in Geneva, Switzerland, gave the keynote address.

“Buffalo Law School has always meant to me a very

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—T.J. Fitzgerald '04

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special law school,” she began. “It is a law school that gives meaning. It is a law school where innovation and experimentation in teaching methods and student participation are essential assets. And you have an outstanding faculty. It is a special law school, and you should be very proud to be graduates of UB.”

Consonant with her work in human rights and international law, Leary used the occasion to address the controversy surrounding some U.S. soldiers’ mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners. She noted that the controversy was “an example of the role and importance of international law.”

“Young generation is better educated about international law than those of us educated a long time ago,” Leary said. “International law is important because, if we violate international law, others may feel that they can violate it, and this in turn may cause terrible harm to U.S. citizens. For this reason, if for no other, we must treat prisoners that we take in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.”

But international law also exists to safeguard human rights, she said, citing a case before the International Court of Justice in The Hague. That court held that the United States had violated a treaty requiring that Mexicans be offered consular assistance before being tried in U.S. courts, and sent the case back to the United States, perhaps for retrial.

To the graduating students on the edge of careers in law, Leary issued some words of challenge: “You are committed to justice. And I hope that through all your professional life, you will never forget that you are concerned with justice. But not justice only for Americans, not justice only in the United States, but justice toward the entire world. Justice for all men and women no matter what their citizen—
Latin Honors 2004

Summa Cum Laude
Stephen Patrick McAndrew

Magna Cum Laude
Garrett Eugene Bissell
Lisa Danish
Penny A. Dentinger
Nicholas John DiCesare
Cynthia Ann Giganti
Jean Harris Gustafson
Brian Gary Manka
Michael Hunt McCormick
Aidana K. Nurgaliyeva
Elizabeth L. Perry
Todd Matthew Thomas
Jocelyn E. Torres
Alexandra Elizabeth Townson
Jessica S. Wiltse

Cum Laude
Jesse Brian Baldwin
Timothy Alfred Ball
Mary Jane Barnes
Kimberly J. Boneham
Christy Marie Canali
Young Jae Cho
Shannon Lyn Farley
Heather A. Giambra
Lawrence Christopher Gierum
Bethany J. Gilbert
Gabriel McCabe Gilman
Ellen Rita Heidrick
Amy Paulson Herstek
Lana Michelle Huston
Pamela J. Kirkwood
Britta Loren Lukomske
Norah Kathryn Mallam
Jennifer Marie Valvo McCann
Christopher Michael Pannozzo
Michael J. Pasnick
Gina Marie Pellegrino
Krystal Ann Petrie
Johnna Lynn Pike
Amy E. Przewozny

Susan P. Reinecke
Mindy Ann Reynolds
Dylan A. Runyan
Janelle Marie Tandle
David B. Teigman
Amy Lyon Teresi
Sara Susanne Van Strydonck
COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

The first Albert R. Mugel Award recognizing proficiency in future interests and estate planning law was presented to Jennifer Marie Valvo McGann of Buffalo during the Law School's recent commencement ceremony. The new award is named in memory of Albert R. Mugel '41, one of the founders of the Buffalo-based law firm of Jieckle Fleischmann & Mugel LLP. He taught future interests and estate planning at the Law School as an adjunct professor for more than 50 years.

According to Dean Nils Olsen, a total of 50 students received awards and honors during the Law School's commencement ceremony. Eight students were multiple award winners. They are:

- **Lisa Danish** of Tonawanda, the Max Koren Award for scholastic achievement, leadership and dedication to the ideals of the law; the Dale S. Margulis Award for having contributed the most to the Law School and the community; the Judge Matthew J. Jasen Appellate Practice Award for outstanding achievement in appellate advocacy; a Law Faculty Award recognizing outstanding contributions to the Law School community; and election into The Order of Barristers, a national honor society composed of students who have excelled in the art of oral advocacy and service to the Moot Court Board.

- **Aidana K. Nurgaliyeva** of Amherst, the American Bankruptcy Institute Medal for excellence in the study of bankruptcy law; the Adolf Homburger Law Alumni Association Award for academic achievements in civil procedure and compassion for people; and the National Association of Women Lawyers Award for academic achievement and contributions to the advancement of women in society.

- **Christopher Michael Pannozzo** of Buffalo, the Professor Louis Del Gatto Award for excellence in the study of taxation; the Edith and David Goldstein Award for outstanding performance in debtor-creditor and bankruptcy law; and the Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Award.

- **Shruti Amin** of Vestal, a Law Faculty Award recognizing outstanding contributions to the Law School community; and, along with the ADR Committee, the New York State Bar Association/Law Student Bar Association Achievement Award. The award recognizes activities that constitute a positive contribution through the New York State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, or a local or topical bar association to the aims of the legal professional and the extension of justice to the people of the State of New York and/or the people of the United States.

- **Ronald Castorina Jr.** of Staten Island, a Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Award and election into The Order of Barristers, a national honor society composed of students who have excelled in the art of oral advocacy and service to the Moot Court Board.

- **Amy Paulson Herstek** of Amherst, the Laidlaw Law Alumni Association Award for the best performance in commercial law and the Harry A. Rachlin Prize in Real Property Law and Real Estate Transactions Award for excellence in the areas of real property law, housing, housing finance and real estate transactions.

- **Shaley B. Link** of Rochester, the Justice M. Dolores Denman Award, presented to graduating seniors who are custodial parents, and the Minority Bar Association of Western New York Award for scholastic achievement and leadership, as well as for significant commitment to effectuating changes within the legal system that address the needs of the minority community.

- **Laura Allen Miskell** of Lockport, the American Bar Association and the Bureau of National Affairs Award for excellence in labor and employment law, and the New York State Bar Association Law Student Bar Association Ethics Award for exemplifying legal professional responsibility or legal ethics.

Other students receiving awards during commencement and their awards are:

- **Jesse Brian Baldwin** of Buffalo, the Judge William J. Regan Award for proficiency in estates and surrogate's law, as well as having a strong concern for public service and public welfare.

- **Laurie Alane Batterson** of Savannah, N.Y., election into The Order of Barristers, a national honor society composed of students who have excelled in the art of oral advocacy and service to the Moot Court Board.

- **Sarah Elizabeth Bouvier** of Bristol, Va., a Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Award.

- **Lucille Ann Dadd** of Attica, a Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Award.

- **Esther Garvey Eagan** of Buffalo, a Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Award.

- **Michael Kreg Ferullo** of Buffalo, a Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Award.

- **Sarah Anne Filocamo** of Williamsville, election into The Order of Barristers, a national honor society composed of students who have excelled in the art of oral advocacy and service to the Moot Court Board.

- **Jennifer Ann Garcia** of Edinburg, Texas, the Kenneth A. Gomez Memorial Award for striving for equality and justice for all minorities.

- **Bethany J. Gilbert** of Springville, the American Bar Association and the Bureau of National Affairs Award for superior academic performance in the field of health law.

- **Gabriel McCabe Gilman** of Port Jervis, the UB Law Alumni Association Gold Group Award for outstanding leadership skills in advancing the mission of the Law School and enhancing its reputation for excellence in legal education.

- **Kevin Matthew Grossman** of Coem, election into The Order of Barristers, a national honor society composed of students who have excelled in the art of oral advocacy and service to the Moot Court Board.

- **Jeremy Brett Honig** of Plainview, N.J., election into The Order of Barristers, a national honor society composed of
students who have excelled in the art of oral advocacy and service to the Moot Court Board.

- **Katie Lauren Houghton** of Buffalo, a Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Award.
- **Hope Rachel Jay** of Buffalo, the Justice M. Dolores Denman Award, presented to graduating seniors who are custodial parents.
- **Ashley Wales Johnson** of Wellsville, the American Bar Association and the Bureau of National Affairs Award for excellence in intellectual property law.
- **Henry George Jones** of Tonawanda, the Birzoon Prize in Clinical Legal Studies for excellence in the Law School's clinical and trial advocacy program.
- **Casie Lynn Judge** of Rochester, the Linda S. Reynolds Award for demonstrating an exceptional commitment to equal justice for the poor.
- **Kassandra Angelina King** of Brooklyn, the David Kochery Award for service and involvement in one or more student organizations and exceptional performance in procedures and remedies.
- **Pamela J. Kirkwood** of Wellsville, the Milton Kaplan Law and Social Development Award for exceptional commitment to the study of law and social development in an American, comparative or international context.
- **Colleen Katherine Matrey** of Cheektowaga, the Justice M. Dolores Denman Award, presented to graduating seniors who are custodial parents.
- **Stephen Patrick McAndrew** of Buffalo, the John N. Bennett Achievement Award for the highest scholastic achievement in the graduating class.
- **Michael Hunt McCormick** of Concord, N.H., the Moot Evidence Award for the best performance in the area of evidence.
- **Charles A. Messina** of Tonawanda, election into The Order of Barristers, a national honor society composed of students who have excelled in the art of oral advocacy and service to the Moot Court Board.
- **Benjamin D. Moskel** of Amherst, the Edith and David Goldstein Award for outstanding performance in debtor-creditor and bankruptcy law.
- **Jeremy David Newman** of Amherst, election into The Order of Barristers, a national honor society composed of students who have excelled in the art of oral advocacy and service to the Moot Court Board.
- **Josephine S. Noble** of Buffalo, the Justice M. Dolores Denman Award, presented to graduating seniors who are custodial parents.
- **Michael J. Pastrick** of West Seneca, the Charles Daughtry Award for excellence in real property law.
- **Chantice Victoria Payne** of Buffalo, a Law Faculty Award recognizing outstanding contributions to the Law School community.

- **Johnna Lynn Pike** of Buffalo, the Women Lawyers of Western New York Award for exceptional academic and Law School activities in the areas of children's rights and/or family violence.
- **Richard Stephen Poveromo** of Buffalo, the Tom Headrick "Trees and Forest" Award for a student of corporate finance who most clearly recognizes that a corporate practitioner needs both to understand the transaction fully and to get the details correct.
- **Manuel Antonio Prado** of the Bronx, the Kenneth A. Gomez Memorial Award for striving for equality and justice for all minorities.
- **Jeremy David Schwartz** of Victor, election into The Order of Barristers, a national honor society composed of students who have excelled in the art of oral advocacy and service to the Moot Court Board.
- **Paul Bernard Shipper** of Hartsdale, election into The Order of Barristers, a national honor society composed of students who have excelled in the art of oral advocacy and service to the Moot Court Board.
- **Casey French Spencer** of Corning, election into The Order of Barristers, a national honor society composed of students who have excelled in the art of oral advocacy and service to the Moot Court Board.
- **Janelle Marie Tandle** of Geneva, the Maurice Frey Award for outstanding academic performance in family law.
- **David B. Teigman** of Pittsford, the Carlos C. Alden Award for making the greatest contribution to the Buffalo Law Review.
- **Eric Brian Tennen** of Miami, a Law Faculty Award recognizing outstanding contributions to the Law School community.
- **Jocelyn Esther Torres** of Amherst, the American Bar Association and the Bureau of National Affairs Award for excellence in labor and employment law.
- **Tatiana Vostok** of Williamsville, election into The Order of Barristers, a national honor society composed of students who have excelled in oral advocacy and service to the Moot Court Board.
- **Jessica S. Wilise** of Kenmore, the Justice Philip Halpern Award for excellence in writing on the Buffalo Law Review.
- **Alyson Catherine Wutz** of Orchard Park, a Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Award.