Commencement 2006: Graduates Take A Bold Step into A Challenging World

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At a time when economics, politics and the law are shifting like quicksand, UB Law School’s Class of 2006 received their diplomas along with a challenge to use their legal education to engage that changing world.

Surviving, or even excelling in, three tough years of law school only begins the process, the graduates and their families and supporters were told. Beyond the bar exam, they will need to find their niche among the many ways law intersects with an increasingly global society.

The Law School’s 117th annual Commencement took place on the afternoon of May 20 in the Center for the Arts.

After greetings by Law School Dean Nils Olsen, UB Provost Satish K. Tripathi addressed the graduating students. “I ask not what are you going to do next, but instead, how will you lead; how will you define your leadership?” Tripathi said. “Our world today is amazingly complex, interconnected, dynamic, tragic, mystifying and replete with opportunity. It is a requirement of our current and future leadership to appreciate these disparate realities.”

The provost noted the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, saying that the deadly storm “reminded us that the entire repertoire of knowledge, expertise and skills of our community leaders and disciplinary experts must be brought to bear if we are to build and maintain resilient communities. Lawyers and social workers, engineers and architects, microbiologists and geologists, physicians and information...
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He also quoted the Dalai Lama on the concept of "universal responsibility," saying such a global consciousness is "the best foundation both for our personal happiness and for world peace, the equitable use of our natural resources, and through a concern for future generations, the proper care of the environment."

Student speaker Maggie Wetherby McOmber '06 located her class "somewhere between the elements of knowledge and the power of hope." She ticked off a list of what "we know now," after three years of legal education - such as "the Socratic method is nothing..."
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2006 Latin Honors

Summa Cum Laude
Anthony David Beccari
Elizabeth M. Fox-Solomon
Nicola Lisa Lopez
Garrett L. McNaughton
Lara Jean Emerson
Stephanie Anne Patin
Jonathon James Bevilacqua
Meghan McLean Brown
Meredith A. Connor
Laura Jean Emerson
Christofor Craig Patney
Clara Hebus
Joshua P. Henry
Andrew O. Guglielmi
Geoffrey Adam Kaenuper
Sachin Kohli
John A. Meina
Nathan A. Shoff
Edward James Snyder
Lynda Adrienne Vandenburg
Tara Elizabeth Waterman

Magna Cum Laude
Rebecca Anne Brady
Karla Beauf-Kolbe
Catherine M. Brown
Mark A. Butchello
Justin Edward-Miller Call
Teresa Y. Chen
Kimberly Arnold Colaiacovo
Ryan Patrick Crawford
Lauren J. Cataly
Danielle Elizabeth Dimitrov
Jennifer G. Flannery
David H. Frech
Paul Samuel Fusco
Jesse O. George
Lisa M. Goodberry
Keith Jared Gross
Cheryl Lynn Halford
Dennis Harlow
Eraun Hoque
Eric James Judson
Patrick James Kennedy
Shane C. Kiernan
Brienne Lord
Jason Alan Little
Jennifer Binns Lovelace
Michael D. Mars
Miles Jackson McNeal
Maggie Wetherby McOmber
Justin George Meeks
Mindy Merkze
Ryan Keith Middal
Megan Elizabeth Mosti
Bashar Reja Mohammend
Reeni John Nowicki
Angel M. Ovegaard
Stephanie Melinda Palladino
Craig Anthony Patrick
Robert S. Phed
Charity Ann Prappas
Jodi Anne Reynolds
Kyle Patrick Rossi
Devon Alvey Runyan
Virginia Elizabeth Schmidt
Amber E. Storr
Melissa Noel Subjeck
Jennifer C. Tsai
Sara Lisa Valencia
Eric Thomas Vallone
Joseph Frank Verciglio
Skayen Wreed
Andrew John Wells
Dennis J. Willey
Haigun Zhu

Cum Laude
Kimberly Anne Alvino
David Thomas Archer
Alexander Isaac Balsam
Todd Andrew Bolster

“I hope that we learn of justice as a way of life and not just a case in a casebook. May we be our own best instructors and never stop learning from ourselves.”

–Student speaker Maggie Wetherby McOmber ’06
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Eric James Judson
Patrick James Kennedy
Shane C. Kiernan
Jenniffer Binnis Lovelace
Michael D. Maran
Miles Jackson McNeal
Maggie Wetherby McOmber
Justin George Meeks
Mindy Merake
Ryan Keith Meldrum
Megan Elizabeth Musti
Bahak Rejai Mohiassad
Reeri John Nowicki
Angel M. Ortega
Stephanie Melinda Palladino
Craig Anthony Patrick
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Charity Ann Pripps
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Professors Rebecca R. French and John Henry Schlegel hood Fan Zhang ’06

Above, Vice Dean Ilene R. Fleischmann, recipient of the Staff Award, welcomes the class into the Law Alumni Association.
Left, Professor James B. Atleson and the Hot Cargo String Band.
Two new awards were presented at the Center for the Arts on Saturday, May 20. When 240 graduates of the UB Law School donned their purple gowns for the first time, flipped the tassels on their mortarboards to the left, and walked across the stage before family and friends, it was the 117th commencement for the Law School. And despite a cold and windy day, there were sunny smiles all around. The first new award was presented in honor of Professor Emerita Virginia Leary, a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor who taught law at the Law School. The recipient was Elizabeth M. Fox-Solomon, of Delmar, N.Y.

The other awards cited for excellence were:

- The Max Koren Award, to the graduate who exemplified the highest standards of the profession by virtue of scholarly achievement, leadership and dedication to the ideals of the law. The 2006 recipient was Elizabeth M. Fox-Solomon, of Delmar, N.Y.
- The John N. Bennett Achievement Award, for the highest scholarly achievement in the graduating class. The recipient was Geoffrey Adam Kaeuper, of Rochester, N.Y.
- The David S. Margulis Award, for the graduate who contributed the most to the Law School and the community. The 2006 David S. Margulis Award recipient was Michael D. Mann, of Woodmere, N.Y.

The second new award this year was named in memory of James McOmber, a nationally recognized trial attorney who practiced in Western New York. Given for outstanding trial advocacy, it was presented to Sarah Elizabeth Wesley, of Livonia, N.Y.

The three top commencement awards were:

- The Mark Koren Award to the graduate who exemplified the highest standards of the profession by virtue of scholarly achievement, leadership and dedication to the ideals of the law. The 2006 recipient was Elizabeth M. Fox-Solomon, of Delmar, N.Y.
- The Edith and Daniel Goldstein Award for debtor-creditor and bankruptcy law, to Kevin Joseph Stulich, of Pittsford, N.Y.
- The American Bar Association and The Bureau of National Affairs Award for Intellectual Property Law, presented jointly to Robert Charles Atkinson, of Buffalo, and Jodi Anne Reynolds, of Amherst, N.Y.
- The American Bar Association and The Bureau of National Affairs Award for Civil procedure, to Fan Zhang, of Amherst, N.Y.
- The Siggel Alumni Association Award, for civil procedure, to Jodi Anne Reynolds, of Amherst, N.Y.
- The Judge Matthew J. Jasen Appellate Practice Award, for appellate advocacy, to Geoffrey Adam Kaeuper, of Rochester, N.Y.
- The David Kochery Award, for service to the student community and courses in procedures and remedies, to Teresa N. Chen, of Jackson Heights, N.Y.
- The Louis E. Pressman Award, for outstanding achievement in corporate finance, to Bekha Zhang, of Chicago, Ill.
- The Maurice Frey Award, for taxation, to Bryan Philip McOmber, of E. Amherst, N.Y.
- The David Kochery Award, for service to the student community and courses in procedures and remedies, to Teresa N. Chen, of Jackson Heights, N.Y.

Nancy A. Long ’06 and Melissa N. Subeck ’06

"From the seemingly mundane choices, your lives will shape themselves around the choices you make."

– Hon. Michael A. Battle

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Law School Report

UB Law Class of 2006 awards and prizes

Two new awards were presented at the Center for the Arts on Saturday, May 20, when 240 graduates of Buffalo Law School donned their purple hoods for the first time, flipped the tassels on their mortarboards to the left, and walked across the stage before family and friends. It was the 117th commencement for the Law School, and despite a cold and windy day, there were sunny smiles all around.

The first new award was presented in honor of Professor Emerita Virginia Leary, a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor who taught international law at UB from 1976 and developed the sequence of courses and externships in international law at the Law School. The recipient, deemed outstanding in international law, was Allison Terrell of Livonia, N.Y.

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- The Max Koren Award, to the graduate who exemplified the highest standards of the profession by virtue of scholarly achievement, leadership and dedication to the ideals of the law. The 2006 recipient was Elizabeth M. Fox-Solomon, of Delmar, N.Y.
- The John N. Bennett Achievement Award, for the highest scholarly achievement in the graduating class. The recipient was Geoffrey Adam Kaeuper, of Rochester, N.Y.
- The Dale S. Margulis Award, for the graduate who contributed the most to the Law School and the community. The 2006 Dale S. Margulis Award recipient was Michael D. Mann, of Woodmere, N.Y.

The other awards and prizes presented at commencement were:

- The Edith and Daniel Goldstein Award for debtor-creditor and bankruptcy law, to Kevin Joseph Mubchulli, of Pimford, N.Y.
- The John T. Curtin ‘49 and Hon. Leslie G. Foschio ‘65 “From the seemingly mundane choices to the consequential ones, your lives will shape themselves around the choices you make.” – Hon. Michael A. Battle

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- The American Bar Association and The Bureau of National Affairs Award for Intellectual Property Law, presented jointly to Robert Charles Atkinson, of Buffalo, and Jodi Anne Reynolds, of Amherst, N.Y.
- The American Bar Association and The Bureau of National Affairs Award for corporate finance, to Fan Zhang, of Amherst, N.Y.
- The Adolf Homburger Law Alumni Association Award for civil procedure, to Ryan Keith Micklus, of Amherst, N.Y.
- The Judge Matthew J. Jasen Appellate Practice Award, for appellate advocacy, to Geoffrey Adam Kaeuper, of Rochester, N.Y.
- The David Kochery Award for service to the student community and courses in procedures and remedies, to Teresa N. Chen, of Jackson Heights, N.Y.
- The John N. Bennett Award, for excellence in advocacy, to Bekha Trivikram, of Grand Island, N.Y.
- The Charles Danlieh Award, for real property, to Enam Hoque, of Buffalo.
- The Most Valuable Student Award, to Bryan Philip Fauci, of East Meadow, N.Y.
- The David Kochery Award for future interests and estate planning, to Nicole Marie Stolba, of Lockport, N.Y.
- The Ryan J. Millins Award for criminal law, to Dianne Andrea Thoben, of Buffalo.
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Amheuer, N.Y. Meredith Conner, of Buffalo; Benjie Gachette, of Valley Stream; N.Y. Andrew O. Guglielmi, of Buffalo; Crystal Jeanette Rodriguez, of Buffalo; Elsa Johanna Schmidt, of Countryside, N.Y. Hsiang “Cindy” Zhu, of Buffalo; The New York State Bar Association Law Student Bar Association Ethics Award, to Amanda Catherine Conner, of Buffalo, and Meredith A. Conner, of Buffalo; The Carls C. Alden Buffalo. Gwendolyn R. Higley, of Cheektowaga, N.Y. Keith Jared Gross, of Glen Head, N.Y. Geoffrey Adam Kaeser, of Rochester, N.Y. Enam Hoque, of Buffalo; Michael D. Mann, of Woodmere, N.Y. Robert H. Middlemiss, of Evans Mills, N.Y. Angel M. Overgaard, of Moline, Ill. Amber E. Storr, of North Tonawanda, N.Y. The Justice M. Dolores Domier scholarship award, to a custodial single parent, to Marie A. Butchello, of Buffalo.

The Kenneth A. Gomez Memorial Award, for equality and justice for minorities, to Crystal Jeanette Rodriguez, of Buffalo.

The Act’s Gavel Award, for progressive politics, government accountability and social action, to Sara Louise Coach, of Williamsville, N.Y.

The Minority Bar Association of Western New York Award, presented jointly to Benjie Gachette, of Valley Stream, N.Y., and Crystal Jeanette Rodriguez, of Buffalo.

The Women Lawyers Association of Western New York Award, to Nicole Marie Stolba, of Lockport, N.Y.

The National Association of Women Lawyers Award, to Elisha Dunn Georgi, of Buffalo.

The UB Law Alumni Association GOLD Group Achievement Award, to Michael D. Mann, of Woodmere, N.Y.

The Class of 2006 voted for a faculty member and staff member who has demonstrated outstanding service and dedication. The faculty award was presented to Professor Rebecca French, of Buffalo, and the staff award was presented to Associate Dean Irene R. Couch, of East Amherst.

Sarah E. Wesley ’06 with parents, Hon. and Mrs. Richard S. Wesley

“I am walking into a difficult world. Your individual contributions will be essential.”

– Michael A. Battle

Iraq and Afghanistan succeed in their new democracies, even amid the damage of war and stubborn insurgent movements.

• A roster of challenges here at home, including the rights of the press, the threat of terrorism, the pressing need for innovative energy sources, balancing assistance to the poor with the promise of capitalism, the role of corporations, and the ramifications of developing technology.

You are walking into a difficult world,” Battle said. “Your individual contributions will be essential. It is important that each member of our society be a part of it – in whatever manner – to help maintain its viability and solve the challenges that confound us. You are now uniquely qualified to do so.”

The student-voted Faculty Award went this year to Professor Rebecca French, and the Staff Award was given to Vice Dean Irene R. Fleischmann.

As it has been for the past 25 years, the Commencement ceremony was bracketed with music by the Hot Cargo String Band, a shifting alliance of faculty and student musicians. This year the band was a big band, because its longtime leader, Professor James Adelson, is retiring from full-time teaching. Alumni of the band came from across the nation and threw a surprise party for him – then joined Hot Cargo on stage for a last fling of music-making.

Left to right, members of the class of ’06: Paul C. Parsi, Scott J. Bizub, Kevin Van Allen, Sara T. Wallitt, Jonathan J. Bevilacqua, John P. Gerken and Patrick J. Kennedy.

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UB Law Forum
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The Harry A. Rachel Prize in Real Property Law and Real Estate Transaction Award was given to: Elizabeth M. Fox-Solomon, of Delmar, N.Y., The Judge William F. Regan Award, for estates and surrogates law, to Marie A. Butchello, of Williamsville, N.Y. The Robert J. Connolly Trial Technique Awards were presented to Scott James Bizub, of Cheektowaga, N.Y., Meghan McLean Brown, of Williamsville, N.Y., Bartholewomw Chacchia, of Buffalo, Michael Paul Fellicett, of Buffalo, Jennifer G. Flannery, of Buffalo, David H. Frech, of Hamburg, N.Y., Benjie Gachette, of Valley Stream, N.Y., Keith Jared Gross, of Glen Head, N.Y., Allison Rebecca Hind, of Niskayuna, N.Y., Joseph Joseph Laboda, of Gansevoort, N.Y., Miles Jackson McNeil, of Buffalo, Carla Jean Miller, of West Seneca, N.Y., Jacqueline Ann Machowicz, of Lakeview, N.Y., Joseph Frank Vergiolio, of Buffalo, Dianne Andrea Bolster, of Buffalo, Shawn Weed, of Pine Bush, N.Y., and Dennis J. Wiley, of Syosset, N.Y.

Law School Faculty Awards, presented to those graduating seniors who have made outstanding contributions to the Law School community, were given to: Nicole E. Bayly-Willis, of Glen Head, N.Y., Jennifer Behrens, of Lockport, N.Y., Todd Andrew Bolster, of East Amherst, N.Y., Meredith Conner, of Buffalo, Benjie Gachette, of Valley Stream, N.Y., Andrew O. Guglielmi, of Buffalo, Crystal Jeantette Rodriguez, of Buffalo, Elsa Johanna Schmidt, of Concordville, N.Y., Hsin-ting “Cindy” Zhu, of Buffalo.

The New York State Bar Association Lane Student Bar Association Ethics Award, to Amanda Catherine Conner, of Buffalo, and Meredith A. Conner, of Buffalo. The Carlos A. Alden Buffalo, Gwendolyn R. Higley, of Cheektowaga, N.Y., Keith Jared Gross, of Glen Head, N.Y., Geoffrey Adam Kaeuper, of Rochester, N.Y., Enam Hoque, of Buffalo, Michael D. Mann, of Woodmere, N.Y., Robert H. Middlemiss, of Evans Mills, N.Y., Angel M. Overgaard, of Moneen, Wis., Amber E. Storr, of North Tonawanda, N.Y. The Justice M. Dolores Demment scholarship award, for a custodial single parent, to Marie A. Butchello, of Buffalo.

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The Linda S. Reynolds Achievement Award, for commitment to equal justice for the poor, to Allison Terrell Corey Miller, of Buffalo. The Milton Kaplan Law and Social Development Award, in an American, comparative or international context, jointly to Nicholle Dragone, of Williamsville, N.Y., and Babak Rejai Mohassel, of Buffalo.

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