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Class Action: Reunions/Marriages/Births/Deaths

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'50s

Herald Price Fahringer '56 received the Hon. Robert L. Cohen Award from the New York Criminal Bar Association at a ceremony in New York City. The award, in recognition of lifetime achievement, is the highest honor bestowed by the association. Fahringer, a celebrated civil liberties attorney, is associated with the Manhattan firm Fahringer & Dubno. He resides in Manhattan.

Hon. Joseph S. Mattina '56 was reappointed to a three-year term on the board of directors of Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo. Mattina, former Erie County Surrogate Court judge, is CEO of Counsel Financial Services in Williamsville, N.Y. He is a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus Award and the Jaeckle Award.

Richard F. Griffin '57 was named to the steering committee for the 25th anniversary celebration of The Best Lawyers in America, held in Atlanta. Griffin was recognized for his listing in the fields of alternative dispute resolution, commercial litigation, personal injury litigation and product liability litigation. He is of counsel with Kavinoky Cook in Buffalo, where he resides. Griffin is a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Class Action
compiled by Cynthia Watts, alumni database manager, dwatts@buffalo.edu (716) 645-2107

'60s

Fredric H. Fischer '67 is co-editor in chief of How to Take a Case Before the National Labor Relations Board, Eighth Edition (BNA Books). Fischer is a partner in the Chicago office of Seyfarth Shaw and is a member of the firm's labor and employment department. He lives in Highland Park, III.

'70s

Terrence M. Connors '71 of Buffalo has been named “Lawyer of the Year” 2009 by Best Lawyers. He was listed in the categories of personal injury, commercial litigation, legal malpractice, medical malpractice, and white-collar and non-white-collar criminal law. Connors is a partner in Connors & Vilardo in Buffalo and a past member of UB Law School’s Dean’s Advisory Council.

Hon. Alexander W. Hunter Jr. ’74 of New Rochelle, N.Y., was re-elected New York State Supreme Court Justice, 12th Judicial District, in Bronx, N.Y. He was also recognized for his 20 years of service as an adjunct professor at Pace University School of Law in White Plains, N.Y. Hunter is currently teaching at Concord Law School in Los Angeles.

David E. Jacobson ’74 has joined Troutman Sanders as a partner in the Washington, D.C., office. He is a member of the firm’s tax practice group and lives in McLean, Va.

Hon. James A.W. McLeod ’74 was re-elected Buffalo City Court judge. He has been a city court judge since 1999 and resides in Buffalo.

Dianne Bennett ’75 has co-authored a book with her husband, William Graebner, Rome the Second Time: 15 Itineraries That Don’t Go to the Coliseum. The book is an alternative travel guide and history lesson. Bennett is past chair of Hodgson Russ in Buffalo and a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumna Award. She is a Buffalo resident.

Maurice L. Sykes ’75 has joined Kenney Shelton Liptak Nowak as a senior associate in the Buffalo office. He focuses his practice in self-insured and insurance defense litigation. Sykes lives in East Amherst, N.Y.
On Aug. 6, 2008, the Law School hosted its fifth annual 50+ Reunion Luncheon. This annual event welcomes alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago. Alumni and guests joined Vice Dean Alan S. Carrel, who gave updates about the Law School. In attendance were alumni ranging from the classes of 1943 to 1958.

The event took place in the fifth-floor Law School Conference Center in O’Brien Hall. There were lively conversations and plenty of memories between alums. This wonderful tradition gave all an opportunity to celebrate their many accomplishments and relive a few of the fond memories from their days in law school.
Margaret W. Wong '76 is representing President Barack Obama’s aunt, Zeituni Onyango, who is a Kenyan immigrant living in the U.S. illegally. Wong is managing partner of Margaret W. Wong and Associates in Cleveland. She is a recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumna Award, a lifetime member of the UB Law Alumni Association and a member of UB Law School’s Dean’s Advisory Council. Wong lives in Shaker Heights, Ohio.

Dennis R. McCoy ’77 was named general awards committee chair of the New York State Bar Association’s torts, insurance and compensation law section. McCoy is a partner in the Buffalo office of Hiscock & Barclay. He is a member of UB Law School’s Dean’s Advisory Council and is a past president of the UB Law Alumni Association. McCoy lives in Snyder, N.Y.

High honors for Daniels, Freedman

Two distinguished alumni of UB Law School have received prestigious awards in recognition of their achievement in legal practice.

Joel L. Daniels ’63, who for four decades has been one of Buffalo’s leading defense attorneys, received the Charles F. Crimi Memorial Award as the state’s outstanding private defense practitioner. The award was presented in New York City at the annual awards luncheon of the New York State Bar Association’s criminal justice section.

Also, the New York Bar Foundation conferred its Lifetime Achievement Award on Maryann Saccomando Freedman ’58. The award, presented at a New York City dinner, recognizes Freedman’s work both to her clients and to the legal profession in New York State. A former director and president of the Bar Foundation, she also was the first female president of the New York State Bar Association and the Erie County Bar Association. She is counsel at Cohen & Lombardo in Buffalo, where she maintains a general civil practice.

James J. Duggan ’78 of Amherst, N.Y., has become a partner in the Buffalo office of Kenney Shelton Liptak Nowak. He handles cases involving self-insured and insurance defense and insurance coverage litigation. Duggan was a founding partner of Lustig & Brown in Buffalo.

Robert B. Fleming Jr. ’78 is listed in Best Lawyers as Lawyer of the Year 2009 in the corporate law category. Fleming is a partner in Hodgson Russ in Buffalo, where he resides.

Mark J. Moretti ’78 was appointed chair of the trial lawyers section of the New York State Bar Association. He is a partner in the Rochester, N.Y., office of Phillips Lytle, practicing in business and tort litigation. Moretti lives in Pittsford, N.Y.

Vikki L. Pryor ’78 received the Distinguished Alumna Award from the UB Alumni Association. Pryor is president of SBLI USA Mutual Life Insurance in New York City. She is a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumna Award and is a member of the Law School’s Dean’s Advisory Council. Pryor is a resident of New Rochelle, N.Y.

Claudia G. Allen ’79 was named to the 2009 “Ohio Super Lawyers” list. She is a partner in Straus & Troy in Cincinnati, counseling clients in employee benefits and employment law. Allen lives in Cincinnati.

Two alums rise in State Senate staff

At a critical time for New York State government, two UB Law alumni have been named to high-level legal posts in the State Senate.

Shelley Mayer ’79 has been named Counsel to the Majority by Majority Leader Malcolm A. Smith, a Queens Democrat. Mayer previously served as Counsel to the Minority under Smith, as well as Special Counsel to former Minority Leader Martin Connor. Before beginning work with the Senate, she was an assistant attorney general for 12 years. She lives in Yonkers.

Also, Lourdes Ventura ’98 was named Counsel for Latino and Immigrant Affairs. Previously, Ventura served in the Minority Counsel’s office, following work as a prosecutor with the Queens County district attorney’s office and as an assistant attorney general with the state attorney general’s office. She currently serves as a director of the UB Law Alumni Association and as a member of the Dean’s Advisory Council. She lives in Queens.

Claudia G. Allen ’79 was named to the 2009 “Ohio Super Lawyers” list. She is a partner in Straus & Troy in Cincinnati, counseling clients in employee benefits and employment law. Allen lives in Cincinnati.

Terrie Benson Murray ’79 was elected recording secretary of the Philanthropic Education Organization for the CM Chapter, based in Orchard Park, N.Y., where she resides. She is a founding member of the chapter and is also the project chairperson for Cotter College, a private two-year liberal arts college for women in Nevada, Mo. Murray is an associate with Cohen & Lombardo in Buffalo.
The 55th reunion for the Class of 1953 was held on June 26, 2008, in Buffalo. There was an excellent turnout of classmates and friends, with some coming from as far away as California. The reunion was celebrated in grand fashion at the fabulous Mansion on Delaware Avenue. The class provided Dean Makau Matua with a special class gift in honor of their significant milestone.

Class of 1953


Left: Matthew X. Wagner Jr. ’53, Joseph A. Marion Jr. ’53 and Joseph M. Nasca ’53


Left: Richard M. English ’53, Joyce Crawford and Hilary P. Bradford ’53

Left: Michael G. Wolfgang ’53, Jo-An Webb and Jack I. Morris ’53
UB recognizes three Law School alumnae

Three UB Law alumni received University-wide recognition this spring when they were named winners of achievement awards from the University at Buffalo Alumni Association. The awards were presented at a gala dinner March 20 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo.

Nicole Lee '02 received the George W. Thorn Award, given to UB graduates younger than 40 who have made outstanding national or international contributions to their field. Lee is executive director of TransAfrica Forum, an international organization that promotes human rights and social justice for people of African descent. Lee, based in Washington, D.C., has led TransAfrica Forum for three years.

Vikki L. Pryor '78 was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of her exceptional career accomplishments. Pryor, president and CEO of SBLI USA since 1999, has transformed the New York City-based mutual life insurance company into a diversified national financial services firm. The company has a commitment to gender and racial diversity, and since Pryor's arrival has donated more than $750,000 to local and national charities.

Jean C. Powers '79 received a Volunteer Recognition Medal from the UB Alumni Association. The honor acknowledges her long and diverse service to the Law School, including serving as president of the UB Law Alumni Association, on the Dean's Advisory Council, and as chair of the Annual Fund campaign in 2003-04. She also mentors law students and serves as a trustee of the UB Foundation.

Jean C. Powers '79 received the UB Alumni Association Volunteer Recognition Medal. Powers is a partner in the Amherst, N.Y., office of Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, practicing in the real estate group. She is a member emeritus of UB Law School's Dean's Advisory Council, a former recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumna Award and a past president of the alumni association. She lives in Williamsville, N.Y.

Patrick C. O'Reilly '80 is listed in Best Lawyers as Lawyer of the Year 2009. He is a senior partner in the firm Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria in Buffalo, where he resides. O'Reilly is an adjunct faculty member at UB Law School and is a past president of the UB Law Alumni Association and the New York Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

Michael L. Ciminelli '81 of Rochester, N.Y., is the new commander of patrol division west for the Rochester Police Department. Ciminelli recently served as deputy chief counsel for operational law for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Washington, D.C., and previously served for 11 years in the Rochester Police Department as a patrol officer, an investigator and a sergeant.

Richard P. Valentine '81 has joined Rosenthal Siegel & Muenkel in the Buffalo office. Valentine practices in plaintiff's medical malpractice. He was previously a partner in Hamsher & Valentine in Buffalo, where he resides.

Denise E. O’Donnell ’82 was named deputy secretary for public safety by New York State Gov. David A. Paterson. She will oversee all homeland security and criminal justice agencies, in addition to maintaining her current position as commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services in Albany, N.Y. O’Donnell also received the New York State Bar Association’s Excellence in Public Service Award. She is a Buffalo resident.

Hon. Tracey A. Bannister ’84 was elected New York State Supreme Court justice, Eighth Judicial District in Buffalo. Bannister lives in Kenmore, N.Y.

Perry Binder ’84 has written the book Unlocking Your Rubber Room, with “44 off-the-wall lessons to lighten and transform everyday life.” The book is available at www.YourRubberRoom.com and Amazon.com. Binder is an assistant professor at Georgia State University in Atlanta, where he resides.
The 45th reunion for the Class of 1963 was held on June 28, 2008, in Buffalo. An excellent turnout of classmates and friends helped to create an ideal weekend for these alumni to reconnect. Classmate Peter J. Fiorella graciously hosted a lunch on Saturday afternoon at his office on Summer Street, while regaling his classmates with its historic significance. Saturday evening brought yet another opportunity for the class to gather. The reunion weekend was highlighted on Saturday evening with dinner at Marinaccio’s Seafood and Steak House in Williamsville. The night was full of reconnecting and reminiscing.

Seated – David C. Laub, Roger V. Barth, Saul Lerner, William J. Mullins Jr., Bernard B. Freedman, Robert J. Tronolone
Standing – James V. Hall, Joel L. Daniels, John P. Robshaw Jr., Timothy C. Lexner, William C. Farner, Peter J. Fiorella Jr., Jerome D. Carrel

Left: Timothy C. Lexner ’63, Joyce, and Roger V. Barth ’63
Above: John P. Robshaw Jr. ’63 and Saul Lerner ’63
Left: Mary Loy Robshaw, Suzanne Sinnott, James V. Hall ’64 and Saul Lerner ’63
Births

Simon A. Fleischmann ’01 and Jamie H. Fleischmann, a daughter, Remi Adel, on Feb. 18, 2009, in Chicago.

Marriages

Congratulations to the following newlyweds:

Stephanie G. Carter ’01 and Jason C. Pennington, Dec. 19, 2008
Kenneth R. Kraus ’05 and Alyssa M. Truelove ’05, Aug. 8, 2008

‘90s

Carl J. Tierney ’91 was awarded the Group Superior Honor Award from the secretary of state in recognition of outstanding work during the negotiation of missle defense agreements with the Czech Republic and Poland. Tierney is associate deputy general counsel, international affairs, for the Department of Defense, Office of General Counsel, in Washington, D.C. He is currently on a leave of absence and is deployed as an Air Force Reserve Judge Advocate to Southwest Asia, supporting air operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Tierney resides in Falls Church, Va.

Diane R. Tiveron ’89 has been promoted to partner in the firm Hogan Willig in Buffalo. Tiveron handles cases involving business and commercial law, civil litigation and bankruptcy. She is a resident of Lockport, N.Y.

Catherine Cerulli ’92 received the Kate Stoneman Award at Albany Law School. The award isnamed for the first woman attorney licensed in New York. Cerulli is assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center and director of its Laboratory of Interpersonal Violence and Victimization in Rochester, N.Y., where she resides. She is also director of research for the Women, Children and Social Justice Clinic at UB Law School.

Michael J. Keane ’92 has been named special counsel in the Buffalo-based firm Colucci & Gallaher. He represents clients in personal injury and business litigation and lives in Orchard Park, N.Y.

Frank T. Housh ’93, a West Seneca, N.Y., resident, was elected Western New York regional vice president of the New York Democratic Lawyers Council. He practices in Cohen & Lombardo in Buffalo, in civil litigation, special education and criminal defense.

Cathy Lovejoy Maloney ’94 of Snyder, N.Y., is the new executive director of Cornell Cooperative Extension in Lockport, N.Y. She has previously served as executive director of the Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens.

Amy Habib Rittling ‘95 has become a partner in Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman in Buffalo. She concentrates her practice in state and federal employment and general business counseling and litigation. Rittling lives in Amherst, N.Y.

Pauline C. Will ’96 was named partner in Watson Bennett Colligan Johnson & Schechter in Buffalo. She specializes in toxic tort litigation, product liability, trucking industry defense litigation, insurance defense and criminal law. Will is a resident of Lancaster, N.Y.

Philip D. Leone ’97 has opened his own law firm in Buffalo. He focuses his practice on plaintiff representation in personal injury claims, estate administration, residential real estate transactions and misdemeanor/traffic violations. Leone lives in Depew, N.Y.
The 40th reunion for the Class of 1968 was held on June 6 and 7, 2008, in Buffalo. An excellent turnout of classmates and friends helped to create an ideal weekend for these alums to reconnect.

On Friday, things got under way with an informal reception at classmate Norman Effman’s house in the heart of Buffalo. Classmates enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in a beautifully landscaped garden. The night provided plenty of laughs and opportunities to catch up with old friends.

Saturday morning brunch brought the class together at the Law School. Following the brunch, classmates toured the Law School’s facilities, which provided an opportunity for the alumni to see firsthand the advancements that the school is making. Saturday evening brought yet another opportunity for the class to gather. The reunion weekend was highlighted on Saturday evening with a gourmet dinner at the Buffalo Club. The night was full of reconnecting and dancing to Mark Mazur’s Jazz Quartet and was a great way to cap off the reunion weekend.

Seated – Michael F. Chelus, Sanford D. Rockowitz, Jeffrey A. Sellers, Michael R. Wolford, Andrew Feldman, Patrick J. Baker, William H. Bond, Hon. Thomas H. Meldrim


Kenneth S. Kirsner ’68, Susan Conklin and Robert B. Conklin ’68

Michael R. Wolford ’68 and Andrew Feldman ’68

Sanford D. Rockowitz ’68 and Barbara Rockowitz

Hon. Jeremiah J. Moriarty III ’68 and John J. LaDuca ’68
Maj. Scott Lovelock ’97 received the Meritorious Service Medal for his performance during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Lovelock is assigned to the 152nd Air Operations Group out of the Air National Guard Base at Hancock Field, Hancock International Airport, in Syracuse, N.Y. This is the second time he has been awarded this medal. In addition, he received the Air Force Commendation Medal for outstanding achievement as chief of the Master Air Attack Plan Cell, Combat Plans Division, Combined Air and Space Operations Center at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Lovelock lives in Clifton Park, N.Y.

Jeremy J. Best ’98 has accepted a position as senior attorney at the Mental Hygiene Legal Service, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Third Judicial Department, in the Ogdensburg, N.Y., office. He lives in Brasher Falls, N.Y.

Theresa M. Cusimano ’98, a human rights advocate, was sentenced to 60 days in federal prison for nonviolent civil disobedience. She was charged with trespassing after walking onto the Fort Benning, Ga., military base to protest the controversial Army training school called School of the Americas. Cusimano is executive director of the Colorado Campus Compact at Regis University in Denver, where she resides.

Eric C. Naegely ’98 is a partner in Damon & Morey in Buffalo. He specializes in medical malpractice and insurance defense. He lives in Amherst, N.Y.

Frank J. Sparacino ’98 is an assistant managing attorney at the Law Office of Teresa M. Spina, Geico staff counsel, in Woodbury, N.Y. He has been with the firm since December 2002 and is a resident of Middletown, N.Y.


Katherine E. Cauley ’99 was named partner in Hodgson Russ in Buffalo. She is a member of the estates and trusts practice group, concentrating in estate and trust law, cross-border tax and estate planning. Cauley is a Buffalo resident.

Damon M. Gruber ’99 has become a partner in Goldberg Segalla in Buffalo. He practices in workers’ compensation, accidental work injury, occupational disease claims, psychological stress claims, automobile negligence and accidental death. Gruber resides in Williamsville, N.Y.

Kirstin Lowry Sommers ’99 is of counsel in Hurwitz & Fine in Buffalo. She joined the commercial real estate development and finance practice group, concentrating on sustainable development projects, environmental regulatory matters and environmental business practices. Sommers is the only LEED-accredited professional attorney in Western New York and is a resident of Orchard Park, N.Y.

In Memoriam

The Law School extends its deepest condolences to the families and friends of the following friends and alumni/ae:

Montgomery G. Pooley ’41, Buffalo, New York
Hon. Ralph J. Radwan ’44, San Antonio, Texas
Richard M. English ’53, Rancho Mirage, California
Aaron Goldfarb ’54, Orchard Park, New York
Toni Delmonte ’91, Warsaw, New York
Michael Doran ’82, Amherst, New York
Matthew J. Schnirel ’08, Amherst, New York

SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emerita Virginia Leary, Geneva, Switzerland

’00s

John C. Godsoe ’00 is a member of Bond Schoeneck & King, focusing his practice in employee benefits law in Buffalo. Godsoe handles matters involving the design, implementation and termination of qualified pension plans, tax-sheltered annuity plans, self-funded medical plans, cafeteria plans and COBRA compliance. He is a Buffalo resident.

Catherine Grantier Cooley ’01, a Hamburg, N.Y., resident, is a partner in the Buffalo office of Hodgson Russ. She is a member of the business litigation group, practicing in securities, ERISA, and employment and construction litigation.

Ellen B. Sturm ’01 is practicing with Cellino & Barnes in the Buffalo office. Sturm specializes in personal injury litigation and appellate matters. She was previously an associate in Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom in Wilmington, Del.

Tara Johnson ’02 was promoted to legal counsel for Exelus Health Plan in Rochester, N.Y. She previously served as associate counsel. Johnson lives in Webster, N.Y.
The 35th reunion for the Class of 1973 was held on June 6 and 7, 2008, in Buffalo. An excellent turnout of classmates and friends helped to create an ideal weekend for these alums to reconnect.

On Friday, things got under way with a reception at 77 W. Eagle St. – the former home of our Law School. Classmates enjoyed seeing the changes made to this historic building, which is now the Supreme Court Library at Buffalo.

Saturday morning brunch brought the class together at the current Law School. Following the brunch, classmates toured the Law School’s facilities and learned where our Law School is headed. Immediately after brunch, several classmates gathered at a local course and teed off for a beautiful summer day of golfing. That evening everyone reconvened on Buffalo’s picturesque waterfront for dinner at the Buffalo Yacht Club.
**Student kudos**

As if **Kimberly Sweet ’09** didn’t have enough to do over her Christmas break, she wrote a heavily researched, 13-page scholarly paper for a national entertainment law competition.

**How’d that work out for you, Kim?**

Very well indeed. Sweet was named one of four runners-up in the competition, run by the Grammys Foundation and the American Bar Association’s Forum on Entertainment & Sports Law. For her efforts she received a $1,500 scholarship – and even more interesting, a trip to Los Angeles, where she and the other winners hobnobbed with entertainment industry types at a series of events, culminating in a star-studded night at the Grammy Awards ceremony.

**Theodora Belniak ’10** and **Jason Tubinis ’09**, students in the J/D/MLS program, are co-winners in the Student Category of the AALL/LexisNexis 2009 Call for Papers competition for their papers, “The Law Librarian’s Guide to the Economic Crisis” (Theo) and “A Law Librarian’s Guide to the Economic Crisis” (Jason). The winners in each division receive $750 donated by LexisNexis, plus the opportunity to present their paper at a program at the 2009 AALL Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Winning papers are also considered for publication in the Association’s prestigious Law Library Journal.

**Siana McLean ’10** has been named the recipient of the 2009 President’s Pro Bono Award from the New York State Bar Association for a Law Student for her work with the Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County during the summer of 2008 on a research project regarding the assignment of counsel in Supreme Court divorce actions pursuant to Judiciary Law Section 35(8). This report and recommendations were disseminated to legal service providers to assist volunteer attorneys in possibly obtaining payment as assigned counsel, creating an incentive to become assigned counsel or to volunteer in these cases. She also helped 208 clients through the VLSP’s Family Law, Pro Se Divorce and Debt Clinic during the summer of 2008.
The 30th reunion for the Class of 1978 was held on June 6 and 7, 2008, in Buffalo. An excellent turnout of classmates and friends helped to create an ideal weekend for these alums to reconnect.

The reunion celebration began on Friday evening with an informal reception at Shanghai Red's. The beautiful weather and picture-perfect views of Buffalo's waterfront provided an ideal setting for the first night of the reunion.

Saturday morning brunch brought the class together at the Law School. Following the brunch, classmates toured the Law School which provided an opportunity for the alumni to see all the changes in the facility. The reunion weekend was highlighted on Saturday evening with dinner at the Muse – the restaurant inside the world-renowned Albright-Knox Art Gallery. The classmates had an opportunity for a private docent tour of the museum. Everyone enjoyed seeing pictures of each other from the yearbook from their senior year. It allowed for a great opportunity to reconnect and reminisce.


Standing - Neil S. Cartusciello, James W. Meeker, Philip J. Szabla, Robert B. Fleming Jr., Garry M. Graber, Steven H. Polowitz, Charles C. Murphy Jr., Thomas J. Murphy, John N. Lipsitz, David M. Ascher, Jeffrey T. Lacey, James M. Mucklwee, Hon. Kenneth L. Gartner, Mark J. Moretti, Peter Hersh, David J. Saleh, Michael S. Schwartz, Neal A. Haberman, Steven J. Errante