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The next chapter

Three School of Law professors – with nearly a century of Buffalo teaching and scholarship between them – are moving into retirement. As we mark the occasion, we gave their colleagues a chance to express some words of appreciation.



An authority in international environmental law, including environmental certification issues and fair labor standards programs, **Errol Meidinger** joined the UB School of Law faculty in 1982.

Named a SUNY Distinguished Professor in 2018, for nearly a decade he served as director of the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy, the School of Law's signature institute to foster high-level sociolegal scholarship. The Baldy Center links over 250 researchers

in the University and surrounding region. Meidinger previously served as the founding director of the University at Buffalo Environment & Society Institute.

Outside of UB, Meidinger served as a Fulbright Professor at the University of Freiburg, Germany, in 1999–2000. During 2006–07 he was the Distinguished Environmental Law Scholar at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Ore. In prior years he was a visiting professor at the University of Washington and Syracuse University.

“Errol has really helped to keep the Baldy Center visible as an internationally respected center for sociolegal studies. He’s been particularly encouraging of young faculty members, helping them to launch their scholarly careers and get good feedback on their work. He has helped to forge ties with scholars around the world, and his connections in Europe have been particularly strong.”
– SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus David Engel



Martha McCluskey has been at UB School of Law since 1995, and since 2006 has been a William J. Magavern Faculty Scholar. Her scholarship examines the relationship between economics and inequality in law, with publications including a major study of workers’ compensation reform laws, several articles analyzing workers’ compensation insurance regulation, and articles on welfare policy and social citizenship.

McCluskey also is a co-organizer of the ClassCrits project, which brings together scholars in law, economics and other disciplines to develop a critical legal analysis of economic inequality.

“Martha and I were half of a cohort of four entry-level, tenure-track law professors that included Professors Susan Mangold and Jim Wooten. I was immediately impressed by Martha’s depth of knowledge in a range of fields as diverse as feminist legal theory, economics and constitutional law. Martha stood out as a prolific scholar with connections to organizations that were actively working to advance the rights of workers, end racial/gender discrimination and create more equitable opportunity in this country. Her energy, intellect and ability to bridge the academic and activist worlds will be missed.”
– Teresa A. Miller, Professor of Law and SUNY senior vice chancellor for strategic initiatives



Few academics have worked on a global scale like **Isabel Marcus**, who joined the UB law faculty in 1982.

Pursuing her research interests in family law, domestic violence and women’s human rights, Marcus has taught extensively in universities in Eastern Europe and Asia. At UB School of Law, she has taught family law, comparative family law, women’s human rights and topics in women’s rights.

Marcus is a founder of the Institute for Research and Education on Women and Gender at UB. She served as chair of the Department of Women’s Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences from 1997 to 2002.

“Isabel Marcus has been an important figure in women’s human rights since the very beginning – from being the first person to sue the University of California at Berkeley for sex discrimination, to helping [feminist artist] Judy Chicago figure out her Dinner Party sculptures, to setting up Soros Foundation groups in Eastern Europe to help young aspiring women lawyers work on gender discrimination, to setting up the women’s studies program at UB as well as the gender institute. Very few people have been as important as she has been in the continuing struggle for women’s rights.”
– Professor Rebecca French

Two new faculty books



Coral Whisperers: Scientists on the Brink
(University of California Press)
Professor Irus Braverman

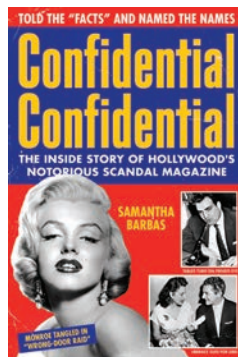
In recent years, many of the world's precious coral reefs have been devastated by a catastrophic global bleaching event. Coral scientists are struggling to save these important coral reef ecosystems from the imminent threats of rapidly warming, acidifying and polluted oceans.

Coral Whisperers captures a critical

moment in the history of coral reef science. With insights from over 100 interviews with leading scientists and conservation managers, Braverman documents a community caught in an existential crisis and alternating between despair and hope. In this book, corals emerge not only as signs and measures of environmental catastrophe, but also as catalysts for action.

“ [Reading Braverman’s book,] we benefit immensely by hearing the voices of coral reef whisperers as they speak openly of their uncertainties, fears and hopes. Whatever their differences, as Irus Braverman attests, all these scientists share a deep and infectious love of corals. The author deserves to be congratulated for her learning, lucidity, passion and candor. I emerged from this book feeling a new, if measured, charge of hope for the future survival of coral reefs in some form. ”

– *Times Literary Supplement* (London)



Confidential Confidential: The Inside Story of Hollywood's Notorious Scandal Magazine
(Chicago Review Press)
Professor Samantha Barbas

Confidential Confidential presents a thoroughly researched history of America's first celebrity gossip magazine and the legal disputes that led to its demise.

With an extensive network of informants, *Confidential Magazine* soiled celebrities' pristine reputations by

publishing the stars' scandalous secrets – including extramarital affairs, drug use and taboo sexual practices – in lewd detail. By 1955, *Confidential* was the best-selling publication on American newsstands, forcing many to question the scope of freedom of the press and society's moral obligation to censor indecent content. Ultimately, a slew of libel and obscenity lawsuits – concluding in an infamous, star-studded Los Angeles trial in 1957 – led to the magazine's downfall.

Confidential Confidential provides an inside view of how the magazine obtained its juicy stories, and established the foundation for such outlets as *People*, the *National Enquirer* and TMZ. *Confidential's* legacy endures in our ongoing obsession with sensationalism, gossip and celebrity scandal.

“ In *Confidential Confidential*, law professor Samantha Barbas recounts the inside story of the 'little magazine that could' with drama, humor and verve. ... Barbas paces her terrific story well, and the book ends with her cogent analysis of *Confidential's* larger significance. ”

– *Wall Street Journal*

Bringing a historian's skills to the Baldy Center

The School of Law's signature vehicle for interdisciplinary scholarship, the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy, has a new director. Following the retirement of Professor Errol Meidinger, who led the center for nine years, **Professor Samantha Barbas** has been named to lead the next chapter of its history.

“Buffalo Law has a very long tradition of being a center of interdisciplinary scholarship,” Barbas says. “That is part of our identity, this intellectual scholarly production.”

The new director embodies the Baldy Center's philosophy that the insights of other scholarly disciplines can shed light on the law. A specialist in legal history, Barbas has particular



interest and expertise in First Amendment and mass communications law, and has written three books on media law and history. In addition to a J.D. from Stanford Law School, she earned a Ph.D. in American history at the University of California, Berkeley.

Barbas says she expects the center to continue to benefit from the participation of academics across the university in the arts and sciences. Its Advisory Council includes

not only law professors but scholars in geography, sociology and political science. She also would like to see its range expand further into other disciplines in the humanities, including history.