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Message from Dean Nils Olsen

R. Nils Olsen

University at Buffalo School of Law, nolsen@buffalo.edu

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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 to our 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 eventually 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 without 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 participation rates of any law school in the country, and we are proud of the vote of confidence 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 experience, 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 professors, Bill Greiner, who will be teaching this spring. It's great to have him, and Carol, home again.

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