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Happy Birthday to Us!

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Happy birthday to us!

Even as we focus on the future, it's good to take stock of where we have been. That opportunity presents itself this year as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of our Law School's founding. We are planning an extended series of events for alumni, faculty, students and friends of New York State's law school – the only law school in the SUNY system – for our quasiquintennial. We hope you will be part of the festivities!

The Law School was founded on Sept. 28, 1887, during the first of former Buffalo mayor Grover Cleveland's terms as U.S. president. Established by visionaries who saw the limitations of the apprenticeship model of legal training, the school has since educated generations of lawyers, with a special focus on public-interest work and innovative interdisciplinary scholarship. Indeed, it is estimated that eight of 10 lawyers working in Western New York learned their craft at SUNY Buffalo Law, and alumni can be found working throughout the United States and worldwide as leading members of the bench and bar.

This edition of the SUNY Buffalo Law Forum highlights our anniversary celebration. In this issue you will find a special fold-out timeline and articles about significant aspects of our long and distinguished history. It is a reminder of some of the people and accomplishments that have shaped the Law School into the institution it is today. I hope you enjoy it, and recognize your own place in our history.

And there is more online. I invite you to visit the anniversary micro-site, www.law.buffalo.edu/125.asp, for information on all the events we're planning throughout the academic year, as well as extensive historical materials. Especially noteworthy are a series of vintage photos and a selection of video clips from the Law School's oral history project, featuring the names of some of our best-known graduates.

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The corridors and classrooms of John Lord O'Brian Hall are alive again as the academic year gets under way and we welcome the incoming Class of 2015. This is always an exciting time in the life of the Law School, and I'm especially excited about the new first-year class.

As you may know, law schools nationwide are experiencing much lower numbers of applicants than they have in the past. I'm happy to report to you that



despite that challenge, we have been able to maintain a very high-quality student body. Our entering class of 205 was drawn from 1,445 applicants. The accepted students bring with them a median LSAT score of 156 and a median grade point average of 3.51. The class is almost evenly divided between men and women. And of primary concern, we continue to admit diverse classes that look like America, and to ensure access for all academically promising students regardless of their economic circumstances.

I am also delighted to be working with three newly appointed vice deans: Kim Diana Connolly, vice dean for legal skills; Charles Patrick Ewing, vice dean for academic affairs; and Guyora Binder, vice dean for research and faculty development. We are fortunate to have these talented faculty members and administrators working with us to move the Law School forward.

We are grateful as well for your support as alumni and friends of SUNY Buffalo Law School. As I say often, we could not do it without you – your involvement makes us stronger in so many ways. In this time of celebrating our history, there is no greater asset for our school.

Sincerely,