



A Message from the Director

Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to share this update on the recent activities of the Baldy Center. We look forward to an equally active spring. Meanwhile, please remember that applications for next year's Baldy Fellowships in Interdisciplinary Legal Studies and for the joint Baldy/York Fellowship in Transnational Business Governance Interactions are due February 2.

With best holiday wishes,

Errol Meidinger, Director

Recent News

Another Busy Fall at the Baldy Center



The Baldy Center enjoyed another busy fall, hosting two conferences, one book launch, one book manuscript workshop and seven speakers.

Professor Irus Braverman

started the year with *More-than-Human Legalities*, a conference that drew scholars from across the US, Canada and the United Kingdom. On September 16, the Center was pleased to celebrate the launch of Professor Rebecca French and Assistant Professor Mark Nathan's new book, *Buddhism and Law: An Introduction*.

On September 26, the Baldy Center facilitated a book

manuscript on behalf of Assistant Professor of History **Jennifer Gaynor**. Book manuscript workshops provide Baldy Affiliated scholars with an opportunity for peer review and discussion before a manuscript is submitted for publication.

September also saw visits from Aziz Huq, University of Chicago Law Professor, Luc Foisneau, Director of Research French National Center for Scientific Research, and Julia Minich, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin.

In October, Law Professor John Henry Schlegel convened a discussion on *Opportunities for Law's Intellectual History*, a conference that drew top scholars from across the country.



In October and November, the Center hosted four speakers, [Greg Shaffer](#), UC Irvine Chancellors Professor of Law, [Osagie Obasogie](#), UC Hastings Professor of Law, [Simon Singer](#), Northeastern University Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and [Gywnn Thomas](#), UB Associate Professor of Department of Transnational Studies.

For information about upcoming events, [please visit our events page](#). For information on event funding or sponsorship, [please visit our application page](#).

Baldy Alumnus makes September Visit



In September the Center was pleased to host Baldy alum and criminology scholar [James Meeker](#). Meeker began his studies at SUNY Buffalo in the late 1960s,

earning his B.A. in Sociology in 1973, and, after entering the J.D./Ph.D. program, his M.A. in Sociology in 1977, J.D. in 1978 and Ph.D. in sociology in 1982. Meeker received a Baldy Dissertation Fellowship to complete his doctoral studies in sociology.

His dissertation was titled, “Socioeconomic Impact on State Supreme Courts: 1870-1970.” In reflecting on his years at Buffalo, Meeker recalled: “I came back to Buffalo [after spending time at the University of Washington] in ’74-’75. ... I had a Baldy Fellowship.”

Meeker fondly recalled working with both established and up-and-coming scholars during his Baldy years. Meeker’s time spent in Buffalo proved very valuable for the young academic. It was during this time Meeker learned, among other things, “you can’t get all caught up in the jargon, you have to write so people will understand.”

Meeker most recently served as the Associate Dean of Students for the [School of Social Ecology at the University of California, Irvine](#), which has a highly regarded law and society program. Meeker joined the Irvine faculty in 1981, teaching in the newly established Program in Social Ecology and in Department of Criminology, Law & Society. He is a widely published scholar of criminology, with a primary focus in gang crime and additional research

interests in access to justice, legal service delivery, and domestic violence.

Recently retired, Meeker piloted his way to Buffalo from California in a kit-built aircraft. Meeker joined us for lunch with former classmates and longtime Baldy affiliates.

We were very pleased to host him and heartily invite other Baldy alumni to visit the Center. Please visit and let us know you are coming. Please contact Candace Morrison, Baldy Research Assistant BaldyResearchAssistant@gmail.com or Laura Wirth, Assistant Director lawirth@buffalo.edu. We look forward to being in touch!

Major Grants Awarded to Baldy Affiliated Scholars



Baldy affiliated faculty won at least four major grants in recent months. Two grants, a National Science Foundation award and State Department award, were

directly assisted by the Center’s new grant application support program, which is spearheaded by [Dr. Caroline Funk](#), Baldy Research Associate.

With Dr. Funk’s assistance, [Mary Nell Trautner](#), Associate Professor of Sociology, was awarded a \$163,640 [NSF Sociology Program](#) grant for her work, “Media and Legal Decision-Making” (Award #SES-1421442). Dr. Funk also provided grant development assistance to Professor and Baldy Director [Errol Meidinger](#) and Baldy Senior Fellow [Margaret Shannon](#), which enabled the scholars to secure a \$100,000 U.S. State Department grant on “Building Shared Understanding of Illegal Logging Regulation in Russia and the U.S.”

Other recent significant grant awards include a \$50,000 Resources Legacy Fund grant to Associate Professor [Jessica Owley](#) for her work on collaborative conservation easements. Professor [Irus Braverman](#) received a \$45,000 American Council for Learned Societies Ryskamp Fellowship (Spring & Fall 2014), and a \$60,000 Society for the Humanities & Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, Cornell University, Residential Fellowship (2013-14) to pursue her research on the management of wild life.



In addition, the Baldy Center awarded a number of grants to UB researchers pursuing innovative projects on law, legal Institutions and social policy. For more information on Baldy grant recipients, [please visit our research page](#). For more information on funding opportunities and support, [please visit our applications page](#).

Recapturing Baldy's History



Officially established in 1978, the Baldy Center has played a significant role in supporting research and attracting law and social policy scholars to the University. A few stayed for careers, many for semesters at a time, and most for a few

stimulating hours of lecture and conversation. [We now endeavor to recapture and honor this history.](#)

With nearly forty years of institutional history, creating a comprehensive account of the Baldy

Center is a substantial task. The Center has recruited the help of two young scholars, both law students, to help conduct interviews with Baldy alumni and affiliates, to review archived documents, and give fresh eyes to the Baldy story. This approach is very fitting given the Center's reputation for fostering and supporting emerging legal scholars.

The ultimate goal of the project is to develop a narrative of the Center. Along the way, we hope to collect interviews, stories, fond memories, documents, photographs—a tapestry of history, triumphs and challenges, a reflection of nearly forty years of the Baldy Center at the University at Buffalo.

If you are a former Baldy scholar, whether a fellow or grant recipient or featured speaker, we would love to hear from you. Please visit and let us know you are coming. Please contact Candace Morrison, Baldy Research Assistant BaldyResearchAssistant@gmail.com or Laura Wirth, Assistant Director lawirth@buffalo.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.

Events, Opportunities, and Other News

Spring 2015 Events

Five distinguished speakers are scheduled to visit the Baldy Center this spring. Please join us Friday, February 13 at 12:00 PM for our first guest, Bernard Harcourt, Professor of Law Columbia Law School. | [Full event schedule here](#)

2015-16 Baldy Research Grants Available

Baldy research grants are available to non-adjunct University at Buffalo faculty members. The deadline for 2015-2016 research grant applications is March 23, 2015. | [Application and More information here](#)

Fellowship Applications Due

Applications for next year's Baldy Fellowships in Interdisciplinary Legal Studies and for the joint Baldy/York Fellowship in Transnational Business Governance Interactions are due February 2. | [Learn More](#)

Baldy Center to Sponsor Socio-Legal Studies Seminar

This spring semester the Baldy Center will offer advanced graduate and law students the opportunity to enroll in a seminar built around speaker visits and faculty workshops. Students will attend the presentations and read and discuss the papers, usually with the presenters. Students will also read foundational pieces and work on their own research. | [Learn More](#)

SUNY Buffalo Law School Legal Studies Research Paper Series

SUNY Buffalo Law School faculty members consistently produce quality legal scholarship. The SSRN database allows for timely and broad dissemination of working papers, articles and chapters. | [Access the SUNY Buffalo SSRN here](#)



SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Lynn Mather to retire

Marking a waypoint in a long and prolific career, including directorship of the Baldy Center from 2002 to 2008, Professor Lynn Mather will retire from SUNY Buffalo Law School at the end of the academic year. The current staff of Baldy Center thank Prof. Mather for her past leadership and wish her well in her future endeavours, which we are confident will include a continuing active role in socio-legal research. |

[Learn More](#)

Baldy Advisory Council



The Baldy Advisory Council sets policy and reviews the progress of the Baldy Center on a regular basis. Current members are:

Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen

(Professor and Chair of Geography) Research on international business, high technology innovation, labor markets and the aging workforce.

Guyora Binder

(SUNY Distinguished Professor of Law) Research in the areas of jurisprudence, criminal law, constitutional law, and international law.

Stephanie Phillips

(Professor of Law) Founding member of the Workshop on Critical Race Theory. Research interests in law and religion, and interactions between race, gender, and sexuality.

Kenneth Shockley

(Associate Professor of Philosophy) Research on indirect consequentialism, problems of partiality and the normative requirements of group membership, environmental values and public policy.

Mateo Taussing-Rubbo

(Professor of Law) Research on the reshaping of legal categories such as citizenship, sovereignty, and property through the deployment of powerful social and political categories such as sacrifice and gift.

Mary Nell Trautner

(Associate Professor of Sociology) Research in the areas of sociology of law; gender, sexuality, and the body; also labor and organizations.

David A. Westbrook

(Professor of Law) Research about the social and intellectual consequences of contemporary political economy. Teaches on business and international topics, including basic courses in corporations, contracts and international law.



The Baldy Center Staff



Errol Meidinger is the Director of the Baldy Center. He is the Margaret W. Wong Professor of Law, an Adjunct Professor of Sociology at SUNY Buffalo, and also an Honorary Professor at the University of Freiburg. His recent research has focused on efforts to use “supra-governmental” regulatory programs, such as environmental certification and fair labor standards programs, to improve the social and environmental performance of business. He is currently working on two related research projects, one focusing on interactions among state and non-state transnational governance organizations and another on the growing use by governments of limitations on access to their markets to promote environmentally and socially desirable behavior in other states. He earned his JD and Ph.D. (Sociology) at Northwestern University.



Laura Wirth is the Assistant Director of the Baldy Center. She holds a masters degree in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She is responsible for organizing and coordinating the Baldy Center’s activities, managing daily operations and Center staff, maintaining the budget, administering grant application and award processes for affiliated faculty and fellows, and overseeing event planning and public communications.



Caroline Funk is the Baldy Center Research Associate. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and specializes in the archaeology of human/environment relationships. She has worked in multidisciplinary and multinational teams in Russia, Portugal, and Alaska to answer questions about the intersection of cultural and environmental histories. Caroline currently leads a multidisciplinary research program in the Rat Islands, western Aleutians, Alaska, investigating the long-term history of human use of the region, and the impact of small-scale societies on the environment. Caroline’s primary role is to work with Baldy Center staff and affiliated faculty to develop funding proposals.



Veronica Bartikofsky is the Baldy Center Events Assistant. She has extensive experience in the financial sector as a Branch Manager in retail banking and as a Branch Administrator in the investment industry. She assists with implementing and organizing events that the Center hosts each year, including conferences, guest speakers, and workshops.



Candace Morrison is the Baldy Center Research Assistant. She is a third-year law student at SUNY Buffalo Law School. She is interested in human and civil rights research. She recently completed an M.A. in Arts Management with the SUNY Buffalo Graduate School. Candace’s work supports the full range of Baldy Center activities.



Proudly Part of a Global Research Network

We are just one node in a growing international network of organizations advancing interdisciplinary research on law, legal institutions and social policy. Below are some other members of the global network:

American Bar Foundation | Centre for Criminology & Sociolegal Studies University of Toronto | Centre for Innovation Law and Policy, University of Toronto School of Law | Center on the Global Legal Profession, Indiana University, Bloomington | Center for Law & Globalization, University of Illinois | Center for Law, Society, and Culture, Indiana University, Bloomington | Center for Law & Society, University of Edinburgh | Center in Law, Society, and Culture, University of California Irvine | Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford University | Center for the Study of Law & Society, University of California at Berkeley | Collaborative Research Center 597 “Transformations of the State,” Bremen | Critical Research Laboratory in Law & Society, University of Toronto | Global Legal Studies Center, University of Wisconsin Law School | Institute for Law & Society, New York University School of Law | Institute for Legal Studies, University of Wisconsin Law School | Institute on Law and Social Policy, University of California Berkeley | Law Societies & Justice, University of Washington | The Law and Society Association | Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies | Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law | National Science Foundation | Program in Law and Public Affairs, Princeton University | Regulatory Institutions Network (RegNet), Australian National University | Society for Empirical Legal Studies, Cornell University | Sociolegal Studies Association | Socio-Legal Research Centre, Griffith University | USC Center for Law, History and Culture | World Consortium of Law and Society | York Centre for Public Policy and Law

The Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy

511 O’Brian Hall | Buffalo, NY 14260

Tel: 716.645.2102 | Fax: 716.645.2900

E-mail: baldyctr@buffalo.edu

www.baldycenter.info