

International Maritime Specialists Gather at UGA

Last June, the Dean Rusk Center -- International, Comparative and Graduate Legal Studies was the site of an international conference to discuss the status of ocean laws and policies and compare successful methods of coastal management. The conference, titled "International Coastal Management: Tools for Successful Regional Partnerships and Initiatives," included 40 maritime experts from all over the world including the countries of Belize, Australia, Canada, Panama and Honduras.

Over two days, conference attendees engaged in discussions on topics such as coastal management, fishery operations, the protection of marine areas and the impact of climate change on sea-level rise. They also compared case studies of successful coastal management models from various countries including Australia, Panama and the U.S., particularly the Georgia coast.

Associate Director of the Rusk Center and conference organizer Dorinda Dallmeyer said, "This [was] an exciting opportunity to bring together law and policy experts from so many regions to learn about what works and what doesn't when it comes to exercising sustainable stewardship of 70 percent of the planet."

According to Dallmeyer, everyone has a vested interest in protecting the ocean and the ecological, economic and social benefits it provides. "By its very nature, the ocean requires us to think more holistically about its management from the coastal zone to the high seas," Dallmeyer said. "Everyone, whether a coastal resident or not, has a stake in the future of the oceans."

This was the first conference sponsored by the newly established national Sea Grant Law Center, based at the University of Mississippi School of Law. The purpose of the SGLC is to integrate efforts of ocean and coastal law research centers nationwide and provide outreach and advisory services to the National Sea Grant College Program and its constituents. As a founding collaborator

partner in the SGLC, the Rusk Center's staff and students contribute research on international law developments as they affect coastal and marine resource management.

LL.M. Alumni Gather in Spain

The 13th annual reunion for Georgia Law's LL.M. alumni was dubbed a great success by association President Christof Siefarth (LL.M.'86). With approximately 15 alumni in attendance, the group renewed old friendships and created new contacts in



Posing for a picture in Spain are: (back row, l. to r.) Gerd Braunig (LL.M.'87), Patrick Specht (LL.M.'97), Giovanni Acerbi (LL.M.'75), Bernd Thalmann (LL.M.'87), (third row, l. to r.) Cecil Kramer (LL.M.'99), Franceline Acerbi, Christof Siefarth (LL.M.'86), Thomas Bentler (LL.M.'89), (second row, l. to r.) Pedro Morales-Gomez (LL.M.'00), Sylvie Frankignoul (LL.M.'99), Alan Sutin (J.D.'84), Sabine Siefarth, (front row, l. to r.) Ainhoa Veiga-Torregrosa (LL.M.'97), and Sebastian, Katharina and Stefanie Siefarth.

Madrid, Spain. The Law Dawgs visited the Supreme Court building in Madrid, met with judges and toured a variety of law firms, courtesy of Ainhoa Veiga-Torregrosa (LL.M.'97), the reunion organizer. A special keynote address, made by Juan Fernandez Armesto, a practicing attorney and law professor in Spain, proved interesting as he discussed the remuneration of directors in public corporations.

Attendees also took the opportunity to visit several museums, including the world-class Museo del Prado and Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza; the country's royal palace, Palacio de Oriente; Madrid's opera house; a bullfight; and the nearby city of Toledo.

Siefarth said these reunions are important to all alumni living abroad as it gives them a chance to reconnect with the law school and establish new relationships with fellow lawyers with whom one may come in contact with in the future. "These meetings are not just restricted to LL.M. graduates. J.D. students often attend the gatherings as well," he said.

The next reunion is being planned for later this year, May 6-9, in New York City, NY. Alan Sutin (J.D.'84) is planning the reunion's activities. For more information, please link to the association's Web site from www.law.uga.edu/alumni.

International Exposure

Georgia Law students have the opportunity to enrich their classroom experiences by traveling abroad as part of one of several international study/work programs. During the spring and summer of 2003, several second- and third-year students took advantage of the International Clerkship Program



Students gaining international legal experience are: (l. to r.) second-year students Amy Grynol (Argentina), Katie White (England) and Robert Vann (Guyana), third-year student Kathy Rogers (Germany) and second-year student Jessica Smernoff (Germany). Not pictured: Third-year students Sara Alexander (England) and Julie Tetrick (England) and second-year students Andrew Indahl (Ghana), John Marler (Guyana) and Elizabeth Reid (Guyana).

and the Dean Rusk Center Support Program for Law Students' International Initiatives and traveled to England, Germany, Argentina, Ghana and Guyana. In addition, two third-year students will travel to England through the London Law Consortium this spring.

Distinguished Visitors Lecture on Global Issues

The Dean Rusk Center -- International, Comparative and Graduate Legal Studies welcomed two international visitors during the fall semester.

The first was Manuel Medina Ortega who came to campus in October. A long-standing member of the European Parliament and its Committee on Legal Affairs and the Internal Market, Medina holds a chair and teaches at La Laguna University in his native Canary Islands and at Complutense University in Madrid, Spain.

He delivered two lectures on the continuing development of European integration. In his first presentation on the current draft for "A Constitution for an Enlarged Europe," Medina shared his perspectives on both the difficulties and the necessity of adopting the proposed Constitution rapidly and with little modification. His remarks on "The Enlargement of the European Union and the Wider Europe" focused on the impact of the forthcoming increase in European Union membership in 2004 and the effect that subsequent enlargements will have on the geopolitical environment of Europe.

The second international visitor, Palitha T.B. Kohona of the United Nations' Office of Legal Affairs visited in early November. Kohona, as head of the U.N.'s Treaty Section, has led this important unit through a major reorganization that has moved treaty registration into a sophisticated computer environment.

In his lectures, Kohona described the complex process of reservations and declarations to multilateral treaties. He discussed the role of his office in facilitating the deposit and acceptance of treaties. In addition, he emphasized the highly successful "annual treaty" events of the world body since the Millennium Summit in 2000, which are designed to encourage wider participation by countries in multilateral treaties. ■



At the groundbreaking ceremony this past spring are: (from l. to r.) Georgia Law alumna Stacy Godfrey (J.D.'03), Navy Supply Corps School Lt. Bill Clark, homeowner Gloria Ambrose, Habitat for Humanity Board President Jim Thompson and Kirk Whittington, representing the Koch family who was the principal financial donor for the house.

Law Students and Faculty Toss the Books and Pick Up Hammers

Last spring, a committed group of law students teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to give their brains a break and their muscles a challenge while constructing a house for a local Athens family in need. Stacey G. Godfrey (J.D.'03), current third-year student Eugenia D. Wooten and other students initially began fund-raising efforts in hopes of Georgia Law exclusively sponsoring a house.

By contacting members of the law school community, the students collected an impressive \$10,000. The law school faculty proved to be more than generous with major donors including professors John B. Rees Jr., Paul J. Heald, David E. Shipley, Sarajane N. Love (J.D.'73) and Paul M. Kurtz. The Western Circuit Bar Association and the UGA Student Bar Association were major contributors as well.

However, the law students found they were significantly shy of the \$46,000 needed to fully fund the building of a house. So, the Athens Area Habitat for Humanity partnered the law students with the Navy Supply Corps School (located in Athens) and the Koch family, whose donation was made in memory of lost family members in

the September 11th attacks. In April 2003, the group broke ground and completed the build this past fall.

Godfrey said it was great to see the law school community come together for such a worthy cause. "It is my hope that through increased awareness of the law school's success in its first joint sponsorship of a Habitat house, we can later come together to sponsor a house entirely on our own."

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit organization that has built more than 150,000 houses worldwide. Local Habitat offices coordinate volunteers who, with combined efforts in fund raising and material donations, assist in building a house for a selected family. These houses are sold to the families at no profit and financed with no-interest loans while the monthly mortgage payments are used to fund more Habitat homes. If you are interested in sponsoring or participating in future law school builds, please contact Genie Wooten at geniew@uga.edu.

The house was officially turned over its new owners on October 31 at a dedication ceremony.

-Alana Archer