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University of Georgia School of Law LLM Alumni Association

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NEWSLETTER 2001

LL.M.- Alumni NEWSLETTER

Number 15 June 2001

The 2001
LL.M. Alumni Reunion
in New Delhi, India

Postponed to November 2002

Since its inception, the annual meetings of the Alumni meetings have, traditionally, been located in Europe, with the notable exception of the meeting in Tel Aviv in 1995, Israel, and our "homecoming" to Athens in 1996 and 2000. In an attempt to change the venue to another locale and involve more Asian alumni, it was decided to hold the 12th meeting in New Delhi, India. Details will be sent shortly. Mark your calendars, make your flight reservations; November is one of the busiest travel times for India and flights are generally blocked WAY ahead of time.

The meeting shall be in New Delhi most of the time, and will include visits to the Supreme Court of India or the High Court of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University and some of the many sightseeings of New Delhi. Trips will be organized to Neemrana, India's oldest heritage resort, and to Agra, the quintessential Mughal city, and the famous Taj Mahal!

For those of you wishing to combine a holiday as well, separate itineraries shall be proposed for individual travel before/after the reunion! Pack your bags and get ready to savor different smells and sounds! All you Indian alumni, ensure a "full" presence -- the first Asian meet MUST be a success so that we can lure the alumni to return!

(Priti)

New Officers for Newsletter and Treasurer

Having done this job for most part of the existence of the UGA LL.M. Alumni Association, Gabi and Rainer Gildeggen (Class of 1987) have decided to pass the work of preparing the Newsletter in other hands (see Newsletter no. 14). The fact that this is already issue no. 15 shows the success of their constant work.

The first Newsletter was circulated in March 1990 and was prepared by Christian Droop and Jan Champ (both Class of 1989). Gabi and Rainer Gildeggen took over in Spring 1994 (Newsletter no. 7) and continued until April 2000 (Newsletter no. 14). Today, with email and desktop publishing, the technical preparation has become much easier (thanks to the perfect preparatory work of Gabi and Rainer). Gabi and Rainer, we cannot thank you enough for this truly marvelous job,

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The 2000 LL.M. Alumni Reunion in Athens, Georgia, May 17 – 22, 2000

Thank you, Rainer and Gabi, for doing such a remarkable job of the Newsletter for several years. The mantle, which I have inherited, is not an easy one. But, before I make myself more nervous in anticipation of the level of expectations created by my predecessors, let me plunge into a report of the fun-filled 11th reunion in Athens.

For many of us it was a return after a long interval; personally, despite having returned to Athens several times since my graduation in 1989, it was, however, my first time back with the alumni. The turnout was fairly impressive; more than 30 alumni from all over the world some having traveled nearly 20 hours. Needless to say the lure of Athens was strong enough to overcome the deterrent of the long flights for many of us.

What a welcome! Jill Birch, who was responsible for organizing the events, had laid it out all so perfectly, right from selecting the gorgeous ambience of the Hotel Magnolia, the reunion hotel, down to the minute details of providing special request meals! Bridget Harden, Jill's assistant, who just started her job a few weeks before the meeting, acted as if she has always been part of our big international family. Thank you, Jill and Bridget. Day One saw us all at the reception at the Magnolia; resounding shrieks in the front terrace were an indication of the sheer delight when old classmates met and new introductions were made. The venue moved shortly to a new restaurant downtown which area, by the way, has an entirely new look. Forgive my digressions as I could not help but take a walk down memory lane and compare the Athens of the "new millennium" with the Athens of 1988-1989!

While we were pursuing the LL.M. program, not many of us had the chance to tour classic Athens. Now a perfect opportunity was provided by a 90 minutes tour led by a professional tour guide who educated us about the landmarks, legends and lore, which contribute in making Athens a "Classic City". Lunch at the Blue Willow Inn was an experience in the tremendous southern hospitality. Post lunch was a tour of the city of Madison renowned for its historic districts. Our walking tours of Heritage Hall, the Rose Cottage and the Rogers House were a return to another era.

In the evening we reconverged at the Magnolia Terrace for a connaitre with the LL.M. Class of 2000 and a sumptuous buffet spread. Nobody was willing the party to end and people did not need much persuasion to move to experiment the new bars in town.

which also contributed to keeping the association active for so many years now.

Fortunately, another active member of the LL.M. Alumni Association, Priti Suri (Class of 1989) volunteered to continue this tradition. The association is very happy that Priti took over this time-consuming work, but also that the "European dominance" regarding officers of the Association was nicely broken. The preparation of this Newsletter by constant exchange of emails between Germany and India (and all the other places Priti and I traveled in the meantime) shows how truly international the LL.M. Alumni Association already is. Thank you, Priti, for taking over responsibility for the Newsletter!

Another alumni, who has spent many hours contributing to the Association, Dagmar Thürmann (Class of 1986) has also decided to step back from her position. After being treasurer of the (worldwide) UGA LL.M. Alumni Association as well as the "engine" behind the (German) non-for-profit association (which was established as early as 1994 and is officially registered with the Hanover Register of Associations), Dagmar will remain an active member of the Association, but has decided to resign from her current position as treasurer. Thanks, Dagmar, for your great work, I am sure no one envies you for your constant "fight" with the German tax authorities!

Fortunately, we also found an appropriate replacement for Dagmar's difficult job: Thomas Bentler (Class of 1989) will learn all tax secrets from Dagmar and lead particularly the German non-for-profit association through Germany's almost annual "big" tax reforms. Thank you, Thomas, for this courage.

(Christof)

Business Meeting of the 10th Annual Reunion

The following issues were discussed:

- It was confirmed that the next reunion will take place in New Delhi, India from November 19–25, 2001. The 2001 meeting will be organized by Priti Suri and Sanjiv Verma.
- The 2002 meeting will most likely take place in May 2002 in Madrid, Spain. Ainhoa Veiga-Torregrosa (Class of 1997) volunteered to organize the 2002 meeting.
- Christof reported that, despite the strong currency of the US-Dollar, enough funds were collected to donate to the law school an amount of \$8,000 for the purchase of computers to be installed in the Dean Rusk Center, and a total amount of \$1,875 was spent for purchasing "Introduction to the Legal System of the US" which was presented as a gift to the LL.M. Class

On Friday morning we met at the new Dean Rusk Center building (where Professor Wilner and the Graduate Legal Studies offices are now located) for our business meeting where various issues, mentioned below, were discussed. Following the meeting, Professor Edward J. Larson, 1998 Pulitzer prize winner for Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate over Science and Religion, discussed the renowned Scopes monkey trial.

Following the talk, the reunion alumni were invited for the Law School's annual buffet lunch with the faculty, administrators and support staff. A glowing tribute was also paid to Professor Walter Ray Phillips who retired after 27 years of teaching at the UGA Law School. It was a remarkable opportunity to mingle with our ex-Professors and their families. The same evening the Law School saw us heading to the State Botanical Gardens where a cocktail reception was hosted for the Class of 2000: both J.D. and LL.M. A delightful evening which certainly was continued by the alumni as we continued our explorations of the cuisines at downtown restaurants (and the bars!!).

The big day finally arrived on Saturday morning – Graduation for the Class of 2000. While many of the LL.M. had breakfast with the chief guest, Georgia Governor Barnes, others prepared to walk in their academic regalia and participated in the graduation exercises. It was pleasant to see several of the LL.M. alumni in their robes while we all hankered after the most sought after and elusive man in sight – the photographer! The LL.M. reunion group got a special mention during the ceremony and Christof rose to the occasion by highlighting the chief activities of the alumni. He explained the goal, past and future activities of the Association. Dean Shipley and Professor Gabriel Wilner received a gift, a check in the amount of \$8,000.00 for the purchase of computers and a printer to be installed in the Dean Rusk Center and to be used by LL.M. and J.D. students engaged in working with international law. Professor Gabriel Wilner as well as Professor Frederick W. Huszagh were specifically recognized and they received special awards from the UGA LL.M. Alumni Association for their outstanding and continuous support of the Graduate Legal Studies program.

And, soon it was all over! Of course, it was still party time; as the graduating LL.M.'s and the alumni traversed the short distance back to the Dean Rusk Hall for (yet another) reception and a delectable lunch hosted by Gisele and Professor Wilner. Needless to say, no UGA law school graduation is complete without the customary reception hosted at the Wilners residence where we all returned the same evening for delicious hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Can we return more frequently, Gisele and Gabe? The evening concluded at a restaurant downtown - as always - it's so easy to get used to the good things of Athens!

On Sunday morning the courageous and the daring

of 2001.

· Christof Siefarth (president), Giovanni Acerbi (vice president) were reelected for another one year term.

· Thomas Bentler was elected treasurer of the German non-for-profit association administering the fund, for one year, replacing Dagmar who has fulfilled the role since 1994. Priti Suri was elected as the newsletter editor for a one year term replacing Gabi and Rainer Gildeggen.

(Priti)

Thank You to the EURO 500 Club

Thanks to the contributions by some alumni (most of which donated EURO 500), we were able to spend almost \$10,000 for donations to the class of 2001 (books) and for computers. Taking many hurdles, four PCs and one laser printer were installed in March 2001 in the lobby of the Dean Rusk Center for the use by LL.M. and J.D. students for the research of international law.

Since our funds are almost used up, and the purchase of books for the incoming class of 2002 will, unfortunately, not be possible, each and every alumni is asked to pay his annual fee and to make additional contributions. The Graduate Legal Studies program should be further supported by us!

(Christof)

alumni headed for a whitewater rafting adventure on the steepest, most exciting commercial whitewater in the Southeast – Chattooga River. It was a quite brave group – all signed up for section 4, with five challenging drops in a row, one of which was even too dangerous to take! The breathtaking waterfalls and scenery made it worthwhile for all the alumni who survived the trip notwithstanding the steep drops and ledges. Despite the aches and sore bodies, the experience lived to its promise of being the ultimate whitewater trip. For the benefit of those of us who stayed back lazing around, the weary travelers narrated their adventures over an indoor barbecue as finally the rain ruined the outdoor plans and compelled us to spend our last night in Athens in the portals of the newest addition to the Law School, our „home“ since nearly a week.

The following morning the alumni, who had stayed behind, shifted to Atlanta for the next two days where we met with three judges of the Georgia Supreme Court and had a private audience and shared views about the different court procedures in various countries. A visit to Martin Luther King's memorial was followed by a cocktail reception hosted by Kilpatrick Stockton where the alumni had an opportunity to meet with US attorneys engaged in international business transactions. The evening culminated in a terrific Sushi dinner at one of Atlanta's finest restaurants.

On May 23 – the last morning of the program – the remaining alumni went for a breakfast meeting at the law firm of Smith Gambrell Russell and had another opportunity to discuss diverse experiences with the attorneys working in the field of international law. The discussion ended mid-morning and all alumni headed back to their businesses.

Many thanks to Jill Birch and her team who organized a perfect reunion in Athens! See you all in Athens in 2005.



Alumni News

Giovanni Acerbi (class of 1974) has moved his law firm (Avv. Giovanni Acerbi Studio Legale) to Via Canova, 7/a, 20145 Milano, Italy; phone +39 02 347325, fax +39 02 34 531071, e-mail: studioacerbi@tiscalinet.it.

Anders Allvin (class of 1999) will move back to Sweden and will join PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Stockholm. Until further notice he may be reached by e-mail at: anders_allvin@hotmail.com.

Erik Daems (class of 1998) will join the law firm Covington & Burling, Brussels, Belgium, as of May 2, 2001. He may be reached at Avenue des Arts 44, 1040 Brussels, Belgium, phone +32 2 549 52 30, fax +32 2 502 15 98, email: edaems@cov.com.

Maria Magdalena Ortega, and Oswaldo Quintana (both class of 1996) are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Oswaldo Andrés, in July 2000, joining his two year old sister Isabella. Oswaldo was promoted to the position of Vice President Corporate and Legal Affairs of 1BC Enterprises and Maria Magdalena was promoted to Associate Regional Counsel – Trademarks, Procter & Gamble, Latin American Headquarters, both in Caracas, Venezuela. Maria Magdalena's email address is: ortega.mm@pg.com; Oswaldo may be reached at oquintana@rctv.net.

Christian Pitschas (class of 1994) has moved from the Brussels office of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer to the Berlin office after having spent 15 months in the Brussels office. After the merger of

Freshfields Deringer with Bruckhaus, leading to the new firm name in August 2000, the Berlin office now resides at Potsdamer Platz 1, and Christian reports on a marvellous view. He may be reached in the Berlin office at Potsdamer Platz 1, 10785 Berlin, phone +49 30 20 28 37 031, fax +49 30 20 28 37 66, e-mail: christian.pitschas@freshfields.com.

Christof Siefarth (class of 1986), announces that GÖRG Rechtsanwälte now maintains, in addition to the Cologne headquarters, offices in Frankfurt and Essen, Germany. As of March 1, 2001, GÖRG Rechtsanwälte has joined the international association of independent law firms called D & P, consisting of well regarded independent law firms all over Europe. Christof can be reached at csiefarth@goerg.de.

Bernd Thalmann (class of 1987) and his 40 or so colleagues of the Gaedertz office in Frankfurt have joined the US firm Mayer, Brown & Platt, currently the 7th largest US law firm. Bernd will continue his M&A and corporate practice in the Frankfurt office. He can be reached at Mayer, Brown & Platt – Gaedertz, Bockenheimer Landstr. 98-100, 60323 Frankfurt, Germany, phone +49 69 7941-277, fax +49 69 7941-100, email: bthalmann@mayerbrown.com.

Daniel Vielleville (class of 1996) has joined the international litigation department of Greenberg Traurig, P.A., Miami, Florida, USA. He may be reached at phone: +1 305 789-5411, fax +1 305 579-0717, e-mail: viellevilled@gtlaw.com.

Evelien Visser (class of 1998) is apparently not tired taking exams and has left private practice to pursue studying at Oxford University to obtain a doctor of philosophy degree. The research topic is a comparative examination under English and Dutch law of pre-contractual liability in the acquisition of companies. She may be reached at MCR, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford OX2 6QA, United Kingdom, e-mail: evelina.visser@law.ox.ac.uk. Evelien sends her best regards to the class of 1998 and all other alumni she had the pleasure to meet in Amsterdam in 1999.

Hege S. Zakiarissen (class of 1999) reports on a probably unique success of her graduate legal studies at UGA: on June 9, 2001, she will marry Damon L. Sanderson (a UGA J.D. graduate) and eventually move to Atlanta later this summer. Congratulations to both of you! Please report to Hege (hegesz@hotmail.com) whether she is the first UGA LL.M. to marry a UGA J.D. or whether there are any precedents.

(alumni news compiled by Christof)