

# Center entrenches law school's global presence

The Dean Rusk International Law Center, which will celebrate its 40th anniversary this October, continues to entrench the University of Georgia School of Law in the global legal community. Exemplifying this, *U.S. News & World Report* earlier this year ranked Georgia Law among the top 18 law schools in the country for international law.

Leading the center from 2015 to 2017 was Diane Marie Amann, holder of the Woodruff Chair in International Law. She stepped down as associate dean for international programs and strategic initiatives in June. Interim director is Kathleen A. Doty, formerly the center's director of global practice preparation. She is supported by Amann and Harlan G. Cohen, the holder of the Wilner/UGA Foundation Professorship in International Law, who are serving as the center's faculty co-directors. Supported by this leadership, staff and more than one dozen Rusk student ambassadors, the center will continue to serve as the international law and policy nucleus for education, scholarship and other collaborations among faculty and students, the greater law school community, and diverse local and global partners.

Center initiatives include **global practice preparation** and other support both for J.D. students and for foreign-trained lawyers who come to the law school to earn an LL.M. degree. Curricular offerings during the 2016-17 year included the **International Law Colloquium**, in which scholars – including Visiting Scholar Javier Dondé Matute (LL.M.'98), a professor at Mexico's National Institute of Criminal Sciences – presented works in progress, as well as a not-for-credit **Legal Spanish Study Group** led by the center's Fellow, Pedro Dorado (LL.M.'15, J.D.'17).

The center sponsored a J.D.-LL.M. team that placed first in the fall 2016 Southeast Model African Union regional competition. **International law advocacy** continued throughout the academic year with Georgia Law students competing in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna, Austria, and in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition.

Students also took part in two center-hosted conferences. In fall 2016, "Humanity's Common Heritage: The First Geneva Convention" was cosponsored by the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Jean-Marie Henckaerts (LL.M.'90), an ICRC legal adviser, provided

the keynote. In the spring, nearly 100 scholars, including several Georgia Law students and alumnae, presented at the "IntLawGrrls 10th Birthday Conference."

The center's decades-old **Global Externship** summer initiative was again a success in 2017, thanks in no small part to assistance from Georgia Law graduates, including many who serve on the Dean Rusk International Law Center Council. Twenty Georgia Law students earned practice experience through placements at law firms, in-house legal departments, government agencies and nongovernmental organizations in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and the Middle East. Of these, one dozen students worked in business-related areas like intellectual property, finance and trade, while the rest held public interest law placements, working in areas like international criminal law, international child law and international human rights.

Many students complemented their Global Externships with participation in the **Global Governance Summer School** that the Dean Rusk International Law Center presented in partnership with the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies at Belgium's University of Leuven, one of Europe's premier research institutions. Featured were professional development trips to The Hague and Brussels, plus classroom seminars and an experts' conference in Leuven, where the law school's faculty presented alongside European colleagues.

Rounding out the academic year were presentations, on issues ranging from Brexit to the Vietnam War, by a range of **globally prominent speakers**. They included: Ertharin Cousin (J.D.'82), then the U.N. World Food Programme executive director; Professor Gabrielle Kauffman-Kohler, an international arbitrator and professor at the Geneva University Law School in Switzerland; Pulitzer Prize-winning author Viet Thanh Nguyen; former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navanethem Pillay; Derek Shearer, former U.S. Ambassador to Finland; and Shane Stephens, Atlanta-based counsel general of Ireland.

Next year's offerings promise to be equally rich, beginning with a *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* conference on international trade law, planned for this fall.