10-1-2014

Newsletter, Fall 2014, vol. 9, issue 1

The Dean Rusk International Law Center
Georgia Law Summer Program in Brussels & Geneva – Record Year

Thirty-five participants enrolled in the 2014 summer program on European Union Business Law and International Trade Law jointly sponsored by Georgia Law’s Dean Rusk Center and the Université St-Louis in Brussels. They came from 14 different countries in North America, Europe, Central Asia, South America, and Indonesia and included, along with law students, practicing attorneys, journalists, and government and NGO employees. During the first two weeks in Brussels, students gained an overview of the European Union, its fundamental principles and institutions and then took a closer look at business law issues, including intellectual property, competition, tax, and environmental law concerns in the European Union context. In the third week, which took place in Geneva, the focus was on international trade law practice under the World Trade Organization.

In addition to distinguished academics from Belgian and Swiss universities, the speakers who shared their views and entertained questions from program participants included: international lawyers, officials from the European Commission and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, a legal strategist from Greenpeace EU, a legal counselor at the World Intellectual Property Organization, and top trade diplomats representing the U.S., the EU, and Brazil. A special aspect of the program was the opportunity for students to network with partners in top law firms and younger practitioners.
The Rusk Center has continued in the past academic year to further the engagement of faculty and students with international law and policy issues. We sponsored two conferences on topics of growing interest to both the government and private corporate sectors, one on the expanding role of corporations in rule-making and regulatory activity and the other on an emerging paradigm of public-private collaboration designed to insure security in the cyber sphere. In addition, we partnered with student organizations and university departments to host prominent speakers on a variety of topics of current interest.

We continue to expand our training programs for foreign law students and judges and are particularly excited about building on existing partnerships, as in the case of InteRDom, which has placed our students in internships in the Dominican Republic and brought students from there to Georgia Law for short courses on U.S. law.

This issue of the newsletter also draws attention to the law school’s international advocacy program by spotlighting the Vis international arbitration moot court team that competes annually in Vienna. Their experience reveals that Vis competition involves hard work, but is also an excellent means to develop lawyering skills and a terrific forum for networking.

As always, we are particularly proud of the high level programming we offer students abroad. We plan next summer to offer again our excellent China program at top universities in Beijing and Shanghai, with an introduction to Chinese commercial law and U.S.-China trade issues, featuring the benefit of an exciting new partnership with Shanghai Jiao Tong University (see below).

This past summer, in our European summer program, students and professionals from 14 different countries studied European Union Law, International Trade Law, and the World Cup together. The photos in this newsletter capture some of the camaraderie and enjoyment in Brussels and Geneva.

We are proud that many of our alumni gravitate toward international careers as a result of their experiences with study abroad, the Global Internship Program, and the Georgia Law at Oxford semester program, and we hope to hear from those who would like to share their experiences with the law school community.

To find out more about Rusk Center programming, please visit our web site: www.law.uga.edu/dean-rusk-center-international-law-and-policy.

NEW PARTNERSHIP IN CHINA WITH JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY

In 2015, the Dean Rusk Center will partner with Jiao Tong University’s KoGuan Law School for the Shanghai portion of the Georgia Law Summer Program in China, a 4-credit ABA-approved course of study in Beijing and Shanghai. This partnership with one of China’s leading law schools promises great benefits, including a convenient location in the downtown area of China’s financial metropolis. "We are excited about the excellent academic opportunities for our students at Jiao Tong and look forward to another exciting summer in China," commented Dean Rusk Center Director Don Johnson.

The law school’s summer program in China was established in 2006 and has provided a unique opportunity to see firsthand the rapidly developing legal culture and economy there. For some, the experience in China can provide an edge in job interviews, but whether or not the trip leads to employment, it can certainly expand horizons. A 2013 participant characterized the program as “the most fun experience of my life, but also the most rewarding experience of my life, one that I will draw upon both professionally and socially for years to come.”

In Beijing, the Rusk Center will continue its longstanding partnership with the prestigious Tsinghua University School of Law. In addition to popular cultural excursions, the program offers a briefing on U.S.-China trade issues with U.S. embassy officials, a seminar with the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, and a field trip to Shanghai’s international commercial arbitration center.
Lee A. Feinstein, a former U.S. ambassador to Poland and the law school’s Sanders Political Leadership Scholar during the fall 2013 semester, gave a lecture to the law school community last October on “Humanitarian Intervention and International Law.” Discussing several notable failures in humanitarian intervention, Feinstein highlighted that the Rwandan Genocide and Srebrenica Massacre both involved one UN Security Council member blocking the passage of a resolution authorizing force. Bringing the conversation to the ongoing Syrian civil war, Feinstein noted that the International Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle can remedy such Security Council inaction. A UN initiative established in 2005, R2P focuses on preventing genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing. It might be utilized again in the near future if diplomatic measures prove unsuccessful, Feinstein said.

Karima Bennoune, a law professor at the University of California, Davis, and a former Amnesty International human rights lawyer, gave a presentation in November on her recently published book, Your Fatwa Doesn’t Apply Here: Untold Stories from the Fight Against Muslim Fundamentalism (W.W. Norton 2013). This event was co-sponsored by the Wilson Center for Humanities and Arts, the African Studies Institute, and the law school’s Georgia Society for International and Comparative Law as well as the International Law Students Association.

During her field research for the book, Bennoune interviewed nearly 300 people throughout the Muslim world and diaspora. Her talk illuminated trends in Muslim fundamentalism at the local level, including its impact on the ability of individuals to express themselves through the arts and the denial of rights to women, and suggested a shift in the current framework for understanding and combating it.

Congressman David Scott of Georgia’s 13th District spoke to a packed Larry Walker Room in January on the international implications of the Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which aims “to control and minimize our risk and get financial stability,” and was passed in 2010 following years of financial crisis. He spoke forcefully of the United States’ need to regain its position in the world and set the rules by which the world economy will play.

Beyond ensuring that transactions with swaps and derivatives are done in the light of day, the U.S. needs to insist on harmonization with rules in other nations, Scott emphasized. In regard to sanctions against Iran, he sounded a cautious note, suggesting that “We must first verify and then trust.” Congressman Scott’s lecture was co-sponsored by the Black Law Students Association.

William Roebuck (J.D.’92), then Deputy Assistant Secretary for Egypt and Maghreb Affairs, gave a lunchtime talk in March entitled “From Law School to Diplomacy in Libya: Threading a Path through the Foreign Service.” A mentee of the eminent late Professor Louis Sohn, Roebuck entered the Department of State’s Foreign Service following his graduation from Georgia Law.

In his lecture Roebuck shared some personal experiences, focusing particularly on his areas of expertise. A former chargé d’affaires for Libya, he remarked that the efforts of the United States to stay on the right side of history have confronted particular difficulties as a result of a “souring aftermath” of the Arab Spring. Noting that many North African and Middle Eastern societies are hostage to local histories and stubborn geographic and socioeconomic realities, Roebuck insisted that democracy promotion would remain a core U.S. foreign policy goal, balanced with other core interests such as counterterrorism, defense of allies and energy security. (Recently President Obama nominated Roebuck to be U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain. — Ed.)

Ramin Jahanbegloo gave a lecture in April on “Democracy and Nonviolence in Iran” that was co-sponsored by UGA’s Department of Sociology. The York-Noor Visiting Chair in Islamic Studies at York University in Toronto, Jahanbegloo has gained international recognition for his extensive academic work promoting dialogue between cultures and his advocacy of nonviolence.

In Iran, where a strong civil society exists, “nonviolence has always been a very important means of social transformation and political change in the past hundred years,” remarked Jahanbegloo. It has encouraged popular movements with moral legitimacy, he said, including the Iranian Green Movement and the movement for women’s rights, which he called “one of the strongest in the whole Muslim world.”

Concluding on a hopeful note for the future of democracy in Iran, he nevertheless admonished that “democracy is not a given; it is actually a task.”
CYBERSECURITY CONFERENCE LOOKS AT POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE-PUBLIC COLLABORATION

Senior level officials from government and leaders from academia and the corporate sector gathered in Athens at the Dean Rusk Center’s March conference on “Cybersecurity and National Defense: Building a Public-Private Partnership.” The event, which was co-sponsored by UGA’s School of Public and International Affairs, provided a unique opportunity for the participants to exchange ideas about current challenges facing the U.S. government and private corporations.

Quentin E. Hodgson, chief of staff for cyber policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, discussed the development of an emerging cyber mission force. He emphasized that cyberspace is not just an amorphous thing, but servers and switches that reside in physical areas and are largely owned and operated by private sector companies and individuals, thus complicating the goal of defending U.S. networks.

The issue of states “stealing our core intellectual property — the very thing that drives the American economy and makes us the most innovative, most diverse, most successful economy in the world today” was taken up by Jamil N. Jaffer, director of the Homeland and National Security Law Program at George Mason University Law School and a senior Senate staffer.

Clete D. Johnson (J.D.’04), who serves as chief counsel for cybersecurity at the Federal Communications Commission, outlined the emergence of a new paradigm for public-private collaboration on cybersecurity through a difficult legislative process. Ultimately, he remarked, an executive order issued by President Obama encapsulated the principles of increased information sharing and a private sector driven standards process.

The importance of international partnerships was stressed by Victoria Woodbine, an official focusing on security policy at the British Embassy, who described her country’s multi-stakeholder approach. Emphasizing global interoperability, Adam Golodner, a partner at Kaye Scholer LLP, also cautioned against a potential “Balkanization of the Internet” that can occur if countries favor domestic standards over international ones under the guise of promoting security.

Andrea Matwyshyn, an assistant professor at the Wharton School and a Senior Policy Advisor at the Federal Trade Commission, highlighted the need for corporations to coordinate their efforts among themselves and from within.

In the concluding presentation, Jacob Olcott of Good Harbor Security Risk Management LLC outlined a variety of relationships the government has with the private sector, from supportive to punitive. While trust is important, “We want to also create thoughts about liability, because that’s an important driver for private sector behavior, too,” he said, adding that improved processes of disclosure will allow the market to work more efficiently so that investors can make informed decisions about cybersecurity risks.

panelists included:

Adam Golodner, Partner, Kaye Scholer LLP, Washington, D.C.

Colonel (Ret.) Barry Hensley, Executive Director, Counter Threat Unit, Dell SecureWorks, Atlanta, GA

Quentin E. Hodgson, Chief of Staff for Cyber Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense

Jamil N. Jaffer, Adjunct Professor of Law and Director, Homeland and National Security Law Program, George Mason University Law School

Clete D. Johnson, Chief Counsel for Cybersecurity, Federal Communications Commission

Andrea M. Matwyshyn, Assistant Professor, Legal Studies and Business Ethics, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania; Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Policy Planning, Federal Trade Commission

Jacob Olcott, Principal, Good Harbor Security Risk Management, LLC, Washington, D.C.

Victoria Woodbine, Foreign and Security Policy Group, British Embassy, Washington, D.C.

moderators included:

Loch K. Johnson, Regents Professor, School of Public and International Affairs, University of Georgia

Timothy L. Meyer, Assistant Professor, University of Georgia School of Law
THE NEW ROLES OF CORPORATIONS IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

This past April, the Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law’s annual conference at the Dean Rusk Center highlighted how corporations collaborate with national governments in the development of rules and policies and sometimes even take on functions that traditionally have been performed by public authorities.

Professor Errol Meidinger, Margaret W. Wong Professor of Law at SUNY-Buffalo, examined from a sociological perspective the phenomenon of corporations acting as supplemental regulatory bodies and the competition and variation in norm formulation that emerges.

A market exists for corporate norms, argued Andrew K. Woods, a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University, because corporations may want to “sap wind out of the sails of regulators” by signing up voluntarily for certain norms. Sellers of corporate norms initiatives may be NGOs, but sometimes are also governments which are unable to pass robust regulation themselves.

Clearinghouses were the topic of a presentation by Yesha Yadav, an assistant professor at Vanderbilt University. She demonstrated how they take on a role associated with formal financial regulatory bodies by providing a “bridge to connect regulators more closely with traders.” The risk of systemic damage posed by these “global dynamos” with a “tremendous amount of data flowing through their veins every day” should be of public concern, Yadav emphasized.

University of Connecticut School of Law professor Molly Land argued that technology design, while “invisible,” can be an extraordinarily effective form of regulation practiced by corporations. Taking a broad view, Anita Ramasastry, Gittinger Professor of Law at the University of Washington, explored the numerous human rights implications of international corporations filling a governance gap.

In his keynote address, Bennett Freeman, senior vice president for sustainability research and policy at Calvert Investments, reflected on his experiences over the last 15 years working at the intersection of the private and public sectors. He pointed toward a more hopeful framework of global governance, one in which the private sector is encouraged to be sustainable and accountable where possible and constrained when necessary. The ultimate goal, Freeman argued, should be building the capacity and political will of democratic governments, which carry the legitimacy that corporations inherently lack.

—Matthew O’Brien (J.D.’14), Executive Conference Editor of the Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law (2013–14)

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

“CHILDREN AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE” will be the topic of the next Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law conference scheduled for October 28, 2014. The keynote speaker will be the Honorable Fatou Bensouda, prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

For more information about Dean Rusk Center events, see www.law.uga.edu/international-programs.
The Rusk Center’s Global Internship Program, under the leadership of Associate Director María Eugenia Giménez, places Georgia Law students in pro bono legal summer jobs at law firms, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and research institutions around the world. Below are reports from three of the 16 students who participated in the program in 2014.

TURIN, ITALY: REGOLI E ASSOCIATI

The clicking of the city’s lights turning on at dusk was the sound that greeted me as I got home every evening. While not a popular tourist attraction, Turin is a large city of about one million people. It was the original capital of Italy, and a royal city when most of it was built, so the architecture everywhere in the city center is very stately and beautiful.

The people at Regoli e Associati, the law firm where I worked, were exceptionally friendly and helpful. The first day, the senior partner spent time having a coffee and getting to know a little about me, which was quite a nice introduction.

It may be a small firm, but they handle multibillion euro transactions and have many large corporate clients. Most of my time was spent looking over contracts for international mergers and acquisitions, joint venture agreements, and other corporate and banking law areas, which was something I had never done before, but thanks to a lot of research (and Googling) I got up to speed and figured out the main issues in the contracts fairly easily.

Italian and U.S. contract law are quite similar, so Contracts class helped me immensely, and the terminology also helped when I revised contracts because often there were words used which were technically synonyms but not the necessary legal terminology. Corporate law in the EU was particularly interesting, as there is a great debate regarding whether to follow a more American system or simply revise the system currently in place.

One thing I learned about Italian culture is that there is always time for people. They put people ahead of work in a way that Americans generally do not. It sometimes results in the view that Italians are “lazy,” but I thought this was a very important value, especially in the legal world where everyone is very rushed.

—Hannah Byars (Class of 2016)

AMMAN, JORDAN: TAMKEEN

My internship at Tamkeen, a non-governmental organization focused on human rights and combating human trafficking, involved representing migrant workers in Jordan.

Most migrant workers find employment either in the Qualifying Industrial Zones (mostly Egyptian male migrant workers) or as domestic workers (mostly Sri Lankan, Indonesian, and Filipino women). These workers come to Tamkeen after suffering violations of their rights, such as passport confiscation and physical abuse.

Tamkeen provides legal assistance, including mediation between the migrant worker and his or her employer, embassy, or recruitment agency. If they cannot reach a settlement, Tamkeen files a complaint in court. The law in Jordan is pro-employer. Fines for violating the rights of migrants are low and employers rarely face significant jail time.

Tamkeen fights for laws that are more balanced. For example, when an employer files an absconding report against a worker, the police arrest the person before investigating. Afterwards the police may do a light investigation and then subject the worker to deportation. The worker hardly ever gets a chance to prove innocence.

My first week was extremely busy, since Tamkeen was putting together reports of legal findings and statistics about migrant workers in Jordan. I also worked on a questionnaire that will be used to interview Syrian child workers who are being employed in Jordan in jobs not suitable for children.
Later I worked on a research project about detention of migrant workers in Jordan.

Typically, agencies, embassies, and employers illegally detain migrants by first confiscating their passports so that the migrants have limited mobility. My goal was to determine best regional and international practices for dealing with this issue. Some of the cases I dealt with included migrant housemaids who were not allowed to get enough rest, to shower or gain access to adequate food, and suffered physical and mental abuse.

On my days off, I became hyper-aware of the migrant workers around us and carried business cards for Tamkeen in case I needed to slip one to a worker. A few times I spotted migrant housemaids with their host families in food courts. I would hang around the food court even after I was done eating just to make sure the migrant was receiving adequate food and humane treatment.

On a lighter note, I took tours around Jordan that were really fun and helped me gain an understanding of Jordan’s rich culture and history. The sites were breathtakingly beautiful and I had the opportunity to work on my photography skills.

—Stephany Sheriff (Class of 2015)

I interned at Shurat HaDin, an Israeli civil rights organization that combats terrorism through civil litigation in courts around the world. It has won more than $1 billion in judgments against terrorist organizations and their state sponsors, such as Iran and Syria, and has collected over $120 million on behalf of victims of terror.

My internship involved two distinct sets of activities. First, we conducted legal research and wrote memoranda for cases that the organization worked on. In particular, I worked on the appeal for Han Kim v. Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, a case involving a Korean reverend who was abducted and allegedly tortured and killed by North Korea. The man’s family sued North Korea under the terrorism exception to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. A district court in Washington D.C. dismissed the case and it is currently on appeal to the D.C. Circuit.

The second set of activities that the internship involved was traveling and listening to speakers who brought unique perspectives about legal and political issues related to the Middle East.

On a field trip to the north of Israel, we were able to make several stops along the security fence and looked across the border directly into southern Lebanon, which has come firmly under the control of Hezbollah since Israel withdrew its occupation of Lebanon. We also visited an army base where we were able to go inside a bunker and speak with soldiers who guarded the border.

We made several trips to Jerusalem, including one in which we were able to sit in on hearings of a military tribunal. We met with the legal adviser to the police chief of Israel, a former head of Israel’s Military Court of Appeals. He explained the distinctions between Israel’s civil and military court systems and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Overall, it was a great opportunity to experience cutting-edge legal work in counterterrorism litigation. I would recommend the internship to anyone interested in the region or the field.

—Dov Preminger (Class of 2015)
INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL TRAINING PROGRAM

A Brazilian Judge’s Perspective on Judicial Training at Georgia Law

Although I had visited the United States several times before, I knew that a two-week training course on judicial administration would provide me with a totally new perspective on both the nation and its legal system.

The International Judicial Training Program (IJTP) had, in my opinion, the perfect blend of lectures and other activities, presenting the participants with a good overview of the court systems in the U.S. as well as the basics of criminal and civil procedures, evidence rules, lawyer education, judicial careers, landmark cases, court administration, and professional ethics.

Furthermore, activities such as mock trial and the visits to Georgia courts were of great importance in showing us how those juridical concepts are applied in practice. Regarding that, I have to mention the post-conviction programs that we were introduced to that really triggered my interest, such as the DUI and drug courts. It was great to see the coordinated efforts of justice and treatment professionals to intervene actively and break the cycle of substance abuse and addiction.

Participating in the IJTP was a one-of-a-kind experience that I would strongly recommend, not only to my colleagues at the court but also to anyone interested in learning about the United States judicial system by taking part in a top-notch training program.

—João Marcelo Longhi Malheiro da Graca, Legal Advisor at the Regional Electoral Court of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

TRANSNATIONAL LAW PROGRAM

Rusk Center Partnership with the Dominican Republic Expands

Over the course of the past three years, students representing the Dean Rusk Center’s Global Internship Program have traveled to the Dominican Republic to do legal pro bono work in local organizations through the InterDom program. Their excitement about Dominican culture, willingness to integrate themselves into community activities, and enthusiasm for their work make them model interns, and as a result InterDom has sought to deepen its connections with Georgia Law.

This year, InterDom, through a new program called Global Dominican Academic Exchange, sent 10 Dominican law students to participate in a week-long Transnational Law Program (TLP) at UGA, featuring coursework in international and environmental law, networking events, and cultural activities for international students.

The Transnational Law Program went above and beyond our expectations in terms of its organization, the quality of the coursework, and the invaluable knowledge and inspiration that each student took away. Dominican participants were struck by the beauty of the campus, the professionalism of the instructors, and the flawless execution of logistics and activities.

In our globalized world, great social and cultural rifts still exist. Exchanges help bridge those gaps and prepare future leaders. As one TLP participant reported in his evaluation of the program, “It was really interesting learning not only about law, but also about the U.S. legal and academic systems, which sometimes can be very different from ours. Also, these new angles can help us, as future lawyers and even professors, improve those same systems in the Dominican Republic.”

—Mandy Sciacchitano, InterDom and Fellows Program Manager, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development
SCHOLARLY EXCHANGE

Visiting Scholars 2014–15

Zhinming Li, Associate Professor of Law at East China Institute of Technology, is working with Professor Randy Beck on “Rights of Persons with Disabilities” (Dec. 2013–Nov. 2014).

Kengo Itamochi (LL.M.’14) is researching “From Private Incorporation to General Incorporation Law: Focusing on General and Private Statutes in New York” with Assistant Professor Logan Sawyer (May 2014–June 2015).

New Exchange with Bar-Ilan University Faculty of Law

Georgia Law has developed a new faculty exchange with Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan in the Tel Aviv district of Israel. Last December, Associate Professor Harlan G. Cohen taught a short course on “The Evolution of International Adjudication” at Bar-Ilan. This September, Professor Oran Perez came to Athens from Bar-Ilan to teach a week-long course on “Regulation, Politics and the Environment.”

INTERNATIONAL LAW FACULTY UPDATES

Amann Serves as Distinguished Discusant and Publishes Book Woodruff Chair in International Law Diane Marie Amann served as the Distinguished Discusant for the 16th Annual Grotesus Lecture at the American Society of International Law’s Annual Meeting. Her talk was titled “The Post-Postcolonial Woman or Child.” Amann also serves as editor-in-chief of the Benchbook on International Law (American Society of International Law).

Meyer and Rutledge Testify before U.S. Senate Committees Associate Professor Timothy Meyer testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations regarding the possible ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Associate Dean for Faculty Development & Talmadge Chair Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge testified at the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee hearing titled “The Federal Arbitration Act and Access to Justice: Will Recent Supreme Court Decisions Undermine the Rights of Consumers, Workers and Small Businesses?”

Cohen Honored with Membership in the American Law Institute Associate Professor Harlan G. Cohen was elected to serve as a member of the American Law Institute, an organization that is dedicated to producing scholarly work to help clarify, modernize and improve the law.

LL.M. CLASS OF 2015 WELCOMED

Fifteen lawyers from across the globe are enrolled in Georgia Law’s LL.M. program for the 2014–2015 academic year.

Pictured, from left to right: Front row: Charles Adegoke (Nigeria), Si Chen (China), Hassan Ahmed (Egypt), Minyi Yeow (Malaysia), Jessica Kayes (United Kingdom), Tobias Henke (Germany), Jan Jost (Germany); back row: Fei Yu (China), Dudly Chiwandire (Zimbabwe), Ilyas Golcuklu (Turkey), Pedro Dorado (Argentina), Lei Wang (China), Kuo Sun (China); not pictured: Kenita Cumberbatch (Guyana).
International Advocacy

GEORGIA LAW STUDENTS TRAVEL TO VIENNA FOR THE 21ST ANNUAL VIS INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION MOOT

The business community’s notable preference for resolving international commercial disputes by arbitration is the impetus behind the annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot competition, which takes place annually in Hong Kong and Vienna.

Each student team learns to write memoranda on issues flowing from a fictional transaction relating to the sale or purchase of goods for both claimants and respondents and to present oral arguments based on the memoranda before expert arbitrators from both civil and common law backgrounds.

This year, Georgia Law’s team was coached long-distance from Germany by Phil Ray (J.D. ’78), a retired in-house counsel for Siemens AG Legal Service. In Athens, the team received expert guidance from Associate Dean Peter “Bo” Rutledge, who had successfully coached and sponsored four previous UGA Vis Moot teams.

Competing in Vienna last spring, the Georgia Law team achieved a high finish, making it to the Round of 16 in a competition with 290 schools from 63 countries. Third-year student Will Hamby-Hopkins also brought home an Honorable Mention for best oralist.

Ray credits the Vis Moot with developing the competence of “tomorrow’s lawyers” in fundamental lawyering skills and giving them a step up in the world of international commercial arbitration.

Mark Grafton (Class of 2015) offered the student perspective:

How did you get chosen for the team?

I’ve been told I was selected (at moot court tryouts) because my manner of speech is slow and deliberate, which is important when speaking to non-native speakers.

What does preparation for the Vis competition involve?

The preparation begins nearly six months before the competition. Teams research the legal issues and then write briefs for both sides. In January, once the briefs have been submitted, the teams begin practicing the oral component of the competition. Our team would routinely travel to Atlanta law offices to do practice rounds with Vis alumni. In addition, we scheduled long distance video moots with teams from Germany, Brazil, and India. The final practices came when we traveled to Miami and then New Orleans to compete against other U.S. schools.

What was it like being in Vienna with the other teams?

The best experience I’ve had in law school yet. Excitement is high, as are the nerves. This competition has been a large part of everyone’s...
lives for the better half of a year. But everyone was incredibly sociable and eager to network with people from countries other than their own.

What was the biggest challenge?
Not knowing what kind of questioning you were going to get. Each arbitration panel had three arbitrators, often all from different countries. Some panels were “hot” and would ask rapid fire questions, others were “cold” and would sit silently as you presented your case. You had to be prepared for both.

What have you gotten out of being a team member?
It was great getting to work with Professor Rutledge and my teammates, Ryan and Will; seeing how each of them approached the issues helped me develop my own style. I’ve learned about how students from other countries approach oral advocacy and made some friends across the globe along the way.

On May 27, 2014, Georgia Public Television screened “DEAN RUSK: AT THE HEARTBEAT OF HISTORY,” a 30-minute documentary followed by commentary by members of the Rusk family, Tom Johnson (former CNN CEO and LBJ aide) and Rusk Center Director Don Johnson.

To view the videos, visit www.law.uga.edu/rusk-center-logo-gpb-video-link.
Spotlight on Alumni in International Law

DAVID HULL, J.D. ‘83

A partner at Van Bael & Bellis, a leading European law firm in Brussels with a team of multinational lawyers, David Hull traces his career path back to travel experiences prior to studying law. "By the time that I applied for law school, I was sure that I wanted to do something that had an international connection and I chose Georgia Law because of its strong international program," he explains.

After participating in the Brussels summer seminar on EU Law, he decided to pursue an LL.M. degree in the subject in Brussels after graduation. That background helped him land a job in Belgium, where he has been practicing law ever since. He specializes in representing clients in complex investigations before the European Commission and in litigation before the EU courts in Luxembourg.

Hull enjoys the international scope of his area of expertise, European antitrust law. "Globalization has made the world a much smaller place than when I was a student," he remarks, and illustrates his point with an example: “Yesterday, I had a call with a client in Japan in the morning to discuss a cartel case, jumped on the Eurostar to London, was working on a brief for an appeal to the EU court during the trip, had an afternoon meeting with the senior management of a client to discuss European pricing strategies for their main product, and then had a call in the early evening with a client in Silicon Valley to discuss their licensing program in India.”

Always willing to share his experiences with students considering an international career, Hull serves on the Board of Advisors of the Dean Rusk Center and teaches regularly in Georgia Law’s summer program in Brussels. “I stay involved,” he explains, “because I think it helps the international program to have alumni who can support the program and serve as a network for students.”