

ILSA Chapter Happenings

This section contains stories, activities, and upcoming events of ILSA Chapters around the world. We hope that the shared experiences in this recurring column will provide our Chapters with ideas and tools to improve their programs. Please share your Chapter Happenings by sending them to quarterly@ilsa.org.

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND ILS

University of Richmond
School of Law
Richmond, Virginia, USA

*Vinicius Portugal,
ILS Vice President*

The International Law Society at the University of Richmond School of Law began the academic year with an energetic new Executive Board and a huge student turnout at its first “interest” meeting. The goals this year are to revitalize the organization by developing it into the Law School’s primary source for the study of international law. Specifically, we plan to invite speakers on campus, inform members about potential careers in international law and study abroad opportunities, and co-sponsor events with other organizations on campus and in the local community. There are thirty-six active members in the chapter – many more members than in years’ past – and all are excited about these plans.

The first general meeting in October featured a special guest speaker: Donald King, head of the International Law practice at McGuire Woods LLP, who spoke to the chapter about international legal work conducted by local law firms. He elaborated about his own project with a private initiative in Bulgaria to construct a toll road. He also explained international law opportunities at law firms generally, adding that most firms require new lawyers to learn practi-

cal skills in another focus area before moving into the international law practice. Overall, the talk was extremely helpful to students planning careers in international law.

The second general ILS meeting, held in November, featured two guest speakers; Dr. Claes Martinson and Ms. Michele Cox. Dr. Martinson is a professor of law and legal researcher at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. He was nominated by his university to be a STINT (Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education) scholar, and is visiting the University of Richmond Law School to observe the Legal Skills Program. His lecture compared legal education in the U.S. and Europe, emphasizing the importance of understanding other legal systems in this global age. Ms. Cox, Director of International Programs at the University of Richmond, complemented this topic by discussing the study abroad opportunities available to law school students.

The chapter also has exciting plans for next semester: a three-day international film series in early February, a career panel organized in conjunction with the International Law section of the American Bar Association, and an immigration forum on April 3, co-sponsored by the University of Richmond Law Review. For more information on any of these events or the chapter generally, please contact our ILS President, Martine Gaujean, at martine.gaujean@richmond.edu.

**BROOKLYN ILS**

Brooklyn Law School
Brooklyn, NY USA

Brian Barbour, President

Like most law schools around the globe, Brooklyn Law School has experienced a dramatic rise in student interest in international law. Membership in the International Law Society (ILS) has grown to over 400 students with a strong core group of student leaders. As a result of and in response to this demand, the ILS has initiated a number of new projects and has sponsored a number of events. By all measures, the ILS at Brooklyn Law has been tremendously active in the Fall 2007 semester.

On October 4, we co-sponsored a discussion titled *State of Secrecy: Government Control of Expression and Information in the People's Republic of China*. The distinguished panelists were Donald Clarke, Professor of Law at George Washington University Law School; Elisabeth Wickeri, Law Program Director for Human Rights in China; and Minky Worden, Media Director for Human Rights Watch. Topics discussed included the overwhelming conviction rate in the Chinese criminal justice system, the case in which the Chinese government used an email provided by Yahoo! to convict a Chinese journalist for "illegally providing state secrets overseas," and the influence that NGOs are having in fighting for more openness in China.

On October 11, the ILS held its First Annual Mentorship Reception to kick off a new mentoring program. Over 100 students signed up to participate in the program that pairs first-year students and upperclassmen with similar backgrounds and interests. The Program is designed to give new students the advantage of an upperclassmen's perspective on classes, internships, interviewing, and other professional develop-

ment related concerns. The event was held on the 22nd floor of the Forcelli Center at Brooklyn Law, offering attendees a stunning view of the New York skyline.

In October, ILS launched another initiative: language groups. Students meet informally over lunch or dinner to converse in foreign languages, including: Spanish, Chinese, French, Japanese and Russian.

This semester has also seen the rise of two major ILS endeavors: a monthly Newsletter and a website. The September Issue of the Newsletter gave an overview of opportunities for students in international law at BLS. The October Issue focused both on government suppression and on the regulation of global markets. In November, the Newsletter explored issues of Corporate Social Responsibility and was distributed to nearly 100 academics and lawyers at the Law School's symposium on Corporate Liability for Grave Breaches of International Law. The ILS Website includes electronic versions of all Newsletter issues, a calendar of ILS events, and links to helpful websites in international law. Visit us at: <http://ils.brooklynnsba.org/>

On October 26, ILS members attended a Gala Reception at the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations for the annual International Law Weekend. The highlight of the evening was meeting Ahmad Raza Khan Qasuri, a Senior Advocate to the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Mr. Qasuri is not only a lawyer, but also one of the "founding fathers" of the Pakistani Constitution. Speaking with Mr. Qasuri was especially meaningful and insightful in view of the constitutional crisis that has emerged in Pakistan. On November 7, ILS co-sponsored a presentation entitled, *Islamic Law and Human Rights: Integrating Human Rights in a Regional Context*. The speaker, Naz K. Modirzadeh, is a Senior Associate at Harvard's Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict. She presented her recent article, which

argues that international human rights advocates miss opportunities to engage in a debate about how to interpret and enforce Islamic Law.

We are planning many exciting events for the Spring 2008 semester. ILS at Brooklyn Law welcomes opportunities to cooperate with other entities, and we invite contact with other chapters (*ils-info@brooklaw.edu*). We look forward to keeping in close contact with ILSA, and wish our fellow chapters all the best.



SUFFOLK ILS

Suffolk University School of Law
Boston, MA USA

John O'Donnell, ILS Member

The International Law Society at Suffolk University Law School in Boston has had a busy Fall semester, hosting several well-attended events on campus and sending representatives to events around the city and in other areas of the country. In September, Suffolk ILS hosted an international legal career panel and reception in conjunction with the American Bar Association. Professor Valerie Epps deftly moderated the panel discussion, which featured legal practitioners in the fields of immigration, international tax law, and international development. The event was a great success with over 60 students in attendance, many who stayed long afterwards to seek advice and discuss career prospects with the panelists. A reception at a local pub followed, and many students convened there to enjoy fine food and drinks, and to further discuss with one of the panelists careers in international law.

During the last weekend in October, Suffolk ILS sent several delegates to the 'International Law Weekend' in New York City hosted by the American Branch of the International Law

Association. The weekend focused on international legal issues arising after 9/11, and also featured academic debates on various issues, including the basic nature of international law, its expanding role in international business and trade, and its potential to protect individual human rights. Then, on Friday, October 26, the UN Association of Greater Boston kindly hosted a luncheon at the Boston Harbor Hotel for Suffolk ILS and the French Ambassador to the United Nations. The following week, on October 30, the ILS hosted a panel on 'Women in International Law.' The panel, moderated by Professor Kate Day, featured a number of distinguished women practicing in the fields of international banking, intellectual property, and international arbitration. The panel reached a wide audience and has received positive feedback from many of the students that were in attendance.

Events for the Spring semester will include an International Law Symposium, "International Dinner and a Movie Night," another Career Panel, and the International Law Conference in Washington, D.C. Suffolk ILS will also begin to plan for a new Foreign Direct Investment Moot Court event. In addition, the ILS will also continue to produce the new bi-weekly newsletter to inform members of upcoming events at Suffolk and around Boston.

Since our first General Meeting in September, over 100 new members have joined the Suffolk ILS, swelling our ranks to 268 students. Many members participate in event-planning committees and regularly attend our social and academic events. Joining ILS at Suffolk University Law School continues to be a great way for members to get involved on campus, network for job and internship opportunities, and socialize with a dynamic group of students.

NEWTON PAVIA ILS

Centro Universitario Newton Pavia
Belo Horizonte, MG Brazil

Victor Marcos Oliveria de Assis

The ILSA Chapter at Newton Paiva Law School (GEDINP) was started four months ago. Despite its recent beginnings, the group has already participated in several important international law events. Its 28 founding members are divided into three groups, each one dedicated to a different international law competition: the International Environmental Moot Court Competition organized by Stetson University, the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, and the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition.

In September, the group participated in the Stetson International Law Moot Court Competition, which took place during the Latin American Conference on Law and International Relations (COLADRI). The members found it to be an exceptional experience; they learned about

international law and international relations by competing with fellow law students from Brazil and other countries. In November, the group participated in the Mundhi, an international law event simulating the Nuremberg Trials and featuring law students as judges and lawyers. The GEDINP at Newton Paiva is now working hard to prepare for the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition and the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition. Members are meeting every day to review and improve the memorials they will submit. The GEDINP is also setting up an international law seminar at Newton Paiva. We hope to invite ILS groups from different law schools to participate so that they may share their different experiences and knowledge with our members.

Goals for the next year include participating in international law competitions, attending conferences, publishing articles by the group's members, and promoting relationships between Newton Paiva and the ILSA organizations at other law schools. The GEDINP also plans to send newsletters about their upcoming activities, so be on the lookout!



DU ILS

University of Denver College of Law
Denver, CO USA

Krishma Parsad, ILSA Member

The International Law Society at the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law (DU) organized many events during the fall semester. Early in the semester, we co-hosted a panel event with the Amnesty International student group, the DU Water Journal, and the Environmental Law Society entitled *The 'Conflict' in Darfur – What Happened to 'Never Again'?* Over sixty students attended the discussion. Robert Lado, the Chair of the South Sudan Land Commission and a human rights attorney, was the featured guest speaker. He discussed the interplay between land use and control, human rights law, and the current humanitarian issues plaguing Sudan. The second speaker, Professor Claude d'Estre from the Graduate School of International Studies and Chair of the Task Force on Modern Slavery, rounded out the discussion by providing students a historical overview of the situation in Darfur.

In October, the Ved Nanda Center for International Law and the DU International Law Society co-hosted the annual ILSA Fall Conference with the help of esteemed Professors Ved Nanda and Rock Pring. It was our honor to welcome renowned experts, practitioners and professors to the law school to speak about international environmental law. Dan Magraw from the Center of International Environmental Law, and Scott Stone from the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development were among the distinguished experts who spoke at the conference. We were also fortunate to host Richard Emory and Mike Walker from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Dr. Lakshman Guruswamy as speakers at the conference. They all provided attendees with in-

teresting and relevant insights into the burgeoning practice of international environmental law.

During the conference, the Nanda Center held its First Annual International Law Evening. At this event, Ms. Sherry Broder received the inaugural Cox Price Human Rights Award for her representation of torture victims in a class-action lawsuit against Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos. The evening also featured Ms. Lucinda Low who presented the first lecture in the Henry and Mary Bryan Lecture Series. Her lecture was entitled "Corporate Responsibility in International Business: Changing Standards and the Role of the Lawyer." Video links to the events at the conference are available at: <http://www.law.du.edu/studentOrgs/ils/fallConference/index.cfm>.

The DU ILS ended the semester by hosting a United Nations birthday celebration complete with a birthday cake with sixty-two candles! Tim Kubick, President of the United Nations Association of Colorado, attended the party and gave students an update about current UN initiatives and its positive outlook for the future.

Next semester will begin with the annual ILS Africa Week, followed by the next installment of the Sutton Distinguished Speaker Series. Find out more about these and other events at <http://www.law.du.edu/studentOrgs/ils/index.cfm>.

KU ILS

University of Kansas School of Law
Lawrence, KS USA

Beau Jackson, President

The Dwight D. Eisenhower International Law Society at the University of Kansas is the largest and most active student-run organization at the law school. The group had a very productive semester, beginning in August with a Kick-Off

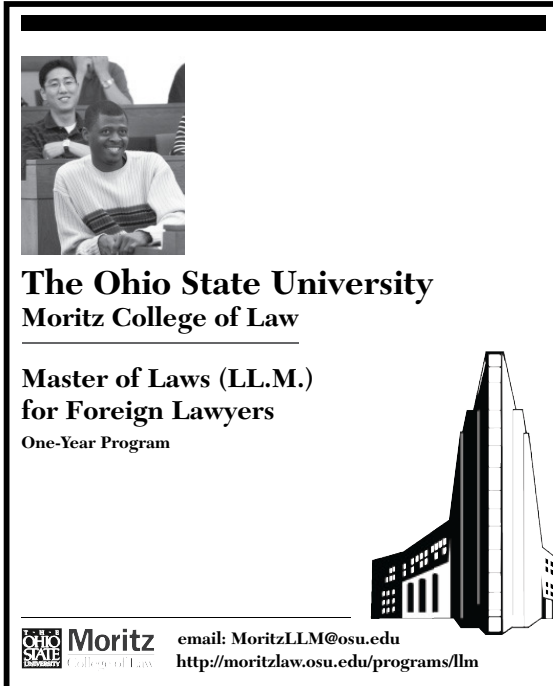
Picnic for first-year students—the first official social event on the law school’s calendar. The picnic was a great way for upper-level students to meet the first-year students and for the ILS to recruit new members.

September was the busiest month for KU ILS. Early in the month, the group hosted *A Chat with Ambassador Robert Beecroft*. The U.S. ambassador—who has enjoyed a long career at the highest levels of international diplomacy—graciously visited the law school, to discuss his exciting and well-traveled career with the U.S. Department of State. The ILS also co-sponsored the law school’s annual September 11th forum entitled *9/11, the United States, and the World: What Path Forward?* The inter-disciplinary forum included professors from the History, Political Science, and African Studies departments at the undergraduate college, a former U.S. Ambassador to East Asia, and two law students with differing perspectives and backgrounds. Finally, the annual Pub Games Triathlon fundraiser was held in late September. The fundraiser is a long-standing ILS tradition featuring competitions in darts, billiards, and shuffleboard. It was a success, raising over \$600 ensuring that the ILS will continue to invite speakers to KU law school and host large events.

The first October event was an immigration forum co-sponsored by the ILS, the Hispanic American Law Student Association, and the Public Interest Law Society, entitled *How Changes in Immigration Policy Affect the Legal Community*. A panel of three dynamic immigration attorneys and a professor from the KU School of Social Welfare offered varying perspectives on current immigration law and policy. The annual Careers in International Law Forum in mid-October featured two distinguished KU law professors, John Head and Raj Bhala, who spoke about career opportunities in the public and private sectors of the international legal field. They provided students

interested in international law useful career advice and intriguing perspectives on international legal practice. The event drew a very large audience and generated greater interest in international law on the KU campus.

The last event of the semester, held in mid-November, was a student-led discussion about summer internships related to international law. A panel of upper-level students spoke about their experiences in Asia, South America, and Africa working with NGOs, corporate entities, and government agencies. KU ILS is looking forward to another successful semester in Spring 2008 which will include, among other events, a panel discussion on the foreign policy implications of the upcoming U.S. presidential election, a large International Human Rights Forum, and the annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser. For more information about the KU ILS or the robust International and Comparative Law Program at the University of Kansas please visit http://www.law.ku.edu/centers_programs/international.shtml. ■



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