

# REACHING NEW HORIZONS

Georgia Law expands international opportunities



Students in the inaugural China study abroad class pose at the Great Wall with Rusk Center Director Don Johnson (J.D.'73) (front row, second from left). Johnson, a former U.S. ambassador, directed the program and taught a course on U.S.-China trade in regard to the World Trade Organization.

## Beijing and Shanghai, China

Here's something new in a country thousands of years old. This past summer, Georgia Law's Dean Rusk Center – International, Comparative and Graduate Legal Studies debuted a three-week study abroad program in China. Partnering with Tsinghua University in Beijing and Fudan University in Shanghai, this learning opportunity is unique in that it provides study in both of China's largest cities.

Participating in the inaugural trip were 16 law students, who earned three semester credit hours, and three attorneys, who received 12 hours of CLE credit. All responses to the learning experience were extremely positive, including the ABA's evaluation of the newly accredited program.

As an additional opportunity, the study program provides the option for Georgia Law students to remain in China at the end of the session for a four to six week externship at one of several top-ranked law firms.

The summer's curriculum included three courses worth one credit each, as well as a seminar hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) and visiting lecturers from the U.S. Embassy. Two of the courses – Introduction to the Chinese Legal System and Introduction to Chinese Commercial Law – were taught in English by faculty members of the participating Chinese law schools.

C. Donald Johnson (J.D.'73), director of the Rusk Center, taught the third course, U.S.-China Trade Issues under the World Trade Organization. Johnson is particularly qualified to teach in this area as he is a former U.S. ambassador who was personally involved in WTO negotiations with China during his tenure in office.

Sarah E. Moore, a second-year student who attended the program, said, "I was very impressed that we were able to study at Fudan and Tsinghua universities, which are premier universities in China. I

actually learned a lot about Chinese history and culture when we studied the law. Mr. Johnson's class was interesting because he has been involved in the WTO process, so we learned much more than just reading about it in a textbook."

Five Georgia Law students remained in China after the three-week session to work in legal externships, four in Shanghai and one in Beijing.

David M. Hatcher, a third-year law student, stayed in Shanghai and worked for King & Wood, the largest law firm in China. Hatcher said he enjoyed the opportunity to apply the material he learned in class in a real-life setting, and he also appreciated the additional cultural experiences the extended stay offered him.

"During the three weeks of classes, we traveled in a group and everything was planned out," he said. "With the externship, you just wake up one morning and try to find your own way. You hop on the metro or take a taxi and try to figure out which office building is yours. It was great and I learned a lot."

André B. Barbic (J.D.'05), assistant director of the Rusk Center and coordinator of the China study abroad program, said he plans for the 2007 trip to expand in number of participants.

"Last year we were not able to start promoting the program until mid-February, as we were still waiting for ABA approval. Following the success of the 2006 program, an overwhelmingly positive ABA inspector's report and great feedback from all the participants, we fully expect to have even more students interested in taking advantage of this unique experience in 2007," Barbic said.

Moore, who stayed for an externship with King & Wood's Beijing office, said the China program changed her outlook on the law by giving her a global view and impressing on her the importance of trade law.

She also feels the experience gives her an edge as she transitions into her legal career. "When I interview with law firms, they are immediately interested in why I traveled to and worked in China. So it actually makes me unique."

## Oxford, England

Launched last spring, the ABA-accredited Georgia Law at Oxford program is continuing its success with 20 students currently enrolled in its second year of operation. This is one of the few semester-long study abroad opportunities offered by an American law school. Of the enrolled students, 12 are from the UGA School of Law, two are from other Southeastern universities and six are from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Georgia Law's partner in the program. David E. Shipley, Georgia Law's Cobb Professor and Oxford academic coordinator, is currently serving as the American professor in residence at Oxford this spring.

## Brussels, Belgium

Enjoying more than 30 years of cooperation with two leading universities in Brussels, Georgia Law's Brussels Seminar on the Law and Institutions of the European Union is undergoing the ABA accreditation process. This will allow participating students to earn up to four hours of credit and make this Georgia Law's fourth accredited study abroad opportunity.

## International Externships

The International Externship Program has grown by leaps and bounds since it began six years ago with two participants working in just one country. Now expecting to place up to 30 students during the summer of 2007, the program covers more ground (literally) than any other study abroad program at UGA, placing students in 15 different countries on four continents, according to María Eugenia Giménez (LL.M. '89), associate director of the Rusk Center.

*For more information on Georgia Law's study abroad programs, please visit our Web site at [www.law.uga.edu/academics/foreign](http://www.law.uga.edu/academics/foreign).*



▲ *The famed Bodleian Law Library at Oxford is home to an extraordinary collection of materials that attracts scholars from around the world.*

◀ *Georgia Law has placed International Externship Program students at the Attorney General's Office in Georgetown, Guyana, since 2002.*



▲ *Students participating in the International Externship Program have the opportunity to work in one of 15 countries around the world. Twenty students participated last summer, including those pictured here. These students and the country of their externship are: (back, l to r.) Daniel Felz, Germany; Behrouz Kianian, Guyana; Michael Kline, Guyana; Zeb Kelley, Guyana; (front, l to r.) Rebekah Rashidfarokhi, Spain; Gwenne' Gibbons, Brazil; Matthew Stoddard, Belgium; and Milind Dongre, Guyana.*

◀ *Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, is a partner of Georgia Law's new China study abroad program.*

