Changes in WFU Law International Programs

After twenty-four years at Wake Forest University School of Law, Susan Montaquila left her position as Assistant Dean of the International Programs to become an Associate Dean for the American University School of Business in Dubai. In response to her departure, Dean Blake Morant said, “the entire Wake Forest community owes Susan a debt of gratitude for her indefatigable efforts that have contributed to the growth and excellence of our LL.M. and S.J.D. programs.”

To fill the large void that Montaquila left, Morant named Richard Schneider the Associate Dean for International Affairs at Wake Forest University School of Law. Schneider has been very involved with the LL.M. and S.J.D. programs since their inception, but will now assume administrative responsibilities for the international programs, as well as forge partnerships with law schools around the world to create international student and faculty exchanges. Schneider states, “I am tremendously excited to be working so closely now with the full range of the Law School’s international initiatives.”

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WFU’s Summer English for Academic Success Program

In the summer of 2011, WFU implemented its first English for Academic Success program. Designed for international students who seek to improve their proficiency in English to better prepare for the academic, social, and professional expectations of WFU, the English for Academic Success program focused on cross-cultural communication skills and intensive practice of speaking, listening, pronunciation, reading and writing.

Incoming LL.M. students made up the bulk of the
Ahmad Banaamah, Saudi Arabia
Mr. Banaamah received a Bachelor of Laws degree from King Abdulaziz University, one of the most prominent universities in Saudi Arabia. He focused on international law, commercial law, and criminal law. Before coming to WFU, he studied English at The New England School of English in Cambridge, Mass., since 2010.

Juliana Barbosa, Brazil
Ms. Barbosa earned a Bachelor of Laws in 2006 from Universidade Salgado de Oliveira, where she also worked as a research assistant for one of her professors. She has completed internships at Marilo Maciel & Rafael Maciel Advogados e Associados, the Brazilian Congress, the Bank of Brazil, and DI Rezende Advogados e Associados. She also made a presentation on commercial law at the 2006 Annual ENADE Meeting in Goiania. Ms. Barbosa worked as an Au Pair and attended ESL classes at Central Piedmont College in Charlotte to gain a thorough understanding of the English language. She completed a summer internship with the Charlotte International Cabinet, promoting international business and communities. After earning an LL.M. degree, she hopes to pursue a career in international law and promote social justice in Brazil.

Thierry Huber, Switzerland
Mr. Huber recently earned a Master's degree at the University of Zurich, where he focused on private law, intellectual property law, business law, and criminal law. He completed a summer internship at a small law firm in Switzerland and interned as a Legal Assistant at a mid-sized law firm, where he prepared legal documents, drafted contracts, and supported international clients. He is focusing on business and transaction law in WFU's LL.M. program. Because the U.S. is one of Switzerland's biggest trade partners, Mr. Huber is pursing an LL.M. degree in the U.S. to understand "the American side of such a partnership."

Shuai Shao, China
Ms. Shao earned an LL.B. from Beijing University of Technology. She ranked seventh out of 310 students in the Law department and received the university-wide first-class scholarship in the 2008-2009 academic year. Based on her leadership role within the law school student union, Ms. Shao received the Outstanding Student Leader scholarship in the same year. She was selected as one of six members to participate in the Model Court Contest of Beijing universities. She has interned at the Haidian District Court and the Beijing Legal Aid Services Council. Ms. Shao has also worked as an Assistant Attorney at Yingle Law Firm, where she was exposed to cases in international economy and trade, igniting her interest in studying abroad. She is eager to learn U.S. commercial law and plans to take the New York State Bar Examination after earning an LL.M. degree. She hopes to work in an international law firm, where she can handle legal affairs related to international trade.

Ahmed Keshawerz, Afghanistan
Mr. Keshawerz is a scholar from the Public-Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan and is WFU's first LL.M. student from Afghanistan. Mr. Keshawerz earned a Bachelor's degree in Law and Political Science from Alberoni University in 2009. As an undergraduate student, he instructed English language and legal English courses in the Law and Political Science and Agriculture Schools. He spent the 2010-2011 academic year as a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University, where he audited courses, researched rule of law in Afghanistan, and worked in cooperation with The Afghanistan Legal Education Project. He participated in the University of Washington's U.S.-Afghan Legal Educators program in a specialized tribal criminal defense legal clinic in the summer of 2010. Before coming to the U.S., Mr. Keshawerz worked as an administrative specialist for Kellogg, Brown & Root (KBR), a company based in Houston that provides energy services to the U.S. Army and Department of Defense and employs more than 35,000 people worldwide. Mr. Keshawerz has focused on international law, particularly issues related to state-building at WFU.

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Wanyu Cai, China
Mr. Cai is a recent graduate from the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade, where he majored in international economic law and ranked in the top 10 percent of his class. He was a core member of the law school's moot court and volunteered for the Legal Aid Center, where he provided legal advice to vulnerable groups and organized legal popularization activities within the community. Mr. Cai has completed internships at Ince & Co. International Law Firm and the Legal Department of the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo. His career goal is to become a lawyer and help Chinese enterprises perform in the international trading system.

Philipp Campestrini, Switzerland
Mr. Campestrini has a Bachelor of Business Law degree from Zurich University of Applied Science, where he focused on business and private law along with Anglo-American law. During his undergraduate studies, Mr. Campestrini completed a practical internship at a mid-sized law firm. He recently earned a Master's of Law degree from the University of Lucerne, deepening his knowledge of criminal law, business law, and tax law. Mr. Campestrini currently works as a member of the Board of Directors at AAA-Corporate Finance Advisors AG, a mergers & acquisitions boutique, where he seeks investors for various global projects and drafts the subsequent contracts. Mr. Campestrini is most interested in studying business and transaction law in the U.S. After earning an LL.M. degree, he plans to return to Switzerland to work for an international company and ultimately start his own law practice.

Ayman Alrefaie, Saudi Arabia
Before coming to the U.S. to pursue ESL studies, Mr. Alrefaie was an Attorney in the Legal Department of Kinan International Real Estate Development Co., which is part of one of the largest and most successful companies in Saudi Arabia. While pursuing his law degree, Mr. Alrefaie interned in the Law Firm of Ghazi Alharbi for two years. He earned an LL.B. in 2003 from King Abdulaziz University. He was an active member in the Department of Law's student club and organized one of the most successful seminars in the law school, entitled "How to Become a Successful Lawyer or Legal Adviser." Mr. Alrefaie will focus on commercial law at WFU. His career goal is to become a judge or lawmaker in Saudi Arabia and to help develop the commercial law field in his home country.

Wata Kuntammaruk, Thailand
After earning an LL.B. from Sripatum University in 2005, Mr. Kuntammaruk worked as a Legal Assistant at Sanit International Law Firm. He then served as an Attorney at Watana Law Firm for one year, where he consulted with clients and litigated on property matters. He has been a member of the Thai Bar Association since 2008. Mr. Kuntammaruk recently graduated from the LL.M. Program in U.S. and Global Legal Studies at Case Western Reserve University. He attended Case Western's Summer Language and Law Institute and an upper-intermediate English course in the summer of 2010. Before coming to the U.S., Mr. Kuntammaruk worked as an administrative specialist for Kellogg, Brown & Root (KBR), a company based in Houston that provides energy services to the U.S. Army and Department of Defense and employs more than 35,000 people worldwide. Mr. Kuntammaruk has focused on international law, particularly issues related to state-building at WFU.

Shule Yana, China
Mr. Yan has an LL.B. from Sun Yat-Sen University, one of the top ten universities in China. He was the Editor and Art Editor of the SYSU School of Law's Journal, participated in the SYSU legal clinic, and served as a teaching assistant to an American visiting professor. In addition to his studies, Mr. Yan was an intern and Assistant to the Judge at Shenzhen Intermediate People's Court and an intern at Bangwei Law Office. As an LL.M. student, Mr. Yan is taking courses in international business law, corporate law, and marine law. He plans to return to Hong Kong to work for a foreign law firm and hopes to participate in China's legal reformation.
Liam McClure, England

Mr. McClure focused on American Law at the University of East Anglia, where he earned an LL.B. degree. In 2009, he received the Mills & Reeve Law Prize for his second best performance on the LL.B. examinations at UEA and was the recipient of the Sir Roy Goode Law Prize in 2010 for outstanding contributions to the Law School. He also served on the Board of Trustees of the Student Union. During his undergraduate studies, Mr. McClure spent one year as a non-degree visiting student at the University of Louisville’s Brandeis School of Law. He has also interned at Overburys Steward Eaton & Woodsley Solicitors. He has spent the past four summers working at YMCA Camp Hanes in King, N.C. Mr. McClure hopes to become a solicitor, specialize in mergers and acquisitions, and join a top-tier U.S. law firm in London.

Kopkej Oupapatig, Thailand

Ms. Oupapatig is a Corruption Suppression Officer at the Office of National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) in the Bureau of Corruption Suppression, investigating dishonest acts of state officials in local, provincial, city, and town administrations. She earned an LL.B. from Thammasat University in 2006. She served as the Chairman of the law volunteer committee and led two charity camps in rural Thailand to offer legal advice to the local citizens. Ms. Oupapatig then enrolled in the Institute of Legal Education with the Thai Bar Association, where she earned the Barrister-at-Law certificate. She also completed courses administered by the Institute of Advocacy Training under the Lawyers Council of Thailand. Ms. Oupapatig recently earned her first LL.M. degree from Indiana University – Bloomington. She is interested in becoming a judge in Thailand; so she is focusing on criminal law and evidence at Wake Forest University.

Munkhselenge Purevdorj, Mongolia

Ms. Purevdorj originally came to WFU as a Faculty Development Fellowship Scholar sponsored by the Open Society Institute and George Soros Foundation in the spring semesters of 2010 and 2011. She conducted research for a dissertation entitled “Foreign Investments - Mongolian Mining Industry and Its Legal Environment on the Practice of Foreign Countries” and worked on a draft of a textbook on private international law. Ms. Purevdorj earned an LL.B. from Hitotsubashi University, one of Japan’s highest ranked universities, where she received a Japanese government scholarship. She also has a Master’s degree in Education Management from Mongolian State University of Education and is pursuing a Ph.D. degree at National University of Mongolia, where she currently teaches introduction to law, private international law, business law, problems of international relations, and intellectual property in the Ulaanbaatar School of Foreign Service. Upon returning to Mongolia, Ms. Purevdorj will resume her position as Lecturer at the National University of Mongolia, teaching political study of foreign countries and comparative constitutional study.

Janine Reder, Germany

Ms. Reder has an LL.B. from the University of Würzburg and has passed the First and Second Legal Examinations, gaining admission to the German Bar. As part of her required legal residency between the First and Second Legal Examinations, Ms. Reder worked in a District Attorney’s office, a district court, and a municipal court. Ms. Reder has also passed a course for qualified lawyers in Business Law, providing her with additional legal qualifications in Germany. Before coming to WFU, she worked part-time at the law firm of Dr. Vocke and Partner. She was also a Legal Intern at Byrne, Davis & Hicks, P.C. in Charlotte for three months in 2010. Her work focused on different areas of German and U.S. laws, such as traffic laws, insurance law, immigration law, and contract law. Ms. Reder plans to take the New York State Bar Examination after earning an LL.M. and hopes to work for an international law office or an international company in the U.S. before returning to Germany.

Hadia Balkhyoor, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Balkhyoor was the first woman student to register for law classes at King Abdulaziz University, the first university in Saudi Arabia to offer law classes to women. She was nominated by her peers to represent them at the Law Students Council and graduated in 2008 with “first honors.” She worked with three fellow students in writing a research paper entitled, “Sharia Study on the Rights of the Saudi Women to Practice the Law and Consultation,” which they presented to King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz. She also has trained as a lawyer in cooperation with King Abdulaziz University and Salah Al Hujailan Legal Office. Before coming to the U.S., Ms. Balkhyoor was a Teaching Assistant at King Abdulaziz University’s law department and a volunteer in the National Council for Human Rights, contributing legal support to several humanitarian cases. She is beginning her second year as an LL.M. student. In her first year, she focused on business law and participated in an Islamic Law presentation to faculty, students, and other members of the university community. She would like to earn an S.J.D. degree before returning to her home country to teach law and to contribute to the creation of generations of successful Saudi women lawyers.

Mio Ukita, Japan

Ms. Ukita earned an LL.B. from Keio University and a Juris Doctorate from Doshisha Law School. After passing the Japanese National Bar Exam, she attended the Legal Training and Research Institute of the Supreme Court of Japan, where she served as a judicial apprentice in the civil court, criminal court, public prosecutor’s office, and a private law firm for two months each. Ms. Ukita is a member of the Tokyo Bar Association, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, and the Japanese In-House Lawyers Association. She is an In-House Lawyer at Kao Corporation, a leading manufacturer of household and beauty products. Her responsibilities include reviewing legal documents and managing Kao in domestic litigation ranging from product liability to employment lawsuits. She is the first lawyer with Japanese bar qualifications to be hired at Kao. As a result, she also conducts workshops for employees on legal topics and how to logically organize legal arguments. Ms. Ukita is pursuing an LL.M. so that she can properly evaluate and effectively negotiate cross-border transactions and manage Kao’s overseas subsidiaries and affiliates.

Yazeed Alrasheed, Saudi Arabia

Mr. Alrasheed is a Counselor at the Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers, where he reviews legal documents and internal regulations of Saudi companies, examines regional and international agreements and joint venture agreements signed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and participates in legal subcommittees. Mr. Alrasheed is also a member of the Committee of Reviewing Saudi Regulations, established by the Bureau of Experts to incorporate Saudi legislation with signed human rights covenants. Mr. Alrasheed earned a Bachelor of Laws degree in 2007 and graduated first in his class from King Saud University. He is beginning his second year as an LL.M. student at Wake Forest.
Welcome to our new S.J.D. Candidates!

Abdullah Alshehry (Saudi Arabia, ‘08) is a member of the law faculty at the Institute of Public Administration, where he teaches classes in business and insurance law in Arabic and English, provides expert opinions to the public and private sectors, develops law training programs, and investigates violations of laws within the IPA. He also serves on an appointed committee to create and publicize a government-sponsored book about King Abdullah’s achievements and designs materials for intensive training courses and seminars for judges in Commercial Paper Dispute. Moreover, he is a Legal Consultant to the public sector in Saudi Arabia and participates in drafting new laws at the Bureau of Experts at the Ministry Council. He graduated from King Abdulaziz University with a Bachelor of Law degree. Abdullah’s dissertation proposal, entitled “The Reasonable Expectations Doctrine Knocks on the Saudi Legislative Council Door,” will focus on the implementation of the doctrine in insurance law. His career goal is to work in a Saudi Arabian university.

Both candidates will be advised by Professor Miles Foy during their stay at WFU. We are happy to welcome them back to the law school!

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Dr. Tina Rafalodini instructed the program. She worked with the students daily on grammar and word pronunciation. She also took the students on excursions to historic landmarks and points of interest in Winston-Salem and the surrounding community, putting their skills in English to practical use. They visited restaurants to practice ordering from menus, attended a Winston-Salem Dash baseball game to experience a part of American culture, and observed court proceedings at the Federal Courthouse in Greensboro with Mireille Clough, a Public Defender and adjunct professor for the Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research for International Lawyers course.

EAS participants also received early exposure to actual coursework thanks to Heeyoon “Danny” Choi, an LL.M graduate and current J.D. student. Danny, who served as the Teaching Assistant for the EAS program, taught the students how to read cases and extract the most important aspects every afternoon. Shuai Shao, a current LL.M. student from China, states, “though the legal section of our course was more serious than the social part, I was not bored because Danny also taught us strategies on how to deal with cases, how to communicate with law school professors, and how to make study plans.”

Shao sings the praises of WFU’s EAS program. She declares, “though I had an outstanding English level in my home country and got high ranking in my undergraduate university, I was still eager to attend this program because I felt the need to improve my social English in order to survive in a foreign country. Fortunately, after the six weeks class, it has proven to be a wise decision.”
Mingquan Law Firm in Shanghai.

XIAO LUO (China, ’10) is a Lawyer Assistant at Zhejiang stage of his residency. He plans to take the German bar exam will be in New York working with Alston & Bird as the last

MARTIN RINSCHIED (Germany, ’09) is currently working in the Media, IP & IT Department of Noerr LLP, one of the

JUDITH HAENSEL (Germany, ’08 & JD, ’11) received her J.D. from WFU School of Law and passed the New York Bar Exam. Only 27.5 percent of foreign educated test takers and passed the New York Bar exam from WFU School of Law & JD, ’11) received her J.D.

RUILU WANG (China, ’09 & JD, ’11) interned at Silverberg, Goldman & Bikoff, LLP in Washington D.C. over the summer. She worked with members of the firm to publish the article, “First Circuit Precribes eBay Injunction Treatment for Trademark Cases,” in the June issue of World Trademark Review. She also completed an internship at the U.S. Industry Coalition (USIC) before returning to Ukraine.

HAO WANG (China, ’09) is currently working in a state-owned enterprise that conducts international business.

LIUBOY EBRALIDZE (Ukraine, ’11) interned at Silverberg, Goldman & Bikoff, LLP in Washington D.C. over the summer. She worked with members of the firm to publish the article, “First Circuit Precribes eBay Injunction Treatment for Trademark Cases,” in the June issue of World Trademark Review. She also completed an internship at the U.S. Industry Coalition (USIC) before returning to Ukraine.

HID (Saudi Arabia, ’09) is currently working in a state-owned enterprise that conducts international business.

SAFETY KIM (Korea, ’11) is pursuing a second LLM. degree from George Washington University.

SUN-HEE PARK (Korea, ’03) is an Attorney at Bae, Kim and Lee LLC, in Seoul.

SAMUEL CHACÓN LOPEZ VELARDE (Mexico, ’05) an Associate at Chacón & Rodriguez, published two articles in the North American Free Trade and Investment Report. These articles were also re-published in the NCBA International Law and Practice Section newsletter. Samuel was awarded by the Global Law Experts (GLE) as the recommended lawyer for a finance project in Mexico. Also, the University of Hong Kong invited Samuel to write the Mexico Country Chapter in a book called China Outbound Investment, which was published in May of 2011. Additionally, Samuel met up with Ilya Temchenko (JD, ’05) in New York City to have dinner.

OLIVETT IHAMA (England, ‘11) is studying the Legal Practice Course (LPC) at the College of Law in Bristol, England. Congratulations to Olivett for passing the New York Bar exam!

SAFE SHALHOUT (Palestine, ’11) is a lawyer in the Office of Mr. Moatasem Ahmad Awawdeh in Ramallah.

RASHA SUBUH (Palestine, ’10) is currently an intern, sponsored by OSI in the legal department at the Al-Sadeel Institution, in Bethlehem, Palestine. Additionally, she is a registered/licensed legal translator (English-Arabic and Arabic-English) at the Ministry of Justice. Rasha is also preparing to take the Palestinian Bar Exam in April 2012.

CHEN FAN “FORREST” FU (China, ’07 & JD, ’10) is an international attorney at Kilpatrick Townsend in Winston-Salem. He focuses his practice on securities offerings, investment companies, investment partnerships and investment advisers. Forrest also greeted the incoming Chinese LLM students, WANTU CII, SHUAI SHAO & SHULE YAN.

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BIRTHS:

AYMAN ALREFAIE (Saudi Arabia, Current LLM) & HADIA BALKHYOOR (Saudi Arabia, Current LLM), welcomed a new son named Mohammed Alrefaie on Aug 8, 2011. Congratulations to Hadia and Ayman!

Congratulations to YAZMYNE VASQUEZ ETEROVIC (Peru, '03) and her husband, Nicolas Eterovic, who welcomed a son named Sebastian on Dec 14, 2010!

Congratulations to TOMOKO NAKAJIMA (Japan, '03) and her husband, Michael Britton, who welcomed a daughter named Mirabel Nakajima Britton on Aug 30, 2011!

Congratulations to ANGELO BAGNAROSA (France, '04) and his wife, Olivia, who welcomed a daughter named Gioia on Sept 23, 2011!

Congratulations to RAWI NIRUN DORN (Thailand, '08) & ANCHALEE TWEESAN (Thailand, '08) who welcomed a son, Suppakorn “Peem” Nirundorn, on Nov 11, 2010! Rawi continues to work in the legal department at Thana-chart Bank PCL in Bangkok, Thailand. Anchalee still works at the Bankruptcy Department.

MARRIAGES:

After meeting at WFU Law, HAO WANG (China, '09) and WENFANG “CRYSTAL” HUANG (China, '10) married in Beijing on May 2, 2011!

RASHA SUBUH (Palestine, '11) married Yazan Al-mallah on June 17, 2011. Congratulations to Rasha and Yazan!

Have any updates you want to share in the next newsletter? Email Holly at hedgechp@wfu.edu.

More of the 2012 class...

Philipp receives his EAS certificate

Wanyu and his faculty advisor, Professor Gilreath

Selenge, Yama, Watana and Mio at the LLM Winter Party

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Holly Hedgecock, who joined the School of Law in 2006 as the Administrative Coordinator of the LL.M. program, was named the Director of International Programs at WFU School of Law and now oversees the daily operations associated with the international programs. She has also accepted the administrative duties of the summer study abroad programs, which was previously administered by various offices within the School of Law.

To help with the newly organized International Graduate Programs, WFU School of Law hired Allysen Mahaffey as the Administrative Professional of the programs. Allysen is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara and previously worked as an AmeriCorps VISTA at Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County and Invisible Children Inc. in San Diego. Allysen spent a year studying abroad in the Netherlands and has travelled extensively around the world.

With all of these changes, WFU will continue to provide its international students and alumni with the same attention and care that it has in years past.