Master of Laws Program Newsletter
Wake Around the World

Wake Forest University School of Law Editors: Rosemary Sigmon, Shannon Gilreath
May 1, 2005

Wake the Nation

Christian Wyss (’05 Switzerland) enjoys a brisk walk in Times Square New York, New Year’s Eve, 2005, anticipating the midnight crystal ball drop.

Wake the World

LL.M. Students Katsuo Yamaura (’05 Japan), Samuel Chacon (’05 Mexico), Tim Tembe (’05 South Africa), Chi Tan (’05 Taiwan) and Christian Wyss (’05 Switzerland) cheer for Wake Forest’s nationally ranked basketball team in the “Screamin’ Demons” student section.

LL.M. Highlights of the Year

Jenna Kalcevic (’05 Germany) reports that the annual LL.M. Trip to the U.S. Supreme Court with a special guided tour by Wake Forest University law alumnus Troy Cahill, U.S. Supreme Court staff attorney, was wonderful. Jenna says that it was great to hear how tough the justices’ questions were and to actually see the Justices whose opinions you read every day.

Kenichi Kunikane (’05 Japan) says he has enjoyed many happy and delicious parties with his colleagues! He says, “How interesting it is that I can communicate with friends whose native languages are different using a tool—ENGLISH!”

During the 2004 U.S. presidential election, Katsuo Yamaura (’05 Japan) volunteered as a poll monitor with the organization, “Just Democracy.” Katsuo reported that it was a fascinating experience for him.

S’Thembiso (Tim) Tembe (’05 South Africa), a Ford Foundation Fellow, spoke to a standing-room-only crowd of law school students, faculty, and staff about his experiences growing up during the apartheid years in South Africa. Tim’s presentation was co-sponsored by the Amnesty International Wake law organization and the International Law Society.

Hideyuki Kohata (’05 Japan) My highlight of the year was the 3L vs. Faculty and LLM softball game. Most of the professors who taught me joined the game. I also joined it wearing the Tigers jersey and cap, which is my favorite Japanese baseball team. I got two hits and three RBIs! This is one of the events we cannot see except with a close and frank relationship (between students and faculty).

As the cliché goes, “you could have heard a pin drop” as law students, staff, and faculty heard Daniel Millares (’05 Bolivia) describe his personal experiences and share his photo slides of the violent overthrow of the Bolivian government in 2003. Daniel’s lunchtime presentation in the law school was co-sponsored by the International Law Society, Amnesty International, and the LL.M. Program.

The LL.M. ’05 students auctioned off a dinner party at the annual PILO auction, providing their native foods, drinks, and company for an evening with the winning J.D. students.
The 2005 class seemed to bond with each other in a closer way than ever. It is heartening to see people from so many cultures join together and come away liking each other and learning so much about one another’s laws, countries and lives. Our J.D. student mentoring system seemed to have worked better this year than ever before. There was a lot of socializing and intellectual cross-pollination between the international LL.M.s and the U.S. J.D.s this year. Our American J.D. students seemed to perceive what a resource and how much fun our LL.M.s can be.

As always, one of the most difficult parts of the LL.M. program for me is that the one-year program is so short. Just as I feel I get to know my students well and feel a growing fondness, – then it’s May – graduation and time for them to disperse back across the world again. And here I am, left behind to train a new nest of fledging LL.M.s. We’ve now grown to some eighty LL.M. alumni and recently we did a detailed update of our mailing list and a career summary list of alumni. What I discovered is that I can still clearly remember every face, name and story of each of those eighty LL.M.s. That is unusual. It means that during each of those brief years, I had time to get to know you or you were strong enough personalities that you stuck with me. So maybe that means you didn’t really leave Wake Forest after your year – you rather left part of yourself here.

It is that part of the academic year for me when I’m winding up recruiting for the LL.M. class of 2005-2006. The truth is we’re never quite sure what the final makeup of the new class will be each year until June or even July because when people are uprooting themselves and often their families, and moving to the other side of the world – their minds or (finances) change a lot at the last minute. So yesterday, even as I was leaving work and walking through the law school parking lot (remember it? – the one where you could get a spot if you arrived early enough?) I was thinking about “the science of recruiting international students” and I have decided that it is like calling on the American mythical giant Paul Bunyon to reach out and grab the Earth between his two giant hands, give it a good shake and then see what falls out; but that’s not a bad system, because every year we have a wonderfully surprising mix of student lawyers who gather at our law school and learn and live!
LL.M. Class of 2005

Our LL.M. students this year come to Wake Forest from nine countries and a variety of professional backgrounds. We salute them.

Ms. Grace Widyani
Jakarta, Indonesia
Grace is a Legal Officer for the PT Perusahaan Gas Negara (Persero) Tbk., an Indonesian government-owned natural gas pipeline company. She has a Civil Law degree and a Master of Economic Law degree from the University of Indonesia. She also holds an undergraduate degree in Japanese. She is an in-house lawyer with expertise in oil and gas law and contracts law. Grace is studying U.S. law at Wake Forest for one and one-half years.

Ms. Jennifer Kalcevic
Wuppertal, Germany
Jenna recently completed her fifth year of law at the University of Trier. In addition to her legal studies, she worked as a research assistant and prepared for her German State Bar Exam. Jennifer holds dual citizenship in Germany and the United States and is proficient in both English and German. She served an internship at Butler, Vines, and Babb in Knoxville, Tennessee, and received a scholarship from the European Union to study for one semester at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. Her specialty areas are commercial and corporate law. Her personal goal is to work for an international law firm that serves both German and American clients.

Ms. Fusako Kirinuki
Tokyo, Japan
Fusako is an attorney-at-law with Blakemore & Mitsuki, the oldest international law firm in Japan. She received her law degree from Chuo University and also graduated from the Legal Training and Research Institute of the Supreme Court of Japan. She is a member of the Japanese Bar Association. Her main area of interest is financial and corporate law, and she intends to participate in the Wake Forest Judicial Observership Program before returning to Blakemore & Mitsuki.

Ms. Chi Tan
Taipei, Taiwan
Chi has been employed as a Special Assistant with Anthony Tsai International Law Firm since 2001. She received her law degree from Soochow University. She is a qualified elementary school teacher of English, and her languages include Chinese, English, and Japanese. Chi attended public school in New York for three years during her childhood, which acquainted her with western culture. Her main area of interest is business law, and her long-term goal is to return to Taiwan and apply her LL.M. training to international business law.

Mr. Christian Wyss
Therwil, Switzerland
Christian passed the bar exam in Switzerland two years ago and recently worked as a Court Clerk for the Criminal Court of The Canton of Basel-Land. He received his Licentiate in Law from the University of Basel and spent one year at the University of Lausanne as part of an exchange program. He speaks German, English, French, and Italian. Christian received nine interview invitations at the NYU International Student Interview Program in January and has accepted a position with the law firm of VISCHER Rechtsanwaelte in Basel.
LL.M. Class of 2005 (continued)

Mr. Kenichi Kunikane
Tokyo, Japan
Kenichi is an attorney and manager in the International Section of the Legal Department of Taisei Corporation, a global engineering and construction company. Kenichi is studying for one and one-half years in Wake’s LL.M. program to further expand his U.S. legal knowledge. He earned his LL.B. degree from Hitosubashi University and intends to use his study of U.S. laws and legal systems to enable him to deal with corporate legal affairs globally.

Mr. Samuel Chacon
Mexico City, Mexico
Samuel is an associate of Winstead Y Rivera Law Firm, a business law firm that handles cross-border international legal matters, working in the corporate and industrial property areas. He is licensed to practice law in Mexico and is in charge of the intellectual property area of the firm’s Mexico City office. He received his law degree at the Instituto Tecnologico Autonomo of Mexico.

Mr. Jun Furuta
Yokohama, Japan
Jun is Manager of the Transaction Management Group of the Norinchukin Bank, an institutional investor in global financial markets. He received his law degree from Keio University and has eleven years of experience in the financial field. His area of interest is banking law, and his goal is to become a leader in the field of cross-border financial investments.

Mr. S’Thembiso (Tim) Tembe
Kwa Zulu Natal Province, South Africa
Tim is a Ford Foundation Fellow from South Africa who worked as a Project Facilitator for Momotheka, a company which develops community projects. He received two law degrees from the University of Zululand and also a Diploma in Public Administration. His languages are Zulu, English, and Afrikaans, and his particular field of interest is human rights. After receiving his LL.M. degree, Tim wishes to spend time teaching human rights awareness in rural communities in South Africa.

Mr. Kazuya Shiki
Tokyo, Japan
Kazuya is a Manager of the Legal Department of Mitsui Mining & Smelting Company in its Tokyo headquarters. He received his law degree from Kyushu University. Kazuya previously visited the U.S. as part of a one-month exchange program in Abilene, Texas, and a summer program at the University of California, Davis. His area of interest is international business transactions. He will use his LL.M. degree in the business department of his company to handle major business activities.
LL.M. Class of 2005 (continued)

Mr. Hideyuki Kohata
Shiga, Japan
Hideyuki is a member of the Legal Group in the Administrative Division of Nippon Electric Glass Company, the second largest technical glass manufacturer in the world. He holds a degree in commercial law from Waseda University. His particular interest is in antitrust law. He will use his knowledge of American law to help reshape the corporate system at NEG and coordinate their overseas subsidiaries.

Mr. Daniel Millares
La Paz, Bolivia
Daniel holds a Licenciate in Laws from the Catholic University of Bolivia. He teaches Commercial Law, Natural Law, Customs Law, and Human Rights at the Salesian University of Bolivia, and is the youngest professor ever hired by the University. Mr. Millares is a member of the Bolivian Bar Association. His personal goal is to become a better professor and researcher after studying at Wake Forest and to help bring social and democratic justice to Bolivia.

Mr. Katsuo Yamaura
Saitama, Japan
Katsuo is Senior Manager of the Law Department of Kubota Corporation, the largest manufacturer of farm equipment and industrial machinery in the world. He has dealt with commercial and international legal matters in India and Korea, and in product liability cases in the U.S. and Europe. His law degree is from Nigata University. Katsuo is studying U.S. law at Wake Forest for two years. After completing the LL.M. program, he plans to get practical legal training at a law firm relevant to his company.

Mr. SuBeom Lee
Seoul, Korea
SuBeom is a Credit Manager at Hyundai Capital Services, Inc. He received his law degree from Korea University College of Law and also holds a degree in Public Administration from Chung-Ang University. He studied American Law courses at Koabels American Law Research Institute in preparation for his LL.M. studies. He is particularly interested in consumer credit protection law and private bankruptcy law. His goal is to work in the Financial Supervisory Commission as a Financial Supervisor, an advisory position for the S. Korean Government.

Mr. Hiroshi Kishimoto
Chiba, Japan
Hiroshi has been an attorney with Sumitomo Chemical Company, one of the top ten chemical companies in the world, for nine years. He earned his Bachelor of Law degree from Osaka University. Hiroshi’s particular interest is in U.S. debtor and creditor law. He is studying U.S. law at Wake Forest for his second year.
Recent News from Our LL.M. Alumni

* In the Spring of 2004 Yoriko Sakai, (LL.M. 2002), Legal Department of Nihon Unisys; Shin Yamazaki (LL.M. 2001), Legal Department of Nihon Unisys; Ryo Kawamura (LL.M. 1999), Legal Department of UBE Industries, Ltd.; Masaru Takeyasu (LL.M. 2001), Legal Officer of Kao Corporation; and Naohiro Tanaka (LL.M. 2003), Legal Department of Sharp Electronics, hosted a luncheon party in Tokyo for the Japanese members of the 2004-2005 Wake Forest LL.M. class who would be departing in August for Winston-Salem.

* Dr. Jochen Zaremba (Germany, LL.M. 2002) wrote an article on the Wake Forest School of Law LL.M. Program which was published in “DAJV,” the German American Lawyers Association Journal, the most well-known overview of law school reports providing German lawyers with information on post-graduate studies in the U.S. Thanks go to Jochen for his efforts on behalf of the Wake Forest University LL.M. Program. Jochen is practicing law with Lehner, Daenekamp, Mayer & Knorz in Dusseldorf, Germany.

* Ali Celik (Turkey, LL.M. 2001) reports that he has established a law practice in Anatalya, Turkey, and represents several large travel agencies, hotel chains, corporate businesses, the Anatalya Free Trade Zone Operators, and several foreign embassies. Ali also volunteers time teaching criminal procedure to public defenders in the Anatalya Bar Association and is one of the five members of the Executive Board of the International Affairs Committee of the Turkish Bar Association. Ali and Melek’s daughter, Asli, is now 5 years old.


* Adriana Ozorio (Brazil, LL.M. 1998) reports that Sabrina Zancan (Italy, LL.M. 1999) and a Wake Forest J.D. student visited her in Rio de Janeiro in March 2004 and that she was able to show them the sights of Rio. Adriana also corresponds with her classmate Abdulaziz Al-Bosaily (Saudi Arabia, LL.M. 1998) through e-mail.

* Ryo Kawamura (Japan, LL.M. 1999) and wife Junko are pleased to announce the birth of a baby daughter, Hanna on December 25.

* Young Soo Chang (Korea, LL.M. 2004) returned to Korea in September and assumed a position as Manager of the Electronic Securities Team at the Korean Securities Depository, where he researches and manages foreign security related law, including current trends in the U.S., develops procedures for shareholders, and makes recommendations to the S. Korean Government.

* Sung Jae Park (Korea, LL.M. 2004) pursued his S.J.D. degree at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, but was called home on an emergency basis by the Korean Government to return to his position as Prosecutor of an important case. He hopes to be able to return to the U.S. and complete his S.J.D. studies in the future.

* Ammar Jastaniah (Saudi Arabia, LL.M. 2004) is teaching four classes at the Institute of Public Administration in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: Contracts, Principles of Legal Drafting, Social Insurance Law, and the Law of Procedure. He reports that his wife Amal and his two beautiful daughters are doing well.

* Happy news from Wei (Joy) Huang (China, LL.M. 2002). Joy had a Christmas wedding in Guangzhou, China, and married Raymond Tan. Congratulations!

* Manuel Mocetzuma (Mexico, LL.M. 2004) has joined the law firm of Ajamie, Ltd. In Houston, Texas. He works on securities cases and with the firm’s Mexican clients. The firm is noted for its international litigation practice.

* Abdulaziz Al-Bosaily (Saudi Arabia, LL.M. 1998) has a new position as Legal Manager of the Saudi Arabian Investment Authority in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

* Aibek Ismoilov (Kyrgyzstan, LL.M. 2000) and his wife Bukambaeva Chinara, won the citizenship lottery for U.S. citizenship and have moved to Northern Virginia. They are in the process of becoming U.S. citizens and making new lives for themselves and their two children.

* Michael Hoffmann (Germany, LL.M. 1999) reports that he continues to work in the Legal Department of T-Mobile Deutschland in Bonn, dealing with copyright, trademark, and unfair competition law both nationally and internationally. Michael reports that the communication law sector provides interesting and demanding work in a field of law that is developing rapidly.

* Rezarte Vukatana (Albania, LL.M. 2004) is a lawyer in the Tirana office of an Austrian firm, Wolf Theiss. This firm interviewed Rezarte during the NYU International Student Interview Program in New York in January 2004. Rezarte reports that she is working on several projects affecting Kosovo, which she finds to be an intense and captivating experience.
Recent News from Our LL.M. Alumni (continued)

* Bruno Andrade Soares (Brazil, LL.M. 2004) returned to his law firm, Villemor Trigueiro e Advogados Associates in Rio de Janeiro, where he practices international debtor/creditor law and torts cases. Bruno supervises three lawyers and four law clerks, and his clients include AGA, Wyeth, and BASF. Bruno says his life is going smoothly, but the weather in Rio is too hot. He paid a return visit to Winston-Salem and the law school in April.

* Aaron Yuzzeli Oyarce (Peru, LL.M. 2002) is currently studying for a post-graduate degree in Roman Law at the Universita la Sapienze in Rome, Italy. Aaron is also conducting research for a book on private international law that he plans to publish upon his return to Peru.

* Yazmyne Vasquez-Erba (Peru, LL.M. 2003) is studying for her MBA degree at Thunderbird University in Arizona. Following graduation, she plans to move to Geneva.

* Eva Neweklowsky (Austria, LL.M. 2002) is working at the University of Vienna in the Legal Affairs Department and Research and International Affairs Relations unit. She advises professors on IP issues and drafts and negotiates R&D contracts and partnership agreements between universities.

* Pat Makornwatana (Bangkok, Thailand, LL.M. 2000) went through the process of becoming a monk or “Kak” in Thailand last year and then returned to his position in the Attorney General’s office. In April he observed the opening of the 11th Congress in Bangkok.

* Faisal Al Lazzam (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, LL.M. 2000) is Manager of the Legal Department for the Company for Cooperative Insurance, the largest insurance company in the Middle East. Faisal and his wife Maryam share the happy news of the birth of their first child, a baby boy named Khalid. Congratulations Faisal and Maryam!

* Happy news from Isabel Dungas (LL.M. 2002). Isabel announces her marriage to Mr. Eric Smitherman of Washington, D.C. The couple is currently living in the Washington, D.C./Northern Virginia area. Eric is an engineering graduate of Virginia Tech.

* Ryo and Junko Kawamura’s son, Rintaro, is three years old and growing by leaps and bounds. Rintaro wants to visit the United States, and Junko and Ryo are planning to visit Wake Forest in the near future. Ryo and Junko keep in touch with many of their Wake Forest friends such as Jason Cogdil (J.D. 2001), Shada Horner (J.D. 1999), and Pat Makornwatana (LL.M. 2000). Ryo was invited to a party held by the State of North Carolina, Japan Office (an arm of the N.C. State Department of Commerce), on March 28, 2005. Other Wake Forest LL.M. alumni also attended.

The Wake Forest LL.M. Program was highlighted in some special ways this year:

* The winter issue of The Jurist, the magazine of the Wake Forest School of Law, dedicated its feature article to our LL.M. program;

* The Law School Board of Visitors entertained a presentation about our LL.M. program in October;

* The Graduate and Professional Schools Committee of the Wake Forest University Board of Trustees were treated to a presentation about our LL.M. program in March.

LL.M. students Samuel Chacon (Mexico City, Mexico), Christian Wyss (Therwil, Switzerland), Jenna Kalcevic (Wuppertal, Germany), and Hiroshi Kishimoto (Chiba, Japan), spoke at the October and March events.

“Besides the fact that we have the most caring professors and administrative staff members, we are also assigned with individual American J.D. mentors who ensure that all our needs, even outside the law school, are fulfilled. To ease our academic pressures, we have been assigned teachers’ assistants who assist us in every academic problem that we may have. I would say Wake Forest LL.M. Program is the best academic program I have ever seen—it is second to none.”

S’Thembiso (Tim) Tembe, South Africa

“The Wake Forest LL.M. Program gives ... knowledge of the U.S. legal system to face the challenges of your clients. Second, (it) allows you to understand the feelings, mentality, and lifestyle that the Americans in general want so that you will be able to provide your clients better alternatives to satisfy their personal goals. Third, the Wake Forest program allows you to interact with members of the community, lawyers, and future lawyers who will be doing business in your field.”

Hideyuki Kohata, Japan
LL.M. students participated in the law school’s annual visit to the U.S. Supreme Court. Accompanied by Professor Gilreath, the students heard two arguments in the Court’s morning session, and then took a tour of the Court led by Wake Forest alumnus Troy Cahill, a Supreme Court staff attorney. They visited the conference rooms where the Justices deliberate on cases, the Supreme Court library, the Justices’ private dining room, and finally ended the tour by shooting hoops on the private basketball court of the Court’s third floor.

LL.M. students attended the annual Thanksgiving celebration at Professor Gilreath’s farm in western North Carolina. The students and their families enjoyed a traditional American Thanksgiving meal of turkey, yams, and all the trimmings.

Christian Wyss, Jenna Kalcevic, and Chi Tan experience colonial American life during a tour of Old Salem, a restored colonial village in Winston-Salem.

Class of 2005 LL.M. students enjoy the fun and excitement of a tailgate party at one of Wake Forest’s home football games.