

Building Bridges, Increasing Internationalism

by Bridget Lynch '98

Next summer, through a program at one of China's premier law schools, 10 students from Lewis & Clark Law School will have the opportunity to gain a global perspective on the law—and life. Dean Bob Klonoff, who came to the Law School from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, has opened the door for our students to take part in UMKC's summer law program at Peking University in Beijing. Students will be able to see a side of China that few others do.

"The program is unique," says Susan Mandiberg, professor of law and chair of the new program. "Summer-abroad programs often take U.S. students elsewhere and teach them U.S. law. But in this program, students will study Chinese law as well as some Chinese history."

The UMKC program began in 1999 and is limited to about 45 students. Each day of the three-week program, participants focus on a different aspect of Chinese law. Students will live on campus at Peking University, also known as Beida (pronounced "Bay-da"), during their stay.

Lewis & Clark students will receive academic credit as if they were attending courses at the Law School. They will study the history and political system of China; the organization of the Chinese legal system; and principles of Chinese civil law, trial practice, evidence, criminal law, contract law, family law, real estate law, intellectual property, and dispute resolution. Students will also have the option of extending their stay for a three-week externship with a Chinese law firm.

"One of the most positive things I hear from students is that it gives them a much broader

view of the world—it kind of opens their eyes, expands their horizons," says Nancy Kunkel, associate director and senior program coordinator for international summer law programs at UMKC. "It gives them a better understanding of our American laws and why they are the way they are and helps them realize what it took to get to this point."

While all classroom lectures will be taught in English by Beida faculty, UMKC employs about 10 student assistants from Beida's law school to act as translators and tour guides outside of the classroom, Kunkel says. Students are encouraged to take part in the optional cultural tours in and around Beijing.

"There are thousands and thousands of years of history there and some of it doesn't seem like it was much further away than just yesterday," Kunkel says. The Temple of Heaven, the Ming Tombs, Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall, and the Palace Museum are among the sites the group visits each year. It is not, however, a leisurely trip. "I always tell our students, 'If you want a Club Med vacation, take one. Don't

go on this trip. This is law school.'"

Lewis & Clark Law School has had a long relationship with China. In 1982, Han Depei, dean of the law school at Wuhan University, came to speak at the invitation of Steve Kanter, who was acting dean of the Law School at the time. Inspired by the possibilities in the changing legal landscape in China, Kanter put together a program that admits one or two Chinese students each year to our J.D. program. He also spent a yearlong sabbatical teaching law in China.

Mandiberg is pleased she will be traveling to Peking University alongside the students. In addition to delivering a series of lectures on the American legal system to the Peking University community, she will be keeping an eye out for ways Lewis & Clark can broaden its already strong international connections. "It will be great to see, firsthand, a well-running program in China," Mandiberg says. "And it will be helpful to have that perspective when we are making decisions about the possibility of our program, as well."

Faculty Around the World

China is not the only country with which the Law School has ties. Many of our faculty members have spent time teaching overseas and bringing back their experiences to add even more international perspectives to Lewis & Clark:

- **Henry J. Casey Professor of Law Ed Brunet** and **Erskine Wood Sr. Professor of Law Jim Huffman** have both spent time at Hakuoh University in Japan helping the law school there transition from the British to the American model.
- **Professor Steve Johansen's** work developing a legal writing program at the University of Latvia School of Law in Riga led to the publication of *Juridiska Analize Un Tekstu Rakstisana*, Latvia's first legal writing textbook.
- **Professor Amy Bushaw** spent a semester teaching in the faculty of economics and business administration at Sofia University in Bulgaria and two semesters living and teaching in Riga at the University of Latvia. Clinical Professor Theresa Wright spent two and a half months in Croatia evaluating clinical programs at three Croatian law schools.
- **Professor Arthur LaFrance** has taught at the University of Glasgow in Scotland; Murdoch University in Perth, Australia; and most recently at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand.

- **Professor Susan Mandiberg** traveled to Morelia, Mexico, to teach basic criminal law and procedure and hold a mock homicide trial for Mexican lawyers, judges, law professors, and students. Currently, Mandiberg is working on the creation of an exchange program with Universidad Latina de America in Morelia.
- **Professor John Grant**, then dean of law at the University of Glasgow, and **Jim Huffman**, who was dean of the Law School at the time, began a student exchange program. For each of the last 10 years, two students from Glasgow have spent the spring semester at the Law School. Timing and ABA-related issues have prevented Lewis & Clark students from studying at Glasgow, but Grant is now spending half his year in Portland teaching international law, human rights law, and European law to students at the Law School.
- **Professor Elaine Sutherland** splits her time between teaching child and family law for half the year in Portland and teaching, researching, and writing at the University of Stirling in Scotland.

The Law School has also had relationships with the University of Auckland in New Zealand; the University of Athens in Greece; the National University of the Basque Country in Bilbao, Spain; and Universidad Francisco Marroquin in Guatemala.