from international tribunals, top academics, and ambassadors have been among the visiting lecturers. Professors Susan Appleton, Kathleen Clark, Dorsey D. Ellis, Jr., Pauline Kim, Charles McManis, and Kim Norwood are among those who have taught in the summer program.

In recent years, Distinguished Visiting Lecturers have included Justice Richard Goldstone, former chief prosecutor, International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda; Ambassador David Scheffer, former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues; and Syracuse University Professor David Crane, former chief prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Guest speakers have included Judge Philippe Kirsch, former president of the International Criminal Court; Judges Thomas Buergenthal and Sir Christopher Greenwood of the International Court of Justice; and Fatou Bensouda, deputy prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. The institute is directed by Professor Leila Sadat and coordinated by Michael Peil, associate dean for international programs and executive director of the Transnational Law Program.

As part of their experience, students travel to The Hague to observe trials and to visit the International Court of Justice. They also visit Brussels to learn firsthand about the European Union’s legislative processes and institutions.

George Lyle IV, JD ’11, says his experience at the Summer Institute was invaluable. “The setting is fantastic for anyone who is interested in international law because most of the important international legal organizations are within a three-hour drive,” he notes. “The leaders of the Summer Institute are also well-connected in the international law world, and they were able to introduce us to people and places we would not have seen otherwise. For example, I landed an internship at the ICTY through connections my professors and I made during the program.”

Prestigious Fellowships

For more than a decade, the Dagen-Legomsky Fellowship Program has provided yet another experience in international law, supporting students working and studying abroad. The fellowships are endowed by a gift from Margaret Dagen and named in honor of the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute’s founding director, Stephen Legomsky, now the John S. Lehmann University Professor.

Recent fellows have worked on human trafficking in Thailand and immigrant and refugee rights in Northern India, assisted counsel in trials before the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia, and interned with the European Council on Refugees and Exiles. Dagen-Legomsky Hague Fellows also receive prestigious placements at The Hague Academy for International Law, a rare opportunity for U.S. law students. Sponsored by the International Court of Justice, the intensive three-week summer course is taught by leading international law scholars.

M. Imad Khan, JD ’11, says that attending The Hague Academy of International Law as a Dagen-Legomsky Hague Fellow Margaret Wichmann, JD ’10, worked on immigrant and refugee rights issues in Thailand.
Fellow in 2010 was “indubitably one of the highlights in my law school career. “After exploring international law for a few years by working with Professor Leila Nadya Sadat, taking international law courses, and participating in the Jessup International Moot Court Program, The Hague Academy was the logical next step for me to expand my knowledge of international law and further grapple with the complexities underlying the international legal regime,” he recalls.

Khan says he benefited from both the general course in public international law and the specialized courses that covered a broad spectrum of pertinent international law “with renowned professors and diplomats whose books and articles I had studied over the previous years.”

Thanks to the generosity of alumnus Steven Cash Nickerson, JD ’85, MBA ’93, several students also have had the opportunity to work as Cash Nickerson Fellows on the Harris Institute’s Crimes Against Humanity Initiative. The more than three-year project involved studying the international law regarding crimes against humanity and forging the draft of a multilateral treaty condemning and prohibiting such crimes. The Cash Nickerson Fellows performed valuable research on the commission of atrocities over the past century and worked on both the proposed convention and a related book during the documentation process.

Student Exchanges

Traditional student exchanges are also available, and the law school has exchange agreements with 12 foreign law schools in Asia, Africa, and Europe—both sending students abroad and bringing students to Washington University. The most recent agreement is with the TC Beirne Law School at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia (see page 23).

For his exchange experience, Ajay Sharma, JD ’11, spent spring 2011 at the National University of Singapore. He studied foreign direct investment law as an exchange student at the National University of Singapore.

“Studying abroad is truly an incredible experience,” says Sharma, who went to the United Kingdom as an undergraduate and to India in 2009. “The law plays an integral role in global affairs, and although each jurisdiction has its own peculiar legal system and structures, the fundamental notions of law and order run through them all. Studying abroad as a law student helped me appreciate the complexity of the legal profession at the global level and its particular expressions within each jurisdiction, as well as value the differences and similarities in practice.”

Sharma also appreciated the chance to work with students from many other countries. “The law exchange program had students from Canada, the U.K., the Netherlands, Denmark, Portugal, Italy, Germany, India, and Australia, among many others,” he notes.

Another recent graduate, Amrit Kapai, JD ’11, spent the spring semester at China’s Fudan University, taking courses in Chinese securities law, Chinese banking law, Chinese contract law, and international investment law, along with an elementary language course. “This experience opened up my eyes to the rest of the world,” Kapai says. “China and other countries in Asia are developing at an astounding rate. “Along with development come job opportunities,” he adds. “While the U.S. job market is struggling to keep afloat, the job markets in some of the other countries I visited—Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines, and Malaysia—are just now taking off.”

Kapai also learned about the changing legal systems, particularly in China. “Through my courses, I was able to learn about the Chinese legal system which, albeit still progressing, has come a long way in maintaining justice and order.”
Jessup International Moot Court Competition

Mutual understanding and personal growth are among the byproducts of working and studying abroad, and the oldest and most prestigious international law moot court competition recognizes just that.

“The Jessup International Moot Court Competition has a motto: ‘In the future, world leaders will look at each other differently because they first met here as friends,’” notes Professor Leila Sadat. “That is a very powerful concept.”

The law school has enjoyed enormous success in the Jessup competition over the past decade. “We’re known as one of the top Jessup schools in the United States,” says Sadat, who directs the team along with two-time International Rounds oralist Gilbert Sison, JD ’00, now the Jessup team’s coach and an adjunct professor.

“Professor Sison brings to the Jessup program an indispensable and irreplaceable level of practicality and professionalism,” Sadat notes. “More than a coach, more than a professor, he is our institutional memory.”

In the competition, five-person teams prepare oral and written arguments on both sides of a hypothetical dispute between two fictional nations. Teams compete in two stages, qualifying tournaments in which the winners then represent their nations, and the international rounds, where the national champions compete for the Jessup Cup. Sadat has authored or co-authored three of the problems (including the 2011 problem), which are designed to reflect current issues in international law. This past year, she also acted as a judge for the finals of the French National Round.

In the past decade, the Washington University team has won the qualifying tournament in six out of 10 tries. Only Harvard, with seven wins, has done as well. And in the international rounds, Washington University teams have won 15 out of 24 matches, a record exceeded only by Harvard and Columbia. The law school is also the only one in the world to have won each of the Jessup’s three distinct memorial awards for written arguments in a three-year period; no other team has won more than one.

Sadat is justifiably proud of the law school’s competitors. “The Washington University style is not aggressive, and it’s not a beauty contest for us,” she says. “We know more, we work harder, and we have fun. Our teams are known for being really solid on the law. We’re all about substance, about good advocacy skills, and about being good sports.”

Washington University law students also have competed in the D.M. Harish International Law Moot Court Competition in Mumbai, India, the first U.S. law students to do so; and they participate in the Niagara Moot Court, an international competition focusing on U.S.–Canadian disputes.

Global Studies Law Review

The Washington University Global Studies Law Review provides students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in international and comparative law scholarship. Begun a decade ago, the journal goes beyond comparative law to address global issues. Law review board members have the opportunity to investigate complex international legal questions while engaging with groundbreaking legal scholars.

“We take great pride in publishing works that serve as a catalyst for future scholarship,” says third-year law student and editor-in-chief Charlena Aumiller. “Global presents outstanding articles, book reviews, essays, and notes from prestigious
academics, practitioners, and prominent students to expand the legal community's understanding of real-world international issues.

“Our upcoming volume 11 promises to be exceptional with topics as diverse as transboundary air pollution, implied constitutional rights, the protection of nationals abroad, and land restitution,” she adds. “Our authors have both theoretical and practical experience. Volume 11, for example, includes articles by professors from Colombia, Korea, and South Africa, as well as practitioners at the U.S. State Department’s Office of the Legal Adviser and the Canadian Armed Forces.”

Other Opportunities

An innovative agreement with the International Criminal Court (ICC) is presenting law students with the opportunity to put their research skills into practice. Through the work of the Harris Institute, Washington University School of Law was the first school in the United States to become a partner in the ICC’s Legal Tools Project. Through the arrangement, law students are assisting the ICC with building the most comprehensive and complete database within the field of international criminal law.

The ICC’s Legal Tools Project involves the comprehensive collection of resources relevant to the theory and practice of international criminal law. It also brings modern technologies into the investigation, prosecution, and defense of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Under the direction of Professor Leila Sadat, Associate Dean Michael Peil, and a Harris Institute Fellow (most recently Yordanka Nedyalkova), the students conduct research on national jurisdictions and national cases. These cases involve core international crimes from a group of African states.

Another unique student opportunity, the International Humanitarian Law Teaching Project is a cooperative program with the St. Louis Chapter of the American Red Cross. Through the project, Red Cross officials train law students to teach about topics in international humanitarian law to area high school students. Law students facilitate classroom discussions about topics such as the Geneva Conventions, current conflict zones, the lives of refugees, and the extreme challenges posed by landmines. Each year, more than 50 law students participate and more than eight local high schools take advantage of the program.

Immeasurable Benefits

In all of these opportunities, students reap immeasurable benefits, Professor Karen Tokarz believes. “Students begin to locate what they’re learning about public and private law in the U.S. within the global networks of economic regulation and ordering of public systems; they gain a better comprehension of multilateral relations among states; and they come to understand different cultures and systems.

“At a practical level,” she continues, “the students who go overseas distinguish themselves from other colleagues as they enter the job market. They’ve developed a richer, broader, more contextualized understanding of law, legal systems, and legal practice that is quite attractive to employers.”

Sadat agrees. The Jessup competition, for instance, “is one of the most intensive legal writing, oral advocacy training programs we run at the law school,” she says. “It’s a credential around the world, because everyone knows that someone who has worked on one of these problems has superb lawyering skills.”

Just as important, the students make valuable contributions to the international settings in which they work. “They contribute skills and their youthful energy and enthusiasm,” Sadat observes. Using the tribunal setting as an example, she continues: “For exhausted prosecutors, just having these young people there is energizing. They’re also doing very hard work. We’ve had students who were given a difficult file and asked to wade through witness testimony or evaluate forensic evidence and help the prosecutor formulate an argument or write a memo. They have really made some very significant contributions to international justice.”