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Worlds of Opportunity: New Exchange Programs Extend Our Global Presence

UB Law Forum

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WORLDS of OPPORTUNITY

New exchange programs extend our global presence

Spin a globe, stop it with your finger, and chances are you will be near a spot where UB Law School is extending its worldwide reach through student and faculty exchange programs. With a new general master of laws program aimed at international students and an increasing number of opportunities for students and professors to deepen their legal education abroad, UB Law is rapidly solidifying its presence on the world stage.

"As globalization has proceeded, in some ways there is no such thing as purely domestic law anymore," says Professor David M. Engel, director of international programs. "Almost every field of law that we teach has been affected by contacts with other social and legal systems, with transnational organizations and practices, and with global flows of people and ideas.

"The advantages of international programs for American students are extraordinary. For example, when you are teaching torts or property, or any of the traditional American law subjects, it is tremendously valuable to have someone from another legal system in the classroom who can explain that there are other ways to think about these subjects. It gives our students a broader perspective on how our legal

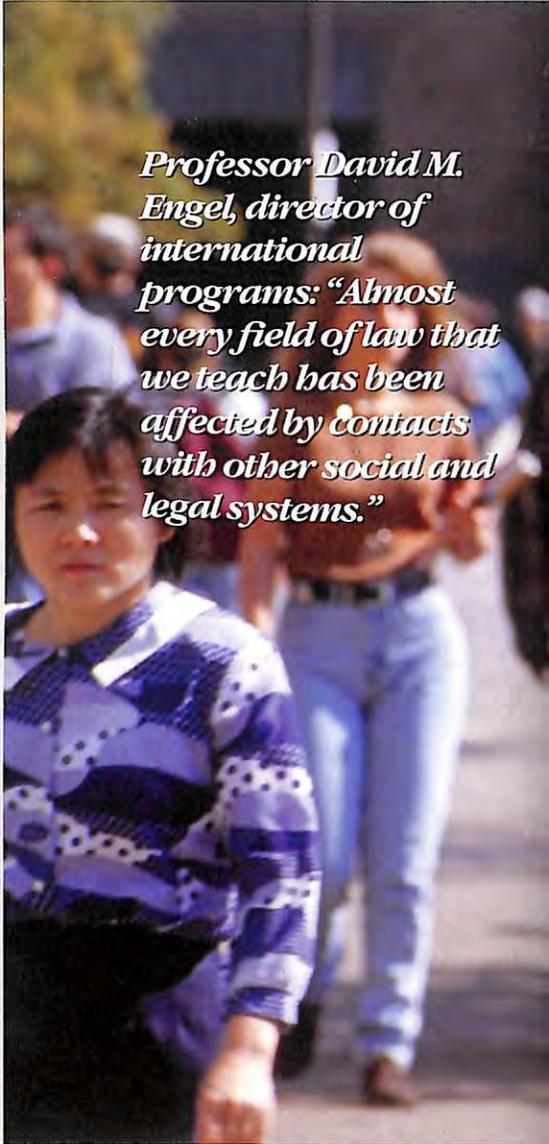
system works, what choices we have made and what alternatives are available. It provides American students with an expanded set of personal and professional relationships that will be mutually beneficial after graduation.

"It is also a great opportunity for the international students who come to UB to study law. Their legal systems, like ours, are also becoming globalized. Lawyers from those countries who attend schools like UB Law become a kind of cultural bridge after they graduate. They can act as go-betweens in international transactions. They are people who can speak two 'legal languages.'"

UB Law's longest-standing student exchange agreement is with the School of Law of Esade Universitat Ramon Llull, in Barcelona, Spain. Established in 1998, it allows for as many as four U.S. students and four from Spain to spend a semester across the ocean. This semester, Gloria Folguera Ventura is visiting UB Law as an exchange student from Barcelona. "Students who have gone there have come back with glowing reports," Engel says.

Professor Markus Dubber, through professional contacts in his specialty of criminal law, is working on two exchanges that will involve both students and faculty. A just-signed agreement with Scotland's University of Glasgow School of Law provides for "scholarly exchange and collaboration" and will enable up to four students each academic year to study abroad.

"I was invited to several conferences in Scotland, including two in Glasgow, where people were interested in exchange programs and collabo-



Professor David M. Engel, director of international programs: "Almost every field of law that we teach has been affected by contacts with other social and legal systems."

rating with us," Dubber says.

A similar agreement is now before the faculty of the University of Frankfurt School of Law in Germany, and Dubber says they hope this fall to finalize details for the exchange of students and faculty. "There is a basic commitment to collaborate on projects and programs and conferences, but no similar provision about numbers of people," he says.

Such exchanges, Dubber says, "make the Law School a more integrated, global place, and make it more attractive for potential students and faculty."

Newly emerging agreements with



law schools in Thailand and Korea, Engel says, grew out of a recognition that those universities were developing innovative master of laws programs. "We decided that by forming partnerships with them, it might provide another channel where both faculty members and students could learn and work together with people in other countries," he says.

A program with Chiangmai University in northern Thailand has been launched within the framework of a pre-existing university-to-university exchange agreement, and some UB Law faculty have

already visited there to teach and consult. "In coming years, as Chiangmai's new LL.M. program develops, we hope there will be additional opportunities for faculty members and students from both institutions," Engel says.

An agreement was recently concluded between UB Law School and the College of Law and the Graduate School of Intellectual Property Law at Chungnam National University in Daejeon Korea. Located in Korea's Silicon Valley, CNU has begun an innovative graduate program in intellectual property law. UB Law graduate Dariush Keyhani '01 now serves as a visiting professor at CNU and helped to facilitate this new partnership, which con-

templates the exchange of both students and faculty members.

"Our partnership with Chungnam National University envisions that they will send LL.M. students to UB. These students will typically have backgrounds as patent examiners in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, which grants the third-largest number of patents in the world. This will be an elite group of experienced and highly trained individuals with Ph.D. degrees in various fields. We also expect to send UB Law students to study in Daejeon," Engel says.