

# CENTER NEWS/FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

## CENTER NEWS

### 7TH ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES (OCTOBER 3 – OCTOBER 27)

Over 200 people attended the 7th Annual Human Rights Film Series this fall. In a constant effort to cater to the needs of the WCL community, the Center added an additional screening to this year's film series, enabling evening and part-time students to attend. The series kicked off with a screening of *Amandla!*, which documents the important role that music played in the fight for freedom during apartheid in South Africa. The second screening featured *The Agronomist*, a film by Academy-Award winning filmmaker Jonathan Demme, which tells the story of Haitian national hero, journalist, and freedom fighter Jean L. Dominique, who fought tirelessly against the injustices in his nation until his assassination in April of 2000. The third screening featured *Maquilapolis*, a film which documents the life of Carmen and Lourdes, two workers at a *maquiladora* who are able to offer personal perspectives on the story of globalization as they struggle to survive in the grueling life of a globalized city. After the screening, **Barb Gottlieb** of the Women's Edge Coalition, spoke about how videos are made to advance social agenda. The final screening, *China Blue*, was shot in the Lifeng Factory in Shaxi, South China, and follows the life of 16-year old denim thread-cutter Jasmine, who, along with the millions of other factory workers in China, must struggle under the pressures of rising Western demands and shrinking wages. **Brian Campbell**, an attorney at the International Labor Rights Fund (ILRF), was present to discuss labor laws in China and labor law enforcement, as well as a class action case against Wal-Mart in which ILRF represents Chinese workers working in Wal-Mart factories in China. The annual film series, which focuses on ways to use film and video to promote and protect human rights, is co-sponsored by the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, the AU Center for Social Media, and the Kaye Spiritual Life Center.

### CENTER BEGINS WORK WITH UNIVERSITY OF PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

The Center has received a \$200,000 grant from the US Department of State to support a collaborative project building capacity within the University of Peshawar (Pakistan) law faculty's human rights program. The one-year project, which will include visits from University of Peshawar (UP) faculty to WCL and travel by WCL faculty to Pakistan, seeks to enhance UP's Human Rights Center and provide support for the inclusion of gender in its human rights program. Prof. **Muneer Ahmad** conducted a site visit to UP in mid-December 2006 to kick off the project, meeting with faculty and students from the Law College, the Gender Studies Department, and the Islamic Studies Center. While at UP, Prof. Ahmad also gave a public lecture to faculty and students on his representation of Guantanamo detainee Omar Khadr.

### EXPOSING SEXUAL VIOLENCE BEHIND BARS: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT

On November 2, 2006, the Center co-hosted a candid discussion with **T.J. Parsell**, author of *FISH: A Memoir of a Boy in a Man's Prison* and President of Stop Prisoner Rape (SPR), who told of his incarceration at the age of 17 and his indoctrination into a brutal, sexually charged and power-hungry prison culture. A standing room only crowd heard Parsell's story. Other panelists included the Senior Policy Associate for SPR, **Cynthia Totten**, and WCL Professor **Brenda V. Smith**, a member of the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission and Director of the NIC/WCL Project on Addressing Prison Rape. This event was co-sponsored by the Center in conjunction with the Journal of Gender, Social Policy, and the Law, and the Criminal Law Society.

### FAILURE TO PROTECT: A CALL FOR THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO TAKE ACTION IN NORTH KOREA

On November 13, 2006, the Center co-hosted an intimate discussion on the human rights situation in North Korea. Mr. **Jared Genser**, a senior associate at DLA Piper LLP, presented a PowerPoint presentation on a

recently released report on North Korea and its responsibility to protect its citizens. DLA Piper LLP and the US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea were commissioned by former Czech Republic President Václav Havel, former Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel to produce the report entitled "Failure to Protect: A Call for the UN Security Council to Act in North Korea." The report spotlights rights abuses that have been previously reported but are often overshadowed by concern about North Korea's nuclear ambitions. This event was co-sponsored by Action for Human Rights, the Asian-Pacific American Law Students Association, the LL.M. Board, and the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

### THE CHALLENGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM IN TUNISIA

**Samir Dilou**, a human rights activist from Tunisia, led a discussion about his experience as a political prisoner as well as his current activism in the human rights field. Mr. Dilou was a political prisoner for 10 years, 2 months and 8 days in Tunisia. An outspoken but non-violent young activist, he was put in prison for being a leader of the student union at his university. While in prison from 1991-2001, he coordinated and participated in hunger strikes to protest the inhumane conditions within Tunisian prisons, which often resulted in him being placed in isolation and tortured. In 2000 Mr. Dilou was the subject of an Amnesty International Urgent Action. Subsequently, Mr. Dilou was released and continued his struggle for human rights with the International Association for the Support of Political Prisoners in Tunisia and Vérité-Action in Switzerland. This event was co-sponsored by the Arab Law Students Association, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

### THE CENTER RECOGNIZES ITS 2006 STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD FOR AN EXEMPLARY YEAR OF SERVICE

The Center's Student Advisory Board is the backbone of Center planning and program implementation. Students on the SAB

serve for one year and meet weekly with the Center Executive Director, planning programming, liaising with student groups and participating in specialized skills development seminars to build their skills as human rights activists. This year's SAB made particularly noteworthy contributions to the Center and their dedication and commitment is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to 2006 SAB members **Elizabeth Rushing, Bjorn Sorenson, Amy Tai, Jessica Farb, Mark Vorkink** and **Anneke Victorica**.

#### FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

**Claudio Grossman**, Dean of WCL and Co-Director of the Center, delivered remarks at a reception celebrating the *Newsweek.com* launch of "The E-Guide to Public Service at America's Law Schools," at the Washington, D.C. office of Crowell & Moring, LLP (Oct. 18, 2006), where he addressed the importance of instilling public interest values in law students and WCL's commitment to public service; spoke on "The Evolving World of International Law" at the American Branch of the International Law Association's "International Law Weekend" (New York, NY, Oct. 28, 2006); gave remarks at the reception launching the Freedom of Expression Program, an NED-funded activity of WCL's Impact Litigation Project for Strengthening Democracy in the Americas (WCL, Oct. 25, 2006); was a panelist on "Freedom of Thought and Expression in the Americas," Special Session on that topic of the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (Washington, Oct. 26, 2006); litigated two cases involving Mexico and Brazil, respectively, at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (Oct. 2006); attended meetings of the Commission for the Control of Interpol Files, (Lyon, France, Oct. 9-11, 2006); invited to participate on the committee for Corporate Counsel Awards, which makes awards each year in the categories "Outstanding CLO of the Year," "Outstanding In House Counsel," and "Community Service Award." Dean Grossman was quoted in the *Miami Herald* in "OAS Agency Blasts Cuba for Rights Violations" (Nov. 2, 2006) regarding the OAS' recent report on Cuba; the story also ran in the *San Jose Mercury News*, *Akron Beacon Journal*, *Kansas City Star*, and *el Nuevo Herald* (Miami); interviewed by *El Mercurio* (Chile), regarding the 100th anniversary of the Jewish community in Chile (Nov. 26, 2006); interviewed by *USA Today* about a U.S. plane crash in Brazil

in September, for which the pilots are still being held (Nov. 30, 2006). Dean Grossman attended a dinner for WCL alumni (Nov. 6, 2006); participated in the 37th session of the UN Committee Against Torture in his capacity UNCAT vice-chair, where he served as rapporteur for Hungary and Mexico (Nov. 6-24, 2006); delivered a lecture on the Committee Against Torture to the International Service for Human Rights (Geneva, Nov. 21, 2006); authored the chapter "El futuro del sistema interamericano de derechos humanos" (The Future of the Inter-American Human Rights System), in *Derechos Humanos, Relaciones Internacionales y Globalización* (Human Rights, International Relations and Globalization), edited by Joaquin González. Dean Grossman appeared on CNN Spanish four times in December, commenting on the death of Augusto Pinochet (Dec. 11, 2006); discussing the California moratorium on execution by lethal injection, which a federal judge has ruled may violate the Eighth Amendment (Dec. 18, 2006); commenting on President Gerald Ford's legacy in international relations (Dec. 27, 2006); and discussing the execution of Saddam Hussein (Dec. 29, 2006); interviewed by *Univision Noticias* on the legality of Saddam Hussein's execution and its potential impact on the Iraqi people (Dec. 29, 2006); appeared on *Voice of America, Foro Panamericano* to discuss the political situation in Latin America, particularly preferential trade agreements with Andean countries (Dec. 29, 2006). Dean Grossman contributed preface to *La Prohibición de la Tortura y los Malos Tratos en el Sistema Interamericano: Manual para Víctimas y sus Defensores (The Prohibition of Torture and Inhuman Treatment in the Inter-American System: Handbook for Victims and their Defenders)*, authored by Claudia Martin and Diego Rodríguez Pinzón (2006); authored contributions to a publication of the Max Planck Institute on The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, *The American Declaration, Disappearances under International Law, and the *Awas Tingni v. Nicaragua* case* (Dec. 2006); served as panelist on "Human Rights and U.S. Foreign Policy: The Deployment of Human Rights (Focus on Latin America in the 1970s and 1980s)," *Life and Legacy of George Lister: Conference on Reconsidering Human Rights, Democracy and U.S. Foreign Policy*, University of Texas School of Law Rapport Center for Human Rights and Justice (Dec. 2, 2006).

**Robert Goldman**, Professor of Law at WCL and Co-Director of the Center, was interviewed by *CNN Spanish* regarding the upcoming U.S. elections (Oct. 12, 2006) and the Mark Foley page scandal (Oct. 12, 2006). Professor Goldman was also interviewed by the *BBC World Service* about the U.S. mid-term election results (Nov. 7, 2006); interviewed by *Clarín.com* (Argentina) in "No he visto personal más valientes que los argentinos," (Oct. 31, 2006); featured in "EE.UU. usa prácticas de las dictaduras del cono sur" for *Página 12* (Buenos Aires) (Nov. 2, 2006).

**Diane Orentlicher**, Professor of Law at WCL and Co-Director of the Center, was a lecturer in a training seminar for investigating judges and prosecutors of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), a court jointly established by the United Nations and the Government of Cambodia to try surviving leaders of the Khmer Rouge, at the ECCC (Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Oct. 24-27, 2006). Professor Orentlicher was interviewed on CBS Radio News about the Saddam Hussein trial verdict (Nov. 5, 2006); quoted in "Pinochet's Troubling Legacy," *Council on Foreign Relations Daily Analysis* (Dec. 11, 2006); and interviewed on PBS's "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" about the impending execution of Saddam Hussein (Dec. 29, 2006).

**Herman Schwartz**, Professor of Law at WCL and Co-Director of the Center, published a book review of five books on constitutional law in *The Nation* (Oct. 30, 2006); authored "Potemkin Justice" in the *Legal Times*, critiquing the Military Commissions Act (Nov. 20, 2006).

**Richard Wilson**, Professor of Law at WCL, Co-Director of the Center, and the Director of the International Human Rights Law Clinic at WCL, was interviewed live in Spanish on the "Mario Mactas Show," *Radio Continental* (Buenos Aires, Argentina) regarding the case of Omar Khadr in Guantanamo (Oct. 21, 2006). Professor Wilson was a panelist at the WCL Guantanamo Teach-In, speaking on *The Omar Khadr Case* (WCL, Oct. 5, 2006). He also coordinated the *Seminar on Teaching Innovations: Clinical Legal Education* at the Carlos III University Law Faculty (Avila, Spain, Dec. 16-17, 2006); organized the *Workshop on Clinical Legal Education: Possibilities for the Future*, hosted by the Utrecht University Faculty of Law's International Office (Utrecht, Netherlands, Dec. 11, 2006); lectured on

“Guantanamo Bay and International Law” to Masters and Doctoral students at Utrecht University Faculty of Law (Utrecht, Netherlands, Dec. 12–13, 2006).

**Claudia Martín**, Professional Lecturer in Residence and Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, participated in a panel at the OAS to present *The Prohibition of Torture and Ill-Treatment in the Inter-American Human Rights System: A Handbook for Victims and their Advocates* (co-authored with Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón), a volume in the OMCT Handbook Series, World Organization Against Torture (Geneva, Oct. 24, 2006); reported to the *Netherlands Human Rights Quarterly* on the case law of the Inter-American Court on Human Rights regarding international responsibility of States and reparations (Oct. 20, 2006); participated in a videoconference with the U.S. Embassy in Venezuela, where she spoke on *International Human Rights Law: Origins and Fundamental Principles* (Sept. 19, 2006).

**Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón**, Professional Lecturer in Residence and Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, participated in a panel at the OAS to present *The Prohibition of Torture and Ill-Treatment in the Inter-American Human Rights System: A Handbook for Victims and their Advocates* (co-authored with Claudia Martín) OMCT Handbook Series, World Organization Against Torture, Geneva (Oct. 24, 2006). Mr. Rodríguez Pinzón presented *The Inter-American Court and Commission on Human Rights* for a videoconference for human rights activists in Caracas, Venezuela, organized by WCL’s Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (WCL, Oct. 3, 2006); published an article in *Revista IDL* (Peru) regarding cultural beliefs among different nationalities in Latin America (Nov. 2006); traveled to La Paz and Cochabamba, Bolivia, to establish a Bolivian human rights academic network with support from the National Endowment for Democracy (Nov. 13–17, 2006). Mr. Rodríguez Pinzón lectured in the “Course on Strategies of International Litigation” organized by the Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico City, Dec. 2006); presented “Procedural and Institutional Overview of the Inter-American Human Rights System,” *Seminar on the Inter-American Human Rights System and Public Defense*, organized by the Center on Human Rights of the *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Rio de Janeiro* and public defenders organizations from Brazil

and Mercosur (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Dec. 6, 2006).

**Susan SáCouto**, Director of the War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) and adjunct professor at WCL, traveled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in May 2006, where she participated in the Cambodian launch of the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) publication *Justice Initiatives: The Extraordinary Chambers*, to which she contributed an article on “The Role of Victims in Bringing former Khmer Rouge Leaders to Justice in Cambodia.” She returned to Phnom Penh in late October 2006 to participate in a training seminar for the Offices of the Co-Prosecutors and Co-Investigating Judges of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. In November 2006, she delivered a presentation on the difference between international humanitarian law, human rights, and international criminal law for WCL’s “Munching on Human Rights” Speaker Series. In late 2006, Ms. SáCouto published remarks on “Advances and Missed Opportunities in the International Prosecution of Gender-Based Crimes,” 10 *Gonzaga J. Int’l L.* 49 (2006-07), which were later published as an article in 15 *Mich. St. J. Int’l L.* (2007). On January 27, 2007, she participated in a conference entitled “Transitional Justice: The Politics of Accountability in Post-Conflict Societies,” where she joined former Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone David Crane and former senior adviser to the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues Michael Newton in a panel discussion about the lessons learned from recent efforts to prosecute former heads of state Slobodan Milosevic, Charles Taylor, and Saddam Hussein. HRB