Bloomington Law School Visits Four Asian Countries

In May 2004, a team of three from IU’s School of Law—Bloomington, Aviva Orenstein, professor of law; Lisa Farnsworth, director of Graduate Legal Studies; and Lesley Davis, assistant dean for the Office of International Programs, spent three weeks visiting alumni and partner institutions in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China. Farnsworth and Davis also made a visit to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The team was warmly welcomed by more than 25 alumni of the Graduate Legal Studies Program at a reception in Taipei, many of whom are working for Taiwan’s major corporations, law firms, and national universities. IU alumni Bruce Liao (S.J.D. ’03) of National Chengchi University and Tony Wang (S.J.D. ’97) of Shih-Hsin University, kindly assisted with arranging productive visits with Soochow University, National Chengchi University, National Taiwan University, National Taipei University, Fu-Jen Catholic University, and Shih-Hsin University. The group also met the Minister of Justice Ding-Nan Chen, and President of the Judicial Yuan Yueh-Sheng Weng, in the company of Senator Charlie Lu.

The second stop was Hong Kong, where IU had established an exchange program with the University of Hong Kong in 2002. Next academic year will be the first year that the law school will send a group of three J.D. students to UHK for a semester.

In China, the team was graciously hosted by IU’s long-time partner university, China University of Politics and Law in Beijing (CUPL). They had a chance to reunite with alumni and meet prospective students at a well-attended alumni reception at the Beijing Friendship Hotel. Wei Xiao Jun, a former visiting scholar at IU who is now working for the Bureau of Narcotics Control, also attended the reception, as did three CUPL faculty members who had recently received LL.M. degrees from IU, Qi Jun (’00), Zhang Qing (’01), and Zhang Meichang (’03). MCL alumna Li Qian (’00) came to Beijing from Shanghai, where she is a founding partner of the Shu Jin Law Firm, to spend the week with the team. The IU School of Law reception was the first organized IU law alumni reception to be held in China—thanks to the efforts of LL.M. alumnus Lin Yao (’02).

In Ulaanbaatar, Farnsworth and Davis were hosted by Central Eurasian Studies alumnus Peter Marsh (Ph.D. ’02), who is now resident director of the American Center for Mongolian Studies. With his colleagues at the Educational Advising and Resource Center, he arranged for them to meet with law students from the Mongolian State University. As a result of this visit, the law school is hosting its first Mongolian LL.M. student in the fall.

—Lesley Davis
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