The Washington and Lee University School of Law will hold Diversity Week between January 19-23, 2009. Erica Knott and Karthik Nagarajan, the current JCRSJ Editor-in-Chief and Managing Events Editor respectively, sit on the Diversity Week Steering Committee. Thanks to their efforts, the Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice will hold its event on January 22, 2008.

The award-winning movie War Child will be screened. This documentary film is about Emmanuel Jal, a former child soldier in the south Sudanese civil war. Jal survived years as an orphan, child soldier, and then refugee to become an emerging international hip-hop star. War Child won the 2008 Audience Award at the Tribeca Film Festival.

The JCRSJ is thrilled to announce that the movie’s director, C. Karim Chrobog, will be in attendance to answer viewers’ questions. He holds a degree in international politics and a certificate in international business diplomacy from Georgetown University. More information can be found at: http://www.tribecafilm.com/filmguide/War_Child.html

Professor Louise A. Halper Remembered

On October 3, 2008, the Law School celebrated the life of Professor Louise A. Halper with a memorial service in the Milhiser Moot Court Room in Sydney Lewis Hall. Members of Professor Halper's family were in attendance, along with law professors, students, and other admirers.

Erica Knott, the current JCRSJ Editor-in-Chief, spoke on behalf of the publication’s membership, past and present. She explained that “Professor Halper understood the necessity and power of diversity. She was relentless in her goal to make Washington and Lee a welcoming place for all”
Professor Halper Remembered

students. In her eyes, the Journal was a vital part of this goal."

Knott quoted alumnus, Phylissa Mitchell (’01L), as saying, "I knew Louise as a peer, an advocate, a mentor, and most of all, a very dear friend...You meet people in life whom you savor and want to save and hang on to. Louise was one of those people. I can only hope to be like her when I grow up." Mitchell is a visiting assistant professor of journalism at Washington and Lee University. Last spring, she was awarded a Fulbright to teach at a university in Ukraine.

Knott closed by noting that "As part of the Journal, if we could dream it, Professor Halper sought to make it a reality. If we saw a wrong, she would help us to right it. She taught us we were more than an academic journal. We felt important to the school. We were a force. Together we could make a difference."

Alumnus, David Jordan (’03L), also spoke. He reminisced about his time on the Washington and Lee Race and Ethnic Ancestry Law Journal and interaction with Professor Halper. Jordan currently is an adjunct professor at Washington and Lee University School of Law. He teaches a course of U.S. Intelligence Law.

2008-2009 Symposium Announced

On Friday, April 3, 2008, the JCRSJ will hold a symposium entitled, "Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women: Opportunities and Challenges for Reproductive and Sexual Health." The symposium aims to create a platform for honest and lively discussion about the intersection between human rights, reproductive rights, and sexual health of women in Africa. Leading scholars from Africa, Canada, and the United States will participate.

Please contact Managing Events Editor, Karthik Nagarajan, at nagarajank@wlu.edu with any questions or comments.

Save the date. We hope you can join!

Professor Massie, Elizabeth Christensen and Twenty-Three New Staff-Writers Join the Team

This fall, the JCRSJ has many new faces. Professor Ann Massie joins as our new Faculty Advisor. The JCRSJ is privileged to have Professor Massie on board. Elizabeth Christensen now serves as our assistant from Faculty Services. Her eagerness to help is much appreciated. She replaces Sally Wieringa, who deserves praise for her dedicated service to the JCRSJ.

After a competitive write-on process, the JCRSJ also welcomes twenty-three new staff-writers: Julianna Bae, Lindsey Brown, Ya Marie Cham, Hamza Chaudary, Elizabeth Clarke, Rebecca Clinton, James Collins, Victoria Corder, Lauren Fisher, Lena Golze Desmond, Stephanie Hager, Kristina Joyner, Edward Keatley, Nathan Marchese, Alex McCown, Sara McManus, Nicholas Neidzwski, Chance Phiniezy, Jason Ratigan, Rachel Scoma, Joshua Shaw, Rajeeve Thakur, and Aaron Wieczorek.
Alumni Profile: Diane Meier, 2007-2008
Editor-in-Chief

Diane Meier ('08L) currently interns for the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (“BiH”), in the Human Rights Department. She spends her days monitoring a war crime in the BiH State court and devising a monitoring plan for the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination so that field officers can monitor the convention’s implementation. She also helps with comments to a proposed comprehensive anti-discrimination law.

Meier explains that “Being part of the JCRSJ gave me an opportunity to put on a symposium, plan events, and select and edit articles for publication. Doing these things ultimately gave me the chance to familiarize myself with myriad civil rights issues. This in turn prepared me to work in the international field, where so many issues are based on numerous levels of discrimination (e.g. race, religion, and gender discrimination as an issue of compounded discrimination in the Balkan region), rather than a single type.” Meier adds that “The Journal [is] a great outlet for professors and students to discuss some of the most important issues of our generation, and a great outlet for W&L law students who are interested in practicing in the civil rights or international human rights field.”

Meier wants to thank the publication’s alumni for all their support over the years. “I hope that we all keep our eyes open to issues of social injustice and keep fighting the good fight, in whatever careers we choose to pursue.”

Alumni Profile: Journet Shaw, 2002-2003

After graduation, Journet Shaw ('03L) clerked for a year in Richmond at the Virginia Court of Appeals for Judge James W. Benton, Jr. She assisted Judge Benton with domestic relations, criminal law, and workers’ compensation matters. She then moved to the Washington D.C. metro area and worked for three years as a contract attorney for various D.C. law firms.

Currently, she works at WilmerHale in Washington, D.C. as a staff attorney in the Litigation and Controversy Department. Her practice focuses on issues of e-discovery.

Shaw shares that “The ability to work with a group of people who may have different personalities and work-styles is important. I think this skill is useful for any position, not just attorneys. I learned, while I was working on the Journal, to be flexible and patient, because you cannot do everything yourself, so you have to allow people to help you.” Her career advice to any law student, but especially current members of the JCRSJ, is “to think outside the box for legal or even non-legal positions.”

How to Submit An Article For Publication

The JCRSJ invites authors to submit manuscripts that pertain to the relationship between race and ethnicity and gender, sexuality, ability, religion, class and the law. We welcome manuscripts from our alumni. The JCRSJ also encourages its alumni to tell friends or colleagues to submit their manuscripts for publication with the JCRSJ.

Articles in Microsoft Word format may be submitted via e-mail to: CRSJJournal@wlu.edu.
Student Profile: Erica Knott, 2008-2009 Editor-in-Chief

Erica Knott is the Journal’s fearless leader this year. She has an undergraduate degree from Furman University, where she focused on Asian Studies and Political Science. Her husband, David Knott, works for Washington and Lee University’s Informational Technology Services department.

Knott, in the wake of Professor Halper’s passing, invests countless hours to ensure that everything continues to run smoothly. Knott explains, “The passing of Professor Halper shocked us all. We are, however, coping and have a positive outlook on the year in front of us.” Students and faculty alike admire the poise and diligence displayed by Knott during the last few months of mourning and planning.

Knott shares that “I enjoy the relationships I am forming with members of the JCRSJ staff and board. I do not think I could get through a single day without my Executive Editor, Kelley Stieler. Everyone’s dedication and encouragement make me very proud to be a member of the JCRSJ.” Knott is quick to applaud Managing Events Editor, Karthik Nagarajan, for his efforts in planning the Diversity Week event and Symposium, and Managing Editor, Kristen Hutchens, for her efforts in creating the Journal’s first alumni newsletter. “Because of these activities, we are getting a broader range of people involved in our organization.”

Student Publications Announced for Publication 15.1

The JCRSJ recently announced its student publications for Volume 15.1 (forthcoming January 2009):

Erica Knott (‘09L): The Decline of Linguistic Plurality: Bottom-up Solutions to Protect Languages in the United States

Laura Shapiro (‘09L): Inferring a Right to Permanent Family Care From the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption, and Selected Scientific Literature

Robert Van Horn (‘09L): The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act at the Margin: Does NAGPRA Govern the Disposition of Ancient, Culturally Unidentifiable Human Remains?

Contact Us

We would like to hear from our alumni. Please e-mail your comments, questions, and ideas to jcrsjalumni@gmail.com. We plan to make a Spring 2009 Alumni Newsletter. Please pass along any ideas.

Feel free to join our Facebook group: W&L Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice.

Thou shalt not be a victim. Thou shalt not be a perpetrator. Above all, thou shalt not be a bystander.

National Holocaust Museum, Washington D.C.