Pace University School of Law Assists International Students Displaced by Hurricane Katrina

Three environmental law attorneys, all expecting to begin studies as international students at Tulane University in New Orleans, began studies at Pace University School of Law this fall instead after escaping New Orleans and the devastation left behind by Hurricane Katrina. Antonio Reis and Cristina Toledo, both from Brazil, relayed that it was not an easy decision to stay in the US after the hurricane, rather than return home as many of their colleagues from Tulane did. Both are glad they decided to stay because many of those same colleagues who left the United States have not been able to return to resume studies.

After the loss and trauma these students experienced, they were fortunate to find one good thing—an open door at Pace University School of Law, which offers a comparable degree program to the one they were expected to begin at Tulane University. Anna Burghardt (see side bar, this page), a German attorney pursuing her Master of Laws in Admiralty, hopes to return to Tulane after fall semester. She is also taking an Admiralty Law course at Fordham University because this course is offered only in the spring semester at Pace.

Mark Shulman, Director of the graduate program at Pace School of Law reached out to Tulane University, offering to help displaced students. Mr. Shulman’s offer led to Cristina, Antonio and Anna’s coming to Pace. Mr. Shulman recalls that on the 6th of September, just nine days after Katrina destroyed New Orleans, “They came into my office needing everything: housing, courses, books, clothing -- you name it. They'd lost everything in New Orleans.” (Pace Law School Alumni Magazine, September 2005). In the coming days, Pace helped the three obtain what they needed to start over. Antonio Reis was grateful, and explained that although those first days were filled with anxiety, “Fortunately they were very helpful and fast in accepting us and getting ready to start. We actually had classes in that same day.”

We congratulate Anna, Cristina and Antonio for their perseverance, and wish each of them success in their endeavors here at Pace and beyond.

Visiting Student Bio:

Anna Burghardt
(see Katrina article—left)

Home: Berlin, Germany

Was Katrina your first hurricane? “Yes”

What other natural disasters have you experienced? “None”

What did you learn from this experience? “It's sometimes wise to take a precautionary approach rather than to challenge one's luck.”

Is there anything in your life that you will approach differently after having experienced Hurricane Katrina? “Yes, many things- but that is very personal.”

What was the response you received from friends and family back home? “Variety of responses: Most of them did not take the warning seriously either. Realizing the extent of the entire disaster, people were very worried; however, some still don’t understand how much the events affect me.”

What is the first word that comes to your mind when you think of Hurricane Katrina/ New Orleans?: “Disaster”

Do you feel that this experience has changed you? “Yes”
Featured Students

Astra Alexis Watler

Major: Marketing, undergraduate

Home: Cayman Islands

Q: What is your favorite food from home?
A: Oxtail

Q: What do you like the most about living in NYC?
A: There’s always something to do, even on Sundays, and you can walk everywhere.

Q: What do you like the least about NYC?
A: People aren’t as friendly; in the Cayman Islands people approach you and talk to you, but not here.

Q: What is the biggest difference between NYC and the Cayman Islands?
A: The pace and the size.

Noriyuki “Nori” Yasuda

Major: English (at English Language Institute)

Home: Kyoto, Japan

Q: If you had a visitor in Kyoto, what would you take them to see?
A: Temples and shrines

Q: What is the biggest difference between Kyoto and New York City?
A: The sky is smaller in New York because there are so many skyscrapers, and New York is more multicultural.

Contribute to Karibu! We want your articles and ideas! Share stories, announcements, photographs, artwork, or anything you like. We want to hear from you!

Please contact us at intlnyc@pace.edu

Welcome New International Students!

Each year Pace University and the English Language Institute (ELI) of Pace welcome hundreds of new international students from all around the globe. Several of these new students have been in the US studying and are transferring to Pace, and several others are coming to the US to study for the first time. The Office of International Programs and Services offers an orientation program designed to help ease students’ transition to New York City and the Pace community. This fall Pace University and ELI welcomed over 200 new international students and now hosts international students from over 100 countries. Please help us welcome new students to Pace as they settle into their new homes in New York City!
Upcoming events!

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK
FESTIVALS

PLEASANTVILLE, GOTTESMAN ROOM
11:30AM-1:30PM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2005

NEW YORK CITY, STUDENT UNION
11:00AM-2:00PM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2005

"PASSPORT TO THE WORLD!"

Tea and Talk

New York:
Faculty Dining Room, One Pace Plaza
3:30pm-4:30pm
Thursday, Dec. 1st and Wednesday, Dec. 7th

Pleasantville:
Butcher Suite, Kessel Campus Center
3:00pm—4:00pm
Thursday, Nov. 17th & Thursday, Dec. 15th
**Ask the Advisor**

**[Q]** My F-1 (or J-1) visa is about to expire, do I need to get it extended? Can I extend my visa in the United States without leaving?

**[A]** You do not need to have a valid visa to remain in the United States legally. So, if your visa has expired, don’t panic! You are probably fine. If you are planning to travel to another country and your visa is expired, you will need to get the visa renewed while you are abroad before being able to return to the US. Visa renewals are done at US Consulates abroad, and cannot be accomplished in the United States. Also, ask an advisor about short trips to Canada, Mexico and adjacent islands with an expired visa, you may be eligible for “automatic visa revalidation.”

**OPT Reminder:**

If you are graduating this semester and plan to apply for OPT, remember that you must contact an advisor by Wed., December 14th. **Also, the filing fee for OPT has just been raised to $180.** Attend an OPT workshop in the New York City campus at One Pace Plaza, room W-608, from 3:30—4:30, on Thursday, November 17th or Tuesday, December 6th in room W-610.

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**Karibu!**

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To contribute to the next edition of **Karibu!**

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

WWW.PACE.EDU/INTERNATIONAL