

# Collaborative Projects

## UF Law Summer Program in Cape Town, South Africa

Increasingly, United States and international legal employers are looking for individuals with an understanding of today's complex legal environment. As South Africa emerges as a leading political and economic force, opportunities for business, trade and cultural exchanges increase significantly within the region. Its progressive constitution has become a model for developing democracies.

Recognizing the importance of providing students with an education that transcends national boundaries, the University of Florida's Levin College of Law jointly sponsors the only U.S.-based summer program approved by the American Bar Association with the University of Cape Town Faculty of Law in South Africa's most beautiful, cosmopolitan and diverse city. The program celebrated its 10th anniversary during summer 2008.

During summer 2008, 19 UF law students, 7 students from other ABA law schools and 9 University of Cape Town students (representing



South Africa, Botswana, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe) participated in the 5 1/2 week UF/University of Cape Town Study Abroad Program. Students studying in the program benefited from a dual focus on comparative and international law. South African professors presented an introduction to the South African legal system. In addition, U.S. and South African students analyzed how race and race relations have influenced U.S. and South African legal systems in a comparative constitutional law course. In the comparative cultural property, students supplemented readings by visiting cultural sites, including Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned, and the District Six Museum, commemorating the removal of a mixed race community to single race townships outside of the city, and UNESCO heritage sites.

The Florida/Cape Town program allowed students and faculty to live in and enjoy a rich culture, while studying law amidst the historic legal, political and social changes occurring in South

Africa. Students visited Parliament, courts, and museums. In addition, several student groups took trips to Kruger National Park, the Garden Route, and Namibia before and after the program.

As part of a service component to the program, the students volunteered at Kalksteentfontein Primary School (KPS), which is located in the Cape Flats outside of Cape Town. Many of its residents were forced from Cape Town when District Six became a whites only area under apartheid. The UF students, along with the High Springs Community School, also sponsored a pen pal project that raised \$3,400 to benefit KPS. The money raised paid 136 KPS students' tuition.

For further information, [http://www.law.ufl.edu/students/abroad/summer\\_africa.shtml](http://www.law.ufl.edu/students/abroad/summer_africa.shtml) or contact Kathleen Price [pricek@law.ufl.edu](mailto:pricek@law.ufl.edu), Faculty Director of the Cape Town program, or Michelle Ocepek [ocepek@law.ufl.edu](mailto:ocepek@law.ufl.edu), Director of Student Programs.

