May 29, 2015

Dear Pace Environmental Law Community:

At the close of this semester and the conclusion of my first year as Executive Director, I am pleased to report that the Pace Environmental Law Program had an eventful and productive year. I hope this will be the first of many annual letters to share with our alumni, students, academics and community leaders about our successes.

Since last July when I stepped into this exciting leadership role, the program and its centers and clinic have (among many other accomplishments):

- Formed the innovative Maryland-Pace Environmental Law Alliance with the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, allowing our students to take advantage of offerings and networks at both highly ranked programs;
- Hosted the Pace Environmental Law Review symposium on “Reconceptualizing the Future of Environmental Law,” a Land Use Law Center conference on “Transitioning Communities,” and an Energy Center workshop on “New York’s Energy Vision,” in addition to the always excellent Jeffrey G. Miller Pace National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition;
- Joined our students in the People’s Climate March in New York City where they hung out with Bill McKibben and the New York State Attorney General;
- Hired alumnus Professor Karl Rábago (LL.M. ’90) to lead the Pace Energy and Climate Center and Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Law Nadia Ahmad to work with our students on energy and natural resources law;
- Cheered the Environmental Litigation Clinic students as they addressed the Water Transfers Rule in the Second Circuit, coal mining in Kentucky, and Tappan Zee Bridge construction and crude oil transport along the Hudson;
- Brought inspiring speakers to campus, including Professor Robin Kundis Craig (Utah Law), Antonio Oposa Jr. (renowned environmental activist), Dr. Michael Oppenheimer (Princeton; lead author, IPCC Fifth Assessment Report), Bob Perciasepe (President, C2ES), and Professor Wang Xi (Shanghai Jiao Tong University);
• Watched the Land Use Law Center and Pace Energy and Climate Center secure grants – including a U.S. Department of Energy Sunshot Grant – to educate and advocate on behalf of green infrastructure, renewables, climate adaptation, and much more; and
• Maintained our top four U.S. News & World Report specialty ranking despite intense competition.

In the next year, we anticipate continuing all of this work while advancing the program even further. Keep an eye out for some exciting announcements this fall, when our students travel to Jakarta to present at the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Colloquium, we work with our first ever Environmental Author-in-Residence, and we welcome our newest faculty member, Margot Pollans, to campus. With the addition of Professor Pollans to our faculty, we will build on our food and agriculture law expertise and position Pace to be a leader in this developing field. With her help, we will launch a cutting edge food law initiative aimed at expanding the New York region’s capacity to support sustainable and healthy food systems.

We also hope to strengthen the program’s ties with you and the rest of our incredible environmental law community. Please keep in touch with the program using social media (see below). If you are in New York City or Washington, D.C. in June and want to catch up with alumni and faculty, please join us at our annual receptions:

• June 4 in N.Y.C. – Honor alumna Emily Collins (J.D. ’04) and her public interest environmental legal work with the Nicholas A. Robinson Award for Alumni Achievement at a gathering at 6:00 pm at Café Centro at New York City’s Grand Central Terminal
• June 23 in D.C. – Catch up with alumni and students in the Washington, D.C. area at the offices of Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, 2900 K Street NW (North Tower, Suite 200), at 6:00 pm

I look forward to seeing you at one of our environmental program events and to working with you to make our remarkable Environmental Law Program even better.

Sincerely,

Jason J. Czarnezki
Gilbert and Sarah Kerlin Distinguished Professor of Environmental Law
Executive Director, Pace Environmental Law Programs
jczarnezki@law.pace.edu

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To learn how to get involved with the program, contact Laura Jensen at ljensen@law.pace.edu.