



# The Pax Romana Law-Student Internship Program at the United Nations: A Path To Leadership in Global Ethics



Pax Romana Intern Casimir Wolnowski welcomes Pope Benedict XVI to the United Nations in New York

**PROF. DR. MARK J. WOLFF**

Main Representative to the United Nations &  
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Pax Romana International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA)  
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# PAX ROMANA LAW-STUDENT U.N. INTERNSHIP

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## I. Objective of the Program

### A. Catholic Biblical Vision

#### Why the U.N.

We believe our loving God has created a wondrous and diverse world of creatures bristling with splendid beauty, and within that world has created magnificent human creatures made in God's own image with the special vocation to care lovingly for Earth, to form a single and loving human family on Earth, and to live in loving communion with the Creator. Additionally, we believe the human family began its still unfolding evolutionary journey in common African roots, and later undertook long and diverse migrations to all continents and many islands of planet Earth, and now in the era of technological globalization is called to reunite as a single global family of many diverse cultures.

The Catholic Biblical vision is that we are all created human creatures who form one single human family and descend from common ancestors. This vision asserts that every living human person shares equally in the profound dignity of the image of God. We recognize that the human family has been tragically wounded and divided by the past heritage and present reality of terrible personal and social sins, including personal social sins that reject indigenous rights, support oppression along gender and racial divides, degrade the environment, neglect children, encourage violence embedded in hatred, marginalize the poor, institutionalize violence through regional wars and global networks of crime, and consumerist attacks on all spiritual meaning with the young as primary targets failing to consider that the image of God rests in all people. The United Nations ("U.N.") is an organ of government where all societies can be found, in order to embrace all societies and their worth we recognize we must enter and participate in this forum.

## Why a Catholic University

We as an organization realize that the Gospel of Jesus, our Redeemer and precious Lord announces the prophetic message of grace, healing, and salvation for all humanity and indeed for all creation which awaits in his Second Coming. The social implications of Jesus' prophetic message are articulated and embodied both theologically and philosophically for our times in contemporary Catholic Social Teaching. Catholic Social Teaching fundamentally proposes an alternative ethics of globalization committed to care for creation, the dignity of the human person, protection of all human life beginning with the unborn, responsibility for the common good, the priority of labor over capital, social structures of solidarity, and participatory democratic governance at every level from the local to the global. Accepting the modern Western university as the core institution in which through its many disciplines of arts, sciences, and professions, we also understand the erroneous mechanistic and materialist philosophy which has infected generations and cultures. This erroneous philosophy is not contained only within Western Universities but is now being extended globally to universities across the planet.

According to the late Pope John Paul II's apostolic exhortation "Ex Corde Ecclesiae" and his papal encyclical "Fides et Ratio," the Catholic university is called by its vocation to ground its education in a fresh synthesis of faith and reason that through all disciplines analyzes and seeks solutions for the great ecological, social, and spiritual crises of our times, and thereby assists humanity to move beyond all modern mechanistic and materialist ideologies toward a global humanistic civilization of love, solidarity, and life. Hence, the Catholic university is thereby called to promote across all disciplines of the arts, sciences, and professions a reformed, truthful, and global curriculum which includes all human history, all human cultures, and all human wisdom, which embraces the contemporary call to love, solidarity, and life across the entire

**"We believe Catholic universities need to form a fresh and international generation of young professional lay leaders who will be educated beyond the modern mechanistic and materialist philosophy that frequently infects all disciplines, with these young leaders to be steeped in the healing philosophical and theological wisdom of Catholic Social Teaching."**

human family, and which emphasizes humanity's common vocation to care for all of God's wondrous creation. In responding to this call, we believe Catholic universities need to form a fresh and international generation of young professional lay leaders who will be educated beyond the modern mechanistic and materialist philosophy that frequently infects all disciplines, with these young leaders to be steeped in the healing philosophical and theological wisdom of Catholic Social Teaching, and thus to be prepared to become transformative professional leaders whatever field they choose be it; humanities, education, law , medicine, the sciences, and business.<sup>1</sup>



***Pax Romana intern, Casimir Wolnowski, shaking hands with Pope Benedict XVI during his April 2008 visit to New York, in which His Holiness stated, “Teachers and administrators, whether in universities or schools, have the duty and privilege to ensure that students receive instruction in Catholic doctrine and practice.”***

Pax Romana/Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs USA (CMICA-USA), in partnership with Saint Thomas University and its School of Law in the Catholic Archdiocese of Miami, has begun new programs to form a fresh and international generation of young transformative lay leaders committed to the prophetic vision of Catholic Social Teaching for the loving care of all creation and for a humanistic global civilization of love, life, and solidarity.

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A, citing “Proposed Resolutions 2005 ICMICA International Council Meeting.”

## B. Programmatic Objective

The visionary mission of the program was originally bilateral. The first visionary prong was immersing students into the world of international politics, affairs, and issues both immersing and constant so to create leaders internationally and within their communities. The second was providing Pax Romana with information as to the ongoing affairs of the United Nations and the social, economic, and political implications the interns foresee from their first hand experiences.

Since the first day of the internship the mission has added a third very important prong. From writing speeches to interpreting and encouraging policy interns have been able to assist many delegations, committees, and other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations with their endeavors. Currently the program is not only providing students with an expanded view of the world and inspiring Catholic Social thought<sup>2</sup> within them, it embraces the potential impact and change the students provide within all different sectors of the UN adding a third leg to the mission of the program.<sup>3</sup>



***Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Holy See, Oscar de Rojas, Financing for Development, Archbishop Dairmuid Martin, Dublin and Professor Mark Wolff at UN CST Symposium.***

<sup>2</sup> Appendix B, “Catholic Social Teaching: Resource for the Work of the United Nations on Behalf of Development and Peace [2004 REPORT]” (summarizing the Pax Romana Intellectual Symposium for UN Delegates, the UN Secretariat, and Civil Society occurring April 1, 2004).

Appendix C, “Catholic Social Teaching: Resource for the Work of the United Nations on Behalf of Development and Peace [2004 BROCHURE]”

Appendix D, “Catholic Social Teaching: Themes for an Integral Path to Sustainable Development [2005 BROCHURE]” (symposium given on the occasion of the preparatory meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development).

<sup>3</sup> Appendix E, “2006 Memorandum to ICMICA regarding NY Projects.”

## **II. Brief History of Internship Program**

### **A. Founding**

The Global Leadership Law Student Internship Program with Pax Romana at the United Nations in New York was created in response to a request by then Pax Romana ICMICA International President, the late Patricio Rodé. This is a project of Pax Romana/CMICA-USA, authorized by the Pax Romana International Counsel, in partnership with the Saint Thomas University School of Law United Nations Internship Program (“STULS/Pax Romana United Nations Internship Program”). The Program grants six (6) – twelve (12) academic law-school credits to five (5) interns per semester and requires a full semester’s residence in New York City. The intern is a full-time representative to the United Nations in New York credentialed under Pax Romana or one of its affiliated organizations.

The program was founded in the spring of 2005 with one (1) intern credentialed by Pax Romana. In the second year the number doubled to two (2) interns and the next year increased to three (3) interns; commencing in fall 2008 the Program now has five (5) full time law school interns per semester at the United Nations in New York year-round. This Summer Semester 2008 an intern from the STULS/Pax Romana Intern Program was assigned to the Pax Romana Permanent Representative to the Geneva Offices for United Nations.

### **B. Salient Steps**

Professor Mark J. Wolff, Pax Romana’s Main Permanent Representative to the UN, through networking and speaking with missions at the UN, began to establish relationships with inter-governmental observer missions and states mission to derive where the students could use their talents to assist and serve others essentially promoting Catholic social teachings within their endeavors. With the help of Doctor Josef Klee, in the Fall of 2007 two intergovernmental organizations, Permanent Observer Mission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature to the United

Nations (“IUCN”) and the Permanent Observer Mission of the Asia-African Legal Consultative Organization to the United Nations (“AALCO”) agreed to affiliate themselves with the Internship Program taking on an intern for a semester. Over the next two semesters the work ethic and thorough preparation demonstrated by these interns and the continued commitment of Professor Wolff provided new opportunities for additional interns to serve with the Permanent Observer Mission of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations, and the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations.<sup>4</sup>



***Ban Ki-Moon, the Eighth Secretary General of the United Nations, pictured above shaking hands with Intern Greg Sadowski.***

### **C. Selection of Interns**

The students selected for the program undergo a rigorous process submitting detailed personal information, previous academic writings, and essays reflecting their desire to participate in the program, as well as undergoing an extensive interview process.

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix F, “A Report on Behalf of the Pax Romana NGO Presence at the U.N. in N.Y. [Feb. 2006].”

In order to be selected for the program many students are required to take a class entitled, “United Nations Global Governance, Global Ethics and Catholic Social Teachings.” This jurisprudence seminar<sup>5</sup> encompasses an overview of Catholic Social Teachings taught by Professor Joe Holland<sup>6</sup>; a synopsis of the United Nations infrastructure and administrative internal governance taught by Professor Josef Klee<sup>7</sup>; and an introduction/overview of the Millennium Development Goals, Global Ethics, and the social, political, and economic issues presently addressed by the United Nations taught by Professor Mark J. Wolff. <sup>8</sup>

Academic credentials are taken into consideration and also a student’s sincere desire to express Catholic Social thought, to serve in the international public sector, and to learn about the United Nations. Professor Wolff evaluates and takes into consideration these factors among others in order that the students selected are guaranteed not only to possess an intense fervor for International Affairs but also a sincere desire to use their legal education to serve the less fortunate in the world and/or become involved in changing and molding international social thought.



***Professor Mark J. Wolff accompanied by Dr. Joe Holland speaks to members of Pax Romana and the United Nations community gathered in The Church of the Holy Family in New York City.***

<sup>5</sup> See Appendix G, “The United Nations, Catholic Social Teachings, and Global Ethics Syllabus”

<sup>6</sup> See Appendix H, Dr. Joe Holland, *Curriculum Vitae*

<sup>7</sup> See Appendix I, Dr. Josef Klee, *Curriculum Vitae*

<sup>8</sup> See Appendix J, Prof. Mark J. Wolff, *Curriculum Vitae*

### III. Recognition of Support

The Program is fueled by the entrepreneurial vigor of the students to influence social and political change primarily toward Catholic Social Teachings while at the U.N... However, the program can truly only be run with a strong base, accountable infrastructure, and constant oversight. Such is provided by the steadfast commitment of Professor Mark J. Wolff the Main Representative to the United Nations for Pax Romana (ICMICA). The commitment demonstrated by Professor Wolff enables students to have enough faith in the program and the opportunities it will provide them to leave the comforts of their normal academic



*Professor Mark J. Wolff gives a tour of UN to Dominic Romano and Associate Dean George Sheldon*

routines to engulf themselves in preparatory work<sup>9</sup> for the internship. *Never has a student ever questioned their decision to accept the internship; conversely ever student has seen it as a life transforming experience and an opportunity unlikely to ever be surpassed.*

The opportunities provided these students by Pax Romana were only made possible through the continued and constant work of additional individuals including:

- Prof. Dr. Mark Wolff – Director of STULS/Pax Romana Internship Program
- Prof. Dr. Joe Holland – Assistant Director of STULS/Pax Romana Internship Program
- Prof. Dr Josef Klee – New York Onsite Liaison of STULS/ Pax Romana Internship
- Dr. Uda Klee<sup>10</sup> – New York Onsite Legal Liaison of STULS/Pax Romana Internship

<sup>9</sup> Preparatory work includes researching issues and topics to be addressed during the Interns time in New York as well as reading and studying the “UN Intern Manual” in order to familiarize oneself with the U.N.

<sup>10</sup> See Appendix K, Ms. Uta Klee, *Curriculum Vitae*

#### IV. Affiliations with the Law School Internship Program

Due to the number of interns and their commitment to the internship and Pax Romana's influence into various sectors of the United Nations the Internship Program has grown exponentially. In a semester up to five (5) interns are present at the U.N.

Currently in a semester only two (2) interns are credentialed under Pax Romana officially due to the limited number of ICMICA division passes available for the Pax Romana New York Team. The other STULS/Pax Romana Interns are credentialed under member state, inter-governmental organizations, and the United Nations. Notwithstanding the foregoing, all interns are considered Pax Romana Interns and represent themselves as such in various settings from unofficial meetings to private high level events.

This allows Pax Romana's name to be spread into new sectors of the UN and provides an additional avenue for Social Catholic thought to be introduced into the UN in its endeavors. Additionally this allows interns access into meetings, events, and dialogues not accessible to a non-governmental organization, which is Pax Romana's current status at the UN. Information gathered from all Pax Romana Intern activities is submitted directly to Professor Wolff in reports and weekly updates, and shared among interns.

This rare combination of interns representing intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and states allows for a quick comparison among interns as to all avenues of thought. In weekly meetings the interns can discuss and compare the official positions of states, the unofficial position of states, the position of the UN, and civil society's position on issues. This has given Pax Romana a unique insight into many issues. Many times this has allowed Pax Romana to present information to other non-governmental organizations and members of the civil society unavailable to them. Pax Romana's insight and influence has therefore garnered new prestige and deference within The Conference of NGOS in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations



*Intern, Sujata Patel, sitting at India's seat in the General Assembly*

("CONGO") and several of its committees. Furthermore, the credentialing of Pax Romana Interns has allowed interns very unique opportunities to speak in the General Assembly, Committee meetings, High-Level meetings, and informal resolution consultations. This is an honor rarely ever given to a young member of a delegation much less an intern pursuing a law degree.

The Organizations with whom Pax Romana is currently affiliated include but are not limited to the following:

- Permanent Mission to the Holy See to the United Nations
- Permanent Observer Mission of the Permanent Sovereign Military Order of Malta to the United Nations
- Permanent Observer Mission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature to the United Nations
- Permanent Observer Mission of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization to the United Nations
- Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations
- Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations
- Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations

The CONGO committees that STULS/Pax Romana Interns have been involved in include the following:

- Committee on HIV/AIDS
- Committee on Human Rights
- Committee on Disarmament
- Committee on Africa
- Committee on Child Rights
- Committee on Education
- Committee on Family
- Committee on Freedom of Religious Belief

- Committee on the International Decade for the World's Indigenous People
- Committee for Financing for Development
- Committee on Population and Development
- Committee on Spirituality, Values, and Global Concerns
- Committee on the Status of Women
- Committee on Sustainable Development
- Committee Spirituality, Values, and Global Concern



*Seventh Secretary General of the U.N, Kofi Annan,  
with Pax Romana Intern, Greg Sadowski*

## V. Responsibilities, Duties, Tasks Undertaken by the Intern

### A. Meetings & Events

Pax Romana Interns are expected to fulfill a number of requirements in order to receive academic credit for their work. Pax Romana expects the intern to attend daily meetings at the United Nations, or other locations, which pertain to Pax Romana's interests. Interns are instructed to strive to follow the Thematic and Programmatic Priorities set by Pax Romana and directed by Professor Mark J. Wolff the main representative for Pax Romana in New York each semester.

In addition, Professor Wolff and Professor Holland consult on a regular basis with regard to timely pertinent issues that arise in the world. These priorities are considered in light of current world events, Pax Romana



International Council meeting, Pax Romana's endeavors in Geneva, Vienna, and at UNESCO in Paris. The fundamental and overriding consideration is that of Catholic Social Doctrine. In 2007-2008 the general Programmatic Priorities are Women in Society, Combating Poverty, and Protection of the Environment. The more specific Thematic Priorities of the internship are the Economic and Social Advancement of Women, Sustainable Development (with a special focus on Financing for Development), Human Rights Law, HIV/AIDS, and the Environment (giving special attention to the Security Council's unprecedented involvement). The subjects addressed and followed by the interns are not in any manner limited to the aforementioned, but in order to offer the best support to Pax Romana in its overall goals interns are asked to attend events and meetings related to such.

After consultation between and among Professor Mark J. Wolff and representatives of affiliated organizations STULS/Pax Romana Interns may be assigned to other topics, however these assignments are subordinate to the specific assignments given by program director Professor Mark J. Wolff.

### **B. Daily Journal**

Students are required to keep a daily journal<sup>11</sup> serving as a summary of the intern's daily events. It is to be written on a Pax Romana template word document. The daily report serves three functions: (i) it informs Professor Mark J. Wolff of events occurring daily at the United Nations; (ii) it informs Pax Romana and St. Thomas University School of Law of the intern's responsibilities, events, goals, projects, concerns, questions, solutions and any other type of information the intern would like to express and; (iii) it allows the intern to account for how his/her time is spent during the internship by summarizing what he/she is learning throughout the internship.

The daily journal provided by the students also includes detailed notes/minutes of all meetings the intern attends. Professor Mark J. Wolff also requires the intern to take detailed minutes of all meetings attended, important votes, and any important documents discussed. All documents discussed or distributed during any meeting attended by the intern must be downloaded from the United Nations web-site and forwarded to Professor Mark Wolff. Therefore it is imperative that the intern view the United Nations website daily, peruse the United Nations headquarters daily, get onto as many list serves, and meet as many involved and dedicated people as possible in order to be up to date on all of the United Nations events, news and meetings.

### **C. Reports**

The Pax Romana Intern must also write one or two major reports and/or assist with one or two major projects. The reports/projects will be narrowly focused on a particular topic that serves the interests of Pax Romana, such as the '50th Commission on the Status of Women,'<sup>12</sup> 'Financing for Development – The Road to Doha.' The topic must meet the

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<sup>11</sup> Appendix L, "An Interns Daily Journal Exurb" by Casimir Wolnowski

<sup>12</sup> Appendix M, "Pax Romana Report on the 50<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women" written by Helen Stampalia.

approval of Professor Wolff but may be directed through Professor Holland or Professor Klee. All reports begin with a general introduction of the topic. The report will then focus in on the assigned angle to the topic. The intern will analyze and discuss the topic and will add his/her own ideas, opinions and solutions. The report will end with a conclusion that is based in sound academic legal research.

The projects vary from semester to semester, depending on current events at the United Nations. An example may include signing up a Pax Romana representative to speak at a United Nations event and to assist her/him in writing his/her speech.

#### **D. Research**

The United Nations is the “hub” of international events, meaning that it is the one place in the world where international events unfold. As important events occur, Professor Wolff, Dr. Joe Holland, Josef Klee, and or any other advisors involved with the aforementioned professors may require the intern to research and write on a certain topic. The specific details and requirement of these assignments are always discussed and explained to the intern as they become obligatory but usually involve investigative journalism, legal research, and analytical analysis.

#### **E. Networking/ Contacts**

Maintaining contacts is an essential function of the intern. Therefore interns are required to gather as many contacts as possible on Pax Romana’s behalf and add these contacts to the computerized contact database under the appropriate heading.

Additional Responsibilities not listed above are laid out in the “U.N. Intern Manual.”<sup>13</sup>



***Left: Intern, Vandan Amin, shakes hands with the Prime Minister of Kuwait. Right: Vandan with the Amb. Of Malaysia***



<sup>13</sup> Appendix N, “UN Intern Manual” (One should note this is not the full version of the manual, a much longer and thorough manual is given to the interns outlining the extensive history of Pax Romana as well as the inclusion of prior Pax Romana reports , articles, and writings.)

## VI. Conferences, Initiatives, Meetings Attended

The internship program allows many topics and issues to be followed on Pax Romana's behalf. The following is by no means an exclusive list; therefore, it does *not* reference all meetings and conferences attended.

- Sixth Committee of the General Assembly 61<sup>st</sup> Session
- Second Committee of the General Assembly 61<sup>st</sup> Session
- Sixth Committee of the General Assembly 62<sup>nd</sup> Session
- Second Committee of the General Assembly 62<sup>nd</sup> Session
- General Assembly 61<sup>st</sup> Session
- General Assembly 62<sup>nd</sup> Session
- Security Council
- High Level Dialogue on Terrorism
- High Level Dialogue on Immigration
- HIV/AIDS High Level Meeting on Aids
- Commission for Sustainable Development
- Commission on the Status of Women
- Commission on Population and Development
- Global Compact
- Financing for Development
- Tripartite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace
- General Assembly's Thematic Debate on the Advancement of Women
- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- International Law Commission
- Economic and Social Council
- General Assembly's Thematic Debate on Climate Change



***Above and Below: Pax Romana Law Intern Hannah Bible speaking in 2007 before the UN General Assembly***

## **VII. Accomplishments**

Interns have succeeded in submitting many written and oral statements on Pax Romanas behalf. Additionally, Pax Romana / STULS Interns have given statements on behalf of both inter-governmental organizations and states missions. These speeches have been given in General Assembly committees, such as the

second and sixth committees and within the General Assembly itself.<sup>14</sup> Additionally, students have been able to give input into the writing of U.N. resolutions as many have participated in the informal consultations where the language of resolutions are debated before they are brought for a vote before the General Assembly or relevant committee.



In addition to serving as members, co-chairman, and chairman of various CONGO and committees organized by civil society interns have been requested to speak, write speeches, conduct research, and contribute to policy statements on behalf of NGOs and other members of civil society on a variety of issues.

<sup>14</sup> Appendix O, "General Assembly Speech Given by Pax Romana Intern"

While the aforementioned endeavors are considerable accomplishments toward immersing students with leadership skills, the most recognizable accomplishment is that the internship program has succeeded in formulating another avenue by which Catholic Social Thought can be integrated into policy at the U.N. and in the lives of STULS/Pax Romana Interns. St. Thomas University law students who participate in the U.N. Internship Program go beyond the boundaries of the classroom, learning the practice of international law and politics, not merely the intangible abstract ideas found in a textbook. They are transformed into professional catholic lay leaders having experienced firsthand the rigors of international relations.

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*Right: Intern Ashon Taylor with Iranian Amb. Khazaei*

*Below: Intern, Patricia George enjoying talking with South African Amb. Dumisani Kumalo.*



“Every day presented an opportunity to meet someone with a lifetime of experience of culture and perspective completely different from my own. This is one of the UN’s greatest beauties. Every person there is completely different, but also the same. They are the same in that they love humanity enough to dedicate themselves to upholding the virtues and ideals of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. . . . These [different] views and cultural understandings made me wealthy, with compassion and patience as my currency. It impregnated my mind with possibility, desire, and love. The concepts of hate and enemies became absurd concepts to me. The World community is great for its differences, not in trouble for them. We just have to learn how to see ourselves in those that are different from us. In the end my experiences at the UN have left me with great friends, an insatiable desire to learn more about the World around me, and more importantly a love that drives my desire to find myself in everyone.”  
- Carlos Monarrez, Pax Romana Intern Fall 2007

## VIII. Interns Perspectives

Students participating in the Pax Romana/STULS Internship find themselves exposed to new ideas and avenues of thought. “Regardless of books read and places traveled, I could never have learned as much as I did about the world and most importantly people as I did during my time at the United Nations.” As stated by Hannah Bible, “It opened my eyes to the existence of so many more problems, hurt, and conflicts are fellow men are going through, which I previously never knew. But most importantly I learned the vast array of solutions available to the problems. I found a new fervor in life attempting to find the one that best serves God and man simultaneously within an international political forum.”

All interns leave the internship experience changed, as expressed by Dominic Romano Pax Romana Intern Spring 2005 who speaks five languages.

It is a transforming experience. . . I have traveled a lot before I began this program. I thought I was worldly and open minded. But this experience has broadened my horizons in a way that was previously unimaginable to me. I will never be the same person. . . I am forever changed by the opportunity afforded me by the law school, Pax Romana and Professor Wolff. . . It has been a real honor to witness the incredible work being done at the U.N., to meet people who have committed their lives to the less-fortunate, and to be exposed to global perspectives on current events and issues.

After completing the STULS/Pax Romana United Nations Internship Program students believe they can make a difference in the world.

“This experience has taught me a lot about global issues, international cooperation, and diversity. But most importantly, it has taught me that even one person can make a difference in this world.” - Helen Stampalia Bennett, Pax Romana Intern Spring 2006,

Helen Stampalia Bennett has lived out her words as she now runs her own immigration law firm benchmarking her fees to that of Catholic Legal Services of the Archdiocese of

Miami in order to provide assistance to all clients regardless of financial resources or ability to pay.

The Internship Program has become immensely popular among St. Thomas School of

**“Pax Romana:  
Thank you for  
showing an  
undeserved Christ-  
like trust in me in  
allowing me to  
represent your  
organization and its  
ideals. I am forever  
grateful.”**

Law students. Yet no matter how grand a student’s individual expectations at commencement of the Program they are always exceeded. As stated by Intern Sujata Patel and reiterated by many more interns, “I never could have imagined the opportunities that would have been afforded to me and the people I would meet during my internship at the U.N.”

In addition to the experience itself students leave with an immense gratitude to the members of Pax Romana involved in the

program. An intern wishing to remain anonymous stated –

Every intern is grateful to the Pax Romana for the opportunity afforded to us. We can tell the individuals so deeply involved in the program like Professor Wolff, Dr. Holland, and Dr. Klee that we are forever indebted for our time at the U.N. but we rarely get the opportunity to show our gratitude to the organization itself. So if ever given the chance, I would like to say to Pax Romana: ‘Thank you for showing an undeserved Christ-like trust in me and allowing me to represent your organization and its ideals. I am forever grateful.

From the students’ perspective there is no doubt that the STULS/Pax Romana United Nations Internship Program has been an extraordinary success.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Appendix P, “Pax Romana. The United Nations Experience” (a law school newspaper article written by interns, Vandan Amin and Carlos Monarrez).



## IX. Current Challenges

The STULS/Pax Romana United Nations Internship Program in New York is only academic program that provides the opportunity for United States law students to be credentialed to the United Nations in New York. In addition, it is the only United Nations clinical program approved by the American Bar Association for law school credit. The St. Thomas Law School program is the only one striving to implement Catholic Social Doctrine into the students' clinical academic curriculum. Because of the novelty and uniqueness of the program, it at times requires an extensive commitment by the director of the program to supervise the students with little allocated resources. Thus, this at times means the Director has had to absorb many of the internship costs personally. The Program is striving to find new means of obtaining additional financial resources to supplement the cost of supervising the program.



*Intern Nico Romano, Associate Dean George Sheldon; and Professor Mark J. Wolff discuss the future and*

Because the Internship in New York is a significant distance from Florida where most of the students reside, students at times find it difficult to find housing for a price that is within their financial means. The Program would like to see members of Pax Romana and the Catholic community within New York contributing to a database listing available affordable housing.



***Catholic Social Teaching Symposium: Themes for an Integral Path for Sustainable Development held in partnership with the Holy See at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2005. This Symposium was presented on the occasion of the preparatory meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (See. Appendix D).***

## X. Conclusion

The United Nations Internship Program is fundamentally based upon Catholic Social Teaching and attempts to incorporate its principles into the life and work of the students selected to participate. While the Program has grown exponentially over the past four years the number of students desiring to participate in the Program far exceed the few that can be accepted. Because the Program is designed to transform mentally, spiritually, and functionally the life of the student participant into that of a lay catholic global leader it must be made available to a broader group of students. This is primarily a financial challenge as the financial resources provided by Pax Romana (ICMICA) and St. Thomas University School of Law are very scarce. Moreover, due to the cost of housing in New York the Program needs affordable student housing.

Therefore, in order for the Program to continue to grow and transform the lives of those who participate it must become more widely available and financially sustainable. For this to be accomplished major outside financial resources are required in order to obtain housing in New York and to underwrite the cost of food and transportation for student participants.

If you are aware of any individuals or organizations that you believe could be approached in order to obtain either the housing facilities or other financial concerns as outlined above so that this important program may continue to grow and prosper please contact Mark Wolff.

## **XI. General Contact Information**

### **A. New York Office Address**

#### **Regional Office**

Mail Address: 870 UN Plaza  
New York, NY 10017

### **B. Director and Program Advisor**

#### **Prof. Dr. Mark Wolff, Professor Saint Thomas University School of Law**

Main Representative to the United Nations &  
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#### **Prof. Dr. Joe Holland, Professor of Philosophy & Religion**

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### C. List of Previous Pax Romana Interns from 2004-2008

#### **Spring 2005**

Nico Romano

#### **Spring 2006**

Helen Stampalia

#### **Summer 2006**

James Karrat

#### **Fall 2006**

Hannah Bible

#### **Spring 2007**

Iiro Hirvonen

Sujata Patel

#### **Summer 2007**

David Low

Matt Gripp

#### **Fall 2007**

Carlos Monarrez

Jessica McMiller

Vandan Amin

#### **Spring 2008**

Ashon Taylor

Greg Sadowski

Patricia Jorge

Ataf Khokhar

Casimir Wolnowski

#### **Summer 2008**

Karline Altemar

Narcy Fajardo

Rochelle Nunez

Shani McKensie

Veronica Flores