**School of Law**Office of Vice-Dean
Professor J. Patrick Kelly

## Nairobi International Law Institute

Dear Law Student:

Our Nairobi program will be held June 24 to July 24, 2013. The Nairobi summer semester is an extraordinary academic and cultural experience that will change the way you view the world. Since 1988 Widener has operated this program in partnership with the University of



**Downtown Nairobi** 

Nairobi (UON). In 2013 we will offer three courses International Environmental Law and Trade. Comparative Family Law, and Comparative Constitutional Law I and II each of which will be offered in two segments or modules allowing you to take anywhere from 2 to 6 credits during the summer. If your time is limited, you could take three credits during the June 24 to July 10 segment or three credits during the July 8 to July 23 segment. Directed research for credit is also possible. Widener students in our Venice and Lausanne programs will be able to attend a program in Europe as well as the Nairobi program. I will teach the Trade and Environment course along with guest lecturers from

the UON and the Kenya Wildlife Service. Professor Ann Fruth from the Harrisburg campus will teach the Comparative Family Law course, along with Professor Pauline Nyamweya of the UON, and direct the second part of the program. Professors drawn from the University of Nairobi faculty will teach the Comparative Constitutional Law course.

Kenya is one of the most beautiful and interesting places in the world. It is justly famous for its extraordinary national parks teeming with wildlife, beautiful beaches on the Indian Ocean, and excellent hiking in the mountains including Mt. Kilimanjaro. Less well known is that Nairobi is a bustling international city with unique resources. Nairobi is the world headquarters for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the regional headquarters for the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. It is also the regional home of the vital NGOs (non-governmental organizations) that are helping to reshape our world, such as the World Wide Fund for Nature, Oxfam, Doctors Without Borders, and the International Union

for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Nairobi with over 100 diplomatic embassies and a wealth of international organizations has a cosmopolitan atmosphere draws international civil servants and diplomats from around the world and has a large selection of reasonably priced, excellent restaurants.

The program has been arranged to help you get the most out of your experience. We have expanded the number of group activities and more closely tied them to the material you will be





studying in your courses The weekend before the program begins (June 22 & 23) we will travel to Lake Naivasha in the Great Rift Valley about 50 miles west of Nairobi.

We will stay at a lovely Hotel on beautiful Lake Naivaisha with magnificent gardens and wildlife. On Saturday we will take a boat launch to the Crescent Island Game Sanctuary, where you will <u>walk</u> among giraffe, antelope, gazelle, wildebeest, impala and other

wildlife. This island was stocked with animals for the movie, Out of Africa starring Meryl Streep and Robert Redford, and has no predators. The next morning you may wish to hike in Hells Gate Gorge National Park or walk the grounds of the hotel to see the abundant wildlife in the water and on land. You will see Mt. Longonot, a 9000 foot extinct volcano with a deep crater looming above the lake and have excellent views of the Great Rift Valley and Lake Naivasha.

After the first week of classes we embark on a three-day, two-night safari (June 28-30) to

the famous Samburu National Reserve. The trip is long journey up and around Mt. Kenya and then down into the sub-desert region that is the home of the Samburu people. There will be a lecture on Kenya's conservation policies and the African Elephant in our International Environmental Law and Trade course before the trip. We will stay at a beautiful tented camp on the banks of the Ewaso Ngiro River whose waters nourish leopards and crocodiles. There you will encounter lions, leopard, cheetah and elephants as well as rare animals unique to Samburu: the reticulated giraffe, the long necked gerenuk, the Somali ostrich, Grevy's zebra, and the Beisa oryx.



Elephants crossing the river in Samburu



After the second week of classes (July 4-7) we help arrange a group trip to Diani Beach on the Indian Ocean 20 miles south of the port city of Mombasa. You will swim and snorkel in the coral reef protected waters and experience the lifestyle and culture of the Swahili people. We will stay at the Baobob Beach Resort hotel right on Diani Beach. <a href="www.baobab-beach-resort.com">www.baobab-beach-resort.com</a> All of these safari's are at special discounted rates because you will be temporary students at the UON and entitled to resident rates.

During classes we will tour the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) facilities outside of Nairobi and hear a lecture from a top lawyer at the UN on the international environmental issues such as the Ozone Treaty and the Montreal Protocols. We will also arrange a tour of the Kenyan law courts and will attempt to have the Chief Justice or another justice speak to us. One of the great advantages of the program is that you will not be living an insular life. You will share classes with law students from the University of Nairobi and have the opportunity to exchange experiences.

After exams we will help arrange a safari to the world famous Masai Mara National Reserve home to the Annual Migration of wildebeest and zebra. The



migration
occurs in
late July and
August.
With luck
you may see
it as have
many other



Nairobi institute members over the years of the program. For a CBS 60 Minutes video on the annual migration, just click on the link below.

http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7396058n&tag=contentMain;cbsCarousel

At the end of the program there will be plenty of time to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro, complete internship projects, or return home for a clerkship. In most years several members of the group make the trek up Mt. Kilimanjaro or travel to the Indian Ocean beaches of Kenya or the nearby Island of Zanzibar in Tanzania.

This year we have arranged comfortable housing at Bid Apartments, a low-rise series of apartment units behind the Sarit Center in Westlands in a gated, secure compound. Members of the Institute will be able to share one and two bedroom apartments or rent a studio for one person. The accommodations include TV, telephone, and a swimming pool. It is convenient to shopping centers and restaurants. The security is excellent. People who have participated in this program have had their lives changed. It is an unparalleled opportunity for personal enrichment and growth. Many Nairobi Institute members fall in love with Kenya and develop lasting friendships. I wanted to



**Bid Apartments** 

start such a program because I had a similar experience when I was in law school that changed my life. I joined the Harvard Africa Volunteer Project in Kenya and taught at the University of

Nairobi. I fell in love with Kenya, made many life-long friends, and have been returning ever

since. In 1988 Widener University, in conjunction with the University of Nairobi, created this program in order to give you the same opportunity.

You will find that Kenyans are as generous and friendly as any group of people in the world. Many University of Nairobi faculty members helped lead the fight for comprehensive constitutional reform. You will find that the Nairobi Institute faculty members are unusually interesting people and compelling teachers.



On weekends students travel in groups to game parks, visit the unspoiled and uncrowded beaches on the Indian Ocean for snorkeling, scuba, or relaxation, hike in the mountains or visit friends that they make. There is far more to see and do than one person could possibly enjoy in a summer. You may be interested in visiting or volunteering with Water is Life, Kenya, an NGO devoted to provide clean water to remote villages to reduce disease and improve the prospects for rural women or to volunteer at the Happy Life Orphanage in Nairobi. You may wish to arrive early and stay beyond the program's end. Most flights to Kenya go through Europe. If you wish to experience that continent as well, you can stop in any of the capital cities (London, Paris, Zurich, Amsterdam, etc.) on the way to Kenya or on the trip home. South African Airways also flies to Nairobi from New York via Johannesburg, South Africa if you wish to see that country.

For more information go to our web site at <a href="www.law.widener.edu">www.law.widener.edu</a> and click on Academic Programs and then the Summer Study Abroad link to the left and then click Nairobi. Participants rave about the program. The National Jurist, the magazine for law students, ran a feature story on us, "Legal Safari," in the January, 2000 issue. You are welcome to call me at my office 302-477-2153 or email me at <a href="jpkelly@widener.edu">jpkelly@widener.edu</a> or contact Prof. Ann Fruth of our Harrisburg campus at 717-541-3978 or <a href="mail.widener.edu">aefruth@mail.widener.edu</a>

If you wish to talk to one of the students who participated in the 2011 program, you may contact Staci Pesin at <a href="mailto:stacipesin@comcast.net">stacipesin@comcast.net</a> or Dan Breslin at <a href="mailto:dbreslin87@gmail.com">dbreslin87@gmail.com</a>.

Sincerely,

J. Patrick Kelly, Professor of Law and Vice-Dean Director, Nairobi International Program