RIVER TRIPS FORGE INDELIBLE MEMORIES

For decades, Professor Oliver Houck has shared his love of Louisiana’s waterways by educating students via canoe trip. After his book Downstream Toward Home: A Book of Rivers was published in fall 2014, the Tulane Law Connection newsletter invited alumni and current students to share memories about their adventures with the leader of Tulane’s Environmental Law program.

Here’s a sampling:

“One of my fondest memories from the Tulane experience was canoeing Bayou Sorrell with Professor Houck and several classmates during the fall of my first year,” said Mike Brady (L ’89), who has his own land use litigation firm in Sacramento, California, Brady & Vining.

“Though I was a Louisiana native and Ollie was not, he opened my eyes to the state’s beauty on this and the other trips during my time at Tulane. After graduating and while still finding my way in the world, I was fortunate enough to canoe the Green River in Utah before it becomes the Colorado River with Ollie and others. Even though it was August in the intermountain West, I remember it raining at least once every day as we canoed down through red rock canyons. I would not be where and what I am now if it were not for the time I spent with Oliver Houck.”

Another former Houck student, Jason Barbeau (L ’01), has found success as a senior trial attorney with the U.S. Justice Department’s Environmental Enforcement Section. He was instrumental in securing the largest civil penalty ever under the Clean Air Act: a $100 million settlement from Hyundai Motor Co. and Kia Motors Corp. He not only recalls Tulane canoe trips fondly but has paid them forward.

“The thought of canoeing with Oliver brings a rush of good memories: the vast stillness among the tall cypress in the Atchafalaya; his infectious enthusiasm for adventure and exploration; the occasional thrill of short runs of swift water on the Bogue Chitto and Wolf Creek; great blue herons and alligators up close; lounging in the sun on timeless, placeless sand bars; the inevitable human pyramid and the splash of tumbling bodies at the end; falling asleep beside the river tired, dirty, full and happy; friendships formed through effort and discovery; and a plausible reason to talk for the first time to my future wife,” Barbeau wrote.

“On this trip, there were some students who were camping for their first time and had never done anything like this, and others who had been canoeing for decades,” she said. “Professor Houck’s enthusiasm for being on the water and encouragement to really soak up the opportunity we had to spend two days on a beautiful river made for a wonderful atmosphere and a very fun trip.”

Samantha Pfotenhauer (L ’17), who joined an October 2014 canoeing/camping trip to the Wolf River, said Houck “seems to derive a lot of energy from interacting with nature. What is different with Professor Houck is that he seems to get so much joy out of encouraging other people, his students in this case, to connect with nature and enjoy it.”

“On this trip, there were some students who were camping for their first time and had never done anything like this, and others who had been canoeing for decades,” she said. “Professor Houck’s enthusiasm for being on the water and encouragement to really soak up the opportunity we had to spend two days on a beautiful river made for a wonderful atmosphere and a very fun trip.”

After seeing photos of the 2014 trip posted on Facebook, Richard Exnicios (L ’98) wrote, “I may have learned just as much on those canoe trips with Professor Houck as I did in classes.”
TULANE’S SEARCH IS ON FOR MCCULLOCH CHAIR IN ENERGY LAW

Tulane Law School is conducting an international search for a renowned legal scholar to fill the new McCulloch Chair in Energy Law.

The chair was endowed in 2014 by a $2 million gift from energy industry executive Jim McCulloch (A.K.S. ’74, L. ’77) and his wife, Susan, of Houston. Their gift is being matched by a broader campaign to raise funds for an endowed energy law center.

McCollough is senior vice president and general counsel for Houston-based Forum Energy Technologies.

Dean David Meyer said the McCullough Chair “will enable us to drive new research and innovation in energy law and close the loop with Tulane’s closely aligned strengths in maritime, environmental and international law.”

The search committee for the chair is being led by Professor Adeno Addis, W.R. Irby Chair at the law school, and Professor Eric Dannenmaier, director of the Tulane Energy Institute at the A.B. McFarland, the Lawrence Distinguished Niels F. Johnsen Chair of Maritime Law; Tulane Law School is conducting an international search for a renowned legal scholar to fill the new McCulloch Chair in Energy Law.

In 2001-06, Dannenmaier was director of Tulane Law School’s Institute for Environmental Law and Policy. He also was Belfer Fellow at Columbia Law School in 2006-07 and Visiting Chair of Natural Resources Law at the University of Calgary in 2001. He served as director of the Environmental Law Program of the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1996-2000. And he practiced law in Boston and Washington, D.C.

In 2014, President Barack Obama appointed Dannenmaier to the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation Joint Public Advisory Committee, which was created under NAFTA in international search for a renowned legal scholar to fill the new McCulloch Chair in Energy Law.

In October 2015 to teach a short course in Sustainable Energy Law and Policy.

Research and Innovation in Energy Law

Dannenmaier’s scholarship focuses in national and international law. His current research relates to the governance of the 34-state Mississippi River Watershed, examining the need for, and growth of, legal and institutional frameworks for cooperative environmental management of the largest watershed in the United States.

In 2001-06, Dannenmaier was director of Tulane Law School’s Institute for Environmental Law and Policy. He also was Belfer Fellow at Columbia Law School in 2006-07 and Visiting Chair of Natural Resources Law at the University of Calgary in 2001. He served as director of the Environmental Law Program of the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1996-2000. And he practiced law in Boston and Washington, D.C.

In 2014, President Barack Obama appointed Dannenmaier to the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation Joint Public Advisory Committee, which was created under NAFTA in international search for a renowned legal scholar to fill the new McCulloch Chair in Energy Law.

In 2001-06, Dannenmaier was director of Tulane Law School’s Institute for Environmental Law and Policy. He also was Belfer Fellow at Columbia Law School in 2006-07 and Visiting Chair of Natural Resources Law at the University of Calgary in 2001. He served as director of the Environmental Law Program of the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1996-2000. And he practiced law in Boston and Washington, D.C.

In 2014, President Barack Obama appointed Dannenmaier to the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation Joint Public Advisory Committee, which was created under NAFTA in international search for a renowned legal scholar to fill the new McCulloch Chair in Energy Law.

In October 2015 to teach a short course in Sustainable Energy Law and Policy.

Research and Innovation in Energy Law

Dannenmaier’s scholarship focuses in national and international law. His current research relates to the governance of the 34-state Mississippi River Watershed, examining the need for, and growth of, legal and institutional frameworks for cooperative environmental management of the largest watershed in the United States.

In 2001-06, Dannenmaier was director of Tulane Law School’s Institute for Environmental Law and Policy. He also was Belfer Fellow at Columbia Law School in 2006-07 and Visiting Chair of Natural Resources Law at the University of Calgary in 2001. He served as director of the Environmental Law Program of the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1996-2000. And he practiced law in Boston and Washington, D.C.

In 2014, President Barack Obama appointed Dannenmaier to the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation Joint Public Advisory Committee, which was created under NAFTA in international search for a renowned legal scholar to fill the new McCulloch Chair in Energy Law.

In October 2015 to teach a short course in Sustainable Energy Law and Policy.

Research and Innovation in Energy Law

Dannenmaier’s scholarship focuses in national and international law. His current research relates to the governance of the 34-state Mississippi River Watershed, examining the need for, and growth of, legal and institutional frameworks for cooperative environmental management of the largest watershed in the United States.

In 2001-06, Dannenmaier was director of Tulane Law School’s Institute for Environmental Law and Policy. He also was Belfer Fellow at Columbia Law School in 2006-07 and Visiting Chair of Natural Resources Law at the University of Calgary in 2001. He served as director of the Environmental Law Program of the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1996-2000. And he practiced law in Boston and Washington, D.C.

In 2014, President Barack Obama appointed Dannenmaier to the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation Joint Public Advisory Committee, which was created under NAFTA in international search for a renowned legal scholar to fill the new McCulloch Chair in Energy Law.

In October 2015 to teach a short course in Sustainable Energy Law and Policy.

Research and Innovation in Energy Law

Dannenmaier’s scholarship focuses in national and international law. His current research relates to the governance of the 34-state Mississippi River Watershed, examining the need for, and growth of, legal and institutional frameworks for cooperative environmental management of the largest watershed in the United States.

In 2001-06, Dannenmaier was director of Tulane Law School’s Institute for Environmental Law and Policy. He also was Belfer Fellow at Columbia Law School in 2006-07 and Visiting Chair of Natural Resources Law at the University of Calgary in 2001. He served as director of the Environmental Law Program of the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1996-2000. And he practiced law in Boston and Washington, D.C.

In 2014, President Barack Obama appointed Dannenmaier to the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation Joint Public Advisory Committee, which was created under NAFTA in international search for a renowned legal scholar to fill the new McCulloch Chair in Energy Law.

In October 2015 to teach a short course in Sustainable Energy Law and Policy.

Research and Innovation in Energy Law

Dannenmaier’s scholarship focuses in national and international law. His current research relates to the governance of the 34-state Mississippi River Watershed, examining the need for, and growth of, legal and institutional frameworks for cooperative environmental management of the largest watershed in the United States.

In 2001-06, Dannenmaier was director of Tulane Law School’s Institute for Environmental Law and Policy. He also was Belfer Fellow at Columbia Law School in 2006-07 and Visiting Chair of Natural Resources Law at the University of Calgary in 2001. He served as director of the Environmental Law Program of the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1996-2000. And he practiced law in Boston and Washington, D.C.

In 2014, President Barack Obama appointed Dannenmaier to the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation Joint Public Advisory Committee, which was created under NAFTA in international search for a renowned legal scholar to fill the new McCulloch Chair in Energy Law.

Invited witness, Louisiana Senate Natural Resources Committee hearing on proposed Waters of the United States rule, Baton Rouge, Nov. 17, 2014.

Moderator, French Amer-Can Climate Talks symposium, Tulane University, Nov. 10, 2014.


Nobody said this was going to be easy: New Horizons of Water Management and Water Law; Emerging issues at the intersection of Energy and Water, Paul M. Herbert Law Center, Louisiana State University, Oct. 3, 2014.


Panelist, webinar on new RESTORE Act regulations, notice and guidelines from U.S. Treasury Department, hosted by the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy and the Environmental Law Institute, Aug. 28, 2014.


Dalbom’s presentations: Presenter/moderator, Center for Planning Excellence Louisiana Smart Growth Summit, Baton Rouge, Nov. 12, 2014.


Financing the Future

Two things are clear about living in a sinking city in a disappearing coast: It is going to take bold action and lots of money to cope with the forces of a changing coast and a changing climate. Less clear, but no less important, is the fact that success is going to require lots of creative lawyering, the sort of lawyering offered by the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy.

Nothing demonstrates this better than the institute’s ongoing work to probe the possibilities for financing the vast array of projects and programs that have been touted as necessary to save coastal Louisiana and its communities. Ultimately, three papers (at least) will be published to address the cost of state, regional and local plans to restore and to make resilient South Louisiana. “Financing the Future I” was published in fall 2014 and estimated the true cost of coastal restoration at more than $100 billion, a figure now widely accepted. “Financing the Future II” is set for publication in fall 2015 and examines what funds are already in place and what strings they are tied to. “Financing the Future III,” coming in 2016, looks at the options for raising the rest of the needed dollars.

The institute’s financing project is led by Director Mark Davis and supported by post-graduate senior research fellow Dean Boyer and former fellow Harry Voshoff.

Louisiana Water Code Project

In the recipe to save and protect coastal Louisiana, the only ingredient more important than solid science, engineering and money is water. But the use of water is controlled by laws and policies. Laws and policies that Louisiana does not currently have. That makes the business of crafting a suitable “water code” the institute’s business: not just any set of water laws, but one that is suitably comprehensive as well as grounded in ecological and hydrologic reality (an approach that is more novel than one might expect).

The project was spurred by work done at Louisiana’s Water Resources Commission, the Louisiana State Law Institute and Senate Resolution 171 (2014). The institute has brought together a multidisciplinary team to shape and guide this effort and to keep it connected to the efforts of the State Law Institute and the Water Resources Commission. The institute has signed a memorandum of understanding with The Nature Conservancy and is coordinating with The Water Institute of the Gulf and others to bring together a water budget and modeling system for the state that can not only tell what water is available and needed now, but what may be available and needed decades in the future.

Various aspects of comparative water law and administration continue to be evaluated by the institute and partners, such as LSU Sea Grant Legal. The project will take years to complete and will likely proceed in phases tied to current and emerging water management challenges, such as those posed by hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas, coastal restoration and climate change. The institute’s water code project is led by program manager Christopher Dalbom and supported by post-graduate senior research fellow Caitrin Reilly and student research assistant Brendan Hughes.

TUWaterWays

Nobody can know everything about how water influences our lives and laws, but if you read TUWaterWays, you will have a leg up on most of your neighbors. This free weekly newsletter provides a pithy summary of the latest developments in the world of water and does it in less than two pages. To join the ranks of the water informed, subscribe on our webpage: law.tulane.edu/water.
“ARMY GREEN” CARRIES SPECIAL MEANING IN LOUISIANA
By Andrew Jacoby (L ’08)

I became familiar with the GreenARMY through my environmental litigation work, through which I help Louisiana nonprofits, neighborhood groups and citizens in all sorts of environmental, public health and land-use matters. I am well aware of the struggles going on throughout the state to protect relatively powerless citizens against certain industries when they don’t play by the rules, so it is natural that I would work with the GreenARMY.

Like many environmental groups, the GreenARMY does not have much legal assistance or funds to hire lawyers. I jumped in to help in several ways: I draft and testify on legislative bills; monitor rule changes and draft comments; help devise strategies; and provide deep-diving research on legal issues, supporting the various groups in the coalition in whatever capacity they need.

The GreenARMY is a statewide coalition of environmental and public health advocacy groups. It got its name in 2003, he heard about the Bayou Corne sinkhole disaster and began helping the local residents in their fight. Other communities facing similar problems reached out to him, and he was drawn into Louisiana’s battle with itself.

He’s a born leader and drew together communities from all over the state that were facing a common problem: powerful industries were using their clout in state government, which resulted in larger social, economic and public-health costs being pushed onto the public, and often onto Louisiana’s poorest communities.

Louisiana is ground zero for pollution and environmental hazards in the United States, and that has public-health consequences. It did not have to be this way. Other states and countries have robust state enforcement agencies and state government leaders who take serious their duty to protect the health and well-being of citizens.

But, in Louisiana, residents have felt compelled to form advocacy groups in polluted neighborhoods. Until recently, these diverse groups had largely operated in isolation, myopically focused on their own matters. Gen. Honoré and the GreenARMY have brought traditional civil and community groups into the fold, working in mutual support with existing environmental and public-health advocacy groups.

The GreenARMY has many larger groups leading the charge. Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Sierra Club, Gulf Restoration Network and others. It includes new groups and smaller, regional groups, helping to give voice and support to those whose concerns might otherwise not be heard in Baton Rouge and around the country.

In the past two legislative sessions, the GreenARMY has been present to defend Louisiana communities, by whatever means works. We issued a legislative scorecard on environmental and public-health matters. We have drafted and supported bills to address issues such as air pollution, groundwater remediation, groundwater protection in Baton Rouge, protection of schoolchildren from pesticides and landfill pollution, salt dome safety rules, ethical issues, abandoned oilfields, and coastal protection.

Gen. Honoré continues to drive the GreenARMY forward, and we plan to be active (both defensively and offensively) in upcoming legislative sessions, in the regulatory arena and everywhere that Louisiana citizens’ health and well-being are threatened.

Andrew Jacoby is a partner in Varadi, Hair & Ochocki in New Orleans.

GEN. HONORÉ HIGHLIGHTS 2015 ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT
By Samantha Pfisterhauser (L ’17)

Tulane’s 20th Annual Summit on Environmental Law & Policy drew more than 650 attendees to the event in February 2015. The summit, which is completely student-run, presented 19 panels on topics as wide-ranging as environmental justice in Lake Charles, Louisiana; fracking preemption; and the use of wildlife corridors to support big bear populations across the United States.

Retired Gen. Russel Honoré, well-known for leading military efforts after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, gave an inspiring keynote address about the GreenARMY, his grassroots organization that advocates for clean air and water in Louisiana. A second keynote speaker, Pat Mulroy, former general manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, spoke engagingly about the process of negotiating water rights for Nevada with the six other states in the Colora River Basin.

And Tony Oposa, who successfully litigated in the Philippine Supreme Court for the right of children to imitate legal action for themselves and on behalf of unborn children, travelled from the Philippines to speak about the use of urban transportation in Manila. Oposa reminded members of the audience that we are all one community, and he concluded his speech by leading everyone in a rendition of “What a Wonderful World.”

Samantha Pfisterhauser (L ’17) is executive chair of the 2016 summit.

Panel topics will include criminal and civil penalties to combat environmental pollution in China, national security’s role in climate change policy and the forecast for coastal Louisiana in 2080.

Tulane Law student Jae Sung Strader (L ’16, left) assists a speaker at the 2015 Tulane Summit on Environmental Law & Policy.
Environmental Law Clinic

Effluent Discharges Improves Louisiana’s 2014 Clean Water Act Impaired Waters List: Student-attorneys representing the Gulf Restoration Network, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper and Sierra Club Delta Chapter urged the Environmental Protection Agency to reject Louisiana’s 2014 list of impaired waters submitted under the Clean Water Act. In July, the EPA disapproved the state’s list and included on its the Dead Zone in the nearshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico and 40 other bodies of water impaired because of minerals.

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Conditions Helis Drilling Permit: Student-attorneys represented the Town of Abita Springs in proceedings that in December 2014 resulted in the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources adding conditions that residents requested as a drilling permit for Helis Oil & Gas, including that the company monitor noise, air and water, and fracking using only surface waters from private ponds not replenished by groundwater.

Allied Clean Air Act Violations Abated: After student-attorneys representing the Sierra Club filed a notice of Clean Air Act violations alleging that Heck Industries was endangering children by not properly controlling emissions from concrete loading operations, the company in October 2014 moved its production facility from Moreauville, Louisiana, to a site farther from the community.

Student Summer Snapshots

Jennifer Bergeron, 2L
Valero Energy Corp., San Antonio
I was a litigation and regulatory law intern at Valero Energy Corp. headquarters, working alongside in-house attorneys writing memos on various environmental regulatory issues. The highlight was definitely being able to accompany my boss to Washington, D.C., to meet with officials at the Environmental Protection Agency, where we were invited to discuss possible reform of the Renewable Fuel Standard.

Amanda Crawford, 2L
Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Annapolis, Maryland
I worked as a litigation intern at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay. The major focus of my work was on the Clean Water Act. One of the most interesting cases I worked on involved whether the Virginia State Water Control Board’s failure to impose certain fencing requirements on animal feeding operations, which would reduce nutrient pollution to the Chesapeake Bay. The issue was whether the board’s action was arbitrary and capricious in light of its statutorily mandated duties.

Jesse Hudson, 3L
Alianza Arkana, Pucallpa, Peru
I worked in Pucallpa, Peru (in the Upper Amazon basin) doing legal research for an international NGO Alianza Arkana. My primary task was to conduct workshops in indigenous Shipibo communities in Loreto on the rights of indigenous peoples to natural gas exploration for demarcated by the Peruvian government and overlapping titled Shipibo territories — regarding their rights with respect to Peru’s Oil Company does “unconventional” exploration. The Shipibo’s rights derive directly from the International Labor Organization’s Convention No. 169, an international legal framework for managing the present tense regarding the Fellows of the City of New Orleans.

Emile Prince, 3L
Southern Environmental Law Center, Atlanta
My experience with the Southern Environmental Law Center in Atlanta was wonderful because I was able to work on such a wide variety of issues within the environmental law. I’m interested in the intersection of environmental and clean water law. I worked on a number of projects ranging from water quality and wetland regulations, to energy law, and I worked on and presented at several conferences and workshops. Beyond that, I completed a study and policy brief on water quality issues and active litigation issues and several ongoing administrative state law queries.

Colin Rice, 2L
GNO Inc., New Orleans
I worked as a law student fellow with Greater New Orleans Inc. and the Tulane Institute for Water Law & Policy. I focused on legal issues surrounding several pressing issues facing the city of New Orleans but mainly the current urban water flooding and subsidence threat that the city deals with daily. I looked at possible implementation strategies and legal hurdles for a massive urban water infrastructure overhaul called the Urban Water Plan. The plan, which was put out in 2013 by GNO Inc. and Waggonner & Ball Architects, looks at the threats of flooding due to stormwater, subsidence and aging water infrastructure systems. The plan calls into action several citywide implementation strategies, such as retrofitting canals and waterways, implementing green infrastructure and managing stormwater through individual and municipal efforts that guarantee the future of New Orleans as both a cultural icon and a leader in environmental sustainability.

Brendan Hughes, 2L
Tulane Institute for Water Law & Policy, New Orleans
I worked with the Tulane Institute for Water Resources Law & Policy, researching the water laws and policies of other states in the Mississippi River Basin to support the institute’s project developing a water code for Louisiana. Unlike other states in the basin, Louisiana does not have a comprehensive legal regime for managing water resources. Neither does Louisiana have a water budget, that is, an empirically-based annual model of how much water is available in the state and how it is allocated. I researched other states and allocate and approve extractions of waters in their territories based on various budgeting techniques. I also attended meetings of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. The Water Institute of the Gulf and the Louisiana Water Commission involving major water projects underway and being planned for the state.

Deirdre Macfeeters, 3L
PEER, Washington, D.C.
I worked for Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, a nonprofit NGO located in Washington, D.C., that provides legal assistance to whistleblowers in state and federal environmental agencies. I wrote Freedom of Information Act lawsuits and a Federal Trade Commission complaint about unfair advertising practices and the environmental and health impacts of residential mosquito misting systems. I also wrote a brief in a case involving the Tennessee Department of Transportation’s violation of Clean Water Act permits.

Sam Plotenhauer, 2L
Defenders of Wildlife, Denver
I worked at Defenders of Wildlife in Denver on a variety of projects, but my favorite assignment was drafting National Environmental Policy Act comments for a bison management plan in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The assignment required research not just of the applicable law, but also of scientific studies on bison migration, population sizes and best management practices.

I worked at the Tulane Institute for Water Resources Law & Policy, researching the water laws and policies of other states in the Mississippi River Basin to support the institute’s project developing a water code for Louisiana. Unlike other states in the basin, Louisiana does not have a comprehensive legal regime for managing water resources. Neither does Louisiana have a water budget, that is, an empirically-based annual model of how much water is available in the state and how it is allocated. I researched other states and allocate and approve extractions of waters in their territories based on various budgeting techniques. I also attended meetings of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. The Water Institute of the Gulf and the Louisiana Water Commission involving major water projects underway and being planned for the state.

I worked as a law student fellow with Greater New Orleans Inc. and the Tulane Institute for Water Law & Policy. I focused on legal issues surrounding several pressing issues facing the city of New Orleans but mainly the current urban water flooding and subsidence threat that the city deals with daily. I looked at possible implementation strategies and legal hurdles for a massive urban water infrastructure overhaul called the Urban Water Plan. The plan, which was put out in 2013 by GNO Inc. and Waggonner & Ball Architects, looks at the threats of flooding due to stormwater, subsidence and aging water infrastructure systems. The plan calls into action several citywide implementation strategies, such as retrofitting canals and waterways, implementing green infrastructure and managing stormwater through individual and municipal efforts that guarantee the future of New Orleans as both a cultural icon and a leader in environmental sustainability.

Brendan Hughes, 2L
Tulane Institute for Water Law & Policy, New Orleans
I worked with the Tulane Institute for Water Resources Law & Policy, researching the water laws and policies of other states in the Mississippi River Basin to support the institute’s project developing a water code for Louisiana. Unlike other states in the basin, Louisiana does not have a comprehensive legal regime for managing water resources. Neither does Louisiana have a water budget, that is, an empirically-based annual model of how much water is available in the state and how it is allocated. I researched other states and allocate and approve extractions of waters in their territories based on various budgeting techniques. I also attended meetings of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. The Water Institute of the Gulf and the Louisiana Water Commission involving major water projects underway and being planned for the state.

Deirdre Macfeeters, 3L
PEER, Washington, D.C.
I worked for Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, a nonprofit NGO located in Washington, D.C., that provides legal assistance to whistleblowers in state and federal environmental agencies. I wrote Freedom of Information Act lawsuits and a Federal Trade Commission complaint about unfair advertising practices and the environmental and health impacts of residential mosquito misting systems. I also wrote a brief in a case involving the Tennessee Department of Transportation’s violation of Clean Water Act permits.

Sam Plotenhauer, 2L
Defenders of Wildlife, Denver
I worked at Defenders of Wildlife in Denver on a variety of projects, but my favorite assignment was drafting National Environmental Policy Act comments for a bison management plan in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The assignment required research not just of the applicable law, but also of scientific studies on bison migration, population sizes and best management practices.
“Working in the environmental clinic felt a bit like David vs. Goliath,” he said, “which is a little like what I do now, working against national banks.”

Chris Gobert (L ’94, LL.M ’96) is general counsel at the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority.

Beth Galante (L ’19, LL.M ’99) is vice president for business development & government relations at SunGen Solar Solutions, the largest solar company in Louisiana. Scott Galante (L ’00), her husband, is managing partner of Galante & Bivaucq.

John Hollemann (L ’92) practices at his firm, Hollemann & Associates in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he exclusively handles nationwide class and collective action cases under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Hollemann also enjoys life as a single parent to a 10-year-old son, Joshua.

Kathy Beterman (L ’97) has been counsel with Liskow & Lewis since 2007, focusing on commercial litigation and oil and gas environmental defense work. Beterman also serves on two local boards as secretary and trustee to the Poydras Home, a continuing care facility, and as a member of the Board of Commissioners for a local women’s center. She also serves as a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee.

Warren Burke (L ’97) works in the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives drafting health and environmental laws. For the past three years, Burke has served as chair of the International Conference on Legislative Drafting and Law Reform at the World Bank.

Jen Owens (LL.M ’10) joined the U.S. Department of Interior’s Board of Land Appeals as an attorney-advisor. He works on a variety of appeals, including matters such as wild horses, trespass via removal of minerals, bonds for oil and gas leases, grazing allotments, mining fees and allotments for Alaska Natives. Previously, he practiced as an attorney-advisor specializing in environmental law with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Baltimore and San Francisco, and with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C.

Nikki (L ’04) and Charles (L ’05) Adame-Winningham live in New York, after a long stint in Texas. Nikki practices environmental law at Lowenstein Sandler, where she works on projects involving site remediation, CERCLA litigation and real estate transactions. Charles is the horserights counselor at Atera, a restaurant in Tribeca that features a seasonal and imaginative menu. In addition to growing herbs in the restaurant’s hydroponic garden, Charles works with local farms to provide other fresh ingredients for Atera.

Cashauha Hill (L ’05) was named executive director of the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center.

Igor Pak (LL.M ’15), shown on a fall 2014 photo, graduated with honors from Tulane Law School and is the horticulturalist at Atera, a restaurant in the Tribeca that features a seasonal and imaginative menu.

Energy and Environment LLMs Win Muskie Awards to Work on Water Law and Affordable Energy

Uzbekistan lawyer Igor Pak, who received a Master’s in Energy and Environmental Law in 2015, was selected for the State Department-supported Edmund S. Muskie Internship Program and researched issues involving international water law at World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C. He then joined the Lightning team of Galante, Veron, Bice, Palermo & Wilson in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Prior to graduation from Tulane Law School, he worked fulltime for Loulan Pittre at Kelly Hart & Pittre defending independent oil and gas operators. She called that experience invaluable preparation for her work with Mike Veron (L ’74) and Rock Palermo, whose firm seeks to hold oil and gas companies responsible for uncompensated damage caused by their operations.

From Environmental Law to Maritime Indemnity

Becky Hamra’s interview for her first post-graduation job went off with a “Bam!”

During the Tulane Admistradry Law Institute, which the law school hosts every other year, Hamra (L ’11) was to meet with LeRoy Lambert (L ’83), president of Charles Taylor P&I Management (American). They chose a mutual favorite spot, the uptown classic Domilise’s Po-Boys. There, they walked into a signature New Orleans scene: Chef Emeril Lagasse was shooting a Food Network segment, so their lunch meeting came seasoned with frequent interruptions by his trademark “Bam!” Hamra got the job and now handles insurance claims for shipowners and vessel charters in the highly specialized maritime world of Protection and Indemnity Clubs. One of her colleagues is fellow Tulane Law graduate Peter Black (L ’14), a claims executive.

She initially came to Tulane with the goal of focusing on environmental law. Before law school, she had taught environmental education on Jekyll Island in coastal Georgia. She also had worked at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resource Division and considered eventually working as a river keeper.

But, after taking a class on maritime pollution with Adjunct Professor Joshua Force, she expanded her options by concentrating on admiralty and maritime law along with joining the Tulane University Journal of Environmental Law and Policy.

Now, she and her husband, Noel Hamra (L ’12), work in New York. He recently moved from Thorton Miller (American), another P&I Club, to Bank of Rome’s maritime litigation group.

Note: A version of this story appears in the Fall 2015 Tulane Lawyer magazine.
The Tulane Environmental and Energy Law program is one of the largest and most diverse in the world, graduating more than 30 JD and graduate-degree candidates annually. The program’s strengths include its faculty, the Environmental Law Clinic, the scholarship of the *Tulane Environmental Law Journal*, projects of the Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy, the enthusiasm of the Environmental & Energy Law Society and the engagement of its JD, LLM and SJD students. Located in the extraordinary setting of post-Katrina New Orleans, the Lower Mississippi River and the Gulf Coast, Tulane provides a unique academic experience in environmental, energy and sustainable development law and policy.

For more information, contact admissions@law.tulane.edu, 504-865-5930, or visit www.law.tulane.edu.