

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Michigan State University
316 Student Services Building
East Lansing, MI 48824
Phone (517) 353-9189
Fax (517) 432-0034



Press Release

Contact: Stefan Fletcher
Phone: (517) 353-9189

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
4 P.M. EDT, April 12, 2011

**THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS ANNOUNCES THE TOP-RATED ORAL
PRESENTER OF THE 3RD ANNUAL GRADUATE ACADEMIC CONFERENCE**

EAST LANSING, MI 48824: Scott Nowak was named as the top-rated oral presenter at the 3rd Annual Graduate Academic Conference (GAC) earning him the prestigious honor of presenting at the next Board of Trustees meeting. Scott is a third year law student at Michigan State University College of Law. The GAC, which took place on Friday, March 25th, 2011, is a forum for Michigan State University (MSU) graduate and professional students to present their academic work to the larger MSU community. Organized and implemented by the MSU Council of Graduate Students (COGS) with the support of MSU colleges and stakeholders, the GAC provides a way for graduate and professional students from different disciplines to share ideas and practice presentation skills.

**SCOTT NOWAK WILL BE PRESENTING AT THE MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING ON FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011
9:30 A.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING'S BOARD ROOM**

SCOTT NOWAK'S ABSTRACT SUBMITTED TO THE GAC:

Scott Nowak (Law)

Justice in Burma

Burma (Myanmar) is a nation that—since 1990—has been illegitimately controlled by a military junta known as the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). During their rule, the world has been witness to widespread and systematic abuses of the Burmese people that are alleged to be SPDC policy. The dire

situation existing within Burma is thoroughly detailed in “Justice in Burma,” with the paper’s intentions being to detail how a trial of SPDC leadership would unfold before the International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The paper further places the Burmese struggle in the context of historical factors that brought such a global court into existence; it also looks at contemporary international relations to decipher whether such a trial is realistically possible.

The Faculty Adviser for Nowak's research was Professor Bruce Bean at the MSU College of Law.

SCOTT NOWAK BIOGRAPHY:

- Former Law Clerk, Environmental Protection Agency (DC, January-April 2010)
- Former Law Clerk, Senator John McCain (DC, May-July 2010)
- Former legal researcher, Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs (DC, July 2010)
- Graduate of MSU's James Madison College in 2008 (B.A. International Relations), expected to graduate from MSUCOL in May 2011
- Current Managing Editor of the *Michigan State Journal of International Law*
- Research (*Justice in Burma*) to be published in the *Michigan State Journal of International Law* Volume 19, Issue 3 in May

Nowak got involved in researching the crimes being committed by the State Peace and Development Council (Burma's military regime, the SPDC), and how to hold them accountable for their actions, by interaction with Karen (pronounced like the name Corinne) Burmese refugees in his hometown of Fort Wayne, Indiana. He recognized their story wasn't being told well by the media, and that the atrocities being committed against Burma's population were some of the most egregious in the world. Nowak felt a duty to emphasize what the people were going through; they needed a voice. He also hoped his research could provide a blueprint for how to operate a criminal trial against SPDC leadership before the International Criminal Court.

In Fort Wayne, IN, Nowak and his parents have helped local Burmese refugees learn how to function in American culture, and professionally he has assisted Burmese refugees with domestic legal issues while working for Legal Services of South Central Michigan (May-August 2009).

Nowak’s future plans include working in Washington, DC in international law fields.