



# Bridging Borders

April 2012

## Central European University and BABSEA CLE: a dynamic duo

BABSEA CLE and Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary, continue to strengthen their collaborative partnership, with the goal of jointly supporting legal studies students engaged in access to justice initiatives.

The collaboration has definitely been a dynamic one. BABSEA CLE has continuously been involved in supporting and referring legal studies applicants from the Southeast Asia region to attend the CEU Legal Studies and other programs at CEU. To date,

more than a half dozen Southeast Asian graduates of CEU have worked directly with BABSEA CLE on social justice projects and programs.

Since 2003 BABSEA CLE has continuously hosted legal interns, volunteers and legal educators from the Central and Eastern European region. The shared lessons learned from those coming from countries in transition to work together have been invaluable.

In 2011, CEU's Alumni Relations & Career Services and

Development offices worked together with BABSEA CLE to establish a new scholarship award program for Legal Masters Human Rights Program students at CEU. Bruce Lasky, an alumnus (2003) of the LL.M.

America and Asia has increased considerably. From the beginning, the main goal of the program has been to provide theoretical and practical training for future scholars and professionals in human rights,

with special emphasis on the legal aspects of human rights protection.

In recognition of their special partnership, CEU honored BABSEA CLE Director Bruce Lasky with a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumi Hero award at its 20<sup>th</sup> Alumni Reunion



Program, and one of the Directors of BABSEA CLE, agreed that the support of a top-level graduate of the Human Rights program clearly furthered BABSEA CLE's mission of both supporting access to justice and "bridging" with like-minded people "across borders."

The Human Rights Program at CEU offers quality graduate-level education to students from various parts of the world, including Central and Eastern Europe, former Soviet Union and the Balkans. In recent years the number of students from Africa,

<http://www.ceu.hu/node/27459>.

"The event was incredibly meaningful to me," said Lasky, "because the room was filled with 20 years of amazing people doing amazing things. I knew though that the award was not really just for me -- I was simply accepting it on the part of our amazing organization, and I was just one component of an amazing team."

BABSEA CLE and CEU intend to further strengthen this partnership and look forward to many shared opportunities in 2012 and onward.