Advocacy meeting at the local office of Senator Toomey (GOP)

On March 24th a delegation from the Bucks County UNA and the UNA-GP met with James Fitzpatrick, the Southwest Regional Manager for Pennsylvania Senator Patrick J. Toomey. The delegation’s main focus was to urge the senator to take a positive, constructive approach to the UN and the UN system when debating all issues of foreign policy. An introduction about the UNAUSA and the six chapters in Pennsylvania was warranted, including a bit of history and the role of Eleanor Roosevelt and President Franklin D. Roosevelt. We presented ourselves as the worldwide popular support organization for the UN, dedicated to preventing the political erosion that preceded the collapse of the League of Nations and led to the 2nd world war. Besides providing a historical overview, the delegation urged the senator to honor our nation’s obligations. The USA, while it may seek drastic cuts in governmental spending, must abide by her duties, be bound by ratified treaties, and keep paying the annual UN dues in full. Finally, we brought up the fairly large number of treaties, signed by the USA, that need ratification by the Senate and we left Mister Fitzpatrick with the promise to come back and plead for an affirmative vote and positive action from the senator on all of these treaties. Looking forward, we need to call on some of our younger members and volunteers to join these visits in the near future. When it comes to the UN and the treaties and membership of UN bodies, a lot of information transfer and persuasion will be needed for this young senator and his even younger staff.
2011 International Women’s Day Celebration!
Our board member Anastasia Shown has been on the planning committee of the International Women’s Day celebration for the last 3 years. She helped organize this year’s International Women’s Day celebration on March 16th. This year the committee decided to celebrate differently. March 16th became Women and Water Day. The event turned out to be a great success, where we reached overflow-capacity. The opening performance was by the Anna Crusis Women’s Choir, and one of their members composed a special song about water and women. The event hosted a forum of three speakers: Smita Gupta, Marni Sommer, and Andrew Lamas. As usual, the event took place at International House, which was a co-sponsor, along with University of Pennsylvania’s Women’s Center, African Studies Center, and others.

“This event underscores the message that water access is a universal human right. As women play a central role in water provision and management, women must be central in planning for the future. We explore how the inclusion of women in the management of local, regional, and global water resources would improve the social, economic and environmental results. We explore issues around water access and women’s bodies, particularly in terms of menstrual health and access to education.”

Different organizations had a table at this event, among them Engineers without Borders, Explorers Sans Frontiers, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Philadelphia Global Water Initiative, and our own organization. Discussions were broad and ranged from local to global issues, to how one can get involved in bettering local and global conditions. There were lively discussions between speakers, on topics including puberty, menstruation, sanitation, and bottled water. The audience was very involved and had great questions.

Aside from the choir and the forum, the event also hosted a great art exhibit depicting women and water, showcased by the Women’s Caucus for Art. This was the second time that Women’s Caucus for Art has partnered with the UNA, and we greatly appreciate their support. Overall the event was a great success. Next year we will make it even better.

Donate a bit of money, donate a bit of time, give the gift of membership to your friends and neighbors, and why stop there? Ask your boss to join UNA-GP!
**Facing 21st-Century Threats - Why America Needs the UN**


"Main Street America needs the United Nations, and so do you and I, especially in these tough economic times. America can't police every conflict, end every crisis, and shelter every refugee. The UN provides a real return on our tax dollars by bringing 192 countries together to share the cost of providing stability, vital aid, and hope in the world's most broken places."

For the full text go to: [http://usun.state.gov/briefing/statements/2011/156503.htm](http://usun.state.gov/briefing/statements/2011/156503.htm)

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**Secretary General-Ban Ki-Moon in Philadelphia!!!!**

In a completely filled Irvine Auditorium, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon gave a keynote address on “Empowering Women to Change the World: What Universities and the UN Can Do,” on Monday, April 4th. One highlight of the speech was when the SG mentioned the Global Colloquium of University Presidents, an initiative of the UN, which is a meeting of 50 university presidents and faculty from major universities in every part of the world, and convened this year at the University of Pennsylvania on April 4-5th. He also covered the UN’s involvement in promoting women's issues and helping elevate women in the working world by giving them more positions of leadership. One of our work-study students, Gledisa Sanxhaku (front row, gray suit) had the privilege of meeting the Secretary General.
Special Message from Alma Morrison, Chair of the Council of Chapters and Divisions (CCD)

As you know, UNA-USA's membership team and CCD-Steering Committee members have been working together for the past few months to develop a proposal, which CCD members will vote on this June. In order to build stronger relationships and enhance communication between chapters, the CCD-Steering Committee has drafted a proposal to slightly alter the geographic boundaries of our current regions. We have also developed a new structure for electing regional representatives to the CCD-Steering Committee, which is based on the number of members represented from each region.

Here is an overview of our plan:

- **11 geographic regions:** New England, Mid-Atlantic, Mid-East, South East, Great Lakes, North Central, South Central, Rocky Mountain, North West, Mid Pacific, Southern California. Map of proposed regions
- Each region shall have at least two elected representatives. Representatives shall be UNA-USA members and have at least one year of chapter leadership experience.
- A third representative may be elected from regions with more than 1,000 members. A fourth representative may be elected from regions with more than 2,000 members.
- If the region has 2 representatives, it is recommended that one be a young professional (between the ages of 21 and 40). If the region has more than two representatives, it is required that at least one be a young professional.
- If a region cannot find a young professional representative (between the ages of 21 and 40), an exception may be made by the Nominations Committee upon application and receipt of an action plan for encouraging younger participation in regional activities.
- We worked closely with Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC) leadership, who support replacing the separate YPIC region, and instead want to integrate young professional leadership among the geographic regions. In order to better engage young professional members at all levels; we propose to replace the separate YPIC National Leadership Council. As a replacement for the old standalone council, the CCD-SC young professional regional representatives will work together, both as an open caucus and with the full steering committee, and in consultation with young professional committee chairs of the chapters, to build local and national young professional membership and programming.
- We propose to change the program's name from the *Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC)* to *UNA-USA Young Professionals*. YPIC leadership agrees that this will mitigate brand confusion and ensure that young professional members are fully part of UNA-USA.
- Membership numbers for each region shall be determined in December of the year before CCD-SC elections are to be held.
- There shall be two representatives from the Council of Organizations (COO).
- The immediate past chair of the CCD-SC shall be on the Steering Committee.
- The CCD-SC also proposes that divisions that do not coordinate activities of three of more chapters should themselves become chapters. We currently have 18 divisions nationwide, and many fall into this category. We also propose to change our name from the Council of Chapters and Divisions to the Council of Chapters and Regions (CCR).
Our New Volunteer Coordinator: Manisha Patel

We have been getting a steady stream of volunteers who sign up through our website. There are so many volunteers now that it has become a major task to organize them effectively and with purpose. Earlier this year we had great luck, when Manisha Patel signed up as well. After one interview, it became clear that Manisha had the right amount of time, energy, social "esprit" and "sheer common sense" to be asked to help with bringing order to our large cadre of volunteers. Since then, the momentum of UNA-GP has picked up considerably and we have great hope to make the year 2011 the turned around year for membership, outreach improvement, name recognition and funding. We are really glad to have Manisha on board. From Manisha herself:

"Having spent a lot of years as a global citizen, living in many countries, I was very pleased finding a chapter connected to the UN's ideals in Philadelphia with a global outreach. Joining UNA-GP has felt like coming home and I am thrilled to be supporting an organization with such a noble vision. Along with aiding its projects, I provide support to its volunteers as the volunteer coordinator. I look forward to help channel all that positive energy for the greater good of peace and global goodwill."

Our Blue Shelf Project and Philadelphia Youth Network

As a logical consequence of working in the city's schools, albeit still at a rather low level, we got (re) acquainted with Carol Austin of the Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN). The PYN’s goal is to bring youth opportunities so that they can become work-ready. PYN works to put together a citywide system for youth employment and training. Carol has been getting on board of the notion that globalizing the educational experience of the school children in Philadelphia is becoming a great necessity. PYN organized a "market" recently where 8 globally-oriented groups like GEM and the African Studies Center, among others, could meet with the service-providing entities that have contracts with PYN around the theme “Work Locally, Think Globally”. The aim is to provide Philadelphia's high school students a chance to become global citizens, to get some global exposure, to connect and cooperate across cultures and in other languages and projects. We need to get these young adults college ready, and globally competent. Our Manisha Patel offered to prepare the whole event with food and decorations and she did a fantastic job. She got many accolades, after which she demurred: “I was happy that I could reach out and help PYN put together the event, where city-wide Non Profit Organizations and Global Organizations from Philadelphia came together, to meet each other so that they can give youths an experience of global citizenry in the future.”

We have not updated you with a regular newsletter for a while, but let me assure you that UNA-GP has been hard at work. Our President, Christiaan Morssink, has been busy working with Drexel CO-OP students, Penn work-study students and interns from Temple, Haverford and Jefferson, putting some great programs in place. A few projects the students are working on are: the Global Focal Point project for school libraries (pilot phase), the Global Philadelphial Association (a large amount of time is spend on data gathering for a fantastically great new website project), the Food/Hunger project, Philadelphia Global Water Initiative, Global Nursing Journal and Seminar Club, etc.

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A new brochure has been developed, based on our contacts with PYN. The brochure is uploaded on our website.

The UNA-GP also started a volunteer workshop series that is helping us put together manpower for diverse projects. We developed a new brochure (see our website) based on our collaboration with the Philadelphia Youth Network and the Furness, U City and Andrew Jackson School projects.

UNAUSA has a new leader.
Ed Elmendorf has stepped down from his interim position and the UNAUSA has recruited Patrick Madden, a longstanding member the NGO community in our capital as our new leader. We are looking forward to working with Mr. Patrick Madden and we feel energized by the strength of his commitments.
DATE: APRIL 30 2011 AT 1 PM

PLACE: FAIRMOUNT WATER WORKS INTERPRETIVE CENTER
       640 WATER WORKS DRIVE. PHILADELPHIA, PA 19130,

PHONE NUMBER: 267.467.0520

COST: $10 DOLLARS.

DONATIONS FOR THE “MALARIA ERADICATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC/HAITI PROJECT” WILL BE APPRECIATED.
Global Philadelphia Association

My name is Allison DeBell, I am a junior at Drexel University pursuing a degree in Business Administration, concentrating in Marketing and International Business, with a minor in Public Relations. I am currently working for my second co-op, for the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia, where I am leading the Global Philadelphia Association (GPA) project. The GPA project is focused on highlighting organizations that work internationally in the Philadelphia region, regardless of their size. We are working on a database, which will contain useful information on the organizations in order to demonstrate the globalization of the region.

The UNA-GP welcomes the following COOP Students for Spring/Summer 2011:

Aleksandra Jarosiewicz: asj38@drexel.edu
Allison DeBell: ahdebell@gmail.com
Hye Lim Park: hp86@drexel.edu
Joshua Stevenson: jds336@drexel.edu
Kayla Rosencrans: kaylaRosencrans@gmail.com
Kim Pang: kapp86@drexel.edu
Matthew Whitworth: mcw69@drexel.edu

Work-study students from the University of Pennsylvania are:

Gledisa Sanxhaku, Marcia Garcia, Elias Gonzalez, and Jaclyn Koucoi

And a recent intern from Temple University is Emilie Benda.

From Marietta Tanner:

You are invited to see RUINED, a haunting story of African women scarred by the brutal civil war in the Congo. People who understand global issues see the Congo as a hideous microcosm of exploitation, oppression and the excesses of residual colonialism.

I saw this play in New York a while ago and I encourage globally aware people to see it. So I arranged a benefit the minute I learned the play was coming to Philadelphia. Hopefully the gathering will bring together people with similar concerns, who may have never met, and who begin to network around their shared interests.

Lynn Nottage, who has Philadelphia roots, said her purpose in writing the play was “to raise awareness about women who are raped and genitally mutilated” in our planet’s endless wars. It is set in a Congolese brothel and tells the story of the watering hole’s wily and charismatic proprietor, Mama Nadi, and several young women who have been brutalized in that conflict. The war purportedly ended in 2002, but the conflict and violence against women continues. Despite the grim subject matter, the play is filled with humor, music and hope.

The UNA-GP has reserved 50 seats to create a fundraising event. See the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter. After the play, we will hold a reception. We are fortunate that at the reception, activists from the Women in War Zones project will be there. This group raises funds for the Panzi Hospital which does reconstructive surgery for women and victims of the continuing war for plunder in the Congo. The event will benefit them and the Willow Grove Branch of the NAACP as well as the UNAGP.
You are invited to see a formidable performance at the Philadelphia Theater Club, The Suzanne Robert Theater, 230 South Broad Street, Philadelphia.

“A strong, absorbing and never less than compelling play,” the New York Times

This haunting story of African women scarred by the brutal civil war in the Congo, won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for drama. The title refers to a woman’s condition after she is raped and genitally mutilated. The drama, set in a Congolese brothel, tells the story of the watering hole’s wily and charismatic proprietor, Mama Nadi, and several young women who have been brutalized in the conflict. In writing this play, Lynn Nottage said “I hope it will raise awareness about the issues. The war purportedly ended in 2002, but the conflict and violence against women continues.” Ms. Nottage has often celebrated African-American New York women in her works, including a turn-of-the-century seamstress in "Intimate Apparel" and a riches-to-rags public relations executive in "Fabulation." She said she went further afield with ‘Ruined,” “…in search of my African sisters.”

Despite the grim subject matter, the play is a celebration of human spirit, never losing out on hope, seeking strength from sharing the dreams of a better tomorrow.

At the reception following the production, you will meet local activists of the Women in War Zones project in support of the Panzi Hospital, where doctors specialize in reconstructive genital surgery for women and girls, victims of the continuing war for plunder in the Congo.

The event is a benefit for The Willow Grove Branch of the NAACP, the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia and the Women in War Zones Project. Tickets are $60.00. Please make checks payable to UNA-GP, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19102

For further information please contact Marietta J. Tanner at Mariettan@aol.com or info@una-gp.org.

You won’t want to miss this exciting evening.
Learning to CARE

The CARE conference in Washington DC March 8-10 was a celebration of International Women for several days. Helene D. Gayle, CEO, welcomed participants from all over the world to the organization’s 65th year of humanitarian work. The sessions at the Washington Hilton centered on ways to fight to end global poverty, the causes and consequences of poverty and how people everywhere could take a leadership role in the fight against extreme poverty. Briefing sessions were held and groups organized to visit congresspersons on March 10 to get them to support continued funding of foreign aid. Cadres of advocates with their leaders descended on Capitol Hill to their designated senator or representative. I visited Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz and Senator Pat Toomey.

The most exciting thing about the conference was the abundance of youthful activists, who swooned over some of the entertainment, which included India, Arie and Michael Franti, but were in fact very serious about their commitment to empowering women. In speaking with several of them, I was most impressed by the depth of their experience in the Peace Corps, in war zones delivering assistance along with CARE, and at colleges and universities being advocates for the world’s poorest individuals.

Our UNAGP Board member Mary Day Kent, who is a field coordinator for the Policy and Advocacy Unit, sat in the background while these energetic and informed young women and men instructed participants who would visit congress with talking points. They offered reasons: largely because of US aid over the last 60 years, maternal and child mortality has dropped sharply, literacy rates have increased, and economic opportunities expanded in the developing world. They spoke of Americans as compassionate people who want to help the most vulnerable, and how most citizens conflate military expenditures with foreign aid, believing that our contribution is much larger than the mere 1% that is actually spent. An important point was that 50% of our exports go to the developing world, and that Robert Gates, US Defense Secretary, had recently noted that international affairs programs are cost effective, helping to reduce the need for far more costly military interventions. Moreover, they gave evidence of how essential foreign aid is to global stability. Melinda Gates, whose foundation has contributed millions to child and maternal health, spoke of how vaccines for only 13 cents per child were their smartest investment. She noted that we must keep the contraceptive piece in foreign policy legislation as spacing and reproductive choice make more stable, healthy families.

One of the things that Mary Day Kent emphasized was that empowering girls and poor women is a most powerful weapon for development. A key factor was their education, which makes possible better nutrition, for the usually most poorly fed segment of the population. A previous conference focused on child marriage, which is still an entrenched practice, stifling girls’ development, but there are other concerns, such as lack of adequate hygiene, which keeps girls from school, and early pregnancy, with consequences for both maternal and child health. The cell phone revolution is altering the lives of women, acting as safeguards against molestation as they go about their work or are exposed to violence in civil strife.

CARE, which began with packages sent to post war Europeans in the 1940’s, in the past year has supported 768 poverty-fighting projects in 70 countries to reach almost 57 million people. They have NGO status with the United Nations and will continue to play an essential role in reaching the United Nations Millennium Goals. For information on CARE’s programs and advocacy goals, please see www.care.org

-Marietta J. Tanner

To volunteer or become a member of the UNA-GP please visit www.una-gp.org or contact Manisha Patel at mpatel@una-gp.org

You can also check us out on Facebook at http://tinyurl.com/4258m8p
Maternal Health and More (4-8-11)
Although the topics Dr. Lyndon Haviland discussed during her seminar were specific to maternal health, there were many underlying universal themes of the U.N.A. that resonated through the Martin Luther King, Jr. room at the Friendship Center last Friday, April 8, 2011. There was discussion on the importance of mobilizing new commitments and partnerships on both the private and public sectors to support developing health care needs. Also, the role of the U.N.A. as providing a matrix of support globally with innovative, cost efficient interventions was discussed. These underlying themes presented are in alignment with the goals of the Philadelphia Global Nursing Club, a UNA-GP initiative. Through education of global health concerns and awareness of proper implementation of necessary interventions, the globally educated nurse or health care professional is most empowered to be an instrument of change in the ever changing health care system. We were very grateful to have such an experienced speaker and will continue to host presentations to further educate and empower health care and related professionals in the Philadelphia area.

HA! Finally a new newsletter!
These past few months the production of the newsletter became problematic. In order to produce a newsletter not only information needs to be gathered, but also time and effort are needed. It requires creative writing, alertness for the interesting beyond the important, and a team effort. While we had many reflective moments and important events did happen, in this whirlwind of activities we were simply unable to write creatively, or organize a team of contributors, until recently. We have designated Aleksandra Jarosiewicz, one of our coop students, to be our producer. She will pester us all into writing, collecting facts and texts, pictures and make sure that editors do a good job in presenting the newsletter. We asked Aleks to put up a picture and a bit of text. Here is Aleks in her own words:

"I am a global citizen and I am taking on this project. I have traveled the world, including places like United Arab Emirates, Chile, Guyana, and many European countries. I believe experience is irreplaceable. It is my intention to have a newsletter produced every month. I hope to get copies for members, and I will be very glad if people can say that the newspaper has improved. I am the producer for the letter. I make selections based on what information is available unless otherwise directed. While I cannot take editorial responsibility for the content of this newsletter, I will make sure that once a month you will have a newsletter in your email box. We even will create again B/W paper copies for those who still use the snail mail form of communication. I am looking forward to a great productive Spring and Summer.”