Summer greetings to UNA-GP members and friends,

For my first letter to you all, I want to say how challenged and honored I feel to step up to the president's role in the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia: honored because just in the short time I have been in the President's position I have learned more than I realized about the scope of our programs and the initiatives in education, fundraising, and international public health that our chapter is making possible; and challenging because I see us moving forward in international service and outreach at a time when US politics are heading into a whirlwind of petty distraction for the next months, otherwise known as the election cycle. There is a saying about doing "the best of things at the worst of times" and I think this applies to the consistent and creative work that our chapter and our members are engaged in, doing the hard and basic work of building connections and understanding of our global community even while the political discourse in the US perpetually tries to drag our attention away from global issues. Thank you, UNA-GP for keeping the faith in the value of global concerns and global commitments.

Thank you for all you do to make this faith a hands-on reality— from garden parties to congressional visits, from post-earthquake assistance in Haiti to model UN experiences for Philadelphia students! I look forward to working with our chapter, our other regional chapters, and the national United Nations Association.

Any organization that has created a (3 year) tradition of a mid-summer garden party in one of the warmest cities of the mid-Atlantic, must be operating on optimism! I hope you will all join me and the other board members in the coming months to carry out our events and bring in new members to strengthen our impact.

Sincerely,
Mary Day

Nominating Committee Chair Marietta Tanner introducing new President Mary Day Kent, Secretary (and Executive Director) Christiaan Morssink, and Treasurer Nick Sanders
Memo: UNA-GP main project for the fiscal year 2012-13
To: Members, friends and cooperating entities of the UNA-GP
From: Christiaan Morssink, President UNA-GP
Date: June 28, 2012

Current programs to be maintained or expanded:

- Global Focal Point, Blue Shelf, Youth Building Roots, Hispaniola Malaria Eradication Initiative, Shot@Life/ELIMINATE campaign,
- New program being developed: GLOBAL LABOR MARKET Summer camp 2013.

Major new collaborative program to be added, currently labeled “Globalization of the Rule of Law” the case of the ICC

Background:
Our board member Enid Adler has been involved with political and policy work regarding the International Criminal Court ICC) for many years. She has traveled to numerous conferences and has developed a great network of VIPs in ICC circles, the State Department, and the American Bar Association. Last year, Enid started work on organizing a conference in 2012, to be held in Philadelphia, celebrating the 225th anniversary of the US Constitution and the 10th anniversary of the start of the ICC, when the treaty of Rome went into effect. Enid labeled this initiative: “From the miracle of Philadelphia to the miracle of Rome; the globalization of the rule of law”. The underlying idea behind this initiative was to celebrate the role of Philadelphia as the birthplace of a new, revolutionary way of structuring society by the principles of the Rule of Law, bypassing the rule of kings and churches and adopting rules made by men, for men and abided by men, and applied by peers. (My clumsy interpretation of the revolutionary concept).

The UNA-GP is (still) too small to take on an event of this size, so collaboration was sought with other entities, especially from the Philadelphia Bar Association (PBA) and the schools of law in the region. While this initiative was unfolding, Enid was forced into a patient role in early January, had surgery and underwent an extended chemo regimen. Next to her health, the initiative was in danger. I stepped in, albeit hesitant, not being a lawyer myself, and I tried to organize the individuals who had been working with Enid on an informal basis. An ad hoc working group was formed, with participation from Temple School of Law, The International Law Committee of the PBA, and volunteers of the UNA-GP.

The working group wrote a proposal based on Enid’s original ideas for a two day conference. The proposal was highly dependent on participation by dignitaries of the ICC system in The Hague. The proposal got support from the PBA at the level of networking and promotion. Over time it became clear that ICC dignitaries would not be coming for the allotted timeslot Sept 10-11. At the end of May, the ad hoc working group undertook a progress evaluation and decided to switch gears and expand the activities over the full academic/fiscal year, starting with a kick-off event on September 10. The following is a synopsis of the current state of affairs and you are invited to provide commentary, support, donate money and/or energy, participate, or make other contributions as global citizens of a truly global city. Let’s not forget: It all started here.

Beside myself and Enid Adler, members of the Ad Hoc Working Group are:

- Michael Scullin, Esq. Co-Chair of the International Law Committee of the PBA
- Elizabeth Turchi, Esq. Temple Law School and currently working in The Hague, member of UNA-GP
- Meg DeGuzman, Esq. Professor at Temple Law
- Jessica Hilburn-Holmes, Esq. UNA-GP member and volunteer, coordinator of content development
- Hinke Wiersum, Esq. Volunteer at large, working on communications, webpage and promotion
- Ed Aguilar, Esq. Adj. Professor at St. Joseph University, UNA-GP member and working on fundraising
- Meagan Boonie, UNA-GP member and volunteer for “hospitality and logistics”

We also receive input from Prof Roger Clark, Rutgers-Camden Law School, Prof Louis Thompson, Temple Law, and Professor Jacqueline Reich, Chestnut Hill College, among others

Click Here for the Agenda
Globalization of the Rule of Law — Plan of Activities

Plan of activities

a. **Kick-off event on September 10.** The program involves a panel discussion, a film about the ICC, the announcement of a new initiative: the Rule of Law Model UN and the announcement of a seminar series, followed by a networking reception. The venue will be decided in the next two weeks. Opening talk will be by Judge Song (ICC presiding judge) by web cast or video (10 minutes).

**Current confirmed guest list for panels and speakers:**
- Ambassador Stephen Rapp, Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues, US Department of State
- Ambassador Thomas Graham, President of the Lawyers Alliance for World Security
- Ambassador Christian Wenaweser, immediate past president of the ASP of the ICC, and permanent representative of Liechtenstein to the United Nations
- Don Kraus, CEO of the advocacy organization Citizens for Global Solutions (CGS)
- James Silkenat, Esq. President elect of the American Bar Association
- John Washburn, Esq. Convener of the AMICC and Co-Chair Washington Working Group on the ICC
- Patrick Madden, CEO of UNA-USA.

**Invited, not yet confirmed:**
- Judge Norma Shapiro, US District Court
- Mayor Michael Nutter

b. **Several seminars/mini-conferences, to be held over the academic year,** and organized by the three partners in the current ad hoc working group. The seminars are meant to be eligible for professional education credits and will be open to students and professionals in the fields of Law, Political Science, International Relations, and Peace and Social Justice. The intent is to have ICC The Hague participation in the seminars and we are working with the judges, the prosecutor’s office and the ICC registrar to find best dates. The following themes are being used for making more specific plans in collaboration with experts in Philadelphia:

- War and Transnational Crime; the Role of International Law
- Crimes of Sexual Violence during armed conflicts and peace-keeping missions,
- ICC Jurisdiction - should it be expanded/ modified? Why or why not?
- Evidence sharing between national and international jurisdictions - the role of Interpol and law-enforcement
- Comparative Look at the Role of Victims/Witnesses in US Jurisprudence and the ICC (participation of victims before the ICC/Award of reparations to victims; effective and efficient representation of victims, Compensation and Rehabilitation (art. 75 Statute of Rome), Trust Fund for Victims (art. 79 Statute of Rome)
- The Future of the ICC - the next 10 years -- The Role of NGO’s (e. g. AMICC), national governments, lawyers, bar associations, etc.
- Globalization of Legal Practice; Impact of the International courts, including the ICC on the work habits, roles, market opportunities and modus operandi of lawyers, law firms and law schools.

c. **A Model UN Conference on the ICC and the rule of law,** focusing on high school students at participating schools in Greater Philadelphia, with after school programming during the Fall and Winter, with the conference to be held in the Spring 2013. Networking support is expected from the University of Pennsylvania International Affairs Association, a student led entity and material support from Global Classrooms of the UNAUSA. A trip to the UN in New York is in the plans.

d. **A special educational deans’ conference,** where we hope to have the deans of all six law school in greater Philadelphia debate the globalization of law education, going well beyond teaching “international law” as a special section within the curriculum.

e. **A possible seminar about the relationship of global health, international law practices and health issues** as litigation has been suggested as a special topic for a special event, but follow up is totally dependent on others.

We are seeking UNA-GP volunteers for these activities, most specifically the promotion of the kick-off event on September 10, and for mentoring in the Model UN plans.

I look forward to your input.
On June 29th, the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center hosted The United Nations Association – Greater Philadelphia 2012 annual membership meeting. It is the most important meeting of the year for members of the UNA-GP, as we are united to make decisions and refresh our engagement in and support of UN programs. For those of you who could not attend, we missed you!

Our meeting was called to order by President Christiaan Morssink, who introduced UNA-GP board member Benjamin Hover. Mr. Hover announced the winners of the United Nations essay contest and the proud students were presented with their awards. In the middle school division, congratulations to third place winner Michael Behanan, second place winner Peter Lima, and first place winner Christina Thomas! Congratulations to first place winner in the high school division, Romiera Tucker!

UNA-GP interns Andrew Young and Ethan Blum described their eventful trip to Ghana to help with the installation of toilet-to-composting systems. They also presented a slide show and answered questions from members. Interns Ana Ciobanescu and Pavan Ganapathiiraju presented “Shot@Life,” the UN Foundation’s project to raise funds for vaccinations against childhood diseases in the developing world. Ana also informed us about the “UN Café” get-together, which announces its monthly topic and location in this newsletter.

Exciting decisions were reviewed and made during the meeting! After Nick Sanders provided the IRS background, Ed Gracely presented some bylaw amendments (to change our fiscal year back to July 1—June 30), which were accepted with no objections. Nick Sanders of the UNA-GP Finance Committee summarized the proposed budget, to which there were no objections. Also, Mary Day Kent was elected as the UNA-GP President and accepted her position with a statement included in this newsletter. Congratulations to Mary Day Kent! Likewise to the rest of the new board.

Christiaan Morssink presented a plaque to the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center (FWWIC) on behalf of the UNA-GP. The plaque stated the commitment of the UNA-GP, FWWIC, and the Philadelphia Global Water Initiative to worldwide water and sanitation improvements. This plaque will be on display at the FWWIC. Feel free to stop by and check it out.

After the closing of the meeting, members enjoyed hors d’oeuvres and socializing. There were several displays to view, including one on the Shot@Life program by Ana Ciobanescu, information on this year’s Rio+20 Conference by Francesca Martelli, and a poster on the “Sani Mix” system by Ethan Blum and Andrew Young. We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting next year!
1. Africa: new UN reports focus on unleashing continent’s economic growth potential
In the long-term, African countries must vigorously pursue economic diversification and structural transformation. African countries have grown at double digits, reflecting higher commodity prices and strong domestic demand.

2. Brazilian Youth: Setting Sustainable Development Agenda
Brazilian Youth created videos and developed a huge social media presence to create their vision of Sustainable Development that was presented to their government on the 8th June 2012.

3. Going Dutch Means Staying Stuck
Growing numbers of asylum seekers are being denied refugee status by the Dutch authorities. Their permit was not extended because the country is considered “safe” now, however it has become an undesirable place for most refugees.
http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/07/going-dutch-means-staying-stuck/

4. World Bank: Latin America Has the Green Antidote Within Reach
The natural resources of currently buoyant Latin America could be significantly depleted in less than a generation. To avoid a collapse, the region needs to adopt a range of environment, social, productive and urban planning policies.
http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/06/world-bank-latin-america-has-the-green-antidote-within-reach/

5. UN Anti-Drugs Chief: Fighting Crime and Illicit Drug Trade Must Be On Development Agenda
Heroin, cocaine and other drugs continue to kill around 200,000 people a year, shattering families and bringing misery to thousands of other people, insecurity and the spread of HIV. Crime and illicit drugs must become an integral part of the development agenda. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that drugs and crime threaten one of the world’s most important goals: ensuring global sustainable development.

6. UN and partners appeal for $193 million to assist Syrian refugees
United Nations humanitarian agencies and their partners today appealed for $193 million to help the growing number of Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq.
“I sincerely hope that this Action Group for Syria will be a turning point in our common efforts to address the crisis in Syria,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The appeal would support the increasing number of Iraqi and Somali refugees who have fled Syria for towns and cities in Turkey.

7. The Muslim Brothers in Egypt’s ‘orderly transition’
After the revolution, a newly respectable Muslim Brotherhood, supportive of the army, is emerging. Could it become the best bet for the ‘orderly transition’ that Egypt, and the US, hope for?
http://mondediplo.com/2011/03/06muslimbrothers
The First International Conference on Democratic Governance will be held on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania, Houston Hall, on August 8-9, 2012. This event is organized by Cheyney University's Master of Public Administration Program in collaboration with the African & Caribbean Business Council. The conference will bring together an international group of scholars and practitioners from diverse disciplines, to explore multiple facets of the problems of democratic governance, particularly as they relate to corruption.

Given the challenges the democratization processes and anti-corruption policies, particularly in African and Asian countries, face, this conference will focus on the challenges in these two continents. It will provide a platform to discuss the multiple dimensions of these processes and policies and help devise strategies to improve governance practices and anti-corruption strategies.

The opening panel of the conference will feature a keynote speech by Her Excellency Tebelelo Mazile Seretse, Ambassador of Botswana to the United States. Botswana is known as one of the least corrupt countries in Africa. Following her speech, the ambassadors of Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Ghana, and Nigeria will join Ambassador Seretse in a moderated roundtable discussion to underscore the pressing democratic governance issues and current anti-corruption policies under implementation in their respective nations.

During this two-day conference, over 60 scholars and practitioners from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States will make presentations and share their theoretical and practical insights on the challenges for democratic governance. One of the highlights of this conference will be the moderated brainstorming session at the end of the conference. In this session, panel chairs will present the main ideas that emerged in their panels to the conference participants and the best ideas will be selected collectively to be publicized later through publications and other means of communication. The outcomes of this brainstorming panel will also provide a framework for planning the next conference scheduled for 2014 in Rwanda.

Your presence at this international conference will be of great value to us. Please confirm your participation by emailing Dr. Gedeon Mudacumura at gmudacumura@cheyney.edu, or calling Cindy Devore, 215-560-3891. We eagerly look forward to welcoming you to this ground-breaking conference. For further details, please visit the conference website: http://www.ameppa.org/ICDG.html.
International Committee of the Red Cross: News Release

June 26, 2012

Tripoli (ICRC) – The Libyan Armed Forces and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today signed a memorandum of understanding under which the ICRC will provide support for the integration of the rules of international humanitarian law in the training and operations of the Libyan Armed Forces.

"The Libyan Armed Forces have expressed a clear desire to ensure that international humanitarian law and other rules on the use of force are taken into account in the way they plan and operate," said Georges Comninos, the head of the ICRC delegation in Libya. "This agreement is therefore an important step in the armed forces' continuing cooperation with the ICRC." The memorandum was signed at Libyan military headquarters in Tripoli.

The ICRC, which has carried out humanitarian operations in armed conflicts for almost one and a half centuries, has considerable expertise in promoting respect for the basic rules of international humanitarian law. To this end, it engages in dialogue with armed and security forces and other weapon bearers worldwide.

Libya is party to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols I and II. The ICRC has been providing assistance and guidance on international humanitarian law to the Libyan Armed Forces since November 2006.
UNA-USA Annual Meeting  
(by Pavan Ganapathiraju)

On June 10-12, 2012, Christiaan Morssink, Pavan Ganapathiraju, and Ana Ciobonescu attended the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) 2012 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Attendees heard from high-level officials from the United Nations, the U.S. Department of State, and Capitol Hill. The meeting culminated with UNA-USA members from across the country meeting with their members of Congress to advocate on behalf of the United Nations.

Day 1 of the three-day conference started at the Westin DC City Center Hotel. The day began with a business meeting followed by United Nations Foundation’s program updates, which included Shot@Life and Model UN One-On-One Consultations. UNA-GP has been actively involved in the Shot@Life campaign as well as starting a new Model UN program that works with underserved students in Philadelphia. The day concluded with a Young Professionals happy hour where young members of the UNA, including Pavan and Ana, got together to network with other young professional UNA members across the country at the Beacon Bar & Grill.

Day 2 initiated the highlights of the conference. It took place at the Loy Henderson Auditorium of the U.S. Department of State. Morning sessions included advocacy strategies and briefing for advocacy day on Capitol Hill, a session on the United Nations Human Rights Council, and global reproductive health. UNA-USA members were honored to have a luncheon at the Benjamin Franklin Dining Room & Diplomatic Rooms of the State Department. During the Luncheon, members were addressed by Timothy Wirth, President, and Reid Detchon, Vice President, of Energy and Climate at UN Foundation. The two distinguished speakers detailed key areas around energy and climate, and how global partners can collaborate to meet goals in these areas.

The luncheon was followed by a presentation from former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Thomas Pickering, who spoke on the Middle East, the Horn of Africa, and how the UN Security Council can successfully work to avoid conflict around the world. A very important topic was discussed following Pickering’s discussion. UNA members discussed the misconceptions of UN Agenda 21, as several bills and resolutions have either been passed or are being considered in state legislatures nationwide condemning Agenda 21. Following tradition, the day concluded with a presentation by Dr. Esther Brimmer, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations for the U.S. Department of State. Dr. Brimmer has been a strong supporter for UNA-USA and spoke on current U.S.-UN Relations, which were followed by a discussion.

The conference ended with Day 3: Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill. Members met with their representatives to advocate support for many UN agendas. Our members asked members of congress and senators to support full funding for the UN regular budget and UN peacekeeping operations, which includes a total of $3.67 billion; continued support for U.S. engagement at the Human Rights Council, supporting ratification of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and supporting a robust foreign aid development agenda on the UN Millennium Development Goals.

My personal thoughts: I started my clerkship with the UNA-GP back in February 2012 as a “jumpstart” to my global health and international affairs career. At the conclusion of my clerkship, which ended with the annual meeting, I can say that I am very pleased with my experience. From attending the annual meeting and meeting with other chapters, I encourage more UNA-GP members to get involved with our local chapter and with UNA-USA. Many members across the country are doing some amazing things in support of the United Nations. Our chapter needs to grow, and it can only grow with better involvement by our members. Simple involvement can be advocacy, such as writing a letter to your member of congress or senator or simply attending a UNA-GP event, such as Shot@Life events, UN Café events, or the upcoming Peace Day Philly events. If anyone has a sense or spirit of doing well in the world, you do not have to go abroad. One can simply stay involved globally by staying local, or being “glocal”. I hope to see more members involved in the future with UNA-GP.
On the afternoon of July 20th, Andrew Young, Dimitrios Triantafillou, and Francesca Martelli attended the launching of Peace Day Philly 2012 at the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia.

Peace Day Philly is an initiative that works to promote local participation in the United Nations International Day of Peace. As you may know, the UN International Day of Peace is observed every year on the 21st of September. Thirty-one years ago, the General Assembly declared this day as one of peace, democracy, and ceasefire. Now, there are over 100 million people who plan to observe this day of peace. Peace Day Philly invites organizations, communities, and individuals to take part in this day by offering opportunities for non-violence in the Philadelphia region.

The launch event was attended by approximately 50 people from various organizations, including those involved with the arts, advocacy, education, international matters, and law. After an opening and viewing of two public service announcements (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlK5TBxJrF0 and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7allwVt49JQ), speakers shared their reasons for personal and organizational involvement in Peace Day Philly. These included a Philadelphia mother of two whose brother was killed in a gun altercation and Charlotte Council, the Deputy Police Commissioner, who emphasized the importance of peace-building activities in the region. Heidi Warren, Deputy Director of the Starfinder Foundation, explained the importance of the foundation in using soccer as a tool for youth development, as they cultivate leadership skills and learn about conflict areas around the world. The launch event concluded with a brief introduction from the representatives of various organizations, followed by time to mingle with attendees and enjoy refreshments.

To learn more about Peace Day Philly 2012, you can visit their website (http://www.peacedayphilly.org/) and facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/pages/Peace-Day-Philly-2012/268124279864615). If you, your community, or your organization would like to be get involved, visit http://www.peacedayphilly.org/what-can-you-do/
The UN Café Presents: U.N. Me

When the United Nations was founded more than sixty years ago, it embodied our hope for a safer, more peaceful world. But as reports of human rights violations and international conflicts make daily headlines, a question arises: Is the United Nations living up to its founding ideals?

Please join us for a discussion on the work done in this documentary!

Date: July 24th
Time: 6-8:30pm
Where: James E. Marks Intercultural Center
1st Floor Gallery
Refreshments will be available!!!
Upcoming Events

July 17: World Day for International Justice. Call for poetry, essays, sketches, paintings, collages, made by members (or their children or friends) of the UNA-GP. Winners will be announced at the UNA-GP Garden party on July 29th. Deadline July 22. Mail to office@una-gp.org or to UNA-GP, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19102

July 24: UN Café. 6PM to 8.30PM. James E. Marks Intercultural center, 33rd and Chestnut. Theme: Film Screening of “UN ME”. As usual, refreshments available; bring opinions.

July 29: Third Annual Garden Party, 146 Pelham Road, Philadelphia, 19119. 5-8PM. FUNDRAISER: buffet, cash bar, very high priced raffle tickets, Car wash vouchers for sale. Bring money, jewelry, antiques (portable), art, more money.

Theme for those who want to talk UN politics: Rio+20, Now What?

August 8-9-10: International Conference on Democratic Governance: Challenges in Africa and Asia
Wed August 8th 8:00-5:00
Thurs August 9th 8:00-2:00

August 16 (tentative): UN Café. To be determined

September 10: Celebrating the ICC 10 year anniversary: Kick-off Event of the Philadelphia Global Initiative on the Rule of Law; 2-6PM at the Free Library.

September 20: UN Café: TBD

September 21: International day of Peace: multiple activities in the city, organized through PeaceDayPhilly2012: info: see their website

September (TBA): UNA-GP sponsors a bus trip to the UN for students of the high school for Peace and Social Justice (we seek special donations to offset the cost of $1,200 for this sponsorship).

October 16: World Food Day: event TBA

October 24: UN DAY: Draft “linking the US Constitution with the “Culture” of the UN”; The event is under development. Also under development: soccer tournament, details to follow

November (TBA): Seminar ICC on Jurisprudence issues, at Temple University

December 10: Celebrating UDHR. Theme: “Universal” Health Care as a right; is it practical; is it doable? Stay tuned for details.