Greetings,
UNA-GP members and friends,

The September newsletter is a bit late this year, as we had to throw all our energy into the Conference on the ICC, “Celebrate, Reflect, Advocate” at the main branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia on September 10. See elsewhere for a report. September is also the month when our coop students from Drexel are rotating off and a new crew begins. In the last half year we have worked with Ana, Andrew, Dimitrios, Francesca, and Robert. Dimitrios actually cut short his coop as he switched colleges to Rowan University. Francesca had to leave earlier as well, spending a full Fall semester in Istanbul, Turkey. Our new coop team will be introduced in the October newsletter.

Support for our work is growing. On September 5th Linnae and I met with the librarians of the school district, and we were able to establish several good relationships for executing our Blue Shelf Project on a modest scale. Miranda Alexander who runs the project, is eager to start and we want to measure the effect with a pre-post test, including students and faculty. Our Jerry Shestack Model UN on the Rule of Law was announced on Sept 10 and we will use September to recruit high school students throughout the region. The Model UN is a very ambitious project, that we can only realize with dedicated volunteers and interns from colleges and the professional world. If we can obtain funding, we will scale up our efforts, but for now we work with a shoestring budget. Peace Day Philly is going into high gear this coming week. As part of it, the UNA-GP is sponsoring a bus trip for students of the NW Park High School for Peace and Social Justice to the United Nations on September 21. The UNA-GP is also supporting a Peace Assembly at the Einstein High School and on 22nd the Rotary Madrugadores is organizing a peace march. Peace Day Philly will have a public event on Love Square in midday on Sept 21. Meanwhile, our board members Jackie McLaughlin and Charlene Compher have put together a “deep” program for World Food Day, to be held on October 14. On that day we will launch our next Youth Building Roots program. Young members of our chapter are pondering to debate Micro--financing and our president, Mary Day Kent is working with the Global Philadelphia Association on an effort to highlight the International “spectrum” of Philadelphia’s social and economic life.

And then there are the elections. We work with Ed Aguilar on the “Peace Vote”, raising awareness about the need to get peace onto the party platforms. And we work with PNA to request that nuclear disarmament issues be part of the presidential debates.

Much on our plate. I look forward to good work in just started academic year. Please join us by volunteering, donating and mentoring where possible.

Onward.
Christiaan Morssink
The first event of The Philadelphia Global Initiative on the Rule of Law (PGIRoL, PGI for short) is behind us. We were able to create a day full of important messages, and many national and international organizations took note. Starting with an hour long interview at Radio Times on WHYY, followed by a lunch for guests and team members with judges at the US district court, we organized a panel debate of great significance for Philadelphia. The reception at ReedSmith, courtesy of John Smith, president of the Global Philadelphia Association closed out the day on a high note, when Michael Scullin read the proclamation by Mayor Nutter specifically written for this day. Pictures in this newsletter will capture some of the energy that was felt during the day.

**What is most remarkable was that all this was done by volunteers, all of it.**

We brought together a group of dedicated, enthusiastic, hard working people who looked at the challenges and declared: “we can do that!!” Many obstacles had to be overcome, much energy was spend on last minute details, many a nervous moment was shared when we couldn’t get the sound system to work on the day before, but we never lost our optimistic belief that we could do it and that it was worth doing. We were lucky to have in our team people who understood the professional field of lawyering as well as the political dynamics of it all; we were lucky to have people with good social networks and a good understanding about the Philadelphia “discourse”, the good, the bad and the ugly. I feel highly energized working with Jessica Hilburn-Holmes, Hinke Wiersum, Michael Scullin, Meagan Booney, the core members of our working group. We relied on many others to make it all possible, such as Ed Aguilar, Meg De Guzman, Manisha Patel and of course our work study and coop students.

**We did it all on a shoe string budget!!**

Having no money has never stopped UNA-GP and this project was not different. We started with zeal and enthusiasm, wrote requests for support far and wide. The Louis Cassett Foundation provided a small contribution, yet big enough for us to pay the immediate bills. In volunteer land you learn to be frugal. We borrowed chairs, tables, printers, flags, staplers, sound systems, cars, whatever. We cooked and we catered ourselves. We worked on a shoe string budget and my Dutch heart is feeling all the better for it.

Onward!!!!  

Christiaan

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**Next Event:**

**“Procedural & Jurisdictional Challenges”**  
**November 8th,**  
**Temple University Beasley School of law.**

**Special Guest:**

*Judge Sanji Mmasenono Monageng,*

First Vice President of the International Criminal Court (ICC)
Globalization on the Rule of Law: Plan of Activities

Several seminars/mini-conferences will 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 some of the seminars. We are working also with the American Bar Association, especially its Center for Human Rights. We hope to collaborate with the National Constitution Center, the UNA-USA, the Philadelphia Bar Association and the AMICC among others. 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.

The panel at the Free Library, Sept 10: from the left: prof Roger Clark, moderator, John Washburn (AMICC), Ambassador Stephen Rapp, James Silkenat, pres-elect ABA, Ambassador Thomas Graham, Ambassador ChristianWenaweser, (past pres ASP), prof Jacqueline Reich, moderator.
The Dutch crew of the evening. Hinke Wiersum and her husband Roelof Koster flanked Teuni Breg and Christiaan Morssink.

Patrick Madden and Mary Day Kent at the Library.

Pictures from the September events

Linnae Michaels behind the bar

Milla (L) and Manisha ready for the crowd.

PROCLAMATION

The City of Philadelphia is globally recognized as the birthplace of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, the cornerstones of American democracy and individual rights. The values enshrined in these historic documents established the United States as a nation and created a model of freedom and the rule of law.

Our Founding Fathers signed the Constitution of the United States into being 225 years ago to ensure that this document and the subsequent Bill of Rights would be assurance to end oppression, and provide due process and equal justice for all. These values are internationally held but not yet universally adhered to. The world community continues to be outraged by crimes which threaten the overall stability, security and well-being of the human family.

In 1998, delegates from the United States and more than 160 other countries gathered at an international treaty conference in Rome to establish an International Criminal Court (ICC). The conference adopted and signed the Rome Statute, the ICC’s constitution. The ICC is the first permanent, independent tribunal created to investigate and prosecute crimes of greatest concern to the international community. The ICC ensures that there is no impunity for such crimes when national systems are unwilling or unable to investigate or prosecute them. To date, 199 nations have signed and 121 have ratified the Rome Statute treaty.

Based in The Hague, Netherlands, the ICC is currently prosecuting 16 cases in 7 situation countries. The ICC handed down its first conviction in March 2012. The cases deal with the most serious crimes such as genocide, rape as an instrument of war, enslavement of women and children, ethnic cleansing and the recruitment of child soldiers.

On September 10, 2012, the 10th anniversary of the International Criminal Court will be celebrated at the Free Library of Philadelphia in conjunction with the 225th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. The Philadelphia Global Initiative on the Rule of Law will also launch a year-long series of seminars and events in to promote awareness of the ICC.

THEREFORE...

I, Michael A. Nutter, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia do hereby declare Monday, September 10, 2012 to be

PHILADELPHIA GLOBAL INITIATIVE
ON
THE RULE OF LAW DAY

in Philadelphia and urge all citizens to be aware of the work of the International Criminal Court and the historic significance of the United States Constitution and the Rome Statute as instruments promoting justice and the rule of law for humankind.

Given under my hand and the seal of the City of Philadelphia on this tenth day of September, two thousand and twelve.
Yesterday truly was a well run, spectacular event for Philadelphia - from the lunch for our speakers and U.S. District Court Judges arranged by Judge Shapiro, to the international panel of ABA leaders, ambassadors, other ICC notables, video message from ICC President Judge Song and others. With all of the various panel discussions around the world celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the ICC, this one was unique. It was the only one that discussed the similarities and differences between the ICC's Rome Treaty and the U.S. Constitution from the national and international perspective of our international panel. It far exceeded my expectations when first conceptualizing this day last year.

AND it was here in Philadelphia, not New York or Washington or elsewhere. After all, it was here that the concepts of “rule of law” first were enunciated in a document that has stood the test of time. So, too, will the Rome Treaty for the ICC. Both have evolved and seen changes - The U.S. Constitution for 225 years and the ICC Court only 10 years young. It was a proud day for Philadelphia and for the legal profession and others who hold the values embodied in both of these living, historical documents so dear. This includes my mentor, the late Jerry Shestack, who from his hospital bed read my outline for this event, and for whom the Model UN Project Philadelphia now is named. He would have been so proud.

I cannot thank Christiaan Morssink and Michael Scullin enough plus Temple U. Law School for their leadership and hard work in putting this together. Everything ran like clock work with no details left out. The interview with our speakers at WHYY was very enlightening. I already have received emails and calls from friends who do listen to public radio.

(From Enid Adler’s email)

Ten picks worth reading:
1. Pursuing Justice For Rape Crimes; the case of the DRC, by Erin Byrnes, in The New Internationalist, Sept 2012, p8
7. Why do some conflicts get more media coverage than others?, by Nick Harvey, In The New Internationalist, Sept 2012, p 40
Jerome Shestack Model United Nations on the Rule of Law

The Jerome Shestack Model U.N. Conference on the Rule of law is launched as an educational project to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the ICC. A project of the UNA-GP, the free-of-charge Shestack Model UN on the Rule of Law seeks to engage students in high schools in greater Philadelphia. The students will address two questions.

1) Can youth play a constructive role in the mainstreaming of the rule of law as envisioned and propagated by the World Justice Project (WJP)?

2) What are five key recommendations that the youth of Philadelphia can suggest to the leadership of the WJP to improve better scores on the Rule of Law Index for specific countries?

Each student will role-play as a representative of one of the organizations that make up the WJP; the first question requires a reflection on the role of youth in civic organizations and should lead to a well-reasoned demand for a voice in the affairs of the WJP. For the second question, students will study the conditions in some countries and assess the index as a tool. At the conference, where the school teams will congregate, the request for youth participation will be formalized. The second question will be handled by comparing recommendations, improve language, negotiate relative rankings, allow specificity of circumstances to be weighed, and finalize a compilation of resolutions.

The Shestack Model UN on the Rule of Law is open to high school students from the Greater Philadelphia region. Students can participate individually, or in teams using after school programs or through structured classroom work. The Model UN has a special webpage with information for students and teachers and electronic communication will be an essential component.

The UNA-GP relies on volunteers to provide the main support pool for this project.

The one-day conference will be held in February 2013.

Main websites: http://www.unrol.org/, http://www.worldjusticeproject.org/
http://www.una-gp.org/global.initiative/

Coordinator: Linnea Michaels: linnea.michaels@gmail.com
Pictures from Sept 10.

Minsoo Kim and Elisa Stroh

Michael Scullin addressing the audience on Sept 10. Meagan Boonie is keeping a watchful eye.

Judge Shapiro listening to Meg de Guzman asking a question.
What is Andrew thinking?

Christiaan, why is Miranda giving you that look?
September 10, the reception

Enid Adler holding the proclamation, with Michael Scullin and Christiaan Morssink.

Enid Adler is the main originator of the whole project.

Robert Joyce in his element.

The Dutch crew of the evening. Hinke Wiersum and her husband Roelof Koster flanked by Teuni Breg and Christiaan Morssink.
Carolina’s Top Picks for September

UN agencies call for swift international action to prevent repeat of world food crisis

Youth unemployment expected to worsen with spread of euro crisis – UN labour agency
Jobless rates among young people will get even worse globally as the effects of the euro-crisis begin to take toll. According to a report from International Labour Organization (ILO), this problem will only get worse. http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42797&Cr=Youth&Cr1=

Along with the Arctic Ice, the Rich World's Smugness Will Melt
Arctic ice is melting at a rate of loss 50% higher than it was that year. The Arctic has been warming roughly twice as quickly as the rest of the northern hemisphere. The richest countries will be hit last and least, while the poorer nations will be hit first and worst. http://www.commondreams.org/view/2012/08/28

Brazil Invited to Join U.N. Palestinian Refugee Agency
A general Q&A over the U.N.’s decision to invite Brazil to the Palestinian Refugee Agency. Fabiola Ortiz sat down with Grandi in Rio de Janeiro to discuss Brazil’s cooperation with United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/08/brazil-invited-to-join-u-n-palestinian-refugee-agency/

General Assembly meeting highlights need to end nuclear testing for a safer world
“Nuclear tests are a threat to human health and global stability. Their effects are both harmful and long-lasting,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. In order to create a safer world the UN hopes to raise awareness about nuclear testing. http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42814&Cr=Nuclear&Cr1=

UN working group on women calls on Tunisia to protect achievements in equality
Tunisia has long struggled with racial equality. The UN has called to the new Tunisian Government to establish a more comfortable environment; they ask for anti discrimination practices to be implemented so that all are assured the same rights. http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42712&Cr=Tunisia&Cr1=

United Nations climate fund inaugurates first meeting
In hopes of aiding developing nations to protect themselves from climate impacts and build their own sustainable futures the UN created the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The GCF held their first meeting on August 23rd. http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42732&Cr=climate+change&Cr1=
WORLD FOOD DAY 2012

PHILADELPHIA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2-5pm

Hopkinson House Solarium

Speakers:

Dr. Alan Kelly:
“Urban food security in the developing world”

Bob Pierson (Philadelphia Common Market):
“Local Food Cooperatives and Partnerships”

Dr. Alison Buttenheim:
“Farmer’s Markets Expanding Access to Healthy Foods”
Upcoming Events

September 21: **Peace Day Philly** activities throughout Philadelphia. Visit [Www.peacedayphilly.org](http://Www.peacedayphilly.org). Peace Day Philly’s public event for the International Day of Peace will take place in LOVE Park on Friday, September 21 at 11:30am. Scheduled for this program are public figures, including Poet Laureate Sonia Sanchez. The gathering will conclude with a minute of silence at noon – a global activity in all time zones.

September 22: **Peace walk** that ends at Edison High School, organized by Rotary Madrugadores. Neighborhood Peace Walk- September 22,2012-10AM. Walk begins at 5th and Lehigh Ave to American Street, to Somerset, to Front Street, Then to Hunting Park Avenue (Edison Field). We will have 1-2 speakers a peace song will be sung. The Peace Walk Activity should conclude by 12:30 or 1PM

September 24th. 5.00-7.00PM **UNA-GP Board meeting.** MLK room, AFSC, 1501 Cherry Street

September 29th: 11:00AM-1:00PM. **INTERPOL Secretary General Ronald K. Noble**
Greater Philadelphia Community Town Hall Meeting
Philadelphia Free Library, 1901 Vine Street Philadelphia, PA 19103

October 14th: 2-5PM **World Food Day** event at Hopkinson Hall; see elsewhere in the newsletter.

October 24: **UN DAY**: Draft “linking the US Constitution with the “Culture” of the UN”; is under development.

November 8th: **Seminar ICC at Temple University School of Law.** See announcement elsewhere in the newsletter

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

WHAT CAN YOU DO?