Dear members, volunteers, and friends of the UNA-GP:

I write this before the election...knowing that you are likely to read it afterwards. This is a situation that puts the saying "the real campaign starts on Wednesday the 7th" into bright focus! There are many ways that we at the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia will work to put that vision of the future into practice this month. For example, almost immediately after the election we are holding the second event from the Philadelphia Global Initiative in the Rule of Law at Temple's Beasley School of Law and will be joined by distinguished guests from the International Criminal Court (see page 9). In February of next year, we will continue this initiative with a high school Model United Nations conference with the theme of international justice, and each event is another building block for the international future we hope to see.

Also this month, we have a national holiday on November 11 called "Veterans Day" in the US and "Remembrance Day" in Canada and the UK, but formerly recognized as "Armistice Day" in honor of the end of World War I. This is a necessary reminder of the staggering costs of war and the tremendous hopes for negotiated peace settlements that rise again and again; my grandfather served at the front in France and told the (perhaps legendary) story that there were pockets of troops that failed to hear about the ceasefire and kept fighting even after the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. I wonder, will people in the next century look back at us and see our world doing this—fighting on senselessly long after the world had created institutions and treaties to resolve conflicts and their causes through other means?

As we honor veterans this month, I hope we will give some moments to remember veterans who have also been leaders for peace. I am particularly recalling the late Senator George McGovern, who died in October. While he was indeed part of the "Greatest Generation" and had shown amazing courage in World War II as a combat pilot, he will be remembered for his Presidential run in 1972, in which he tried to bring an end to the US war in Vietnam and also promised to pass laws for a living minimum wage and a true social safety net. While both goals were massively rejected at the polls, Senator McGovern went on to serve with the UN Food and Agricultural Organization to continue his dedication to food as a human right and a global commitment.

On a practical note, I want to close with a reminder that building our organization and the better world we want requires financial support! UNA members, please see if it is time to pay your annual dues (and perhaps add some additional support); non-members, do think about joining us, as it’s very easy to do and we have extremely reasonable rates for students and seniors. I hope that all of you are safely through Hurricane Sandy and look forward to a good Thanksgiving with friends and family.

- Mary Day Kent, President
Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law, along with Drexel Law Review and the Drexel International Law and Human Rights Society, co-hosted a one-day symposium entitled “Building Global Professionalism: Emerging Trends in International and Transnational Legal Education” on Friday, October 12. Guests and keynote speakers engaged in discussion revolving around the idea of integrating globalization into legal education, suggesting that international, comparative, and transnational legal perspectives of law would benefit the law school curriculum in the United States. Legal education and the legal profession in general in the U.S. have had minimal exposure to these international models of law; the symposium explored the idea of globalizing education by comparing and contrasting the national and international models of legal education in effect in certain countries (for example, in Latin America or East Asia), to those of the United States. Furthermore, the symposium sought out the impacts that the United States has had on international law as well as the implementation of American legal practices in foreign institutions. Ideally, internationalization is powerful when it is naturalized and accepted, but it has equal consequences and benefits. By exploring the possibilities of internationalization, the speakers broadened the thought of using these methods in conjunction to legal education programs for further experimentation.

Among the keynote speakers showcased throughout the day were Roger Dennis (Founding Dean and Professor of Law at Drexel’s Earle Mack School of Law), Anil Kalhan (Associate Professor of Law at Drexel), and various professors of law from universities across the United States and even overseas. Sponsors of this event included the Student Bar Association, the American Constitution Society, the Labor and Employment Law Society, the Health Law Society, and the Mental Health Law Society. The seminar was productive and informative, and students left feeling they had gained some useful knowledge.
On October 14, our organization hosted what was the beginning of a week’s worth of activities for World Food Day. Although World Food Day proper wasn’t until the following Tuesday, we recognized the creation of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization as well as promoted the importance of food on both a local and global level. On the former, different methods of bringing fresh food into Philadelphia and promoting healthy eating in the city were discussed. On the latter, the issue of the amount food being produced to sustain a growing worldwide population was also brought into consideration. During the event, UNA-GP representatives also tried to gain new members by presenting a table of sign-up sheets alongside brochures that included future events or information about things such as the United Nations Association of America.

The Hopkinson House was the venue for our celebration, and there were three speakers at the event in addition to Christiaan Morssink (Executive Director of the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia), who spoke a few words himself: Dr. Allan Kelly from the University of Pennsylvania, Bob Pearson from Philadelphia Common Markets, and Dr. Allison Buttenhein from the University of Pennsylvania. Topics included agricultural cooperatives, population pressure and global food needs, and local solutions for global problems; the speeches focused on candid, relevant points, which led to a very interesting and in-depth discussion at the end of the program. Both leaders and students had something to contribute, whether it was a question or comment.

After the discussions, guests and speakers could munch on the free food buffet—all of which was made or provided for by the UNA-GP—and donate funds in exchange for a drink at the cash fare bar. With the help of a young UNA-GP group composed of Drexel and UPenn students, everyone managed to pull resources together to bring this event to a successful conclusion and we hope to see more events like this are organized in the future. The turnout was not as big as we expected, but as the saying goes, “quality over quantity!”
Hopkinson House before the event

Trisha and Elisa putting out pamphlets

(Above) Mike preparing the pita bread tray

Our fundraiser cash bar

Everyone's favorite part—food!

Dr. Allan Kelly
Co-ops before....

Dr. Allison Buttenhein

Our own Christiaan Morssink

...and after. It's been a long day!

Ending the day by celebrating the great view from the building!
On Wednesday, October 24, the UNA-GP hosted a special UN Café in Drexel University’s historic Ross Commons building. Although the event was constrained thanks to limited organizational time, the primary host, Mike Vespa, overcame obstacles and moderated a discussion on the topic of conversation. Focused on both UN Day and World Food Day, the meeting consisted of ten students with very diverse skill sets: political science, business, philosophy, engineering, and English. With such different areas of focus, one would think the UN’s role in global food production, distribution, and regulation would have been a difficult subject to discuss, yet the opposite was true. Many ideas made their way into the conversation, including the impact of food cooperatives and independent farms joining together for greater market strength; even aquaponics and political unrest in downtrodden areas were brought up. Finally, the ideology behind both the role and economic efficiency of investment capitalism became the center of strong—although respectful—debate.

In the end, the desire to continue the conversation was unanimous, yet sadly the meeting was cut short due to exam week priorities. It was undoubtedly an enlightening experience, especially considering the small amount of time allotted, and it is our goal to make the Café on December 10 even better. (There will be no UN Café during the month of November.)

Keep an eye out for future cafés, then tell a friend and join us for an engaging study break. We are trying to build up our rapport in University City and any support from you helps—we thank you.
Friday, November 9:

This morning I am going to bring Sanji Monageng, the First Vice President of the International Criminal Court, to visit the Constitution Center, after which we will have lunch with students at the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania. After that, I will dash off for a quick meeting with the Project for Nuclear Awareness and the judge and I will finish the afternoon by attending a reception at the workplace of our friend Karen Young, the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center. Our own Enid Adler will play host to the judge with a private dinner tonight.

Yesterday was a full day as well. The ICC event at Temple we’ve been telling you about included a reception in honor of Judge Monageng and the advisor to the ICC prosecutor, Rod Rastan; Dean Epps of the Temple Law School attended our lunch with the panelists and honored guests. The whole seminar was organized by our volunteers and our work-study students, and it is always a pleasure to work with young people who are enthusiastic, have a “can-do” attitude, and do well in teams. I thank them again for their efforts. A special shout-out is warranted for Hinke Wiersum, who started early and finished late, staying well composed and full of hospitality throughout the day. She is a gem.

Allow me to re-cap the last few days as well. On Tuesday, I worked as an Election Judge at the polls. Starting at 6:30 am and finishing at 8:30 am, I worked with Gina and a group of volunteers from the Fox leadership program, a tiresome but overall great experience. The voters at our station were mostly students and first-time voters, and although the longest line was about 12 people, nobody waited longer than 15 minutes. One lady, who got her citizenship just recently, was very excited and had pictures taken from start to finish; she will send them to her family back home! On Wednesday, the most remarkable thing was what, in fact, did not happen: NO MORE CALLS AND VERY BORING TV ADVERTISEMENTS. Considering this election, I’m looking into disconnecting the telephone for a few months in 2016 and getting news from foreign channels like CBC, BBC or Al Jazeera…

The rest of this year we will work on the Model UN program, the Youth Building Roots Project, the next ICC seminar in February, an event for International Women’s Day, and the PGWI Conference “Water and Women, Beyond the Burden” on April 9th. However, all of his will be done in the shadow of one more event for this year, Universal Declaration of Human Rights Day on December 10. We are focusing on Article 26, which relates to education, in light of the Malala case in Pakistan and the absolute need for gender-equality in education all the way from kindergarten to graduate school, if we ever want to reach gender equality. Planning will be fast and furious, but not before Monday the 12th, so please feel free to join the process! We need venues, speakers, money, films, singers, performers, money, designers, thinkers, and workers…did I mention money? Also, of course, we need creative ideas.

Good luck with the turkey, meat, or soy on Thanksgiving! Embrace the communal spirit of the holiday, seek out what needs solving or improving, and follow up with action.

Onward,

Christiaan Morssink
November 6 was an exciting time throughout Philadelphia, but especially in University City as flocks of first-time voters mulled around trying to find their polling locations. Some UNA-GP co-ops and work-studies got the opportunity to participate in the excitement of Election Day by volunteering as poll workers on UPenn’s campus. Most of them were assigned to Harnwell College House and completed tasks such as preparing the machines for each voter, checking registration books, assigning provisional ballots when appropriate, and tracking the names and locations of the people who were registered to vote and actually voted.

The voters at UPenn were generally enthusiastic and took their right to elect officials seriously; when issues cropped up, the students did not simply give up but continued to work with knowledgeable staff members to do what they could. So high was the energy on campus, in fact, that three types of stickers had been printed to be distributed for the occasion: “I voted today!” buttons (shown above) in English and Spanish and the same message on a sticker with the UPenn crest on it; several people who had cast absentee ballots even came in asking if they could take a sticker to wear and show off their pride.

Overall, the young adults working with UNA-GP got to see how civically active, professional people run these polls throughout our proud nation and how important volunteers are to the concept of citizens letting their voices be heard. The volunteers will be paid a small amount for their services, but will most likely donate their funds as a to the organization they represent on a frequent basis.

We hope you all let your opinions be heard as well and congratulate anyone who managed to get a younger friend to do so, too!
The United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia, Temple University Beasley School of Law, and the International Law Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association were delighted to host a day-long seminar on November 8th, 2012 focusing on the International Criminal Court (ICC). This seminar continues the year-long recognition of the Philadelphia Global Initiative for the Rule of Law, and it also commemorates the 10th anniversary of the Rome Statute, the document that established the ICC.

“Procedural and Jurisdictional Challenges” was the highlight of the seminar. Panel moderators James A. Shellenberger and Margaret M. deGuzman, both professors at Beasley School of Law, led the seminar’s two-part discussion. Mr. Shellenberger moderated the morning session, in which the First Vice President of the ICC, Judge Sanji M. Monageng, briefly detailed the purposes and the challenges of the ICC as well as illustrated the importance of the ICC’s involvement in prosecuting individuals who commit war crimes, human rights crimes, and genocide. The panel went on to compare and contrast the ICC’s criminal procedures with that of the United States, where it was agreed that the ICC is much more involved in preliminary trial procedures than the United States federal courts. Ms. deGuzman moderated the afternoon session, which discussed the contributions of the ICC for advancing efforts in seeking global justice. This dialogue went into further detail into the challenges of the ICC when acknowledging the needs of the victims affected by trial.

During this conference, we were pleased to be joined by distinguished guests, especially Judge Monageng, who is notable for her standing as a High Court Judge in the Kingdom of Swaziland and as Judge of the High Court of the Republic of the Gambia prior to her nine-year term with the ICC. Her areas of expertise include women’s human rights issues, indigenous peoples and communities, torture, and children. Other speakers included Judge Robert B. Kugler (U.S. Federal District Court, District of New Jersey), Elizabeth K. Ainslie (Harrison Segal & Lewis, LLP), Rod Rastan (Legal Advisor at the Office of the Prosecutor for the ICC,), Jean Galbraith (Professor of Law at Rutgers School of Law-Camden), Matthew Heaphy (Deputy Convener American NGO Coalition for the ICC (AMICC)), and Jessica Stanton (Professor of Political Science at University of Pennsylvania.)

The event took place in the lovely Shusterman Hall on Temple’s campus. Invited guests had lunch in the Diamond Club and those who signed up for a full day’s worth of CLE credits received boxed lunches; there was even a small reception following the panels, which allowed everyone to socialize. The UNA-GP greatly appreciates those who attended and volunteered and considers the event a great success!
The beautiful Shusterman Hall

Students and lawyers taking notes

(Above) The afternoon panelists

Students enthusiastically pose for a photo with Judge Monageng

A great collaborative effort!
1. President Barack Obama defeats Romney to win re-election
After a long election process in the United States, Barack Obama has been re-elected for another term. Although the democrats won the presidential election, the House of Representatives will still be run by republicans. The historic decision will mean many things for the next four years.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-20233064

2. Protecting human rights during conflict is one of world’s greatest challenges, UN official tells General Assembly
Protecting human rights during times of conflict is crucial; This has become a growing concern for High Commissioner of Human Rights, Navi Pillary, who worries about countries like Syria where a 20-month uprising against the Assad regime has cost the lives of 20,000 people.

3. Trade opening key to Europe’s economic recovery—Lamy
Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Pascal Lamy states “consolidating open and transparent links with the world’s new centres of growth is essential to Europe’s sustainable economic recovery”. He added that “trade opening offers Europe an effective tool to promote pro-growth reforms through innovation and stronger productivity”
http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/sppl_e/sppl254_e.htm

4. UN and Brazil sign $20 million agreement to help cotton farmers in developing countries
In the last couple of years Brazil has become an important economic power and appears to have a very bright future ahead of it. Its cotton industry is currently booming; Developing countries, particularly those in Latin America, are attempting to pick up strategies for becoming more efficient and stabilizing economic growth. Brazilian cotton farmers have agreed to teach people in countries of the Mercosur zone as well as Haiti, and several African countries their novel cultivating technologies.

5. Q&A: Companies Study Climate Risks and Opportunities
Marianela Jarroud interviews Juliana Campos Lopes from the Carbon Disclosure Project. The Carbon Disclosure Project collects climate change data from organizations in some 60 countries worldwide. The interview discusses the recent interest by CEOs to turn their firms to more “green” establishments. Companies risk economic losses as a result of climate change, stressed Lopes.
http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/10/qa-companies-study-climate-risks-and-opportunities/

6. U.N. cites “credible reports” Syria army using cluster bombs
The U.N. political affairs chief told the Security Council on Tuesday of credible reports that the Syrian government has used cluster bombs and diplomats said peace mediator Lakhdar Brahimi had urged Russia to be more “pro-active” in ending the war.

7. FEATURE: What does the UN General Assembly do when the General Debate ends?
Presidents, Prime Ministers, Kings and Queens, Emirs and Foreign Ministers, took center stage during the General Debate. These country representatives gathered to discuss ways to resolve some of the world’s hardest problems. Issues discussed included women, disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control.

8. Norway offers NOK 19.5 million to support sustainable trade in least-developed countries
Norway is taking steps to even the playing field of global trading by investing in lesser developed countries. The country has contributed 19.5 million to the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) a program that main priority is reducing poverty.
http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news12_e/if_31oct12_e.htm

9. Sandy: Haiti appeals for international help after storm
Although Hurricane Sandy only affected the east coast of the United States, it damaged several countries in Central America. Strong winds and rain in Cuba destroyed more than 70% of crops in the south of the country. Although the storm did not hit Haiti as hard as Cuba, 50 people lost their lives. Haiti is still struggling to recuperate after the disastrous earthquake in 2010.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-20202840
NOTICE!

This event was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances and will be rescheduled soon, most likely in December. We will keep you posted!

What if you could change the lives of women and girls worldwide?

October 23, 2012
6-8pm

Screening

PAPADAKIS INTEGRATED SCIENCES BUILDING
(PISB)-112
3141 Chesnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

- donations welcome!
- followed by a discussion with light food & beverages!

Organized by: UNA-GP&Drexel University

www.halftheskymovement.org
NOTICE!

This event was cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy. We regret to announce this, but Helen will return in the spring for her book tour!

An excerpt from the official notice sent by Edward Aguilar of the Pennsylvania Peace Voter Project:

“...those of you who were coming to Philly or Newtown to see Helen, we regret to cancel, and we ask that you contact Rose.Scott@temple.edu, if you would wish to have a refund of funds that you’ve paid, or if you wish to instead make this a tax-deductible contribution to Peace Action Education Fund, for which this was an intended fund-raiser. You can find out more on the Web site-- if you reserved on the Web site, you can also ask for a refund by emailing cfpa@peacecoalition.org...Finally, many of you reserved a book. If you still want the book, please check with one of the two sources noted, and give them: your name, Email, amount contributed, and mailing address for the book. We will contact you to confirm, in any case.”

An Evening with Dr. Helen Caldicott

Sunday October 28 from 7-9 pm
at the Philadelphia Ethical Humanist Society
1906 S. Rittenhouse Square
# November 2012

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**ATTENTION!**

There will NOT be a UN Café for the month of November—see you in December!

- **November 13: “The Cuban Missile Crisis at Fifty: Where Are We Now?”**


- **November 14: 7th Annual Global Temple Conference**

  Join Temple University for their 7th Annual Global Temple Conference, a day-long symposium that will explore and celebrate Temple’s wide ranging international work and features opening remarks from the Honorable Peter S. Watson, President and CEO of the Dwight Group, the D.C.-based investment bank. **There is no charge to participate!** For more details, visit: [https://globalphiladelphia.org/events/7th-annual-global-temple-conference-showcasing-temple-research-programs-activities-around-the-world](https://globalphiladelphia.org/events/7th-annual-global-temple-conference-showcasing-temple-research-programs-activities-around-the-world)

- **(Beginning on) November 30: Three-Day Interpreter Training Workshop**

  Demand for foreign-language interpreters is booming in both the public and private sectors. If you want to help your community or travel while earning a good living, interpretation could be your exciting new career. Join Nationalities Service Center for a three-day interpreter training workshop—no interpretation experience is necessary. For details, visit: [https://globalphiladelphia.org/events/three-day-interpreter-training-workshop-nationalities-service-center-begins-nov-30-2012](https://globalphiladelphia.org/events/three-day-interpreter-training-workshop-nationalities-service-center-begins-nov-30-2012)
DECEMBER 4: DISCUSSION ON OBAMA’S FOREIGN POLICY

What does Barack Obama’s second term in office mean for American foreign policy? Join us for a discussion with guest speaker Ambassador Thomas Graham, Jr., Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors of Thorium Power and a former Special Counsel to the law firm of Morgan Lewis, who participates in the International Energy and Department of Energy practice areas. The reception will be at the Friends Center at 1515 Cherry Street in Philadelphia. Potential sponsors include the Project for Nuclear Awareness and Drexel University. Details to follow! 12:00-1:00; time subject to change.

DECEMBER 10: UN CAFÉ

On December 10, the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia will host a special UN Café in recognition of Universal Declaration of Human Rights Day, which commemorates the day in 1948 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights!

Potential topics of discussion include Malala Day, a newly created national day honoring 15-year-old Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by members of the Taliban for seeking a quality education as a female; on this day, the families of more than 3 million children will be given cash stipends from the Pakistani government for sending their beloved children to school.

Other events, including a candlelight vigil, in recognition of UDHRD are still in talks amongst our organizational staff. The UNA-GP will keep you all informed and we also hope to see some of you participating in our celebrations.

DECEMBER 10: GPA MEETING

On Monday, December 10, the Global Philadelphia Association will follow up its October 4 Board Meeting with its annual Membership Meeting. This serves as a great reminder to consider joining the GPA as an individual or getting your group/team/company to join so you can attend future meetings!
FEBRUARY 2013: SPECIAL MODEL UN

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, this free Model UN on the Rule of Law seeks to engage students in high schools in the greater Philadelphia region. Students can participate individually or in teams, either utilizing after school programs or 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 one-day conference, which will take place in February.

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

Coordinator: Linnea Michaels

--> linnea.michaels@gmail.com

JANUARY 18: UNCITRAL EVENT

On Friday, January 18, 2013, the Villanova Law Review will hold a symposium on "Assessing the CISG and Other International Endeavors to Unify International Contract Law: Has the Time Come for a New Global Initiative to Harmonize and Unify International Trade?" This topic is both timely and important as the United Nations is considering a proposal to study whether it should undertake the drafting of a new convention on international sales law. The symposium will feature the leading authorities on the subject of international sales law from across the globe, including the Secretary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), The Honorable Renaud Sorieul.

This event is co-sponsored by the Global Philadelphia Association, the Philadelphia Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and many others. It will take place at Villanova University School of Law.

Stay tuned for more information closer to the time and mark your calendars!

REMEMBER...

Happy Thanksgiving! Be safe and blessed!
The UNA-GP is a chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA). Our website offers information about our mission, upcoming events, and ways to get involved, including joining and volunteering. In addition, we are on social media sites and send out our monthly newsletter. Take a look around!

Volunteers with all types of skill sets are welcome to work with the UNA-GP. Contact:

Manisha Patel
Volunteer Coordinator
Board Member
mpatel@una-gp.org