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UNA-GP President Mary Day Kent sends greetings from Colombia!

Bogota, Colombia
Cartagena, Colombia
Santander, Colombia
Santa Marta, Colombia
Medellin, Colombia
Cali, Colombia
From Christiaan’s Desk

The UN is going to proclaim the years 2015-2030 as its next development period, whose possible goals are currently being debated around the world and at the secretariat. The operational word will be sustainability. Scientists have been arguing for years that we need to heed the warning signs from nature when discussing development plans. Yet, politicians worldwide keep their eyes on the immediate, like providing more food and pulling people out of abject poverty, along with making the average human life expectancy longer than ever before. Moreover, the commercial world treats the environment as an externality that has no costs associated with it.

All that is changing, and calls for sustainable development are being heeded by commerce and politics on many occasions; a tide is turning. However, the stresses will be enormous. In a city like Kolkata, where I am writing this text, the full enormity becomes clear. When you leave the airport in the middle of the night, there is so much smoke in the air that it irritates your lungs and eyes. People burn wood to cook, but also to make smoke to fight mosquitoes. Millions of cars crowd streets incapable of handling so much traffic. Construction is everywhere; there is a strong sense of urgency and energy, but it doesn’t seem to follow a plan. Almost every building of some size has a big generator, running on diesel and used as a back-up source for an ever increasing demand for electricity. I
A Few Words From Our Executive Director

didn’t see any attempted wind or solar energy production, and the newspapers are discussing how coal mines need to increase their output in order to satisfy the need for electricity. It is clear that regarding energy, India’s population is not thinking about sustainability. They first need reliability.

![Laborers in coal ball factory in Kolkata](image)

Labor is cheap here and underemployment is still scandalously high, especially among the many that belong to the lower classes. The city is full of brazen, in-your-face, social, economic and racial inequalities that shouldn’t be on display in a democracy. Their poverty needs to be addressed through public policy, and the question for the state of West Bengal is how to do that in an accelerated fashion, while also paying heed to the need for sustainable survival. Health disparities between the rich and the poor are shockingly wide, and the burden of disease for the whole population is increasing, as quality of life is not improving with expanding life expectancy. Health Care and Public Health in West Bengal are seem to not be able to meet demand, according to one lecture at the World Public Health Congress.

Coming to Kolkata re-confirmed my belief that we need the United Nations to be involved in many areas, where international commerce and social developments need to addressed/ coordinated with a focus on survival of the planet. I wish we could have our politicians do a bit more of traveling, without only thinking about immediate economic growth at home, and with a perspective of solidarity of the whole of humanity, a humanity that needs sustainability in order to survive.

![Unemployed play games in the streets of Kolkata](image)
UNA-GP's newly formed Membership Committee has been meeting regularly with a mission of mobilizing the community in becoming more involved in the local chapter. Membership support helps in bringing programming for the local community, its schools and university students. Some of the other objectives of the committee are to keep its members more connected to world issues through participation in Chapter events as well as get them involved in UNA-USA/UN programs and grow local support for the ideals and work of the UN in Philadelphia's community.

Manisha Patel
mpatel@una-gp.org

Our third Rule of Law Conference is this coming weekend! This year we’ve been working closely with several high schools, from Boys Latin in West Philadelphia to Tacony Academy in the Northeast. Our conference this year ties together the Rule of Law with the very relevant subject of incarceration. We have been exploring the US system, but using that as point of departure, we have also explored different systems across the world, from that of Singapore to the ones in Zimbabwe and France. On the day of the conference, students will represent delegations from different countries. Together they will create an international draft resolution outlining guidelines for a combined system of incarceration.

San Quentin Prison, California
If you are interested in helping on the day of the conference, please contact Daniel Bu at danielbu12@gmail.com.

Date: Saturday, February 28th. 9:30 am to 4:00pm.
Venue: F85 Huntsman Hall, University of Pennsylvania
International Women’s Day: Save the Date

International Women’s Day 2015: Global Migrant Rights & Justice

Join us for performances, refreshments and discussion celebrating local and global initiatives advocating for the rights of migrant women and their families. Speakers will explore the intersection of immigrant rights, women's rights & children's rights and the impact of immigration policies and enforcement in the U.S. and abroad.

March 4th 6:00-8:00
International House, 3701 Chestnut St. South America Room

This is a One Book, One Philadelphia community program and encourages reading and discussion around a single book. This year’s selection, Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline, explores children’s courage & adaptability and the power of family.

So far this event is co-sponsored by Penn’s South Asia Center, Middle East Center, Center for East Asian Studies, Africa Center, Graduate Center & Family Resource Center, International House and Global Philadelphia Association.

See the event flyer on page 9!

Contact: anastasia.shown@gmail.com

Global Water Alliance Update

As you may know, the UNA-GP continues to work closely with the Philadelphia Global Water Alliance, which includes our active participation in their annual conference as well as assistance in their yearly high school education initiatives.

On page 10 you will find the flyer for the 8th Annual Global Water Alliance conference in 2015, taking place on Thursday, March 26th, on the topic of Best Practices in WASH, at the The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Students have been asked to make posters for this GWA conference, so that we can show how our young people are becoming engaged in water stewardship. Water crises are considered major global risks to humanity by the WEF.

Please be aware that several people from GWA will attempt to go to the World Water Forum in Korea!

The World Energy Council (WEC) and World Water Council (WWC) have announced that they have joined forces to bring the issue of the water-energy nexus to the fore in the run up to the 7th World Water Forum, to be staged in Daegu, Korea from 12 to 17 April 2015.

UNA-GP will be working closely with GWA to ensure that Philadelphia has a strong presence at the WWF in 2015.
Welcome Bénédicte Clouet!

I spent four years in Brussels at the intersection of education policy and implementation, managing pilot projects with public- and private-sector stakeholders with the goal of informing policies that would support the educational reform process taking place in Europe. I have master’s degrees in European Law and International Affairs.

After moving to the States in 2012, I worked as a consultant on various projects, including the rollout of a health information system and training program in Côte d’Ivoire and Haïti for the University of Washington.

Through my work with UNA-GP I want to advocate for a global perspective and approach in education and help foster a structured dialogue around this issue among all education stakeholders in the region. I look forward to getting to know you!

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Dear UNA-GP members,

I am a globally-minded idealist with a long-held interest in world politics and foreign affairs. Before moving to Philadelphia 5 months ago and joining the UNA-GP, I served in a variety of international roles in fields ranging from education and internet governance to global health.

Mark your calendars for the next UNA-GP Board Meeting!

Saturday, March 28th 10:00 AM
Location: TBD, most likely the Friends Center
The United Nations Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter (UNA-GP) condemns the vicious and outrageous murders of journalists and police in Paris. **UNA-GP** recognizes the strong link between press freedom and the basic rights of free expression and democracy — *no press freedom, no democracy!*

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon strongly condemned the appalling and “cold-blooded crime” committed by terrorists who attacked the office of *Charlie Hebdo*, the French satirical magazine. “I am appalled and deeply shocked by the attack against Charlie Hebdo in Paris”, Mr. Ban said. “This act of violence can in no way be justified. This is an attack against freedom of expression and freedom of the press — the two pillars of democracy.”

According to **CPJ**, 61 journalists were killed in 2014 and over 1,100 since 1992. The victims in Paris now jumpstart the 2015 death toll. In 2013, 211 journalists were jailed, while over 450 have been exiled from their countries since 2008 just for trying to do their jobs. In the United States, reporters’ phone logs have been secretly subpoenaed and seized by the Justice Department, a New York Times reporter, James Risen, faces the threat of jail for not revealing a source and the shadow of the NSA hangs over journalists’ email and telephone communications.

In her talk, Ms. Radsch covered virtually every continent in describing the challenges to press freedom. She also made it clear that journalists using the Internet and Social Media are very much at risk. In addition, she emphasized that the vast majority of journalists killed, jailed and exiled are non-Western.

**To read the rest of this piece or other edition’s of Lana’s blog, please visit the UNA-GP website.**
Global Migrant Rights & Justice

March 4th 6:00PM
International House, 3701 Chestnut St. South America Room

Join us for performances, refreshments and discussion celebrating local and global initiatives advocating for the rights of migrant women and their families. Speakers will explore the intersection of immigrant rights, women's rights & children's rights and the impact of immigration policies and enforcement in the U.S. and abroad.

RSVP: http://ihousephilly.org/calendar/international-women-s-day-2015-global-migrant-rights-justice

Our Sponsors:
8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
“WASH Projects in Developing Countries: Lessons Learned"

SAVE THE DATE

Where: Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

When: Thursday, March 26, 2015

Keynote Address by:

Martha Newsome, Global Director of Health, Nutrition, and WASH, World Vision International

And participation of representatives from the United Nations, World Bank, USEPA, International Water and Sanitation Leaders, and Major NGOs, including:

› Susan Davis, Executive Director, Improve International
› Elynn Walter, Sustainability Director, WASH Advocates
› Dr. Jayanti Bandyopadhyay, Professor at the Business School at Salem State University [invited]
› Tim Prewitt, CEO, iDE [invited]

The Global Water Alliance (GWA) is a network of interested organizations and individuals committed to helping to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals for water/sanitation throughout the world. By utilizing the resources and expertise of the Philadelphia Region and beyond, we work to increase global access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services.
# UNA-GP Upcoming Events

(all subject to change), other events are being planned and will be added case by case

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity/Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location/info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School Conference on Rule of Law Topic: Incarceration Policies and Practices</td>
<td>February 28th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Huntsman Hall University of Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Women’s Day: Global Migrant Rights and Justice Celebration of initiatives advocating for the rights of migrant women and their families. Speakers explore immigration policies, women and children.</td>
<td>March 4th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>International House, South America Room, 3701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia PA 19104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat III Subcommittee Meeting</td>
<td>March 10th</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5:00PM-7:00PM</td>
<td>Friends Center Mott Room 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 All members interested are welcome to attend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWA 8th Annual Conference “WASH Projects in Developing World: Lessons Learned”</td>
<td>March 26th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6:00 PM - 9:00 PM</td>
<td>Keynote speaker Martha Newsome, Global Director of Health, Nutrition, and WASH, representatives from UN, World Bank, major NGOs, etc. See flyer on page 17 Location: The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Board Meeting</td>
<td>March 28th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Friends Center 1501 Cherry St, Philadelphia, PA 19102 All members are welcome to attend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Annual Membership Meeting</td>
<td>June 24th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>5:30 PM - 8:00 PM</td>
<td>TBA, Most likely the Carriage House at the University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garden Party</td>
<td>July 19th</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>TBA, Usually at a member’s house in northwest Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Board Meeting</td>
<td>August 20th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5:30PM - 7:00PM</td>
<td>TBA All members are welcome to attend</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You can help the United Nations Association!

Have any ideas for fundraising events? We’re all ears! With the volume of projects the UNA-GP is constantly immersed in, we are always in need of more volunteers, no matter how much or how (seemingly!) little time you have to devote. Email Manisha Patel, (Volunteer Coordinator and Board Member) with your suggestions or any questions at mpatel@una-gp.org

The UNA-GP is in need of funds for upcoming projects. In order to continue with extremely beneficial and enriching events, such as the Model UN, we need your help! Please donate whatever you can to the UNA-GP, and in turn, Philadelphians and beyond!

The UNA-GP February 2015 newsletter is a collaborative effort:
• Layout and design editor: Carolyn Curry
• Board liaison: Ed Gracely
• President: Mary Day Kent
• Executive Director: Christiaan Morssink

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 and upcoming events, and ways to get involved, including joining and volunteering. In addition, we are on social media sites and send out our monthly newsletters. Take a look around!

Volunteers with all types of skill sets are welcome to work with the UNA-GP, in the short or long term. If interested, please contact:

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

http://www.facebook.com/UNAGP

http://www.twitter.com/UNAGP

http://www.una-gp.org/

mpatel@una-gp.org