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Model UN Conference Recap
Recap of our high school conference on water management! Page: 6

Harmony for Peace Friendship Concert
Join us for a concert celebrating friendship! Flyer Page: 8

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UNA-GP President Mary Day Kent sends greetings from Colombia!
Picture Perfect Sunday Morning, when the urban quiet is almost surreal, and before we have to get out the shovel and the clean-up begins. A moment when finally, a week late, I can write my few lines for this column. The evening after the Model UN on Water Stewardship on MLK Day (see elsewhere) I wanted to scribe this text, but I am not creative in any evening and the days following were overloaded with meetings, school visits, financial reports, what have you; AND then the rush to prep for the BLIZZARD.

A blizzard it was indeed, and if you put all these severe weather events and reports from all over the globe together, it becomes clear that climate change has become the most important global risk to tackle, according to the World Economic Forum. Then, two days later … "UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon convened an emergency panel of heads of state to prompt a political response to the world’s increasing scarcity of water..." (World Economic Forum), another and rather concrete problem directly related to changes in our climate.

Indeed, through climate, through trade, through the world’s cultural heritage, through our embrace of UNIVERSAL human values, and through our history of co-existence, and our embrace of peace and (brotherly) love, we in Philadelphia are a dynamic part and parcel, sometimes even a hub, of the chaotic unfolding journey of humankind. Being and becoming aware of that global belonging is what we in the UNA-GP try to advocate for, educate in, and raise awareness about. And we use the mission, message, and methods of the United Nations System as our resource and reference.

So we wish you a happy new cosmopolitan year; we wish the best for the workers, staffers and diplomats in the United Nations System, and we sincerely hope to see that this year a new virus PEACE will create a welcome pandemic, a virus for which the politicians tied to each nation’s military industrial complex don’t find a cure.

Vrede/Shalom/Salam/Mir/Pax
Spotlight on Human Rights

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

ICTJ is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with offices in New York City and 10 locations around the world.

ICTJ works to help societies in transition address legacies of massive human rights violations and build civic trust in state institutions as protectors of human rights. In the aftermath of mass atrocity and repression, ICTJ assists civil society groups and institutions, the people driving and shaping their societies, in considering measures to provide truth, accountability, and redress of past abuses. Some of their current initiatives are in Tunisia, Peru, Argentina, Iraq and Burma. To learn more about transitional justice and ICTJ go to their website. For a great ICTJ interview with the current UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zaid Ra’ad Al Hussein, go to "UN Human Rights Chief Sees Hope and Challenges in Fight Against Impunity"
The Global Water Alliance (GWA) recognizes that WASH and water management are defining global topics for this century, and wants students to be involved in creating the best ideas to reach that vision for 2030. GWA invites students and young professionals, our future leaders, to enter the GWA Student WASH Competition. Participants are to showcase and propose innovative WASH projects and ideas for the year 2030 in the form of papers, posters, or videos. The competition allows participants to exchange knowledge and ideas and learn from international experts. Entries may focus on anything related to WASH. This is an opportunity to spearhead innovative solutions at a global scale. The winner of the competition will be invited to present their work at the GWA Conference on April 6.

Innovations for the future that students may want to consider include but are not limited to:

- new technologies
- Reuse of waste water, including human waste
- Financing of WASH projects
- Integrating WASH issues with other SDGs
- Developing public-private partnerships
- National laws and/or policies
- Market-based approaches
- gender and social issues regarding WASH

This competition is open to all students currently enrolled at an academic institution. International participants are welcome. All entries must be submitted to ralibros@sp2.upenn.edu along with an application entry form, which can be found on the February 29 entry of the events page on our [website](http://www.una-gp.org).

Submission deadline: February 29th, 2016

**Prize:**

- Monetary award $ 500.
- Invitation to present their ideas at the GWA Conference.
- Recognition in a GWA press release and on the GWA website.
- The runners-up will also be invited to attend the GWA Conference
Water Model UN Conference

On Martin Luther King Day, high school students from five schools gathered at the University of Pennsylvania for the annual Water Model United Nations Conference. This year they explored stormwater management in Philadelphia and abroad. Global Water Alliance volunteers created and presented lesson plans about stormwater management in Philadelphia, Amman, Rotterdam, and Yaoundé. Participating high school students utilized this information to draft a resolution about implementing stormwater management practices and technologies, as they relate to the 6th target of the Sustainable Development Goals. The competing students received community service points, debate experience, and a special reward for their participation.

Their letter to the Mayor implored him to commit to the development and implementation of green technology, to adopt the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and to prioritize the improvement of Philadelphia’s water and sewage system. Groups warned Mayor Kenney of the potentially drastic consequences to the city of Philadelphia if water issues do not become a priority of local government, and proposed programs to alleviate problems such as the flushing of prescription drugs and sewage runoff.

UNA-GP will be hosting two more Model UN conferences for high school students on Rule of Law and Disarmament on February 27th and March 19th, respectively. For more information, see page 7. Please email Conference Coordinator, Daniel Bu, if you are interested in volunteering at either conference. His email is danielbd@sas.upenn.edu.
Philadelphia, January 20, 2016

Re: 4th Model United Nations Conference on the Rule of Law
     1st Model United Nations Conference on Disarmament

DEAR TEACHERS and STUDENTS,

It is my privilege to invite you and your school to participate in the 2016 Model United Conferences organized by the UNA-GP and hosted at the University of Pennsylvania. Our conferences serve as interschool debate platforms to tackle global issues with action at the local stage. For example this year, we just finished on MLK day our conference on Rainwater Management, which brought together students from seven high schools to critically analyze water use practices in the world and at home here in Philadelphia. The resolution drafted at this conference will be presented to Mayor Kenney’s office within the next few weeks.

Our upcoming conferences are scheduled for February 27 (The Rule of Law: Labor Relations/Fair Labor practices) and March 19 (Disarmament: Small Arms Trade Treaty). For both conferences we have developed three, one class hour, training modules to prepare students ahead of the conferences. We invite you to participate in one or more of our conferences and we will gladly come to your school to do the three training sessions. Please find attached brochures for each of the MUNs.

The Model United Nations experience at the UNA-GP x Penn really is unique. It is also free of charge. Instead of multi-day simulations that focus on and require both extensive rules and fees, we emphasize more the in-depth exploration of relevant current events over the course of one day. We prefer to focus on content and action over protocol and formalities. To underscore the action component, at the conference students will represent different Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and will use their missions to debate specific issues in both large plenary sessions and breakout sessions.

The experience will not end with the Model United Nations Conference. A key message throughout is the active participation in NGOs in the real world. We are only a model United Nations in the sense that the discussions at our conference will prepare students to join, participate and act in these NGOs in the real world. We are excited to start. We hope you will join us.

Warmest regards,

Daniel Bu, Conference Coordinator at danieldb@sas.upenn.edu
Dr. Christiaan Morssink, Executive Director of the UNA-GP at morssink@una-gp.org
Harmony For Peace presents
Friendship Concert
- Featuring Gohei Nishikawa, piano -
  Sungji Kim, soprano and Daniel Kim, violin

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21 2016
DOOR 3PM | PERFORMANCE 3:30PM
Benefits Harmony For Peace Initiatives for 2016

“Play and Pray for Peace Together”
One Voice ... One World

Music, Art & Talk
Special Guest Speaker
& Dinner Reception
(optional)

www.harmonyforpeace.org

At Harmony For Peace,
we believe in the power of the Arts – the language of music and
expression of imagery. Art touches people. With artistry of
music and images, we aim for non-violence and a conflict free world
among peoples across cultures and to unite our voices for world peace.

The Rotwitt Theatre
Rosemont College | 1400 Montgomery Ave. | Rosemont | PA
T. 610.527.0200

Support:
Concert Chair: Dennis Morikawa, Honorary Consul of Japan in Philadelphia;
The Office of Honorary Consul of South Korea in Philadelphia
Global Philadelphia, UNAGP, JASGP, ICAS, Consular Corp Association of
Philadelphia, (pending), StarMatchFund
Cooperation: International Opera Theater
Harmony For Peace presents

AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC, ART & TALK FOR THE FRIENDS OF HARMONY FOR PEACE

3PM SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21 2016
THE ROTWITT THEATRE, ROSEMONT COLLEGE

Join us for our first benefit event of 2016 to learn about Harmony For Peace and support its initiatives for this year and beyond.

Artists from different generations, of many backgrounds and cultures, of all beliefs, come together to perform, joining together as a united voice for peace.

A keynote speaker on “Art and Culture improving Children’s Lives”. And more...

Gohei Nishikawa, piano

Sungji Kim, Soprano

Daniel Kim, violin

Doug Shimell
NBC 10 TV

Martha Finegan

Taro Yaguchi
Origami Artist
“Origami for Peace”

Concert: $40 ($15 - 12yrs and under); Concert & Dinner $100
(Dinner-Seats are limited.) Tickets at www.harmonyforpeace.org
Inquiry: info@harmonyforpeace.org or call +1.484.885.8539

The Harmony for Peace Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Email: info@harmonyforpeace.org  T. 484.885.8539
9TH ANNUAL GLOBAL WATER ALLIANCE CONFERENCE


SPEAKERS
Tom Slaymaker (UNICEF)
Rochelle Rainey (USAID)
Sarah Bramley (Save the Children)

Click to Register for the Conference

Also have students get involved by participating in the GWA Student WASH Competition! They are encouraged to propose innovative WASH projects and ideas for the year 2030. See below for more details.

GLOBAL WATER ALLIANCE

WEDNESDAY APRIL 6, 2016
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
FOX SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
The Philadelphia we want, The city we need

We are preparing ourselves in Philadelphia for this conference, an opportunity offered only once every 20 years. Faculty and students on the different campuses are having workshops and seminars, and infusing the materials in class instructions. We have no idea what the professionals in the market are doing, or how the city government agencies are planning.

At UNA-GP we have formed a working group: PHILLY PREPS FOR HABITAT III. The working group wants to bring the message of Habitat III to the classrooms, to the citizens, to the politicians. In order to that, UNA-GP has planned the following:

Make speakers and materials available for high schools, colleges, NGO’s.

Organize Seminars

Seminar 1: October 6: Annual Habitat Day. Theme: Flood Mitigation in the context of Global Warming: setting new parameters and methods

Seminar 2: November 19: World Toilet Day: Theme: Opportunities in Urban Waste Technology, the next generation.

Seminar 3: February 20: World Day for Social Justice: Theme: Affordable housing, Fair Housing practices, keeping it healthy for all.

Seminar 4: April 22: Earth Day: Theme: Urban Farming and Fair Food Practices. Greening our greens

- Develop a blog and Facebook page
- Build a database of links and websites
- Create a Philadelphia contingent for Quito

Contact: info@una-gp.org

THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Quito, Ecuador, 17–20 October, 2016

The Future We Want, the City We Need

Habitat III will be one of the first global conferences after the Post 2015 Development Agenda. It is an opportunity to discuss and chart new pathways in response to the challenges of urbanization and the opportunities it offers for the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

The conference brings together diverse urban actors such as governments, local authorities, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions and all relevant interest groups to review urban and housing policies affecting the future of cities within an international governance architecture, with a view to generate a ‘New Urban Agenda’ for the 21st century which recognizes the ever-changing dynamics of human civilization. Habitat III offers Member States an opportunity to discuss a New Urban Agenda that will focus on policies and strategies that can result in effectively harnessing the power and forces behind urbanization. The Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document: the New Urban Agenda.

Rethinking the Urban Agenda is embracing urbanization at all levels of human settlements. More appropriate policies can embrace urbanization across physical space, bridging urban, peri-urban and rural areas, and assist governments in addressing challenges through national and local development policy frameworks. And also it is integrating equity as an issue of social justice, ensuring access to the public sphere, extending opportunities and increasing the commons.
<table>
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<th>Activity/Event</th>
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| Peace Concert and Dinner           | February 21st | Sunday  | Door 3:00PM, Concert 3:30PM | Organized by Harmony for Peace  
Location: Rotwitt Theatre  
1400 Montgomery Ave  
Rosemont, PA |
| Model UN Conference on Rule of Law | February 27th | Saturday| 10:00AM-3:30PM     | Model UN conference for local high schools on Rule of Law: Labor Relations  
Location: Terrace Room, Cohen Hall, University of Pennsylvania |
| Observation of International Women’s Day | March 15th   | Saturday| TBD                | Details TBD  
Location: International House, University of Pennsylvania |
| Model UN Conference on Disarmament | March 19th    | Saturday| 10:00AM-3:30PM     | Model UN Conference for local high schools on Disarmament: Small Arms Trade Theory and its Impact  
Location: University of Pennsylvania |
| UNA-GP Board Meeting               | March 19th    | Saturday| 10:00AM-12:00PM   | Location TBD. All interested are welcome to attend. |
| 9th Annual Conference of Global Water Alliance | April 2nd    | Saturday| All Day            | Part of Global Water Alliance’s World Water Day celebration.  
Screening of documentary F.L.O.W. followed by a moderated discussion. Location TBD. |
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 involved in, we are always in need of 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 questions any time at mpatel@una-gp.org.

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

The UNA-GP January 2016 newsletter is a collaborative effort:

Layout and design editor: Carolyn Curry
Board Liason: 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 American (UNA-USA). Our website offers information about our mission and upcoming events, and ways to get involved, including volunteering and becoming a member. Please take a look at our social media accounts and monthly newsletters!

Volunteers with all types of skill sets are welcome to work with the UNA-GP, short or long term. If interested, please contact Manisha Patel, Volunteer Coordinator and Board Member, at mpatel@una-gp.org.

www.facebook.com/UNAGP
www.twitter.com/UNAGP
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