

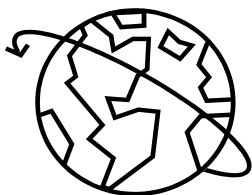
UNA-GKC NEWS

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Up Coming Events in Kansas City and Elsewhere

- **January 10-14**, Port Louis, Mauritius. International Meeting for the Ten-Year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Small Island Development States.
- **February 6**, Mr. Brad Grabs of the Colombia Support Network will speak on peacebuilding in Colombia at the Brookside Neighborhood Office, 3 W. 63rd Street, 1 p.m. All are welcome.
- **February 22**, "UN Role in Future Conflicts Between Nations," first session in the UNA-GKC's program: The Future of the UN: New Ideas for New Challenges. See website for time and place.
- **February 23-25**, Midwest Model UN Conference, St. Louis, Missouri. Model UN Clubs from UMKC, JCCC and Park University will attend.



Area Model UN Clubs Attend Chicago AMUN

UMKC — Report by Vasudeva Ramaswamy and Sharan Srinivas
JCCC — Report by Dr. Brian Wright
Park University — Report by Simona Cibotaru

The American Model United Nations (AMUN) is one of the most comprehensive and engaging model UN simulations available to the dedicated student. Students from all over the United States attended this year's conference, and saw many of them

work to propose and pass resolutions that addressed issues facing the world. Over 100 countries in the United Nations were represented, and at times working with resolutions proved to be a difficult task, with many countries having different interests. However, it did show how the United Nations works to build consensus and gave those who participated the familiarity of parliamentary procedure and allowed them also to further

their knowledge of other countries.

At the AMUN conference held in Chicago on November 19-23, the UMKC Model UN represented Argentina. The young club members gained a great deal of experience. According to Sharan Srinivas, the representative of the General Assembly Plenary, "Getting a resolution on the floor was only half the battle fought. Having to defend it by facing a grilling for close to half an

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UN Responds to South Asian Disaster

A Message from the UNA-GKC President, Jay Sjerven.

The calamity that has befallen our kin in South Asia will try us all. The mettle of nations and peoples and that of the United Nations will be tested. We can take pride in the rapid response to the catastrophe by the humanitarian

agencies of the U.N., including the World Food Program, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund. And we can take pride in the leadership and statesmanship displayed by Secretary General Kofi Annan in binding efforts announced by the Bush administration along with

the governments of Australia, Japan and India, to those being carried out by those self-same countries as well as the other nations of the world through the humanitarian organizations of the U.N. Two separate efforts lacking in coordination would be

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE UN

“Earlier estimates put the number of children killed by the tsunami at a third of the total”

The world's only regional tsunami alert system in the Pacific was started by UNESCO in 1968.

United Nations hopes for free and fair elections for a new Iraqi government

UN Officials Tour Countries Hit by Tsunami Disaster

As Secretary-General Kofi Annan flew to South Asia to attend a global conference to coordinate aid for countries devastated by the December 26 tsunami, United Nations agency heads toured the area to fine-tune responses to the disaster that killed nearly 150,000 people, injured 500,000 more and left up to 5 million lacking basic services.

Arriving in Indonesia following a two-day tour of flood-ravaged Sri Lanka, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director Carol Bellamy called for four basic measures to “give this devastated tsunami generation a fighting chance.” These are: a focus on keeping children alive with an emphasis on clean water, adequate sanitation, basic nutrition, and routine medical care; caring for separated children, reuniting those who have lost their

immediate families with their extended families and communities; ensuring that children are protected from exploitation; and helping children cope with their trauma by getting them back in school as soon as possible. Earlier estimates put the number of children killed by the tsunami at a third of the total. For more, see <http://www.un.org/News/>.

UN Promotes Efforts to Set Up Tsunami Early Warning System for Indian Ocean

In a bid to reduce the appalling toll of future tsunamis, the United Nations is moving ahead with efforts to set up early warning systems in the Indian Ocean, Caribbean and Mediterranean Seas similar to one that already exists for the volcano and earthquake-prone Pacific Rim region.

The tragic losses in the Indian Ocean would certainly have been reduced if a similar alert system had been in place, if coastal populations had been aware of the dangers of tsunami and taught what to do when faced with such a threat, and building norms and standards had taken into account the risk of tsunami and earth-

taken into account the risk of tsunami and earthquakes,” the Director-General of UNESCO Koïchiro Matsuura said. The tsunami alert system for the Pacific, started by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in 1968, remains the world's only regional tsunami warning system. Read more at <http://www.un.org/News/>

In New Year's Message, Top UN Envoy Renews Support for Iraqi Elections

As Iraq moves into high gear for elections this January, a top United Nations official delivered a New Year message pledging the world body's continued support. “At this critical juncture in Iraq's history it is my firm belief that the Iraqi people have the capacity and self confidence to forge a future for themselves in which they can enjoy the fruits of new-found peace, mutual respect, tolerance and the promotion of human rights,” Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Special Representative

Ashraf Qazi said. “The United Nations attaches the greatest importance to fostering a political climate in Iraq in which Iraqis will be able to participate in free and fair elections, resulting in the successful election of a government with the widest possible support and confidence of the Iraqi people,” he added. See www.un.org/news/dh/pdf.

Area Model UN Clubs attend Chicago AMUN (continued from page 1)

hour was crucial in getting our resolution passed. AMUN 2004 was a great learning experience in diplomacy, negotiation and compromise.”

Vasudeva Ramaswamy, delegate for the Commission on Sustainable Development, had the opportunity to be Rapporteur for the Chair of the CSD. “This included noting down every point or motion that was brought up, every time that they received, every vote that was taken – all this in a special UN short-hand writing form that I had to be trained for. It gave me a very unique perspective into what the Session Chair does, and how the UN as a system works.”

The guidance and support of the club’s Faculty Advisor, Prof. Karen Vorst, was vital to their strong preparation and successful performance. Overall for the nine students from UMKC, the experience was unforgettable. Veteran Jacob Torres, of the First Committee commented “It

tee commented “It s with honesty and 6 years of experience in MUN conferences that I say that the UMKC team represented the nation of Argentina honorably and with all the great skill they had available.”

Representing the African countries of Djibouti and Uganda, the JCCC students, led by faculty advisor Dr. Brian Wright, all simulated various United Nations committees. David Willis and Chilton McLaughlin were both on the Committee of Sustainable Development. Willis said that “we gained a greater understanding of how the United Nations system works,” when asked what he learned through his involvement. “It shows how countries can work together to solve serious problems as eradicating poverty and creating an equitable healthcare systems,” said McLaughlin. Calvin Baumgarten also found this to be a rewarding experience. “It went really well. It seemed almost impossible to build consensus with over 100 countries repre-

with over 100 countries representing varying interests but we worked through the reservations and objections to come away with a sense of accomplishment.”

Most JCCC students attending this conference have enrolled in Dr. Wright’s Model United Nations course for Spring 2005. This course is designed for students who are interested in learning and understanding international organizations and participating in competitive intercollegiate Model United Nations.

Park University’s delegation represented Angola. A group of seven young members stepped into the shoes of ambassadors from UN member states to debate current issues on the organization’s vast agenda. The General Assembly Plenary was represented by Billy Williams, who said, “This was a good experience for me, especially as a legal studies and political science major because

it allowed me to see how politics works.” Simona Cibotaru of the Third Committee said, “The conference was a great chance for us to expand our views about the world, and to learn about diplomacy and the importance of the resolution papers.”

UMKC, representing Argentina, and JCCC, representing Australia and the Holy See, will participate at the Mid-West Model UN conference to be held in St. Louis February 23-25, 2005. Park’s club will represent Uzbekistan at the New York Model UN conference in March, where they will team up with a delegation from Lund University, Sweden. Shortly after returning from New York, the Park University team will present the first Park Model United Nations for teams from high schools in the northern Kansas City metropolitan area. Best of luck to all participants at these events.



UN Helps Victims in South Asia (from p. 1)

frightfully wasteful and border on betrayal of the dying and desperate.

We must hope the Bush administration through this great humanitarian campaign will set aside its wrongheaded efforts to diminish the role of the United Nations. The U.S.

can’t police the world on its own. Neither can it alone or in the company of a few other nations save those afflicted by war or the cruel vagaries of Nature.

There is no need for the U.S. out of pride to cobble together a new coalition of

countries to meet the exigencies of each new crisis. The world already has an organization that embraces the governments of all the nations, an organization that embodies the hopes of the peoples of the world for peace, security and health. That organization,

with U.S. support and participation, can marshal the full strength of the world’s nations to overcome any disaster. A U.N. without the U.S. would founder. But a U.S. without the U.N. would condemn its own citizens to living in unending fear and isolation, loathed and misunderstood. We must work together and accomplish wondrous things.

**United Nations Association of the
United States of America
Greater Kansas City Chapter**

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**We're on the Web
at www.una-kc.org**



**On This Day in
History**

- January 2: Kofi Annan became seventh UN Secretary-General, 1997; reelected June 2001.
- January 11: UN Disarmament Commission set up in 1952.
- January 27: First meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission, 1947.
- February 5: UN General Assembly approved Universal Declaration of International Bill of Rights, 1952.
- February 7: Maastricht Treaty of European Union signed, 1992.
- February 15: President Woodrow Wilson presented the League of Nations Covenant to the Versailles Conference, 1919.
- February 26: UN Security Council set up monitors on the Iran-Iraq border, 1991.



UNA-GKC MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you would like to become a member of the UNA-USA, Greater Kansas City Chapter, please use the form below or register online at www.unausa.org. If you are already member, we thank you for your continued support.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Daytime Phone: _____ Bus Phone: _____

I am interested in a new membership

I am interested in renewing my existing membership

I am purchasing a gift membership

Chapter: Greater Kansas City Area Chapter

Membership: \$1000 Lifetime (one time dues payment)

\$ 500 Patron

\$ 100 Sponsor

\$ 40 Member

\$ 25 Introductory (First Year Only)

\$ 25 Senior

\$ 10 Student

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