



UNAR Communiqué

Fall 2009

UNAR Hosts Conference:

“Freedom of the Press: A Global Crisis!”

On October 5, UNAR is presenting “Freedom of the Press: A Global Crisis!” Breakfast Conference attendees will hear expert international opinions, as well as enter into question and answer sessions on key forum issues of intimidation tactics, control and proliferation of information, and manipulation of one of the United States’ most prized freedoms. Our Key Convener is the Hon. Louise M. Slaughter, United States Representative from the 28th Congressional District, who is a UNAR member, and is well versed on the subject of how press freedom is being eliminated in the United States. UN Visiting Journalists, university professors, and Rochester Sister Cities will lead panel discussions to examine radio, TV, photo, and print journalism policies and practices in the United States, as well as in nations around the globe.

UNAR is pleased to have Maidstone Mulenga, Global Editor of *The Rochester Democrat & Chronicle*, as the Keynote Speaker. Mr. Mulenga, originally of Zambia, holds an undergraduate degree in Journalism, a Master of Arts in Communication from the State University of New York College at Brockport, and a Master of Divinity from the Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School. Mulenga will share his experiences and expertise to initiate our interactive conference.

Headlines and stories from around the world of kidnapping, murder and imprisonment of journalists, as well as attempts to suppress facts from the public have become part of our regular news. Access to facts is essential to a free society. UNAR is dedicated to examining human rights and political freedoms as pathways to world peace.

For twenty-seven years, the United Nations Association of Rochester (UNAR) has hosted journalists from developing nations, brought to the U.S. by the United Nations “Reham Al Farra Memorial Journalists Program” to introduce them to the U.N. This year, journalists from 14 countries are invited to Rochester from October 2-5, to stay with area host families. Some of the countries are: Cape Verde, Iran, Mali, Mauritania, Panama, Rwanda, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Seychelles, Turkmenistan, and the Ukraine.

The public is invited to participate on Monday, October 5, 2009. Registration and breakfast will be from 8:00 to 8:45 am and the conference ends at noon. The location is the Metro Center of SUNY Brockport, 55 St. Paul Street Rochester, NY 14604. Parking is next door at the Radisson Hotel or at the South Ave. Garage. This beautiful venue holds 150 people so UNAR asks you to register by email: unar@unar.org or Call (585) 473-7286 in advance. Local universities have already begun their registrations. The cost is \$20.00 and \$10.00 for students with I.D.

Margaret Corbin

Past President

Table of Contents

Letter from the Past	
President	1
Mexico’s Drug Cartels	3
Political Crisis in Honduras	3
Climate Change in the Arctic & Its Effect on the Global Political Economy	4
Local College Student Organization to Host African Issues Conference	6
Meet the Interns	6
Letter from the Treasurer	6
Calendar of Events	8
Suggested Reading	8

UNAR’s Mission Statement:

"The United Nations Association of Rochester is dedicated to supporting, in the Greater Rochester Area, the strengthening of the United Nations system and the role of the United States in that system, and to promoting multilateral efforts to advance the goals of the United Nations Charter such as human rights and global peace."



United Nations Association of Rochester

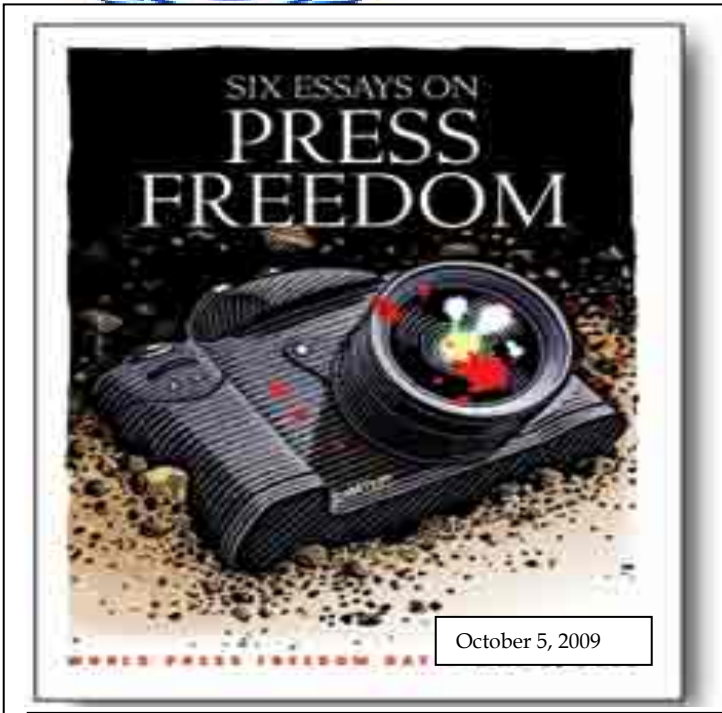
494 East Avenue Rochester, NY 14607

Phone: (585) 473-7286 Fax: (585) 244-5277

E-mail: unar@unar.org Web site: www.unar.org



a Breakfast Conference October 5, 2009



FREEDOM OF THE PRESS: A GLOBAL CRISIS!

Join in discussing the crisis in news reporting across the globe with UN Visiting Journalists! Participate in breakout sessions to examine intimidation and control in Radio, TV, Newspaper and Photo Journalism with UN and other national and international experts in an open forum.

Cosponsored By:

Dept. of Communication, SUNY College at Brockport



UN Dept. of Public Information



Nothnagle Realtors



October 5, 2009 8 am – noon

MetroCenter – The College at Brockport

55 St. Paul St. Rochester, NY 14604



Key Convener: Hon. Louise Slaughter, U.S. Representative (D-NY 28th District)



Keynote Speaker: Maidstone Mulenga, Global Editor, *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle*

Mexico's Drug Cartels

By Brian Chester

The drug trade is not new to the world. However in the past two decades, Mexico has become paramount in the trade and manufacture of drugs. Since the destruction of the major Colombian cartels: Medellin and Cali, Mexico's cartels have predominantly controlled the industry domestically, as well as in the United States.

In the early 1990s, cartels in Tijuana and the Gulf region took control. However, with the international community working hard to end this issue, they are repetitively captured and tried, which ultimately diminished the success of the cartel. Currently, the fight is between cartels and their control for turf.

It is estimated that Mexican cartels control about 70% of the United States' drug trade, and holds most of their production in marijuana and methamphetamine. The drug cartels have only been strengthened by the lack of registered arms, and accessibility for illicit trade between Mexico and the United States. Unfortunately this is a very difficult issue to control, and has proven to be more dangerous than ever.

The alliances within the Mexican cartels have become more and more complex with every bit of breaking news. Overall, it can be estimated that there are about eight well known and threatening drug cartels. Each cartel has their own key characteristics and their own areas of expertise.

These cartels battle for turf within Mexico that unfortunately bring their struggle into the public's eye on many occasions. To make matters worse, these cartels work together against other alliances of cartels. The battle can most generally be summed up between the Sinaloa Cartel Alliance and the Gulf Cartel Alliance.

In general, the Sinaloa Cartel began in the state of Sinaloa, and is headed by Mexico's most notorious drug trafficker, Joaquin Guzman. In addition, they have added the cartel known as Los Negros as their armed section against the Gulf Cartel. In previous years, the Beltran Leyva Cartel had been a major ally to the Sinaloa Cartel, but in 2008 they switched loyalties and became supporters of the Gulf Cartel.

In opposition, the Gulf Cartel was established in the state of Tamaulipas led by Osiel Cardenas. Though Cardenas has been captured and is currently awaiting trial in Houston, Texas, the cartel has only become stronger with the armed cartel known as Los Zetas, in addition to their sister cartel known as La Familia Michocana. With the addition of the Beltran Leyva Cartel, they have become the dominant cartel.

The only two "non-aligned" cartels are the Juarez Cartel and the Tijuana Cartel. For the Tijuana Cartel, they have taken a temporary partnership with the Gulf Cartel, but at this point have not declared a formal alliance with the Gulf. In addition, the Juarez Cartel has become very secretive, and their known alliances have yet to be unraveled and declared.

These cartels weave a clever web of alliances, trade, terror, and death unleashed into every corner of Mexico, along with their trading partners.

Political Crisis in Honduras

An Op-Ed Article By Kaitlyn Wagner

Honduras is a small country in Central America which is often overlooked in the news. This country of 7,792,854 people, however, has been in the news more than usual this summer due to the forced exile of President José Manuel Zelaya from the capital, of Tegucigalpa on Sunday, June 28. The military, which was responsible for the ousting of Mr. Zelaya, entered the presidential palace to awaken Mr. Zelaya, and then forced the him onto a plane destined for Costa Rica. Later that day, Roberto Micheletti, the Speaker of Honduras House of Representatives, was installed as the interim President.

The reason behind Mr. Zelaya's forced exile and removal from office is his attempt to amend the Honduran Constitution to allow a president to run for a second term. A move many believe to have been a ploy to extend his time as President. Many in the Honduran Congress and Supreme Court believe that this behavior and this amendment would be unconstitutional.

Opposing ideas on this matter between Mr. Zelaya and the military, as well as other government officials and institutions, had been increasing tension in the country for months. The climax to this debate seems to have come with the forced exile of Mr. Zelaya, which the Supreme Court of Honduras has deemed legal, stating that the military was acting in accordance with the Honduran Constitution.

However, throughout the international community, everyone seems to be in agreement that the forced exile of Mr. Zelaya was a coup and is not a legal action. Many countries, including the United States have condemned the interim Honduran government and do not recognize it as legitimate.

Cont'd. on Next Page

President Obama admitted that he did not feel the efforts of Zelaya to extend the allowed number of presidential terms were acceptable, but that these efforts did not justify the forced exile he endured. International organizations have taken a similar stance. The United Nations General Assembly condemned Mr. Zelaya's removal as a coup and wrote a one-page resolution which called for Mr. Zelaya's "immediate and unconditional restoration." The Organization of American States has also taken actions to try to pressure the interim government to reinstate Mr. Zelaya. The OAS condemned the forced exile and threatened to suspend Honduras, which it did on July 5.

Attempts at negotiations between the two parties that were led by Costa Rican President, Óscar Arias, have proven to be unfruitful. Both sides have agreed to a partial compromise, but neither will bend in regards to the main issue. Mr. Micheletti refuses to accept the return of Mr. Zelaya, with Mr. Zelaya in return, refuses to accept his exile. Mr. Zelaya has made many attempts to reenter Honduras despite the threats made by Mr. Micheletti that he will be arrested if he succeeds.

The ousting of a political leader always brings questions of legality. Even though Honduran institutions such as the Congress and the Supreme Court both claim that their actions were fully constitutional and legal, many in the international community still claim that the act was an illegal coup. Is questioning the legality of a Honduran event, which it claims to be lawful, actually questioning the sovereignty of the small Latin American country? It would seem that many countries and international organizations are willing to dismiss the sovereignty of the interim Honduran government because they oppose the manner in which the situation was handled.

Like President Obama said, Mr. Zelaya's efforts may have been unconstitutional but the problem should have been handled in a more diplomatic way. This is somewhat understandable. If the government cannot be trusted to handle its own domestic affairs with justice and prudence, how will it handle international affairs in the future? As of August 18, 2009, Zelaya and the interim government of Honduras have still not found a resolution. Now it is up to diplomacy and cooperation from both parties to find a solution to the problem.

Climate Change in the Arctic & Its Affect on the Global Political Economy

By: Robert Rasmussen

In late 2007 the National Snow & Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado- Boulder stated that the polar ice cap was melting at an alarming rate, and that it could be predicted that the Arctic Ocean could be ice-free as early as 2040. Although, this statement has the sounds of gloom and doom, it is a very real prospect. Climate data in the Arctic has shown that the monthly temperature anomalies (temperatures higher or lower than average) in the Arctic Ocean have been going up significantly, in some cases as high as six degrees Celsius (10.8°F, such as over the Beaufort Sea in November 2008).

Under normal conditions sea ice forms, and it thickens. A significant amount of it survives the summer melt, and freezes further the following winter. The structure of two-year old sea ice is much different than one-year-old sea ice in the fact that it is significantly more reflective of light. Younger sea ice on the other hand absorbs light better, which causes a cushion of heat to form underneath it, melting the sea ice. Add to this issue higher than normal air temperatures, and there is less sea ice surviving for more than two years. Another side affect becomes that the ocean in turn absorbs more sunlight and its average temperatures begins to go up, making the Arctic hostile to long term sea ice existence. The inevitable result of this process will be a point at which there will be no sea ice present during the summer in the Arctic Ocean within the next half-century.

The effect in sea rise would remain to be seen, but what is most pressing and more immediate as the ice line begins to recede is the increased opportunities for international trade, as well as the scramble for seabed area and resources. The first effect of less sea ice is trade routes can be cut in half. Last summer both the Northern Sea Route over the Russian Federation and the Northwest Passage in Canada were open simultaneously for the second summer in a row. Utilizing these routes during the summer months can cut the distance of global shipping in half in many cases, and possibly even diminishing the importance of the Panama and Suez Canals to international trade and security.

With the receding waters also comes a grab for resources, especially when the future looks at resources being scarce. The U.S. Geological Survey estimated in 2008 that there are sixteen billion barrels of crude oil, and 1,670 trillion cubic feet of natural gas that lie undiscovered underneath the Arctic Ocean.

There are five actors that can lay claim to Arctic seabed: the United States of America, Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark (through the Greenland Autonomous Region), the Kingdom of Norway, and the Russian Federation. In order to meet out seabed claims peacefully an international regime was established in the 1980s, and it was the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, which the United States has not signed but respects).

Continued on Next Page

The Alumni Student Association of the Genesee Valley Center will host:

Historical Voices Lecture Series 2009-2010

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

5:30-7:00 p.m. Networking with the Dean Reception
Wine tasting & d'œuvres
7:00 pm Lecture

Dr. Ronald Herzman: Dante Comes to the UN

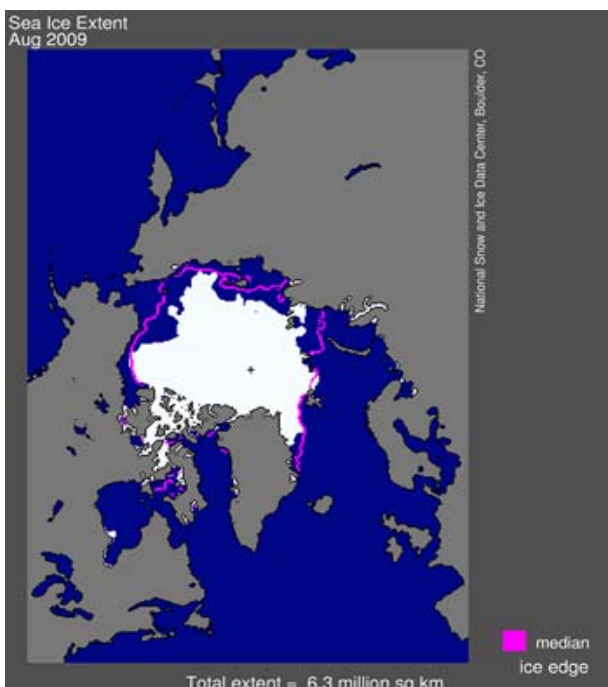
Dante's great poem *La Commedia* or *The Divine Comedy*, as it is often called in English, is a three-part trip to the Christian afterlife. From the depths of Hell to the heights of Paradise, one insistent concern of this poem is politics: over and over again in his journey through the afterlife Dante meets important political figures from his own time and from earlier times, and from them he learns painful yet necessary lessons about why the world is so badly governed. If Dante were to come to the UN to report to our present day leaders on what he has learned in his journey, we might all be surprised by the way his concerns have remained our concerns, and his insights still resonate in our time.

In addition to Dante, Ron Herzman teaches Shakespeare, Humanities, and Medieval Studies at the State University of New York College at Genesee, where he holds the rank of Distinguished Teaching Professor of English. He has also taught Dante at Georgetown University, the Abbey of the Genesee, and the Attica State Correctional Facility, in addition to directing twelve Seminars for School Teachers on Dante's *Comedy* for the National Endowment of the Humanities. Together with his colleague Bill Cook, he has also "taught" Dante in a twenty-four-lecture audiovisual course for The Teaching Company. Herzman and Cook were the first recipients of Medieval Academy of America's CARA Award for Excellence in Teaching Medieval Studies.

However there is one catch- out of all of the oceans the Arctic is the least understood, and its bathymetry (seafloor mapping) is overwhelmingly unknown.

This gives rise to situation in which conflicting claims can be laid down, as they have already. A good example is the Russian Federations claim over the entire Lomonosov Range, which is a mid-oceanic mountain range that comes up to Greenland. This claim is what prompted the planting of a Russian flag on the seafloor of the North Pole. This claim also comes into direct conflict with the Kingdom of Denmark, which claims part of the range as its sovereign seabed territory.

It has been proposed even in the *Canadian-American Strategic Review* that a Dan-Canadian-American mutual defense treaty be established to prevent Russian aggression against the other three's sovereign seabed territory. Hopefully, the ocean floor can be mapped within the next couple of decades, and the claims can be sorted underneath the UNCLOS regime before conflict over these claims are resorted to. The changes in the Arctic do indeed show that we live in a changing world, and that it will indeed be a brave new one, but hopefully not a bloody one.



Arctic Sea Ice Extent in August 2009 Compared with Average Sea Ice Extent for Summer.

Image Courtesy of NSIDC, UC-Boulder



The Russian Flag being planted by a submarine at the North Pole in 2007.

Image Courtesy of Weri Channel

Local College Student Organization to Host African Issues Conference

By: Robert Rasmussen

I Love Africa: the Conference, will be an African issues conference hosted at the State University of New York College at Geneseo, and will be sponsored by the SUNY Geneseo Chapter of Invisible Children. Invisible Children is a student organization that advocates against the use of child soldiers in the Lord's Resistance Army, which has been waging a bloody war in Uganda, southern Sudan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Burundi. The mission of this conference is to bring college students from upstate New York, providing opportunities for networking, information sharing, and personal growth, as well as to create an environment for individuals to expand their passion for African issues.

The environment for this conference will focus on holding informal panels based on interest generated by participating students. In these various panels students will be discussing issues ranging from subregional issues, to security, to economic development, to gender issues, to literature, and to climate change, and much more. The conference will be held at SUNY Geneseo from Friday, 13 November 2009, to Sunday, 16 November 2009. So far twenty-five different colleges have been invited to send delegations to this conference, and other student organizations at the SUNY College at Geneseo are being invited to co-sponsor and participate in this conference.

The concept and organization for this conference lies with two individuals: Justine Porter and Nicholas Lagrassa. Justine Porter is a Past President of the SUNY Geneseo Chapter of Invisible Children. She is a Junior International Relations (Developing World Track) and Sociology double major from Pawling, New York. Nicholas Lagrassa is the current President of the SUNY Geneseo Chapter of Invisible Children. He is a Sophomore Psychology major from East Islip, New York.

This conference will aim at raising awareness and discussion about tangible issues on the African continent. This will most definitely aid in students' intellectual development with region, and will benefit the level of international awareness among students in Western and Upstate New York. For more information on this conference either Justine Porter or Nick Lagrassa can be e-mailed at jcp5@geneseo.edu and nl4@geneseo.edu respectively. They can also be contacted by phone at 631-747-6550.

UNAR Thanks Our Hardworking Group of Summer College Interns

Brian Chester- *Canisius College*

Jessica Ewing- *University of Rochester*

Jessica Friedman- *SUNY Geneseo*

Mandy McLaughlin- *SUNY Geneseo*

Megan Vitello- *SUNY Brockport*

Kaitlyn Wagner- *Seton Hall University*

Mary Wolfe- *SUNY Geneseo*

And Welcomes Our Fall Interns

Ashleigh Hebert- *SUNY Geneseo*

Robert Rasmussen- *SUNY Geneseo*

A Letter from the Treasurer

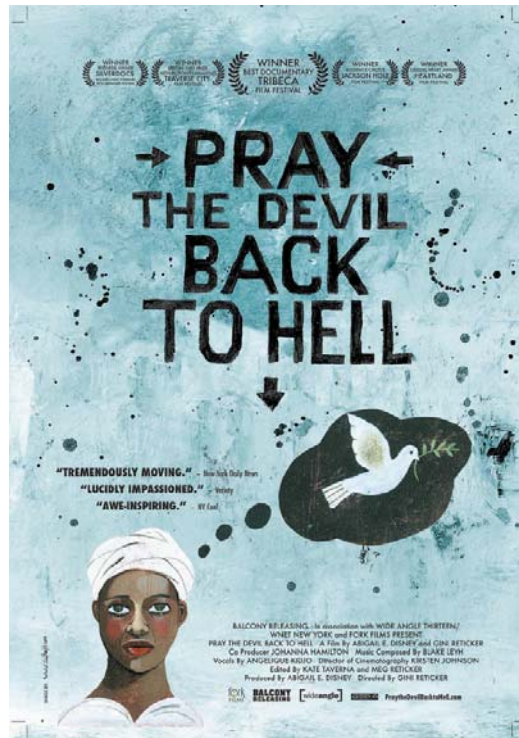
Dear UNAR Members,

Because of changes in national policy, we now receive a smaller portion of dues paid by our membership. We are excited to be able to support these larger national efforts through the generosity of our members, but also need to seek additional ways of funding those programs, which have made our local chapter so effective in the greater Rochester area for so many years. Our Board is hard at work creating new pathways toward financial support, and we will be sharing those with you soon. In the meantime, we would gratefully receive any non-dues donations from our membership! You may direct your donation toward one of our current programs: Model UN, Visiting Journalists, and Great Decisions; or you may simply make a general donation toward the area of greatest need. Send checks to UNAR / 494 East Ave. / Rochester, NY / 14607, or call with credit card information. Thanks for your ongoing presence in the life of UNAR.

Dave VanArsdale

Treasurer

IN HONOR OF THE U.N.
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
The United Nations Association of Rochester
presents:



www.PraytheDevilBacktoHell.com

Monday – September 21 at 6:30 p.m.

At the Little Theatre – 420 East Ave., Rochester, NY

Post-screening reflections will be offered by:

Hon. Casselia L. Stewart - a native from Liberia, West Africa who, among many other things, has served as the Legal Research Counsel with the Supreme Court of Liberia, and is a member of the Judges Association of Liberia. Hon. Stewart has also served as a General Mediator for the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution in the Supreme Court of Georgia, in Atlanta, Visiting Lecturer at SUNY College at Brockport. She has served Chairperson of the Grievance & Ethics Committee of the Liberian National Bar Association, International Monitor for the National Elections in Liberia, and as an International Monitor for the National Elections in Johannesburg, South Africa. Hon. Stewart is a member of the Association for the Empowerment of Women with the Organization for Women's Rights and Civic Responsibility in Monrovia, Liberia.

Danielle Taana Smith - an Associate Professor of Sociology at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Her ethnographic study of Liberian refugees in Rochester examined survival strategies the refugees adopted throughout camps in West African countries, and explored the complex processes of healing and readjustment as refugees are resettled in the US and other western nations. Smith has published articles in anthologies, edited volumes, and a range of scholarly journals such as *Race, Gender, and Class*, *Journal of Global Awareness*, *Journal of Black Studies*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Development and Society*, *Journal of Health and Social Policy*.

United Nations Association of Rochester
 494 East Avenue
 Rochester, NY, 14607

Fall '09 Communiqué

Robert Rasmussen
 Editor

Printing: Nothnagle Realtors

Have a suggestion? We'd like to hear it!
 Contributions to the Communiqué are
 also always welcome.

Phone: (585) 473-7286

Fax: (585) 244-8890

E-mail: unar@unar.org

Website: www.unar.org



Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
 US Postage Paid
 Permit No. 341
 Rochester, NY 14607

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

21- *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*
 at the Little Theatre. 6:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

2-5 – UN Visiting Journalists
 Weekend in Rochester.

5- *Freedom of the Press: A
 Global Crisis!* Conference.
 Metro-Center, SUNY College
 at Brockport. 55 St. Paul St.,
 Rochester, NY 14604. 8 a.m.-
 Noon.

20- *Historical Voices Lecture
 Series with Dr. Ronald Herzman.*
 AAUW/UNAR Office
 Building, 494 East Avenue,
 Rochester, NY 14607. 5:30
 p.m. (Reception), begins at 7:00
 p.m.

Board of Directors

- Richard Sarkis (President)
- Margaret Corbin (Past-President)
- Dave Van Arsdale (Treasurer)
- Guillermo Cubillos
- Hoffman Moka Lanturn
- Alicia Ward
- Gaynelle Wethers
- Carlos Sanchez
- Jacob Schlicht
- Igor Milosevic
- Jemeul Thompson
- Uma Gupta

Summer 2009 Interns

- Brian Chester- *Canisius College*
- Jessica Ewing- *Univ. of Rochester*
- Jessica Friedman- *SUNY Geneseo*
- Megan McLaughlin- *SUNY Geneseo*
- Megan Vitello- *SUNY Brockport*
- Kaitlyn Wagner- *Seton Hall Univ.*
- Marv Wolfe- *SUNY Geneseo*

Suggested Reading

From Robert Rasmussen

*It's Our Turn to Eat: the Story of a Kenyan
 Whistle Blower* by Michela Wrong

Many in the West often see Kenya as a state of travel and tourism, the Serengeti and safaris. However underneath the guise of paradise lies a web of ethnic divides and political corruption. This book is the story of the former anti-corruption advisor to President Mwai Kibaki, John Githongo.

Githongo was a journalist for *The Economist's* Kenyan Service turned anti-corruption advocate. He was later joined the administration of President Kibaki as his anti-corruption advisor. He served in this capacity for two years, before figuring out that blatant corruption was occurring at the highest levels of the administration. It became apparent that he was chosen for his position to legitimize President Kibaki's anti-corruption platform, assuming that Githongo would toe the party line as a young Kikuyu man. He did not.