



# UNAR Communiqué

SPRING 2011

## INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ UNAR presents community awards p. 4
- ◆ Board member connects with sister city in Germany p. 5
- ◆ Women's Council award empowers Rochester women p. 2

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

UN Strives to Meet 2015 Goals	2
UNAR to Present Global Media Event	3
UNAR Honors Local Citizens	4
UNAR Presents Historical Lecture	5
UN, Rochester Battle HIV/AIDS	6
Become a UNAR Member	7

## Shaping the Future



Student-delegates represented more than 50 countries at the UNAR sponsored 2011 Model U.N. Conference. They discussed issues such as environmental sustainability, nuclear disarmament and global health epidemics. The event took place March 4 and 5 at St. John Fisher College.

## Students discuss solutions to pressing global issues at annual Model UN Conference

During the 39<sup>th</sup> annual UNAR Model U.N. (MUN) Conference student delegates offered solutions to some of the world's toughest problems. These individuals sat in tense committee meetings debating topics such as environmental sustainability, nuclear disarmament and global health epidemics.

Much like U.N. delegates, they were expected to adhere to their countries' policies without sacrificing productiv-

ity. Everyone was up for the challenge.

Kyle Tillotson, an award-winning delegate who represented Egypt on the Disarmament Committee, said this balancing of different interests is his favorite part of the conference.

"I really like working with people and making compromises," Tillotson said. "It's a skill you can use every day."

The conference was held at St. John Fisher College on

March 4 and 5. MaryAnne Evans, a teacher at Allendale Columbia High School, said this conference gives students a unique opportunity to apply what they learn in the classroom to actual problems.

"Some students are more outwardly focused," Evans said. "They like seeing how their learning and knowledge can be applied to the real world."

Student-delegates represented more (cont. p. 3)

“We know what works to save women’s and children’s lives, and we know that women and children are critical to all of the MDGs”

- U.N. Secretary General Ban



# Accelerating Millennium Development

U.N. leaders reaffirmed commitment to the health of women and children at the 2010 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Summit meeting. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the meeting was an important step toward reaching the MDGs by 2015.

“We know what works to save women’s and children’s lives, and we know that women and children are critical to all of the MDGs,” Ki-moon said, according to a U.N. press release. “Today we are witnessing the kind of leadership we have long needed.”

The MDGs are goals designed to improve the quality of life for people around the world. They were originally agreed upon during a September 2000 meeting at the U.N. headquarters in New York City. Ki-moon organized the 2010 Summit meeting in an effort to accelerate progress.

Of the eight MDGs, four are specifically designed to help women and children. Among other things, global leaders agreed to launch the Global



U.N. Photo / Eskinder Debebe

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, right, meets with advocate Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned at the U.N. Development Goals Summit Meeting on Sept. 22, 2010.

Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health at the 2010 meeting. According to its website, this organization brings governments and various other institutions together in a unified effort to improve the health of millions of women and children around the world.

Ki-moon believes this organization is a huge step forward.

“This focus is long overdue,” Ki-moon said, according to the website. “With the launch of (this organization), we finally have an opportunity to improve the health of millions.”

For more information on the MDGs, visit [www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals).

By Chris Wells

## Women’s Council Award Empowers Local Women

The Greater Rochester Women’s Council will give scholarships and internship opportunities to four “Young Women of Distinction Award” recipients May 23. Each year the organization presents four seniors with this award in an effort to help develop the next generation of women leaders.

Empowering women is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) identified by the U.N. in 2000 as part of a global effort to improve quality of life for people worldwide. Loris LaRocca, who is the chair of the award committee, said this award

can go a long way toward helping these women build successful careers in the Rochester area.

“It provides women with recognition within the community and amongst their peers,” LaRocca said. “One of our goals is to recognize potential leaders in hopes that they will use their talents to better the Rochester community.”

According to the organization’s website, this award has been given each year since 2000. Recipients will receive a \$2,000 scholarship and an opportunity for a paid internship. Past internships have been awarded by Next

Step Magazine and PAETEC.

In addition to the four winners, 20 finalists will receive an award and a chance to attend a leadership training program. LaRocca said leadership is a particular focus in the organization’s efforts to empower women.

“If you look at a lot of statistics, at leadership levels, women are still behind men in terms of not only holding these positions but also the compensation they receive,” LaRocca said.

For more information visit <http://www.grwc.com/ywda.php>.

By Chris Wells



# MUN Displays Student Potential

(from p. 1)

than 50 countries, with each delegate sitting on one of 18 committees. Committees were organized based on the structure of the U.N.

In addition to the interactions with their peers, many students also listened to any of 10 guest speakers during the event. Geneseo professor Dr. Edward Drachman discussed issues relating to drug trafficking on the Mexican border with students in the Special Political Committee. Drachman urged students to have an open mind.

“We should always challenge ourselves,” Drachman said during the discussion. “If you see evidence that leads you to another opinion, you should be open to it.”

Cory Robinson and Fatima Bawany were the co-secretary generals at the conference. Bawany, who aspires to have a career in health service, said the conference has strengthened her commitment to U.N. ideals.

“Being a part of Model U.N. has definitely opened my eyes to global issues and strengthened my passion for service,” Bawany said.

For more information on how your school can attend UNAR's annual Model U.N. Conference, please call or e-mail our office.

By Chris Wells



The 2011 UNAR Visiting Journalists Conference will take place in October. U.N. journalists will discuss the media's role in resolving global issues related to women and children at the event. Last year's journalists, pictured here, discussed environmental sustainability and the role of the media.

## Fostering Community Dialogue

### 2011 Visiting Journalists Conference to focus on issues affecting women and children

Each year, the U.N. brings international journalists to the U.S. to help inform citizens about the media's role in the ever-changing global climate. The journalists spend time in just three U.S. cities, with one of them being Rochester. And UNAR gives Rochester the chance to make the best of it.

UNAR's third annual Visiting Journalists Conference will bring Rochester community members together with these journalists to discuss the changing role of the world's media. This year's event will take place in October, with the specific date depending on when the U.N. brings the journalists to the country.

During the event, the journalists will sit on a panel to field questions from audience members about issues and policies affecting their countries. This year's conference will focus on issues affecting women and children.

Last year's conference, which focused on environmental issues, featured a keynote speech from Dr. Nabil Nasr. Nasr is the director of the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies and the Golisano Sustainability Institute at RIT. Community members attended discussions about specific environmental policies and issues, which were moderated by professors and professionals working in the field.

This year's conference will include a keynote speaker who deals with issues related to women and children.

For more information on the event, please call or e-mail our office, or check out our website at [www.unar.org](http://www.unar.org).

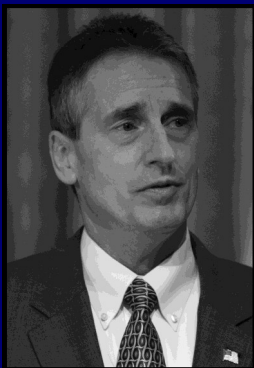
By Chris Wells



# Celebrating Success with Rochester

“When you look at the problems around the world and locally, it’s really a failure of politics and laws, not people.”

- New York State Lt. Gov. Robert Duffy



Duncan Haldeman, a second grader from East Irondequoit, was presented with an Outstanding International Youth Volunteer Award at the 66th Annual Dinner and Awards Meeting on April 14, 2011. Haldeman is pictured here with Mary Joyce D'Aurizo, the town supervisor of Irondequoit, who presented the award to Haldeman and gave a short speech about his water conservation efforts.

New York State Lt. Gov. Robert Duffy helped UNAR honor eight Rochester-area residents for their environmental sustainability efforts at the 66th Annual Dinner and Awards Meeting. The event took place April 14, 2011 at the Diplomat Banquet Center and focused specifically on water sustainability. More than 80 people attended.

Duffy was the key convener at the event. During his speech, Duffy cited the number of child fatalities resulting from a lack of clean water as evidence that water sustainability is a major problem in politics today.

“When you look at the problems around the world and locally, it’s really a failure of laws and politics, not people,” Duffy said. “... In 2011, there is no way we should be losing 3,900 kids a year just due to a lack of clean water.”

While serving as mayor of Rochester in 2010, Duffy finalized the transaction of the Canadice and Hemlock Lakes to New York State in an effort to preserve and protect these lakes and the surrounding regions.

Award-winner David Markel, who helped a team of volunteers create a safe haven for the development of AIDS orphans in Malawi, was the keynote speaker at the event. Markel is credited for helping to create sustainable living conditions in the Njereza village.

Other award winners included Duncan Haldeman, a second grader from East Irondequoit, and Jim Nowak, who recently passed away while help-

ing to build several primary schools and more in Kenya. Nowak is the co-founder of Building Futures, Inc., an organization dedicated to the education of Kenyan children.

## 2011 Award Winners

- ◆ Fatima Bawany, student  
- Brighton High School
- ◆ Duncan Haldeman, student  
- East Irondequoit
- ◆ Katrina Irwin, journalist  
- Channel 8 News
- ◆ Jim Nowak, volunteer  
- Building Futures
- ◆ Jamie Romeo, volunteer  
- Coastal Cleanup
- ◆ Seneca Falls Rotary Club
- ◆ ITT Goulds Pumps
- ◆ David Markel  
- Malawi Children's Village



# Building Cross-Cultural Connections

# Celebrating SUNY

UNAR Vice President of Programs, Margaret Corbin, was one of three Rochesterian women to attend the International Women's Conference in Würzburg, Germany. This conference, which took place March 18, 2011, was a centennial celebration of the first international women's meeting held in Würzburg in 1911. Alongside 100 women from all over Europe and Germany, Corbin and the two other women were invited as representatives of Rochester Sister Cities in Germany. They were the only Americans present.

The conference attendees represented a cross-section of nationalities and professions, coming together to discuss the important issues facing women today. Corbin attended a discussion on child care and was surprised by the collective feelings of concern.

"This issue is so simple, yet so obvious," said Corbin.

In most countries around the world, Sweden being the notable exception, child care is a major financial burden on families, often forcing one parent, usually the mother, to drop out of school or quit her job in order to care for the child. Corbin noted that she thinks the culture in America is significantly unique.

"I believe we are embarrassed," Corbin said. "We think we will be bad mothers if we put our children in child care."

Topics discussed at this conference ranged from domestic issues to international conflicts. Corbin said she was impressed at how well-versed the women were in every area.

Corbin was also invited to lead a discussion on violence.

"I was expecting a conver-

sation on domestic violence in the home or on the street; instead we spent the entire hour discussing war," Corbin said. "It was the most interesting discussion on war I have ever had."

During the discussion, Corbin said there was one comment that ignited the majority of the conversation: "There is nothing women can do; [war] is men's work."

The women discussed what possibilities did exist. They talked about what they can do, and noted the importance of passing a proactive mentality on to their children.

"We have so much more influence than we use [as women]," Corbin concluded. "We are going to be the ones that make a difference, make a change."

By Jeri Beckens

**"I was expecting a conversation on domestic violence in the home or on the street; instead we spent the entire hour discussing war. It was the most interesting discussion on war I have ever had."**

**- VP of Programs  
Margaret Corbin**



UNAR celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SUNY Empire State College with more than 20 Rochester community members April 5, 2011. The "Reflections on Mentoring" Historical Voices lecture, which UNAR co-hosted with the Empire State College Alumni Student Association, featured five panelists who reflected on what has changed and what hasn't at Empire State.

The event took place in the Perkins Mansion at 494 East Ave., directly below the UNAR office. The five panelists included Empire College mentors, alumna and staff.

With the help of their faculty mentor, students at Empire State design a personalized curriculum within one of 11 fields of study. Many of the speakers noted how the college helped them accomplish their goals. Panelist Alan Mandel, who is a faculty mentor at the college, said he enjoys identifying the similarities among his students. He also said mentoring gives him a chance to connect with students on a deep level.

"It really makes me take notice of what it means to really know what someone is thinking and feeling," Mandel said.

UNAR and Empire State will be co-hosting four more lectures this year, the next of which will take place May 5. For more information on upcoming lectures, call or e-mail our office. You can also visit our website at [www.unar.org](http://www.unar.org).



By Chris Wells

“AIDS Care has long-standing individual as well as corporate partners that have supported the organization throughout the years.”

- Representative,  
AIDS Care  
Rochester

## UN, Rochester Battle HIV/AIDS

The U.N. estimates that there are more than 16 million women living with HIV worldwide. Many of these women are living in poverty, and according to the Joint U.N. Programme on HIV/AIDS' website, some do not have access to even the most basic health care services. For years, non-profit groups, international charities and human rights organizations have cried out for help on behalf of these people.

The U.N. has heard these cries.

At the Millennium Development Summit Meeting in September of 2010, U.N. member states reaffirmed a

commitment to keeping women and children healthy worldwide. In March of 2011, the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women took some steps to make that happen.

According to a U.N. press release, this body supported a resolution urging member states to help the U.N. reverse the spread of HIV. The press release stated that controlling its spread is a crucial step toward helping women and children stay healthy, especially because the disease can be passed from mother to child.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website states that physicians can help mothers reduce the likelihood that the virus will be passed to the child. But only if the mother knows she carries it.

That's where AIDS Care Rochester comes in. Located at 259 Monroe Ave., AIDS Care offers free and confidential HIV testing to local residents. These services are available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Director of Prevention, Steven Price, said the organization tests approximately 2,500 people per year. It's an expensive operation, and the organization needs financial support to sustain itself.

Enter Rochester-area citizens. AIDS Care was created Jan. 1, 2010 as a result of the merger between AIDS Community Health Center and AIDS Rochester. The AIDS Community Health Network was founded in 1989 by physicians Steven Scheibel and William Valenti, while AIDS Rochester was established by the New York State Health Department. Today, AIDS Care gets much of its support from corporations and private individuals living in Rochester.

“AIDS Care has long-standing individual as well as corporate partners that have supported the organization throughout the years,” said an AIDS Care representative.

According to the U.N. press release, the U.N. hopes to reverse the spread of HIV by 2015. The press release acknowledges it will take a worldwide effort to make this happen. AIDS Care Rochester is certainly doing its part.



U.N. Photo / Eskinder Debebe

*The ongoing U.N. effort to prevent the transfer of HIV from mother to child has recently been addressed with renewed vigor. This photo was taken at a reproductive health clinic in Madagascar. The U.N. secretary general visited this location in 2006 while meeting with people who are living with HIV/AIDS.*



# Donations



Your donations will help support the high school students who attend the annual Model UN Program. You will also be helping UNAR bring interesting and unique speakers to the UN Visiting Journalists Conference and the Annual Meeting. Additionally, the internship program, the lecture series and more will all benefit from your generous donations.

Donations can be made directly to UNAR or can be made through the UNAR Fund at The Community Foundation. Donations through the Community Foundation can be made online or by mail.

For online donations: [www.racf.org](http://www.racf.org) - click on donate now; click on support local; scroll down to United Nations Association of Rochester. For questions about donating through The Community Foundation please call 585-271-4100.

If you have any questions about how to give or what your donation will go toward, please contact UNAR at 585-473-7286.

# Membership

When you join UNAR, you become a member of both the national organization, UNA-USA, and the local chapter, UNAR. Members receive quarterly UNAR newsletters, bi-monthly issues of *The InterDependent* from UNA-USA in New York and invitations to upcoming events.

Membership categories are as follows:

First-time member: \$25

Students: \$10

Family: \$40

Fixed Income: \$25

Sponsor: \$100

Patron: \$500

Lifetime: \$1000

Go to [www.una-usa.org](http://www.una-usa.org) to join online or print out a membership form to mail in. If you have any questions please call the UNAR office at 585-473-7286.



## Spring 2011 Interns

- **Beth Semel** is a senior at **SUNY Geneseo** majoring in international relations
- **Ilia Slavko** is in his third year at **Nazareth College** majoring in international business
- **Jeri Beckens** is a senior at **Nazareth College** double-majoring in German and Spanish
- **Christina Gmyr** is a senior at the **University of Rochester** majoring in political science
- **Maria Rodriguez** graduated in May 2010 from **RIT** with a degree in international business
- **Chris Wells** is a senior at **SUNY Brockport** double-majoring in journalism and international studies





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### UNAR 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.

