

# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA 2013 - 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



## Mission and Vision Statements

The UNA-NCA Board of Directors updated the Mission and Vision Statements to reflect the new strategic thrust as a mission-driven organization.

### Mission

*"Serving the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Northern Virginia," the mission of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area is to:*

- ▶ Increase public understanding and support of the UN
- ▶ Encourage constructive US leadership in strengthening the united United Nations
- ▶ Prepare present and future leaders to work for a better world, both globally and locally.

### Vision Statement

*As a steward of our local community, our nation, and our interconnected world, we need to "think globally and act locally."*

- ▶ A public fully aware of the benefits of global cooperation through the UN in partnership with civil society and the private sector
- ▶ Tomorrow's leaders well prepared to work through the UN for a better world
- ▶ Opinion-makers and policy-makers fully informed and committed to US leadership to improve the effectiveness of the United Nations

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EVENTS HOSTED  
JUNE 2013-MAY 2014



# GLOBAL CLASSROOMS MODEL UN PROGRAM

UNA-NCA's signature education program Global Classrooms DC (GCDC) engaged 2,600 of some of the District's most under-served students through year-round global education programming including curriculum resources, educational workshops, and Model UN conferences. Through these activities, students learned about important global challenges while developing skills in public speaking, conflict-resolution, and critical thinking that will prepare them to be college-ready by graduation.

GCDC hosted a range of educational events for students this year. This Fall, GCDC held a training conference at the Pan American Health Organization on the topic of Child Soldiers for beginner Model UN students.

GCDC also worked with the World Food Program-USA (WFP-USA) to bring Olympian and WFP Goodwill Ambassador Paul Tergat to Dunbar High



School.

He spoke to Model UN students about his experience growing up as a beneficiary of UN programs in Kenya.

This spring, GCDC hosted its annual Model UN Conference at the U.S. Department of State, which hosted 650 students from DC Public Schools, other public and private area schools, and delegations from Ghana and Liberia.

GCDC lent classroom support to over 90 local teachers this

year and collaborated with over 115 volunteers from a variety of institutions, including Georgetown University, George Washington University, and the U.S. Department of State. GCDC has strengthened its partnerships with organizations like the U.S. Institute of Peace's Global Peacebuilding Center and The Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, which help to create new global education experiences for GCDC students in the coming years.

## UN Day and Woodrow Wilson's Legacy

On October 24, 2013, a reception was held at the Woodrow Wilson House in honor of UN Day and to celebrate UNA-NCA's 60th anniversary. The program featured Pulitzer Prize-winning author A. Scott Berg who had recently released his new biography *Wilson*, about the life of the 28th President and Nobel Peace Prize winner Woodrow Wilson. Berg spoke on the history behind Wilson's founding the League of Nations and its role as a precursor to the United Nations. One hundred years after his inauguration, Wilson still stands as one of the most influential and enigmatic figures of the twentieth century. Special guest Lynn Pascoe, former UN Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs and Career Diplomat, commented on the relevance of Woodrow Wilson to the UN today.





## Young Professionals Career Dinner Series

In 2013-2014, UNA-NCA's Young Professionals program held two editions of its Career Dinner Series. Each edition began with a networking reception and then the participants attended dinners that focused on different career fields in international affairs.

In the Fall 2013, the reception was held at the Stewart Mott House and featured keynote speaker, Chris Whatley, Executive Director of the United Nations Association of the United States of America. The 60 participants then attended dinners on topics such as Careers in Peace and Security, Careers in Human Rights, and Careers in International and Local Nonprofits.

During the Spring 2014 edition, participants attended a reception at the new United Nations Foundation's headquarters followed by seven separate dinners on topics such as Careers in International Organizations, Women in International Affairs and Careers in International Law. Keynote speaker, Peter Yeo, Vice President for Public Policy at the UN Foundation, spoke about his career and gave attendees advice for how to reach their career goals.

## POST 2015 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

UNA-NCA was selected to be one of 12 UNA chapters to host a community consultation on the post 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The consultation was held on October 29 at The George Washington University's Marvin Center and brought together 80 leading thinkers in the region to address the United Nation's Post-2015 Development Goals globally and locally. Participants discussed a desired future for the MDGs to be achieved in 2030 and ways to bridge these goals with local efforts to improve the human condition.

The consultation began with a plenary session featuring remarks from Dr. Homi Kharas, Lead Author and Executive Secretary of the Secretariat supporting the High Level Panel advising the UN Secretary General; Kathy Calvin, President and CEO of the UN Foundation; Sam Worthington,

President of InterAction; and Terri Freeman, President and CEO of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. Participants then broke into roundtable discussions to discuss topics related to peacebuilding and stability; job creation and economic growth; financing for development; building partnerships; access to education; gender equality; climate change and the environment; good governance; and youth development and training.

The consultations held around the country resulted in a report of recommendations that was provided to the UN Secretary General in March of 2014. UNA-NCA has adopted the Post 2015 Development Goals as its overarching theme for its programming during the next three years.





## Human Rights Awards Reception: Commemorating Human Rights Day

On December 12, 2013 UNA-NCA celebrated the accomplishments of human rights leaders in our community at its Annual Human Rights Awards ceremony held at the Cannon House Office Building. The Louis B. Sohn Award was presented to Elisa Massimino, President and CEO of Human Rights First, for her distinguished record of human rights advocacy. The Perdita Huston Award was presented to Dr. Sarah Degnan Kambou, President of the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), for her work realizing women's empowerment and gender equality to alleviate poverty worldwide. Former Foreign Service Officer F. Allen "Tex" Harris was recognized for his work advancing human rights through the use of diplomacy during the Argentine's military intervention.

The program also recognized the accomplishment of three women from organizations in our community. This year's Community Human Rights Awards went to Kelsey Alford-Jones from the Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, Carolina Jones from Doorways for Women and Families, and Layli Miller-Muro from Tahirih Justice Center.



## Graduate Fellows Program

The UNA-NCA Graduate Fellows Program introduced our diverse group of 19 fellows to a wide ranging schedule of seminars, interactive activities and trips. Highlights of our program this year included hearing Professor Thomas Buergenthal, former Member of the Court for International Justice in the Hague, who provided an optimistic and personal view of the UN judicial system; UNA-NCA Advisory Council Chair Steve Moseley who recounted his work envisaging the post 2015 MDG goals; Professor David Hunter, provided a detailed account of recent climate change negotiations and International Center for Research on Women Senior Policy Manager Lyric Thompson who stated that women's issues are finally coming to the top of the UN agenda.

This semester we also partnered with the University of Maryland and the ICONS project to pilot test how the Security Council might react to an international crisis.

*For more information about the 2013 - 2014 program year, financial reports & donor acknowledgement; please visit [www.unanca.org](http://www.unanca.org)*