

From The President

Col. Frank Titus (ret.)
Columbus Chapter President



“UNCLOS currently has 155 states parties including all permanent members of the UN Security Council, except the United States.”

Advocacy priority for UNA-USA in 2008 is adherence to international law. Some aspects of this focus are the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the international criminal court, UNCLOS is pending ratification before the U.S. Senate. UNCLOS currently has 155 states parties, including all permanent members of the UN security council, except the United States.

The United States recognizes UNCLOS as customary international law since the widespread ratification of UNCLOS since the 1982 convention of the law of the sea. A pressing maritime safety issue addressed by UNCLOS is piracy at sea. Piracy has grown at an alarming rate since 1990. In 2007, the international chamber of commerce – international maritime bureau (ICC-IMB) reported 263 acts of piracy or armed robbery at sea worldwide. This figure includes attacks on ships underway at sea, anchored at sea, or berthed in port.

The UN through its international maritime organization (IMO) with 167 member nations and a staff of 300 headquartered in London, England, has called for increased action by nations in the fight against sea pirates. Part of the response to the UN request is Combined Joint Task Force

150 operating off the coast of the Horn of Africa. CJTF 150 is comprised of sailors from the navies of 19 countries. The United States, The United Kingdom, France, Italy, and Pakistan have been among the most significant contributors of ships and sailors to this flotilla actively engaging pirates at the mouth of the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. Nations offering significant logistical support have included the Republic of Djibouti and Kenya. Kenya also offered a venue for the criminal trial of pirates captured off the coast of Somalia.

Kenya has a modern piracy statute adopted in 1956 and in 2006 provided the tribunal for the trial of 10 pirates captured by the U.S. Navy sailors after an attack on a merchantman off Somalia. The pirates tried to flee to Somali territorial waters but shots across the bow of the pirate vessel and requests to halt broadcast in 5 languages by the USS Winston P. Churchill led to the pirates’ surrender.

Following a trial in Kenya, the convicted pirates were each sentenced to a prison term of 7 years. It was the first prosecution for piracy in Kenya’s history since it gained Independence.

In a speech before the Columbus Council on World Affairs in December 2007, Kenya’s ambassador to the United States stressed the role of Kenya’s new Seafarers Safety Bureau, advised by the U.S. Coast Guard, in securing the sea lanes off the Horn of Africa as well as Kenya’s seaports.

United States owned cruise ship Seabourn Spirit was attacked by pirates off Mogadishu, Somalia on November 5, 2005. The passenger ship was struck by more than 200 bullets from small arms and automatic weapons as well as several rocket propelled grenades (RPG’s) fired by the pirates. The pirate attack was defeated by heroic actions of the ship’s captain and gurkhas providing protective services using a long-range acoustic device developed by the U.S. Navy after the terror attack by a small boat in the port at Aden, Yemen on the USS Cole.

The Seabourn Spirit was attacked by pirates again almost two years later to the day, November 14, 2007 in the Arabian Sea. Illustrating the international response led by the UN and nations and private sector partners like ICC-IMB, the second attack by several pirate watercraft was defeated when the American cruise ship put out a radio distress call monitored by the ICC-IMB rescue center in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The call for help was almost instantaneously relayed to a British Royal Navy destroyer that was 50 miles from Seabourn Spirit. The British launched an assault attack Lynx helicopter from the destroyer and within moments, the pirate boats broke off the pursuit of Seabourn Spirit as the British Royal Navy helicopter swooped in the fray. Safety on the seas is a key UN goal and it is being achieved in part through UNCLOS.

Urge your United States Senators to ratify UNCLOS this year!

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UNA-USA Columbus Chapter

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Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-228-4010
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UNACol profile: Harika Rayala**Worthington student garners national award in UNA-USA essay contest with a letter to the President**

Harika Rayala, 15, placed first in Ohio for an essay contest sponsored by UNA USA.

She was also awarded \$750 for her third place finish in the nation.

Rayala, a student at Worthington Kilbourne High School, also started the Model UN at her school in fall 2006. She wants to pursue a college degree in Pre-med in hope that she will one day become a neurosurgeon.

Rayala, the student representative on the UNACol-Board, will be given an award by the Board at their annual meeting in May.



photo provided by Harika Rayala

Why is the United Nations important to the World?

“I think it’s mainly because no one country can solve the problems in this World by themselves. We need partnerships and so a coalition is important.”

Why is the United Nations important to your generation?

“We are going to be the leaders of tomorrow, and so it’s important that we know about the UN. The U.S. is already contributing a lot, but we have a lot and so we should. We should do more and we should encourage other nations to do the same.”

Harika Rayala started the Model UN organization at Worthington Kilbourne High School.

An excerpt from her winning essay:

Dear President Bush,

Today’s youth are tomorrow’s leaders- that is, if they are given the chance. The situation in Africa is undeniably grave. AIDS is the leading cause of death among African youth. Malaria is the leading cause of death in African children under five. Still, the situation worsens everyday. Dedicated to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the United States is one of the biggest donors in funds for malaria, AIDS, and tuberculosis. It has consistently been a leader in U.N. operations. Yet, this is not enough...

...The U.S. should launch a three-pronged attack on these deadly diseases. The first aspect of this proposal is prevention of AIDS through education...

... To combat malaria and tuberculosis, the U.S. should increase its contributions to the Global Fund, in addition to encouraging other nations to also donate...

... Finally, America should implement peacekeeping operations among the various governmental officials of African nations. As long as there are power struggles and corruption, prevention of AIDS, malaria, and TB will take the backseat. Progress is attainable only if there is a unified and candid effort from the government...

... Through education, greater funds, and peacekeeping operations, the U.S. can fulfill its responsibility to help combat the widespread diseases, AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. Winston Churchill once likened America to a “giant boiler. Once the fire is lighted under it, there is no limit to the power it can generate.” Let U.S. keep the torch of liberty burning by paving the way for advancement into the new century.

Sincerely,
Harika Rayala

Landmine crisis

Combating a neglected crisis

UNA/USA program takes solution based steps as global landmine concerns grow

In response to the global landmine crisis, the Adopt-A-Minefield (AAM) Campaign was created by the United Nations Association of the USA in partnership with the United Nations, Ted Turner's Better World Fund, and the US State Department to clear minefields, provide assistance to landmine survivors, and raise awareness of the global landmine crisis.

The Campaign aims to empower people everywhere to take action against the global landmine crisis—one of the world's most pervasive problems.

Since its launch in 1999, AAM has quickly become one of the world's leading mine clearance programs. It is the only non-governmental funder in the top donor list in six of the most heavily mined countries in the world, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Mozambique, and Vietnam. Since its inception,

Adopt-A-Minefield has: Raised over \$18 million for mine clearance and survivor assistance; Cleared over 21 million square meters of land, with an estimated 2 million square meters currently under clearance; Developed the annual Night of a Thousand Dinners initiative to engage global citizens around the world in raising funds for mine action; and engaged tens of thousands of people worldwide through our education and outreach initiatives.

How Adopt-A-Minefield Works

The Campaign seeks national and international sponsors to adopt minefields, adopt two-month work periods for demining teams, or donate funds for survivor assistance

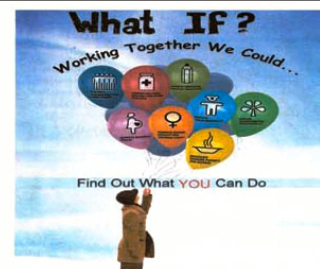
Want more info? visit: www.landmines.org.



photo provided by Adopt-A-Minefield®



53rd ANNUAL COLUMBUS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL



DATES: Saturday November 8, 2008 10 am to 10 pm
 Sunday November 9, 2008 11 am to 6 pm

PLACE: Franklin County Veteran's Memorial Hall
 300 West Broad St., Columbus Ohio 43215

Working Together We Can Reach U.N. Millennium Goals

Over 200 EXHIBITORS representing over 80 Countries and Service Organizations preparing ethnic food, sharing their crafts and providing educational material.

Learn about your HERITAGE and CULTURE as a nation of immigrants.

"PASSPORT"
 Travel around the World
 without leaving Columbus

PARADE OF NATIONS
 Dazzling native costumes

ROVING ENTERTAINERS
 Mimes & Animated
 Characters

GLOBAL MARKETPLACE
 Authentic Crafts
 Watch & enjoy demonstrations

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

CHILDREN'S GLOBAL ACTIVITIES
 "hands on" projects for
 children and families

FOLK DANCE
 Lessons in two
 venues

WORLD CLASS PERFORMERS
 Every day

HEALTH FAIR
 Celebrate wellness & healthful living
 Dancercise &
 FREE Health Screening

TRAVELLER'S ADVISORIES & TIPS

The Columbus International Festival is sponsored by UNA-USA, Columbus Chapter, 57 Jefferson Ave. Columbus Ohio 43215 Phone: 614-228-4010. Website: www.unacol.org. Admission: Adults \$7.00, Students & Seniors \$5.00, Ages 6 - 12 \$2.00, 5 & under FREE. Group Rates to be announced.

Model UN program is picking up steam

Program touches OSU and other area schools, two students address UN

In August new possibilities became realities involving some Ohio High School and University students. The ideas all started in January of 2007.

A task force working over several months under the Columbus Chapter name of "OURMUN" included Jennifer Wallace (OSU student), Chrystal Montgomery (Children's Hospital Research), Becky Brown (Business Services Coordinator), Mike Graham (Bishop Hartley HS teacher), Anthony Mughan (OSU International Studies), Rich Meltz (OSU Political Science), Andrew Ludanyi (Ohio Northern University), Mark Pontoni (Michigan State University), Brittany Nye

(OSU student), and Heather Leckart (OSU student).

Model United Nations is about more than the details of any one program. Some of the benefits go beyond the facts and figures, the research, the Multi-cultural events, the global awareness, the structure on the United Nations, and how the UN, committees, countries, and governments work. It is the impact on the lives of students that are becoming the citizens of the world for today and tomorrow.

As a part of 'OURMUN' students



have not only consistently attended the local and average size conferences and forums, but they have participated in the "Western Invitational", the "Boston Global Studies", and the United Nations "Nationals". Greg White and Crissy Day are recorded at the UN for their introducing resolutions.

- Len Baldwin
Model United Nations advisor

What is the Model UN?

The Model UN takes a step past traditional classroom settings, in order to educate and challenge students of all ages with the new complexities and demands their world will present to them.

"Through the Model UN generations of future leaders are learning not only about specific countries and issues, but also about the complexities of politics in a multilateral setting. To succeed in the Model UN environment takes the skill of a negotiator: to know how to listen, to persuade, and a sense of when to step back and when to push for an agreement... young people in the United States and elsewhere must be trained in the ways of democracy"

- James P. Muldoon, Jr. UNA-USA Director of Educational Programs.

Taking it one step further:

"Our objective is to equip them with improved self-esteem, the desire to be involved, and a caring positive attitude to make a difference with their lives. They will have grown by developing a value on ethics and assuming responsibilities. It is our belief that, 'the good guys do finish first.'"

- Len Baldwin

"To me, Model UN is a very important activity and has become a part of my life... I am challenged to stand up and speak out in front of people that I don't know, which has been a major battle for me in the past." - Ohio student

Get Involved!

Contact Len Baldwin at Lbaldwin@unacol.com

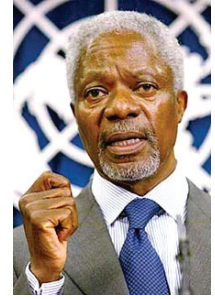


UNITED NATIONS

Coming next issue: A close look at one Central Ohio Model UN and the students involved

“These often unsung heroes understand...that poverty, disease and famine are just as deadly and destructive as earthquakes, hurricanes and tsunamis. Individuals ...are taking on these challenges in their communities, volunteering to make a difference. They remain the true champions of our work towards the Millennium Development Goals.”

- Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan



1st Millennium Goal

Eradicate Poverty and Hunger

Who can help?

World Food Programme

... provides uses an international logistical system to transport food from plentiful sources to where it is needed most. Visit: <http://www.wfp.org>

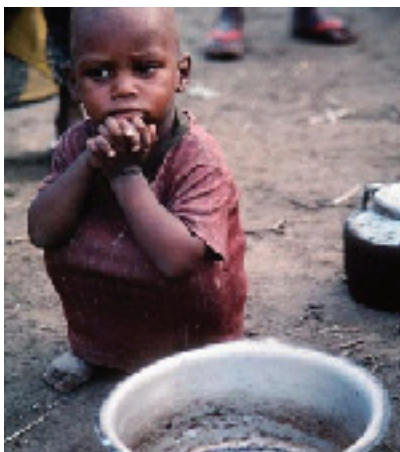
United Nations Development Programme

...also works in developing countries around the world to end poverty. Visit: <http://www.undp.org>

The Hunger Project

...has created several programs including the African Woman Food Farmer Initiative, which creates exclusively banks to improve woman's farms.

Visit: <http://www.thp.org>



Target: Cut the number of people who live on less than a dollar a day in half.

- In 2003, 1.2 billion people were living in poverty (surviving on less than \$1 a day).

Target: Cut the number of people who suffer from hunger in half.

- 852 million people are hungry; more than the population of the United States, Canada, and European Union combined.
- Basic health and nutrition needs of the world's poorest could be met for an additional \$13 billion a year. That's less than what the US and Europe spends on pet food annually.

What is being done?

- If global economic growth continues at the current rate, poverty rates will fall to 13% (from 28%) by 2015, decreasing the number of people living in poverty by 366 million.
- Every day the World Food Programme (WFP) has 20 planes in the sky, 5,000 trucks on roads and 40 ships at sea delivering food aid.
- WFP food has reached 1.2 billion of the world's poor in the past 40 years - almost India's population.
- For only US\$21, WFP can provide one month's worth of food to a woman and three of her children.
- Every year, WFP feeds 300 million undernourished school children. A donation of only US\$34, feeds a poor student for an entire school year.



What are the Millennium Goals?

The eight Millennium Development Goals have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest in a blueprint with a target date of 2015.

Next Issue's Goal:

Achieve Universal Primary Education

Annual Meeting of the UNA-USA Columbus Chapter
Saturday, June 2, 2007
Novice A. Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio

The Board of Directors of the UNA-USA Columbus chapter welcomed members and guests to the Annual Meeting and buffet luncheon at the Fawcett Center on Saturday, June 2, 2007 beginning at 12:30 pm. Lunch was served at 1:00 pm followed by the keynote presentation by Kenneth A Lawson of the City of Columbus Police Department.

Advocacy chair, David Hansen introduced Detective Lawson who spoke on the Red Light project. Detective Lawson has extensive experience in working with underage children involved in illegal activities and is involved in educating the public as well as law enforcement, social workers, and educators on how to identify persons who are victims of the slave trade. Often the "victims" are runaways or foreign women or young people brought into the US as domestics or factory workers.

The audience was reminded to advocate for ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which the US has failed to do.

At 3 pm President Frank Titus called the Business Meeting to order. He declared a quorum present (19 of 130 membership required). He then presented the Margaret Rogers Award to VP Festival and former President Dr. Marlinda Iyer.

Marlinda told of some of the plans for the 2007 International Festival. A poster and essay contest for high school and college students will be included. Brochures and bookmarks are being sent to schools, city hall, and other locations. The focus this year is in on the cultures of Latin America and Japan. She is trying to get ambassador for UNICEF Ricky Martin to attend. Also she hopes to get a robot from HONDA for the festival.

Len Baldwin reported on his work with the Model UN program.

Minutes of the May 13, 2006 annual Meeting and Luncheon were considered. Peggy Hollenbeck read some additional comments she would like inserted in the minutes printed in the Mar/April newsletter which she had omitted earlier. On a motion by Mory Fuhrmann, seconded by Len Baldwin the minutes were approved with the additions.

The following slate of Officers and Board members for 2007-2009 was presented:

President	Frank Titus Col, USAF, (Ret.) (One Year)
VP Membership	Jennifer Wallace
VP Programs	Jessica Vllasi, JD
VP Advocacy	David Hansen
Treasurer	Kiyoko Nagai
Asst. Treasurer	Joseph Sofia
At Large	Lisa McSweeney
At Large	J.S. Jindal, DDS
At Large	Colleen P. Rosshirt
At Large	Marissa Kaloga (One year)
At Large	Mory Fuhrmann
Honorary	Angela An (no defined term)

A motion by Marlinda Iyer to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Jan Baker was passed. The following persons were nominated to serve on the Nominating Committee: Cornelia Ferguson, Richard Embs and Robert Holmes.

On a motion by David Hansen, seconded by Marlinda Iyer the candidates were elected. Thanks to Jennifer Wallace and David Hansen for planning and preparations for this luncheon and meeting. There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Hollenbeck, Acting Secretary

Slate of Officers Term Year '07 - '08

Pursuant to Article VI, Section C of the Columbus Chapter Constitution, the following is the slate of officers for term year '07-'08. All persons listed need to be voted upon by the general membership, either individually or as a slate:

Continuing Board Members:

President, Col. Frank Titus
VP Programs, Jess Vllasi
VP Advocacy, Dr. David Hansen
Treasurer, Kiyoko Nagai
At-Large, Ona Lewis
At-Large, Dr. Chad Alger
At-Large, JS Jindal
At-Large, Len Baldwin

Members changing positions:

Education, Dr. Jan Baker to At-Large
Asst. VP Festival, Dr. Florence Odita to VP Festival
At-Large, Mory Fuhrmann to Board Secretary

Nominees:

VP Education, Dr. Jean-Claude Ba
VP Development, Candace Peters
Asst. VP Treasurer, Elma Farnsworth
VP Membership, Linda Page
Communications, David Conrad
At-Large, Renee Hampton
At-Large, James Stowe
At-Large, Mohamed Dimi
At-Large, Stephanie Imperato
At-Large, Dr. Anthony Moghan
Student Representative, Harika Rayala
Communications Consultant, Angela An

In accordance of Article VI, Section D of the chapter constitution, any floor nomination for any position is welcomed. Such a move requires the nominee be present and with a written letter of acceptance of the nomination from the nominee.



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