

# iowauna forum

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Iowa's Bottom-up Movement for a Better World

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## Night of 1000 Dinners

By Jean Lloyd-Jones

A stellar group of Johnson County UNA members executed a successful "Night of 1000 Dinners" on March 2nd at Old Brick in Iowa City. In addition to honoring International Women's Day, the event raised \$2,000 for the Adopt-A-Future partnership. UNA-JC Board Member Alisa Meggitt kept the crowd of 200+ engaged as she introduced speakers, raffled off a fashionable purse donated by Design Ranch, and concluded with a Kahoots interactive fundraiser.

The

keynote speaker was Anne Kiche, a native of Kenya, who earned her Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Leadership from the University of Iowa. Her address was entitled "Refugee Women and Their



Families: Educating a Generation of Refugee Girls and Boys." Her personal knowledge of the two large refugee camps in Kenya and her acquaintance with many refugees from Sudan who are now living in Iowa City, made her speech very informative and relevant.

Iowa City Mayor, Jim Throgmorton's welcome remarks described Johnson County's refugee situation as a very small but important

piece of the global picture.

Nittaya Burnham and Katy Hansen assembled a wide variety of ethnic foods and

supervised a diligent group of volunteers to handle kitchen and serving duties. Jim Olson oversaw sponsorships (24), ticket sales, public relations, room setup, and a thousand other details. Dorothy Paul organized two busloads of diners from Oaknoll, and was

responsible for having the raffle prize donated. All told, it was a tremendous group effort, and we look forward to sponsoring it again next year.

## The UN and the U.S.

By Chris Whatley (Executive Director of the UNA-USA) and Peter Yeo (President of the Better World Campaign)

The UN is not a perfect institution, but it serves a near-perfect purpose: to promote global cooperation and address some of the world's most pressing challenges that no single country can resolve alone. Among other things, the UN is a platform for multilateral efforts to counter terrorism, stem the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and, through peacekeeping missions, to maintain order in some of the world's most dangerous places so U.S. forces don't have to. The UN also plays a leadership role on a variety of other issues—providing lifesaving humanitarian aid to millions affected by conflict and natural disasters; promoting democratic governance, human rights, and efforts to

increase economic development and reduce poverty around the world; and coordinating the global response to public health challenges. These activities help buttress core American interests and values, allowing our nation to share the responsibility of promoting global peace, stability, and development with the rest of the international community.

For these reasons, it is absolutely critical that the U.S. maintain its seat at the table by engaging constructively with the UN. That means paying our peacekeeping and regular budget dues on-time, in-full, and without preconditions. The American people understand this-in fact, year after year a bipartisan polling team has found that Americans overwhelmingly support a strong U.S.-UN partnership.

## The UN in Your Everyday Life

By Casey Barbkecht

Article four of the UN charter states that the United Nations is “open to all other peace-loving states which accept the obligations contained in the present charter... and are able and willing to carry out these obligations.” The long-time mission of the United Nations can be summed up in one word: peace. However, the

United Nations has grown into a complex system that affects the everyday lives of people around the globe.

Every time you turn on the television or open a website to check the weather, you are receiving information from weather satellites circling the globe. The UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) is directly responsible for the registration of official information on space stations and 93% of satellites are registered in accordance with international law. Additionally, the UN office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) works with governments and other international organizations to make the internet a safer place for you and your family. They help develop laws and practices that decrease the threat of hacking and cyber fraud, protecting us from scammers across the globe.

The UN also functions in ways that help create safer communities throughout the world. The UNODC works to combat human trafficking and transnational organized crime, where the effects are most often felt on a local scale. They work to prosecute the people and organizations that are behind local drug-related health problems, violence, and deaths by firearms. The UNODC also helps build up the legal capacity of

governments to help prevent instances of terrorism, a prevalent concern in today’s political climate. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) also helps protect our borders by training staff and police to use equipment to detect radioactive material and prevent it from entering the country.

The UN is also directly involved in our ability to obtain proper health care and nutrition. The IAEA helps countries irradiate food and needles and also regulates lifesaving x-rays and cancer therapies. The UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) even works with supermarket chains to ensure that the food is safe for human consumption, and the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) makes it possible for those stores to carry and sell food and products that have been traded across borders.

The UN also helps us travel safely and efficiently. The UNODC set up the guidelines that allow people to travel across borders with necessary medications. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) is responsible for setting up a global network of monitoring stations which allow planes and ships to

travel safely with the knowledge that there are no threats from natural disasters. The UNOOSA also allows for the coordinated functioning of

GPS systems throughout the globe.

No matter if it's checking the weather, heading to the grocery store, or traveling

across the globe, the UN has a direct hand in how we live our everyday lives safely, thereby promoting the ultimate goal: peace.

## Iowa High School Model UN at UNI

By Andrea Cohen, Executive Director, IUNA



Konrad Sadkowski, Faculty Advisor Iowa High School Model United Nations, UNI; Andrea Cohen, Executive Director, Iowa United Nations Association; Ella Daft, Secretary General 2017; RJ Johnson, Vice Chair, UNA-USA National Council.



RJ, keynote speaker at the 53<sup>rd</sup> IHSMUN, spoke to over 400 students from around the state. He congratulated them on their involvement in MUN, inspiring them to take an active role in shaping their world. He stressed engagement when offered a seat at the table. Only then can you make real change.



RJ engaged the audience asking them which of the 17 sustainable development goals is most important to them and why. Collaboration was a key word. RJ stressed that the vital skills in negotiation, public speaking, problem solving, conflict resolution, research and communication learned at MUN provide a solid foundation for international dialogue; every nation coming together to solve problems no nation can solve alone.

A long line of students asked questions. Clearly, they wanted to standup, speak-out, and be resolute about shared UN values and principles around the globe and here at home.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The total UN regular Budget (\$5.5 Billion) is less than what Americans spend on greeting cards per year (\$6.5 billion)

The UN vaccinates 58% of the world's children

Mobilizes \$12.4 billion in humanitarian aid

Provides food to 90 million people in 73 countries



Protects and promotes human rights on site and through treaties or declarations

Assists 67 countries a year with their elections to promote democracy

Saves 30 million women per year by promoting maternal health

The UN community in NYC provides the economic benefits of hosting 7 Super Bowls in 1 year

## WHY DO WE NEED THE UN?



1 in 3 women still experience physical or sexual violence

1 in 113 people on the planet are refugees

1 in 10 people lack access to safe water

795 million people suffer from chronic undernourishment

About 16,000 children under the age of 5 die every day

1.5 million deaths per year could be avoided if global vaccination improves

Over 10% of the population were estimated to be living under the international poverty line

103 million youth worldwide lack basic literacy skills



## IUNA Interns

### Gricelda Arroya

I am a transfer student from Ottumwa, Iowa to the University of Iowa majoring in Global Health and a Certificate in Disability Studies. I worked on the education programs as well as event planning. I organized events to educate the community and advocate for issues that concern UNA and Iowa. One of the first events was the Bride's March held on March 8<sup>th</sup>, International Women's Day. Working on projects as an intern with Iowa UNA, I strive to encourage and advocate for others, and to develop skills that will help me later in the workplace.

### Casey Barbknecht

I am a senior at the University of Iowa studying Political Science and Human Rights. My project consisted of creating a toolkit to advocate against the bills introduced in Congress to defund the UN. I hope to help create a successful advocacy campaign advance the interests of the IUNA. I also hope to use this internship as an opportunity to learn more about advocacy tactics that I can apply to my future social justice career.

### Jenna Buss

I am a junior at the University of Iowa studying Global Health and Biology. I organized an event on the Ulowa Pentacrest focusing on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Passers-by were asked to comment on two prompts and to vote for the goals they felt were most important.

From this internship, learned more about working internationally and with the UN. I'd like for my projects to further the mission of the IUNA and to help me gain skills that will translate into a career in global health.

### Sabra Cacho

I am a 5th year senior at the University of Iowa, studying International Human Rights and Pre-Law. I have a minor in Fine Arts and a Certificate in Critical Cultural Competency. I am president of Walk It Out Multicultural Fashion Show, a general member of SCOPE productions, and participate in the Human Rights Student Collective on campus. This year I was chair of the Hike to Help Refugees held on April 29th. We raised money and awareness for the refugee crisis plaguing the world today.

### Minsook Choi

I am a senior at the University of Iowa double majoring in Marketing Management and International Studies. I was the social media and marketing

intern. My main role was managing our Twitter account. Three times a week, I posted tweets to advertise our events and educate people on issues that the UN is facing. As a Marketing major, I would like to find a job as a social media intern or related job. Thus, this internship provided a good opportunity to gain experience and apply knowledge I learned from my classes.

### Megan Deist

I am a junior at the University of Iowa majoring in Global Health and Communications. I worked on gathering support for one of the United Nations Foundation's campaigns, Girl Up. The program helps girls living in Guatemala, Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, India, and Uganda through education and support to reach their full potential. I planned three fundraising events where members of the University of Iowa and Iowa City communities write encouraging cards to these girls. While working on this project as an intern, I followed my passions and developed skills that will help in a future career.

### Lucas Fagre

I'm current a senior at the University of Iowa studying Global Health, Anthropology, and Russian. I am the intern responsible for updating and maintaining the organization's website. It is my hope that by making our website more informative, engaging and aesthetically pleasing, the IUNA can reach out to more members of our communities. Increased online visibility will help all other



members of our organization get the word out about their own projects, and our productivity will improve.

### **Alexandra Hernandez-Pardo**

I am a sophomore at the University of Iowa pursuing a double major in International Relations and French with an Arabic focus. I organized a statewide call and letter writing campaign to Iowa's elected officials. I created the March *Advocacy News*. This provided an opportunity for Iowans to become involved in advocating for the United Nations' goals and show their support for the United States' presence in the United Nations.

### **Munju Kam**

I am a senior at the University of Iowa majoring in International Studies/ International Business. I organized an artwork exhibit focused on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and having the art be auctioned off at the end of the exhibit. By producing their own art work, middle and high school students will be able to gain deeper understanding of the SDGs and can advocate for the SDGs at the same time.

### **Hannah McCue**

I am a sophomore studying Global Health. I am currently working with leaders of the refugee community in Iowa City and planning an event for World Refugee Day in June to raise awareness for refugees and educate people on the issues they face. I also produced the April IUNA *Forum*. Through this internship, I hope to gain skills

## **President's Message**

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We are living, unfortunately, in a highly polarized political environment with little hope for civil conversation/debate among those with opposing viewpoints. It is sad to realize that the United Nations has become such a partisan and polarizing topic. Granted, there are many opportunities for the United Nations to become more efficient as recognized by both the past and present Secretary Generals. That said, until another organization is developed with "a near perfect purpose to promote global cooperation and address some of the world's most pressing challenges that no single country can resolve alone" (2016 UNA-USA Congressional Briefing Book), I will continue to personally support the United Nations in every way I possibly can.

2015 polls indicate that 90% of Americans believe the US should play an active role in the UN and 67% favor paying UN dues on time and in full. A good friend of mine, when hearing someone say, "I do not like the United Nations and the US should neither play an active role in nor pay UN dues," responds by saying, "Which part of the UN do you dislike or not agree with?" Is it the FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization (established 1945), IAEA - International Atomic Energy Agency (1957), ICAO - International Civil Aviation Organization (1947), IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development (1977), or the ILO – International Labor Organization (1919/1946)?

Yes, the United States is a world power, and we represent only **5% of the world population**. We must have a seat at the table with other global players. We need partners and allies around the globe, a strategy which is superior to "going it alone!" The United Nations needs the United States and the United States needs the United Nations!

and knowledge that can help me in the future.

involvement and funding of the UN through their actions.

### **Jarod Smith**

I am a first-year student at the University of Iowa majoring in Global Health. I set up in-district meetings with Iowa's senators and representatives to urge our representatives to support

These meetings also serve the purpose of keeping them informed on issues and upcoming events. I believe that we can create a more global mindset within Iowa!



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Your tax-deductible gift to the Iowa UNA will help make good on our belief in peace, security, and human rights for all through our efforts to communicate, educate, and advocate to make the UN system even more effective in promoting human dignity, protecting the environment, combating climate change, and aiding the victims of war and oppression. Thank you!

You may donate online at [www.iowauna.org](http://www.iowauna.org) or by sending your check to Iowa UNA, 20 East Market Street, Iowa City, IA 52245

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