Letter from the President

We've had a hectic and productive Spring semester with an interesting roster of programs and there are exciting new programs in the pipeline. A highlight of our Fall activities will be our UN Day Gala on October 25, 2007. This year New York will have a double celebration with both UNA-NY and UNA-USA holding simultaneous events uptown and downtown commemorating the United Nations' 62nd year. The theme of UNA-NY's event is “The Global Water Crisis.” We are honoring Rotary International and its Foundation, Antony Burgmans (former Chairman of Unilever), and Guy Laliberté founder of Cirque du Soleil and One Drop Foundation.

These honorees have shown deep commitments to various significant water care initiatives. About 1 billion people lack access to clean water for drinking and sanitation around the world. In many countries water borne diseases are a major cause of illness, with an estimated half the population of the developing world suffering from diseases because of dirty water and poor sanitation, according to a recent UNDP report. A portion of the proceeds of the Gala will be devoted to water issues along with supporting UNA-NY's educational programs. We hope you will join us for this event.

Best Wishes,
Peter V. Rajsingh
UNA-NY President

UNA of NY 2007 Humanitarian Awards Dinner – October 25

The UNA-NY 2007 Humanitarian Award is presented each year in observance of United Nations Day. This year the focus is “The Global Water Crisis” and our Honorary Chair is Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and Special Advisor to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. The Gala Dinner will be held at the United Nations Delegates Dining Room.

Proceeds benefit organizations and enterprises working to alleviate problems around the world relating to water.

Learn more about the global water crisis and what you can do to help:
http://www.unanyc.org/events/water.html

Complete event information and how you can reserve your place today:
http://www.unanyc.org/events/nycvents.html
We Thank You!

The President and Board of UNA-NY would like to thank everyone who made our program year 2006-2007 such a great success. We particularly like to thank the Program Committee who contributed their time so generously to bring us this year’s programs and receptions. We also thank our speakers who have contributed their time to the work of the chapter and expanded our programs and the Hungarian Mission to the United Nations for hosting some of our events. We welcome our many new members and salute our long-standing ones. We look forward to our 2007-2008 program year.

2006-2007 Speakers:

September 06 - “Why the UN Should Stop Worrying About the US,” Dr. Edward C. Luck, Director of the Center on International Organization, Columbia University

December 06 – “Denmark’s Experience from Serving Two Years in the Security Council as an Elected Member,” Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Løj, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

January 07 – “A Conversation with Ambassador Martin Palous,” Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations


February 07- “The Best Intentions: Kofi Annan and the UN in the Era of American World Power,” author James Traub

April 07 - “Iran: What Next,” Professor Tai-Heng Cheng, Associate Director Center for International Law, NYU Law School

“A Talk on Iran,” Ambassador M. Javad Zarif, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations

May 07 – “Between Memory and History: A Wayward Historian Remembers the Cuban Revolution,” Professor Carlos Eire, Yale University

Annual Meeting – Speaker, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro – Deputy Secretary General, United Nations

June 07 – “A Conversation with Ambassador Daniel Carmon,” Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations
UNA-NY Government Relations Committee

UNA-NY’s Government Relations Committee (GRC) undertakes activities to increase public support for the United Nations and the vital work it carries out in the international arena. The GRC, on behalf of the UNA-NY Chapter, introduced and advocated for two resolutions: Darfur and Human Trafficking.

To learn more about GRC and these Resolutions visit http://www.unanyc.org/committees/grc.html

• The Darfur and Human Trafficking Resolutions
• The Sixteen Resolutions adopted by UNA-USA at the 2007 Biennial National Convention
• Use these Resolutions (send to govt officials, write op-eds, letters to the editor, include in newsletters, and more)
• UNA-NY eAction Alert: Deploy the Peacekeepers NOW

UN Exhibits Art Work from High School of Art and Design

For the third year, our chapter has sponsored an exhibit of student art work from the High School of Art and Design in collaboration with The Friends of Art and Design (FAD). The theme this year focused on diseases such as malaria, TB, cholera and HIV/AIDS. The exhibit was displayed in the UN Visitors Lobby from July 12 to August 22. Click here to view some of their work: http://www.unanyc.org/news/2007-hsartexhibit.pdf

Worldview Institute: UNA-NY Will Launch Programs for Business Executives Fall 2007

We are proud to announce a corporate executive training program this fall. The Worldview Institute UNA-NY is geared to develop and enhance the scope of the work and activities of business executives working in global enterprises in the New York area. The program provides a framework for the understanding and analysis of many current geopolitical issues and will be of great value in understanding political, economic and social trends encountered during the course of doing business in various areas of the world with a United Nations overlay.

The ten seminar modules address globalization issues in order to illuminate and explore generally accepted corporate responsibility concepts and the political and cultural contexts of doing business in different regions. Distinguished lecturers include ambassadors, university professors and accomplished leaders in business, as well as UN personnel.

The institute has been established by the United Nations Association of New York in cooperation with the Department of Public Information (DPI) of the United Nations. Partial support was provided by the General Electric Foundation.

Held in the heart of New York City, at missions and UN headquarters, the institute brings together attendees and faculty in “off the record” dialogues which provide for invaluable learning and networking experiences.

Applications are now being accepted for the Institute’s Fall 2007 program. For more information, visit http://www.unanyc.org/worldview/wiinfo.html
Board Welcomes New Members

We welcome six new chapter members who have been nominated to serve on our board of directors and who add their experience and viewpoints to our decision making. We look forward to an exciting new year with a total of 25 board members.

Paula Rice Jackson – A writer, editor and consultant for a wide variety of clients whose interests include photography, interior design, non-profit fundraising and the performing arts. She was Editor in Chief of Interiors Magazine and served as board member of Edith Wharton Restoration in Lenox, MA. She was managing coordinator of the interior restoration of the 16th century Villa Aurelia in collaboration with the late Mark Hampton for The American Academy in Rome.

Laura Knowlton – Served as Director of Marketing and Brand Marketing Manager of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. She was also Senior Marketing Manager for Jupiter Media Metrix and held various positions in marketing in the Czech Republic. Laura is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire.

Sharlene Ratcliff-Korenica – Currently a Director for Marketing and Communications in the Worldwide Alliances & Channels organization of Oracle Corp. With Oracle, she has held various marketing roles at global headquarters, as well as spending four years in marketing for Oracle's Europe, Middle East, and Africa division.

Patricia Sacristan – Born in Bogota, Colombia and educated in the United States and France, Patricia's professional background in the private, public and NGO sectors have provided her with ample multi-sector experience. A newcomer to New York, she is currently working at ADP in the Legal Department as the Contracts Coordinator for the Brokerage Services Group. She is also actively developing a business plan to establish an import distributorship of organic products from Colombia.

Harjiv Singh – Co-founder and CEO of Gutenberg Communications LLC, Harjiv has led the company's rapid growth in New York, London, New Delhi and Bangalore. With over a decade of experience in the US-India business corridor, he works extensively with clients across a diverse range of industries such as technology, real estate, investment management, academic and non-profit sectors providing communications strategy and counsel. He holds a Master's degree in International Affairs and Economic Policy from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

Abid Qureshi – an attorney with Akin Gump, Abid represented three Fortune 100 companies in high profile antitrust cases of international significance. He is a member of the New York State Bar and the Law Society of British Columbia, Canada. He holds a JD degree from the University of Toronto and a Masters of Law in International Business Law from the London School of Economics.

Three members of our board have resigned. They are Dr. Katherine Kline, Maureen Basquill Ruf and Jacob Willemsen. We are extremely grateful for their many years of service and dedication in support of our chapter's work. We look forward to their continued participation in our programs and upcoming events.

Dr. Rosemary Clemens has left the board and joined our Advisory Council. We also welcome Sylvia Howard Fuhrman, a distinguished staff member of the UN Secretariat, to our Advisory Council. Mrs. Fuhrman is Special Representative of the Secretary General for the United Nations International School.
UNA-NY Honors Sylvan Barnet With Distinguished Service Award

Sylvan S. Barnet, of Rotary International and member of our Advisory Council, received the 2004 Distinguished Service Award at our Annual Meeting on May 16, 2007. Known to the chapter as "Barney," he was selected by our search committee for his tireless personal service to the chapter and deep appreciation to international ideals. He was former president of the chapter and chair of our Advisory Council. We are indebted to him for his advice and counsel over the years and dedication to the New York chapter.

Sylvan M. Barnet, Jr. is the former Chair of the Advisory Council of UNA-NY and a Past President of the Chapter. He is also the Rotary International Representative to the United Nations. Mr. Barnet has over 60 years of experience in international communications and has been the Rotary International representative to the United Nations since 1988. Mr. Barnet’s accomplishments include being Executive Director of the International Advertising Association, Vice President of Public Relations of American Airlines, Director of US Travel Service with the US Department of Commerce, Chairman of International PR and Publisher of the International Herald Tribune in Paris and New York. He is also the founder of the United Nations NGO Committee on Education. He is a graduate of Yale University and the US Naval War College.

Asha-Rose Migiro, UN Deputy Secretary-General Addresses UNA-NY Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting this year was held on May 16, 2007 at the Hungarian Mission to the United Nations. Although we had a rainy night, there were many in attendance to hear our keynote speaker, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations. Ambassador Gabor Brodi, Permanent Representative of the Hungarian Mission to the United Nations opened the evening’s activities. His wife, Dr. Maria Findrik, was also in attendance.

To view the complete text of Dr. Migiro’s remarks, visit:

http://www.unanyc.org/events/20070516Migiroaddress.pdf