

Global Education

NEWSLETTER

Office of Global Relations • Office of Interdisciplinary, Distributed and Global Learning

MAY 2002

SPECIAL EDITION

UNITED NATIONS FEATURE

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Global Leadership Seminars

During the past few weeks we have had the first of what will next year become a regular series of Global Leadership Seminars. These luncheon faculty meetings are intended to be an opportunity for collegial dialogue on global issues and relevant pedagogies with an outside speaker/discussion facilitator. At Teaneck, on April 22, Don Henrichson, a consultant to the UN Population Fund and a contributor to number of environmental magazines, led a discussion on critical environmental issues, especially global water resources. On May 9 at Madison, Kumar Ketkar, one of our global virtual faculty members and a leading political journalist in India, and his wife Sharada Sathe, a leading women's rights activist in Maharashtra State in India, led a discussion on socio-political dimensions of the women's movement in India/Asia. All faculty will be invited to these events on a random basis, but if you would like to be early on the list, just phone the Global Learning Office (x7360). We are actively planning a series of seminars for next fall and spring, and are open to any ideas for topics and/or contacts with potential speakers.

Summer Faculty On-line Pedagogy Training Workshops

Within the next few days you will be receiving a mailing inviting you to participate in a summer on-line pedagogy workshop at either the Madison or Teaneck campus. The workshops will meet several times throughout June and early July, and also include ongoing activities and dialogue asynchronously through the Internet. These workshops are

designed to train interested faculty in the use of the Blackboard course management system as well as principles and techniques of effective on-line pedagogy. Participation for the 10 available places at each campus will be on a first-come, first-served basis, and will offer a stipend of \$1500. Look for the announcement with more details soon.

Wroxton Faculty Workshop

From June 18-25, eight faculty, two global virtual faculty, and three staff will be gathering at Wroxton College for a week-long workshop focusing on the development of distance learning courses. Proposals from thirteen faculty across the University were evaluated by the Distance Learning Task Force, and the eight listed below were chosen for participation. All of them reflect on-line courses that engage global and interdisciplinary themes, and will integrate global virtual faculty. During the Workshop, faculty will be meeting intensively in working sessions together, and additionally with several outside speakers on such topics as "Distance learning-The Open University Approach," "Current Issues in UK Higher Education," and "Measuring the Impact of Your On-Line Course."

Faculty Workshop Participants and Course Titles are:

<i>Richard Castellana</i> -	Perspectives on Globalization
<i>Jeffrey Hsu</i> -	Data Communications & Networks
<i>Francis Ingledeu</i> -	Global Literature in English II
<i>Harry Keyishian</i> -	Global Shakespeare
<i>Paula Mayhew</i> -	Global Literature in English
<i>Gary Radford</i> -	Communication in the Electronic Medium
<i>Andrew Raleigh</i> -	Electronic Commerce & Beyond
<i>Jason Scorza</i> -	A Swiftly Tilting Planet: Interdisciplinary Perspective on World Geography

NGO Briefings

NGO Briefings are held every Thursday 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the United Nations. FDU faculty and staff are welcome to sign up for the briefings (calendar on the back). There is a limit of 5 daily passes per briefing and these are distributed on a first come first served basis. For more information on the NGO status and UN Pathway programs, see inside this edition.



FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY'S UNITED NATIONS PATHWAY

During the last few months, you have probably read or heard that FDU has been recognized by the United Nations Department of Public Information as a Non-governmental organization (NGO). You may also have heard about FDU's United Nations Pathway Program. To provide you with information about the program, Dalila Suhonjic and I are providing you with materials from several web sites. Each site contains far more information than this hard copy, but these materials will serve as a starting place.

The UN Pathway Program consists of numerous pieces. The most significant ones, at this time, are:

- Lectures presented by UN ambassadors on our NJ campuses.
- Co-sponsored with the Ambassador's Club at the United Nations
- Co-sponsored with another party

- Conferences from UN, using ITV, co-sponsored by the Ambassador's Club.

- Activities related to NGO status
- Weekly briefings (Thursdays) of the NGO Section of the UN Department of Public Information
- Annual conference; this year "Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict: A Shared Responsibility"
- Access to all "open" meetings of UN bodies

Shortly, we will be determining the most appropriate way to distribute UN passes to students and faculty. FDU can get five passes per day. These passes provide access to weekly briefings as well as open sessions. The range of sessions is immense, representing all sorts of activities (see page labeled "Focal Points for NGOs"); therefore, there should be interest on the part of many in the FDU community. Any suggestions about an equitable pass distribution mechanism or the program in general would be appreciated; send suggestions to isquith@fdu.edu or Isquith HDH2-14.

The following pages, in addition to providing much information and location of helpful websites, answer some frequently asked questions:

- What is an NGO?
- What is the Department of Public Information?
- How do NGO's and DPI work together?
- As an FDU student or faculty member what privileges do I have at the UN?
- What are the focal points for NGO's? (UN departments, offices, divisions, agencies and programs)
- What is the Ambassador's Club at the United Nations?

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NGOs AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION: SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is an NGO?

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group which is organized on a local, national or international level. Task-oriented and driven by people with a common interest, NGOs perform a variety of services and humanitarian functions, bring citizens' concerns to Governments, monitor policies and encourage political participation at the community level. They provide analysis and expertise, serve as early warning mechanisms and help monitor and implement international agreements. Some are organized around specific issues, such as human rights, the environment or health. Their relationship with offices and agencies of the United Nations System differs depending on their goals, their venue and their mandate.

Over 1,500 NGOs with strong information programs on issues of concern to the United Nations are associated with the Department of Public Information (DPI), giving the United Nations valuable links to people around the world. DPI helps those NGOs gain access to and disseminate information about the range of issues in which the United Nations is involved, to enable the public to understand better the aims and objectives of the world Organization.

How do NGOs and DPI cooperate?

The Department of Public Information and NGOs cooperate regularly. NGOs associated with DPI disseminate information about the UN to their membership, thereby building knowledge of and support for the Organization at the grassroots level. This dissemination includes:

Publicizing UN activities around the world on such issues as peace and security, economic and social development, human rights, humanitarian affairs and international law;
Promoting UN observances and international years established by the General Assembly to focus world attention on important issues facing humanity.

What are the Criteria for NGOs to become associated with DPI?

Organizations eligible for association with DPI are those which:

- Share the ideals of the UN Charter;
- Operate solely on a not-for-profit basis;
- Have a demonstrated interest in United Nations issues and proven ability to reach large or specialized audiences, such as educators, media representatives, policy makers and the business community;
- Have the commitment and means to conduct effective information programmes about UN activities by publishing newsletters, bulletins, and pamphlets; organizing conferences, seminars and round tables; and enlisting the cooperation of the media.

Do DPI NGOs have a representative mechanism?

Yes. An 18-member DPI/NGO Executive Committee is elected by the DPI/NGO community to act in an advisory and liaison capacity to channel information and to represent the interests of NGOs associated with DPI. This Committee is made up of NGOs from different parts of the world whose representatives in New York are elected for a period of two years. The Executive Committee collaborates with the DPI/NGO Section on events, programmes and initiatives of mutual interest, including organization of the Annual DPI/NGO Conference.

The DPI/NGO Executive Committee is not part of the Department of Public Information. NGOs' association with DPI is independent of their relationship with the Executive Committee. DPI-associated NGOs are encouraged to maintain regular contact with the DPI/NGO Section.

How does DPI assist NGOs?

The DPI/NGO Section at United Nations Headquarters provides a number of services to its associated organizations. For example, the Section:

- Organizes and coordinates, in collaboration with the DPI/NGO Executive Committee, the Annual DPI Conference for Non-Governmental Organizations. This international forum brings together senior UN System officials, prominent international NGOs, academicians, public opinion makers and international media to discuss issues of global concern;
- Organizes weekly briefings for the NGO community at the UN on a range of global issues. The speakers for these briefings are senior United Nations System officials, Member State delegates and NGOs with expertise on the particular issue addressed at the briefing;
- Provides ground passes which grant a main and an alternate NGO representative access to all "open" meetings of UN bodies; to DPI photo, film and audio libraries; to the Dag Hammarskjöld Library; and, as observers, to the meetings of some 22 NGO committees organized by the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC (CONGO);
- Coordinates joint DPI/NGO information programs;
- Conducts a yearly orientation course for newly accredited NGO representatives;
- Publishes the DPI/NGO Annual Directory, which lists all associated NGOs alphabetically, by region and by subject of specialization;
- Maintains the NGO Resource Center, which offers:
 - access to current UN documents and press releases;
 - regular mailings of UN information materials sent to the Headquarters of all associated NGOs;
 - a video lending library with an extensive collection of UN films; and
 - a continuously updated selection of United Nations System publications.

What are the responsibilities of NGOs associated with DPI?

Since the founding days of the United Nations in San Francisco, NGOs have made valuable contributions to the international community by drawing attention to issues, suggesting ideas and programs, disseminating information and mobilizing public opinion in support of the UN and its Specialized Agencies. Association with DPI constitutes a commitment to that effect. Associated NGOs are expected

to devote a portion of their information programs to promoting knowledge of the United Nations' principles and activities. In addition, they are expected to keep the DPI/NGO Section abreast of their activities by regularly providing samples of their information materials relating to the work of the UN. These are also made available for perusal at the DPI/NGO Resource Center.

Recognizing non-governmental organizations as important actors in the international arena as we enter the 21st Century, Secretary-General Kofi Annan remarked ".We must forge a fundamentally new partnership with civil society. We must reach for a new synthesis between private initiative and the public good, which encourages entrepreneurship and market approaches together with social and environmental responsibility." (Message to the South-South Conference, San Jose, Costa Rica, January 1997).

How can I find out about weekly briefings, topics, speakers?

Each department chair will receive a monthly NGO/DPI calendar, which lists upcoming events for the current month (May 2002 is attached as a sample). The briefings are held every Thursday at 10:30 to 11:30 (unless otherwise indicated). A thematically relevant video is screened at 10:00 a.m. before the briefing. If you would like to access the calendar yourself, visit the NGO/DPI website at: <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/calendar.htm>.

How do I sign up for a particular briefing?

Once you identify the briefing you would like to attend, call x-7362 or e-mail suhonjic@fdu.edu at least three days prior to the briefing. We are entitled to five daily passes and we will distribute them on first come, first served bases. As we move towards further involvement of the campus community, we plan to reserve at least two daily passes for students.

What happens next?

We will notify the DPI that you will be attending the meeting. A copy of the notification will be mailed to you (or if you were unable to notify us at least three days prior to the briefing, you can pick it up in Dickinson Hall, suite 2155). You will need to bring the copy of the notification and a picture ID to the UNITAR building (NW corner of 45th Street and 1st avenue) to obtain your daily pass. We suggest that you to this at least half an hour before the briefing.

To enter the UN building, you must use the NGO entrance at 46th Street and 1st Avenue (NE corner). The briefings are usually held at the Dag Hammarskjold auditorium in the main building.

What else can I do with my daily pass?

Although the General Assembly Hall will continue to be a restricted area, fifty seats at the front of the 4th Floor balcony are reserved for the members of accredited NGOs who wish to attend meetings of the General Assembly. We do need to make special arrangements which require at least a one week notice prior to a particular session you would like to attend.

You are also welcome to use Dag Hammarskjold library (across from the auditorium).

(cont'd on page 8)

More on access to the UN...

Members of accredited NGOs must be in possession of a Special Pass in order to access the second floor of the conference building. These Special Passes are available from the NGO section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Special arrangements must be made to obtain these passes. We need at least one week notice.

Members of accredited NGOs are not permitted in the North Delegate's Lounge unless accompanied by a delegate from a Permanent or Observer Mission, or are in possession of a Special Pass.

On United Nations premises, members of accredited NGOs must comply with the requests and instructions of United Nations officials and security staff relating to access and use of United Nations facilities and premises.

Interfering with the free flow of traffic at any time is not permitted. United Nations security staff are authorized to request any person to move from any area or to remove their belongings for safety and security reasons.

Members of accredited NGOs should not access any floor above the fifth floor of the United Nations Secretariat building without an appointment with a United Nations official.

Members of accredited NGOs must not enter designated media areas. Persons without a media pass are not permitted to carry media equipment onto United Nations premises. Any person attempting to do so, or falsely representing him / herself as a media representative, will be removed from conference rooms and from other designated media areas.

Participants may carry small briefcases or handbags into conference rooms. Large bags, suitcases, trolleys or carryalls are not permitted in conference rooms.

Members of accredited NGOs shall immediately surrender their United Nations grounds pass, or any other prescribed identification, to the Pass and I.D. Unit of the United Nations Security and Safety Service, for cancellation upon:

- expiration of the pass or prescribed identification;
- completion of any assignment(s) for which temporary accreditation may have been provided;
- suspension or termination of accreditation of the individual NGO member by the Secretariat, or by his/her organization;
- the expiration without renewal of accreditation of the NGO to which the individual belongs;

How do I find out about other conferences/sessions I can attend?

For more information on NGO/DPI activities, or to subscribe to the listserv, automated calendar delivery, visit the UN DPI website at <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/>. To find out what other events/sessions/conferences are open to representatives from accredited NGOs, follow the link to Other UN Conferences and Major Events.

FOCAL POINTS FOR NGOs

UN Secretariat

- Department for DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/disarm.htm>
- Department of Public Information/NGO Section (DPI/NGO Section)
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/dpi.htm> *** FDU obtained its accreditation through this dept.*
- Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ECOSOC)
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/ecosoc.htm>
- Office for the Coordination of HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/humanit.htm>
- Office of United Nations High Commissioner for HUMAN RIGHTS
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/human.htm>
- INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/indig.htm>
- Division for PALESTINIAN RIGHTS
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/pales.htm>
- PUBLIC INQUIRIES Unit
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/public.htm>
- Division for SOCIAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT (Ageing, Disabled Persons, Family, Poverty, Youth), <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/social.htm>
- Division for SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/sustain.htm>

Agencies and Programmes

- Food and Agricultural Organization - FAO
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/fao.htm>
- United Nations Centre for Human Settlements - HABITAT
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/fao.htm>
- International Atomic Energy Agency - IAEA
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/iaea.htm>
- International Fund for Agricultural Development - IFAD
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/ifad.htm>
- International Labour Organization -ILO
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/ilo.htm>
- United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service - NGLS
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/ngls.htm>
- Pan American Health Organization - PAHO
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/paho.htm>
- United Nations Development Programme - UNDP
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/undp.htm>
- United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/unep.htm>
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - UNESCO
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/unesco.htm>
- United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/unfpa.htm>
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - UNHCR
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/unhcr.htm>
- United Nations Children's Fund - UNICEF
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/unicef.htm>
- United Nations Development Fund for Women - UNIFEM
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/unifem.htm>
- United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/undcp.htm>
- World Food Programme - WFP
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/wfp.htm>
- World Health Organization - WHO
<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/who.htm>

Ambassador's Club at the United Nations

The Ambassador's Club is a "virtual" program of interactive out-reach, linking a voluntary The objective of this voluntary program of out-reach between ambassadors at the United Nations and universities in the United States is to create a better understanding of what the United Nations is, and what it does. The Ambassador's Club attempts to achieve this objective through frequent video conferences, which bring students in their respective universities into contact with Ambassadors and senior International Civil Servants at the United Nations, on subjects which fall within the framework of their school syllabii.

In the three years since this "virtual" club was founded, The Ambassador's Club has organized over two hundred video-conferences, and about one hundred and sixty ambassadors have participated in these sessions.

It is currently working with half a dozen universities in the United States.

The working procedure is for each university to tell The Ambassador's Club what is the framework of the exact syllabus into which they want the video-conferences to fit. The universities choose the subjects, usually asking the The Ambassador's Club to come in with a video-session every week, or in other cases on a more topical as-and-when-required basis.

Once the exact subjects are known, the The Ambassador's Club sets up a panel of those ambassadors and international civil servants who are known to be particularly competent in the subject. Normally, the panel consists of two or three ambassadors at this end. The sessions themselves last between one and two hours, depending upon the university requirements.

The session itself is divided into two parts, a first part in which each of the panelists at the United Nations end makes a short (5-10 minute) presentation, and a second part, in which the panelists have a totally inter-active question and answer session with the students at the university end.

The key to the exercise is the "anchor" at the university end, normally the dealing professor, with whom the The Ambassador's Club stays in regular pre-session contact. In that way, the anchor knows more or less how the session shall be run. This enables the anchor to prepare the students, in advance, on the questions that they might like to ask of the panelists.

The technical aspects of the dial-up have to be worked out by the respective technicians well in advance of the sessions. The Ambassador's Club uses a PolyCom system, linked out through three ISDN lines (working on a bandwidth of 384 consequently). The system could work on a lesser bandwidth also, but the pictures then become increasingly jerky. As the three ISDN lines are dedicated to this use, there are no LAN problems. Other universities check their own systems if they are on a LAN, in order to ensure that there are no "dial-out" problems. The costs are minimal, representing overheads, and are duly reimbursed. Additional telephone Dial Up charges also remain the responsibility of the universities.

Since The Ambassador's Club works with a limited number of universities, all technical teething problems have been ironed out with them already over the past three years. In the case of any new institution, some preliminary technical contact and compatibility tests would inevitably have to be conducted, just to be sure that there are no technical interruptions during the actual video sessions.

For more information go to <http://www.un.int/kamal/club/index.htm>



DPI/NGO CALENDAR

NGO Section, United Nations Department of Public Information

BRIEFING SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2002

2 May

Topic: *Covering the War on Global Terror*

In observance of World Press Freedom Day

Location: Conference Room 2

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Moderator: **Shashi Tharoor**, Interim Head,
Department of Public Information

Opening Remarks:

Louise Fréchette, Deputy Secretary-General

Milos Alcalay, Chairman, Committee on Information

Michel Barton, Director,

Bureau of Information, UNESCO

James H. Ottaway, Jr., Chairman,

World Press Freedom Committee

Panel Discussion:

Hafez Al-Mirazi, Washington Bureau Chief, Al-Jazeera Television

Fred Graham, Chief Anchor and Managing Editor,
Courtroom Television Network

Maria Hinojosa, Correspondent, CNN

Judith Miller, Senior Writer, *The New York Times*

Chidanand Rajghatta, Washington Correspondent,
Times of India

In cooperation with the Special Programmes Section
of DPI

9 May

There will be no Briefing due to the General
Assembly Special Session on Children
(8-10 May 2002).

16 May

Topic: *Family and Ageing:*

Opportunities and Challenges

In observance of the International Day
of Families

Speakers:

Mark Allen Belsey, former Programme Manager,
Maternal and Child Health, Family Planning, World
Health Organisation

Odile Frank, Chief, Social Integration Branch,
Division for Social Policy and Development,
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Helen Hamlin, Main Representative, International
Federation on Ageing,

Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing

23 May

Topic: *International Day of Biodiversity: Biodiversity
and Climate Change*

Speakers:

Thomas Benjamin, President, Environmental
Alliance for Senior Involvement (EASI)

Ambassador Irma Loemban Tobing-Klein,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Suriname to the United Nations

Stuart Pimm, Professor, Center for Environmental
Research and Conservation, Columbia University

Hamdallah Zedan, Executive Secretary, Convention
on Biological Diversity

30 May

*The Annual Orientation Programme of the NGO
Section of the Department of Public Information* for
newly accredited NGO representatives and
representatives of the NGOs newly associated with
the DPI. The two-day programme will be held at
United Nations Headquarters in New York, from
Thursday, 30 May to Friday, 31 May 2002.

Registration is required.

This will replace the regularly scheduled briefing.

6 June

Topic: *DPI/NGO Communications Workshop:
Demystifying Fundraising*

Briefings are held in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library
Auditorium and begin at 10:30 a.m. and end at 11:30
a.m. unless otherwise indicated. A thematically
relevant UN video is usually screened at 10 a.m.
before the Briefing. **To receive our monthly
Calendar and the weekly DPI/NGO Link
newsletter electronically, please send your e-mail
address to dpingo@un.org.**

Keep in touch. Check the DPI/NGO Section's
web site at <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection> or
call our hotline at 212-963-6847 for information
and any changes in our Briefing programme.

E-mail address: dpingo@un.org. More
information is available at our DPI/NGO
Resource Centre, tel.: (212) 963-7233/4 or 963-
7078; fax: (212) 963-2819

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