

World. Wide. WUSC.

March 2009

March is a busy month for Local Committees! The end of the year is fast approaching. Now is the time to think about reporting on your committee's activities this year. If your committee is sponsoring a student refugee in 2009-2010, look for the dossiers to arrive soon. Some of you may be hosting or attending an event for International Women's Day on March 8th.



But don't stress too much...
St. Patrick's Day is just
around the corner!

This issue of *World. Wide. WUSC.* will share info on International Women's Day, the skinny on year-end reporting for Local Committees, and some success stories from Canada and abroad.

Read on!

WUSC IN NUMBERS

10 – Number of referenda organized by WUSC Local Committees to increase levies for the SRP.

5 – Number of dollars of the student levy at Algonoma University, after their referendum victory in January.

5 – Number of dollars of the proposed increased student levy at Lakehead University. Lakehead's Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses will go to referendum in March. Good luck!

9 – Number of official Symposia held by WUSC Local Committees this year (including our overseas Local Committees in Burkina Faso).

THE LOCAL COMMITTEE NETWORK

YEAR-END REPORTING

The school year is winding up and that means that it's time to report on all the activities that your committees have organized during the 2008-09 academic year. Reporting on your activities, expenses and providing input for future programming is of critical importance for WUSC and for Local Committee to measure the impact of our collective efforts. Typically, this reporting would have been done through *My Committee*, but the site is under construction and unavailable to Local Committees. Therefore, an e-mail was sent on February 27th to the primary contact person on your Local Committee which includes the forms to be completed. Please fill out the form as completely as possible – we care about the details! Your Liaison Officer will be making a follow-up call in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions about year-end reporting, please contact your Regional Liaison Officer.

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAVEL

Prairies and Western Canada

Adrie Naylor will visit:

Brandon Committee: March 5th-6th

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG: March 4th –
Knit 4 AIDS

UNIVERSITY OF BRANDON: March 2nd to
6th – "WUSC Week" (for details, email bu-wusc@gmail.com)

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA:

- **March 4th** – "March in March" for women's equality
- **April 4th** – Bike for AIDS benefit concert

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN: **February 28th to March 1st** – Salsa workshop fundraiser

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY:

- **March 11th-13th** – SRP Awareness Week: Bake sale, film night, "Culture Shock" cabaret
- **April 1st** – "Trike 4 AIDS"

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA /CAMPUS ST. JEAN / GRANT MACEWAN: **March 24th** – Tri-campus Wax for AIDS event

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA: **March 13th** – "Mr. and Miss UNBC" Gender Equality Fashion Show

VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY: **April 25th** – SRP Fundraising dinner

Quebec and the Atlantic

CÉGEP DE JONQUIÈRE: **March 16th-20th** – Anti-Racism week

UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC EN OUTAOUAIS: **March 19th (10 am-5 pm)** – Uniterra Day

UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC À RIMOUSKI: **April 2nd (5-9 pm)** – SRP conference with Refugee Study Seminar participants

Ontario

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY (ORILLIA): **March 2nd** – SRP presentation

U OF T SCARBOROUGH: **March 5th (7-9 pm)** – Presentation: "Students Engaged in Global Solidarity and Change"

YORK UNIVERSITY: **March 9th** – SRP workshop

SHERIDAN COLLEGE:

- **March 10th** – SRP Awareness Day
- **March 12th** – Film screening: "War Dance"

GEORGIAN SYMPOSIUM ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

On February 4th the WUSC committee at Georgian College held an all-day Symposium event on the Millennium Development Goals. Read the article from the Barrie Examiner posted by Nicole Bayley



World development – both the good and bad sides – topped the agenda earlier this week at a unique symposium at Georgian College in Barrie.

Students in the Laurentian University program facilitated the 2015 Millennium Development Goals, advocated by the United Nations.

View the complete article online here:
www.thebarrieexaminer.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1424292.

SAINT MARY'S LOCAL COMMITTEE ROCKS FOR REFUGEES!

Rock for Refugees is an event inspired by former Saint Mary's Local Committee co-chair Katie Hope, and this year's committee made the concert a reality by acting on her vision. Planning for this event all came together at once. When we were faced with finding an act for the evening, three performers offered their donated talent simultaneously. With everything coming together, it seemed that the concert was meant to be.

Mary-Grace Koile and Saa Andrew brought awareness to the concert that suited International Development Week. It was a high-energy night that drew in an unheard-of crowd on a Friday night at the Gorsebrook Lounge. We feel proud to offer a concert that encouraged hope and community at our university. Our first performer was the Mary Grace Koile Band, a light-hearted folk sound that shared messages of peace. The lyrics of her single "Different Shades" are stirring: "We've got to learn to love each other cause we're all different shades of the same colour."

Saa Andrew Gbonghor from Fredericton brought energy to the crowd with his enthusiasm and inspirational reggae-rap mixed style of music. Originally from Sierra Leone, he made his way from refugee camp to Canada, Saa has overcome many obstacles in his life, nevertheless he gives back to people selflessly offering his time and his experience to inspire others. He holds a first-hand perspective on world issues, which he shares with the public through his lyrics, such as in the song "Suppression".

Our final performers were the Band Before Time, a great local band that donated their time to the cause. They made the event a success with a mixture of sounds sure to please any crowd.

Check out the performers on MySpace...you are sure to enjoy their melodies:

Saa Andrew: [http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?](http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendID=156451929)

[fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendID=156451929](http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewProfile&friendID=210049223)

Mary-Grace Koile: [http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?](http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewProfile&friendID=210049223)

[fuseaction=user.viewProfile&friendID=210049223](http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewProfile&friendID=366409512)

The Band Before Time: [http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?](http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewProfile&friendID=366409512)

[fuseaction=user.viewProfile&friendID=366409512](http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewProfile&friendID=366409512)

LOCAL COMMITTEE IN BURKINA FASO LAUNCHES COMMUNITY TUTORING PROJECT!

On February 12th, approximately 10 University Students from the Local Committee at the University of Koudougou in Burkina Faso launched a "Community Tutoring Project" for orphaned and "less fortunate" school children from their region. The local committee members have agreed to volunteer their time on Thursday and Saturday evenings in order to help the children with their homework and with subjects in which they struggle. "Children whose families are better off financially usually pay for private tutors. This project helps provide kids from less fortunate families with an equal opportunity to do well on their secondary school common entrance exam," says Sylla, president of the Committee.



Approximately 75 students (of which 45 are girls) currently attend one of the "tutorial sessions" situated in 3 different locations across the city every Thursday and Saturday evening. Based on the interest of the children in the area, the committee expects this number, as well as the number of tutors, to increase significantly in the coming weeks.



"This project is the fruit of the twinning project with the University of Laval", adds Sylla. Laval, Koudougou's "twin committee", plans to hold a fundraiser in the coming months to help purchase some of the materials and school supplies needed to continue running the programme.

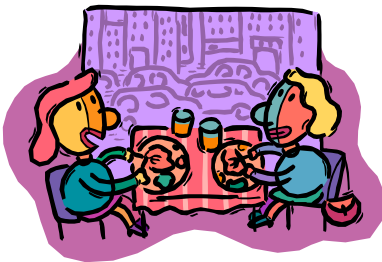
EDUCATE AND ADVOCATE

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8th is International Women's day. It is a rallying point for people around the world to recognize and coordinate efforts to demand women's rights and participation in the political, social and economic process. The day provides an opportunity to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of women's rights.

March 8th is what we make it.

This year we want to make it an opportunity for you to gather with eight other people in your community to make a meal and discuss issues women are facing around the world. This is a chance for you and your guests to learn, share, and reflect on some of the challenges women face, particularly in some of the world's most vulnerable communities. It is also a moment to recognize the work of individuals all over the world who are working to mitigate these issues and foster awareness on gender inequities. It is also an act of solidarity with women around the world.



Three Course Discourse

What: People across Canada coordinating small community get-togethers to share hearty food and lively conversation about issues faced by women around the world and how the current economic crisis is affecting women.

Why: Some of the most insightful conversations about world events and issues are held during the most informal of gatherings: over the water cooler, during coffee break or at a dinner party. This event gives you and your guests the chance to share knowledge, learn from each others' experiences, and with small events being held across the country, be part of a greater social movement, deepening dialogue and building support.

When: Sunday March 8th, International Women's Day. If you cannot coordinate your event to take

place on March 8th, Friday March 6th or Saturday March 7th will work too.

Who: Hosts—Canada's largest volunteer cooperation agencies will be asking their volunteers and supporters to take part and be leaders in coordinating small-scale events around the country.

8 Guests—Develop your guest list however you would like. Consider your family, friends, colleagues, but also consider going outside of your immediate circle. You may want to think about who else in your community may like to contribute to the discussion; for instance, invite your Member of Parliament, a local journalist, someone from the Global South who now lives in your community, or even your town's mayor or city councilor.

How: The event can be whatever you make it (brunch, lunch, dinner, potluck, casual, fancy etc.). The idea is really to bring people together and get people talking – this kit, and the resources we can provide you with, will give you some ideas to start and keep the conversations rolling.

Please let us know what you are planning by registering your event at www.globalcitizensforchange.ca.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

The Canadian Council for Refugees needs images for its campaigns and publications. The CCR produces materials to reach out to members of the public on issues affecting refugees and immigrants. Their goal is for people to understand the realities that newcomers face and the positive contributions that they bring to Canada.

They need your help to do this! Do you:

- Have photos or images that you can share with the CCR for publications on refugee and immigrant rights in Canada?
- Have artistic talents to create original images or drawings for CCR campaigns and publications?

This is your chance to:

- Share your talent with people across Canada
- Earn some money for your work
- Contribute to a national effort to make real changes in the lives of refugees, immigrants, their families and our communities.

For more information, contact Colleen French, CCR Communication and Networking Coordinator at cfrench@ccrweb.ca.

ADD TO YOUR READING LIST!

Annick Press has recently published a new book that tells the remarkable story of a refugee in West Africa. “The Bite of the Mango”, by Mariatu Kamara and journalist Susan McClelland, is the true story of Mariatu’s experience as a war victim in Sierra Leone. Mariatu, now 22 and living in Toronto, is a special representative for UNICEF.

You can find more information here: <http://209.222.52.165/catalog/catalog.aspx?Title=Bite+of+the+Mango,+The>

SPONSOR A STUDENT REFUGEE

MARCH CHECKLIST

As you start planning your summer months, make sure that your sponsored student does as well, as summer is just around the corner!

At this point in the sponsorship cycle, please ensure that you have:

- ✓ Helped the sponsored student locate summer housing and employment;
- ✓ Sent your Liaison Officer your contact information for the summer months;
- ✓ Helped the sponsored student complete his/her income tax return;
- ✓ Make sure that the Permanent Resident card is received by your sponsor student and that he/she also has received the transport loan form;
- ✓ Chosen a selections sub-committee that will review the dossiers of incoming sponsored students.

DOSSIER SELECTION

The first batch of dossiers will be going out by the first week of March for 2009-2010 sponsorships. Establish a sub-committee (preferably 2-3 people) to review the dossiers and rank them according to preference. Please read all information in the package carefully before ranking the candidates! Each package includes a letter from Asni, the candidates’ dossiers, a Sponsoring Group Selection Form, and guidelines relating to confidentiality during and after the selection process.

A few reminders:

- ✓ Consult your admissions office to ensure that the candidate selected is admissible to the university/college before sending the information to us.
- ✓ Make confidentiality a priority! Dossiers contain private information about applicants, and information should **never** be shared beyond the immediate selection committee.
- ✓ Submit your selection form to WUSC A.S.A.P! Once you have ranked the candidates, email WUSC the “Sponsoring Group Selection Form,” attention Asni Mekonnen.

Wondering about the next steps once selections have been made? **The SRP will:**

- ✓ Confirm final approval of the candidate(s) coming to your campus.
- ✓ Send the Undertaking Form to each sponsoring LC, to have it signed by local Citizenship and Immigration (CIC) offices (or Government of Québec for LCs in Québec). Sponsoring LCs must fax the SRP a signed copy of the CIC/QC immigration form. Find your local CIC office here: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/offices/index.asp>
- ✓ Notify overseas CIC offices of the signed Undertaking Forms, which will enable the sponsored students to acquire exit visas from their country of asylum.
- ✓ Follow up with travel arrangements.

If you have any questions about the candidate selection process, do not hesitate to contact Asni Mekonnen (asni@wusc.ca; 1-800-267-8699 ext. 3656).



SRP DOSSIER SELECTION PROCESS—ONLINE TRAINING

Who: For all committees sponsoring in 2009/2010, but all committees are welcome

What: A workshop on the SRP Dossier Selection Process

Where: Online at www.webtrain.com

When: March 10th, 2 pm - 3 pm EST

Why: This workshop will help you in the selection process of your new sponsored student, and will give you the opportunity to ask questions. We strongly encourage you to attend.

All you need is a computer, internet access, and a headset or speakers. If you are interested in participating in the workshop, please notify Michelle Manks (mmanks@wusc.ca) before Friday, March 6th.

LEARN OVERSEAS



STUDENTS WITHOUT BORDERS™ (SWB)

Fall 2009 - SWB Placements

We will start advertising the **SWB placements for fall 2009** at the beginning of March. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until **May 29, 2009**. For more information please visit the SWB section on the WUSC website: www.wusc.ca/swb

Engaging Ontario College Students and Faculties in Internationalization

With the growing demand among students to become global citizens, the Ontario Ministry of Colleges, Training and Universities (OMCTU) granted WUSC with funds to assist college students participate in international development activities.

WUSC was able to assist students through its Students Without Borders™ program by providing them internship opportunities with WUSC local partners in developing countries. Though the target was to offer six (6) students with fully supported internships, SWB not only succeeded the target but also funded part of the internship costs for two (2) additional college students. You can read more about their experience on the SWB blog at www.studentswithoutborders.ca. To learn more about SWB visit: www.wusc.ca/swb or e-mail us at swb@wusc.ca.

The eight (8) successful college students for the year 2008-2009 were:

Malawi:

Kelly Barrington

Humber College (Summer 2008)

Salahuddin Saiyed

Centennial College (Fall 2008)

Ghana:

Georgina Mathews

George Brown College (Winter 2009)

Sarah Schultz

George Brown College (Winter 2009)

Seneca College (Winter 2009)

Vietnam:

Katharine Schwarz

George Brown College (Winter 2009)

Sarah Dekort

George Brown College (Winter 2009)

Gilda Pikelin

George Brown College (Winter 2009)

RESOURCES

The Campus Engagement Team will be changing; most interns will no longer be with us as of the end of March or early April.

Liaison Officers (interns): Conor, Adam, Adrie, Michelle and Mahinaz offer direct support to WUSC's Local Committee network in Canada and internationally, as well as the SRP overseas process. The Liaison Officers are located in five different cities across the country (Winnipeg, Toronto, Sault St. Marie, and Ottawa).

The Liaison Officers main responsibilities are:

- Liaise, motivate, support and guide Local Committees in Uniterra and SRP related activities;
- Disseminate best practices and lessons learned from Local Committees;
- Develop resources based on the needs of Local Committees.
- Support special projects.

EASTERN ONTARIO AND OVERSEAS PROCESS

Conor Falvey:

cfalvey@wusc.ca

613.761.3660

- In addition to the above responsibilities, Conor supports the SRP's overseas process (reviewing our overseas partners' guide, supporting the candidates' selection process, etc.)

GREATER TORONTO AREA AND SOUTHERN ONTARIO

Adam Mahamed:

amahamed@wusc.ca

NORTHERN ONTARIO

Mahinaz Shakeib:

mshakeib@wusc.ca

WESTERN CANADA

Adrie Naylor

anaylor@wusc.ca

204.474.6842

Asni Mekonnen

Senior Program Officer, Student Refugee Program
asni@wusc.ca

613.761.3656

- Liaises with applicants, overseas partners, sponsoring groups, sponsored students, and CIC offices overseas and in Canada.
- Maintains partnerships with NGOs internationally, works with WUSC partners overseas, and is responsible for the selection of WUSC candidates, their immigration processes, and placements.

Emily Chartrand

Program Officer, Uniterra

echartrand@wusc.ca

613.761.3680

- Supports, guides, trains and monitors Local Committees in Uniterra activities on campus (MDG advocacy, Bike for AIDS, Fair trade, Symposia).
- Develops and disseminates resources to support Local Committee efforts in the Uniterra activities.
- Coordinates the International Seminar.

Michelle Manks (she is now located in Ottawa)

Program Officer, Student Refugee Program

mmanks@wusc.ca

613-761-3705

- Supports, guides, trains and monitors Local Committees through the sponsorship process.
- Updates, develops and disseminates resources to support Local Committee efforts in the SRP.
- Supports the work of the regional interns
- Supports WUSC's international local committee network
- Liaise, motivate, support and guide Local Committees in the QC and Atlantic region

Betsabe Chaires

Program Assistant, Uniterra and SRP

bchaires@wusc.ca

613.761.3706

- Supports Uniterra and SRP related activities.;
- Provides logistical support for the Uniterra Leadership Meeting.

Lynne LeBlanc

Manager, Campus Engagement

lynnel@wusc.ca

613.761.3654

- Coordinates campus engagement activities.
- Leads the program development of the SRP and supports the Canadian and overseas partners