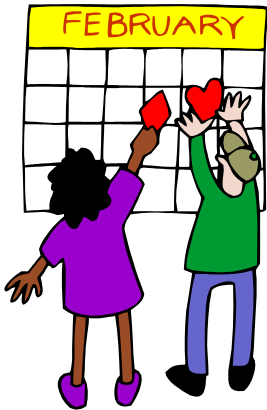


World. Wide. WUSC.

February 2009



The shortest month of the year has arrived, and spring is just around the corner! It's almost Valentine's Day, and it's time to give some extra thought to our loved ones. Let's follow the example of many countries in Latin America, where February 14th is "Friendship Day" as well as a day for lovers. Take the time to show your friends how much you appreciate them!

This year, International Development Week is from Feb. 1st - 7th. Many universities and colleges will be holding special events to mark IDW, and it's a great opportunity for local committees to get the word out about WUSC and the Millennium Development Goals! Participating in IDW events is also a good way to make connections with likeminded groups on your campus.

THE LOCAL COMMITTEE NETWORK

IMPORTANT 'MY COMMITTEE' UPDATE

As of February, the *My Committee* site will be under construction and unavailable to Local Committees. Instead, you will be asked to report on your 2008-09 activities through a form that will be made available later on this month. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this process.

UPCOMING EVENTS & VISITS

Quebec and the Atlantic

Michelle Manks will be visiting:

Nova Scotia Committees: Feb 2nd - Feb 4th

Fredericton Committees: Feb 4th - Feb 6th

LAVAL: Thursday, February 5th - Symposium themed "Youth and Education". This event will include kiosks highlighting youth related groups and projects, several guest speakers, a highlight on Peru and the International Seminar, and will conclude with a musical performance by Peruvian artists and dancers.

DALHOUSIE: Wednesday, February 4th (7-9pm) - Panel discussion on the Student Refugee Program. The event is free of charge and will take place in Alumni Hall at King's College. Special focus will be on life in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya and the internationalization of Canadian universities. The CBC documentary about the program "The Lucky Ones" will be screened followed by a panel of speakers.

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY: Friday, February 6th - Rock for Refugees, planned in collaboration with the International Development Society. The event will include Performances by Saa Andrews (former child soldier), local artist Mary Grace, and The Band Before Time. All proceeds will support the SRP.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER: Tuesday, February 3rd - Fair Trade Chocolate Taste Test: A free comparison of Fairly Traded and non-fairly traded chocolate.

WUSC IN NUMBERS

61 - Number of years the WUSC has organized an International Seminar, starting in Germany in 1948.

40 - Number of Canadian and Peruvian students who will be participating in this year's International Seminar on water issues in Peru.

3 - Number of times the seminar has been in Peru before (1972, 1996, 1997).

1200 - Number of Canadian students that have taken part in a WUSC International Seminar, including people like Pierre Elliott Trudeau (1957 Seminar to Ghana).

120 - Number of Canadian faculty advisors who have participated in a WUSC International Seminar.

UNB FREDERICTON:

- **Monday, February 2nd (5:30–6:30pm)** – Symposium entitled “Think Global, Act Local”. Entails a round table discussion featuring 5 panelists and will focus on the Millennium Development goals.
- **Thursday February 5th (12-2pm)** – Fair Trade Coffee House. Fair Trade coffee and information will be distributed, and local shops selling fairly traded items have been invited to hold kiosks during the event.

GTA and Southern Ontario

Adam Mahamed will be visiting:

Waterloo committee: Feb 2nd

SHERIDAN COLLEGE: Tuesday, February 3rd – Fair Trade film Screening: “Black Gold”

GEORGIAN COLLEGE: Thursday, February 4th – Symposium: Millennium Development Goals

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH: Sunday, February 8th – Symposium: Gender Equality & Education

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE: Monday, February 9th – Fair Trade Valentine’s Day

WILFIRD LAURIER: T.B.A. – Bike for AIDS event

Prairies and Western Canada

Adrie Naylor will be visiting:

Alberta in early February. Stay tuned for details!

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN:

- **Monday, January 26th** – Skating social
- **Tuesday, February 3rd** – International Week presentation
- **Wednesday, February 4th** – International Week bake sale
- Stay tuned for details about the U of S Local Committee’s planned Salsa workshop fundraiser

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA:

- **Tuesday, February 3rd** – Panel discussion entitled “*Lack of Resources in Refugee Camps*”
- **Friday, February 27th** – Annual Student Refugee Program Benefit Gala (for more information, email srpgala.wusc@ualberta.ca)

UNBC: Friday, February 13th – Fair Trade Fair and speaker

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA: Saturday, January 31st – Panel discussion entitled “*Unpacking ‘Universal Education’: Critical Perspectives on Knowledge Transmission*”. All proceeds raised will be donated to Students for Refugee Students, an organization working in Dadaab refugee camp, Kenya.

Congratulations to...

...the Brandon University WUSC Local Committee, which recently ran a successful book drive at BU and collected over 1,000 books! All useable textbooks will be used to provide support for Books for Africa (www.booksforafrica.org). Way to go, BU WUSCers!



...the Algoma University Local Committee for a landslide referendum victory on January 22nd! Students voted overwhelmingly in favour of a levy of \$5 per semester to support the SRP at Algoma.

REGIONAL MEETING OF QUEBEC AND FRANCOPHONE LOCAL COMMITTEES

Last month, 34 participants, including students, faculty, and staff advisors from 11 campuses, gathered at Université de Sherbrooke for a regional meeting of Quebec and francophone Local Committees.

The weekend began with an overview of WUSC, followed by presentations by two participants in last summer’s Refugee Study Seminar on their experiences in Kenya. These presentations helped meeting participants to better understand the challenges of life in a refugee camp, and encouraged a lively discussion of the SRP’s role in the camps.

Over the course of the weekend, committees had the chance to share their successes and challenges, and participated in activities to build their capacity to start up and run a Local Committee. They also participated in workshops on the SRP and the Millennium Development Goals, and put their new skills into practice when they were tasked with planning a fictional event. According to participants, the most rewarding part of the weekend was the chance to share ideas, experiences, and support with other Quebecois and francophone committees.

Please join us in welcoming five new Quebec Local Committees: Université du Québec à Rimouski, École Polytechnique de Montréal, Concordia, Séminaire de Sherbrooke, and CÉGEP de Jonquière!



EDUCATE AND ADVOCATE



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK—8 GOALS

International Development Week (February 2-6) is fast approaching and there is no better time to champion the Millennium Development Goals by raising awareness and taking action on your campus. One great resource for educating your peers on Canada's role in the achievement of the MDGs is the 8 Goals workshop "Meeting Our Targets". The workshop is directed towards Canadian young people, including post-secondary students, who are looking to push Canada towards stepping up its role as a global partner by:

- providing more and better development aid to developing countries;
- Cancelling their debts so that they can invest in key social programs (e.g. education and health);
- giving them fair access to global markets so that they can strengthen their national economies;
- giving them access to affordable essential drugs so that they can care for the sick.

The "Meeting Our Targets" workshop seeks to deepen student leaders' understanding of the MDGs and Canada's role in achieving them, as well as to equip these leaders with the skills and arguments to champion Canada's role in achieving the MDGs to their peers, the media, and decision makers.

The workshop is primarily geared towards post-secondary student leaders and groups concerned with issues of global poverty, but given its non-technical aspects and its vast potential to be adapted, the workshop is also useful to any youth or citizen group concerned with these same issues. A separate set of activities is included for group to engage their peers on campus or the general population.

If your Local Committee would like a hard copy of the workshop, please contact Emily Chartrand in Ottawa (echartrand@wusc.ca) and one can be sent to you. Alternatively, the workshop in PDF form is available both on your Local Committee resource DVD and on the Unitererra website ([http://www.unitererra.org/unitererra/uploads/Campus/activite/Millennium%](http://www.unitererra.org/unitererra/uploads/Campus/activite/Millennium%20Week/8%20Goals%20Workshop.pdf)

One final note: please check the Unitererra website (www.unitererra.ca) regularly, as we're in the process of updating the information available online. New resources will soon be posted.

FAIR TRADE VALENTINE'S

Feel good about your valentine and about your purchase by offering Fair Trade Valentines. Fair trade certified flowers and chocolates are available all over Canada.

Fair Trade Certified Flowers

Many people admire the beauty of a rose without thinking about where the flower was produced, or under what conditions. In fact, these popular tokens of love and affection are often grown under a labour and chemical-intensive process that puts workers and the environment at high risk. With more pesticides per hectare than any other form of agriculture, many workers in the conventional flower industry suffer from serious health problems including headaches, nausea, respiratory problems, and birth defects. Under the umbrella of FLO (Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International), workers who produce Fair Trade Certified flowers are guaranteed a minimum wage and fair employment conditions including rigorous environmental and safety standards, as well as a premium to invest in social and economic initiatives in their communities. Visit http://transfair.ca/en/transfair_locate to find out where to buy Fair Trade flowers.



Fair Trade Certified Chocolate

More than 30 developing world economies rely on the cocoa industry with 14 million people worldwide directly involved in cocoa production. Farmers are often paid prices for their cocoa which don't cover the costs of production or provide a sustainable livelihood. Child labour on cocoa farms has been an issue, particularly in Ivory Coast where forced labour of children has been documented. Lack of market access and affordable credit drives cocoa farmers to sell to middlemen where they may receive a fraction of the value of their harvest. Under the umbrella of FLO (Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International), farmers who produce Fair Trade Certified cocoa are guaranteed a minimum price to cover the costs of production, and a social premium to invest in social and economic initiatives in their communities. Visit http://transfair.ca/en/transfair_locate to find out where to buy Fair Trade chocolate.



SPONSOR A STUDENT REFUGEE

TAKE PART IN A TELECONFERENCE!

Listen. Learn. Ask. Act.

Women in the Global South and the Financial Crisis

Global Citizens for Change invites you to a coast to coast conference call to learn about and discuss how the global financial crisis is affecting women in developing communities, and what women are doing about it.

Date: Wednesday February 18, 2009

Time: 7:00PM (ET- be sure to calculate what that means for your time zone)

Guest Speakers:

- Hélène Lagacé, Gender Specialist at the Center for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)
- Elaine Zukerman, President and Founder of GenderAction

All you need to do is:

Step one: Email hharding@cciorg.ca and let us know you will be calling in.

Step two: On February 18th call: Toll Free 1-866-782- 8903
Toronto area: 647-426-1845

This phone-in conference is accessible from anywhere in Canada, is free for those calling in, and allows us to connect across the country without generating a large carbon foot print.

Act.

March 8th is International Women's Day - join with Canadians around the country and host an eight person get-together to explore, discuss and celebrate women around the world. This conference call is a first step to help you prepare for lively conversations with family, colleagues, fellow student or neighbours.

Start the conversation. Teach. Learn. More information: hharding@cciorg.ca.

FEBRUARY CHECKLIST

All you need is love – and now is a good month to show some to each other. February can be a difficult month with mid-terms and seasonal depression, so make sure you follow up with the sponsored student.

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

- ✓ Sent in your Intent to Sponsor Form and SRP Contribution Fund;
- ✓ Helped the sponsored student arrange a meeting with a Financial Aid Officer to understand the regulations surrounding his/her ability to obtain student financial assistance in the following year;
- ✓ Helped the sponsored student find part-time work, if s/he so desires;
- ✓ Inquired with the sponsored student about the status of his/her travel loan and, if the bill has arrived, helped him/her set up a repayment schedule for the loan.

SRP SELECTION

If you have submitted your completed Intent to Sponsor Form, your cheque for the SRP Contribution Fund, and your signed statement of understanding, you should be receiving dossiers this month for your committee's selection. WUSC will send your Local Committee 2-5 dossiers for review, depending on the number of students your committee has asked to sponsor.

Each dossier contains the candidate's post-secondary transcripts, English or French language test scores (e.g. TOEFL), biographical information, and a note about what they are looking for in a post-secondary degree. Local Committees are asked to rank their preference of candidates and to send this information back to WUSC. Ultimately, all candidates selected for the SRP are guaranteed a sponsorship to Canada.

This year, 45 universities and colleges have requested to sponsor a total of 67 candidates for Fall 2009. Of these candidates, 47 will be sponsored through Kenya, 18 through Malawi, and for the first time the SRP will sponsor 3-5 Bhutanese candidates through Nepal. Names have been submitted to the respective Canadian High Commission offices, so that candidates will undergo mandatory security and medical clearance. Candidates were selected last year with the expectation of arrival in August 2009.

Suggestions regarding the selection of your sponsored student:

- Establish a selection committee of 2-3 people who will review and rank the dossiers, and recommend a candidate for sponsorship next year. The selection committee should be mandated to do this on behalf of the larger Local Committee. Include staff/faculty advisors where applicable.
- The selection committee must first meet with an admissions officer to determine which candidates meet the admission requirements at your institution.
- Once the committee has confirmed admissibility, you must rank your preference of candidates and fill out the nomination form. Every committee's criteria for selection will be different. Consider relevant features of your campus and community, e.g. academic requirements, size of the community, available services or lack thereof, etc.
- All documents and personal stories of a candidate must be treated as confidential documents. Dossier content should not be disclosed to persons outside of the selection committee. This includes other Local Committee members, boyfriends, girlfriends, parents, professors, peers, former sponsored students, etc. All records containing personal information should be kept in a secure location.



All candidates with dossiers have been pre-screened and approved by WUSC for sponsorship, and each dossier is sent to multiple LCs for review. If two committees request the same candidate, WUSC will negotiate to ensure that all candidates are placed. While we will do our best to meet your preference of candidates, we must remain true to the larger goal: to place as many refugee students as possible. Local Committees are usually provided the name of their sponsored student in the spring.

While admission requirements will take precedence over other selection criteria, keep in mind that refugee students with lower TOEFL scores are the students most in need of placement advocacy. **If possible**, be flexible and consider candidates who may have lower language scores.

REFERENDUM

If your Local Committee is planning a referendum for an SRP student levy on your campus, **contact Betsabe (bchaires@wusc.ca) to receive a referendum kit**, which contains a step by step guide and promotional material to help ensure your referendum is a success!

A JOURNEY TO THE DOOR

By Deng Ngang Deng, University of Toronto

It took nearly two decades journey to reach the door of higher education. I didn't believe that I would one day go beyond high school after my education was interrupted by civil war that ejected me out of Sudan. My life in Kenya initiated a successful academic vision. However, I didn't know how to achieve it.



This dream unfolded when I got scholarship through WUSC's Student Refugee Program at Trinity college. I wanted to start classes as soon as I arrived but it took me two weeks before classes began. One could imagine how thirsty I was. The whole event kicked off with Frosh Week. Everyone wore a white T-shirt with writings: OUT OF MANY ONE TRINITY. I knew I was amongst "many that make one Trinity."

It was later followed by my first Chemistry lectures with Prof. Dong. These lectures expelled some fear that I wouldn't comprehend Canadian accent. I knew I had come to the door. The door I had anticipated since 1990s.

I wanted to take petroleum engineering but it was not offered at the University of Toronto and my choice seemed deterred. It's not until I met my academic advisor that I decided to be a geology specialist and go to graduate school to study petroleum geology. Every time I go to class, I think of great minds being wasted in refugee camps just because they can't afford tertiary education. However, it is my hope that one day a helping hand will reach them and they will get to the Door as well.

LEARN OVERSEAS

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

The WUSC International Seminar is entering its 61st year! The tradition began in 1948, when a group of Canadian students travelled to post-war Germany to join a group of European students for six weeks of discussion and exchange. . Since then, over 2000 students and faculty have taken part in annual seminars around the world.

For the last 30 years the seminar has focused on developing countries, with half of the participants coming from the host country.

This year's seminar will take place in Peru and focus on the topic of water and sanitation. Peru has hosted the seminar three times before – in 1972, 1996, and 1997 – making it one of the seminar's most visited destinations. The language of the seminar traditionally alternates each year between English and French, but this year's participants will be getting a chance to brush up on their Spanish as well!

The 2009 seminar participants are:

Alexandra Rydz, University of Alberta
Carlos Zavarce, University of Nipissing
Mariam Opoku, University of Nipissing
Shannon Baxter, University of Calgary
Madeleine Northcote, Mount Allison University
Natalia Andrea Romero, Vanier College
Louise Lavigne, University of Ottawa
Jordan Neave, University of Vancouver Island
Maraline, Badalian, Ryerson University
Liberty Looker, Ryerson University
Christiane Palluau, Simon Fraser University
Anne-Christine Poulin, Université Laval
Mélanie Rochette-Mercier, Université Laval
Magaly Paquet, Université Laval
Maya Tapiero, McGill University
Sara Peek, Carleton University
Vanessa O'Connor, Concordia University

Thank you to all those who applied. Congratulations to the successful candidates!

RESOURCES

CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT TEAM



GOODBYE SARAH!

It is with great regret that we say goodbye to Sarah Angus, Program Officer for the Student Refugee Program. Sarah's involvement with SRP started when

she was studying at McMaster University. She dedicated her time and expertise in strengthening the Local Committee network across the country and has left a in important mark in expanding the SRP in Ontario.

Sarah's dedication, perseverance, positive outlook combined with her ability to listen, guide and motivate campus volunteers has helped support more sponsored students in Ontario than ever before. Her commitment for supporting refugees and newcomers extends beyond her responsibilities at WUSC. We wish Sarah success in her future endeavors at Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

As of February 16th, Michelle Manks will be taking over as Program Officer for the Student Refugee Program. She will continue in her capacity as Liaison Officer for Quebec and the Maritimes until April 7th. Congratulations, Michelle!

Liaison Officers

Conor, Adam, Adrie, Michelle, and Mahinaz will be supporting WUSC's Local Committee network in Canada and internationally, as well as supporting the SRP overseas process. The Liaison Officers are located in five different cities across the country (Winnipeg, Toronto, Sault St. Marie, Ottawa and Québec City) and will be working until April 7th, 2009. The Liaison Officers will:

- 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 / 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

QUEBEC AND THE ATLANTIC / INTERNATIONAL LOCAL COMMITTEE NETWORK

Michelle Manks:

mmanks@wusc.ca

418.572.9891

- In addition to the above responsibilities, Michelle supports WUSC's international local committee network and leading the twinning project initiative

As Program Officer, Student Refugee Program, Michelle:

- 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

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.

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