

GLOBAL CONCEPTS



www.kcglobalconcepts.org

G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER

Vol. 26 no.2

SUMMER 2008

Director's Comment

ENRICHING THE KANSAS CITY COMMUNITY

Two Major Projects in April and June 2008: **HUMAN RIGHTS** and **ENVIRONMENT** are two undisputed universal issues, considered as the defining issues of our era. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) are two core international treaties. This year's 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (adopted on December 10, 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly) reminds us of needed commitments to this universal Declaration. If you had attended the GAME fifth Biennial CRC-CEDAW conference on April 18-19, 2008 you will likely concur with other participants who, in their final evaluation, expressed appreciation for the conference organizer's ability to attract and bring to the Kansas City community such high quality, nationally recognized speakers. The keynote speakers were Sara Albert, Nadine Perrault, and Armand F. Pereira. In addition to major speakers, the CRC-CEDAW conference featured local experts leading the small groups. The moderators were a Midwest "who's who" that included such well-known personalities as Alvin Brooks, Judy Ancel, Kristy Child (Veronica's Voice), Dr. Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, Dr. Pellom McDaniels, Mary Stewart, Colleen White, Dr. Ewa Unoke and others.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, (CRC) and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) are two core international treaties included in a resolution introduced May 1, 2008 in the U.S. House calling for their ratification. The resolution H. Res.1169 was introduced by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) and 39 original co-sponsors urging the U.S Senate to give its advice and consent.

Manny Pedram, who received a grant from EPA Region 7, just completed the Summer **Institute for Climate Change (June 2-6)** at the Anita Gorman Conservation Discovery Center. The Summer Institute constituted three dimensions and provided opportunity for classroom teachers (a) to learn the scientific elements of climate change, its social, political effects on population protecting human health, malnutrition, and assessment of effective measures to protect environment; (b) professional development, and teaching skills. This dimension was TEACHER TO TEACHER interaction and plan development and, finally (c) opportunity for receiving graduate credit through UMKC. June 5th is the World Environment Day, and climate change institute was a culmination of GAME's continuing focus on environmental issue and the role of classroom teachers in advancing the younger generation's understanding of this complex issue.

Manny and Sara Pedram

GLOBAL PACT ON DISABILITY RIGHTS

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) came into force on May 3, 2008. The CRPD does not create new rights for the estimated 650 million people around the world with disabilities, but aims to ensure that the benefits of existing rights are fully extended and guaranteed. By ratifying the Convention, States commit themselves to enact laws and other measures to improve disability rights, and to abolish legislation, customs and practices that discriminate against persons with disabilities. "The document aims to educate, empower and motivate all children, but particularly those with disabilities, to claim their rights and to actively participate in challenging discrimination, as well as promoting the Convention," the statement noted.

In his address, UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban called for "concrete steps to transform the vision of the Convention into real victories on the ground. We must address the glaring inequalities experienced by persons with disabilities. We must counter discrimination and prejudice. We must deliver development that is truly for all."

UN News Centre

Antarctica Already Shows Results of Climate Change

Antarctica is the most magnificent and wonderful place I have ever visited! And it is truly international! One of the most amazing things is that an international treaty has been negotiated to protect the continent from being divided up among national powers and to protect its environment. Different countries do have stations there but they are for research purposes only. Also, we were constantly being reminded that we were to leave nothing behind nor do anything that would disturb the wildlife. We were to stay at least 15 feet from the animals or back off even more if they showed signs of distress.

We traveled by a small boat that carried 110 passengers plus almost that many tour

leaders, crew and staff. We went ashore via zodiacs, small inflatable craft that held 10 to 12 passengers. The crew had very special procedure to help us get in and out of them. We went ashore twice most days. While traveling, lecturers, experts in their fields, told about the wonders around us, including the insects under the rocks! We were awakened every morning at 6:00 with an announcement about the weather. It was nearly always 39 degrees, warmer than usual. This was in January, their summer. I did not get to use the crampons I had taken to use to walk on snow and ice! No wonder the glaciers were melting so fast!

We started our cruise from Ushia, Argentina, "the end of the world, where everything begins", visited the Falkland Islands where we saw our last towns and society as we know it, and made many stops in South Georgia where we saw the most wildlife, especially penguins. We visited deserted whaling stations and heard the history of whaling in the area. There were old dilapidated buildings that we were warned to stay out of for obvious reasons but someone looked in one and found that it was full of seals seeking protection from the wind.

As we cruised farther south, the water became rougher in the Convergence where the colder waters of the Antarctic mixed with the warmer waters of the north. (Doesn't that sound backward?) It became calmer again as we got into the colder water of Antarctica. The sighting of our first iceberg was exciting and we never tired of seeing how big and blue they were and how many different shapes and sizes they were. Some had holes through them. On one occasion, our zodiac driver took us through an arch in an iceberg, much to the consternation of the cruise director. She said the iceberg could have collapsed on us. They are constantly moving, melting and of course, hiding most of their size in the very clear, clean water. However, global warming is having its effect on them. Our leaders told us that they are getting smaller and fewer in number.

We saw 6 different species of penguins, fur and elephant seals, different species of whales, reindeer and several different birds

including 2 species of Albatross. The young fur seals were cute, but delighted in chasing us. Luckily, they stopped when we turned and clapped our hands at them. We climbed a hill to see the Wandering Albatross on their nests. They were not disturbed by us. With their huge wingspans, they could fly high and long distances but they literally tumbled when they landed. We were often called to the deck to see the whales that often appeared to be giving us a show.

We enjoyed watching the penguins most of all. They are truly communal; working together to protect themselves from predators and the environment, yet one species will steal rocks from each other's nests. Some of the young penguins are grouped in "nurseries" while their parents are at sea feeding. They walk in lines and wait for the leader to dive into the water to feed. They are rather clumsy on land but fast and graceful in water. They feed, mostly on krill which they regurgitate to feed their young who cannot go into the water until they molt their fuzzy, baby feathers. We saw penguins, both male and female, keeping their eggs warm, taking care of their young, the young growing up and practicing walking, diving and courting. The very worst that we witnessed was a leopard seal grabbing a penguin and killing it by pounding it to death. Another unhappy occasion concerning the penguins was a nursery of penguins standing around with their beaks open or lying on the ground with their feet stretched out behind them. They could not get into the water too cool off and there was no snow nearby. It was a very warm day, in the mid to upper 50's. I asked one of our wildlife experts if they were panting, trying to cool off. He answered, "Yes", hesitated as if he didn't want to tell us, and then said, "They will be dead by morning".

My favorite experience was when 2 young King penguins came up to me. One pecked on the black joint on my walking stick, evidently hoping that it was something to eat. They walked off, turned around, came back and tried again before starting to walk off a second time. They turned around as if coming back. I

stuck my gloved hand out and wiggled my fingers. The braver of the two took my finger in his beak. I could feel his tongue moving, trying his best to swallow it. He gave up pretty quickly and left me standing there, thinking, he got within 15 feet of me. He was the one who violated the rule, but was I excited that he did!

There was a British historian aboard who told us about the early whaling and exploring expeditions, especially Shackleton's ill fated one. Their ship was broken up by the ice. We explored Elephant Island, where his men were stranded for a winter while he went for help. He did return and rescue them but later died in the Antarctic and was buried at one of the whaling stations. We paid our respects at his grave.

One day, the ship captain asked our leaders if he could take to us see something new. We went by a cliff that had at least 100 waterfalls coming over it from the melt of a glacier. The sun was shining and there were rainbows all over the place. It was beautiful, but was scary, too. These waterfalls had not been there the year before. This glacier was melting that much faster and also moving faster because of the water running under it. We saw glaciers that looked like rivers of snow running to the sea and others that came down to the sea, dropping hunks of their ice into the water, thereby slowly but surely raising the water level. We did not see one calve one big enough to be called an iceberg. Recently, one of the Antarctic ice shelves collapsed, emphasizing the damage being done by global warming.

The trip to Antarctica is by far my favorite trip. It was not as cold or white as I expected but absolutely beautiful, so blue and white. We could observe the wildlife since it not learned to be afraid of us and run away as we approached. What more could you ask? I can only hope that it can remain relatively unchanged for others to enjoy.

Joyce Cox

Historic Beginning for Human Rights Declaration

By Max McGowen

“On June 9, the United Nations will mark the 61-year anniversary of the first meeting of the drafting group that ultimately produced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This landmark document spelled out formal standards for human rights and stipulated that these rights applied to all persons, regardless of national identification or political, social or economic status.

Although the UN was the decisive player in the crafting of the final product, the Declaration evolved from proposals that originated outside of the organization. In fact, a swath of nongovernmental organizations, public interest groups and private citizens issued calls for a pronouncement that would formally recognize international standards of human rights. In 1947, the then-nascent UN became involved with the work when, during the first session of the General Assembly, the delegation from Panama submitted a draft proposal authored by the American Law Institute.”

The main disagreement in these early stages was whether human rights should be considered as legally enforceable or merely desirable standards. Because this conflict was fundamental to the nature of the document, it could not be indefinitely avoided.

Recognizing the need to resolve the matter, the UN formed the Commission on Human Rights in June 1946 to decide how to frame the issue. Eleanor Roosevelt chaired the commission, which met for the first time on January 27, 1947.

The participants were committed to producing a document that would prohibit discrimination, ensure human rights of all kinds - civil, political, social and economic - and guarantee these rights to all persons, in keeping with the core mission of the UN. By December 17, 1947, the committee unanimously agreed on the content of the

Declaration and submitted its draft to the member-states. Feedback from the states was then incorporated into a second draft of the Declaration, which the working group completed on June 18, 1948.

After the final revision, the drafting committee submitted its work to the UN Economic and Social Council for further review. The Declaration then went to the General Assembly, where it was translated into all of the official languages of the UN. It was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1948.

As the 60-year anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights approaches, the significance of the Declaration should not be forgotten. With this document as a guide, there is no justification for failing to uphold the basic principles of human dignity. While it may take a lot of work, getting the international community to recognize that human rights cannot be deferred is not an unrealistic goal. In the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, who devoted her life to advancing these rights, “in the light of history, it is more intelligent to hope rather than to fear.”

This article is a portion of total article by Max McGowen an intern for UNA-USA and a student at The George Washington University, published in the UNA-USA News Update, June 3, 2008

Meetings of Interest

NIDIS Workshop on the National Status of Drought Early Warning Systems, 17-19 June, 2008, Kansas City, MO NWSTC
<http://snr.unl.edu/ndmcsurvey/nidisregistrationkc2008.html>

Data Stewardship Workshop and Partners Meeting, July 29-30, 2008, Kansas City, MO. Contact: Doug Kluck 13th Conference on Mountain Meteorology in Whistler, BC, Canada: 11-15 August 2008
<http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/meetinfo.html#2008>

High Plains Conference, 4-5 Sept, 2008, Hays KS Growing the Bioeconomy: from Foundational Science to Sustainable Practice, 8-9 September, 2008, Iowa State University – Ames, IA
<http://www.bioeconomyconference.org/>

Corn, Carbon, and Climate, Post-Conference Workshop on the Climate of the Midwest, 9-10 September, 2008, Iowa State University - Ames, IA
<http://www.bioeconomyconference.org/>

New Youngest G.A.M.E. Member

Inara has been beaten out for the youngest G.A.M.E. member. Her brother, Ryker Tunui (Ryker is Danish for 'strength or powerful'; Tunui is Tahitian for 'great advocate') was born May 20, 2008. He has a beautiful future ahead of him filled with potential to accomplish anything.

Cheers!

Haumana

Greetings CRC Campaign Members!

The latest edition of the Campaign's newsletter can be accessed at <http://childrightscampaign.org/documents/Spring2008.pdf>. This issue contains information on preliminary plans for our 2009 national event, photos from the Brooklyn College and Pacific University Briefing Days, and a link to Tom Kennedy's (Chair of the Campaign) interview with CRIN.

In addition, we have now uploaded the list of Campaign partners to the Web Site (see http://childrightscampaign.org/crcindex.php?sNav=about_snav.php&sDat=partners_dat.php). On May 22-23 and June 2, you were informed that the Campaign would be posting its list of partners on the Web Site. If you did not want your organization/university included, you were to have let us know by June 5.

On Wednesday, July 2, Marty Scherr and Elisabeth Lean of the Campaign were on CWLA Radio. See the newsletter for more details. (<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/CWLA-Radio>)

With kind regards,

Elisabeth Lean, MSW
 The Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the CRC
elisabeth@childrightscampaign.com
<http://childrightscampaign.org>



Presentation of G.A.M.E. award by Sara Pedram to Nadine Perrault, Director, UNICEF Human Rights Cluster



Paul De Barthe and his students reviewing CRC/CEDAW Conference agenda



G.A.M.E. Past President Greg Brown, and others attending the CRC/CEDAW Conference

GLOBAL CONCEPTS

Newsletter of the Global And Multicultural Education Center (G.A.M.E.)

A non-profit organization.

3009 Holmes

Kansas City, Missouri, USA 64109

(816) 960-1546 (816) 753-2372

www.kcglobalconcepts.org

Board of Directors:

Sara Pedram, Director

Manny Pedram, Founder

State Senator, Charles B. Wheeler, M.D.

President: Haumana Johannsen

Vice President: Teri Chu

V.P. Programs: Doris R. Stout

V.P. Membership: Hattie Williams

Treasurer: open

Secretary: open

ex-officio: Gregory Brown, Ph.D.

Nancy Brooks

Joyce Cox

Gene Foster

Arthea Saller

George Saller

Bambi Shen

Matthew Westra, Newsletter Editor

Mariah Chrans, Office Manager

Join the World: Become a member of G.A.M.E.

The strength of any organization depends upon the level of support and financial resources provided by its members and friends. G.A.M.E. is no exception. Please use this form to join us today.

Membership Form:

Date: _____

Patron..... \$ 30.00 _____

Family \$ 15.00 _____

Individual..... \$ 10.00 _____

Organization/School.. \$ 15.00 _____

Name _____

Address: _____ City, State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: _____ e-mail: _____

I would like to contribute an additional \$ _____ for educational use of the organization.

Your membership and contributions are tax exempt.

We thank you for your support.

Mission Statement: G.A.M.E. assists in the enhancement of knowledge of global interdependence and awareness and appreciation of our common humanity.