

# GLOBAL CONCEPTS

[www.keglobalconcepts.org](http://www.keglobalconcepts.org)

G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER Vol. 26 no.4 Winter 2008-2009



## Director's Comment

### PEACE BUILDER AWARDS CELEBRATION

The second annual Peace Builder Awards luncheon was held on Saturday, November 8, at Figlio's Italian Restaurant on the Country Club Plaza. The event began with mingling, followed by viewing and bidding on the myriad of multicultural silent auction items. Sara welcomed everyone at noon and a delicious pasta lunch was served and enjoyed by GAME members, friends and guests. Good food and good fellowship were enjoyed by all attending.

Manny Pedram, Director Emeritus and first recipient of the Peace Builder award, then presented the Peace Builder (individual) award to Dr. Charles Wheeler, former Kansas City Mayor and Missouri State Senator. He said that Dr. Wheeler was in the forefront of the recognition of the United Nations and established the Mayor's Annual U.N. Day event in Kansas City. He added that Dr. Wheeler has served as chair and done fund raising for the Rights of the Child biennial conferences since 2000. On behalf of GAME, Manny expressed his appreciation for the many years of loyal support that Dr. Wheeler has generously contributed to our organization.

Haumana Johannsen, current board president, presented the Peace Builder (organization) award to PSR -- Physicians for Social Responsibility. Accepting on behalf of PSR was Dr. Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, who has

been a GAME partner and passionate advocate in our biennial conferences that focus on issues effecting children and women around the world. Haumana also acknowledged PSR's work to educate the public about the medical and health consequences of the nuclear war issue and the mobilization of individual citizens in the early 1960's. She said that currently the PSR Social Justice Committee is actively involved in the areas of health care reform, poverty and environmental justice.

Both Dr. Wheeler and Dr. Huet-Vaughn were presented a crystal globe award with the inscription "YOU Make a World of Difference" as well as a beautiful framed Peace Builder Award certificate. All present applauded the dedication and support of these two remarkable persons.

Sara Pedram, Director



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## Obama and Multilateralism

With the presidential election behind us, a number of organizations with a focus on international relations and multilateral diplomacy, such as the UN Better World Organization, Amnesty International and United Nations Association-USA, have analyzed the changes in the new administration and its impact on international diplomacy and multilateral approach to solving global problems. Working cooperatively with other nations around the world and participating in multilateral diplomacy has proven to be the most effective approach in preserving international stability, achieving peaceful resolutions of many large and small global disputes, and in advancing the U.S. national security.

With President-elect Barack Obama enjoying international support during his long campaign, most analysts are optimistic and believe that after taking office, he will enhance the United States' reputation around the globe with a different diplomatic approach. William H. Luers, President of UNA-USA in his analysis of Mr. Obama's diplomatic approach, in a letter to the President-elect, wrote:

"You will become president at a moment when the world is anxious to have the United State back...to bring a fresh spirit of cooperation to America's international relations." Mr Luers, after reviewing many international issues including human rights, climate change and rule of law, ends his letter with the following statement: "You, Mr. President, have an opportunity to refresh America's place in the world, not by trying to restore a former image, but creating a new American face and providing leadership in developing new approaches to global issues."

Manny Pedram

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## Donor Edge Update

**G.A.M.E.** has been a part of the DonorEdge for some time now. DonorEdge is a program that the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation (GKCCF) offers where a non-profit can display information about itself for potential donors, other non-profits and for funders. Below is the description from GKCCF about DonorEdge and a link to our profile. One thing to note is that we are a check marked profile. This means our information and financial information have be verified by GKCCF as accurate. It is similar to an A+. If you have any questions about our profile or how to access it you can contact Manny at [info@kcglobalconcepts.org](mailto:info@kcglobalconcepts.org) or myself [mariahchrans@gmail.com](mailto:mariahchrans@gmail.com) and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mariah Chrans

To read more about **DonorEdge**(R), visit their web site:  
[https://www.donoredge.org/public\\_access/w\\_hatis.jsp](https://www.donoredge.org/public_access/w_hatis.jsp)

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## Quote of the Issue

**"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding."**

Albert Einstein

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## Chinese New Year



Photo by Jim Carson, on Flickr.com

### Extend your holidays by joining the Chinese Friendship organizations to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

The Xi'an Sister Cities Committee and The Society for Friendship with China invite you to celebrate the arrival of the Year of the OX with us on Sunday, January 25, 2009 at the InterContinental Hotel on the Plaza starting with a complimentary wine reception at 5:30. The Chinese celebrate any big event with a big meal. The Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, the most important of all their celebrations, starts with an elaborate, many course meal. Go to The Society's website [www.chinagardensociety-kc.org](http://www.chinagardensociety-kc.org) to see the schedule of events and the dinner menu. The cost for the celebration is \$75.00, \$50.00 of which is tax deductible. The website also explains how to order tickets from Central Ticket Office either by Internet or by telephone.

Another Chinese Friendship organization, US-China Peoples Friendship Association is reserving a table at the celebration for GAME and US-China members so we can be sure to sit with people we know. If you would like to sit with us, make your check out to US-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA) and mail it to Joyce Cox, 201 Woodbridge Lane, Kansas City, MO 64145 and she will make the table arrangements. If you have any questions,

call Joyce (a GAME board member and president of USCPFA) at 816-942-6307.

Joyce Cox

### Welcome --Two Future GAME Members!

Kaidyn Daniel Smith is the new great grandson of Manny & Sara Pedram. The parents' description is "born December 4, 2008 at 12:22pm. 7 lbs. 2 oz., 21 1/2 inches long. He's so sweet and mellow...he very rarely cries--when he does, he calms down very easily."

Mischa Marie Chrans was born on December 12th at 3:37 pm at home. The waterbirth went great!! She came fast in about 1 hour and 41 minutes. Everyone is doing great. Mischa is nursing like a champ, and is sleeping very well for a newborn. Mischa was 8lbs 7oz and 20 inches long.



Mischa Marie Chrans

**From the UN News Centre:** ([www.un.org/news](http://www.un.org/news))

### ACHIEVING QUALITY EDUCATION WILL TAKE MORE MONEY AND TEACHERS, CONCLUDES UN FORUM

New York, Dec 18 2008 11:01AM

Achieving the goal of quality education for all by 2015 will require countries to devote greater funds to this critical sector and to address the growing shortage of qualified teachers, according to a United Nations meeting that concluded today in Oslo.

In the final declaration adopted at the close of the three-day forum, organized by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Norwegian Government, delegates called on national governments to devote at least four to six per cent of gross national product (GNP) and 15 to 20 per cent of public expenditure to education.

The High-Level Group on Education for All (EFA) also urged development partners to increase official development assistance (ODA) and give priority to investment in basic education.

The Oslo Declaration stressed that education “is one of the most effective tools” for achieving “economic growth and recovery, reducing poverty, hunger and child labour” and “improving health, incomes and livelihoods.”

That is why strong support for achieving internationally agreed development goals, including “education for all (EFA)” – the pledge made by world leaders in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, in 1999 – and the anti-poverty targets with a 2015 deadline, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), are even more important now that it was before the onset of the current global financial crisis.

Delegates also endorsed the creation of an international task force on “Teachers for EFA,” a voluntary alliance of EFA partners working together to address the global, and growing, shortage of teachers.

“Without adequate numbers of professionally qualified teachers, including female teachers, who are deployed in the right places, well-remunerated and motivated, adequately supported and proficient in local languages, we cannot offer the world’s children quality education” said the Group, which brings together top-level representatives from government, development agencies, UN agencies, civil society and the private sector.

An estimated 18 million new primary teachers will be needed in the next seven years to achieve universal primary education by the target date of 2015.

The Group highlighted the importance of equity in education, noting that at least 29

million children will still not have access to primary school in 2015.

**Reaching these children will require policies to reduce disparities, expanding early childhood care and basic education, ensuring affordable learning opportunities at post-primary levels and addressing adult literacy needs.**

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## A Globalized Course in Missouri's Community Colleges: "African Roots of the Latino Tree"

“African Things” by Victor Hernandez Cruz

*o the wonder man rides his space ship  
brings his power through many moons  
carries in soft blood african spirits. . . .  
grandmother speak to me and tell me of the  
african things  
how do latin boogaloo sound like you  
conga drums in the islands you know  
the traveling through many moons  
dance and tell me african things  
i know you know*

Poetry, questions of what will come, and shared ideas comprise my first day of U.S. Latino and Latina Literature. “African Things” by Puerto Rican writer Victor Hernandez Cruz caused a stir among the students on our first day of class this past semester. In this poem, Cruz both acknowledges and embraces his African roots. For many students, this was an unsettling idea; others smiled broadly at my first reading and asked to read the next poem. That first day was lively as we began with some of the main questions of contemporary Latino Literature: “Who am I? What is my identity within the United States? What does it mean to be an American?” These ideas recurred all semester as

we explored African Influences on the literature of our class.

My initial query, "How can I incorporate studies of West Africa in my literature class?" was a response to a call for projects for Global Education. At first, I had developed specific lessons: mapping various West African countries; learning Spanish words with African roots; identifying African rhythms in Caribbean, Central American, South American, and Latino music; and drawing parallels between prominent leaders such as Cuba's Jose Marti and Senegal's Leopold Sedar Senghor. Little did I realize that each lesson would then lead me to more research. Folk tales with magical elements were found in traditional Latin American and African cultures - - no wonder magical realism has such prominence in our current Latino Literature. Oral histories from the indigenous peoples and African slaves influenced the thinking of many revolutionary Latino politicians. The Negritude leaders of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century included not only African but many Caribbean intellectuals. The interconnections still continue to surface.

I was worried that many of these lessons would be too abstract, so I constantly searched for poems, essays, and songs that reflected these connections, and I was amazed by the students' overwhelmingly positive responses. Perhaps they recognized the great diversity within themselves personally and as a class. They would parallel literary passages with examples from their own lives. It was gratifying to hear one young woman say, "I do not need to be ashamed of who I am" and then to see others affirm her with applause. Best of all, they even sought their own lessons. Indeed, it was a student who brought a poem by the Nigerian poet Bernard Dadi to my attention:

*. . . . I thank you God for creating my black  
White is a colour for special occasions  
Black the colour for everyday  
And I have carried the World since the dawn  
of time  
And my laugh over the World, through the  
night, creates the Day.*

In class we strive to learn not read the literature but to understand how it reflects the human condition, communicates great lessons of life, and enriches our lives. This global education project has been critical in helping me bring these lessons to my students.

**Jan Rog**

**G.A.M.E. Member**

## Calendar

### G.A.M.E. Events

**Saturday, December 13, 2008, 4:00-7:00 p.m.,**  
G.A.M.E. Annual Member Appreciation  
and Yulboeck. at Pedrams.

**Sunday, January 18, 2009, 2:00-4:00p.m.**  
G.A.M.E. Board of Director's meeting  
Antioch Library at Shawnee Mission  
Parkway and Antioch.

### The United Nations Events

**December 3,** International Day of Disabled

**December 6, 1973** U.N. University was  
established in Tokyo

**December 10, 1948** Universal Declaration of  
Human Rights, led by Eleanor Roosevelt.

**December 20, 1965** Declaration on the Rights  
of the Child adopted by General Assembly. .

**January 18, 2002** Optional protocol to the  
Convention on the Rights of the Child on  
the sale of children, child prostitution and  
child pornography in force.

## U.N. Observances – 2009

International Year of Reconciliation

International Year of Natural Fibres

International Year of Human Rights

Learning

International Year of Astronomy

## GLOBAL CONCEPTS

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

A non-profit organization.

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Charles B. Wheeler, M.D., Honorary Chair / Manny Pedram, Founder

Mariah Chrans, Office Manager

Matthew Westra, Newsletter Editor

### **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.

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