



UNA*USA Gainesville Journal

An official annual publication of the
UNA*USA Gainesville Chapter

Edited by
Jacob U'Mofe Gordon, Ph.D.
President

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I. Message from The President, UNA*USA Gainesville, FL Chapter

Greetings, UNA USA Members, Partners & Friends.

It is an honor to share some reflections which introduce this inaugural publication, "The UNA USA Gainesville Journal." This volume is filled with highlights of the activities of the UNA USA Gainesville, Florida Chapter during the period from UN Day October 2021 to October 2022. The Gainesville Chapter, part of the Southeast Region, is one of more than 200 UNA Chapters in the United States of America with a national membership of more than 20,000.

As President I have chosen to share the core principle which has guided the UNA USA since its inception in 1943:

"We are dedicated to educating, inspiring, and mobilizing Americans to support the principles and vital works of the United Nations and its agencies."

It is in this context that the Gainesville Chapter has engaged the residents of the Metro Gainesville Community. We forge collaborations with relevant community-based organizations, Schools, and Institutions of Higher Education: the University of Florida and Santa Fe College. Our goal is to work towards achieving the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** of the UN:



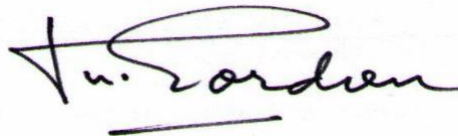
The efforts to accomplish the Chapter's strategic plans for the SDGs are carried out by Five Working Groups: Advocacy, Community Engagement - - Public Forums, Education, Membership, and United Nations Day. The first highlight was the virtual UN Day Observance on October 24, 2021. The Honorable Mayor of the City of Gainesville, Mr. Lauren Poe, presented a Proclamation declaring October 15 as UN Day in the City of Gainesville. He requested all citizens to join in the Observance.

The President of Santa Fe College, Dr. Paul Broadie II, gave the Keynote address, focusing on the 2021 theme "Creating a Blueprint for the Future." Ms. Lizzie Robinson Jenkins, CEO of the Real Rosewood Foundation, served as Honorary Chair of the event. A panel presentation followed the Keynote address; its focus was on various SDGs, including Public Health, Global Education, Peacekeeping & Global Security, and Youth Engagement. The panelists were: Dr. Yana S. Banks, M.D.; Dr. Zachary Selden, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Florida; Sue Blythe, Coordinator of Climate Collaboratory at the University of Florida; and Dr. Flavia Ramos-Mattoussi, Senior Research Associate of International Education at Florida State University.

The presentation of Middle School Essay Contest papers by three Contestants was featured in the highlights of the UN Day Observance.

A second important highlight in 2021 was the Annual UNA USA Leadership Summit via zoom in Washington, D.C. The US Ambassador to the United Nations, the Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield, and Ms. Rachel Bowen Pittman, Executive Director of UNA USA were among the dignitaries who addressed the participants. It was a great opportunity to meet with our Congresspersons and advocate for the U.S. to meet its financial obligations to the U.N. A third and final highlight was the Annual Meeting which is traditionally an in-person banquet affair. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Annual Meeting was virtual via Zoom. The virtual event Guest Speaker was Dr. Mona Ahmed Alsayed, a Visiting Fulbright Scholar from Egypt at Santa Fe College. She presented an insightful analysis of the state of women's education in Egypt.

I conclude my reflections with a friendly reminder of the current global unrest: Neo-Colonialism, the emerging struggle between Democracy and Autocracy; the local community search for the improvement of quality of life, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness by all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. U. Gordon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Jacob U'Mofe Gordon, Ph.D., LL.D (Hon)

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II. Acknowledgements

The publication of this inaugural issue of the UNA-USA Gainesville Journal is the product of teamwork in the Gainesville Chapter. First and foremost, is the decision of the Board of Directors to establish an Annual Report/Journal. I would like to express my appreciation for the important contributions by the Working Groups in the Gainesville Chapter; Advocacy, Education, Community Engagement/Public Forum, Membership, Youth Council, and United Nations Day; the Affiliates; and Friends of the Chapter. I am extremely pleased to acknowledge the work of individuals, including Dr. Harry B Shaw, for documenting the activities of the Education Working Group; Dr. Barbara McDade Gordon for technical support in formatting the Journal; and Dr. Richard Macmaster for his active engagement in attracting expert speakers to the Public Forum.

In my opinion, an annual publication of the UNA-USA Gainesville Chapter Journal will serve as an important instrument for accessing the materials by students, researchers, policymakers, the general public and the international community. It contributes to the process of "thinking globally and acting locally."

[Acknowledgement of One of our Founding Members, Ms. Irene Zimmerman](#)



The Irene Zimmerman Memorial Scholarship was established by the UNA-USA Gainesville Chapter to honor the memory of Irene Zimmerman, one of the founding members of this UNA-USA Chapter. For more than 50 years she was “a teacher, researcher, and forceful creator of improvements in her community and the world.” The annual scholarship in the amount of \$1,300 provides for tuition and books to students enrolled at Santa Fe College in Gainesville.



UNA Gainesville Archives Created at the University of Florida Library



It is with great pleasure that I inform members and friends of UNA-USA Gainesville Chapter that the Special Collections/Archives at the George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida will archive our historical materials. The local organization was founded as the American Association for the United Nations in 1961; and established as the Gainesville Chapter of UNA-USA in 1964. The Archival Collection includes materials from the National UNA, Florida Division of UNA-USA, and the Gainesville Chapter. These cover such documents as UN Day Programs, Newsletters, Photo Albums, Proclamations, Conference Materials, Letters, Membership Directories, DVDs, CDs, Annual Reports, etc. This initial collection was made possible by many members, including the late Ms. Polly French Doughty who preserved the bulk of materials; Dr. Taraneh Darabi, former Chapter President; and Ms. Lisa Renner, Board Member Emerita.

III. UNA Gainesville Board of Directors

Officers:

President	Jacob U'Mofe Gordon, Ph.D.
Vice President	Agnes Ngoma Leslie, Ph.D.
Secretary	Barbara McDade Gordon, Ph.D.
Treasurer	Pushpa Kalra, Ph.D.
Immediate Past President	Saeed Khan, Ph.D.

Taraneh Darabi, Ph.D.	Richard Macmaster, Ph.D
Masuma Downie, Ph.D.	Larry Schwandes
Harleigh Freiberg	Sunaina Shrestha, M.D
John Huddleston	Bill Whitney
Ed Kellerman, Ph.D.	Jeffrey Weisberg

Emeritus Board Members

Paul Doughty, Ph.D.
Bob Hornberger, Ph.D.
Lisa Renner
Harry Shaw, Ph.D.
Janet Tew

UNA Working Groups

The mission of the UNA Gainesville Chapter is carried out through activities and events planned and organized by Working Groups: Education, UN Day, Community Engagement, Advocacy, and Membership. A Chapter Youth Council was added in 2022 to recruit and promote the active participation of youth, defined by the UNA*USA as persons under the age of 26.

Working Group

Chair

Education	Harry B. Shaw (2020-2022), Sunaina Shrestha (2022--)
UN Day	Jacob U'Mofe Gordon
Community Engagement	Richard Macmaster
Advocacy	Taraneh Darabi
Membership	Agnes Ngoma Leslie, Masuma Downie, Jeffrey Weisberg
Youth Council	Delaney Zambrano

IV. Education Working Group



UNA-USA Essay Contest Report 2020-2022

Harry B. Shaw, Ph.D., Chair
Education Working Group

Introduction

This report of the UNA. USA Community Engagement Working Group (2020-2021) as well as the Education Working Group (2021-2022) is undertaken to provide a written record, and therefore a template, for future activities of the Education Working Group. Because the primary project of both the Community Engagement and the Education Working Groups has been the Essay Contest, this report is basically limited to the history, the procedures, and the documents and materials of the UN USA Essay Contest for the years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. Examples of the Essay Announcement, Application, Judges Rubric, and Awards Certificate are on file.

History of the Community Education Working Group (CEWG)

CEWG was established in 2020-2021 under the leadership of UNA-USA Gainesville Chapter President Saeed Khan and Vice President Jacob Gordon. Initially the leadership envisioned a broad scope of community engagement for the group which would engage in supporting a number of missions and activities of the Gainesville area such as schools, volunteer organizations, service clubs, charitable agencies, and other aspects of the community.

Harry Shaw was appointed as chair of the Community Engagement Working Group—with members Lilithi Abeykone, Cody Hebel, Kelly Huizzi, Abigail Dumonceau, and Christiana Shaw. It should be noted that most members of this working group, except for the chair Harry Shaw and Christiana Shaw, were unable to contribute because of other commitments. This information is important for future considerations and selection of working group members.

The inspiration for the current essay contests came from UNA-USA president Dr. Saeed Khan. He envisioned in 2020—to honor the 75th year of the United Nations—that the Gainesville Chapter could begin an annual essay contest for middle school students as an important opportunity for youths to learn something about the United Nations and to encourage them to engage in issues of importance to their country and to the world. In past years the UNA Gainesville Chapter had sponsored essay contests in the local high schools. President Khan proposed that UNA-USA conduct an Annual UNA-USA Essay Contest for Alachua County Middle School Students and assigned it to the Community Engagement Working Group.

Because of the speed, scope and unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, Vice President Dr. Jacob Gordon, thought that grappling with the pandemic could be an important opportunity to stimulate the interest and involvement of young people in the crisis and to gain

their perspectives about how the United Nations might help. CEWG selected “**The Role of the United Nations in Combating COVID-19**” as the topic for the First Annual UNA-USA Essay Contest.

CEWG conducted the **First Annual UNA-USA Essay Contest** during Fall Semester of school year 2020-2021. CEWG worked with Alachua County public, private, and charter schools to set up the essay contest. Particularly helpful were Dr. Jon Rehm, Curriculum Specialist for Social Studies K-12, and Ms. Jackie Johnson, Public Information Officer, of Alachua County Public Schools (ACPS), principals and contact persons of private and charter schools in the county.

The First Annual UNA-USA Essay Contest had two (2) entrants as participation was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The winners of the 2020 UNA-USA Contest were First Place Destini Williams, an 8th grade student at P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School, and Second Place Bethany Johnson, an 8th grader at Howard Bishop Middle School. Three members of the Alachua County Retired Educators Association, Ms. Janet Hayes, Ms. Mary White, and Ms. Diane Adams, served as Essay Contest judges. The first Awards Ceremony was held by Zoom at the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2021, where the two winners read their essays.

History of the Education Working Group (EWG)

The Education Working Group (EWG) began in 2021-2022 when UNA-USA President Jacob Gordon, and Chair of CEWG Harry Shaw decided to limit the Working Group’s scope and changed its name to the Education Working Group (EWG). Membership of the working group consisted of Harry Shaw, Chair, Masuma Downie, and Christiana Shaw.

Building on the inspiration of our former President, Dr. Saeed Khan, for an annual essay contest for middle school students, the current President, Dr. Jacob Gordon, with consensus of the EWG, chose for the Second Annual Essay Contest the topic, “**The Importance of Youth in the Mission of the United Nations to Counteract Climate Change.**” EWG thought that the speed, scope, and unprecedented perils of Climate Change and Global Warming, made this topic timely to involve and connect young people with the goals of the United Nations.

The EWG worked with Alachua County public, private, and charter schools to set up the essay contest, particularly Dr. Jon Rehm and Ms. Jackie Johnson, as well as principals and contact persons of the middle schools of Alachua County. We are grateful to Ms. Christine Gibbs, Ms. Ellen Siegel, and Ms. Nkwanda Jah who volunteered much time to serve as judges for the essays. There were three entries and, again, we think Covid-19 continued to affect participation.

The **Second Annual Awards Ceremony** was held via Zoom at the Annual UNA Meeting on January 25, 2022. The three winners read their excellent essays.

There was an unusual outcome in this contest: it was the consensus of the judges that each of the three essays were worthy a first-place award. The UNA Board agreed and decided that each would receive \$300 as designated for first-place as well as a commemorative First-Place Certificate. The three winners were: **Amber Batts**, an 11-year-old 6th grader at St. Patrick Interparish School where her teacher was Ms. Rosemary Christy; **Charlotte Judge**, a 13-year-

old 7th grader at Fort Clarke Middle School and **Tessa Johnston**, a 12-year-old 7th grader at Fort Clarke Middle School, both of whose teacher was Ms. Terri Schimel.

Winners of the 2nd Annual UNA*USA Gainesville Essay Contest

Amber Batts, 6th Grade, St. Patrick Interparish School

Make a Difference, Care About Climate Change, Save the World

I am writing this essay, because I want to make a difference and use my voice to speak out. Right now in society we hear so much about greenhouse effect. I believe that most people do not have a full understanding of what greenhouse effect means. Greenhouse gases exist in the earth's atmosphere. These gases form a layer and in balance these gases don't cause a big problem. The sunlight, when the layer is not so thick, can shine through this layer of gases and still keep the earth warm. The sunrays bounce back and forth through this layer between the earth and the sun so this keeps the earth from getting so hot. Now because of all the cars and all the fumes and cutting down all the trees, plus all the pollution from so many people on the earth, the greenhouse gas layer is very thick. Now the layer is so thick, that the sunrays don't bounce back and forth to the sun from earth. The sunrays get trapped in the layer, and can't get out very well, causing the earth to be hotter at different times when it used to not be so hot years ago. God created the earth and thought of everything, so I don't believe there is a problem to what God created.

People had to be the one to cause a problem. Some people have bad habits and won't recycle, and they don't turn off lights in their houses. My mom said many people only had one car, and the houses were not as tall so it did not take as much electricity to heat them years ago, so people did not use as much fossil fuel. The greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, water vapor and oxygen. These gases are hanging around in the atmosphere because we now are causing a lot of these gases to be created. Now scientists are trying to warn the people to be more careful and learn about greenhouse gases. They are saying that children my age are going to have a problem living on the earth, because it may be too hot to live here. There is a lot of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere because people breathe out carbon dioxide, and lots of trees are being cut down. Trees absorb carbon dioxide to grow, but now forest are being destroyed to build homes and use the lumber for different things.

Some things we can do right now to help save the earth

There are 7.9 billion people on the earth. All of these people on earth have needs and we all use up the earth's resources. We all can recycle plastic bottles and cups, aluminum cans, plastic grocery bags, and maybe turn the air condition and heat to a temperature to save energy when we are not at home. President Biden wants to pass the clean energy bill. Renewable energy is energy from the sun, and is called solar energy. Some people have solar panels on their house, and this is called clean energy, because you don't have to burn anything and create fumes and cause pollution. Some people also use windmills, which can heat your house and some farms use

windmills. I don't know how that would work with the windmills because they are big and there would be a lot of them around. We can't ever use up the sun because it always shines, so that is why it is caused renewable energy. We never give out of the sun, because it is always in the sky.

My plans

I will use my voice and speak up and join the International Youth Climate Movement and listen to what other people have to say. I will ask my teacher to help me with climate change by allowing me to ask the children to help recycle. I will be the leader of the organization. I can go around the community and ask people to help me. I can also organize students to help with recycling projects around the school such as recycling cans, bottles, and paper.

Charlotte Judge, 7th Grade, Fort Clarke Middle School

Climate Change and the Involvement of Youth Leaders

“Global youth climate movements have been a wake-up call for leaders, proving that young people can no longer be dismissed when it comes to paving the way forward” (Connect4Climate). Young leaders are guiding their people to a healthier environment. Even though anyone is standard to participate, youth climate change involvement is taking a storm. With every passing hour, climate change takes a step forward. Younger generations are beginning to join groups, movements, and even become activists to make a change for the better. For example, the Youth Climate Movement was designed to “...amplify youth voices and to engage young people in an open and transparent dialogue as the UN gears up to raise ambition and accelerate action to tackle the climate emergency” (United Nations). Not only do groups similar to this adhere to counteracting climate change, but they also draw on the importance of coming together to prevent worldwide issues. With phrases like “to raise ambition” and “accelerate action” young activists, much like Greta Thunberg, are easily grasped to the given concern.

Who is Greta Thunberg and what did she do? Greta Tintin Eleonora Ernman Thunberg is a young Swedish activist who leads climate change prohibition for young people. “She [Greta] first learned about the issue when she was approximately eight years old, and within a few years she changed her own habits, becoming a vegan and refusing to travel by airplane” (The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica et al.) Greta inspires other kids all over the world to be the change. Greta has done as much as protest, give speeches, talk to law enforcement, and more all to adhere to our climate. As The Encyclopedia Britannica noted, “Both livestock and airplanes emit a large amount of the gases that contribute to global warming” (The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica et al.) Small tasks like these slow down the effect of global warming which can help to control our climate. Even the people who have the most power do not always address how vital it is to take care of the environment. For example, when Greta tried to talk to officials on addressing climate change, they denied her. Then “For almost three weeks prior to the Swedish election in September 2018, she missed school to sit outside the country’s parliament with a sign that stated ‘Skolstrejk för Klimatet’ (School Strike for Climate)” (The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica et al.). After more students joined her, she began to skip school every Friday to

protest. Therefore, it is extremely beneficial to teach younger generations about the world's needs.

Climate change can have several effects on the environment and even some animals. Most of global warming is caused by the climate itself and humans. Emitted gases and other things pollute the environment. Gases like these can do so much as raise temperatures and perform countless numbers of contributions to the climate. For example, “Glaciers have shrunk, ice on rivers and lakes is breaking up earlier, plant and animal ranges have shifted, and trees are flowering sooner” (NASA). Youth activists aspire to change these ways and stop all of these horrible outcomes. If climate change is not slowed, temperatures may continue to rise, storms with worse conditions may occur, etc.

Young leaders with big voices are encouraged to participate in activism like this. Several groups are created to welcome anyone with the desire to change climate change, as well as other issues. Groups like ICYM and UN’s International Youth Climate Change projects are all amazing examples of groups who long for children much like Greta Thunberg. Climate change is a serious issue that needs to be addressed and is progressively being managed by the world’s youth.

Works Cited

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Tessa Johnston, 7th Grade, Fort Clarke Middle School

The Importance of Youth and Climate Change

“Global warming isn't a prediction. It is happening,” James Hansen, an American professor directing the Program on Climate Science stated, and Hansen and many other people are correct. The majority of people being affected and who will continue to be affected by climate change are people of young age. Youth are extremely relevant and important when it comes to activism for climate policies. As impacts of climate change continue to intensify, more young people continue to join the movement for positive change. Therefore, youth make up a large portion of activists for climate change. In order for climate change to improve, policies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from cars, to increase the use of renewable energy, and other climate-protection policies need to be put in place. Many youth activist groups support and encourage these policies.

Many activist groups for climate change are made up of people of young age, such as the Sunrise Movement. “The Sunrise Movement is a youth movement to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process. We’re building an army of young people to make climate change an urgent priority across America, end the corrupting influence of fossil fuel executives on our politics, and elect leaders who stand up for the health and wellbeing of all people,” (sunrisemovement.org) the Sunrise Movement states. They are dedicated to making this world a better place for all people, but more specifically, to have a sustainable planet and future. According to Rapid Transition Alliance, “The Sunrise Movement caught international attention in 2018 when they staged a sit-in inside the US House of Representatives Speaker’s, Nancy Pelosi’s, office to advocate for a Green New Deal to replace what they saw as the Democratic Party’s weak climate program. In little over a year, the movement succeeded in bringing its Green New Deal proposal center stage in the Democrat’s race for presidency, managing to shift the narrative around U.S environmental politics.”

According to Rob Jordan, “In an echo of the past, the Green New Deal resolution drafted by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Sen. Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts labels climate change a ‘direct threat to the national security of the United States’ and calls for the conversion of all U.S. power to clean, renewable energy sources and the creation of millions of green jobs, among other objectives” (Jordan). Climate change is very serious and has a massive impact on our lives. Many youth activists are drawn to the Green New Deal and make it their mission to support this policy. “The Green New Deal is a congressional resolution to mobilize every aspect of American society to 100% clean and renewable energy...” (sunrisemovement.org) the Sunrise Movement states. The Sunrise Movement is determined to stop climate change and help people during the process. The Green New Deal allows them to do so. The Green New Deal is a brilliant resolution that youth activists continue to support.

Youth activists are very important and relevant regarding activism for climate policies. Youth make up a large portion of members of climate change activist groups. According to a poll taken by The Washington Post, “Most American teens are frightened by climate change, poll finds, and about 1 in 4 are taking action.” (Washington Post) Policies need to be put in place in order to decrease the effects climate change has on us. Youth activist groups such as the Sunrise Movement and policies such as the Green New Deal are essential for climate change to get better. A youth climate change activist, Greta Thunberg said, “We children are doing this to wake the adults up. We children are doing this for you to put your differences aside and start acting as you would in a crisis. We children are doing this because we want our hopes and dreams back.” The only way for climate change to improve is to do something about it, because our futures depend on it.



V. United Nations Day Working Group



UN Day 2021 • 76th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, October 24, 2021 2:00-4:00pm (ET) Via Zoom

Theme: Creating a Blueprint for a Better Future

Program

Welcome & Opening Greetings

Dr. Jacob U'Mofe Gordon, President, UNA*USA-Gainesville Chapter

Remarks (Video) by The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations

Proclamation of UN Day 2021 in the City of Gainesville

The Honorable Lauren Poe, Mayor of The City of Gainesville

Introduction of Honorary Program Chair

Dr. Saeed Khan, Immediate Past-President, UNA*USA-Gainesville

Honorary Program Chair

Ms. Lizzie Robinson Jenkins, CEO, The Real Rosewood Foundation, Inc.

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Dr. Vilma Fuentes, Assistant Vice President, Santa Fe College

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Paul Broadie, President
Santa Fe College, Gainesville, Florida

Discussion: Q&A

Dr. Gordon, Moderator

Vocal Selection

Ms. So'Unique F. High, P.K. Yonge High School, Star Center Theatre
Pianist: Ms. Angela Terrell, Public Relations Director, Star Center Theatre

Acknowledgements, Co-Sponsor Visual Displays

Dr. Barbara McDade Gordon, Secretary, UNA*USA-Gainesville

Panel: Global and Local Actions to Create a Blueprint for a Better Future

Introduction of Panelists

Ms. Harleigh Freiberg, University of Florida, UNA*USA Board Member

Panelists: Sue Blythe, M.E., Yana S. Banks, M.D.,
Flavia Ramos-Mattoussi, Ed.D., Zachary Selden, Ph.D.

Discussion: Q&A

Dr. Robin Poynor, Moderator, Member, UN Day 2021 Working Group

Announcements

Dr. Harry B. Shaw, UNA*USA Board Member, Chair, Education Working Group

Thanks to the UN Day 2021 Working Group

Dr. Jacob U'Mofe Gordon, Chair

Dr. Masuma Downie

Ms. Harleigh Freiberg

Dr. Robin Poynor

Dr. Pushpa Kalra

Dr. Saeed Khan

Ex-Officio Members

Dr. Barbara McDade Gordon

Mr. Bill Whitney, Web Master



One screen view: 65+ people attended the UN Day 2021 Program via Zoom



Proclamation of UN Day 2021 by Gainesville Mayor Lauren Poe

City of Gainesville, Florida
Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The United Nations (UN) was founded in 1945 and the anniversary of the day on which the UN Charter came into force is observed each year on October 24th; and

WHEREAS, The work of the United Nations, through its many organs and agencies, is more vital than ever in promoting international peace and security, human rights, the health of our planet, economic development, and freedom for all peoples; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations, with the adoption in 2015 of its 2030 agenda, has pledged joint action across its organs and agencies, the donor communities, and all countries so as to leave no one behind in delivering by 2030 on the 17 major Sustainable Development Goals that aim to end hunger and poverty, to achieve gender equality and quality education for all, to combat climate change and achieve environmental sustainability, and to actively address human suffering, by preventing conflict and alleviating the plight of refugees; and

WHEREAS, The United States, through the United Nations, has a long tradition of leading international efforts to improve health, education, and economic growth in developing countries; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations Association of the USA Gainesville Chapter, is committed to educating and mobilizing our local communities to create a more prosperous, just, and sustainable world; and the Gainesville Chapter has declared "Creating a Blueprint for a Better Future" as its theme for the 2021 United Nations Day commemoration; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jacob Wofe Gordon is President of the UNA-USA/Gainesville Chapter and Dr. Robin Poyner, Dr. Saeed Khan, Dr. Pushpa Kafra, Dr. Masuma Downie, and Ms. Harleigh Freiberg are members of the UN Day Working Group in Gainesville, Florida; and


WHEREAS, Dr. Paul Broadie II, President of Santa Fe College, Gainesville is the Keynote Speaker for the 2021 UN Day Observance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2021 as

United Nations Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in participating in all activities related to UN Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 21st day of September, A.D., 2021.


Lauren Poe
Mayor





Honorary Program Chair
**Ms. Lizzie Robinson Jenkins, CEO,
The Real Rosewood Foundation, Inc.**

Local historian established the Real Rosewood Foundation to document the true history--part of her own family's story--of the 1923 Rosewood Massacre.

*Keynote
Speaker*

**Paul Broadie, Ph.D.
President
Santa Fe College
Gainesville, FL**



Dr. Broadie became President of SFC in 2020. He is committed to expanding equal access to quality education and creating opportunities that will transform lives.

Our Panel of Experts and Activists



Sue Blythe, M.Ed.
Climate Change:
Calling All Age
Groups



Yana S. Banks, MD
Equal Access to
Healthcare
for All



**Flavia Ramos-
Mattoussi, Ed.D.**
Global Education &
Development



**Zachary Selden,
Ph.D.**
Achieving Local &
Global Security

About the Conference Honorary Chair

Lizzie Robinson Jenkins, former teacher in Alachua County, serving thirty-three years educating and mentoring eager to learn students. In 1984, she started the first after school tutoring program in Alachua County, F.A.C.T.S., Inc. (Facts About Caring and Tutoring Students) engaging and mentoring students in her hometown of Archer.

Jenkins credits her passion for teaching to her Rosewood Aunt Mahulda Gussie Brown Carrier, who was the third Negro teacher in Rosewood for seven years and the pioneer credited for reinstating the important curriculum principles of learning and education before the town was invaded, January 1, 1923, and destroyed by the KKK Jim Crow lawless because of a lie proclaimed by a white privileged woman.

After retirement she researched Rosewood's past to better understand what really happened in the town of Rosewood to share her straightforward findings with her storytelling audience about the survivors and the Archer Native schoolteacher.

Born October 25, 1938, the daughter of Hura and Theresa Brown Robinson. Jenkins was reared in Archer, Florida on a farm. After graduating from high school in 1957, she went to Florida Memorial College in St. Augustine, Florida, 1957-1961, currently Florida Memorial University, Miami, where she was an active participant in the 1960 F.W. Woolworth Civil Rights movement lunch counter sit-ins. Her parents were very involved in civil rights activists and church related devoted. Coming from a long line of historians and history makers, mother often reminded, "*You must keep the leg in our legacy*", encouraging the preservation of family and Rosewood histories. Jenkins historic journey consist of thirty plus unrelenting years (1990-2021) of uninterrupted work uncovering, confirming, and speaking truth to power.

Jenkins graduated from Florida Memorial College in 1961 with a degree in elementary education, and a Masters in 1978 from Nova University. Following graduation, she was hired as an English teacher at AL Mebane school in Alachua, Florida.

Jenkins is the recipient of several meritorious awards. Also, a member of many professional organizations and enjoys digging up history etched in stones, gravely speaking. She has researched seven Archer, Florida, Black cemeteries dating back to the early 1800s. She is a lifetime member of St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church, Archer, Florida and is married to John M. Jenkins Sr.

Remarks by Honorary Program Chair Ms. Jenkins

Building on the theme of the 2021 UN Day Observance, "Creating a Blueprint for a Better Future," Ms. Jenkins reflected on a dark spot in American history, **Rosewood**. Her relatives are direct descendants of those upon horrific violence and injustice was committed in January 1923. Rosewood was a small and peaceful town near the Gulf Coast of Florida about 45 miles west of Gainesville which had a successful predominately African American population of property owners. The quiet peace of the town all changed on New Year's Day 1923 when a lynch mob

from a neighboring white community stormed the town. The mob of angry white people was based on an allegation by a white woman that she was raped by a black man. That prompted a search that led to the mob's rampaging the entire town causing property damage and the deaths of scores of innocent African Americans. Yet, the Blacks faced this onslaught with courage and dignity, risking their lives to defend their families and their homes. However, there was such intimidation by the Ku Klux Klan in the area that almost no one spoke about the incident for nearly 50 years. The challenge for the Real Rosewood Foundation, Inc. under the leadership of Ms. Jenkins is the preservation of the true history of Rosewood (see 1997 film, "Rosewood," directed by John Singleton). Ultimately, Ms. Jenkins seeks peace, healing, and reconciliation about this tragic event.

About the Keynote Speaker: Dr. Paul Broadie II, President, Santa Fe College

Dr. Paul Broadie is the 5th person to serve as the President of Santa Fe College, Gainesville taking office on February 1, 2020. Dr. Broadie holds a Ph.D. from Colorado State University, an MBA from Long Island University, and a B.S. in Business Administration from Mercy College. HE is the recipient of numerous awards, including Connecticut's 100 Most Influential by the NAACP and among the region's 50 Most Influential by New Haven Big Magazine.

Abstract from Speech for UN Day 2021 by Dr. Broadie

As an institution with strong ties to the United Nations, Santa Fe College is committed to supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 4: Quality Education for all.

We are committed to bringing education and resources to those who face challenges such as poverty, familial pressures to stay home, lack of access to feminine products, language barriers, and lack of community support. Santa Fe has established numerous initiatives to provide equitable and inclusive education, and lifelong learning opportunities to students hindered by these barriers.

We are turning students into global citizens and internationalizing our campus by expanding scholarship programs for international students, and for study abroad opportunities. One staff member participated in a UN peace keeping mission where she helped provide housing, school supplies, and education to children in war-torn Congo. Our students have created and shipped cloth feminine products to girls in developing countries, ensuring they don't miss instruction due to lack of access to these products.

We are building pathways for families to achieve success with our new ABC Excel program; a two-generational initiative providing career training for parents and academic success coaching for their children.

We are expanding our region’s college-going culture and removing financial barriers for our region’s high schoolers through the SF Achieve Program, offering eligible students full-tuition scholarships and mentoring services to support their transition to college.

We will significantly increase opportunities for students and the community with the makeover of our downtown Blount Center into a full-fledged college campus. This will double our incubator space supporting local businesses. The campus will serve as an Educational Opportunity Center as well, with a grant to assist 850 individuals in developing educational and career plans.

Our institution takes pride in providing a transformative experience for students in our community. We join you in creating the blueprint for the future so that individuals, communities, and nations can advance and prosper.

UN Day 2021 Panelists Info

Global Environment/Climate Change: Sue Blythe, M.Ed.

Ms. Blythe coordinates the Climate Collaboratory, a pilot project of “We, the World” in cooperation with the University of Florida Extension. Her collaborative storytelling adventure inspires storybook characters and real people to act today for a livable Earth. She helps children, youth, adults, and elders take their roles as collaborators in global networks of mutual support. She is currently developing, *Climate Collaboratory, The Musical!* a children’s play for all ages which will debut in Gainesville in April 2022 to celebrate Earth Day.

Abstract of Talk on Climate Change

As the Co-Founder and Coordinator of the Climate Collaboratory at the University of Florida Extension, Ms. Blythe discussed the activities of that organization, which engages the youth of Gainesville in the growing network of Climate Collaborators. **The Collaboratory is a pilot project of the Interfaith Climate Group.** She presented plans for several youth activities, including the Model UN, UN SDGs, personal stories, and creative artworks on the theme of the 2021 UN Day: Creating a Blueprint for a Better Future.

Global Public Health: Yana S. Banks, M.D.

Dr. Banks is a general pediatrician in Gainesville, Florida. She was born and raised in North Carolina and says, “I have enjoyed taking care of children for most of my life.” She was a National Health Service Corp pediatrician in rural North Carolina, Public health pediatrician in Gainesville, Fl and recently retired from Children’s Medical Services at the University of Florida as Medical Director and Pediatric liaison between the University and the Alachua County Public Schools. Dr. Banks continues to see children at the *Equal Access Free Clinic* run by the University of Florida here in Gainesville, Florida.

Public Health: My Experiences as a Pediatrician During this Current COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Gordon and distinguished guests, all those who love to serve mankind, Thank you for allowing me to say a few words about this current Global pandemic and my experiences as a pediatrician.

This has been such an unprecedented time in our world's history. We have been consumed over the past almost 2 years with an enveloped positive strand RNA virus that is about 0.1 micron in size. It has caused over 4.55 million deaths worldwide so far and untold morbidity and havoc; not only with the families, friends and co-workers of those afflicted but also with whole communities, economic systems, work, child care, and the mental health of all the world's inhabitants. This pandemic has affected every aspect of life. I know my life will never be the same. Look at us on Zoom today.

As a pediatrician, I have learned that it is not what you look at, it is what you see. I have had to look beyond the science to see what this information has to say not only to our minds, but to our hearts, to our very beings. How we can relate to each other and how we can help each other get through this time of death, destruction and uncertainty to a place of understanding and growth. This picture of this beautiful child represents what I see when I look at Covid-19. He represents a cherished son, a kind and caring brother, a good friend, and my beloved patient. He passed away in August 2021.

I am a general pediatrician. During the past 2 years, I was the medical director of Faculty Practice at the Children's Medical Services at the University of Florida. In this capacity, I was also the medial liaison between Pediatrics at the University of Florida and the public schools of Alachua County. I served on the Covid-19 specific Scientific Medical Advisory Council (SMAC). We advised the schools and the school board on Covid-19 protocols. Our team was science and research driven. We were comprised of pediatric infectious disease specialist, the director of the Alachua County Health Department, scientists, and physicians from the school of Public Health and Emerging Pathogens and Global Medicine. The team instigated testing and contact tracing and tracking in the schools and kept up with trends and the latest science, making changes in protocols and recommendations to keep up with the science. Currently along with the flu vaccine, HPV and meningitis vaccines, Covid-19 vaccines are also being given in the schools, along with mandated masking and CDC, American Academy of Pediatric recommendations, to keep our children as safe as possible. Kudos to our Alachua County School Board.

As a primary care Doc to my patients, I found that the children were also experiencing a whole range of emotions because their entire way of life had changed. About 1/3 of the public school children went to "brick and motor school", and 2/3 of the children were in either digital school or virtual school. The children at home seemed to suffer greatly. Many did not have the technical tools necessary for success such as computers, WiFi.

Yes, those were my patients studying in the McDonald's parking lots. Many of the children had working parents, trying their best to help their children while being deemed essential workers in the pandemic, which placed them at high risk for infection. Problems ensued not only with the children keeping up with schoolwork, but also with safety and finding childcare. Those children with special health needs and learning disabilities had a particularly hard time. The children in "brick and motor school" were concerned about their safety. Some missed many days of school after testing positive or being exposed to positive family members or classmates. Teachers were stretched thin teaching in the classroom and also digitally and they were also concerned about their health and the health of their classes.

All of the children were impacted negatively with deaths in their families, sickness, loss of community, extended family, after school activities, sports, houses of worship. I had so many sad and anxious children and parents in my practice. I had never made so many psychiatric and counselling referrals in my 30+ years of practice.

One 12-year-old told me she wanted to kill herself because she missed her friends and felt isolated at home, she had 2 family members die of covid-19. She thought the pandemic would never end and she "just couldn't bear it".

"Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care." President Teddy Roosevelt.

As a health care provider, I was exhausted, anxious, and sometimes overwhelmed with all the new information and the hurting not only of my patients and their families, but also, I was hurting from all the loved ones and friends I lost. It has been such a hard time, but I never felt closer to my patients. It was so important that they knew that I cared because then trust and hope are shared.

But help was on the way! A vaccine became available to us December 2020. Things did get better and eventually, Covid-19 numbers in our community began to decrease. We anticipated full school attendance in the fall with possibly more activities for the children and visits with families and friends.

But many people did not get the vaccine, many did not mask indoors, and the smart virus mutated and became more virulent and so we had Delta. There were more virulent infections that involved more children, and the hospitals were overrun again. Otherwise, healthy children are facing multisystem inflammatory syndrome that occurs about 1 month after the child had been infected with the virus. This can occur in children that were asymptomatic during their initial infection. It is an inflammation that can affect the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eye, GI organs. I have had 3 children with this condition and one died. We are also beginning to see some cardiovascular effects and other long-term effects.

Problems:

One of the biggest problems I have encountered is misinformation and the "me first" mentality that I have seen.

Misinformation -false or inaccurate information. Especially that which is deliberately intended to deceive.

Infodemic- when unreliable information spreads far and wide (blend of information and epidemic) coined in 2003. The WHO explains that infodemics are an excessive amount of information about a problem which makes it difficult to identify a solution. They can spread misinformation, disinformation, and rumors during a health emergency. Infodemics can hamper an effective public health response and create confusion and distrust among people. This has caused not only the general public but high-ranking officials to contradict the science, discount the severity of the pandemic and give life threatening advice. This is not new and occurred with the Black plague, Spanish flu and probably with Moses and the plagues. I believe that this has caused the prolongation of the death and morbidity of this plague. That with vaccination, masking, distancing, the pandemic could be mitigated, and we could get back to the semblance of a more normal life. But we have to do the right thing. We have to care enough to make sure we get the true information and listen to the science. We have to care enough about each other to do the right thing.

As Dr. Cheryl Heaton, Dean of School of Global Public Health at NY University has said: “We need commitment to combat deception by sharing accurate information between scientists, national leaders and local doctors. We have to build a global culture that prizes sharing information over official approval. This could save millions of lives. In a Pandemic, all countries have to work together, No one is safe until everyone is safe.”

Lastly, “*We have to live so that when your children think of fairness, caring and integrity, they think of you.*” H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Global Education: Flavia Ramos-Mattoussi, Ed.D.

Dr. Ramos-Mattoussi specializes in International Education & Development.

She is a Senior Research Associate at Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL. She is involved with partner organizations in the development and implementation of educational programs in various countries with funding from USAID, U.S. Dept. of State, and UNICEF. She is currently working in partnership with RTI International in support of US AID-funded *Uzbekistan Education for Excellence Program* (2019-2023).

Abstract: Global Education: Opportunities to Teach and Learn

There’s nothing more inspiring than looking at our planet from outer space and to imagine the world as one planet. There are some ways in which we can put our vision into action through global education initiatives, including learning about opportunities for teaching, studying, and getting involved with global education locally and globally. What do you think you need to get from where you are to where you want to be? This question leads us to take a personal journey deep into ourselves, examining our values, our sense of belonging, our

identities, and positions in the world. Are you interested in working or volunteering locally to address global issues? Do you intend to pursue a career in international cultures and languages; and, in the process, becoming a world citizen.

Global education has its roots in post-World War II foreign policy, area studies, and international educational exchanges. The field of global education centers on the needs that K-20 students to understand the complexity of globalization and to develop skills in cross-cultural interaction to become effective citizens in a pluralistic and interdependent world. Global education emphasizes the interconnectedness and diversity of peoples and histories, highlights actions students can take as citizens of the world by incorporating learning about the cultures, geographies, histories, and current issues of all the world's regions.¹ Internationalization in the context of higher education is often used interchangeably with the term globalization and is also used as a synonym for international education. Some of the main goals of internationalization are to enhance international student mobility, to foster international cooperation, and to contribute to international development assistance. International education encompasses a range of activities, policies and services that integrate an international and intercultural dimension into the teaching, research, and service functions of the institution.

Multiculturalism refers to the convergence of cultures in our emerging global community. Multicultural education as a discipline, aims at addressing the instructional needs and differing socio-historical realities of students from various socioeconomic, ethnic, racial, and immigrant groups that form the culturally diverse student population of U.S. schools.

Overall, throughout the years, the field of global education has made important contributions to both the internationalization of U.S. education, and capacity building of educational institutions in developing countries. International assistance for development activities includes providing humanitarian relief, supporting economic and social progress, addressing global problems, and managing conflict transitions. Development and education goals have been set because of agreements and resolutions set out during world conferences organized by the United Nations in recent years. These goals have been commonly accepted as a framework for measuring development progress. Due to the importance of education for development, projects to support increasing access to basic education, improving equity and quality of education for all, and speeding educational reforms in low-and middle-income countries have become increasingly prominent in external lending for the sector. The 17 Sustainable **Development Goals** adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 include several recommendations, among which is a strong focus on seeking to “substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering, and scientific programs, in developed countries and other developing countries.”²

Global education is an essential component of U.S. higher education and to the training of needed expertise in the global marketplace. The universe of academic programs in global education in the United States is relatively small. There are 2,364 Title VI eligible degree-granting institutions in the United States; 63.8 % of all four-year institutions offer graduate degree programs (1,508); 62.6 % of four-year institutions offer graduate degrees in Education

(944); about 30 degree-granting institutions in the US offer graduate degrees in international, comparative, or global education (equivalent to three percent of all graduate degrees in Education). Nonetheless, there are many opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for global citizenship. Real cross-cultural experiences at home and abroad, study tours, working with K-20 international students; volunteer experiences in international development (i.e., Peace Corps, Exchange Programs, etc.).

Opportunities to learn and engage in Global Education abound, and “*I hope someday you’ll join us, and the world will be as one.*”³

1. <https://primarysource.org/about-us/what-is-global-education/>
2. United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Sustainable Development Goals. <https://sdgs.un.org/>
3. LyricFind. Songwriter: John Winston Lennon. Imagine lyrics © Downtown Music Publishing.

Global Security: Zachary Selden, Ph.D.

Dr. Selden is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Florida. He was previously the Deputy Secretary General for Policy at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly based in Brussels, Belgium from 2008-2011. He was the Director of the Defense and Security Committee of the NATO PA from 2003-2007. Prior to that posting, he was the International Affairs Analyst in the National Security Division of the Congressional Budget Office (1999-2003). His most recent book is *Alignment, Alliance, and American Grand Strategy* (University of Michigan Press, 2016).

Abstract: On Global Security by Zachary Selden

Zachary Selden focuses on US national security and alliances with an emphasis on the transatlantic relationship. His first book, *Economic Sanctions as Instruments of American Foreign Policy* (Praeger, 1999) examines the use of sanctions and provides a framework for understanding when and why they succeed or fail in furthering American national interests. In *Alignment, Alliance, and American Grand Strategy* (U. of Michigan Press, 2016), he examines the different forms of alliance relations that the United States maintains, and how these alliances can be leveraged to ensure American security interests at a relatively low cost.

His current research focuses on the development of the intelligence community and how specific events led to the growth of its size and power.

UNA*USA Gainesville Chapter

Thanks Our UN Day 2021 Co-Sponsors



- Alachua County African & African American Historical Society, Inc.
- Altrusa House of Gainesville
- The Baha'is
- Climate Collaboratory
- Community Coalition for Older Adults
- Friends of Susan B. Anthony
- Gainesville Chapter of The Links, Incorporated
- Interfaith Climate Group
- Khadija Foundation, Inc.
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- Santa Fe College Center of Excellence National Achiever Society
- Sierra Club Suwannee-St. Johns Group
- Sister City Program of Gainesville, Inc.
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville
- Welcoming Gainesville & Alachua County
- Your Black Matters

VI. Community Engagement: Public Forum Working Group



Richard Macmaster, Ph.D., Chair

In Spring 2021 the Community Engagement Working Group began scheduling a series of monthly Public Forums. Experts in a variety of topics of interest to UNA members and the community at-large attended the sessions via Zoom held in the evening. Several of the Public Forums were recorded and are posted in this journal and on the UNA*USA website (with link and Access Passcode). Public Forums are scheduled in the Spring and Fall. We begin with the Public Forums held in 2022.

PUBLIC FORUMS 2022

October 13, 2022



Speaker: Allison Mashell Mitchell
Doctoral Candidates in the Department of History at the University of Virginia. Currently a dissertation fellow at the James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference at Emory University.

Topic: “Regaining A voice and a Vote: The Revitalization of Black Voter Registration after the Assassination of Harry T. and Harriet Moore”

Recording: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/DIzU--vsAyWi8Jzpt8BQFCw-zQ_7qIMQaWAN-kLCA_iNONHdVixKkC-X4pJRijT6.0CYW6DA8_6DWUhTH Passcode: 6X19%i\$j

Ms. Mitchell’s work speaks to themes concerning what constitutes democracy and the significance of grassroots political activism beginning in the mid-twentieth century. Her analysis of historical and political themes provides informed perspectives in this election year.

Thursday, September 15, 2022



Speaker: Bahar Armaghani, LEED Fellow, WELL Faculty
Director and Instructional Assistant Professor, Sustainability and the Built Environment.

Director, UF Green Building Learning Collaborative

Topic: “The Kurdistan Region in Iraq Today: An Insider's Perspective”

Ms. Armaghani, a native of Kurdistan, helped to inspire and facilitate the unique connection between Gainesville and Duhok, the capital city of the Duhok Governorate in Iraq's Kurdistan region. The two cities have been mutual friends and collaborators across the public and private sectors since 2006. She assisted Gainesville officials in hosting a delegation from Duhok last Spring and in turn traveled to Duhok. Although Ukraine has dominated headlines, conditions in the Kurdistan region of Iraq have become increasingly tense due to deteriorating relations with neighboring Turkey. Ms. Armaghani provides an informed perspective on current conditions.

Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/KHqrRq5Zzg4lZ5NtNs76C17UzwAx5Ja8nrw0fCICEF74ogYb6S4pd0l1qE1Rxml.6197GdckGA8lefBC> Passcode: 9Ny3R%TS

Thursday, May 19, 2022



**Speaker: Pierre Uwimana, Florida Refugee Organizer, Florida
Immigrant Coalition, Inc. (FLIC)**

Topic: "Effectively Integrating Refugees and Immigrants into American Society"

Pierre Uwimana was born and raised in Rwanda and attended college in Kenya where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and a Master's in Finance. Pierre played a significant role in rebuilding Rwanda after the genocide which tore the country apart in 1994. He served as a Program Expert in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Deputy Managing Director of the Export Promotion Agency, and was promoted to City Manager of Kigali, the capital.

In 2010 when a catastrophic earthquake struck Haiti, his passion compelled him to move there as Country Director for *World Concern Haiti*. In 2014, Pierre and his family immigrated to the United States, and he joined the *World Relief* refugee resettlement program. His mission is to help refugees and immigrants to integrate into American Society as responsible citizens.

Recording: <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/UEaooOKba4LjvZxhC62qvj-iInlXDrTmT7PkPJEPsrfCKVHa29gLaaYFhuj5Pu1k.ZIv6faiNGYrGFnR6>

Passcode: #29ifFDu

Thursday, April 21, 2022



**Speaker: Dr. Bryon Moraski, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Florida**

Topic: "The UN's Role in Ukraine" How did it come to this and what can be done now?"

Bryon Moraski’s research and teaching focus on the comparative study of political institutions and elections. His latest book, *Party Politics in Russia and Ukraine*, leverages political developments in Russia and Ukraine to analyze the effects of major system changes in countries with diverging regime trajectories.

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Commemorating Women Leaders: UN International Month of the Woman

In observance of **International Women's Day and Women's History Month**, presented two dynamic women who are making significant contributions to our local community.

1. Norma Green, Founder of The Preserve, Inc.

A non-profit organization, founded in 1999, whose purpose is “saving our young men from life on the streets.” Norma worked as a teacher, counselor, and principal for 35 years for the New York City Board of Education. She is a member of Kiwanis, Planned Parenthood, The Visionaires, Gainesville Commission on the Status of Women, and is Secretary of the Matheson Museum.

Colin Hines, Board Chair of The Preserve, assisted Norma.



2. Estelle Erwich, Publicity Director, Gators for Refugee Medical Relief.

GRMR is a **student-run nonprofit organization** at the University of Florida that provides medical and educational aid to refugees, locally, and abroad. Estelle is an Honors Student majoring in Political Science at UF. She is also a member of the John Quincy Adams Society, Global Legal Empowerment Brigades, and Gator Society for Pre-Law Women.



PUBLIC FORUMS 2021

June 17, 2021



Speaker: Professor Folakemi Odedina, Ph.D.

Associate Director of the Center for Health Equity and Community Engagement Research and
Director of the Global Health Equity Initiative at Mayo Clinic

Topic: “A Global Framework for Addressing Health Disparities in Black Populations”

[Meeting Recording](#) Access Passcode: .3!141a^

Dr. Odedina is also the Principal Investigator (PI) and Founder of the National Cancer Institute-supported Prostate Cancer Transatlantic Consortium, the Research Core Director for the Florida Health Equity Research Institute and the Chair of the Research Committee for the African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC). Her research program focuses on developing cost-effective, community-based behavioral trials to address prostate cancer in Black men globally. She has directed over 30 research projects, including genetic-environmental determinants of prostate cancer disparity studies.

Her contribution to achieving global Health Equity dates back to 1994 and has resulted in multiple accomplishments and recognitions. Dr. Odedina's efforts in training underrepresented minorities for over two decades were recognized through the INSIGHT Into Diversity 2016 Inspiring Women in STEM Award.

May 20, 2021



**Speaker: Naz Hussein, B.A.,
B.S., UF Class of 2021**

Topic: “From Iraq to Lebanon to South Florida: My Refugee Journey”

[Meeting Recording](#) Access Passcode: 3b\$PNd44

Naz Hussein spent her childhood in her hometown of Kirkuk, Iraq and her adopted city of Beirut, Lebanon. The family spent eight years in legal limbo in Lebanon. During that period the young Naz attended primary school and had to learn to speak another version of Arabic. In 2014 the family was admitted into the United States under provisions of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and settled in South Florida. Naz adjusted well to her new homeland. She recently graduated from the University of Florida in May 2021 with a B.A. in International Studies and a B.S. in Telecommunication. During her undergraduate study at UF Naz researched migration issues and worked with a non-profit organization on humanitarian aid for refugees. Naz is also a storyteller who is passionate about uplifting voices of underprivileged persons through accurate representations of their experiences. She has served as creative writing director, English language teacher, and is a Fulbright Award applicant. She plans a career in international public service and to continue advocating for the rights of refugees and migrants.

May 20, 2021

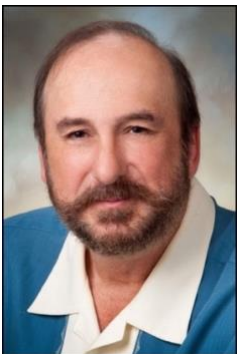


**Speaker: Estelle Erwich, Publicity Director,
Gators for Refugee Medical Relief**

Estelle spoke on GRMR work to assist refugees and immigrants with healthcare services.

[Meeting Recording](#) Access Passcode: 3b\$PNd44. Estelle's talk starts at 21:23 on the recording.

Thursday, April 15, 2021



Speaker: Dr. Ed Kellerman

Dr. Kellerman is a Master Lecturer (retired) in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of Florida.

He specializes in Intercultural Communication and Organizational Leadership. He has traveled and consulted extensively in the Middle East, Malaysia, and Southeast Asia.

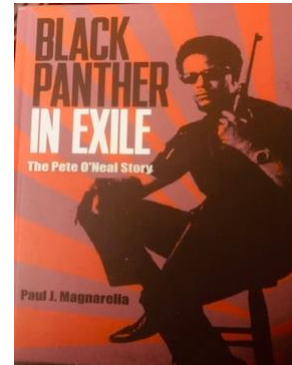
[Ed Kellerman's talk recorded April 15, 2021](#) Passcode: FBY8*6WJ

Topic: “Sunshine after the Arab Spring? Progress Toward Democracy in Tunisia”

March 18, 2021



Speaker: Dr. Paul Magnarella



Topic: “Black Panther in Exile: The Peter O’Neal Story”

Dr. Magnarella is UF Professor Emeritus in the Department of Criminology, Law, and Society. He will speak about his recent book on the above title. He is a veteran of the United Nations Criminal Tribunals and was O’Neal’s attorney during his appeals process from 1997 to 2001.

February 18, 2021



Speaker: Dr. Terje Østebø

Topic: “Understanding the Current Crisis in Ethiopia”

Dr. Østebø is Chair of the Department of Religion at the University of Florida and holds a joint appointment in the Department of Religion and the Center for African Studies. His research interest and focus include Islamic reform, Salafism, Islamic cultures, interreligious relations in Ethiopia, as well as ethnic identity, religion and politics and public representations of religion. He also holds an interest in Sufism in Africa, particularly with reference to the dynamic relationship between Islamic reform and Sufism.

Due to the sensitive content of his topic, Dr. Østebø asked that his talk not be recorded.

VII. Annual Meeting, UNA*USA Gainesville Chapter: January 25, 2022



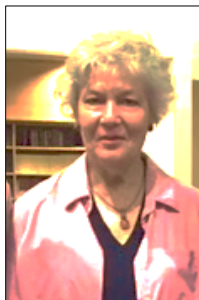
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mona Ahmed Alsayed Ashour

Dr. Ashour is a visiting Fulbright Lecturer at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida. She holds a Ph.D. in English and Literature from Florida Atlantic University, M.A. in Teacher Preparation in English and Literatures and a B.A. in Education from Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt. She is a faculty member in the Department of English at Ain Shams University. Dr. Ashour's publications include, "The Concept of Free Will in John Fowler's *The Collector*" (2012); "Victimization of Women in Alice Munro's *Fictional World: An Eco-Feminist Approach*" (2018).

Topic: "Education and Gender Equality in Egypt"

Abstract: Dr. Ashour had an extensive slide presentation that provided an overview of the disparities in gender educational equity in Egypt and the large gap in opportunities for women's education. While it appears that some progress has been made towards equality in education for males and females, the data show a wide gap between men and women. The government and the Egyptian population continue to grapple with equal access and opportunities for women's education. Customs, traditions, and religion have played significant roles in the struggle for women's equality in Egyptian society.

VIII. Advocacy Working Group



Dr. Taraneh Darabi, Chair of the Advocacy Working Group, has consistently advocated and raised funds for the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The UNA Chapter supports UNICEF with an annual contribution of \$1,000 to the Fund, plus an additional \$1,000+ in fundraising by the Chair through various community events. Members of the Chapter also join other UNA-USA members to lobby the U.S. Congress to meet its financial obligations and support of the United Nations.

Make A Difference!
Provide A Future: Keep Hope Alive
Educating a generation of refugee children
Join Us Saturday, Sept 24th 2-3pm

On Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84681875972?pwd=Z011UitKbm4yNitn-bWFaeStFUkRiZz09>
Meeting ID: 846 8187 5972
Passcode: 128191

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50 cents per day can change the life of a child.
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ONLINE:
FUN Dance Performances
 from Around the World

Give kids affected by disaster the gift of education with UNICEF's School-in-a-Box

Provide-A-Future
 Educating a generation of refugee children

CONTRIBUTE NOW

UN International Day for People of African Descent

UNA Gainesville commemorated the UN International Day for People of African Descent with a far-reaching Zoom program. Featured Speaker was Dr. Eileen Davis-Jerome, President Emerita of the Broward County, FL UNA chapter and a member of the Regional Council.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER **UNA*USA Gainesville Chapter**

We invite you to Our Celebration of the United Nations Day for People of African Descent

Theme: The African Diaspora: Towards Human Dignity, Equity, & Equality

Date: Saturday, August 27, 2022
Time: 12:00 Noon (ET) 9:00 AM (PT), (See UTC times for other locations)
Via Zoom, please see info below.

<p>Featured Speaker</p> 	<p>Dr. Davis-Jerome is the Southeast Regional Representative on the UNA-USA National Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Member of the World Federation of UNAs ◊ President Emerita, UNA Broward County Chapter ◊ Broward Human Rights Board and Refugee Task Force ◊ International Educational Consultant and Founder of the Institute for Multicultural Education <p><i>As a child of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, she marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for jobs and freedom.</i></p>
<p>Dr. Eileen Davis-Jerome</p>	<p>EdD, Nova Southeastern University, MA, City College of NY, BFA, Pratt Institute, NY.</p>

Recording: <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/vxbNdljqWXXIP8rW67M0Vzru-3U3C-IMG29AwfE2YFckOAtFooWb-pTQ9LYff-rt.S5MC8KZQOXn0B5Cm> Passcode: ?85MP=EE

Greater Gainesville International Festival

In collaboration with the City of Gainesville and more than 20 service organizations our UNA co-sponsored the **Greater Gainesville International Festival** in September 2022. Over 600 people attended the event that celebrated the diversity our communities. Board Members **Drs. Robin Poynor, Jake Gordon, Sanaina Shrestha, and Masuma Downie** tabled at the festival and informed the many people who visited our table about the mission of the UN and UNA.



IX. Membership Working Group



This Group's leadership is co-chaired by three members (left to right above): **Dr. Agnes Ngoma Leslie, Mr. Jeffrey Weisberg, and Dr. Masuma Downie**. Its primary function is recruitment and retention of members to sustain the activities of the organization towards accomplishing its mission. One of the challenges of the working group has been the recruitment and retention of Youth Membership.



UNA President Gordon and Secretary McDade Gordon (above left) tabled at the Santa Fe College Global Affairs Day in November 2021 and solicited applications from 17 students at the college who stopped by the table for a complimentary UNA*USA coffee cup, pens, and stickers.

X. The Chapter Youth Council



Ms. Delaney Zambrano

To meet the challenge of recruiting young members, UNA Gainesville President Gordon invited the National UNA Youth Engagement Officer, Ms. Maddie Hren invited to conduct a seminar on “best practices” on youth engagement.

The need to create a Youth Council in the Chapter was explored and approved by the Board of Directors. A new youth member, **Ms. Delaney Zambrano**, a Master’s degree student in Global Strategic Communications at the University of Florida, accepted the challenge to organize the Youth Council. Delaney graduated summa cum laude from UF with a major in Advertising and a minor in Event Management. She is producing flyers for UN Day events for distribution; and will be working with the Education Working Group Chair to publicize the essay contests.

XI. About the Editor



Dr. Jacob U'Mofe Gordon

The Editor of this first Annual Edition of the UNA*USA Journal is Jacob U'Mofe Gordon, Emeritus Professor, University of Kansas; Kwame Nkrumah Endowed Chair, University of Ghana; Senior Fulbright Scholar. Dr. Gordon is an alumnus of Bethune-Cookman College (now Bethune-Cookman University) graduating with a B.A. (Honors), History; M.A., History, Howard University. PhD, History, Michigan State University. At the University of Kansas (KU), he was the Founding Chair of the Department of African and African American Studies in 1970. He was the first Black professor awarded the distinction of Professor Emeritus from KU. For more than 50 years in higher education, he has been devoted to research, teaching, and public service in African Studies and the Black Experience in the Diaspora. He is the author or co-author of 34 books most recently *African American Studies: 50 Years at the University of Florida* (2021).

Dr. Gordon has traveled throughout Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, South and North Americas. He serves as Historian of the Mary McLeod Bethune National Alumni Assn.; Founding Member of the African Studies Association of Africa, Advisory Committee of the African American Studies Program at the University of Florida; Chair of the Alachua County African American History Task Force; Founding President of the Alachua County African and African American Historical Society, Inc., a Member of the Alachua County Historical Commission and President of the United Nations Association-Gainesville Chapter.



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