

Summer 2003



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF URBAN, LABOR AND METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS



CENTER FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES
AND THE
DETROIT COUNCIL FOR WORLD AFFAIRS
NEWSLETTER

RALPH BUNCHE SPECIAL EDITION



Dr. Ralph Johnson Bunche

Inside this issue:

2003 Summer Institute	1
Who is Ralph Bunche?	1
MELD	2
Biography, continued	2
The World Pledge	3
Local and National Events	3
Acknowledgements	4

2003 Ralph Bunche Summer Institute

Over 80 high school students gathered at Wayne State University during the week of June 16th for the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute. Students came from diverse backgrounds across the Detroit metropolitan area. All students learned the benefits of diversity and enjoyed the week at Wayne State University, making new friends and learning about different cultures.



Roger Hopkins facilitates a roundtable discussion with participating youth.

The Ralph Bunche Summer Institute focused on the topics of conflict resolution, diversity, international affairs, and how to individually foster peace in their own communities. Special guest speakers included Dr. Ben Rivlin, Director Emeritus of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies at the City University of New York. Other activities included a video presentation on the life of Dr. Bunche, diversity trainings, negotiation and bargaining skills, and an introduction to the African Union, as each student represented an African country and debated political, economical, environmental and health issues relating to Africa. The students spent two nights in the North Hall dorm, giving both the dorm and social activities rave reviews.

The students most enjoyed roundtable discussions on the impact of diversity in their own lives and group activities that simulated debate in the United Nations. The students argued and passed resolutions to improve politics, the economy, the environment, and health issues on the African continent. At a final assembly, students were given awards for their participation and dedication to learning about conflict resolution in the spirit of Dr. Bunche by the Detroit Tigers and Wayne State University. Four students were chosen by their peers to be honored by the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute Nobel Peace Prize for admirable effort in peacemaking throughout the week's events. The Institute successfully informed the students on the life and legacy of Dr. Bunche while imparting the importance of supporting harmony in their own lives and the world as a whole.



Ralph Bunche in Detroit, circa 1910

Who is Ralph Bunche?

Dr. Ralph Bunche was born August 7, 1903 at 434 Anthon Street in Detroit, Michigan. He lived in the area for ten years and returned at age 24 to be baptized at the historical Second Baptist Church.

Ralph Bunche was an African American pioneer in a number of respects; first Nobel Peace Prize Winner; first Ph.D. at Harvard; first President of the American Political Science Association; among the founders of the N.A.A.C.P. and the National Negro Congress. In time, he rose to be the United Nations Undersecretary General.

Biography continued on page 2

Multicultural Experience in Leadership Development (MELD)

Ralph Bunche lived his life as a “global citizen.” He demonstrated his appreciation for a multicultural society by his relationships with friends, colleagues and the people he served from around the world. The Multicultural Experience in Leadership Development (MELD) Program was responsible for providing diversity training for the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute. Lila Cabbil, Director, assisted by Jeseca Dawson and Kate Amlin, facilitated several activities to prompt the students’ interactions across cultures. “These first steps to becoming acquainted often take us out of our comfort zone,” said Lila Cabbil, “but it can also be the beginning of building new and lasting friendships.”

Jeseca Dawson, MELD student assistant, is in her third year of attending WSU part-time. Jeseca commented on her experience with MELD and how the program has helped her learn about diversity. “MELD helped to deconstruct the barriers of Institutional Racism for me.”

MELD sessions are commenced on the third Friday of each month from 8:30 am-4:30 pm at various locations.

Topics include:

- Self-Assessment: Exploring My Biases
- Communicating For Understanding: Opening Dialogue
- Transformational Leadership: New Paradigms, New Vision
- Analyzing Power Relationships
- Culture and Public Policy
- Multicultural Voices: Making the Cultural Connection
- Recognizing Media Stereotypes
- Undoing Racism

Each year the group plans an action agenda to apply their learning to an issue of concern. A youth learning Peace Summit started after September 11, 2001, and continues this year as an ongoing series.

The first deadline for applications to the program is September 15, 2003. Applications are available by e-mail, U.S. postal mail, or pickup from the MELD office at 2320 in the Faculty Administration Building. Please feel free to contact us at (313) 577-2210.

Biography continued from page 1

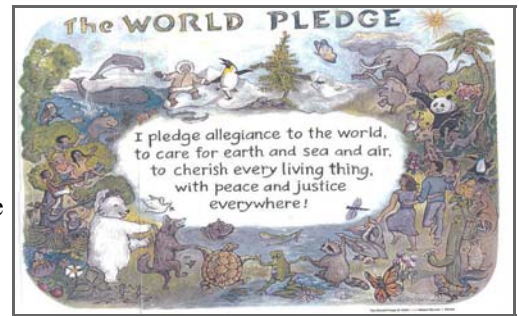
During his lifetime, Dr. Bunche had to overcome many obstacles. After several family moves, he was orphaned at the age of 13. At school in Los Angeles he was shunted into “practical” courses for Negro children until his grandmother insisted on his college preparation. Supporting himself as a newsboy and carpet layer he won top academic honors in high school, but was denied city-wide recognition because of his race. Augmenting a scholarship with jobs to work his way through UCLA, he was both valedictorian and a star athlete. With the aid of Los Angeles and Detroit sororities, he was able to attend graduate school at Harvard studying the decolonization of Africa. He shuttled between a teaching post in the then new Howard University Political Science Department in Washington, and graduate school to finish his Ph.D and post-doctoral studies.

Dr. Bunche’s predecessor at the United Nations was assassinated in mediating the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948. Ralph Bunche succeeded him and finished the armistice agreement. Thus, Dr. Bunche combined a formidable intellect with indomitable courage to hone the art of diplomacy and negotiation. As a result he is an inspiration not only to the African American community, but also for humanity. It is his ability to overcome and yet remain open and flexible that endures as an example for today’s youth, regardless of their ethnic or economic background. His is also a story of remarkable psychological resiliency; Ralph Bunche always remembered his heritage and campaigned for racial and social justice. He was in the front ranks with Dr. King during a march in Selma. From his earliest days Dr. Bunche always remained totally professional and dedicated to global and national service.

The World Pledge

In unison with Dr. Bunche's principles as a "global citizen," the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies presents the World Pledge Project, a timely and creative initiative conceived by the Center's former director, Lillian Genser.

The World Pledge Project consists of a beautifully designed poster and an informative study guide. The World Pledge aims to educate and inspire people, young and old, to care about each other and the planet they share. The World Pledge is not meant as a substitute for the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, but rather as a supplement to provide children with an impetus to gain better understanding about the planet on which they live, the people who inhabit it, and the ecosystem of which they are a part.



We seek to distribute the World Pledge poster and the accompanying detailed curriculum guide locally as well as nationally and internationally, as an exciting tool to prepare the next generation for its role in the new millennium. If you are interested in purchasing the World Pledge Poster (\$10.00 each) or Study Guide (\$5.00 each), please mail or fax your order (including \$3.00 for shipping and handling) to: The World Pledge Project, The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, Wayne State University, 2320 Faculty Administration Building, Detroit, MI 48202/FAX: (313) 577-8269. Please visit our website at: www.pcs.wayne.edu/worldpp/wpp.html.

Local and National Events

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Wayne State University will be hosting some exciting activities over the next year in honor of the centenary of Dr. Bunche's birth. The Detroit Tigers commemorated Ralph Bunche's contributions to Detroit and the world on Friday, **July 25**, as part of their Annual Negro League Weekend. Alma Young, Dean of the College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs at Wayne State and Maryann Mahaffey, President of the Detroit City Council joined Dr. Frederic Pearson, Director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies on the field of Comerica Park to accept a plaque in recognition of Dr. Bunche's accomplishment.

The Detroit City Council also constructed a testimonial resolution in memorandum of Dr. Bunche's exemplary actions in the field of diplomacy. The resolution was presented at Comerica Park to CULMA Dean, Alma Young, and CPCS Director, Frederic Pearson, in recognition of Wayne State University's participation in the Ralph Bunche centennial.

Churches, mosques, synagogues and other places of worship will be holding memorial weekends in honor of Bunche the weekend following **August 7**, the date of his birth, and **September 21**, United Nations Peace Day. These weekends will include video presentations on the life of Dr. Bunche, as well as forums to discuss conflict resolution and peacekeeping skills.

On **October 25**, the Center is coordinating a tribute concert in honor of the life and legacy of Dr. Bunche. The event will take place at the Episcopal Church of St. Paul in Detroit and will include performances by the WSU Chorale, the WSU Band and the Mosaic Youth theater. Among the musical selections will be a "Cantata for the United Nations" and "The Mystery of Man," a jazz rendition of early peace poetry by Pope John II. Ronald Palmer, distinguished former ambassador, will be giving the keynote address of the evening. Four Peacemaker awards will be awarded to members of the metropolitan community who have shown exemplary skills in the areas of conflict resolution and the promotion of peace.

Activities at WSU are part of the national Ralph Bunche Centenary, a year-long celebration of Dr. Bunche's contributions to humanity. National events over the next year include a series of lectures sponsored by the United Nations including "Then and Now: Ralph Bunche and the Question of Palestine" in September, and "Then and Now, From Ralph Bunche to Lakhdar Brahimi: The Future of the International Civil Service" in November. Duke University, the University of California at Los Angeles, and Wayne State University are all sponsoring institutes in homage to Ralph Bunche and his legacy for students. Events will continue around the world in tribute to Dr. Bunche through August of 2004. For more information on national events, please visit the Ralph Bunche Centenary website at: www.ralphbunchecentenary.org.



CPCS Director, Frederic Pearson with CULMA Dean, Alma Young, at Comerica Park.

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF URBAN, LABOR AND METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

Center for Peace & Conflict Studies and
Detroit Council for World Affairs
2320 Faculty/Administration Building
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI 48202

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DETROIT, MI
PERMIT NO. 3844

Phone: (313)577-3453
Fax: (313)577-8269



We're on the Web!
www.pcs.wayne.edu



The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies would like to acknowledge the following staff, schools, and co-sponsors for their participation in the 2003 Ralph Bunche Summer Institute:

CPCS Staff

Michael Alandu
Kate Amlin
Elizabeth Barton
Lila Cabbil
Kris Yurgin Cummings
Jeseca Dawson
Steven Durant
Betty Leavell
Miriam Liebman
Nkechi Mbanu
Kofi Nsia-Peptra
Abdulahi Osman
Mebby Pearson

Participating Schools

Arts Academy in the Woods
Cranbrook Schools
Farmington High School
Fordson High School
King High School
Lincoln Park Public Schools
Loyola High School
Northville High School
Rosa Parks Institute
St. Mary's Preparatory
Utica High School
Walled Lake Western

Co-Sponsors

Archdiocese of Detroit
Better Made
Comerica Bank
Cranbrook Peace Foundation
CULMA
Detroit Rotary Club
Detroit Tigers
Greektown Casino
International Institute
Lincoln Park High School
Skillman Center for Children
World Bridge-WSU

Thank you to all the students and staff, guest speakers, interns and volunteers who made the Summer Institute such a successful and memorable event!

If you are interested in volunteering at future events, please call the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at (313)577-3453.