

# The Clackamas Print

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## Messages of international peace



*Clackamas gets a sneak peek of the soon-to-be historical student ambassador presentations*

The presentations by the various U.N. of Young Ambassadors members were designed to be informative and advocate peace.

Hamza Al-Shaishani, the representative from Jordan, discussed the tribal wars in his country, and how these rival factions were ignorant of each other's cultures. His presented solution was diversification education in a child's early school career, as well as government support for extra-curricular activities to advocate and further the blending of cultures.

Angela Zuki, the Lebanese representative, discussed the recent military actions from 2006 in which Israel attacked Lebanon in response to Hezbollah aggression in Northern Israel. She touched on the loss of innocent life in Lebanon, and possible solutions. Zuki also emphasized the frustration, social and political confusion that war breeds.

The two Palestinian natives, Samer Anabtawi, from the Northern Bank, and Rami Ziara, from the Gaza Strip, discussed Palestine's conflict with Israel.

Anabtawi's presentation encompassed the political atmosphere of the two sides, the social impact that it has both in his life and his peers', and the steps people involved with the war are taking towards peace. Anabtawi is part of peaceful groups; their purpose is to integrate Jewish and Palestinian youth through talking and shared travels.

His presentation ended with a summarization of the message that the whole group seemed to push: "Partners in Pain; Partners in Peace."

- Compiled by Matt Olson  
The Clackamas Print

Photos by Megan Koler Clackamas Print

**Megan Koler**  
News Editor

Eighteen different countries, including Kazakhstan, Iraq, Moldova, Russia, Kuwait and Palestine, were presented by student ambassadors at the Gregory Forum yesterday to promote diversity in education.

All the students participate in a nonprofit, educational organization called "Student Visions" that involved in many different programs, such as mentoring, tutoring and SAT/ACT preparation.

"The program we are going to be focusing on a lot today is the United Nations of Young Ambassadors," said Christina Pham, one of the organizers of the event. "We are actually going to be presenting some of the things we are speaking of today to the United Nations General Assembly this month in New York."

The presentation before the U.N. this month will be the first of its kind in U.N. history.

Before the two presentations yesterday, each representative prepared a display with little pictures and facts representing their country, along with a short speech concerning their country and its place in the

world.

Assel Zholdybayeva, a student ambassador from Kazakhstan, stood next to pictures of her country and a model of a traditional Kazakhstani yurt, and spoke briefly about her experiences in Student Visions.

"Look at us; we are all from different countries and different languages, but now, here we are speaking English," said Zholdybayeva. "The most important part for us is to learn to live in peace."

Hussain Qasem, a Kuwaiti student ambassador, was one of the students who rejoiced in the opportunity to inform his international peers about Kuwait and misconceptions regarding it.

"We hate Saddam Hussein, and we have many Americans in



Kuwait," said Qasem.

Most of the students felt the same as Qasem, and they see this whole experience with Student Visions as an opportunity to inform Americans and the world about the side of their country that isn't represented as much in the media.

Anyone interested in Student Visions or learning about the visit to the U.N can find out more at [www.studentvisions.org](http://www.studentvisions.org).

ABOVE: Student ambassadors present Clackamas students with miniature presentations about their country.

BELOW: Zholdybayeva tells an onlooker about her native country of Kazakhstan and about her time with Student Visions.

## Good news, bad news for Clackamas' accreditation

**Megan Koler**  
News Editor

Clackamas' accreditation has been reaffirmed; however, the college is hardly out of the woods.

Last fall, the NWCCU (Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities) visited Clackamas for a week, to determine whether it would remain an accredited institution.

While Clackamas received commendations regarding its connection to the community, the beauty of the campus, and the NWCCU made three recom-

According to Baldwin van der Bijl, vice president of instructional services, the first recommendation from the NWCCU was for administrators to develop a standardized way of assessing what a student should know after receiving a Transfer Degree.

The assessment problem is an issue at many other colleges and universities, and something Clackamas has been working on for about a year.

"Number two has to do with our planning procedures, in a broad sense, and evaluation," said van der Bijl. "We go through a process of 'here's what we want to do in the next

better accounting of what happened."  
"We go through a process with decision packages, which is where people will request money to buy something, and we go through a process that works very well, on which ones are going to get the money and which ones aren't," said van der Bijl.  
The recommendation the NWCCU made was simply to follow up on those endeavors and evaluate and record whether or not the changes made accomplished the goal.  
"The third one has to do with finance," said van der Bijl. "They are asking us to upgrade, modernize and reorganize our financial software."  
Van der Bijl again wished to acknowledge that Clackamas has been aware of its need for an upgrade for quite some time.  
"We also need to improve what tools and controls we have," said van der Bijl. "Tools are what we use to get our work done, and then controls are the checks and balances and procedures that we use."  
Clackamas has until spring of 2008 to make significant improvements in the aforementioned three areas. The NWCCU will visit the college that same spring for what they are calling a "focused interim report."

**"They are asking us to upgrade, modernize and reorganize our financial software."**

Baldwin van der Bijl  
Vice President of Instructional Services

year or two or three,' and [the NWCCU] wanted more clarification on that process and a