

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Model UN

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

09/10/08

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**MESSAGE TO THE GANNON UNIVERSITY
MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
Erie, 14-15 November 2008**

You are meeting at a crucial time for international cooperation. We can all sense the perils of our current passage. We face a global financial crisis and a global energy crisis. Trade talks have collapsed, yet again. The price of rice – the food staple that feeds half the world's population – has more than doubled in the past year. We have seen new outbreaks of war and violence. And many countries are not on track to reach the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015.

The threats of the 21st century spare no one. Nations can no longer protect their interests, or advance the well-being of their people, without the partnership of the rest. Yet there is a danger of losing sight of this new reality. I worry that nations will look inward rather than towards a shared future, and that we will see a retreat from the common progress we have made. Never have global leadership and partnership been more important.

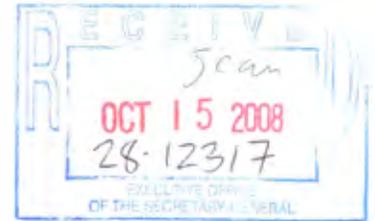
Partnership is the way of the future. Just look at recent advances on malaria, which have brought us within range of containing a disease that kills a child every 30 seconds. We are doing this through better planning, top-notch science and technology, and unified global management. What we are doing with malaria we must do with the other Millennium Development Goals. Models like these can also help tackle climate change, which ever more clearly threatens our planet and is the defining issue of our era.

The challenges we face are increasingly those of collaboration rather than confrontation. The United Nations is uniquely placed to mobilize the collective effort that is needed for success. You can count on me to do my part, and I will count on you to do yours. We are not fated to watch our world disintegrate. Each of these challenges is the product of human choices, of mistaken priorities, of inadequate institutions and laws. Each can be resolved through the innovative ideas and fresh energies that will emanate from your generation of problem solvers. Together, we can set the stage for a new era of global prosperity, more widely and equitably shared. In that spirit, I wish you a most stimulating conference.

SECRET



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MRM

October 9, 2008

Honorable Ban Ki-moon
Office of the Secretary General to the United Nations
United Nations
United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Sent
Oct 28

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

Gannon University will be hosting its 56th annual Model United Nations on November 14 and 15, 2008. This year's General Assembly will include over 500 high school delegates from about 40 schools located in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York.

In preparation for the event, delegates will be researching global issues, their assigned country's attitudes regarding these issues, and the rules and procedures of the United Nations. The Gannon University Model United Nations staff has also been preparing for this event by staffing committees and transforming the Gannon campus into an appropriate setting for such an event.

Each year programs are printed by the Gannon Staff for the delegates, their high school moderators, and any guests that may attend. It has been a long standing tradition to include distinguished persons, such as yourself, welcoming and encouraging the delegates and others. It would be an honor to include your letter in this year's official program. It is a great way to recognize the work and dedication of these future leaders.

In order to allow proper time for publishing this year's program, please send your letter at your earliest convenience to the above address. In addition to the letter, you may also include a current photograph to be included in the program. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Stephanie R. Fetzner
Secretary General
Gannon University Model United Nations

Believe