



cuuna

Cambridge University United Nations Association

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

2008-2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS
CANDIDATES' MANIFESTOS

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Farzin Mirshahi

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CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT:



Marcus Chi

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Jenny Zhao (ALSO CANDIDATE FOR CAMPAIGNS OFFICER)

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CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL SECRETARY:



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CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT: FARZIN MIRSHAHI (1ST YEAR CLASSICIST, CHRIST'S)

VISION

I am seriously excited by the potential of CUUNA, and as President, I would wish to build upon our current platform and move CUUNA forward, primarily by enlarging its membership base and extending the scope and variety of its activities.

I aim to extend the reach and popularity of CUUNA in Cambridge University:

- **Consolidate college representative system**, so that every college has *at least* two college reps; appoint a **college representative coordinator** who will help in the appointment of college reps and ensure that posters, flyers, etc. are distributed in all colleges.
- **Build links with relevant departments and faculties**, particularly with postgraduates within these faculties (e.g. doing development studies Msc, etc.); to have the benefits of their expertise and also to widen CUUNA's membership base.
- To ensure CUUNA's presence in **careers' fair stalls**, such as the Works, attracting those looking for a career within the UN.

To move CUUNA forward by widening the **scope** and **ambition** of its activities:

- Continue the high quality level of speakers, but in addition to have a number of **interactive** (rather than speaker-led) events, such as **discussion forums** (ranging from small intimate discussions to grander question-answer sessions) led by university lecturers/postgraduates, and a whole-day **conference** dedicated to the UN, such as CUID's International Development Course
- To introduce an area of CUUNA specifically devoted to **careers** within the UN. For example, I would introduce a session, in cooperation with the **careers' service**, devoted to finding the relevant work experience/competency skills in ensuring an internship to the UN. More networking and social opportunities with CUUNA speakers would also be arranged.
- To broaden the network of contacts and form **collaborations and synergies** with other relevant University Societies, such as CUID and MUN, to save costs and ensure events with a greater outreach.

I hope to consolidate our collaboration with **UNA, UNYSA, and MUN**.

- I hope to ensure that CUUNA participates more in specific UNA and UNYSA (Youth and Students Association) events, such as films screenings and MUN Conferences, and so that we can organise **delegations** to the Annual UNA Conference, MUN, and other UNA events.

Finally, to put in place and carry out a **programme of sponsorship**:

- Introduction of a **Sponsorship Officer** to work in tandem with the Treasurer.
- Advocate for greater sponsorship from law firms, banks, etc, including sponsorship for individual events.
- Acquire a fund to allow and subsidise for more ambitious projects, such as a visit to the New York UN Headquarters.

EXPERIENCE

I am, above all, passionate and wholeheartedly committed to the cause of the CUUNA, but I also have extensive experience in leadership positions, event-management, and speaking.

Leadership/UN Committee experience:

- Awarded the Rank Fellowship Leadership Award by an NGO known as the Rank Foundation. This required me to organise and direct a number of youth and social events in poor communities around the UK, including in Liverpool and East London, in the last two years.
- As Head of House and Head of Navy CCF at school, I am used to the pressures of having a leadership position.
- Head of Delegation to the Warwick Economics Summit 2008.
- Represented Iran in the London International Model United Nations 2008 for C.University. I have also attended the European MUN in Brussels 2007 and the 2006 LIMUN.
- As College representative for CUUNA since October, I have been actively involved in CUUNA since, having also helped out in International Mother Language Day and organised its language quiz.
- I have experience in speaking, having represented CU in inter-varsity debating competitions and in MUN.

Experience in event-management:

- Currently organising '*contemporary conversations 2008*' - an annual school's conference on the philosophy of ethics. Over 30 schools and 200 students are invited, and I need to organise the speakers, the panel, and to oversee the event.
- Member of the President's Committee in the Cambridge Union, which is involved in the running of the Union.
- Member of the Events Team in CUID, where I am particularly in charge of organising key-note speakers and the place of the event.

PROPOSED BY Kai Yuen Wong

SECONDED BY Wan Qian Cheah

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT: MARCUS CHI (1ST YEAR LAW, GIRTON)

WHY I AM SUITABLE

The “stand up against poverty” event is the first CUUNA activity that I have attended. As the term progressed, I still found myself attending a lot of CUUNA activities, be it the Powaqqatsi film show or the Mother Languages Day. CUUNA is something that makes me happy, given my interest in international affairs and humanitarian issues.

I studied at Red Cross Nordic United World College in Norway for my 2 final years of secondary school with 200 students from more than 80 nationalities. I chose to go to Norway because I wanted to go to experience a totally different culture, and because of the humanitarian focus of the school. United World College did change what I consider is important in my life. We actively participated in campaigning (for example the Western Saharawi Project), a lot of sharing, presentations and workshops (for example the weekly World Today speaker and discussion) and regular community work several times a week. Some of my specific experiences are listed below.

WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO CUUNA

I treasure opportunities to share and talk a lot. What I would want to see is perhaps more discussion and sharing sessions, which can be held after film sessions, speakers events or campaign days. They can be quite informal, or even just a punting or gathering trip where members who share similar interests in international affairs can have informal discussions. At UWC we used to have many informal workshops and groups all round the year where it could simply be a good break for an evening, and thus makes it easier for people to be willing to participate. During the stand up dinner and the languages day intermission, I had (and observed) quite hearty conversation between members, and I think this would both be quite simple but rewarding for all of us.

PAST EXPERIENCES (2006-2007)

- Internship with Hon Audrey Eu, Leader of the Civic Party
- President of the Model United Nations at RCNUWC
- Chairman of the Debating Society at RCNUWC
- Leader of the annual Global Concerns Day (on the UN Millennium Development Goals); Organiser of World Today on the North Korea Nuclear Crisis, World Health, Education in the World and Human Rights in China at RCNUWC
- Initiated and led Exchange Trip to UWC of the Atlantic in Cardiff
- Representative Delegate of RCNUWC to the Students’ League of Nations in Geneva
- Studied 2 years at Red Cross Nordic United World College (RCNUWC) in Norway

I am also leading Hong Kong & China Affairs Society, and I plan to have these two activities to be my main pastimes in my next year.

PROPOSED BY Anthony Chan SECONDED BY Wan Qian Cheah & Hui Xin Tan

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT: JENNY ZHAO (1ST YEAR CLASSICIST, TRINITY HALL)

Dear CUUNA members: I am Jenny, a first year classicist from Trinity Hall. I am running for the post of Vice President for our beloved CUUNA, and I hope that you will take some time to read my manifesto. Any questions and suggestions would be most welcome (please mail to jz292).

First, however, I would like to say...

This is just a manifesto. There is only so much one can express in it. It is **action** that counts the most, and I believe that I can realise my proposals with **actions**.



WHY JENNY?

▣ I WOULD LOVE TO CONTRIBUTE WHAT I CAN FOR CUUNA

Ever since I have first joined CUUNA, I have been an integrate member of it, whether it is carrying out the duties of a college rep, attending meetings and events such as Mother Languages' Day, or simply spreading the word around, I have LOVED what I do. CUUNA is a society with great potential, and I strongly believe that I could make a difference.

▣ RESPONSIBILITY

I believe that having a strong sense of responsibility is a crucial step to being a leader. Those who know me a little better will know that I do not take responsibility lightly: if I undertake something, I give 100% commitment and no less. Being a vice president of CUUNA involves the organization and overseeing of the trip abroad. My strong sense of responsibility and attention to every detail means that I will give my all to make this trip a wonderful and rewarding experience for all participants.

▣ GOOD INTER-PERSONAL SKILLS

For any post on any committee, good communication and inter-personal skills would prove useful. In the case of Vice President for CUUNA, however, I believe such skills to be absolutely essential, especially regarding the organization of the annual trip abroad. I am a positive, outgoing and warm-hearted person with great determination, who is suitable for such a post. I have also learnt much from my past experiences of being form representatives for primary and secondary school, as well as sixth form, acting as a medium to reflect issues from my form to the Student Union.

JENNY'S PROPOSALS

▣ LINK BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I believe that the most important role of the Vice President is to act as the link between President and other committee members. Not just *any* link, but one which successfully channels opinions, thoughts and suggestions between the two bodies. I believe in the importance of establishing a friendly team of CUUNA members with a great group spirit, and an association with peaceful and unreserved cooperation. Should I be elected Vice President, I shall do my very best to encourage such a positive spirit in the committee. I shall, of course, also assist the President in overseeing affairs of the Association.

▣ EXCITING, HUGELY SUBSIDISED TRIP ABROAD

As potential participant of the Geneva trip Easter '08, I recognize the importance of CUUNA's annual trip abroad in providing participating members with insight and experience of the UN, as well as a fun-packed trip during the Easter holidays. As suggested by the current Vice President, a trip to New York is an exciting possibility for next year. I am prepared to pursue this possibility and seek sponsorship to lower the costs for CUUNA members.

▣ SET UP POST OF SPONSORSHIP OFFICER

Funding is crucial to the development of any society. The level of sponsorship received could make a great impact on the Association in all sorts of ways: events, trips, and general member welfare. It has been mentioned that this year's amount of sponsorship for CUUNA has not been up to expectation. I hereby propose the post of a sponsorship officer who would make contacts, keep a record of sponsorships and give the level of sponsorship a great push, to make a real difference.



So these are my pledges. So far so good. Now please give them a chance to come into practice.

PROPOSED BY Sabina Ciofu

SECONDED BY Zahra He-Li

CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL SECRETARY: YING TAO (1ST YEAR ECONOMIST, ROBINSON)


ONE OF THE SIXTY WAYS CUUNA MAKES A DIFFERENCE: VOTING YING TAO FOR GENERAL SECRETARY

THE FUTURE GENERAL SECRETARY WITH PASSION, COMPASSION AND A VISION

MY MOTIVATION

Having been the College Representative to facilitate CUUNA's campaigns and publicity, I realised just how much we could do about this society. I believe that CUUNA has a lot of untapped potential, much of which can be unlocked through closer relationship with other UNA branches, and that's why I am running for the General Secretary position.

MY PLEDGES

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- # I pledge to enhance our liaison with the UNA branches in other universities. Having been to several Cambridge Model United Nations events and meeting students from everywhere (even from universities in South Korea and Cuba), I discovered how inter-uni cooperation could broaden the society's horizon and create more opportunities for CUUNA to flourish in a national level.
 - # I pledge to establish communication channels with other relevant societies in Cambridge, for example, Cambridge Model United Nations Association, Cambridge UNICEF and a number of voluntary groups based in Cambridge, such as Cambridge Refugee Support Group, in order to spread the words around about CUUNA and organise events in collaboration.
 - # I pledge to carry on organising top quality talks with distinguished speakers, just as what CUUNA has been doing for the past year. Good speakers would encourage wider range of students to come and recognise, as well as ensuring our relationship with members is upheld.
 - # I pledge to work alongside the Campaign officer and the Social Secretary to raise students' awareness of CUUNA, using our newsletter and various events as a platform to extend CUUNA's membership coverage.
 - # I pledge to reinforce communication links between our members, who joined CUUNA for the same reason: to make a difference in the world. There should be a platform for them to discuss their concerns, their thoughts and their visions. Drink reception after events and annual academic trips are fantastic opportunities, but they are not enough. CUUNA should organise some discussion or even minor debates about a particular issue as a means to deepen members' understanding of the role of the UN, its operational difficulties and potential solutions.

- # If I become the General Secretary of the CUUNA, I would take full responsibility for the distribution of information, the maintenance of the society's official and membership record and taking minutes of each meeting to keep committee members' well-informed.

WHY YING TAO?

- # Vice President of the Marshall Economics Society
- # Volunteer of Cambridge Refugee Support Group for two years and a half
- # Volunteer of Concordis International, focusing on the Darfur's conflicts especially
- # Member of the Aspire project for Students in Free Enterprise in Cambridge, aiming at helping juvenile asylum seekers in Cambridge
- # Marketing director of the Young Enterprise Company Ivy

I have had extensive experience in society committee activities and various organisations previously. My commitment to philanthropic projects and dedication to my position could be revealed from them. If I am elected, I would commit myself fully to CUUNA in order to continue the success the previous committees have initiated.

As Martin Bell once said,

Bad things happen because we let them happen.

Good things happen because we make them happen.

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, TO ALLOW GOOD THINGS TO HAPPEN
VOTE YING TAO FOR GENERAL SECRETARY

PROPOSED BY Jenny Zhao SECONDED BY Qasim Gulamhusein

**CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER:
SAMIRA MOHD AFZAL
(2ND YEAR MEDICINE, PETERHOUSE COLLEGE)**

As treasurer of CUUNA, I propose to:

- Get in touch with various organisations (both NGOs and corporate) to **increase sponsorship** for CUUNA. CUUNA is a relatively young society in Cambridge and I believe it is essential for us to establish a firm reservoir of funds in order to ensure financial security this year, as well as the years to follow. I hope to establish and **acquire long-term sponsors** for CUUNA, and would like to create an up-to-date sponsorship guide for these purposes.
- **Rapidly and efficiently** deal with financial matters such as collection and processing of cheques, receipts etc. I also propose to **outline budgets** prior to an event and to **increase transparency** in allocation of funds for a particular event, to ensure financial stability.
- Negotiate deals with organisations (restaurants etc) to **encourage concessions for CUUNA members**. This will hopefully boost the number of members we have, and therefore increase the society's funds. At present CUUNA's funding is mostly reliant on membership fees, hence I believe it is vital that we **boost membership** numbers not only to increase our funds, but also to make our events more successful. It will be wonderful if these concessions and negotiations can be made before the next Freshers' Fair, so as to increase probability of successful recruitment.
- **Reduce CUUNA expenditure**. CUUNA is a society not restricted to a particular cause. Hence, we can organise a multitude of diverse events, and get financial aid from certain organisations related to a particular event. This aid may not necessarily be in the form of liquid cash, but can be in other forms such as free printing etc. If elected Treasurer, I look forward to contacting such organisations and getting the required help which can reduce CUUNA expenditure.
- Ensure that the society's money is **spent wisely** and well.



SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- I was formerly the **Secretary of the CU Marrow Group**, and am now the Joint Co-ordinator. This experience has helped me improve my organisational skills and establish better inter-personal skills. My involvement also exposed me to certain financial hurdles posed by a local **bank** which kept accidentally charging us as a business, despite Marrow being a charity.
- **Fund-raising** for Darfur Charity Week - a 2-hour street collection and several other activities raised about £700 pounds. This experience taught me a lot about budget allocation and handling finances in general.
- **Vice-President** for the Cambridge University Islamic Society. This position required me to communicate with existing sponsors, as well as try recruit new sponsors. I was also involved in raising **sponsorship** of the society's magazine.
- I have wanted to be deeply involved in CUUNA since last year, but unfortunately could not do so as I was already very heavily committed in other societies. However, I look forward to contributing more to CUUNA this year, and thank you all for reading this!
Happy Lent Term!

PROPOSED BY Cheah Wan Qian

SECONDED BY Kenrick Ng Kien Hoe



CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER: ABBAS AMELI (1ST YEAR, CHRIST'S COLLEGE)

I view the role of local United Nations Association to be of great importance to the practical progress of the aims that are pursued by the UN. Much work that needs to be done to push forward with the UN objectives is taking place at very grass root levels, and as a member of the Cambridge University I would relish the opportunity to contribute positively to an extremely worthwhile cause.

I believe my personal skills and my relevant experience put me in a suitable position to take up the position of the CUUNA treasurer:

- Having worked for Iran's best-selling economic daily newspaper for the past year, I have been able to develop significantly my public relations skills. A skill which I believe would be valuable when it comes to getting sponsorships and raising funds for the great events which I hope CUUNA will be able to hold in the upcoming year.
- As treasurer for my school charity group called Envision, I familiarised myself with the demands of acting responsibly with limited available funds. That position provided me with a suitable experience of what the role of treasurer could potentially involve.
- As Deputy Head-Boy of my sixth form I was involved in the initiation, organisation and leadership of a number of large events, which included the school's Christmas party and the end of year leavers' party. In this position I also developed my team-working skills and gained valuable experience in working closely with a committee.
- In my high school in Iran I initiated and implemented a year-long project to computerise and renovate the school library. The task involved raising money from school and local council funds.
- Also, as the president of my school's student council, I became accustomed to working under considerable pressure.
- I was also involved in raising charity and purchasing necessary goods and distributing them directly in some of Iran's impoverished areas.

In the role of CUUNA treasurer I shall seek to:

- Ensure the transparency of the society's finances and to have budgets for each event, in order to help the society run more efficiently.
- Exploit all ways of raising more money for CUUNA events through various sponsorships.
- Rapidly and effectively deal with financial matters such as collecting and processing of cheques.
- Ensure society money is spent wisely on events which will be beneficial to our cause.
- Work in close collaboration with the executive committee and heads of sub-committees in order to ensure the efficient allocation of funds.

Alongside my role as treasurer, I hope to be a positive addition to the committee in general and contribute to the smooth, effective and successful running of CUUNA.

PROPOSED BY Qasim Gulamhusein SECONDED BY Farzin Mirshali

**CANDIDATE FOR SOCIAL SECRETARY:
ZAHRA HE-LI (2ND YEAR LINGUIST, SELWYN)**

Dear Friends,

My name is Zahra He-Li and I'm very proud to be a member of CUUNA. I fully support its aims to provide a forum for debate and discussion about the global issues of our day: the environment; poverty; and disease. This is why I am running for Social Secretary.

I am excited that CUUNA is an international society which brings together people from a range of cultural backgrounds and I relish the opportunity to organise social events which promote friendships and dialogue. I look forward to ideas from all members and to working closely with the committee.

To begin the year with a bang and to increase our membership, I would like to organise a ceilidh on behalf of CUUNA to represent Cambridge in the national 'Dance for Water' event on the 18th October in support of Water Aid. This would come immediately after Freshers' Week. http://www.wateraid.org/uk/get_involved/events/event_news/6283.asp

I am a second year linguist and am:

- the current Vice-president of Selwyn College Linguists' Society (where I managed and ran Spanish and French film seminars);
- a member of the Socials Committee of the Cambridge University International Model United Nations Conference (CUIMUN) (where I booked the venues and ensured the smooth running of the event);
- the Ents Officer for the Hispanic Society (where I organised a Valentines Day Salsa evening).

For a number of years I have run fundraising events in Chester and Manchester to pay for medical treatment for children in the Amazonian rainforest of Peru.

To celebrate the end of exams in the summer, I propose a day out to the "Go Ape" adventure park for all CUUNA members and non members. <http://www.goape.co.uk/> The proceeds will go to a humanitarian charity.

International Poverty Day will be another opportunity to acknowledge the effort and struggle of people living in poverty. I plan to organise formal dinners to promote an exchange of ideas and discussion which can become annual events. The proceeds will also go to a charity nominated by our members.

I would love the opportunity to demonstrate that promoting worthy causes can also be great fun.

Vote for me if you want a society that will build on its achievements: aims to raise its profile; is open to ideas from all; that can get serious about important issues; but also knows how to have fun!

PROPOSED BY Jiayi Yew **SECONDED BY** Jenny Zhao

CANDIDATE FOR EDITOR/PUBLICITY OFFICER: AMINA BATOOL (2ND YEAR ENGLISH, CHURCHILL)

I am a second-year English student and would love the opportunity to be Editor/Publicity officer for CUUNA. CUUNA represents the spirit of the UN within Cambridge and it provides an excellent platform for students to explore and discuss issues at the heart of the UN. As a college rep for the society I have been actively involved in spreading this spirit within the university and I now want to become involved in the running of the society

ON THE COMMITTEE

When I think of the UN, I think of co-operation, communication and team-work. This goes for the CUUNA committee too. I will help to set up campaigns, talks and events and help to promote an even greater understanding of the roles, functions and potential of CUUNA and the UN. CUUNA is a society which has the potential to become stronger. We can do this by forging new ties and strengthening existing ones with other UN related societies in Cambridge; by utilising the contacts we have as an official branch of UNA-UK and through greater publicity. By actively engaging with our members and the wider student population CUUNA can continue in its aims and develop into a diverse and thriving society.

AS EDITOR/PUBLICIST

We have a large membership base in Cambridge, but not everybody turns up to events & campaigns. Publicity is our way of ensuring we can get more people involved. An events termcard which we stick to, is one way of ensuring we can advertise our events beforehand. The CUUNA publication is also a way of raising awareness and of publicising the concerns of the UN. I intend to have a termly publication, which can be either thematic or broad and comprehensive. We have a lot of keen writers with lots of UN related experience, and there are many UN activities which people should know about. I am friendly and enthusiastic and more importantly for an Editor I have a typing speed of around 70 words per minute and an unwavering love for the click of a keyboard!

EXPERIENCE

As a college representative for CUUNA I have helped to organise events such as the International Mother Languages Day event. As a Section Editor for *The Cambridge Student* and a sub-editor for the Cambridge political newspaper *The Berry*, I have experience of working in editing as part of a successful team. I have participated in, and helped in the administration of several MUN conferences. I also travelled to Germany for the Cologne MUN as part of the press team to report on their week-long conference. I enjoy working under a busy schedule. I enjoy the prospect of a challenge and I am reliable, positive and hard-working.

PROPOSED BY Memoona Khan

SECONDED BY Farzin Mirshahi