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## Office of International Affairs

### United Nations Partnership



## LEHIGH STUDENTS AND SUSTAINABLE UN CERTIFY THE MISSION OF SWEDEN AS THE FIRST "GREEN" UN MISSION



Lehigh students serving on the "Greening of the UN Mission" team, in collaboration with colleagues at Sustainable UN - Geneva, presented a plaque to the Ambassador of Sweden to the UN. Through a series of newly established sustainability protocols, the Swedish Mission is the first in the world to be certified. The Lehigh student team, consisting of Laura Marsiglio, Liv Newman, Julie Goldberg, Brian Letts and Sara Alnajjar, spent months working with contacts at the Swedish Mission to guide them through the comprehensive evaluation and certification process. Sweden, a global leader in

sustainable development, earned a *Gold Certification*. The student team is mentored by Sustainability Officer Katharine Targett, Professor Don Morris, and Lehigh United Nations Partnership Director Bill Hunter. The United Nations Environment Program Assistant Secretary General, Satya Tripathi, whose office selected Lehigh to lead the process, has now challenged Lehigh to certify 20 UN Missions in 2020. In an immediate response to Tripathi's call for program expansion, the Lehigh Greening team met with diplomats at the missions of Iceland and Denmark, and both have committed to undertake the sustainability evaluation.



## UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL ADVISER MEETS WITH STUDENTS

The United Nations Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Mr. Adama Dieng, visited campus this fall for a discussion with students and a lecture to the Lehigh community. Speaking to a large audience in Linderman Library, Dieng cautioned the attendees that the threat of genocide is real, and that mass killings in places such as Darfur and Srebrenica are striking reminders of what could happen if differences between nations and peoples are not quelled. His presentation, aptly entitled *Never Again*, he noted that hate speech can be the precursor to such inhumanity. In addition to his discussion, he also met with President John Simon and a number of professors from a variety of disciplines.

Dieng, a Senegalese national, is the former Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. An attorney of great esteem, he became the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Senegal and later served as Secretary-General of the Geneva based International Commission of Jurists. The presentation was co-sponsored by International Students and Scholars, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity, Martindale Program, and numerous academic departments.



Mr. Adama Dieng and President John Simon



A group of Lehigh students met with the Palestinian Ambassador to the United Nations and the Special Assistant to the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations in two separate, private briefings on September 13. The discussions centered on the Middle East peace process and the two parties' relationships.

## LEHIGH PLACES FIRST INTERN AT UNITED NATIONS GENEVA

By Jordan Wolman



**Brian Letts '18, '20G** fed his passion for sustainability and environmental stewardship as a graduate student enrolled in Lehigh's Environmental Policy Design program - and now, he'll be the first United Nations intern from Lehigh to serve in Geneva. Letts will serve for six months at Sustainable United Nations (SUN). Letts served on the "Greening of the U.N.

Mission" program in collaboration with a highly select group of Lehigh students and faculty and SUN Geneva throughout this past academic year. He is the 45th Lehigh student in a row to be selected as a U.N. intern, and the first to be placed outside of New York City. He said he hopes to work for the government or as a lobbyist in fields related to climate change, citing America's stagnation in concrete environmental policy. "Before I came on, the Greening of the U.N. Mission was already in process, but two other students and I took it over and created a series of guidelines to try and help prospective missions to reduce their carbon footprint, become more sustainable and change their office practices for the better," Letts said. The

internship will mostly consist of helping to compile summations on key environmental impact metrics for the past year from 67 organizations which work with the SUN team. The reports will also identify synergies between the SDGs and the mission of the SUN team. "When I learned about the work the LU/U.N. Partnership was doing and the opportunity I'd have to assist on the projects, coming to Lehigh was an easy decision," Letts said.

## DIRECTOR OF THE UN NGO/DGC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS NAMED



**Nadine Clopton, '19 '20G**, has been elected as a Director of the United Nations Department of Global Communications Executive Committee for a two-year term. As the youngest person ever in this role, she serves with other senior non-

governmental organizations (NGOs) officials from around the world as a liaison between the NGO community and the United Nations. Clopton is the Youth Representative for Caring & Living as Neighbours, an Australian (CLAN) NGO focusing on health access, advocacy and education for children with chronic illnesses living in low- and middle-income countries. She previously represented CLAN at the UN in Geneva.

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