



2010-2011 Annual Report

New Mexico State University Model United Nations

<http://www.nmsu.edu/~govdept/modelun/>

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Model UN Overview

For students interested in international affairs, the NMSU Model United Nations (MUN) program offers an enriching experience, regardless of their field of study. Model UN encourages personal and academic growth and helps students develop skills in public speaking, diplomacy, and research. Students are introduced to global issues, such as peace, security, conflict, environmental sustainability, nuclear security, and human rights protection. Our members are from a diverse academic background, ranging from government to business to history to engineering, and ages range from freshman to graduate student. The 2010-2011 year brought twelve outstanding delegates to the team, seven of which had never participated in MUN before; their growth throughout the year was incredible.

Recruitment

Model UN members were recruited from the student body at NMSU. The primary methods of recruitment were: posting flyers around the campus and the community, speaking to classes, announcements on email list serves, including the Crimson Scholar and Student Hotline, and an article in the Roundup. All interested students were required to go through the application process, which required an essay. Interviews were conducted two weeks after finalists were notified, and each candidate was asked to play the role of a Somalia foreign minister. The advisor, the president, and the remaining members of the executive board conducted the interviews.

Meetings

During the fall semester, Model UN met as a chartered student organization rather than as a class. Weekly meetings were held at 6:00 pm on Friday evenings and focused on research, preparation, banquet planning, community service, fundraising, and preparing for a November 2010 simulation with students from Onate High School. Meetings were led by Ashley McMillan and Caraline Murphy.

In the spring semester, students enrolled in one of five Model United Nations courses (GOVT 313, GOVT 314, GOVT 406, GOVT 598, or GOVT 506). Students enrolled in a course above 313 were either Model UN veterans or graduate students. The class was led by faculty advisor Dr. Jason Ackleson and MUN President Ashley McMillan and met every Monday and Wednesday. Throughout the spring, each student did research for and wrote position papers, which are required for the conference, learned and mastered the rules of procedure, practiced resolution and report writing, improved their public speaking abilities through a series of persuasive speeches, learned about the United Nations, and participated in mock simulations.

Throughout the year, the MUN member-at-large, Derrick Vinson, attended bi-weekly Arts and Science Council Meetings. MUN Vice President Caraline Murphy served as the President of Arts and Sciences Council and MUN Treasurer Randy Taylor also served as its Treasurer. MUN is very active in discussing and voting on the NMSU student government's legislation and all members attended at least one meeting per semester. MUN students will remain active in the Council next year, as 2011-2012 MUN Vice-President Lydia Hammond will serve as the President of the Council and MUN returning veteran Derrick Vinson will serve as its Vice-President.

Ocate High School

In the fall of 2010, some members of the Model UN executive board, including Ashley McMillan, Caraline Murphy, and Owen Cortner, reached out to local high schools and invited them to participate in Model UN. Ocate High School teacher Burt Sheets was particularly interested in this opportunity for his students. Four OHS students, who represented Japan and the United Kingdom respectively, participated in the simulation along with current NMSU MUN delegates and MUN veteran Lauren Aragon. Each delegate was required to write a position paper. Ashley McMillan wrote the delegate preparation guide and Caraline Murphy researched and wrote the background guide. All three officers went to OHS weekly during their lunch hour to teach them MUN procedure as well as position paper and resolution writing. The simulation was of a Security Council session and the items on the agenda were nuclear nonproliferation and the situation in Israel and Palestine. The simulation occurred during the weekend of November 19. The agenda order gave preference to nuclear nonproliferation. Overall, the simulation was a great success: the committee adopted three draft resolutions, and the high school students heavily participated in the writing process of all three. Moreover, this was an excellent learning experience for NMSU MUN delegates and further prepared them for the April 2011 Conference in New York City. We hope to continue to invited talented high school students to participate in simulations with us, as it is beneficial to both groups.

The Third Annual Night at the UN Banquet

Our fundraising banquet was held on February 17, 2011 at the Las Cruces Convention Center and featured Ambassador Edward Perkins as our Distinguished Speaker. Ambassador Perkins was the first black U.S. Ambassador to South Africa (during Apartheid rule), and has served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations as well as U.S. Ambassador to Liberia and Australia. The theme of Ambassador Perkin's speech was "The UN in the Twenty-First Century." Other speakers included Ambassador Delano Lewis, NMSU President Dr. Barbara Couture, MUN Advisor Dr. Jason Ackleson, MUN President Ashley McMillan, and MUN Vice-President Caraline Murphy. The event featured a silent auction, with items donated by Nambe, Sonoma Golf Course, Curtis Donohue and Ashley McMillan, Roberta Gran, Mary Streett, Denton Holmes, Duncan Noble, Serenity Massage, Primetime Fitness, Ruby Red Nail Salon, Hotel Encanto, Riverbend Hot Springs, the Cutter Gallery, the Potteries, St. Clair, and Gayle and Delano Lewis. At the end of the event, Ambassador Perkins signed copies of his latest book, titled "Mr. Ambassador, Warrior for Peace." Over two hundred guests attended the banquet, and, after costs, the team grossed almost \$6000.

The Executive Board



Faculty Advisor, Dr. Jason Ackleson

Dr. Ackleson is an Associate Professor of Government at NMSU. He holds a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He teaches courses in international relations, comparative politics, and national and border security. He is the Co-Director of Frontier: Interdisciplinary Program for the Historical Studies of Border Security, Food Security, and Trade Policy as well as the Co-Coordinator of the NMSU Border Security Research Group. For the academic year 2009-2010, he spent his sabbatical as the American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow with U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman. He has been the advisor for Model UN since 2002.



President, Ashley McMillan

Ashley is a Masters student studying History; this is her third year on the Model UN team. She has a BA from NMSU in history and government. She will graduate with honors from NMSU in May 2011. She has been a Graduate Assistant in the NMSU History Department for two years. Ashley will get her Ph.D. in United States History from the University of Houston starting in Fall 2011. There, Ashley will receive the Murray Miller Scholarship, the Doctoral Tuition Fellowship, the Presidential Fellowship, and a Teaching Assistantship. Her research interests are Antifederalism and early United States social and political history.



Vice President, Caraline Murphy

Caraline is a four-year veteran of Model UN. This year she served on the General Assembly Third Committee with Derrick Vinson. She will graduate in May 2011 with a BS in Civil Engineering and a minor in mathematics. Upon graduation, Caraline will attend the University of South Florida to participate in their Civil Engineering Department's Masters International Program, which incorporates Peace Corps service with Masters work. She is the outgoing President of the NMSU Arts and Sciences Council, the Survivorship Chair for NMSU's Relay for Life Committee, and a member of Chi Epsilon, the civil engineering honors society. Caraline has enjoyed participating in Model UN and hopes to join the NMUN staff in the future.



Treasurer, Randy Taylor

Randy is a two-year veteran of Model UN, and this year he chaired the United Nations Population Fund. He is an active participant in the NMSU Pride Marching Band, serving as the drumline section leader for the 2010 season. He is a junior studying government. Next year he will study abroad in France.



Secretary, Owen Cortner

Owen is a three-year veteran of the team, majoring in Environmental Science with a minor in Mathematics. He has traveled with the team to conferences in China and New York and has chaired committees at the NMUN NYC conference for two consecutive years. He served as the chair of the World Intellectual Property Organization at the Conference this year. Owen is a member of the planning committee for NMSU Relay for Life and an active member in both the Environmental Sciences Association and the World Student Alliance. For the past two years, he has worked as a student liaison and coordinator for Aggies Go Global, a new international experience program developed by the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences and the International Relations Institute. He will graduate in May 2011 and is considering internships in natural resource management in New Mexico and the Washington D.C. area.



Derrick Vinson, Member-at-Large

Derrick was born in Las Cruces, but grew up in Socorro, NM. He is a freshman majoring in Environmental Sciences with a minor in Geographical Information Systems. This year he worked with Caraline Murphy on the General Assembly Third Committee. He plans on returning to the Model UN team for the 2011-2012 year, during which he will serve as the Vice-President of the Arts and Sciences Council.

Member Biographies

Erica Butts

Erica Butts is a first year member of Model UN. This year she served on the General Assembly Second Committee. She just completed her first year of graduate study in the Master of Public Administration program in the Department of Government. She also works as a Graduate Assistant in the Department of International Programs- Office of Study Abroad. She will serve as the President of Model UN for the 2011-2012 year.

Lydia Hammond

Lydia is a junior government major at NMSU. This was her first year as a member of Model UN and she served on the World Intellectual Property Organization. Lydia is a competitive hunter/jumper and is employed as a nanny. This summer she will be interning with U.S. Senator Tom Udall in Washington D.C., and she hopes to start a career in politics. She will serve as the Vice-President of Model UN for the 2011-2012 year and as the President of the Arts and Sciences Council.

Karen Trujillo

Karen Trujillo is an English major with an emphasis in Rhetoric and minors in Creative Writing and Women's Studies. This is her first year on Model UN and she served on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference with Thomas Burnham. Following her final semester of her senior year she looks forward to obtaining her Master of Arts Degree in Rhetoric. A native of Las Cruces, she hopes to contribute back to NMSU as an instructor in the years to come. She will serve as the Treasurer of Model UN for the 2011-2012 year.

Thomas Burnham

Thomas is a junior majoring in Government. This is his first year on Model UN and he served on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference with Karen Trujillo. He will serve as the Secretary of Model UN for the 2011-2012 year.

Sarah Casson

Sarah is a sophomore majoring in Government and Latin American Studies. This is her second year on Model UN and she served as the Reporter of the International Court of Justice. Next year she will be studying abroad in Spain and Argentina.

Dafne Carolina Martín-Alarcón

Dafne is a freshman studying Civil Engineering. This is her first year on Model UN and she served on the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. She is part of Crimson Scholars and the Dean's List but wishes to join Civil Engineering related organizations in the future. She is currently preparing for a year of study abroad in Hong Kong at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. In the future, Dafne plans to attend Graduate School and study architecture. She is interested in working on international projects that promote human development.

Dongcao (Martin) Wu

Dongcao is a senior studying Finance. This is his first year on Model UN and he served on the General Assembly First Committee. He decided to participate in Model UN because of his active interest in international affairs related to economics and international policy. He has a career plan of being a finance professional and working for a reputable investment bank or a portfolio management firm.

Model UN Supporters

New York, NY Competition, Approximate Cost: ~\$ 13,500

These costs include conference registration fees, airfare, hotel accommodations, gas, parking, transportation, and any other travel associated cost. The funding needed to cover these expenses was generated through the banquet fundraiser as well as contributions from individuals, the NMSU Administration, NMSU academic departments and the Associated Students of NMSU. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who generously contributed to our successes this year. Below is a list of supporters, named in no particular order.

Platinum Supporters

Donations of \$1000.00 and higher

College of Arts and Sciences
Office of the President
Office of the Provost
Nick Franklin
International Programs and Delano Lewis

Gold Supporters

Donations of \$500.00 to \$999.99

Calculex
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Aggies Go Global
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International Delights
KRWG
The Imaging Center of Las Cruces Radiology
NMSU Department of Government

Silver Supporters

Donations of up to \$499.99

La Posta de Mesilla
Vince Vaccaro
NMSU Department of Finance
NMSU Department of Chemical Engineering
NMSU Honors College
NMSU Department of Management
NMSU Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences
NMSU Department of History

Community Service

In order to request funds from ASNMSU, student organizations must complete a required number of community service hours on the NMSU campus and in the surrounding community. This year, Model UN completed its required hours by helping at the IRI/International Programs Welcome Picnic, selling Pepsi products at the Renaissance Faire for Big Brothers and Big Sisters, teaching high school students at Onate High School about Model UN, picking up trash at NMSU during the Keep State Great event, helping to organize the Brain Bowl for middle school students, and decorating Christmas cards for children.

Special Thanks

The NMSU Model UN team extends a special thank you to the following people and organizations that were extremely helpful in making this year a successful one:

Ambassador Delano Lewis, Ambassador Edward Perkins, Hamid M. Rad, Lucille Casas, Pat Vargas, Roberta Gran, Denton Holmes, Ammu Devasthali, Mary Streett, Cynthia Garrett, Dean Christa Slaton, President Barbara Couture, Provost Windy Wilkins, Jay Rodman, Lauren Aragon, the Las Cruces Convention Center, the International Relations Institute and its Advisory Board, the Arts and Sciences Council, the Associated Students of NMSU, and Ambassador Dalius Cekuolis and the staff of the Lithuanian Mission to the United Nations.



Some members of the Model UN delegation pictured with Lithuanian Ambassador to the United Nations, Dalius Cekuolis (far left).

Preparation

The Fall 2010 semester club meetings consisted of lectures on the United Nations, Model UN Procedure, diplomacy, and research and speech techniques. Also during this time, the team participated in a three-day simulation with guests from Onate High School. This served as an excellent way for NMSU delegates to prepare because they were able to practice writing position papers and resolutions, give speeches, make motions, and work with individuals who they were not personally familiar with.

In November 2010, the team received its National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference assignment of Lithuania. At the beginning of the semester, the executive board submitted a list of the team's top ten country preferences and, while Lithuania was not on that list, the team was excited by the challenge. Lithuania serves on six committees in the UN and each delegate was assigned to a committee, with most having a partner. Each committee provided delegates with a background guide that outlined three international issues that the committee wanted to discuss during the Conference. NMSU delegates began research immediately on the three issues. Moreover, the Conference requires all delegates to submit a position paper outlining the positions and proposed solutions that their country has on each topic. Writing position papers is a unique research experience. Because the papers cannot be more than two singled spaced pages, students are required to sort through a large amount of information and interpret and articulate the main themes and priorities of their country.

In the Spring 2011 semester, Model UN met as a class led by Dr Ackleson and Ashley McMillan. Unlike most lecture courses, Model UN requires students to be actively involved in all aspects of the class. The goals of the course were to: develop an understanding of the UN, international politics, and diplomacy; foster student research, speaking, and diplomacy skills; and achieve a thorough knowledge of current global issues as well as the politics and culture of the country being represented at the time. Accordingly, delegates researched and presented on the economy, international relations, and domestic policy of Lithuania. In addition, they continued research on their position papers by presenting to the class a brief background on their committees and the issues they were discussing. During this semester, the team participated in a simulation of the General Assembly Plenary in order to further prepare for the NMUN Conference. Each student was assigned a country for the simulation, with some of the veteran delegates chairing. At the time of the conference, each NMSU delegate was a confident and effective member of his or her committee because of the extensive preparation emphasized throughout the year.

The Conference

The 2011 National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference was held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City from April 19-April 23. NMUN is an official Non-governmental Organization that reports its activity to the UN. The conference comprised of over 2,000 students from over 40 different countries around the world representing over 200 UN Member States, Non-governmental Organizations, and Intergovernmental Organizations. This was NMSU's twelfth year at the conference, having previously represented Israel, Syria, Ghana, Haiti, Ecuador, Paraguay, the Philippines, the League of Arab States, Spain, Egypt, Finland, and Switzerland.

As delegates from Lithuania, we sat on 6 committees. The committees and delegates who sat on them include:

Head Delegate

Ashley McMillan

General Assembly First Committee

Randy Taylor and Dongcao Wu

General Assembly Second Committee

Erica Butts

General Assembly Third Committee

Caraline Murphy and Derrick Vinson

World Intellectual Property Organization

Owen Cortner and Lydia Hammond

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Dafne Carolina Martín-Alarcón and Sarah Casson

The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference

Karen Trujillo and Thomas Burnham

Committee work was a combination of speaking in front of the entire committee during formal session and working with fellow delegates during informal session to draft working papers that would eventually become draft resolutions or draft report segments. Delegates were expected to understand the rules of procedure and make appropriate motions to keep the committee on track. On the final day of formal session, each committee participated in voting bloc. Voting decided upon which draft resolutions or draft report segments to adopt or reject. NMSU delegates were given the opportunity to be leaders of their committee. Owen Cortner served as chair of the World Intellectual Property Organization, Sarah Casson served as the reporter for the International Court of Justice, and Randy Taylor served as chair of the United Nations Population Fund. On the final day of the Conference, delegates were invited into the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations to participate in the General Assembly Plenary morning sessions, and attend afternoon awards ceremonies. The delegates representing Lithuania in the General Assembly Plenary session were Ashley McMillan and Erica Butts.

Also during the Conference, the NMSU delegation had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Lithuania Mission to the UN. We were thrilled to meet Lithuania's permanent Ambassador to the UN, Dalius Cekuolis. We sent our questions to the Mission in advance, and they were very dedicated to answering them. In fact, they even consulted government officials in Lithuania if they were unclear on an answer. It was one of the most helpful mission briefings we've had.

Successes

NMUN awards are given for three aspects of participation: position paper preparation, conference participation, and knowledge of NMUN procedure. Our Model UN team was awarded Distinguished Delegation and Outstanding Position Paper. Lithuania was a particularly challenging country to represent, and we are very proud of this outcome.

Next Year's Projections

We hope to continue our exceptional record of success next year. The team would like to continue to invite high school students to participate in simulations in the hopes that, one day, a Model UN conference at the high school level will be a fixture in all local and regional high schools. The Las Cruces/El Paso region is one of the few in the U.S. that does not have a Model UN conference for high school students, and we look forward to correcting this soon. We also look forward to organizing a Fourth Annual Night at the UN Banquet. We anticipate next year to be an incredibly successful one.

2011-2012 NMSU Model UN Officers

Elections were held on April 27; candidates were nominated based on club needs and positions desired. The votes were taken and counted in accordance with the club's bylaws and the results are:

President: Erica Butts

Vice-President: Lydia Hammond

Treasurer: Karen Trujillo

Secretary: Thomas Burnham

Member-at-Large: Open until the Fall 2011 Semester

For more information about Model UN, please visit our website or email next year's President Erica Butts at erica_b@nmsu.edu.

The 2010-2011 Executive Board thanks the MUN team and Dr. Ackleson for their efforts, and wishes the new officers and next year's team success at the 2012 National Model United Nations Conference.

Quotes from the Team

Ashley McMillan:

Being a leader of such an extraordinary group of people has been a life changing experience for me and I will keep the skills and knowledge that I acquired in this leadership position for the rest of my career. This has been one of the highlights of my academic life at NMSU.

Caraline Murphy:

Chairing committee is stepping outside of being a delegate and becoming a neutral party whose main objective is to facilitate the committee in pursuit of concrete solutions and effective diplomacy by upholding procedure to its most strict tee.

Randy Taylor:

NMUN does fantastic work preparing this experience that truly enriches delegates' understanding and perception of issues facing the UN. However delegations measure success, each and every delegate surely leaves New York with a new appreciation for cooperation and diplomacy thanks to NMUN.

Owen Cortner:

Model UN was my gateway to full engagement with the university and offered great opportunities at every turn.

Derrick Vinson:

Model UN has taught me many valuable things; most importantly it has taught me how to become a global citizen.

Erica Butts:

While preparing for the conference can sometimes seem daunting, the hard work was definitely worth it. My preparation and participation in the conference not only enhanced my research, writing, and public speaking skills, but I now also have a greater understanding of how the real United Nations operates and the complexities of diplomatic problem solving.

Lydia Hammond:

The New York NMUN conference was a great experience, not only did I learn a lot about international diplomacy and Lithuania but I also learned a lot about myself.

Karen Trujillo:

It has been a pleasure to participate in NMUN 2011 in representation of the Republic of Lithuania. Through preparation, commitment, and support of our team members and leadership, we have continued the legacy of the hard working teams before us.

Dongcao Wu:

United we stand, Divided we fall- Model Un gave me an excellent opportunity to explore my potential and I am so proud of our team. Knowing how to look at every issue from a global perspective is particularly important in this age of globalization.

Dafne Carolina Martín-Alarcón:

Researching and practicing constantly for the NMUN conference gave us preparation; however, the conference itself is more challenging than one can expect. One truly gets through it an amazing experience to learn about the world, the UN, and yourself.