

**Model United Nations
of
New Mexico State University**

2006-2007 Annual Report

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I. Organization

For students interested in international affairs, the NMSU Model United Nations (MUN) program offers a unique and enriching experience, regardless of their field of study. The Model UN program encourages personal and academic growth and helps students develop skills in public speaking, diplomacy, patience, and perseverance. The MUN experience introduces students to global issues such as peace, conflict, socio-economic development, environmental sustainability, and human rights protection.

Our members are drawn from many fields of study, ranging from government to engineering to business administration to the humanities. With fifteen diverse delegates, our team dynamic grew strong throughout participation in preparatory activities, the regional University of California Los Angeles Model United Nations Conference, and at the National Conference in New York City.

A. Recruitment

Model United Nations members were recruited from the student body at New Mexico State University. The primary methods of recruitment were: posting flyers, running advertisements in the student newspaper, word-of-mouth, announcements in classes, and student hotline postings. Students from many different academic backgrounds responded and joined the MUN team. Students were drawn into the organization and were receptive to the team's competitive methods of admission into MUN. As in previous years, students were required to go through an application process in order to obtain one of the fifteen positions that were available. They submitted applications, personal essays, and were required to undergo an interview conducted by the advisor, the president, and past presidents.

B. Executive Board

The MUN's Executive Board is comprised of a Faculty Advisor, President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. The Executive Board is primarily responsible for ensuring that all members participate equally in preparations for the conference. In addition to this, the Executive Board deals with fundraising efforts, management of club funds in excess of \$20,000 within three accounts, registration for the conference, travel arrangements (including hotel accommodations and airfare for fifteen delegates), and the coordination of meetings with the delegates from both the Spanish and Danish Permanent Mission to the United Nations. The Executive Board grew considerably in strength this year, partially as a result of membership, and was integral in the success of our team and its participation in the conference.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jason Ackleson. This was Dr. Ackleson's sixth year as the MUN Faculty Advisor. He teaches International Relations, including courses on national security and international institutions.

President: Marcia Mundt. Marcia has served as MUN Treasurer and Vice President, and was elected to the presidency in April 2006. This was her third year as a member of the NMSU-MUN team. She is currently a junior pursuing a triple major in Government, Communication Studies,

and Spanish with a minor in Linguistics. After obtaining her undergraduate degree, she plans to attend graduate school in the fields of International Development and Conflict Resolution and aspires to participate in the Master's International program with the Peace Corps.

Vice-President: Andrea Gomolak. Andrea was elected MUN Vice President in April 2006, and this is her second year of experience on the team. She is a junior in the Government Department, specializing in American Government. She is Crimson Scholar and a member of the department honors society, Pi Sigma Alpha. In the coming year, she hopes to serve as Senator to NMSU's Student Government, ASNMSU. After graduating with a BA in Government, Andrea will pursue an MA in American Government.

Secretary: Amanda James. Amanda is a second year MUN participant at the college level and has had three years of experience competing at the high school level. She is a sophomore from Albuquerque, NM currently pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Securities and Technology. After graduation, Amanda plans to work for the US government abroad.

Treasurer: Lauren Aragon. Lauren is in her second year at NMSU majoring in Business Management and Geology. This is the second year Lauren has been a part of the Model United Nations Program. She served as Member-at-Large last year and was this year's Treasurer. She has attended the National conference twice and two regional conferences, the Model Arab League in Utah where she received the Outstanding Delegate Award and the National Model United Nations at UCLA where she received the Best Delegate Award.

Member At Large: Anna-Marie Drake. Anna-Marie spent her childhood around the country and abroad before graduating high school from Las Cruces High. She is a graduating senior with a double major in Government and German. She hopes to continue her studies in International Relations. Anna-Marie loves learning new languages and cultures, is currently learning French, and hopes to visit Africa in the not too distant future.

C. Member Biographical Sketches

Ali-John Amini: Ali-John (AJ) is originally from Iran, he moved with his family to the United States at a young age. He is currently studying Biology and Business with his focus on Business Administration. AJ hopes to make an impact in the world by using his skills and knowledge in the management and administrative worlds.

Orlando Arellano: Orlando is graduating in May with degrees in Government, Journalism/Mass Communication and Foreign Language. This marks Orlando's first year on the NMSU-MUN team. Orlando enjoys international politics, travel, languages, debate and discussion, diplomacy, sports, and the great outdoors. He hopes that someday when he becomes a diplomat, he will look back on his experiences fondly.

Jorge I Arroyo: Jorge was born and raised in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Jorge is an Armed Forces veteran, majoring in Spanish, Latin American Studies, and Bilingual Education. He enjoys reading, writing, and playing drums. After obtaining his undergraduate degree, he would like to teach at the high school and college level.

Micah Benson: Micah is originally from Wyoming and received his undergraduate degree from Doane College in International Studies and German with minors in Political Science, History, and Spanish. Micah is now a first year graduate student at NMSU pursuing an MA of Government with a focus in International Relations. Upon obtaining his Masters degree, Micah plans on working for the federal government in the intelligence field.

Melissa Chavez: Melissa is a first year participant in the NMSU-MUN team. She is currently a junior in International Business and Economics. Melissa will be studying abroad at Universidad Tec de Monterrey this upcoming semester. She hopes to attend graduate school at Colorado State University to study in their Global, Social, and Sustainable Enterprise Program.

Scott Darling: Scott, a native of New Mexico, received his undergraduate degree at NMSU in Government specializing in International Relations with a minor in Global Political Economy. He is now pursuing a Masters in International Relations and ultimately a PhD in Political Theory. As teaching is his passion, Scott intends to become a Professor of Government.

Brigitte Hines: Brigitte grew up in Brazil and lived in several European countries before moving to New Mexico about three years ago. She had started her studies in Germany, taking classes after work. In Las Cruces, she became a full-time student and she will graduate with a BA in Government at the end of summer. Her plan is to enroll in Graduate School at NMSU next semester to seek a Masters Degree in Government, focusing on International Relations and the Environment.

Daniel Alberto Martín-Alárcon: Daniel was originally born in Durango, Durango, Mexico. He lived in Canada for six years and in Mexico for twelve before coming to NMSU for undergraduate studies in 2006. He comes from a family of scientists and inherited both the world-view of an engineer and a fascination with understanding the universe and its people. Daniel is currently pursuing a degree in Chemical Engineering, and also plans to study math and business administration. His future career remains undecided.

Kyle Messer: Kyle is a first year Masters student in the Communication Department. This is his first year on the NMSU-MUN team. He is greatly interested in International Politics and International Relations and hopes to live and work abroad. After finishing his Masters, he wishes to continue his education, and though he does not know exactly where he will end up, he is certain that he wants to spend his career bridging international gaps in the world.

Kelly Pecotte: Kelly is a first year graduate student from Virginia and a first year participant on the NMSU-MUN team. Kelly obtained her undergraduate degree from Mary Baldwin College in International Relations with minors in French, Asian Studies, and Leadership Studies. Kelly was in the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership. She is currently working on her Masters in Government and International Relations.

D. Meetings

During the fall semester, the Model United Nations Team met solely as a chartered student group. Weekly meetings were held focusing on recruitment, community service, fundraising,

and United Nations structure. We received our country and committee assignments in early November, which provided us with an opportunity to begin preliminary research on our country and committee topics.

Beginning in the spring semester, students enrolled in one of three Model United Nations courses (GOVT 413, GOVT 414, and GOVT 598). Students enrolled in the Advanced Model United Nations (GOVT 414), were those that had participated in at least one prior Model United Nations conference. First year participants of the Model United Nations were enrolled in GOVT 413 and GOVT 598. Each course provided the students with an opportunity to continue research on their committee topics, write their position papers, learn the rules of procedure and resolution/report writing, engage in simulations, and learn about the United Nations as an institutional body.

Fundraising

The team organized and hosted our Fourth Annual New Mexico State University Model United Nations Fundraiser Banquet, which accounted for a large portion of the team’s fundraising efforts. The 2006-2007 Model UN Organization raised over \$1,500 through our fundraising dinner. The team’s monetary needs were also alleviated by the acquisition of various donations.

Total campus donations were as follows:

NMSU

Dean – College of Arts and Sciences	\$4,000.00
Office of the Provost	\$1,000.00
Dean – College of Business	\$ 800.00
Government Department	\$ 500.00
Dean – Honors College	\$ 500.00
Center for International Programs	\$ 300.00
International Business Department	\$ 200.00
Language and Linguistics Department	\$ 200.00
College of Education	\$ 100.00
English Department	\$ 100.00
History Department	\$ 100.00
Chemical Engineering Department	\$ 100.00
Philosophy Department	\$ 100.00
<u>Associated Students of NMSU (matching funds)</u>	<u>\$10,410.00</u>

Total (NMSU): \$17,510.00

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS \$1,500.00

A generous private donation from Nick Franklin, graduate of the NMSU Department of Government, provided much of the support for those team members who attended the UCLA Conference.

OTHER DONATIONS \$2,470.00

Individual and local community businesses supported the Model UN program through

contributions to the Annual New Mexico State University Model United Nations Fundraiser Banquet and the Model United Nations Endowment Fund

TOTAL DONATIONS: \$ 21,480.00

Total campus expenditures were as follows:

NMUN Conference

Conference Registration	\$ 150.00
Delegate Registration	\$ 1,600.00
Hotel (4 rooms @ \$200/night x 6 nights)	\$ 4,800.00
Airfare (16 tickets)	\$ 7,200.00
Shuttle (LaGuardia Airport to hotel roundtrip)	\$ 385.00
<u>Gas/Parking (Round trip Las Cruces to El Paso)</u>	<u>\$ 336.00</u>

Total: \$14,471.00

UCLA Conference

Conference Registration	\$ 40.00
Delegate Registration	\$ 495.00
Hotel (3 rooms @ \$175/night x 4 nights)	\$ 2,100.00
Airfare (11 tickets)	\$ 3,300.00
Shuttle (LAX Airport to hotel roundtrip)	\$ 308.00
<u>Gas (Round trip Las Cruces to El Paso)</u>	<u>\$ 134.00</u>

Total: \$ 6,377.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$ 20848.00

The Model United Nations Program would like to extend a special thank you to all of our generous donors. The team would like to respectfully remember Colonel Leonard R. Sugerman, Honorary Secretary General of the NMSU Model United Nations Program, for the establishment of the Model United Nations Endowment during the 2005-2006 academic year and past contributions to the organization.

F. Community Service

As per our charter as a University Student Organization, the Model UN participated in both on and off-campus community service projects during the fall semester. We assisted the community with the X-Prize, Halloween Howl, Rhodes-Garrett-Hammil Haunted House Construction, WAVE Family Housing promotions, Spay and Neuter Assistance Program pet photo fundraiser, "Dress the Child" with the Salvation Army, the Colombia Elementary Fall Festival, Homecoming Bonfire, and South West Environmental Center river cleanup.

II. Preparation and Government 413, 414, and 598

During the fall semester, the students focused on researching the historical background and structure of the United Nations. The primary activity during this semester was to apply for preferred country assignments. Until receiving our final assignment in November, preparation continued to concentrate on general United Nations topics.

Over winter break and throughout the spring semester, the group extensively researched issues pertinent to our conference assignments: China and Egypt at the UCLA Conference and Spain and Denmark at the NMUN Conference. These included, but were not limited to, investigations into social, political, and economic dynamics. Work was divided among the group members who individually researched assigned topics in the country profile and then presented the information orally to the rest of the class. The group kept up to date on current events involving China, Egypt, Spain, Denmark, and the UN by accessing newspapers and websites daily.

In addition to our collective efforts to learn more about our countries, each member was assigned to represent the various nations on a UN committee. The National Model United Nations organization as well as the University of California Los Angeles Model UN team supplied background guides for each committee. These guides proved to be useful starting points for more in-depth research.

Through the academic setting of these courses, students worked together researching the each nations' relevant domestic and international issues and learned about one of the most important international organizations in the world - the UN. Unlike most lecture courses, Government 413, 414 and 598 required students to be actively involved in team-directed preparation, some of which took place outside the classroom. Dr. Ackleson's three goals for the course were: 1) Developing an understanding of the UN, international politics, and diplomacy; 2) fostering student research, speaking, and diplomacy skills; 3) achieving literacy with current global issues, and the politics and culture of the country being represented at the time. A corollary goal of Dr. Ackleson's is to foster a global understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity, difference, and inequality through critical thinking and a hands-on international activity. A combination of in class activities and conference participation helped us to achieve the aforementioned goals.

III. University of California Los Angeles Conference

The University of California Los Angeles Conference was held at the UCLA Main Campus from January 11-14th. The conference was comprised of approximately 80 students from regional colleges and universities, representing member-states of the United Nations. This was NMSU's first year at the conference, and a trial experience with regional Model United Nations conferences.

Committees: As delegates from China and Egypt, we sat on each committee simulated at the UCLA Conference. The committees and the delegates who sat on them are as follows:

—

Head Delegate:
Marcia Mundt

General Assembly Plenary:
Amanda James- China
Kelly Pecotte- Egypt

Special Political and Decolonization:
Daniel Martin-Alarcon- China
Lauren Aragon- Egypt

Economic and Social Council:
Melissa Chavez- China
Brigitte Hines- Egypt

Security Council:
Kyle Messer- China
Micah Benson- Egypt

League of Arab States:
Andrea Gomolak- Egypt

Federation International of Football Association:
Orlando Arellano

Chinese Crisis Simulation:
Marcia Mundt

IV. National Conference in New York City

The 2007 National Model United Nations Conference was held at the Sheraton New York in New York City, NY from March 18-22nd. The conference was comprised of 1,800 students from nearly 270 colleges and universities, from 23 different countries around the world, representing the UN Member States. This was NMSU's ninth year at the conference, having previously represented the State of Israel, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ghana, the Republic of Haiti, Ecuador, Paraguay, the Republic of the Philippines, and League of Arab States. We aim to make attendance at this conference an NMSU tradition and look forward to next year.

A. Committees: As delegates from Spain and Denmark, we sat on 13 committees. The committees and the delegates who sat on them are as follows:

—

Head Delegate:
Marcia Mundt

General Assembly Plenary:
Kelly Pecotte

General Assembly Fourth:

Micah Benson

Economic and Social Council Plenary:

Orlando Arellano

Council of Europe:

Anna-Marie Drake

Conference on Disarmament:

Jorge Arroyo

African Development Bank:

Brigitte Hines

World Health Organization:

Lauren Aragon

United Nations World Tourism Organization:

Amanda James

International Hydrological Programme:

Daniel Martin-Alarcon

Economic Commission for Latin American & the Caribbean:

Melissa Chavez

Joint OPEC-IEA Workshop:

Ali-John Amini

Organization of American States:

Scott Darling

Additional Security Council (Denmark):

Andrea Gomolak and Kyle Messer

Committee work was a combination of speaking openly and publicly and working in informal sessions known as caucuses. Delegates were required to abide by the rules of parliamentary procedure and maintain decorum at all times. Persuasion, mediation and arbitration were used during four days of intense negotiations. Caucusing time was used to meet with regional and other voting blocs for the purpose of writing resolutions or reports on topics or cases before the committees. This process illustrated how resolutions and written reports are created within the United Nations and other inter-governmental bodies.

Voting on resolutions was the final activity tackled by each committee. This process was

extremely educational, in that it illustrated how resolutions and reports are amended and passed. *See an example of one of our resolutions in the Appendix .*

The culminating experience of the conference took place when delegates from each country present were invited to vote in the Great Hall of the United Nations building. Each delegation was invited to sit in the actual seats of their assigned country. This experience was particularly meaningful, in that it represented the overall accomplishment of each delegation and provided a more direct and realistic contact with the United Nations.

Outside of the committees, the most educational experiences were in meeting the staff and representatives of two Permanent Missions to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of Denmark and the Permanent Mission of Spain.

Undeniably, this conference was a highly educational and enriching experience that increased every student's understanding of the global political situation and the constraints of diplomatic interactions.

V. Successes

The NMSU Model UN team was awarded at both the UCLA Conference and the National Model United Nations Conference.

UCLA Conference awards are given for the team's ability to stay in character, negotiate in moderated caucus, and respond to crisis simulations. As a first year attendee, our Model UN team was awarded on a committee level. Four of our team members received awards for their accomplishments in committee. Our team received the second highest number of awards overall.

National Model United Nations Conference awards are given for three aspects of participation: position paper preparation, authentic conference participation, and knowledge of formal UN rules of procedure. During preparation and participation, the delegation faced the challenge of international diplomacy with the object of recognition in mind. Building on the successes of previous years, our Model UN team was awarded Distinguished Delegation, Outstanding Position Papers, and two committee awards at the 2007 NMUN Conference.

As well as receiving Distinguished Delegation, we have been awarded with unparalleled, simulation-based educational experiences that will aid us in our academic and professional lives. With our current level of experience, we feel confident in our ability to continue achieving recognition in years to come.

In terms of other recognition for the NMSU team, Lauren Aragon acted as Chair of the World Health Organization.

VI. Next Year's Projections

Upon returning from New York and holding a debriefing session, our team developed progressive ideas for next year. Obtaining the necessary funds to attend the conference proved to

be a challenge, but with increased funding from the University, area businesses and other feasible sources, we will establish the necessary competitive edge for next year's conference. With increased and/or more reliable funds, we can concentrate more fully on our preparatory effort. We are optimistic about the prospects for further success in this important activity and hope to incorporate the community further.

We were able to successfully take 15 delegates this year, and it is our hope that the team and the elected officers for next year will continue to work together and support one another in all aspects of preparation. Elections were held on April 10th; candidates were compiled into a slate based on club needs and positions desired by interested candidates. The votes were taken and counted in accordance with the club's bylaws and the results are as follows:

2007-2008 NMSU Model United Nations Officers:

President: Scott Darling

Vice-President: Amanda James

Secretary: Andrea Gomolak

Treasurer: Open until the Fall Semester of 2007

Member-at-Large: Open until the Fall Semester of 2007

The 2006-2007 Executive Board thanks the MUN team for their efforts, wishes the new officers well, and hopes that NMSU students will continue to reap the many benefits of participation in the Model United Nations.

Quotes from the Team

Chairing:

“When chairing a committee the most important thing to remember is that your main job is not to run the room, but to help facilitate the diplomatic process.”

-Lauren Aragon

Getting into Character:

“Taking the role of another country's perspective brings a broader view of your own personal thinking and understanding of the world.”

-Micah Benson

Working with Diversity:

“One of the best things about the National Model United Nations Conference is the opportunity

to meet and work with other students from all over the world. Working in such a diverse environment added to the quality of the conference and made me realize that people from very different backgrounds and cultures can work together to reach positive results.”

-Melissa Chavez

Veto Power:

“Two words sum up the beginning and end-all of the Security Council: Veto Power. The few countries that possess it control everything that happens in the council, and those without it are left at the mercy of those who do.”

-Kyle Messer

Position Papers:

“In a position paper we must summarize the three complex topics to be debated in each of our committees. Within two pages we have to explain each topic, state our country’s position on each subject and include the solutions that our country recommends. Position papers are a very good training on how to be clear and succinct.”

-Brigitte Hines

Research:

“The research involved in preparing for the Model United Nations conferences is extensive, to be able to learn so much about a country and topic areas. These skills will help me with future research in other subjects as well, through both library and electronic sources.”

-Anna-Marie Drake

Caucusing:

“Caucusing is sort of a group debate where you try and get everyone to agree on at least one thing. It’s kind of like agreeing on a place to eat with a group of friends. It takes patience, knowledge, and quick thinking to fully take advantage of the short time given for a caucus. The most important thing is to establish good relations from the beginning of the conference so that communication between disagreeing parties will not come to a halt.”

-Jorge Arroyo

Networking:

“The key to successfully working in a large committee, especially if you are the single delegate representing your country, is to immediately network and make allies. Always be early to the committee meeting times, and exchange business cards the first day.”

-Kelly Pecotte

Conference Stress:

“The conference teaches you how to work in an extremely stressful situation while maintaining your composure and always remaining in character.”

-Amanda James

Speeches:

“There seem to be three key elements to giving an effective speech. Adaptation, tone, and confidence. Diplomacy means taking away subjectivity and a speech should reflect this process. Always use what others have said and adapt it to your own policy to conform and inform. Make sure you never belittle the people with whom you will be speaking and acknowledge those who have been your allies. Finally, be confident in what you are saying. If you sound like you do not believe what you are saying, no one else will believe it either. Utilizing all these elements will not only aid in the delivery of an effective speech, but establish your diplomatic position with confidence.”

-Orlando Arellano

Frustrating Colleague:

“In the committee that delegates are in there is always at least one, if not more, delegates from other states that are sources of frustration, anger, and stress. While there is no easy way to deal with them the best way is to acknowledge their opinions while staying focused on the most important task at hand.”

-AJ Amini

Negotiating:

“Probably one of the most meaningful, enriching, and frustrating experiences within the Model United Nations is the constant struggle to build consensus and understanding on a subject of personal importance. While it is relatively easy to convince yourself of the importance of a certain issue, trying to articulate your convictions is something completely different. What the MUN offers is the chance to practice “selling” your ideas to a diverse and knowledgeable crowd; probably the most important skill in any field such as business, diplomacy, or education.”

-Scott Darling

Report Writing:

“If I could offer you only one piece of advice over how to write reports, it would be that you

make it look like the example report in your Delegate Preparation Guide. Everything you really need to write a Report comes from high school English classes and that page in your prep guide. Just write what has happened before on this subject and what your committee recommends that the UN do about it, and *make it look like the example.* It is also very handy to keep a detailed list of international paperwork on this subject (treaties, resolutions, etc.) with short explanations of what they are and the issue for which they're relevant. Keep this list so you can painlessly fill up the background part of your report, and remember that no one reads it anyway so it needn't be a pain. But trust me on the example and paper-trail list.”

-Daniel Martín-Alárcon

Resolution Writing:

“The ultimate goal of the various conferences we’ve attended is to write resolutions that will, in part, solve some major issue that each committee is tackling. In doing so, we work with delegates from other countries to sponsor and sign various papers, and we vote to weed out the ones that would cause more harm than good. In the Security Council this year, my partner and I were instrumental in writing papers that solved problems in the Darfur region and Iran. Learning to work in character and playing from a different perspective helped us become objective, critical thinkers, which has helped us both in the long run in dealing with possible future career situations.”

-Andrea Gomolak