



New Mexico State University
Model United Nations Team
2013-2014 Annual Report

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Model United Nations Overview

For students interested in international affairs, the NMSU Model United Nations program offers an enriching experience, regardless of their field of study or whether they are an undergraduate or graduate student. Model UN encourages personal and academic growth and helps students develop skills in public speaking, writing, diplomacy, and research. Students are introduced to global issues, such as peace and security, conflict, environmental sustainability, nuclear security, and human rights protection—among many others. Our members come from a diverse academic background, including government, biology, economics, sociology, women’s studies, and environmental sciences, with ages ranging from freshman to graduate student. The 2013-2014 Year brought twenty outstanding delegates to the team, including four graduate students, ten team veterans and ten brand new members.

Recruitment

Model UN members were recruited from the NMSU student body. The primary methods of recruitment were: posting flyers around campus, classroom presentations, and recruitment events on campus such as Aggie Fest, and New Student Orientation. The team also uses announcements on email list-serves, including the Crimson Scholar, Student Hotline and Government Student list-serve. An information session is also held in the Government Department Conference Room; it was conducted by the President and the Vice President.

All interested students were required to go through a two-step application process consisting of a written application followed by an in-person interview. The written application consisted of several short answer essay questions in addition to a one-page essay in which the applicant was instructed to discuss any significant problem in international affairs and their preferred approach to the solution to their selected problem. There were thirty-five applicants to the team this year; this was an increase in applicants from last year. Finalists that were competitively selected for an interview were notified via email on Monday, September 16, 2013.

Interviews were held on Friday, September 20, 2013 in Breland Hall Room 358 from 3:00-7:00pm on a first-come first-served basis. The interviews were conducted by the officers with the assistance of our Faculty Advisor. Interviews consisted of several short answer questions including questions about the essay that was submitted as part of their written application, in addition to a role-playing exercise in which applicants were given a scenario and allowed to pick between two different characters to respond as. The scenario was a fictional situation created by the officers. The situation was explained as follows: During a stormy night Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) security forces accidentally invaded Angola. In all the confusion shots were fired and both sides had losses. This escalated tensions between Angola and the DRC, who already have strained relations. Applicants had to select if they wanted to be the Congolese Ambassador to the UN and propose a solution to this situation that would help deescalate tension. The other option was to be the Angolan Ambassador to the UN and propose a solution to the situation that would deescalate the tension. The goal of the scenario was to see if candidates looked into similar real-world situations, the UN structure and strategies that an Ambassador would take to the UN in devising a solution to the increased tensions. Interview scenarios are not intended to be too

difficult but to stimulate critical thinking with respect to the UN and to see how much effort applicants are applying to the interview process. Finalists were notified of their acceptance to the team on the evening of September 20, 2013 via email.

Executive Board

Faculty Advisor, Dr. Neil Harvey



This was Dr. Harvey's first year as the faculty advisor to the team. Dr. Neil Harvey is a Professor in the Department of Government at New Mexico State University. He joined the faculty in 1994 and has been Department Head since 2011. He teaches in the area of Comparative Politics, with particular focus on Mexico and Latin America.

President, Lydia Hammond



Lydia Hammond is a fourth-year veteran of the Model UN team, last year she served as the president of the team. Hammond is a first year master's student pursuing a Masters of Arts in Government and a minor in Women's Studies.

Vice President of Content, Collin King



Collin King is a second-year veteran of Model UN, and a first year master's student pursuing a Masters of Arts in Government. Collin is also a graduate student senator in ASNMSU, and a campus representative for Apple.

Vice President of Operations, Theadora Trejo



Thea Trejo is a second-year veteran of Model UN. Thea will graduate in the spring of 2015 with a Bachelor's degree in Government, and minors in French and International Relations. She has been increasingly interested in international relations and joined the Model United Nations Team to further advance that passion. Participating on the team for two years in a row has enabled her to broaden her educational goals more confidently.

Vice President of Finance, Prasamsa Dhakal



Prasamsa Dhakal is a second-year veteran of Model UN. Trish is a senior majoring in International Business. She has had a fantastic experience serving as the Treasurer. Trish hopes to work for the United Nations in the future. She believes that these two years have taught her more about negotiation and diplomacy than she could have ever learned on her own.

Fundraising Chair, Julia Down



Julia Downs is a second-year veteran of Model UN. Julia is finishing her second year in college and is planning on graduating next spring, a year early. She is a government major, as well as a music minor. Julia is very interested in policy and hopes to enter in to analysis or policy writing in the future. She is also interested in international relations and foreign affairs, which is why she joined the Model UN team.

Vice President of Public Outreach, Uziel Marte



Uziel Marte is a second-year member of Model UN. Uziel is a first year graduate student in the government department making his way towards a Master's in government. This year he served as the Vice President of Public Outreach. After graduate school, Uziel hopes to attend law school.

Member-at-Large, Wyatt



Wyatt Bertsch is a first-year member of the Model UN team. Wyatt is a Government major completing his first year at NMSU. He loves to experience and understand other cultures, which is why he joined the Model UN team. He hopes to use his degree to go into a field involving foreign policy.

Member Biographies

Chris Lowe

Chris Lowe is a first-year member of the Model UN Team. Chris Lowe is currently majoring in Government and plans on graduating in the spring of 2015. When Chris is not in class or studying he enjoys watching movies or being outdoors.

Jasmine Bentley

Jasmine Bentley is majoring in Foreign Languages and Linguistics with a minor in International Relations. She is currently in the process of learning Spanish and Arabic. In the future she hopes to be an interpreter for the United Nations or the Foreign Service. She also plans to travel the world to learn many more languages.

Prasamsa “Trish” Dhakal

Trish is a senior majoring in International Business and this is her second year on the NMSU MUN team. She has had a fantastic experience serving as the Treasurer this year, handling the team's finances while helping the team succeed at NMUN in New York. Trish hopes to work for the United Nations in the future. She believes that these two years have taught her more about negotiation and diplomacy than she could have ever learned on her own.

Julia Downs

Julia is finishing her second year in college and is planning on graduating next spring, a year early. She is a government major, as well as a music minor. Julia is very interested in policy and hopes to enter in to analysis or policy writing in the future. She is also interested in international relations and foreign affairs, which is why she joined the Model UN team.

Patrick Cordova

Patrick will graduate in May with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. He plans to spend his summer working in Albuquerque before attending North Western University for law school in the fall.

Sharon Anderson

Sharon is an international student from Kenya, where, until college, she lived and studied. Sharon is about to be a senior and is majoring in Finance and minoring in Women Studies. She learned a lot about why diplomacy is important, not only politically but also in her personal life. Sharon also enjoyed meeting and working with students from all over the world. She is looking forward to graduating in May 2015, and, from there, working and/or starting graduate school.

Rylee Stenberg

Rylee Stenberg is a junior studying Government and Law & Society. She interns with the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico and has been able to learn and grow while on the Model United Nations team. Although originally she focused on lobbying solely within the United States after she graduates, Model UN has expanded her desires to pursue the lobbying industry in foreign countries as well.

Mat McNeile

Mat McNeile is a sophomore majoring in Government at New Mexico State University. After graduation he would like to continue running his online retail business. Mat has a love for gardening, and will often spend hours working outside when given the opportunity.

Meagan Baker

Meagan Baker is a second-year team member graduating this May with degrees in Government and German and a minor in Public Law. She is currently an intern for the American Civil Liberties Union Regional Center for Border Rights and will be a corps member for Teach For America's Southern New Mexico region this fall. She loves traveling, baking, learning foreign languages and aspires to be a civil rights lawyer one day.

Kevin Cardoza

Kevin Cardoza was born in the city of San Salvador, El Salvador. He began his studies at New Mexico State University in the fall of 2010 and is expecting to graduate in May of 2014 with a double major in Government and Foreign Languages. Kevin is looking forward to furthering his education by attending NMSU's graduate school and begin working on two Master's Degrees in Government and Economics.

Kobi Weaver

Kobi Weaver is an Anthropology major focusing in Mayan archaeology who will be graduating this May. She loves traveling, New Mexico State, world cultures, and hiking. She represented Morocco in the United Nations Population Fund in New York and loved every minute of it. After college she is moving to Louisiana to begin work with Teach for America.

Hannah Fort

Hannah is a sophomore at NMSU, double majoring in Economics and International Business with minors in Spanish and Dance Performance. After graduation she plans on getting her master's degree in International Relations and pursuing a career in the Foreign Service or another related field. Model United Nations has been a great experience that has helped her meet new people and improve her research and diplomatic skills.

Isaac Morales

Isaac is a double major in Government and Philosophy with a Supplemental Major in Law and Society. This was his second year on the Model United Nations team and he looks forward to a third during his last year at NMSU. After graduating he plans on attending law school and pursuing a career in either corporate or international law.

Brendan Sullivan

Brendan P. Sullivan is a multi-discipline Graduate Student and second year veteran of the New Mexico State University Model United Nations Team. After graduation Brendan plans to travel the world and experience new things.

Sage Peterson

Sage Peterson is a first year team Model UN team member. Sage Peterson is a senior majoring in Government. This past year she worked as the assistant Governmental Affairs Director. This was her first year on the Model UN team.

Fundraising

Trip Finances

Total Cost for the McMUN Conference: \$9,649.95

Total Cost for the NMUN Conference: \$29,287

These costs include conference registration and delegate fees, airfare, hotel accommodations, transportation in New York City, and any other travel-associated costs. The expenses were covered by the money generated through team fundraisers, the Banquet, the NMSU Administration, NMSU academic departments and the Associated Students of New Mexico State University (ASNMSU).

This year the team was fortunate enough to have passed two bills through our student government, ASNMSU, for our two different conference travels. The appropriations we received for each of the conferences were \$4,317 for the McMUN Conference and \$11,434 for the NMUN Conference, respectively.

Fundraisers

The team decided to take a more hands-on approach to fundraising this year we created and participated in four new fundraisers in an effort to try new things to help raise money for team travel. These fundraisers were a bake sale, a poinsettia sale around Christmas, a yard sale and a 5k/10k fun run. Traditionally the team has not done these types of fundraiser which is why we decided to try them and see what our results were. Total profits from all team fundraising activities came in at \$895. While this is only a small fraction of our costs the team still felt very positive about our fundraising results. In the future, the team plans to do more small-scale fundraisers, which are relatively low-stress activities that yield positive returns on investment. With these smaller fundraisers, we are also able to have full team involvement which fosters participation within the team and improves our team chemistry. Our fundraising goal was to cover conference registration fees and delegate fees for NMUN, which totaled \$2,900. We did not come near to covering these costs, but we did cover the registration fee and contributed some funds towards delegate fees.

Bake Sale

The team held a bake sale at the new Walmart off Rinconada on November 2nd, 2013. Members from the team contributed baked goods for the sale and four participants from the team manned the booth from 8am to 11am. The total profits for this fundraiser were \$118.

Poinsettia Sale

Before the Christmas break, the team sold poinsettia flowers. Initially, the plants cost \$211 and were sold to earn \$400. The engineering department donated \$100 to this fundraiser as well, which brought total revenue to \$500 and final profit to \$289.

Yard Sale

On March 1st, the team hosted a yard sale. Many team members' families donated items as well as the members themselves. The entire team participated in this event, keeping the yard sale open from 7am to 10:30 Am. The sale was a success, gaining the team \$250.

UN Women's Day Fun Run

The United Nations Women's Day Fun Run, in honor of International Women's Day, was held March 16th using NMSU Campus Activities' pre-determined route. This run, being the first for Model UN, was small, but a great success. There were a total of 18 runners, 13 of which pre-registered online, and 5 of which registered the day of. The cost of the run was \$30 for the 5K and \$35 for the 10K. The total amount raised through registration fees was \$630.

The run was also sponsored by the community. The total amount raised through donors for the UN Women's Day Fun Run was \$400. Listed below are the generous individuals and businesses who sponsored this event:

Toni and Guy Hairdressing Salon, Albuquerque
Casa Bandera Apartment Homes
Lucas Pipe and Tobacco
Harold Perry
Tuesday Morning
Bosa Donuts
Prime Time Fitness
Road ID
Sports Accessories
Bradley D's and William B's Restaurant

As the Fun Run was in honor of International Women's Day (March 8th), the team chose to benefit the Frontera Women's Organization with half of whatever profits were earned. After the cost of the t-shirts was taken from the initial earnings of the registration fees and donations combined, the team's final profit from the run was \$476.07. Frontera Women's Organization received \$238.04 from the team.

Sixth Annual Night at the UN

The 6th Annual “Night at the UN” fundraising banquet was held on Friday, March 7, 2014 at the Stan Fulton Center. It was preceded by a talk featuring Dr. Jorge Bustamante, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, and was held at the Health and Social Services Auditorium at NMSU. Dr. Bustamante discussed border issues and highlighted the similarities between Mexico and Morocco.

Dr. Jorge Bustamante was the founder and first President of a well-known Mexican institute for the study of border issues called El Colegio de la Frontera Norte. He has authored several publications regarding the relationship between Mexico and the United States. He is currently a Sociology professor at the University of Notre Dame. Some of his responsibilities as a UN Special Rapporteur included sending appeals to concerned Governments to make them known of the cases, visiting countries that invite him to evaluate the protection of the human rights of migrants and submitting his report to the Human Rights Council. He also participated in conferences, seminars and panels, addressing human rights issues, periodically reporting his findings to the General Assembly, upon request.

Dr. Bustamante has been the recipient of the 2007 Cos-Johnson-Frazier Award, which is the highest award granted by the American Sociological Association to individuals who show exceptional efforts in areas of several social justice issues including, but not limited to, human rights.

The talk began at 5:30 PM and was free of charge. Both students and non-students were welcome and encouraged to attend. The tickets for the reception, which began at 7 PM, were \$15 for students and \$40 for non-students. We served light hors d’oeuvres with one complimentary drink and a cash bar.

Listed below are the generous individuals and businesses that supported us:

Reed and Olga Burn
Xavier and Lori Jurado
Joseph and Kimberly Oser
Professor Peter and Jean Ossorio
Pic Quik
Captain Four Square Gospel Church
The Bluth Family
Dental Solutions
Young Insurance Agency, Inc
Dr. Bejarano

Ticket sales generated \$1,765, and we were able to raise a total of \$2,150 through donations. Our total costs for the banquet approximated to \$2,908 and included the honorarium, location reservation, food, airfare and lodging for the guest speaker, and other related costs. With the profit of \$1,007, the event was a success. However, the team believes that the banquet has a higher potential as a major fundraiser and has decided to look into the financial matters to make the needed adjustments for next year’s banquet and other fundraising efforts.

Community Service



Many of the members from the 2013-2014 team at Keep State Great

Community service is an important aspect of MUN and it is also a way for the team to receive funding from the Associated Students of New Mexico State University, the student government. For every 2 hours on and off campus community service, student organizations are awarded a designated amount of financial assistance. This year, the MUN team completed 12 hours of on-campus community service and 12 hours off-campus community service in order to be eligible to apply for financial assistance from NMSU. Receiving funding through ASNMSU is an integral part of the team's annual success and greatly eases our financial burden.

On-Campus Community Service

This year, the MUN team participated in various community service events. On Campus, the team participated in Keep State Great, which is a day devoted to cleaning up the NMSU campus. At the event the team was assigned to repaint the curbs yellow on Espina Street from University Avenue to Stewart Street. Also on campus, the team participated in Halloween Howl which is an event held Halloween night as a safe alternative to trick-or-treating for university families, where campus clubs and organizations host Halloween themed booths with games and prizes. The MUN team again held our very successful toilet paper toss, in which children stand at a certain distance and toss paper rolls into a toilet and then receive candy and other prizes. The NMSU MUN team also participated

in Noche de Luminarias, an event sponsored by ASNMSU that consists of holiday activities for children during the annual NMSU luminaria viewing event. This year, the team hosted a finger painting booth providing children with the opportunity to create holiday themed art projects. The NMSU MUN team also volunteered with the Las Cruces High School Band and helped set up luminarias on campus as well as in the community; NMSU MUN spent 3 hours placing luminarias on campus, and 6 hours delivering them to the community.

Off-Campus Community Service

Off campus, the team participated in the Renaissance Fair at Young Park. At the fair, the team helps the Big Brother and Big Sister Organization by selling Pepsi products at various tent locations around the Fair. Also for the three days preceding Halloween the team participated in the living history event "Ghosts of the Past," this event is hosted at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. Members of the team helped guide and escort people on the tours around the museum. "Ghost's of the Past" has become an annual event for the NMSU Model UN team and is not only beneficial but is incredibly enjoyable to do. The NMSU Model UN team additionally volunteered to build sets for A Children's Theater of the Mesilla Valley (ACT); the sets were used in ACT's production of Alice in Wonderland. The NMSU Model UN team loves reaching out to groups on campus and in the community and enjoys working to make NMSU and Las Cruces a better place to live.

Preparation and Spring Class

Fall 2013

During the fall 2013 semester, the MUN team met as a chartered student organization and not as a class. Weekly meetings were held at 6:00 pm on Friday evenings, as they are every fall. Meetings primarily focused on learning research methods, public speaking, conference rules and procedure, banquet planning, community service, and fundraising. A full-length practice simulation was also held during the fall semester in mid-November. The President led team meetings with the assistance of the officers.

On November 1st, the team received our National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference country assignment; we were assigned the Kingdom of Morocco. Country selection is done by a list of the team's top ten country preferences being submitted to the NMUN conference staff in addition to a detailed justification as to why our team believed that we would represent our top-choice country well. The team, along with our advisor, created our preference list. The list was submitted as follows: 1. Morocco; 2. Australia; 3. Turkey; 4. El Salvador; 5. Chile; 6. India; 7. Croatia; 8. Colombia; 9. Peru; and 10. Ireland. Our regional preference was 1. Africa; 2. Asia; 3. South America. The team was very excited to receive our top-choice country assignment. After being given our country, the MUN team was then divided into partners and assigned committees. As Morocco we were assigned to twelve committees for conference. Each committee provided delegates with a background guide that outlined three international issues that the committee was to discuss during the Conference. Members and their partners began to research Morocco's position on the three issues in preparation for writing a position paper in collaboration with their partner. NMUN requires all delegates to submit a position paper outlining the positions and

proposed solutions that their country has on each topic. Because the papers cannot be more than two singled spaced pages, students are required to sort through a large amount of information, interpreting and articulating the main themes and priorities of their country.

Spring 2014

During the spring 2014 semester, members enrolled in one of four Model United Nations courses (GOVT 313, GOVT 314, GOVT 406, and GOVT 598) for three credits. First year Model UN students enrolled in GOVT 313 and second year veterans enrolled in GOVT 314. Students with more than two years of Model UN experience enrolled in GOVT 406 and graduate students enrolled in GOVT 598. The spring class was instructed by our faculty advisor Dr. Neil Harvey and MUN President Lydia Hammond. Throughout the semester, the class met twice a week from 3:00 pm to 4:15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The MUN spring class requires each student to be actively involved in all aspects of the class with an emphasis on team leadership from the MUN officers and veterans on the team. The goals of the course were to: develop an understanding of the United Nations, international politics, and diplomacy; foster student research, public 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.

Throughout the spring, each student conducted research and continued to polish their position paper on Morocco's position on each of the three topics discussed in their assigned committee. Students from each committee prepared a formal presentation to the class providing a brief background on the history, powers, and focus of their committees and the issues they were discussing. Final copies of each of the team's twelve positions papers were submitted to NMUN on March 1st, 2014. The team prepared not only Morocco's position regarding each of the issues assigned to their committee, but also on Morocco's role and position in the larger realm of international affairs. Specifically, the class focused on the economy, domestic policy, and international relations of Morocco, placing a particular emphasis on the conflict in the Western Sahara with the Sahrawi people and Morocco's relationships with Spain and France.

In addition, the team continued to learn, practice, and master the NMUN conference rules of procedure, practice resolution and report writing, improve public speaking abilities through a series of persuasive speeches, and learn about the United Nations. During this semester, the team participated in a simulation of the General Assembly First Committee 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 in preparation for Chair interviews at NMUN. 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.

Throughout the year, during both the fall and spring semesters, the MUN member-at-large, Wyatt Bertsch attended bi-weekly Arts and Science Council Meetings. At the Arts and Science Council, the MUN team is very active in discussing and voting on the NMSU student government's legislation, all members attended at least one meeting per semester. In addition, team representation at the Arts and Science Council also serves as an opportunity for funding. With Council funds the team was able to buy team t-shirts along with other supplies for conference, such as notepads.

McGill Model United Nations: McMUN

The 2014 McGill Model United Nations (McMUN) Conference was held at the Montreal Sheraton Hotel, in Montreal Canada, from January 23 – 26, 2014, hosted by McGill University. The NMSU MUN team was honored to be invited for the second time to participate in McMUN. The McMUN conference stems from a large circuit of Model United Nations conferences known as the Harvard Circuit; Harvard Circuit competitions conform to a different set of rules and procedures compared to NMUN. Because of this, a more experienced group of team members were chosen to represent NMSU at McMUN. The veteran members of the NMSU MUN team competed at McMUN and adapted successfully to the new forum.

Committees and Issues

We represented delegates from Macedonia on the Trusteeship Council and delegates from Liechtenstein on both the Trusteeship Council and the United Nations Special Session on Ageing. The NMSU MUN veterans also represented O Kuk-Ryol on the DEFCON crisis committee, sat on the Great Empire crisis committee and represented Alvaro Uribe on the International Criminal Court. Delegates sitting on crisis committees were assigned one character to represent and had the responsibility to react and respond to events as they occurred, in real time, shaped by other committee outcomes.

The Trusteeship Council: Lydia Hammond and Brendan Sullivan as Lichtenstein, Uziel Marte and Theadora Trejo as Macedonia

Topic 1: Criteria for Statehood with Focus on Palestine
Topic 2: The Kurdish Question
Topic 3: The Succession of Jumhuriyar abadar da Allah

The United Nations Special Session on Aging: Julia Downs and Prasamsa Dhakal

Topic 1: Healthcare Provision and Maintenance of a Healthy Life Style for the Aging Population
Topic 2: Social aspects of an aging population
Topic 3: The Economic impact of an Aging Population

DEFCON: Collin King

DEFCON was a crisis committee in which the crisis in North Korea set the stage for unexpected events to unravel causing international rifts needing great attention. Collin represented General O Kuk-Ryol of North Korea and played his part in reacting to political events in North Korea according to his assigned character.

The Great Empire: Isaac Morales

The Great Empire was a crisis committee which took place in outer-space. The delegates were challenged with the crises that arose while simulating the dynamics of governance on a large scale. This was intended to reveal the realities countries in the world face during the primitive stages of statehood.

The International Criminal Court: Meagan Baker

Meagan represented Alvaro Uribe, former president of Columbia on this crisis committee. This committee simulated the trials of Colombian government officials and drug members who violated international law charters according to the Rome Statute. Violations such as, crimes against humanity drove this sophisticated committee into writing mock International Criminal Court cases.

Awards

At the McGill Model United Nations Conference in Montreal, the only awards given are distributed on an individual basis; there are no delegation or team awards. Individual Awards are assigned by selection from the Dais, which is composed of the Director and their assistants and is based on the efficacy of a delegate's representation and their accurate portrayal of their country, or individuals' views. The awards are ranked in order of prestige as follows: Best Delegate, Outstanding Delegate, Honorable Mention, and Book Award. McGill Model United Nations also awards "superlatives" based on committee wide vote. In order to be eligible for any awards, the delegate must have submitted a position paper by the assigned deadline.

Position Papers submitted to McGill Model United Nations vary from those submitted to National Model United Nations. Papers must not exceed 300 words per topic and position papers themselves are not evaluated for awards. Instead, they are utilized as a necessary tool for delegates to stay in the character of their representation and allow representatives to delineate their goals for committee.

Delegate Awards in Committee: The NMSU MUN team was honored that one delegate, Isaac Morales was awarded one committee award chosen among his peers in the Great Empire; an outstanding accomplishment being on a small, 15 member committee of high intensity.

The NMSU MUN team experienced a sophisticated level of competition at the McGill Model United Nations, 2014 conference. For some members, this was not their first McMUN experience. This gave the team more leverage than they had the previous year at this same conference. The team did much preparation before the conference to adequately adapt to the fast pace formal sessions which include: a high frequency of note passing to communicate, additional motions, a more complex variety of speaking opportunities, and additional time limits to be aware of. The team members new to the McMUN, Harvard Circuit forum were very successful in learning these different procedures. The team left McMUN, yet again, with a greater appreciation for the depth of knowledge required to quickly and concisely solve complex problems. Head Delegate Lydia Hammond and Co-Head Delegate Collin King felt that skills learned in McMUN were complementary and enhanced skills learned and perfected through NMUN, enabling them to train members of the veteran team, leading them toward their success. The 2013-2014 officers of the NMSU MUN team recommended to future teams the search for similar, more refined conferences.

National Model United Nations Conference

The 2014 National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference was held at the New York Sheraton Hotel and Towers in New York City from April 13-17, 2014. This was the NMSU MUN team's fifteenth year attending NMUN, having previously represented Israel, Syria, Ghana, Haiti, Ecuador, Paraguay, the Philippines, the League of Arab States, Spain, Egypt, Finland, Switzerland, Lithuania, Lebanon, and Argentina.

Committees and Issues

As delegates from Morocco, we sat on 12 committees. Each committee discussed the following topics:

Head Delegate: Lydia Hammond

Co-Head Delegate: Collin King

General Assembly First Committee: Jasmine Bentley and Hannah Fort

Topic 1: Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction

Topic 2: Relationship Between Disarmament and Development

Topic 3: Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space

General Assembly Second Committee: Collin King and Wyatt Bertsch

Topic 1: External Debt, Sustainability, and Development

Topic 2: Agriculture Development and Food Security

Topic 3: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

General Assembly Third Committee: Sage Peterson and Meagan Baker

Topic 1: Migration and Human Rights

Topic 2: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice System and Their Development in a Changing World

Topic 3: Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence Against Women

General Assembly Fourth Committee: Uziel Marte

Topic 1: Civilian Capacity in the Aftermath of Conflict

Topic 2: Strengthening the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Topic 3: Strengthening United Nations Police

United Nations Environment Programme: Trish Dhakal and Sharon Anderson

Topic 1: Transformation to a Green Economy: Challenges for Transportation Topic

2: Worldwide Management of Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste Topic 3:

Facilitating South-South Cooperation for Environmental Capacity Building

United Nations Industrial Development Organization: Brendan Sullivan

Topic 1: Sustainable Production of Biofuels in Developing Countries

Topic 2: Human Security and Post-Crisis Rehabilitation

Topic 3: Increasing Corporate Social Responsibility in Developing Countries and Economies in Transition

United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Kevin Cardoza

Topic 1: UN-HABITAT and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Topic 2: Gender Equality in Human Settlements Development

Topic 3: Enhancing Living Standards in Slums through Cooperation

United Nations Population Fund: Chris Lowe and Kobi Weaver

Topic 1: Health Priorities Post-2015: Opportunities and Challenges for Improving Maternal Health

Topic 2: Impact of Urbanization on the Implementation of the ICPD Program of Action

Topic 3: Strengthening the International Response to New Trends in Migration

United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees: Patrick Cordova

Topic 1: Advancing Emergency Response for Displaced Populations Affected by Conflict and Natural Disaster

Topic 2: Improving Public Health Systems for Refugees and Other Forcibly Displaced Persons

Topic 3: Providing Humanitarian Assistance to Refugees from and Internally Displaced Persons in Somalia

Peacebuilding Commission: Mathew McNeile and Rylee Stenberg

Topic 1: The Situation in Syria

Topic 2: Strengthening United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Topic 3: Peace Consolidation in West Africa

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons: Theadora Trejo and Isaac Morales

Topic 1: Ensuring the Universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention

Topic 2: Addressing Chemical Weapons Safety and Political Transitions

Security Council – A: Lydia Hammond and Julia Downs

Topic 1: The Situation in Syria

Topic 2: Strengthening United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Topic 3: Peace Consolidation in West Africa

The Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations

As a part of NMUN, time is allotted on the second day of the conference for delegations to schedule mission briefings with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations for their assigned Member State. The team reached out to the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the UN well in advance. Unfortunately for the team, we were not granted permission to visit with anyone in the mission due to scheduling conflicts and international guests.

Awards

At the National Model United Nations Conference in New York, three types of awards are distributed: Delegation Awards, Position Paper Awards, and Delegate Awards in Committee. Delegation awards are distributed based on the consistent performance on an entire delegation within each committee in which they are representing their assigned country. The areas of evaluation for Delegation Awards are: remaining in character, participating in committee, and proper use of the rules of procedure. Delegation awards are distributed at three levels, with the top award of “Outstanding Delegation”, followed by “Distinguished Delegation” and “Honorable Mention”. Building on the successes of previous years, our Model UN team was awarded the Distinguished Delegation award at the NMUN 2014 conference, which placed us in the top fifteen percent of schools at the conference. This year, the team doubled its position paper award record, a total of eleven awards were received based on the performance of twenty team members.

At NMUN 2014, Position Paper awards were distributed based on individual delegate position paper submissions within each committee, and not based on all the position papers submitted by a delegation as a cohesive group. Position Paper Awards were chosen by the Director of each committee and distributed to the top position papers in each committee. Position papers are a critical part of our preparation for the conference and the following criteria are used by the NMUN conference staff to evaluate position papers: citation of relevant resolutions and important documents, general consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints, consistency with the constraints of the United Nations, and the analysis of issues. In the category of Outstanding Position Papers, Theadora Trejo and Isaac Morales on OPCW, Lydia Hammond and Julia Downs on Security Council, Uziel Marte on General Assembly Fourth Committee, Jasmine Bentley and Hannah Fort on General Assembly First Committee, Prasamsa Dhakal and Sharon Anderson on UNEP, Brendan Sullivan on UNIDO, Rylee Stenberg and Mathew McNeile on PBC, Chris Lowe and Kobi Weaver on UNFPA were all recipients of the award.

Delegate Awards in committee are selected by each committee by popular vote of committee delegates. The number of Outstanding Delegate Awards distributed in each committee is based on the size of the committee. NMUN identifies an Outstanding Delegate as one who stays in the character of their assigned Member States and who works cooperatively and diplomatically with others. This year, Lydia Hammond and Julia Downs received the Outstanding Delegates Award in the Security Council, with Matt McNeile and Rylee Stenberg receiving an Outstanding Delegate Award on Peacebuilding Commission. Brendan Sullivan received an Outstanding Delegate Award on United Nations IDO, as a single delegate on a large committee—a very impressive accomplishment.

In addition to the awards listed above, two members of our team were also selected to serve as a Chair. Chair and Rapporteur positions are competitively selected and delegates must undergo a

written and an in-person interview to be selected for the position. The Chair of a committee is responsible for the procedural functions of the committee and works closely with the Director and the Assistant Director of their committee. A Rapporteur serves as an important aide to the Director, Assistant Director, and the Chair of the committee and is responsible for assisting with many of the administrative matters of a committee. This year we had two team members selected to sit as chairs in committees. Collin King was selected to be the chair on Security Council – B and Uziel Marte was chosen to be the chair on the Peacebuilding Commission.

Next Year's Projections

By-law Changes

At the end of the 2014 spring semester the team met to address some needed bylaw changes to the club's structure. These changes to the bylaws were mostly cosmetic in nature and included changing the titles of the officers, with the exception of the President, to their original form. The team found that having four Vice Presidents with different specialties became confusing for both team members and the public. As such, the titles were changed as follows: Vice President of Content became Vice President, Vice President of Finance became Treasurer, and Vice President of Operations became Secretary. The team also decided to combine the position of the Vice President of Public Outreach with the, now, Secretary. This consolidation was seen as necessary; in dividing those positions the officers had very few official responsibilities. This led to decision that the Secretary should absorb the responsibilities of the Vice President of Public Outreach. Therefore, the Secretary perform the duties originally prescribed that office as well as be responsible for maintenance of the Model UN website, public relations including press releases and publicity for club activities, community outreach, and management of the NMSU Model UN's public image. Elections for the Fundraising Chair was also moved to happen at the end of the Spring semester so the individual can have more time to prepare fundraising ideas for the upcoming year.

2014-2015 Model UN Officers

Elections were held on May 8th 2014; 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: Theadora Trejo

Vice-President: Rylee Stenberg

Treasurer: Mat McNeile

Secretary: Isaac Morales

Member-at-Large: Open until the Fall 2014 semester

For more information about Model UN, please visit our website, mun.nmsu.edu, or email next year's president.

Team Quotes

Chris Lowe

“MUN has altered the way I see international relations for the best, giving me hope for the world of tomorrow.”

Jasmine Bentley

“Model UN has been one of the most rewarding experiences for me and has encouraged me to always try my best, especially when it comes to the things I have a passion for.”

Trish Dhakal

“Model UN is the ideal extracurricular activity to engage in if you're interested in international affairs. We work on research, writing, public speaking, negotiation, and diplomacy, so it really is the full-package, and highly rewarding.”

Julia Downs

“Model UN is more than just learning about international relations and politics, it is about problem solving, research, and getting your ideas out there in an understandable and convincing way.”

Patrick Cordova

“Model United Nations is a fascinating and exciting experience. It is kind of like learning to ride a bike, it's fun, frustrating, and confusing all at the same time, but in the end you quickly realize it was worth it.”

Sharon Anderson

“Morocco moves to get some Empanada Mama after a long day.”

Rylee Stenberg

“Being a part of Model UN not only provided the opportunity to work with students from around the world, but it also provided a hands-on learning experience that shows how truly dynamic and spirited the NMSU Model UN team is.”

Mat McNeile

“Model United Nations provided a venue for students from all over the world to work on one common goal. This truly showed the ability the United Nations has in bringing different groups of people together.”

Meagan Baker

“Model UN is a process that allows you to grow academically in many fantastic ways. Without all of the hard work and skills learned through Model UN I do not think I would be as ready for my next steps after college. Thank you so much team!” :)

Lydia Hammond

“Model United Nations has been a huge part of my life for the past four years. Being a part of this team has been the best experience of my college career. I have made lifelong friends and grown not only as an individual but also as a leader.”

Wyatt Bertsch

“Be Water, My Friend!” - Bruce Lee

Kevin Cardoza

“The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it.” - Albert Einstein

Kobi Weaver

“I loved having the experience of becoming an expert about maternal health issues in Africa. This experience has helped me become better informed about issues we all should be talking about.”

Hannah Fort

“MUN is Fun!”

Thea Trejo

“I am so very excited to see what the future holds for the NMSU Model UN team! This team paints a clear picture of what happens when hard work pays off.”

Isaac Morales

“Model UN is by far the most academically rigorous and intensive organization of which I am a part, and I attribute a lot of my academic and personal growth not only to what I have learned from the competition in New York, but also to what the Officers and senior members of the team have taught me.”

Brendan Sullivan

“MUN is about more than individual or team awards, it is about the coming together of people and ideas in order to make a more sustainable and harmonious world.”

Collin King

“Assisting in the management of the team and participating as a delegate has been the most rewarding and enjoyable experience I was privileged to have at NMSU.”

Uziel Marte

“Model UN has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. My time in Model UN has greatly improved my ability to research, write, and communicate through both public speaking and interpersonal communication. I will always cherish the memories and skills that came of this experience.”

Sage Peterson

“Model UN gave me yet another avenue to become involved at NMSU. It was a fantastic experience!”

Dr. Harvey

“The Model UN team is a very dedicated, creative and hard-working group. Everyone contributed to the team's success and, as a new faculty adviser; I could easily see how the program supports experiential learning.”

The 2013-2014 Executive Board thanks the MUN team and Dr. Neil Harvey for their efforts, and wishes the new officers and next year's team success at the 2015 National Model United Nations Conference and hopes that NMSU students will continue to reap the many benefits of participating in Model United Nations.