

Model UN Newsletter

May 2009

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National Award - 3rd Year in a Row!

Wichita State University Model United Nations team represented the Czech Republic at the National Model United Nations Conference in New York this spring. The delegation received an Honorable Mention award at the closing ceremonies held in the UN Great Hall of the General Assembly. With the largest group to attend the New York conference in recent years, 15 students sat on a total of nine different committees, including the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the World Trade Organization among others. Students spent many hours researching their committee topics before the conference as they prepared their formal



Back row: Matt Agnew, Eva Kurban
Front Row: Stacy Goss (L) and Lily Wakim (R)

position papers. After four days of intense caucusing and negotiations, students voted on the resolutions in their committees. Although pleased with the award given to only the top 20 percent of

participating delegations from around the world, the WSU team is gunning for an Outstanding Delegation in 2010.



Endowed Scholarship Update

We are still working to raise enough funds to endow a Model UN Scholarship in the department. With the current economic conditions, contributions have been down this year, but I am confident that we will eventually reach our goal of \$15,000. As I consider the valuable assistance that the Political Science Department

scholarships provide to our students, I am convinced that this new scholarship will serve our students well, rewarding those Model UN participants who have demonstrated outstanding abilities in the program.

If you valued your time in the Model UN and would like to help today's students share

that same valuable experience please make a contribution. All contributions, large and small, help us get closer to reaching our goal. Checks should be made to: WSU Model UN scholarship. Mail checks to the Political Science Department, attn: Carolyn Shaw, 1845 Fairmount St., Wichita KS, 67260-0017.

WSU Delegates Selected for Staff Positions



Matt Agnew,
Legal on CEIRPP

Several WSU delegates took on a new adventure this year, serving as staff members for both the St. Louis and New York Conferences. Lisa Decow served as Secretary to the UNEP and Matt Agnew served as Legal on the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in St. Louis. In New York, Matt served as Chair of the League of Arab States, Tatiana Sibai was the Rapporteur for the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and Katherine Paige was the Rapporteur for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. These new staffers all noted that there was a lot more to learn sitting behind the dais and managing the conference procedures!



Lisa Decow, Secretary on UNEP,
Chevis Rebstock, Czech Republic

Keynote speakers at Opening Ceremony



Kiyotaka Akasaka
Under-Secretary General for
Communications and
Public Information

On the opening day of the conference, delegates hurried from the hotel to the UN building, hoping to get through security before the predicted downpour hit the city late in the afternoon. Our delegation got there early enough to secure a seat just two rows in front of the dais with a great view of the keynote speakers: His Excellency Mr. Akasaka and His Excellency, former Ambassador, Mr. Pascoe. Both speakers congratulated the delegates on their endeavors at the conference and encouraged them to pursue their international interests in the future. Mr. Akasaka stressed the importance of the UN during these tumultuous economic times as human suffering increases around the world. Mr. Pascoe shared sights from his time as U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia.



B. Lynn Pascoe
Under-Secretary
General for Political
Affairs

Czech Republic Mission Briefing

Prior to the start of the National Model UN Conference in New York, our students had the opportunity to visit the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations. The Mission Spokesman and Coordinator to the General Assembly, Dr. Borek Lizec, met with our delegation for over an hour, answering student questions regarding the Czech Republic's position on a variety of issues and sharing his own experiences as a UN diplomat. He had recently been stationed in New York as part of the Czech Republic's assumption of the Presidency of the EU for the first half of 2009. The Mission had expanded greatly to take on this responsibility of leading the EU at the UN in 2009.



WSU delegates with Dr. Borek Lizec, Czech Republic Spokesperson

Time to see the City

Although WSU students spent four intense days in MUN committee meetings, they also had a little bit of time to enjoy the city of New York. Our group was very busy during their 'down' time. Sightseeing included: the Met, the Cloisters, the Natural History Museum, the Statue of Liberty, several different Broadway shows (Shrek, Wicked, Mary Poppins), the Empire State Building, Yankee Stadium (though we

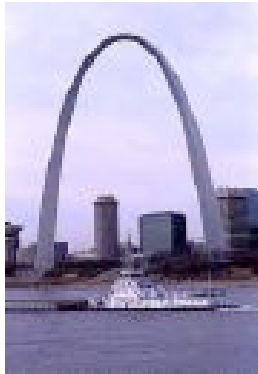


arrived too late for a game), Chinatown, Macy's, Times Square (just down the block from our hotel), and assorted restaurants and bars.

St. Louis Delegations: Iceland, Kenya, and Czech Republic

Czech Republic: Sarah Stanton, Eva Kurban, Lisa Decow, Axel Chacon, Chris Hicks, Chevis Rebstock

Iceland: Lily Wakim, Drew Steadman, Matt Agnew, Sarah Cooper, Tatiana Sibaai, Stacy Goss, Logan Harrison



Kenya: Alex Truong, Michael Maina, Ceci Crosa, Katherine Paige

New High School Model UN Conference



All of the WSU Model UN students had the opportunity to serve as dais staff in January 2009 as we kicked off our first annual Wichita Area Model UN (WA-MUN) for local high school students. This endeavor was launched based on the interest of local high school teachers as well as returning MUN veterans who wanted to challenge themselves a bit more. A total of 7 high schools -18 delegations represented by 54 students- participated in the first conference. We ran three concurrent General Assembly Plenary sessions on the topics of Landmines and Environment and Security. Feedback was quite positive and we hope to grow this conference in the future. For more information on this year's conference: www.wichita.edu/wamun.

Record number of awards from Midwest Model UN in St. Louis

Our students did an amazing job in St. Louis, bringing home a record number of eight awards from the conference! Individual committee awards went to:



Axel Chacon and Stacy Goss in ECOSOC

- Stacy Goss, Outstanding Delegate (Iceland - ECOSOC).
- Chris Hicks, Honorable mention (Czech Republic - ILO)
- Ceci Crosa, Honorable mention (Kenya - 3rd Committee)
- Tatiana Sibaai and Logan Harrison, honorable men-

tion (Iceland - 4th Committee).

Students also did an excellent job in the Plenary sessions at the conference working together as a team. Plenary awards went to:

- Stacy Goss, Outstanding Delegation (Iceland - ECOSOC).
- Drew Steadman, Sarah Cooper, Lily Wakim, Tatiana Sibaai, and Logan Harrison, Outstanding Delegation (Iceland-General Assembly)
- Axel Chacon, Chris Hicks, and Chevis Rebstock, Honorable mention (Czech Republic - ECOSOC)
- Katherine Paige, Honorable mention (Kenya-ECOSOC).



Chris Hicks
Czech Republic in ILO

Wichita State University



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Check out our webpage:
[www.wichita.edu/
modelun](http://www.wichita.edu/modelun)

*I love to hear from alumni!
Drop me a note...*

Email: Carolyn.shaw@wichita.edu

Picture Gallery



Michael Maina, Alex Truong, Ceci Crosa



Eva Kurban and Lily Wakim



Chevis Rebstock



Drew Steadman, Tatiana Sibaii, Eva Kurban



Stacy Goss, Logan Harrison and
Katherine Paige



Sarah Cooper