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UNH Model United Nations Team Wins A Distinguished Delegation Award

This past March in New York City, the UNH Model United Nations (MUN) team, comprising 18 students, earned a **Distinguished Delegation Award**. They represented The United Republic of Tanzania at the National Model United Nations Conference. The event was sponsored by the National Collegiate Conference Association (NCCA).

More than 270 universities participated with approximately 3,400 students. Almost half of the students attending the conference came from outside of the United States.

To earn the Distinguished Delegation Award, the UNH MUN team was judged on their ability to remain in character, prepare delegates, provide leadership, and demonstrate consistent and accurate diplomacy.

UNH students included Alton Croker, Katie Striffolino, Emily Soderman, Marisa Baptiste, Eva Jacobson, Mike Allard, Andrew Bedell, Jen Cordaro, Meaghan Dwyer, Jenny Ellis, Liz Kyriacou, Alex LeBaron, Rina Lee, Alice Sheehan, Ryan Stanyan, Tina Venetos, Wegene Wells-Bogue, and Matt York. Prof. Alynna Lyon (Department of Political Science) serves as the group's faculty adviser.

At the conference, students got to meet with the real Ambassador to UN from the United Republic of Tanzania. They also participated in the 15-member Security Council where the primary topic under consideration was the Darfur situation. The theme of this year's conference was "Going Green" and many of the topics under discussion focused on global climate change, natural resource management, and environmental sustainability.

Along with the Security Council, UNH students participated in the General Assembly and its subsidiary committees, the World Food Program, the International Hydrological Program, the African Development Bank, the World Tourism Organization, the Economic and Social Council, and the World Health Organization.

For the last four years, the University of New Hampshire Model United Nations program has provided students with an opportunity to simulate United Nations institutions. Participation in Model UN provides students with information on international politics and current affairs and participants gain a working knowledge of parliamentary procedure. Each school's delegates submit position papers and prepare draft resolutions on various international issues.

The Model UN was established in 1923 as a simulation of the League of Nations and maintains official NGO status with the United Nations. Students, including four graduate students, from diverse majors participated. with majors in political science, international affairs, economics, natural resources, and liberal studies participated. Model United Nations is an active learning focused group and the students gain the experience of focused research, professionalism, knowledge of global issues and in some cases, understanding of technical issues in security, development, and trade relations.

To cover the costs of attending the conference, UNH MUN received generous contributions from Students Activity Fund Council, the Office of the Vice President for Student and Academic Affairs, the Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity, the Department of Political Science, the African American Studies Program, the College of Liberal Arts and the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School. The team also sold Thanksgiving pies and Valentine's Day flowers.

For information on UNH Model UN, contact Alynnna.Lyon@unh.edu
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Photos are available to download here:

http://unh.edu/news/img/UNH_Model_UN.jpg

http://unh.edu/news/img/UNH_Model_UN_Tanzania_Am.jpg