
T H E CHAIR'S DISCRETION

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ODUMUNC XXXV

FEBRUARY 16TH, 2012

SG Luke says: "Howdy!"

by SG Luke Watson



Secretary General Luke Watson

It is my honor to facilitate the debate of so many students who've taken up the call to ensure that we have a world worthy of future generations.

It has been my goal to provide a forum for a wide spectrum of discussion with all of you representing a special part of our global diversity. Your country assignments are meant to be varied, your topics are controversial and divisive, and your committees are more interconnected than ever before. This is all for the spirit of working together and reaching across archaic barriers to new ideas and cooperation. Since the last conference, we have seen leaders around the world fail to work together on important international matters. These failures to work together and compromise have many consequences for all global citizens but they come from one source: the inability to listen and accept people with other ideas. It is my hope that you all will use this weekend to *do* better and to *be* better than those who've lost touch with the ideals and possibilities of the United Nations and global harmony.

- SG Luke W.

Meet Your Chairs:

by Ari Agunod

Looming over the committees with a gavel and seated at the center of the dais table, the chairs are some of the most memorable people for delegates at the conference.

Take a moment to get to know a little about each chair for each committee or the chair whose lovely face you will be seeing for the next three days.

The chairs' levels of experience vary, and some of them are rather unique individuals. Each chair has worked hard to prepare for his/her duties. They are all eager to be working for the conference and seeing what the delegates have to bring to the table. See what they have in store for you.

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Preparation for Debate: Behind the scenes at ODU

by IPC Staff

At any given time on any Monday-Friday, students from ODU Model United Nations are counting, printing, typing and planning for ODU-MUNC 35. Under the guidance of our Director Professor Aaron Karp and Assistant Director Alan Rogers, conference preparations have been underway since the summertime and it has been in full steam ever since. Over the past few months, committees have been planned, and delegations have been given out. When the club returned from winter break, we hit the ground running. Secretary Treasurer Garima Kaushal and her Assistant-Secretary Treasurers took careful inventory to make sure we have enough placards, projectors, and everything else ready. The Secretary General Luke Watson and his Under Secretary Generals have been working hard training students for the dais. Everyone has put and are still putting in their best efforts to make this conference a success.



Short break from work for a group photo

The journey from classroom walls to ODUMUNC halls

by Evan Washington

Clover Hill High School, Midlothian, VA

"Some of these schools have yearlong classes dedicated to learning this stuff," the Clover Hill Model UN sponsor Mr. Bogdanowicz explained during one morning meeting for the upcoming conference. "We don't."

He went on to explain the independent, student-driven approach that was taken at Clover Hill. "You get out of it whatever you're willing to put into it." All the students in the room were only there because they actively wanted to be a part of the conference and the experience it would provide.

We were all completely aware that making it either a raving success or a sad, dry blob of boredom was our responsibility. Both possibilities were equally likely; it was just up to us to make the choice.

We talked more about the conference, about adorning ourselves with the freshly ironed shirts and ties and other business attire that we dusted off every year for the conferences, about researching the issues, and all the things we should just try to say, write, think, and do.

When the bell rang, we all knew we would be ready to conquer and thoroughly enjoy whatever challenges the conference at Old Dominion University might present to us.

by Joanna Morelli

Walsingham Academy, Williamsburg, VA

Among various clubs at Walsingham Academy, the World Cultures Club is responsible for holding events in which foreign exchange students and American students can bond and learn about different cultures and festivals. Presentations are done covering the traditions of the culture and dishes typical to the particular culture of the event are made. These meetings help engage students who normally would not know much about the cultures of other countries; in addition, the World Cultures Club has been a tool of recruitment and a catalyst to the creation of our school's Model UN team.

Our school's Model UN club was initiated by student Kelly Choi. Our Model UN team has prepared for the conference by meeting each week and preparing to talk about the country our school was assigned. Walsingham Academy is thrilled to participate in the Model UN Conference at ODU; Frank Krol, a member of the Model UN club at Walsingham stated, "Our team has researched about the committees we each have been assigned to, and how it relates to the topics given and our country...We have a lot of discussion-based activities to further our knowledge of our country and other countries to aid us in the conference."

Meet Your Chairs:

Continued from page 1

Disarmament and International Security (DISEC)

Casey Morris

Casey entered ODU and took up Oceanography as a major. He also belongs to the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity, is a director for the ODU Student Government, and is chairman of a non-profit organization geared towards charity fund-raising, Walking Tau, Inc. He is a pretty nice guy who also likes southern belles and can make a mean pot of chili.

Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian (SocHum)

Brittany Gentry

Brittany is the gentle lady of MUN, but don't think for a second that her sweet voice cannot be matched by a harsh gaveling. Brittany is an aspiring lawyer who is interested in international affairs and domestic politics. Brittany has worked on political campaigns and is a very active member in her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha. Brittany is also a former MUN officer and past ECOSOC chair.

Legal

Mo Khatib

Mo is our most senior, experienced and loved chair. He has been with MUN for 12 years and was President of the society in 2002-03. Mo is always calm and appears to have a unique presence in the society as well as a chair. Patient and fair, he even gives his dais members a chance to try their hand at being chair. His committees run seriously and smoothly, but he also likes to make sure that it is an enjoyable and educational experience for everyone.

Special Political (SpcPol)

Alex Palmer

Having participated in MUN events since being a high school student in Granby High School, Alex joining ODUMUNC came as no surprise when he entered college. He was with MUN for 4 years in college and he has helped the society several times since graduating in 2008. Some of Alex's favorite things about MUN of course include getting to debate on international subjects, but the social atmosphere of MUN could very well be at least a part of what has kept him coming back.

Economic and Social Council (EcoSoc)

Justin Cooper

Justin is a Senior majoring in Political Science and minoring in Sociology and besides being the chair of the EcoSoc committee, he is the Assistant Secretary Treasurer for ODU Model UN. He seems to have his sights set on working with fellow MUNsters to achieve sustainable living, world peace, and human rights for all and enjoys thinking of ways to save the world in his free time, perhaps done best while eating a gyro. Either way, gyros have become Justin's favorite food since having had them in a UN trip to New York.

Non-Governmental Organization Forum (NGO)

Justin Hogan

After trying out an ODUMUNC while still a sophomore in Granby High School, Justin found an interest in deliberative assemblies ever since and has been involved with ODU MUN for 3 years. His favorite thing about MUN involves later making friends with those he has managed to corner in debates. As a side note, Justin has a habit of tapping his finger whenever he is nervous/excited. It is his way of keeping a proper speaking pace, so delegates should not mistake his habit for some sign of irritation/impatience/attempt at starting a beat-boxing rhythm.

Future Security Council (FSC)

T.J. Wignall

You can call him "Chops," and if you have had the pleasure of being in his committee then you would know why. T.J. is a graduate aerospace engineering student and currently works for NASA, but he still finds the time for some swing dancing and chairing the Future Security Council. An avid sci-fi fan, T.J. is known to give out a "Vulcan Sci-Five" and quote lines from Firefly. He also has a habit of commenting with a particular phrase on any word he hears that ends in "-er" (e.g. "MUNster? I hardly know her!").

Security Council (SC)

Adam Bullock

Adam took the UN class and joined the MUN in order to learn more about the UN which he steadfastly believes to be making change “in this challenging and anarchic world” as it strives to bring people of the world together and solve problems. Adam has been with MUN for 5 years and as Secretary General for the society last year, he was the man running the show for ODUMUNC34. Adam’s favorite thing about the society is the challenge to discuss and find interest in global topics, and he also likes that it encourages participants to still listen fairly to those who may not have the loudest voice. That said, Adam likely has the loudest call for decorum in MUN, so one can be sure that the smallest voice will have a chance to speak should Adam choose to allow it.

NATO

Kym Ganczak

This is Kym’s first year with MUN after one of her friends got her interested in the club. She is an active member, known to be energetic and is eager to work as a chair for this year’s conference. It also seems that Luke may have had a hand in getting her more interested in joining MUN (perhaps with that magic word “howdy”), but she has also found many good friends with the MUNsters and hopes to have a good time for this event.

African Union (AU)

Terrell Kingwood

His interest in MUN brought him to the society’s page on the college website. After reading Luke’s welcoming and great word “Howdy” in a page that introduced the MUN Officers, Terrell was compelled to join a peppy sounding group and has been an active officer for about 5667840000 milliseconds (that is should calculate to about 2.15 months). The social scene is where Terrell seems to be at with this society, but he does love the debates as well and he seems excited to be helping out for this year’s conference.

Trade War Imminent in South America

by USG Connor Clarke

Today’s announcement by the Union of South and Latin America stating that they will open membership to all of Latin America has outraged the Brazilian government. Initially, the USLA was an economic alliance comprised of only South American nations using a shared currency, but in 2049 Panama accepted membership into the alliance. At that time, Brazilian officials announced that their nation would not tolerate any further advancement into the North.

The Brazilian government has repeatedly said expansion into Latin America by the USLA would upset the current balance of trade in the region. Brazil’s trade minister has already declared that current trade agreements with all alliance states are now forfeit. Currently members of the Brazilian National Congress are working to raise tariffs on all imported goods from Alliance members and are considering further actions. Some of the more extreme members of the Chamber of Deputies are calling for sanctions on the USLA and commandeering USLA goods.

To experts, Brazil’s negative response came as no surprise although few expected this level of severity. The biggest question left standing is if Mexico will decide to join the USLA. Doing so would void the long-standing NAFTA agreement with Canada and the United States. Neither the Mexican nor American governments have issued any statements on the matter. If Mexico does join, it is believed that all other Latin American nations will follow suit.

Funny jokes?

Words of wisdom?

Awkward moments?

Share it with us and we'll post them as quotes of the day.

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ODUMUNC35

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On-The-Floor Reporting

- ◆ Did something so interesting happen that a mere quotation can't quite describe it?
- ◆ Write about it (200-500 words) and we may feature it in the next issue!

Submit your articles to the IPC staff in the Wilton Room, Fourth Floor.

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