Petra Szonyegi, ODU Model UN Society President

As one will notice, as people become familiar with the individuals on the MUN board of officers, the level of dedication and commitment of each officer is both outstanding and inspirational.

One such example of this can be found in the President of the Old Dominion University Model United Nations’, Petra Maria Szonyegi, a graduate of Princess Anne High School and a student leader at the University of Old Dominion. During her tenure as MUN president, and with the help of the officer board, the ODUMUN has recently been awarded with the prestigious honor of ODU Student Organization of the Year. As the Navy often reminds us, “a ship is only as good as its Captain, and crew”, and ODU Model UN is lucky to have both.

Christopher Steadman, ODUMUNC Secretary-General

“MUN means everything to me” says Chris Steadman “I started in High School attending ODUMUNC for the first time as a junior in a crisis committee.

I was completely lost. I had never been surrounded by so many talented, intellectually capable, and truly genuine people in the sixteen years I had loved beforehand. It absolutely electrified me. I got involved, I started to care about the world, and it got me oriented towards the trajectory that the next six years of my life would take.

I cannot be happier that I took the first step to get involved as Slovakia in that very first ODUMUNC, and since then I have not looked back. To sum things up Model UN means hope and new found life to me. Its what got me excited about the world, and it keeps me involved and interested in the world around me.
"All Human Beings Are Born Free and Equal in Dignity and Rights"
Article One of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

ODU Model UN is Student Organization of the Year!!

Old Dominion University is home to 400 student organizations, everything from Student Government Association, to the Equestrian Team, fraternities and sororities to professional career planning societies like Pre-Law. That’s why is meant so much when the ODU Model UN was named Student Organization of the Year for 2016-17.

Not only is it the largest student organization in terms of membership, it is the most active, sending members to represent the university at intercollegiate conference as far north as Montreal and as far west as Chicago.

It plays a major role in the broader university community, too. The MUN finances academic groups, making it possible for Political Science classes to visit New York, see the UN and visit diplomats from New York-based missions to the UN. The Society is proud to support other student groups, such as In Support of Children (ISOC). The ODU MUN Society is affiliated with other student organizations such as the Global Monarch Club (GMC) and the International Student Advisory Board (ISAB), cosponsoring social events like the upcoming Global Unity Ball.

The award was extraordinarily meaningful for every society member. MUN President Petra Szonyegi received on behalf of the society the award from ODU President John Broderick.

Receiving the Award: from left to right:
Under Secretary General Kleopatra Moditsi, Assistant Secretary Treasurer Felicia Fischer, ODU President Broderick, MUN President Petra Szonyegi, Secretary Treasurer Khari Murphy, Dean Ellen Neufeldt, Interim Provost Chandra de Silva

In Support of Children: It’s Never OK To Hit A Child

Jennifer Lauren Kennard, President

I joined In Support of Children during my first semester in college, as a way to volunteer with children in the community. Little did I know however, how large of an impact this club have on educating the public, and creating world-wide change for children’s rights. In addition, this club opened my eyes to the unfortunate high rate of injustice, and violence that children are subjected to throughout the world today. In Support of Children looks to educate the community, and promote social change by sharing research that highlights all the negative effects that corporal punishment, and abuse have on our youth.

This social change has led to legal actions, and the U.N. creating The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is a human rights treaty that outlines all the rights of children throughout the world today. As of now, only two countries have not ratified this treaty, and surprisingly one of these nations being the United States. There is still work to be done for the cause we fight for, but In Support of Children will continue this work until we see the end to all violence against children.

My favorite memory from ISOC was the 2016 annual candle light vigil. The vigil is an event in which we invite speakers to educate students on corporal punishment, read stories about children that have died at the hands of their caregivers, then sing and have a moment of silence while we light our candles and honor the loss of life caused by abuse. This event shows that abuse and corporal punishment have real, detrimental, and lethal outcomes. It serves as a time to honor those lost but also as a call to action to end this suffering.

10% of all ODUMUNC sales profits go to ISOC
Commentary: This When You Do Model UN?

You picked quite the moment for a model UN conference. ODUMUNC XL comes an extraordinary time in world history. The background to the conference is unprecedented pressure on all UN Member States. Never in UN experience has so much been uncertain.

For conference delegates, this means extraordinary opportunities. What should the world look like? What should be its goals? How should problems be resolved? ODUMUNC delegates will have their say.

Foreign affairs experts and leaders are asking about the future of international politics. The 70-year world order, the principles that guided all international diplomacy since the creation of the UN in 1945, is suddenly being questioned. And the questions are coming not just from commentators, but from heads of government.

By conquering the Ukrainian territory of Crimea, Russian President Vladimir Putin has shown that states can take territory in a way no country has tried since World War Two. By unleashing massive bombing on civilian neighborhoods in Syria, he has weakened international law on human rights and genocide. Whether the international community can respond effectively remains to be seen.

Led by the United States, countries everywhere are talking about building walls and barriers. American President Donald Trump has denied the principle of free trade, the basis for all international trade agreements since 1945, and cast doubt on alliance commitments. The theme of ODUMUNC XL is Equality and Tolerance. But the world now sees America led by a Presidential cabinet that is almost all-male and all-white, where commitment to global rights for women, minorities and LBGT communities is unclear. Everyone is watching the White House for clues about the future of world order, the possibility for cooperation and the risks of conflict.

Around the world, individual rights are under pressure. Governments are passive or even complicit as minorities are attacked. In Myanmar and Indonesia, for example, large minority groups face brutal treatment from security forces or vigilantes operating with government approval.

Nationalist governments in Hungary, Poland and Russia have eliminated the independent press. In the Philippines, President Duterte, has encouraged police and vigilantes to kill suspected drug users without due process. Other countries may vote for passionate populists, choosing what feels good rather than what’s legally right.

For ODUMUNC XL delegates, the job is truly extra-large. UN Member States have reason to be more outspoken than ever on behalf of their national policies and basic principles. Can older principles be restored or reinforced, or will a new wave transform international politics? We’ll know more by Sunday afternoon.

Greeting a REAL GREEK!!

Kleopatra Moditsi, USG—Committees

Each member of the officer corps on MUN has a unique story to tell, and some have traveled very far from their homes and families to pursue their goals. One such person, who is also the ODUMUNC Under Secretary-General, for Committee. is Kleopatra Moditsi, a native of Thessaloniki, Greece. “ODUMUNC is an empowering experience” explains Kleopatra “an event to see all of your hard work, dedication, and perseverance pay off. This is also an amazing opportunity to have a lasting impact on different people, and the community.”

The MUN Society has offered an incredible variety of experiences and opportunities to all of its members. “The trip to New York City, and to have the opportunity to visit the actual United Nations Headquarters, was the experience of a lifetime” said Kleopatra. In addition, the “International Student Organization, and events offers a way to expand a persons’ horizons, to become more understanding of different cultures, and to be different.”

About the Editor

Justin Ross is a junior at ODU and a Vice Chair of Security Council here at ODUMUNC XL. Justin is a native of Portsmouth, Virginia and is majoring in History. Justin has a dream job of becoming a Frontline Journalist after college. When you have time or see Justin in the hallway, yell out “THANKS FOR THE PAPER!!”. He will understand.

Thanks again Justin!!
Commentary: Equality and Tolerance, Definitely not UNcontroversial!

When the theme for ODUMUNC XL was chosen eight months ago, *Equality and Tolerance* seemed uncontroversial. No longer! Suddenly ideas that shaped the global agenda for decade are in dispute. Long-term opponents, including some UN Member States, now find new allies in countries that previous championed the values of gender and religious diversity, minority rights, and full integration of the LGBT community in all aspects of life.

Almost every UN body at ODUMUNC XL has a chance to deliberate on this agenda. Be ready for Equality and Tolerance topics in the General Assembly Committees, in the Economic and Social Council, Human Rights Council and even the Security Council. With principles seemingly under question, sometimes under siege, it is has never been more appropriate.

For some UN Member States, the path is obvious. They have opposed or distanced themselves from the Equality and Tolerance agenda for decades. But even some opponents may have second thoughts about outright reversals in human rights.

Other Member State governments remain fully committed to strength the global commitment to further progress on these causes. ODUMUNC XL is set for serious debate, maybe even confrontation, on these issues. Diplomats have to be respectful, but they also can be assertive and frank. These issues may put that to the test.
**FALL OF USSR!!**

Jackson Harris, USSR Chair

“Cooperation and Networking, are the keystones to the foundation of a successful Model UN”, according to Jackson Harris. “To figure out who in the room supports you, and your goals and to come up with a synergetic solution for everyone” is the highlight of any MUN experience.

In addition to being an active member and chair within Model UN, Jackson is also well traveled and versed in the inner machinations of the U.S. Government Intelligence Agency. Jackson is also a “polyglot” or fluent in four languages.

To understand “perceptions and cultures, global reactions, social networking, and friendship” is the bottom line for MUN.

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**One Cool DUDE**

*Khari Murphy, Secretary Treasure*

It takes a cool person to know a cool person, and MUN’s Khari Murphy is One Cool Dude. In addition, the experience amassed by this member has enhanced the overall quality of MUN, and has been an invaluable platform for the society to continue to expand its influence not only on campus, but also in the community.

“The endearing qualities of MUN are meeting new people, making connections and friendships, but also to find out who you really are as an individual.” In addition to his many other responsibilities, Khari Murphy works for USA Today.

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**The Man Behind the Curtain**

*Leon Norman, Assistant Director*

The Man Behind the Curtain, the person who handles the daily activities of MUN and ensures smooth transitions with travel, accommodations, balancing the budget, and overall important tasks that make MUN successful.

According to Leon Norman, who is also a native of Chesapeake and a counselor for children at CHKD, “I really enjoy mentoring kids, and counseling children with problems that they experience in life.” After graduating high school, where he was also involved with MUN, he went on to graduate from Virginia State University with a major in psychology, “now I can officially tell someone that they are crazy, and it is probably true”.

“My favorite experience with MUN, would have to be the recent trip to Montreal, Canada” explains Leon “the ability to travel around the world, meet new people, and experience new cultures is an amazing experience.”

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**The Expert on the People’s Republic of China**

*Tiana Bailey, Under-Secretary General, Operations*

My first experience with MUN was the VICS Chinese Model Conference, virtual model United Nations. The conference was spoken at times in both English and Chinese, so that was a fantastic outlet for my knowledge on the subject. As always, it is up to each delegate to bring their best to their individual conference, and make the experience worthwhile.