ODU Model UN Sweeps UVa
By Chris Steadman
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ODU’s winning delegation. First row kneeling, left to right: Brian Jay Rinaldo, Frans van Eysinga, Kym Ganczak, Nicolas Shinn, Sean McGuffin. Second row left to right: Khari Murphy, Hristina Georgieva, Tiana Bailey, Kleopatra Moditsi, Ismael Fatah, Thomas Lee, Christopher Steadman, Jared Walker, Jade Young, Matthew Trenton, Felicia Fisher, ArLynn Parker, Patrick O’Brien, Benedict Cipcon.

The nationally-ranked ODU Model UN team swept through the Virginia International Crisis Simulation (VICS) in Charlottesville, 26-29 March. Jefferson’s campus was the scene of ODU’s greatest Model UN triumph in recent years.

The delegation of 18 ODU students won Outstanding Large Delegation (second place) in the conference, after Best Large Delegation (first place) winner The University of Florida. ODU students also won seven individual awards.

The University of Virginia’s International Crisis Simulation, commonly referred to as VICS, is a crisis management conference, involving the reenacting of key historical events and potential international crises. The conference demands extensive preparation and research, persuasive role-playing, and agile debating skills.

The ODU team competed against, and bested, other top-rated national competitors, including New York University, Princeton, Vanderbilt, Florida State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Pennsylvania and many more collegiate teams.

The award list:

- Outstanding Large Delegation: Old Dominion University

- Best Delegate: Nicolas Shinn (Sophomore, International Studies)
  Committee: All-Party Conclave of Kurdish Nationalists
Outstanding Delegate: Sean McGuffin  
(Junior, International Studies & Political Science)  
Committee: Congress of Vienna

Outstanding Delegate: Brian Jay Rinaldo  
(Graduate Student, Comparative Literature)  
Committee: Future South Korean Cabinet

Outstanding Delegate: Frans van Eysinga  
(Senior, International Studies)  
Committee: United States of America, 1902 Venezuela Crisis

Honorable Delegate: Kym Ganczak  
(Graduate Student, International Studies)  
Committee: The Deluge

Verbal Commendation: Matthew Trenton  
(Freshman, undecided)  
Committee: Fourth All-Russian Congress of Soviets

Verbal Commendation: Christopher Steadman (Sophomore, Geography)

Committee: Secretary General's Good Offices: Future South Korean Cabinet, 2015

The sweep at UVa came just one month after ODU's dominating performance at the Ohio State University Model UN Conference, where ODU sent just four delegates but walked away with three awards, including two coveted Best Delegates (first place).

What made the difference in Charlottesville? Above all the training and prep work, which was phenomenally professional, methodical, and demanding, in the weeks leading up to the event. The MUN Society put in the hours, with regular training and a major practice committee the before leaving. The results were plain to see.

Not only were there winners among MUN veterans like Brian Jay Rinaldo and Kim Ganczak, but even conference first-timers like Frans van Eysinga and Matthew Trenton were recognized at the award ceremony.

Van Eysinga specifically stressed the importance of the training and practice committee experience, noting that the practice simulation helped greatly in his preparation, especially in the arcane workings of actual crisis committees.