

PRESS RELEASE

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## **MODEL UN TEAM ATTENDS NATIONALS AND BRINGS BACK AWARDS**

The University of Montana's Model United Nations Team recently returned from its fifth trip to the National Model United Nations Conference held in New York, with two awards for its representation of the Union of Myanmar. The team won the "Outstanding Delegation" award which is the highest award granted to university teams. This places the University of Montana team in the top 10% of the 192 countries represented at the conference. The University of Montana team outcompeted schools such as Stanford University, Syracuse University, University of Washington, University of Heidelberg, and Cal Poly. In addition to the top award, Stephen Carnes and Tyler Campbell also won "Top Delegate", an award which is distributed based on votes by fellow delegates for their work on the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as Myanmar. The award results for the national conference are available at

[http://www.nmun.org/ny11\\_downloads/NMUNNY%202011%20\\_Marriott\\_%20Awards%20Posting.pdf](http://www.nmun.org/ny11_downloads/NMUNNY%202011%20_Marriott_%20Awards%20Posting.pdf)

The conference was held in midtown Manhattan from April 19-April 23, 2010 and was attended by 340 schools in the US and abroad, including schools from Europe, the Middle East, South America, Japan, and China.

The UM students attending the conference were Thecla Backhouse-Prentiss (team president), Allison Connell, Marissa Perry, Kristin Smith, Tyler Campbell, Stephen Carnes, Tori Ainsworth, Brianna Sefcak, Gabriel Heyl, Merrin Chivers, Luke Sims, and Robert Cahill. These students worked in teams of two and filled six different committees with diverse topics.

At Model UN conferences, students participate in simulations of the United Nations sessions, debating, negotiating, caucusing, drafting, and voting on resolutions in an attempt to find solutions to real world problems. On WIPO, Stephen and Tyler focused their efforts drafting a resolution to solve patent problems with HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals. On an Economic and Social Commission, Marissa and Merrin unanimously passed a resolution on biodiesel technology to provide basic energy needs to impoverished populations. On the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Thecla and Allison worked on the creation of nuclear security zones to establish consensus on financing and technology. Luke and Gabriel worked on arms trafficking on the General Assembly First Committee, and similarly, Brianna and Tori focused on drug trafficking on the General Assembly Third Committee. Robert and Kristin wrote resolutions on economic concerns and trade issues within the General Assembly Second Committee.

Funding for the trip was provided by the Alumni and Friends of Montana Model UN, the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, the Vice President for Research, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Political Science, the Mansfield Center, the Office of International Programs, Davidson Honors College, ASUM and MUN Club Fundraising.

For more information on the conference, please visit the website of the National Model UN conference, <http://nmun.org/participating.htm>, contact Montana Model UN Team President Thecla Backhouse-Prentiss, [thecla.backhouse-prentiss@umontana.edu](mailto:thecla.backhouse-prentiss@umontana.edu).