



Spring 3-13-1996

Model United Nations' Award Won by Illinois Wesleyan Students

Bob Aaron
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "Model United Nations' Award Won by Illinois Wesleyan Students" (1996).
News and Events. 6584.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6584>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

March 13, 1996

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

Model United Nations' Award Won by Illinois Wesleyan Students

Editor's Note: Winnebago resident Phil Huckelberry, a sophomore majoring in political science and history, received the Best Delegation award at a recent meeting of the Midwest Model United Nations in St. Louis. His family resides at 607 Mallard Rd., Winnebago, Ill.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Watch out Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Madeleine Albright--there's a new crop of wannabe United Nations' diplomats eyeing your jobs and they've already won an award certifying their skills at wheeling-and-dealing.

The future candidates for the plum U.N. posts of secretary general and U.S. ambassador are a group of Illinois Wesleyan University student-diplomats who won a Best Delegation award at the Midwest Model United Nations in St. Louis, Feb. 28-March 2.

The IWU students served on the Special Political Committee, one of four panels that politicked at the mock U.N. session. They played the role of Japanese U.N. delegates, sharpened their negotiating skills by hammering out resolutions, built coalitions, and brought resolutions to successful votes.

The IWU students triumphed where the real U.N. has failed. They won "committee" and "General Assembly" approval for a resolution calling for an international conference on extradition, including discussion of the need to establish an international criminal court. Extradition is the legal surrender of a criminal to the jurisdiction of another state, country, or government for trial.

Phil Huckelberry, an IWU sophomore majoring in political science and history from Winnebago, Ill., and Soe Naing, a sophomore majoring in chemistry from Ethiopia, received the award from the Model U.N. staff, who selected winners in various competitions.

"I think I won the award," Huckelberry said, "because I made more of a conscious effort than other 'delegates' to role play. I really tried to represent Japan's interests."

Junaid Ahmed, an IWU senior majoring in economics and political science from Dhaka, Bangladesh, was Japan's "U.N. ambassador" and chief architect of the extradition resolution.

"This was a very satisfying experience," Ahmed said. "We should have an international criminal court and maybe one day it will be possible."

Ahmed said that Model U.N. staff made Best Delegation awards based on the success of "countries' in passing resolutions, caucusing with other "nations," and in bringing opposite sides together on various issues.

The IWU contingent's extradition resolution was passed in the mock General Assembly with just a single amendment dealing with regional extradition treaties, which are commonly used by Middle Eastern nations. Other resolutions, Ahmed said, were loaded up with as many as five amendments.

"Language was added to our resolution," Ahmed said, "to investigate looking at regional extradition

(more)

Winnebago Resident Wins Model U.N. Award/2

treaties. Therefore, Middle Eastern nations abstained rather than voting against our resolution.

"We wanted something," Ahmed added, "that Western nations and the developing bloc could agree on. We wanted our resolution to be positive. Our resolution was unique in that it placed responsibility for creating an international criminal court on a separate conference rather than on the United Nations, where it would be a burden. That won us support from other countries."

Only two mock General Assembly votes were cast against the "Japanese"-crafted extradition resolution, according to Ahmed, who pointed out that it passed immediately without debate.

To win smooth passage of the resolution, Huckelberry lobbied other delegations until 2 a.m. after deliberations ended at 11:30 p.m.

Huckelberry learned several lessons from his model U.N. experience.

"I learned the importance of precise language," Huckelberry said. "I also learned that knowing the rules is No. 1, especially intricate rules around floor procedures like when to call for motions."

IWU's Special Political Committee team also tackled issues involving refugees and domestic rebellions.

Huckelberry and Naing won the Best Delegation award as model U.N. rookies in a competition pitting them against committees staffed by graduate students and undergraduates with three or four years' of model U.N. experience.

Among other campuses winning awards at the model U.N. were the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign, DePaul University, University of Texas-Austin, Alma College, and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

The model U.N. gives "student-diplomats" the chance to find out what's it like to cope with some of the thorniest diplomatic problems facing the 50-year-old United Nations: peacekeeping operations in killing fields like the former Yugoslavia, a crippling \$3.4 billion debt, sanctions against some of the world's leading bad boys like Libya and Iraq, and the hardships of 27 million refugees worldwide?

About 15 Illinois Wesleyan University students got a taste of life as U.N. diplomats, when they joined about 500 other students from approximately 25 campuses in a simulation of U.N. operations.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,850 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$25 million science building opened in the fall of 1995. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition.