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## Best Delegation Award IWU "Student-Diplomats" Win Model United Nations' Honor

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March 11, 1997

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**Best Delegation Award****IWU "Student-Diplomats" Win Model United Nations' Honor**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Seven "student-diplomats" from Illinois Wesleyan University won "best delegation" honors at the Midwest Model United Nations meeting this month in St. Louis for their politicking on the floor of the General Assembly as representatives of Japan.

Only three groups won "best delegation" awards at the annual simulation of U.N. activities, which attracted 500 college students from campuses stretching from Indiana to Oklahoma.

"The seven-member Japan delegation from Illinois Wesleyan was very busy politicking on the floor of the General Assembly," said Robert Leh, IWU associate professor of political science and the students' faculty advisor. "They were arm-twisting and frequently addressed the General Assembly on trade and environmental issues.

"They also worked hard in committees," Leh added, "producing amendments to resolutions."

The award was conferred on the "Japan delegation" by the Model U.N. staff, many of whom are former simulation participants.

"The purpose of the Model U.N.," said Leh, a former Midwest Model U.N. board member, "is to provide students the opportunity to learn how the United Nations operates by participating in a realistic simulation.

"This is a very valuable experience," Leh added, "since it reinforces skills students learn in college--skills like organization, speech making, writing, and debating. They develop strategies and put those strategies to work in terms of their work on resolutions."

Students are assigned to various General Assembly committees, including: the Economic and Social Council, Security Council, and the Historic Security Council, where specific events involving the United Nations are reenacted. This year, the Historic Security Council zeroed in on 1956, when a dispute over control of the Suez canal led to a clash involving Egypt, Israel, Britain, and France, and the Soviet invasion of Hungary, which quashed a reform movement that threatened communist power in Budapest.

Eleven IWU students participated in the U.N. simulation. Seven were assigned to the Japanese delegation, while four represented Ukraine, a former Soviet Union republic.

Among issues capturing the attention of the Japanese delegation were trade matters

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surrounding intellectual property rights and foreign aid. "Japan leads the United States in providing foreign aid," Leh said. They also worked on issues involving oil, scrap iron, iron ore, and aluminum because Japan is not a country rich in raw materials.

The Ukrainian delegation was concerned about building stronger ties to the West, especially Western Europe, focusing on issues like joining the European Union and the future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the west's military bulwark against the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Members of the Japan delegation were:

- Andrew Beath, a freshman economics major from New Plymouth, New Zealand.
- Michelle Ewert, a freshman majoring in international studies from Ithaca, N.Y.
- Phil Huckelberry, a junior majoring in political science from Winnebago, Ill.

Huckelberry headed the Japan delegation.

- Sunil Jagwani, a freshman majoring in computer science from Jodhpur, India.
- Soe Niang, a junior majoring in computer science from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Jarrett Ruffino, a freshman majoring in political science from Barrington, Ill.
- Julie Waryjas, a freshman majoring in economics from Willowbrook, Ill.

Members of the Ukrainian delegation were:

- Ann Marie Anandappa, a junior majoring in political science from River Forest, Ill.
- Jarod Bona, a junior majoring in political science from Rochester, Ill. Bona headed the

Ukrainian delegation.

- Esther Condos, a sophomore majoring in political science from Elliseille, Mo.
- Minari Fernando, a sophomore majoring in international studies from Nugegoda, Sri

Lanka.

The Midwest Model United Nations took place, Feb. 26-March 1, in St. Louis at the Hyatt at Union Station.

Leh is optimistic about the United Nations' future, despite growing financial problems, controversies over international peacekeeping, and squabbles over the role of the 185-member country organization in the post Cold War world.

"I think the United Nations is, perhaps, better adjusted to the present international situation than the big powers," Leh said, "who have no authority in the present situation."

Leh thinks "it's terrible" that nations like the United States have welshed on paying

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their dues to the United Nations. "It's a way to keep the U.N. throttled," Leh said.

As of November, 1996, member states owed the U.N. more than \$2.5 billion--\$1.8 billion for peacekeeping operations and \$700 million for the regular U.N. budget. At that time, the United States owed the U.N. more than \$1.4 billion, more than any nation.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,900 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 \$4.6 million Center for Liberal Arts--a facility housing 60 faculty offices, six classrooms, and other facilities for social science, humanities business and economics, and interdisciplinary studies' faculty--is slated to open next fall, as well as a new \$6.8 million residence hall. 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.