



# A letter from Dean Jeff Crane



Guinea-Bissau, Algeria, Ethiopia, Malta, Mauritania, Paraguay, and Uzbekistan. I will be reading everything I can find about these countries in the next six months. Why?

Because in April, I will attend the Model UN conference in New York City. Not only will I be attending with students from Cal Poly Humboldt who have immersed themselves in all things related to the above mentioned countries, but thousands of other undergraduates from around the world. Our students will be prepared to deliver speeches and debate issues in global politics, utilizing negotiation skills, evaluating and interpreting primary documentary materials, maps, charts, and statistical tables; and analyzing historical data to understand contemporary conflicts and issues.

As an alumnus, you already know that the Cal Poly Humboldt campus, surrounded by Redwood Trees and a short distance from the Pacific Ocean, is the perfect place to embrace the small university atmosphere. However there is a class only taught in the Spring semester that gives students the opportunity to jump out of cozy, rainy Humboldt and into the complex world of the United Nations. The course is PSCI 376/377, the Model United Nations has been taught by Noah Zerbe, Professor of Politics for the past 21 years.

The Model United Nations course is designed to

**“Participating in the Model UN program was without a doubt my most memorable and cherished experience at HSU. The classes and conferences were such a wonderful place to learn and grow, and they helped me develop skills and provided experiences that enriched my academic life and prepared me for my professional life immeasurably. The research and preparation that went into representing other perspectives and experiences, developing the confidence to speak in front of hundreds of people, enhancing my comfort in thinking quickly in ever-changing circumstances, collaborating and finding common ground with others who have drastically opposing interests, working on incredibly complex issues under extreme time crunches and deadlines...the list of positive things I learned could go on for pages and pages!” - Bridget McGraw, 2012 alumni, currently Senior GC Manager - Subgrants at Internews.**

examine the primary functions of the UN and its diplomatic role with respect to the political, economic, and cultural concerns of the global community. Through research, discussion, negotiation, debate, and participation in a five-day competition, students develop potential solutions to contemporary global problems. These issues include but are not limited to,

*Photo Description (top): A photo of students and Professor Zerbe at the Model UN Program.*

human rights, protection of the environment, economic development, disarmament, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the complexities surrounding war and peace.

Cal Poly Humboldt students compete at the National Model United Nations conference (Nationals) in New York and the Model United Nations of the Far West (MUNFW) conference in San Francisco, regularly racking up multiple awards and recognitions. It is a wonderful opportunity for the students to network, meet students from everywhere, make lasting friendships, and build professional relationships.

**"I feel particularly passionate about HSU's MUN program as I was able to experience it from many different perspectives over the years. Starting out as a very shy and quiet representative in a small committee, to co-chairing a large committee the first year HSU was invited to lead a committee, to facilitating the World Press journalism component of the conference in an alumni support role when HSU organized and led the entire event, I have treasured the variety and depth of my experiences with the program. It was such an enriching experience each time, and it's fantastic to see new generations of students finding joy and purpose through MUN. This is a program I whole-heartedly donated to for many years, as it remains such a transformative experience for any who participate! I can't imagine where I would be in life now without my years of MUN, as I am a much more well-rounded, thoughtful, empathetic person because of the experience. I also use the critical thinking and analysis skills I honed through MUN, not to mention the softer people skills, in my day-to-day work life in the international non-profit and foreign aid arenas."** - McGraw

Last year, the students had amazing success at both conferences. Cal Poly Humboldt represented four countries at competition (Burundi, Cuba, Finland, and Ghana), and brought a total of 24

students to the San Francisco conference and one country (Bhutan) at the New York conference, where 8 students competed.

**"For only the second time in the 17 years I've been bringing students to the conference, all four teams were recognized for their outstanding performance at the San Francisco conference, and the New York team received an honorable mention"** - Professor Zerbe.

Just to brag a bit, at the San Francisco conference, every team from Humboldt won an outstanding delegation award, recognizing their excellent preparation and conference work. In addition, Kathryn Lozano (from Humboldt's Cuba team) was selected to speak at the opening session in recognition that their written pre-conference materials were ranked the best in the region. Another student, Delaney Schroeder-Echavarria, was selected as the outstanding delegate of her committee (the Commission on Science and Technology for Development). She led the committee in the development of a resolution--passed by consensus--that addressed the role of technology in addressing food insecurity and uplifting Ingenious and small-scale farming practices. If that isn't very Humboldt, I don't know what is!

"I can honestly say that--between the awards the team won at the New York conference and the ones they won in San Francisco this weekend--this is the best performance Humboldt has had. I'm very proud of the hard work put in and amazing outcomes achieved by this team!" - Noah Zerbe

We are planning a Model UN reunion of past participants, if you are interested in more information, please email [cahss@humboldt.edu](mailto:cahss@humboldt.edu).

I am looking forward to seeing the students participate in six months!

