

The Insider

Model United Nations Illinois XXII



The Secretariat: (From back left to right) Pavel Tamas, Mark Briske, Danny Benson, David Desberg, Muhammad Yousuf. (Bottom left to right) Manisha Venkat, Spencer Haydary, Stuart Polen, John Hall, Peggy Kern.

Welcome to MUNI XXII

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign hosted the first Model United Nations Illinois in 1995 with 85 delegates. Today, MUNI XXII is proud to host nearly 400 delegates from across the Midwest. In past two decades of this conference, it has gotten more competitive and rigorous, and so have our delegates. We provide a platform for high school delegates to discuss subjects ranging from the refugee crisis to the hypothetical colonization of Mars. On behalf of the entire Secretariat, welcome to MUNI XXII!



Secretary General - Stuart Polen

On behalf of Illinois Model United Nations and the MUNI staff, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the twenty-second session of Model United Nations at the University of Illinois! My secretariat has been working on this conference since as early as May, and we hope that it shows through our quality staff and content.

This year, my goal was to showcase a very important global trend from recent months: the aggressive challenge of globalization. Most of our committees have been designed to show some facet of the topic, whether we are depicting the historical context of strained relations through Nehru's Cabinet or the challenges of today in the United Nations Security Council. Ultimately, I want each delegate to leave MUNI with a holistic perspective of global affairs, including everything from past to future. I hope that you are challenged to the fullest extent this year and that you think that MUNI XXII is the best conference of the year!

President of the General Assembly - Muhammad Yousuf



Hello! My name is Muhammad Yousuf and I am the President of the General Assembly at MUNI XXII. I'm a senior studying philosophy, political science and gender and women's studies. I'm also an activist and have been the president of the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) for two years. I oversaw the creation and planning of all General Assembly and Crisis General Assembly committees for this year's conference. My goal was to make each committee challenging, innovative, and educational. To me, MUN is important for the transferable skills and knowledge it provides. Additionally, I've made some of my closest friends through MUN here at UIUC.

Under-Secretary General of Simulations - Pavel Tamas

I am a senior studying finance and accountancy with a minor of history here at Illinois. This is my fourth and final MUNI; I've worked as a Simulations Director, Chair and Simulations Staffer over my MUNI career, so I've seen a little of everything with the Crisis Committees. This is my sixth consecutive year in Model United Nations as well. Outside of MUN, I enjoy reading about financial history and practicing Karate.

As MUNI turns 22 on the sesquicentennial anniversary of our University, I'm excited to celebrate the progress that both our club and University has achieved. We've seen advances that have changed the fields of economics, politics and science. Just as our excellent land grant university has embraced advancement in all these fields and more, I look upon my simulations department made up of finance, computer & electric engineering, advertising, political science, and aerospace engineering majors and reflect upon that same diversity of thought that makes our University strong. We hope that our range of committees does the same. I hope you all show a mastery over pragmatism, focusing on collaboration to create policy that is truly meaningful.



I am extremely excited to be your Under-Secretary General for Simulations and I hope you all enjoy your experience over this weekend here.

Member spotlight: MUNI Delegates Then & Now

Peggy Kern

Hi everyone! My name is Peggy Kern and I'm a freshman here at the University of Illinois. In high school, I participated in MUNI twice and they were some of my most influential academic experiences. I chose to join MUN in college and it has ultimately led me to travel to multiple conferences in the U.S.



and win awards in conferences hosted at St. Louis and Chicago. I am the Under-Secretary General of Merchandising and Public Relations at MUNI XXII, so I run the social media for our conference as well as oversee the two MUNI stores. I am very grateful for Model UN and all the amazing people and experiences that it has brought me.

Danny Benson

I would like to say that I was great at Model UN the first time I participated in high school, but unfortunately, that wouldn't be true. I started my MUN career as a freshman and was not the best. I attended MUNI as a sophomore and even though I had

gone to five different conferences, I had no awards

under my belt. It is fitting however, that my first award came from this conference. Three years later, I now sit on Secretariat as the Under-Secretary General of Logistics and Operations. MUNI is a unique conference that covers a diverse range of topics, historical, modern day, and future. Looking back at my 15-year-old self attending this conference, it is crazy to see how I have changed. Model UN has taught me the importance of personal confidence, how to use logic to solve issues and develop interpersonal skills that will help me for the rest of my life.



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