



# SSUNS 2013

## *The Future is Yours*

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## Welcome to SSUNS 2013!

Dear Prospective Faculty Advisors,

My name is Serena Wang and I will be serving as the Chargée d'Affaires for the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Secondary Schools' United Nations Symposium, or SSUNS 2013. I am absolutely delighted to welcome you to what will be the most innovative, exciting, engaging, and dynamic conference that SSUNS has ever seen. As your Chargée d'Affaires, I will be your primary point of contact with the conference—it is my role to guarantee that all of your questions are answered and all of your doubts are assuaged. My role as Chargée is to keep you informed on everything that you need to know about SSUNS every step of the way from registration, to country assignments, and finally closing ceremonies. As a part of this role, I will be releasing monthly newsletters with important information including how to register, introductions to the dais members, how to prepare for committee session, news on the conference charity, what to do while visiting Montreal and more. On a more personal note, SSUNS holds a special place in my heart as this conference marks my eighth year with SSUNS. I hope that my passion and dedication to SSUNS carries through in these newsletters, and I am very excited to have the opportunity to meet each and every one of you in November!

### Did you know?

**SSUNS held its first session in November 1993. Since then, SSUNS has become the largest high school level Model UN conference in Canada with over 1000 delegates attending annually**



Sincerely,  
Serena Wang

# What is Model UN?

The goal of Model United Nations is to educate students on the importance of international relations and to motivate them towards a more proactive role on global issues. Through the simulation of committees within and affiliated with the United Nations, students will have the opportunity to play the role of a delegate and to debate on topics ranging from international peace and security, the global economy, world health, sustainable development, the environment, and much more.



*The SSUNS helmets are real peacekeeping helmets from the United Nations that are awarded to the Best Small and Large Delegations at Closing Ceremonies*

# What is SSUNS?

The Secondary Schools' United Nations Symposium (SSUNS) is the largest Model UN conference in Canada held at the high school level. First held in 1993, SSUNS (hosted by McGill University) annually welcomes over 1000 delegates from around the world to the beautiful city of Montreal, Canada for a weekend of insightful debate, one-of-a-kind crises, and memorable adventures.

## "The SSUNS Bird"

*Though it may look like a dove, the SSUNS bird is actually a martlet, which also serves as the mascot for McGill University. The name "martlet" comes from the French word for "merlette." As the McGill mascot, this duck-like bird has no legs because it is constantly soaring towards higher education.*

# What's new at SSUNS...

## **PAYPAL**

Delegations will now be able to pay their registration fees when they register online via PayPal. More information can be found at <http://www.ssuns.org/payment>.

*Important: Please note that there is a 3% merchant fee associated with PayPal that will NOT be covered by SSUNS. Delegations are responsible for covering this cost individually should they wish to pay via PayPal.*

## **ONLINE COMMITTEE**

The Internet Governance Forum will be run as an entirely online and paper-less committee. This will be the first online committee to be held at SSUNS and the only committee where delegates will be able to use laptops in session.

## **TWO JOINT CRISES COMMITTEES**

For the first time ever, SSUNS will be holding two joint-crises sessions: The War of 1812 and The Korean War. These four committees are guaranteed to be a thrilling , and gripping experience. Bring your A game because absolutely anything can happen!

## **PASSING THE TORCH PROGRAM**

In the spirit of this year's theme, the "Passing the Torch" program is your way as a delegation to share your experiences with new delegations who are interested in coming to SSUNS. Delegations that register another new school in Canada or USA (minimum five delegates) will be waived the fee for two delegates. If the new school is from outside Canada or the USA, they are waived the cost for three delegates. Please note that a "new" school refers to a school who has not attended SSUNS in the last five years. More information can be found at <http://www.ssuns.org/torch> .

## **WEBSITE**

Check out the new and improved SSUNS website at <http://www.ssuns.org/>!



# The 2013 Committees List



## General Assemblies

Disarmament and International Security  
Food and Agricultural Organization  
World Summit for Children

## Economic and Social Councils

Internet Governance Forum  
African Union  
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations  
Commission for Social Development



## Specialized Agencies

Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers - 2008  
Tunisian Uprising (Bilingual)  
Organization of American States  
National Football League  
European Public Health Alliance  
Meeting of the Emirs  
UN Democracy Fund  
Newspaper Revolution 2020



## Crises

Ad-Hoc Committee  
Punic Wars  
Literary Committee: Robin Hood  
United Nations Security Council  
Joint: Korean War  
Joint: War of 1812



# How can you come to SSUNS?

## *Information on Registration*

So your delegation has decided to come to SSUNS 2013? Let me assure you that you have made an excellent decision! Allow me to walk you through just how easy it is to register with us. Before you know it, you will be finding yourself at the Delta-Centreille in Montreal this November!

### **STEP 1: Visit the SSUNS Website**

Any questions you may have about SSUNS can be answered at <http://www.ssuns.org>. Pick your favourite committees, meet the Secretariat , learn about scholarships, discover Montreal, learn about conference and hotel fees, and much more!



### **STEP 2: Calculate your conference fees**

SSUNS registration fees consist of 2 components:

- 1) **Non-Refundable delegation fee**
- 2) **Total fee per delegate attending**

The total fee will consist of the delegation fee (paid at the time of registration) plus the delegate fee multiplied by the total number of delegates attending. Information on conference fees can be found at <http://www.ssuns.org/payment>



### **STEP 3: Determine your top choices**

- A) Refer to the country-committee matrix at <http://www.ssuns.org/CountryCommitteeMatrix> to determine your country/NGO choices.
- B) Refer to the committees list at <http://www.ssuns.org/committees-list> for more information on Specialized Agencies and Crisis Committees. IMPORTANT! Please be aware that certain committees are by application only.



### **STEP 4: Register Online**

Starting May 21st, your delegation will be able to register online at <http://www.ssuns.org/registration>. IMPORTANT: SSUNS will be utilizing PayPal this year (please visit <http://www.ssuns.org/payment> for more information).



### **STEP 5: Confirmation**

Once your registration has been verified and approved. You will receive an email with login information for your new account on the SSUNS website. Please keep make sure to remember your login information as all future correspondence with SSUNS will be done through this account.

## **TIMELINE**

**May 21**      **Online Priority Registration**

**July 30**      **Priority Registration Deadline**

**October 8**      **Regular Registration Deadline**

**October 8**      **Hotel Registration Deadline**

**November 7–10**  
**SSUNS 2013**

## **IMPORTANT NOTES!**

- 1) Should you wish to have a spot in the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Secretary General, please indicate it in the application. Depending on the interest generated, the committee may be application based.
- 2) If you are registering by the priority deadline, please ensure that your cheque is received by July 20, 2012 to obtain the additional benefits.

# The 2013 Secretariat



**From Left to Right:** Shelby Levesque, Felicia Mazzarello, Nikhil Garg, Daniel Carter, Celeste Kelly, Arundhathi Desai, Anirudh Desai, Hilary Chu, Paola Daniore, Johnathan Schmidt, Serena Wang, Paul Moreau, Lucille Hua

**Secretary-General**

**Chargée d'Affaires**

**Undersecretary-General of Committee Affairs**

**Deputy of GAs & ECOSOCs**

**Deputy of Specialized Agencies**

**Deputy of Crises Committees**

**Chief of Staff**

**Chief of Operations**

**Director of Public Relations**

**Deputy Director of Public Relations**

**Deputy Director of Public Relations**

**Undersecretary-General Finance**

**Undersecretary-General of Information and Technology**

**Nikhil Garg**

**Serena Wang**

**Anirudh Desai**

**Daniel Carter**

**Hilary Chu**

**Jonathan Schmidt**

**Felicia Mazzarello**

**Paul Moreau**

**Shelby Levesque**

**Celeste Matthews**

**Arundhathi Desai**

**Paola Daniore**

**Lucille Hua**

# Close Up on the Secretariat...

## Nikhil Garg | Secretary General

**Major:** Joint Honours Economics and Finance, U3

**Hometown:** New Delhi

**Lived in:** Jakarta, The Hague, Lagos, Montreal, Singapore

**History with SSUNS:** Deputy USG GAs & ECOSOCs (2011), Chargé d'Affaires (2012)

### Why SSUNS?

Having been a delegate for numerous conference during high-school, it only felt appropriate that it was time to give back by planning a conference for high-school students. It's great to see how they adapt to the issues thrown at them and how they learn so much over such a short period of time.

### Vision for SSUNS 2013

Apart from envisioning a conference that runs logically well, my aim will be to ensure the delegates have an experience like no other and plan on introducing new training packages that could help them during the conference. Furthermore, we're looking to diversify our conference with more international schools such that SSUNS can truly become an international conference.

### How has Model UN changed you as a person?

Model UN as a delegate has helped me structure my thoughts well, taught me how to research and present arguments and more importantly, how to work together to solve the committee issues. There's no better platform than MUN, in my opinion, that could provide an opportunity like this.

### Interesting Fact

I climbed Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) after High-School!



## Serena Wang | Chargée d'Affaires

**Major:** Interdepartmental Honours Immunology, Minor in International Relations, U2

**Hometown:** Mississauga, Ontario

**Lived in:** Milan and Beijing

**History with SSUNS:** Delegate since SSUNS 2007, Crisis Staffer (SSUNS 2011), Deputy GAs & ECOSOCs (SSUNS 2012)



### Why SSUNS?

SSUNS holds a very special place in my heart as it was my first conference as a delegate back in grade nine. More importantly, SSUNS marked the beginning of my love affair with Model UN and helped me to develop an awareness for global affairs, as well as a recognition of the role we play in shaping the scope of the world we live in. SSUNS has not only made me more conscientious of current world issues and of our responsibilities as global citizens in the international community, but it has also inspired my interest in a future career in global health. This is why I am coming back to SSUNS for the 8th year in a row.

### What makes SSUNS different from any other conference?

The heart of SSUNS rests in the people. It is a conference that emphasizes the importance of building personal connections between delegates, faculty advisors, and staff. I believe it is this focus that reflects SSUNS' embodiment of the true spirit of the United Nations. The United Nations, after all, is a platform for discussion and collaboration based on interpersonal connections that allow for international partnerships. SSUNS emulates this spirit in every possible way. It is the international scope of its theme as well as the close personal interactions between its attendees and staff that make SSUNS the ideal conference.

### Interesting Fact

I travelled along the silk road one summer from Xinjiang (Northwest China) to Shanghai.

# At the heart of the committees...



## Brendan Sheehan | Crisis Director, Punic Wars

**Major:** Political Science and History, U2

**Hometown:** Mississauga, Ontario

**History with SSUNS:** Delegate since SSUNS 2009, Crisis Staffer (Caesar's Rome), Assistant Crisis Director (Homer's Iliad)

**How did you start Model UN?** I was drawn by my love for current affairs and politics.

**Why the Punic Wars?** The Punic Wars are often considered the first world war, spanning various theatres of the Mediterranean. It is considered the rise of Rome, but also the complete destruction of one of the most civilized cultures of the era. I am also a huge history nerd and aspiring Civil War buff. Four Score and Seven Years Ago!!

**How has Model UN changed you?** MUN has made me more confident and improved my debating skills, which has only helped in my career goal as a lawyer. Most importantly some of the closest friends I have made throughout my life have been through MUN conferences!

**Tip for returning delegates:** Be prepared for anything, no two MUN conferences will be alike. And SSUNS will particularly different!

**What do you love about McGill/Montreal?** McGill provides some of the best education in the world and accompanies that with the best people in the world. Montreal, is an exciting city that will never bore anybody!



## Eileen Bui | Chair, United Nations Security Council

**Major:** Physiology, U2

**Hometown:** Etobicoke/Mississauga, Ontario

**History with SSUNS:** Crisis Staffer (Somali War Joint Crisis), Vice-Chair (WHO)

**Why do you do Model UN?** MUN in high school was one of the best experiences in my life. I was definitely interested in the logistical/chairing side of MUN, so I wanted to continue that experience, especially since SSUNS and McMUN being two of the largest conferences in North America. Every MUN experience has been awesome—the delegates are fantastic, my committees are so engaging and interesting—it's what's made me return every year.

**Why the UNSC?** I'm especially excited about UNSC because I chaired Security Council, in high school with topics concerning Somalia. The response was so lively and interesting that I'm sure these top high school delegates would make this UNSC absolutely fantastic. Overall, I hope that we can give the delegates the most intense MUN experience they've ever had and make them mull over an issue that may very well explode in the future.

**How has Model UN changed you?** My MUN experiences, I think, have made me more confident, more knowledgeable about world issues and improved my ability to think on my feet. They've made me a more interactive person as well, teaching me valuable cooperation skills.

## Did you know?

SSUNS is one of 3 conferences run by the International Relations Students' Association of McGill (IRSAM) at McGill, a not-for-profit organization with special consultative status to the UN



# At the heart of the committees...



## Sophia Sunderji | Chair, World Summit for Children

**Major:** International Management with Minors in Economics and International Development, U3

**Hometown:** Atlanta, Georgia and Toronto, Ontario

**History with SSUNS:** Delegate since grade 10, vice chair and chair since starting McGill

**Why SSUNS?** Global affairs is something I've always been very passionate about. As a delegate, being surrounded by motivated and interested delegates was thrilling and it gave me the opportunity to learn a great deal not only about our current issues, but also about solving them.

**Why World Summit for Children?** The WSC is an incredible committee in that it focuses entirely on the future of children. However, this ultimately failed to materialize, despite the high levels of commitment and clear-cut nature of their goals. As a result, the WSC at SSUNS 2013 will be setting this historic committee in a present day context in order to address three pervasive issues that are faced by children today. I hope to encourage delegates to discover innovative solutions to these complex problems and to recognize the reasons for which the previous attempts had failed in order to ensure that this committee is successful in achieving its goals. This will naturally be challenging, however I have no doubt that the SSUNS delegates will be up to the task!

**How has Model UN changed you?** Through Model UN, I have realized the complexity of global issues and the difficulties in collaborating to solve them. While large multilateral institutions are certainly important in bringing together world leaders, I have also realized the inefficiencies that these systems often present. As a result, I hope to pursue a career in international development with a focus on grassroots change.



## Daniel Etcovich | Chair, Newspaper Revolution 2020

**Major:** Political Science, U2

**Hometown:** Montreal, Quebec

**History with SSUNS:** Second SSUNS, 7th conference on staff, 20th MUN conference overall

**Why SSUNS?** I heard about SSUNS through some friends and jumped right in. The perfect balance of light-hearted amusement that makes a high school conference fun and the professionalism and commitment to content quality made me realize I wanted to keep being involved.

**Why Newspaper 2020?** Newspaper Revolution 2020 has the unique opportunity to explore the future of the media industry, through an examination of how newspapers will function in the new mobile market, but also through understanding how digital information will change the careers and integrity of journalists. The delegates will get the chance to learn about new media while also thinking about the really important questions of when, what, how information should be shared in an age of instant access.

**Tips for first time delegates?** Speak often, and prepare speeches in advance. The more you speak, the more comfortable you'll become. You'll be nervous at first, you may even stumble through your speeches, but it will help you learn to judge the crowd, timing and your own speaking style. By preparing speeches or talking points before going up, you give yourself a structure to fall back on, which should ease the nerves. Just make sure to get up there and speak as often as you can!

**Advice for returning delegates?** Learn from previous lessons, but don't expect the committee to follow the same formula as last time. Each committee has a different mix of personalities and each topic has a different focus for each delegate, so don't get caught up expecting the same strategies to work every time. Be dynamic, get to know people in the room and start learning to understand the feel of a room.

## Did you know?

SSUNS alumni have gone on to work at the World Bank, and study  
Berkeley, McGill, University of Toronto, Norwegian School of  
Economics, or Oxford

