**Western team to represent Macedonia at 2014 Model UN**

By Kevin Noreen, Staff Writer

In April, six Western students went to New York City to participate in the Model United Nations conference, as representatives of Macedonia. Every year, students from around the globe come together at the event to represent actual member states of the United Nations in a simulated convention. By serving on twenty different committees, students work together as ambassadors of delegated nations to create solutions to real global issues.

Political Science Major Stefano Ballesteros attended the Model UN while he was at school in Houston. As a recent transfer student to Western, he attended again this year. Ballesteros said that he was initially skeptical of the United Nations, but being a part of the conference gave him a new understanding of how the UN works to solve issues of development, international security, and human rights. During his previous conference, Ballesteros worked to pass a treaty about the arms trade.

“I got to see this global issue in a real light,” he said. Ballesteros further added that working on something bigger than him, with students from all over the world, provided an outstanding opportunity to learn and grow. He indicated that embracing differences rather than simply putting them aside is key to international problem solving. “I saw how you could actually get together with people to find solutions to real problems,” he said. “We’re all the same.”

Politics and Government Professor Maria Struble accompanied the students to the symposium, which the group hoped would become something Western takes part in every year.