



## Model UN Class Brings Home Award, Defeats NCSU

### □ Conference brings international perspective on world relations.

JONI SMITH  
Managing Editor

Students enrolled in Dr. Jim Piazza's Model United Nations class traveled to the Evergreen Conference Center and Resort in Atlanta, Georgia, Nov. 15-18 to compete in the 13th Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference (SRMUN).

While at Model UN, the students debated issues affecting Bangladesh, the country Piazza chose for the students to research and represent at the conference.

"I chose Bangladesh because I wanted the students to have the opportunity to learn about a country that played a role in every aspect of the real UN, including the Security Council. I also wanted the Meredith delegation to be responsible for representing a country that I was very familiar with so I could be a resource tool," Piazza said.

Some students also campaigned for the International Alliance for Women (IAW), a non-governmental organization that is concerned with women's issues on a global scale.

Students representing Bangladesh chose to work on committees such as the Security Council, the General Assembly, the General Assembly Plenary, the World Bank,

or the Commission on Sustainable Development, and students representing the IAW chose to work on the Economic and Social Council or the Commission for Human Rights.

The weekend was an action-packed event with delegate meetings beginning between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. every morning and not ending until 11 p.m. While in meetings, the delegates debated issues ranging from water rights in Israel and Palestine to multilateral debt relief.

Junior Sejal Patel and sophomore Karen Bobinyec who served on the General Assembly representing

Bangladesh said that they were nervous at first but the conference turned out to be a worthwhile academic experience.

The students arrived at the conference not knowing what to expect because none of the students or Piazza had participated in the SRMUN at the college level prior to this year.

"I came into this experience hoping we would be able to survive the competition our first year. I had no experience with SRMUN so I was really hoping the students wouldn't be intimidated by the other del-

egations," Piazza said.

The Meredith delegation representing Bangladesh exceeded the expectations of many. The students received Honorable Mentions at the conference, making their rigorous preparation worthwhile.

Meredith. I know NCSU now takes us more seriously since we brought home an award our first year at SRMUN, and they have been several times and came home empty-handed this year," commented junior Hunter Eddins.

edgeable," Piazza said.

He also said that he hopes his students gained self confidence in public speaking, debating and interpersonal negotiating as well as understanding that international issues are real, and people all over the world are talking about them.

Angel Fumagalli, a junior in the Model UN class said that as an international student, attending SRMUN enhanced her public speaking skills.

"SRMUN is a time for everyone to turn their attention to other nations to guarantee a more peaceful future," she said.

"I think it was so interesting and rewarding for both the students and the professors to see everything we learned in class come together at SRMUN," said sophomore Ani Jackson.

The Model UN class has certainly added a new dimension to the international studies program at Meredith.

The students are enthusiastic about beginning a Model United Nations club at Meredith so students will have the opportunity to go to a Model UN conference every semester.

Many students commented on how they thought the qualities promoted by SRMUN would be beneficial even after their college years are over.

Junior Anna Wheeler said, "I really enjoyed Model UN, and I think others would also. I met so many people and learned so much about myself as well as others. I gained a lot of confidence in myself and in Meredith's ability to prepare me for the real world."

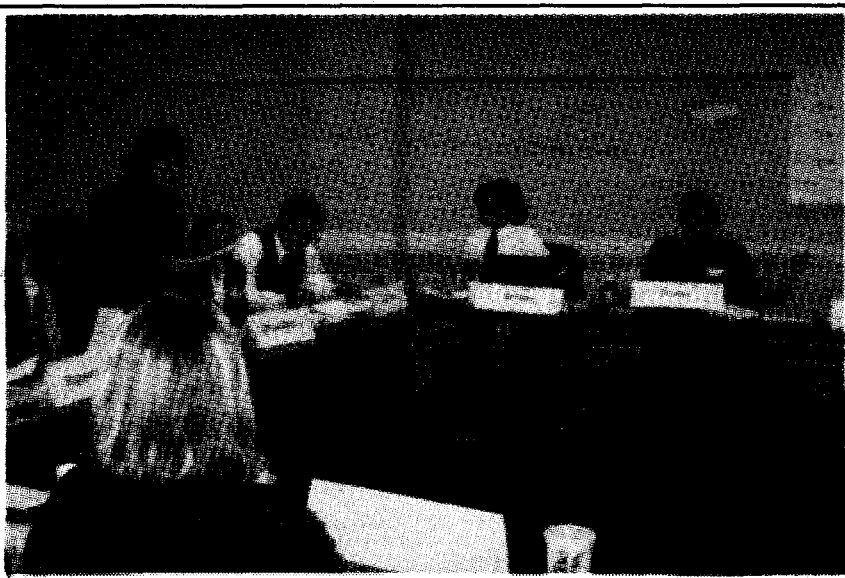


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To receive an award at the Model UN, a delegation must place in the top five during every session in each committee. There are three sessions per day.

Delegates are judged on preparation, ability to maintain the character of the country or NGO, strength of diplomatic skills and accordance with parliamentary procedure.

"Model UN was the most intellectually challenging event I have participated in during my time at Meredith College. I believe our respected representation has opened doors for

Meredith won the award in a field of competition including Louisiana State University, Clemson University, North Carolina State University, UNC-Greensboro, Penn State University, Pace University, and Florida State University.

The preparation for the conference along with the actual duties performed by the students gave students experience in areas that will last long past SRMUN.

"It was exciting to see the students engage and adapt. It proves our students are adaptable, competitive, and knowl-



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