



Model United Nations of Alaska 2009

3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508 Tel. (907) 786-4897

March 16, 2009

Re: 2009 Model United Nations of Alaska Final Report

To Whom It May Concern:

The 27th annual Model United Nations took place February 26, 27, and 28th at the University of Alaska Anchorage. The topic was **Climate Change and Sustainability**. I have been an active participant in Model United Nations of Alaska since Middle School, where I started out as a page. This year I had the honor and privilege of being the Secretary-General. It never ceases to amaze me that these students and these resolutions could be the future of the world, and they start here at Model United Nations of Alaska. With that said, this will sadly be my last year serving on the Secretariat. However, I do not think that my experience and involvement with Model United Nations of Alaska could have ended on a better note.

The participants this year included students from across world with an entire team from China. The diversity of students made this conference entirely distinct. Many delegates hailed from remote areas around Alaska, including Shishmaref, Barrow, and Juneau just to name a few. These delegates come from areas where this topic is not only an intricate problem, but also a way of life. As a result of the ever changing world many, such as the Delegates from Shishmaref, have to adapt their way of life. The delegation from Shishmaref not only helped to shape the conference with their presence and insight, they also acted as the keynote speakers for this conference. Their presentation was very moving and did an outstanding job to set the tone. I loved that they spoke from the heart and at a level easy to comprehend. In addition, they were relatable, and that made the topic that much more real to those of us listening in the audience.

It was my hope that through this conference, Delegates would gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the relationship between states, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations in the international system. Approximately 225 college and high school students attended this conference. As I mentioned at multiple points leading up to and throughout the conference, this event would not be possible without the hard work and dedication put forth by all of our participants, in addition to the support and encouragement the faculty advisors provided.

As Secretary-General, it was my desire to inspire others in the same way that I

have been inspired. I conveyed through my opening statements and throughout the conference, that the United Nations sets the stage for positive change and we have the ability to make a difference. Every opportunity that I got I went into the committees to listen to what the students had to say and was impressed to hear the ideas that they were presenting. The students this year were not only well informed, but also compassionate and willing to cooperate on an individual level, which really stuck out to me. I think that the large majority exemplified what it meant to be part of the Model United Nations of Alaska and in many cases exceeded our expectations. They were all dressed for success, respectful, and in my opinion there were no problems to report during the conference. I was impressed to see our veteran Delegates and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) assisting newcomers and welcoming those from areas across the state and the world and helping them to get the most out of the conference. I saw Delegates, NGOs, and Advisors coming together for a common purpose, to combat the issue of Climate Change and Sustainability. It was very encouraging for me to see from the outside looking in.

In light of the topic, we also tried to put on a conference that was as sustainable as possible by going green. We used an electronic page system for the first time and recycled products. The new changes worked out surprisingly well, after a slow start while we figured out how to get the technology working properly. For next year I would recommend two computers in each committee room; one for students to type their own page notes on (which would be monitored) and one for receiving incoming page notes that would be attached to a printer, further cutting down on paper products. Aside from a lack of pages, typists, and instant messenger monitors/typists, I felt that this change was doable and can be expanded upon in the years to come. It was extremely helpful among members of the Secretariat; it cut down not only on time, but also on paper and made quick effective communication possible! I also felt that doing lunch at the Cuddy allowed students to choose food that appealed to them and cut down on waste. I would highly recommend that again for next year.

In hopes of making our Model United Nations realistic as possible, we decided to implement NGOs. Once students got the hang of NGOs and understood their role, I felt that they were truly an asset to the conference. For next year, I would recommend that there be a Secretariat member devoted to NGOs and that NGOs be responsible for their budgets, so that going over budget does not become an issue. What I mean by this is that students keep a tally of how much they have contributed to what resolutions throughout the day and at the end of the evening turn that information into their Secretariat member. The designated Secretariat member can then check to make sure that NGOs are within their budget, check to see which resolutions passed, and note that on the tally sheet so that NGOs will be better informed on where and how their money is being used the next

day.

Overall, I look back on the conference as a success! As past Secretary-Generals and I have said, Model United Nations of Alaska is about better understanding human challenges and for students to participate in creating a dialogue to secure human dignity and present resolutions based on their research. Participating in committees will always be my favorite part. I was reminded of how enjoyable committees are when I stepped in as Chair throughout the conference. It is always rewarding to listen and help to guide the debate, watching the future of the world come to agreement, or not as the case may be, on things such as eutrophication, avian genocide, the sharing of nuclear technology.

From the Secretary-General's point of view, I was very pleased with my Secretariat. I feel like all of the Directors and Chairs did a great job and worked together well. We tried something new by including NGOs in the conference and I was very happy with how Directors and Chairs responded to them. It was particularly nice to see Directors like Mike Rose (Director of SC) and Sarah Krug (Director of FAO) calling them into their committees for clarification, advice, and funding. The introduction of NGOs could have gone either way and taken away from the overall conference and the UAA students' experience, but they turned out to be a positive addition to the conference. Mike also created a crisis scenario for the Security Council (SC), which played out very well and further reiterated that the SC deals current events, in addition to the assigned topic. The students were very enthusiastic and handled the situation extraordinarily well. I think it was a wonderful idea. This was Shawn Jeft's 10th year with Model United Nations of Alaska, and his second time as President of the General Assembly. He has an unbelievable understanding of the rules and knows them inside and out, which is why I have no doubt in my mind that he will continue to do a great job next year. Sean McGrane who was the Director for the United Nations Forum on Forests will be taking over as Secretary-General. Sean always goes above and beyond. He is very organized, a joy to work with, and a great people person. Whether or not he is in a position of authority, people always look to him for guidance; I think that he will do a magnificent job, especially paired with Sarah, Daniel, and Allison all returning Secretariat members.

It was both an honor and a privilege to be the Secretary-General for this year's conference. I hope that the delegates enjoyed the experience as much as I did. Please feel free to check the website for the passed resolutions, pictures, and a link to an article printed about the conference by *The Arctic Sounder*. Next year's topic should prove to be as equally noteworthy; **Technology!** I believe that it will peak many peoples interest, from space exploration to tinfoil and cardboard.

I want to again thank everyone for their commitment and contributions. Special

thanks to Elina Satterfield, without who none of this would have been achievable! She truly makes this conference possible, doing the entire behind the scenes administrative work. In addition to Elina and her thankless hours of work, I would like to thank Professor Kimberly Pace. She continues to inspire, encourage, and believe in all of us! It was a pleasure to work with and meet all of you. I hope that all of you come back next year and bring your friends!

Sincerely,

Kristi Keene
Secretary-General 2009