

THE GLOBAL COLLEGIATE

NEWSLETTER OF UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS- AMHERST MODEL UN XVI

Opening Ceremonies: Moving Knowledge into Active Service to Benefit Society

By Christin Howard, Co-Editor in Chief

This year's 16th annual UMass Model UN kicked off with the President of the International Relations Club and Director General of this year's conference Noosha Uddin giving a brief introduction to the conference and a welcome to all of its attendees. Noosha then introduced Secretary General Nihal Warawdekar who spoke on his long experience with Model UN which began "as a timid 8th grader back in Mumbai." Both speakers offered constructive advice and wisdom for the delegates to use in the weekend to come and in the rest of their lives.

Sonya Atalay, this year's distinguished speaker, then took the stage. Atalaya, an Ojibwa woman herself, is a professor of anthropology and indigenous studies at the University of Massachusetts. She is a prominent researcher in indigenous archaeology and anthropology and focuses her research on working with the communities in which she is conducting research, not simply on them.

Atalay began her speech by welcoming and greeting the attendees in her the native language of the Ojibwe people. First Atalaya introduced the concept of "Braiding Knowledge" which comes from the Ojibwe culture. It is the idea that compassion is central to attaining knowledge and that understanding other's perspectives and "pulling in all these different strands of knowledge" and braiding them together to create a comprehensive well rounded and compassionate picture of the issue at hand.

Atalay explained she has striven to use this mind set in her archeology research by talking and connecting with the needs wants and perspectives of the the communities in which she is conducting her research. This is a rather novel idea in academia, but is fast proving itself to be both effective and nuanced. It has been labeled CBPR or Community Based Participatory Research.

Atalay spoke on five different projects she has been conducting over the years. She said "I focused and started where I'm from in Michigan... and where my ancestors have always lived." After speaking with the elders of the community, Atalay realized that repatriation, or the returning of ancestral remains to sacred burial grounds, was of primary importance to the community.

She then spoke on her project in Turkey working on a 9,000 year old archaeological site which she called "the dig of the millennia." She spoke on the ethics of outsiders, such as herself, coming into a community and taking away knowledge and artifacts. "The fact that the local people had no access to the knowledge and that bothered me tremendously" she continued, "what's the point of science? what's the point of our work? who's it for?" Soon Atalay began to focus on how to fix this problem. She learned Turkish and went house to house to speak with the locals and share information about what she had learned. (Con't. on last p. 9)

Nixon's Cabinet: Crisis Off Vietnamese Coast Initiates Debate of Press Freedoms

By Leif Maynard, Press Delegate

NEW YORK CITY- A sense of urgency was in the air today as Nixon's cabinet convened to begin discussion on issues relating to the ongoing and highly political war in Vietnam. Nixon was inaugurated only a short time ago in January, 1969, and immediately faced issues foreign and domestic. The conflict in Vietnam with communist nations was at the forefront of national concern, as was the internal reaction to the war, an environment of widespread protest, draft evasion, and political organization. Promising to bring an end to the war quickly, Nixon began utilizing new missile technologies, and, by 1970, was able to move a large portion of ground troops away from highly dangerous border zones to more stable positions. Yet the war rages on, and the larger issue of the communist Domino Effect initiated by Chinese actions has only intensified.

Such pressing issues were fresh on the minds of Nixon's Cabinet as they convened today in a special session. As the meeting began, Cabinet members immediately found consensus on working to end the war as quickly as possible, many citing a fiscal and social responsibility to the American people. The importance of maintaining the United States' position as the global leader in the containment and eradication of communism was enforced by many members, most notably the highly influential Henry Kissinger, special defense advisor to the president. Secretary of State Rogers was the first to take aim at what he described as the "disastrous" policies of the Lyndon B. Johnson Administration, vowing to correct the major fallacies of past military actions.

The Cabinet had just settled into debate when their first major crisis arose in real time. A representative from the Navy notified members of a breaking story on CNN reporting that the USS Galveston fired on a fishing vessel containing Vietnamese civilians. The U.S. Navy denied the presence of civilians aboard the ship, however internally there was no confirmation on this matter. As the Secretary of Defense scrambled to launch an internal military investigation to uncover the specifics of the unraveling crisis, the conversation became a debate on how to make the public aware of such an issue, and the role of free press in American democracy.

Many members of the Cabinet immediately reacted in a way suggesting they do not value

governmental transparency and the public right to information, and much discussion commenced on how to best spin public perception of the Administration, especially in light of recent protests and this new crisis. Mr. Kissinger was most adamantly opposed to releasing more information to the press, citing the Yellow Papers of the Spanish-American war as an example of dangerous media sensationalization of national events. While voicing a valid concern, Kissinger's further statements on the press raised eyebrows as to whether the advisor had ever read the First Amendment of the Constitution (more on this to come). Other cabinet members, notably Secretary Stans of Commerce, reminded their colleagues that freedom of press is fundamental and constitutionally guaranteed in American democracy. In a private interview with a Collegiate reporter, Secretary Stans voiced support for "allowing greater access to the inner workings of the administration to foster trust between President Nixon and the American people at a time when civil unrest is running rampant among our youth."

As the debate on press freedoms began to escalate, more information on the USS Galveston crisis arrived through the Defense Secretary's military investigation. Eighty Vietnamese bodies, including women and children, were found near the location of the conflict, as well as evidence of enemy fire on the USS Galveston from the ship holding these civilians. After these new developments reached the Cabinet, a hasty press release was scraped together and approved by the entire committee. The statement included the new casualty statistics and explicitly stated that the military is taking "appropriate actions" based on the occurrence of enemy fire from a ship appearing to be civilian. While this release showed effort by the Cabinet to be more transparent, the statement was rather vague due to continuing lack of information in this early stage of the investigation. In the final moments before the Cabinet adjourned for the evening, Secretary of Defense Laird excitedly voiced that he had received further information on the crisis, leaving his fellow colleagues in suspense. Undoubtedly, tomorrow's session will continue the critical and contentious conversations on wartime strategy, press freedom, and the government's responsibility to remain transparent and accessible amidst a time of civil upheaval and tumultuous protest.

Convention on Climate Change: Revitalizing and Reforming Climate Agreements and their Discourse

by Spencer McGrath, Press Delegate



UN Framework Convention on Climate Change votes under Molly Travers.

NEW YORK CITY- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is focusing on a number of topics. Long-term financing and allocating responsibility, environmental justice, mitigation and adaptation to issues posed by climate change, carbon emissions reduction and renewable energy, threats to small islands with rising sea levels, as well as the role of gender and its effects regarding climate change have dominated discussions. The delegates are expected to come together, both developed and less developed nations, to create feasible solutions that will address these issues but also create methods for long-term protection of the environment.

The committee is drawing on both the Kyoto Protocol (1997)- 37 industrialized countries committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions- and the Paris Agreement (2015)- countries committing to lower the temperature increase and improve nation's abilities to deal with the impacts of climate change- as they attempt to form a new resolution that retains successful aspects and revises shortcomings of these previous agreements. Any resolution or accords delegates reach will have to deal with the complex power dynamics of the present nations beyond just authority; there are also various levels of power in terms of resources available and economic development.

The categorization of nations within the Framework Convention on Climate Change speaks to this additional layer of political navigation. Countries that are industrialized and members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in 1992 as well as those with transition economies- Russian Federation, the Baltic States, and a number of Central and Eastern European states- fall under Annex I. There is a higher expectation for these nations to provide resources to less developed nations to assist them in fighting

climate change and adapting to the effects already occurring. However nations who are members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development from Annex I, not including Transition Economy nations, are required to implement plans to reduce emissions and provide financial resources to developing nations that allow them to deal with climate change; this includes providing environmentally favorable technologies to developing nations as well as nations with a Transition Economy. Non-Annex I nations are developing nations; many are at higher risk from the effects of global warming. With rising sea levels many islands and coastal nations face great threats to the future of their nations. Within the committee there are 49 parties that are categorized as least developed countries. The United Nations give these nations special considerations due to their limited economy and resources which restrict their capacity to mitigate climate change and adapt to its already disastrous effects.

In the first committee, nations mostly expressed their sentiments about hoping to work together to create a resolution that would include both smaller and less developed nations' interests. Many island nations voiced concerns about rising sea levels while industrialized nations discussed the increase in carbon emission levels. There was also a dispute over whether the committee should try to create a solution through an economic perspective, by giving less developed nations resources to develop their economies, or dealing with the problem through an environmental perspective, increasing regulations on carbon emissions. This created an interesting dynamic of attempting to combine both perspectives while still addressing small nations concerns.

Colombia-FARC Peace Talks: FARC Shows New Initiative For the People and the Land

By Matt Crisp, Press Delegate

NEW YORK CITY- Surprising developments came out of the Colombian-FARC peace talks friday night as a FARC spokesperson announced their intention to change their name. FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia) has been in armed conflict with the Colombian Government since 1964. The organization promotes agrarianism and land reform however their methods in the past have been less than ethical. Their operations have been largely funded by kidnap and ransom, as well as extortion and distribution of illegal drugs.

However, a new side of FARC has come into the light as well. Their intention to change their name will, they hope, disassociate their organization with the group's past actions. In the negotiations, we have seen a new side to the group of guerrilla fighters. Their willingness to negotiate with the Colombian Government and hopes to see their integration back into society show the group's willingness to resolve the conflict. The Colombian Government has different ideas.

The mountainous jungles and lush fields have been cultivated continuously for hundreds of years but this long-standing tradition of agricultural production has been put at risk by the Colombian Government's recent propositions. Small pockets of petroleum lie far underneath the ancient hills. With foreign investment from the United States, they claim, they could bring in dangerous petroleum extraction works or unearth the small reserves of precious metals with which foreign corporations could obtain pennies on the peso elsewhere.

But how long would it be until the valuable farmland could return to it's current production potential? How long after the petroleum is burnt and the copper is unearthed and the coal blasted away in a steel furnace could the land once again yield the fruits of the Colombian people's labor? Unable to see the benefits of cocoa production, the Colombian Government would ruin ancient fertile soil in the name of profit: unsustainable and filthy. In the name of stability the Government would replace long-tilled fields with extraction plants that would run dry far before the profits would reach



Press Delegate
Matt Crisp speaks
with the Chairs of
the Columbia/
FARC Peace Deal.

The Promotion of Gender Equality in the 21st Century

By Emily Walsh, Press Delegate

NEW YORK CITY- In the wake of International Women's Day, 19 women and 4 men have gathered together for the annual commencement of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Since its creation in 1946, soon after the creation of the United Nations in 1945, the CSW has been "exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women" worldwide. Having fully recognized women's rights to equal opportunity in all aspects, the committee works to advance progress and advocate women's rights in all political, social, and economic fields.

Specifically, the CSW will focus on Millennium Development Goal #5 aiming to Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women. This goal strives to eliminate all forms of discrimination and provide all women with opportunities to succeed in every aspect of life. With a preliminary focus on inequality, specifically poverty and violence against women, the delegates will work together in order to change the course of the 21st century and its effect on women. In the past, the UN has faced many challenges in regards to promoting gender equality. This includes inadequate funding and no recognized force in order to lead the UN in proceedings based on gender issues. But, the advancement of women's inclusion is fully recognized by the UN for its importance, seeing that women's rights can only improve if those issues mentioned previously are addressed.

A majority of the countries represented in the CSW began by expressing their hope for the total implementation of Millennium Development Goal #5 with the specific aspiration of changing oppressive laws in order to do so. In recognizing that many of these issues are deeply rooted in not the laws in each individual country, but perhaps the cultures themselves, certain countries gave warning to political problems as well as social problems that would arise in rewriting said laws. The majority of the countries represented here do have laws pertaining to women's rights, but they do not have the necessary resources to implement these laws in every aspect of citizen life. Before any economic sanctions were to take place in order to correct the discussed laws, the education and empowerment of women in the realm of gender equality would be a crucial step in the total implementation of Millennium Development Goal #5 and the correction of law.

Women's rights is a multi-categorical issue. Although a one-step solution would be an idealized compromise to this, it simply cannot be done. In order to pass anything productive, all members must strive to work together to not only stop, but prevent the discrimination of women and girls worldwide. These men and women gathered here this weekend not only have the power to solve this problem but have the power to alter the view of women in the 21st century and for many generations to come. While many issues need to be considered when discussing women's rights, passing Millennium Goal #5 should be the primary issue.

Colombia/FARC Con't.

anyone but the wealthy.

Perhaps FARC, supporting a long tradition of sustainable agricultural production, pushing for the fair redistribution of land and advocating for the poor, really is the right choice for the people of Columbia.

Has Henry Kissinger Read the Constitution?

Citizens of America, the greatest democracy in the world, TAKE NOTE! It appears that Henry Kissinger, close advisor to President Nixon, is dangerously hostile towards the free press and its critical role in governmental transparency. The Global Collegiate has intelligence that behind closed doors in a special cabinet session, Mr. Kissinger harshly berated the media, calling the free press a "destructive force." In this reporter's opinion, especially at a time of such severe governmental distrust and national protest, such a statement from a senior official is cause for major alarm. Yet Kissinger did not end there, continuing on to explicitly state that the government must "Silence the media." Kissinger when questioned about these statements by the press, tried to backtrack in a characteristically superficial manner, simply stating, "God bless Democracy." While democracy may have God's blessing, Kissinger's statements suggest he extends no such blessing to that sacred institution. Has Kissinger read the First Amendment? Do we have a fascist in the White House? Only time will tell.

Leif Maynard, Press Delegate



Special Political: Globalization vs. Extreme Nationalism and Everywhere in Between

By Philly Brainin, Press Delegate

NEW YORK CITY- Delegates in the Special Political Committee on Decolonization made eloquent points on the topics of globalization, nationalization, and international relations from the get go. One topic that took the forefront in the committee was the issue of global relations, and the spectrum of ideas about how important global relations should be to countries. Delegates from Russia, North Korea, Mexico, Portugal, Algeria, Philippines, and India as well as many others, shared their countries' views on this issue, debated each others' views, and shared ideas during the unmoderated caucus.

Algeria was the first delegate to speak, and set the tone for the delegates with positive views about international relations, saying that she wanted to focus on globalization and working together to create a collaborative global community. Next, Mexico talked about wanting to look into national sovereignty and how it would affect trade. Russia, like Mexico, was pro-nationalism and the delegate from Russia shared a proverb- in Russian- that reflected their stance on globalization, "Guests are nice, but home is better". The delegate from Portugal spoke on the subject of the Brexit and how he and Portugal viewed the decision as "one of necessity", and touched on its problems with the EU. New Zealand spoke emphatically, saying, "We have an opportunity before us to create a new world order", and said the group should fulfill what the original goals of the UN. India was also big on nationalism, due to the hardships its people went through during British rule, and the Indian delegate stressed that his country DID NOT support violence, especially in neighboring countries like Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The delegate also said that the world needed to unite in times of crisis. The delegate of Philippines, also supportive of nationalism, discussed countries needing to focus on building a strong national identity before they looked outward to help other countries. The delegate from DPRK, or North Korea, said that "National sovereignty is essential for the character of the nation", and stressed the importance of national sovereignty while recognizing the right of people to govern themselves.

At this point, India motioned for the first caucus, a 10 minute moderated with 1 minute speaking time on the merits of national sovereignty. This motion passed, and India chose to speak last. Delegates from Mexico, Russia, Portugal, Sudan, Algeria, China, and India, discussed their opinions on national sovereignty, with countries that shared opinions on globalization sharing opinions on this, as well. During this caucus, Colombia spoke and said that Russia should stop making passive-aggressive comments towards other delegates, which received some laughter and acknowledgement from the Russian delegate.

The next caucus, a 5 minute moderated motioned by Mexico, with a five-minute addition and 1 minute speaking time motioned by the delegate from the Philippines, passed, and led to discussion from the delegates of Iran, Indonesia, France, Ukraine, and the Philippines, who emphasized their ideas about globalization. At the end of the caucus, another one was motioned by Russia, with an addition from Algeria, that led to further debate on nationalism, and prompted a comment from the delegate of Portugal, who stated that globalization has turned Portugal into a country "where countries who are down go to laugh in our face." In an extension of the caucus motioned by Russia, the delegate from DPRK stated that countries don't need aid to survive, and that globalization was driven by corrupting corporations seeking power. DPRK later motioned for a 5 minute moderated on unifying the Korean Peninsula. This did not pass, but a 10 minute unmoderated motioned by Mexico did. After the unmoderated, Algeria motioned for a 6 minute moderated on the unmoderated, which led to more opinions on globalization. The next and final caucus of the session was a six minute moderated motioned by Brazil on the definition of nationalism, which passed, and the delegate from Brazil, speaking first, spoke about how nationalism shouldn't have negative connotations, but instead as a country's patriotism and pride. Canada pointed out that although nationalism can bring a sense of patriotism and pride to a country, it can get out of hand, DPRK being a prime example of that. The delegate from Denmark got the last word, saying the globalization was important as it empowered the global economy. The delegate from the Philippines motioned to end the debate, and the motioned passed unanimously, ending the first session of SPECPOL.



Nihal Warawdekar giving his opening remarks while the secretariat looks on. From left to right: Noosha Uddin (Director General) Saahas Jain (USG Media and Technology) Jack Eccles (USG logistics) Vivian Yee (USG Delegations) Dan Juffre (USG Crisis) Brian Atwater (USG Staff) Molly Travers (USG Committees) Miranda Donahue (USG events).

International Cyber Security: The UN Works to Regulate Policy on Cyber Warfare

By Jae Publicover, Press Delegate

NEW YORK CITY - On 10 March 2017, the Disarmament and International Security Cooperation Agency's press statement was released:

The DISEC committee members decided on two key commitments to the peacekeeping of the UN and various countries: implementing an official definition of "cyber warfare," and determining an official set of laws regarding how to prosecute violators of cyber warfare.

The members of DISEC strongly stand by the enforcement of anti-cyber attack laws and the protection of the countries affected.

The DISEC members also recognized the threat of anonymity in relation to cyber attacks. The committee agreed upon discovering a method in which to utilize the Internet for public safety.

While there is an urgent need for a definition, there is concern about it not being applicable in the future, as technology is altering with no delay. The definition must be adaptable over time.

The DISEC also showed concern about international cyber assailants on fellow UN members, such as the Philippines. Without a proper definition, the country was not able to begin an investigation on China following their hacks, prompting unneeded tension within the United Nations.

The DISEC's anticipated conclusion is to determine and implement an official definition of "cyber warfare," and to monitor and prosecute international and third party offenders.

The DISEC looks forward to coming to a swift resolution regarding defining cyber warfare and producing laws to protect those affected.

Slaughter in Bogota

By Matt Crisp, Press Delegate

Streets run red in Bogota this morning after a night of fighting between FARC narcos and Colombian National Police. The violence began as a squad of Bogota Police raided a narco operational center in the center of the capital city. One officer was killed in the initial fighting but the building was soon overrun by reinforcements from the National Police.

In the aftermath 35 narcos lay dead. According to reports, only 15 were killed in the fighting, those who surrendered afterward were executed on the spot. The narco center, target of a government sanctioned raid, was believed to be working in the distribution of cocaine and methamphetamines in and around Bogota.

Model UN Veteran Secretary General Nihal Warawdekar Speaks on Perspective

By Christin Howard, Co-Editor in Chief



I met Nihal Warawdekar almost two years ago on my first day at UMass. I was a transfer student so suffice it to say I was a nervous wreck and in deep despair over meeting people with whom I would connect.

That is, until I met Nihal. Within our first conversation we had covered both of our life stories, the current political climate in both India and America, and our mutual affinity for donuts. I walked away from Nihal feeling a little more optimistic about the upcoming school year and the world in general, but that's just the type of guy Nihal is: smart, generous, and always quick with a laugh and a smile to make you feel welcome in any situation.

This year Nihal is Secretary General and is bringing the same intelligence and understanding to his position as he did with me in our first conversation. I sat down with Nihal to talk about how he got involved and his abiding love of Model UN.

Nihal started his career in Model UN in 8th grade back in Mumbai India, where he grew up. Back then Model UN had just emerged on the Indian academic scene. In fact Mumbai was one of only three cities in India in which Model

UNs took place.

Nihal, at the time a small 13 year old with ridiculously large hair, attended upwards of three conferences a year as a delegate. He explained that “because the circuits weren’t that well built we would attend college conference,” meaning that middle school students were expected to hold their own with high school and even college students sharing their positions. “I was terrified,” he laughed.

Here, despite the intimidating setting, Nihal fell in love with Model UN and the critical thinking and ability to slide easily between differing points of view that it required. Nihal attended several conferences a year and by his junior year had become an organizer and director of college conferences.

Then in 2014, Nihal made the momentous decision to attend college in the United States. Nihal happened to become friends with a student who was involved in the Internal Relations Club who introduced him to the President of the IRC at the time, Jessica Berger.

Nihal laughed when I asked him how he managed to get involved again in Model UN. “Jesse told me she had a chair open for the conference and asked if I would be interested and how many conferences I had been a part off” he chuckled then continued, “by that time I had been a part of 33, she thought I was joking when I told her.” Needless to say Nihal immediately became a part of both the UN and the IRC and has been an invaluable member since.

Last year Nihal was USG Committees and this year he ran for Secretary General and won unanimously.

I asked Nihal a little more about what makes model UN so important to him. “For me a lot of it is really about the ability to think critically,” he said. “I also think it’s hugely important because it puts you in a place where your opinion and your unique perspective is valued and invited; it helped me personally and I see it helping students every day”.

As he did in his opening speech, Nihal also spoke a lot about the importance of being open minded and exposing yourself, not only to new ideas, but to new ways of thinking about those ideas. “Depending on where you are from in the world there are certain things that you are brought up to understand, and different perspectives you naturally have on things,” he continued “in regular conversation or discussion you are only expected to understand someone else’s argument, never to actually embody it, you can hold it an arm’s length, in Model UN you actually are forced to fully personify a different perspective and think and act from that perspective, it’s really invaluable.”

To me, Nihal’s interest in nuance and subtlety represents the importance of the sort of non-dichromatic thinking that is, and will become, enormously important as this generation faces the huge, but hopefully not insurmountable, obstacles of the 21st century. Umass MUN is proud to have Nihal heading up the conference for 2017.

Opening Ceremonies Con’t.

She also spoke briefly about the challenges of such an approach, such as communal and governmental tensions. For example the Turkish government has forbidden her from continuing to communicate with the communities she was working with.

“Some people say we are creating problems with this technique but I say we are not creating problems we are just shining a light on problems that already exist that you’re ignoring,” Atalay said.

She ended by speaking to the attendee’s about “the power and the privilege that you have, think about what that means and what you can do with it” and about “moving knowledge into active service to benefit society.”

Atalay’s speech highlighted the importance of understanding and nuance, a theme which will be ever present in this years Model UN conference.

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