

UM NEWS

Contact:

Karen Adams, associate professor, UM Department of Political Science, 406-214-5451, karen.adams@umontana.edu.

High School Students Gather for Model UN Conference

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MISSOULA – Students from 17 Montana and Idaho high schools will participate in the 48th annual Montana Model United Nations Conference on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 25-26, at the University of Montana.

At the conference, 353 students will represent 95 of the United Nations' 193 member states, debating and writing resolutions addressing important international issues.

Students will participate on one of five UN committees: the Security Council, General Assembly Plenary, General Assembly First Committee (disarmament and security), General Assembly Second Committee (economic and financial) and General Assembly Third Committee (social and humanitarian). Each committee is staffed by a team of UM students from Associate Professor Karen Adams' Model United Nations class, a service-learning course offered by the Department of Political Science.

Events begin at 8:30 a.m. Monday with opening ceremonies in the George and Jane Dennison Theatre. The keynote address titled "The United Nations – Accentuate the Positive!" will be delivered by UM Professor Owen Sirrs. He teaches Arab studies to U.S. military and other government personnel at UM's congressionally funded Defense Critical Language and Culture Program. He is an expert on terrorism and on Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Egypt. All events are free and open to the public.

Students will work on the third floor of the University Center. They will meet in committees from late Monday morning through Tuesday afternoon. At 7:30 p.m. Monday, country teams will meet with other high school groups from their regions to learn about the politics, economics, history and culture of the region during Region Night. Students from the region will present, and MMUN staff who have studied and traveled in the region will lead discussions. An ice cream social will follow.

Closing ceremonies will be held from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in the UC North Ballroom. Secretaries General Madison Brooke and Christina Bloeman will announce awards for delegates, schools and conference staff. Five high school seniors will be awarded scholarships to attend UM.

The Montana Model United Nations Conference is funded by school and delegate fees, as well as contributions from the UM Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Division of Student Affairs, College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Political Science.

For more information, including participating high schools, visit MMUN online at <http://www.cas.umt.edu/mun> or call Adams at 406-214-5451.

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