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Model UN group returns from New York with new award

Edmonton-- Members of MacEwan University’s United Nations Club have once again gone to the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York and returned as winners. This time, the students picked up two awards. The club’s members were so excited to attend the mid-March New York conference that they formed two delegations, representing Brazil and Saint Lucia, to accommodate all 27 attendees.

Both MacEwan University delegations made such an impressive showing that each was named Distinguished Delegation. This was the same award the students earned at the 2012 conference. “MacEwan University has produced fine performances over the years at UN simulation conferences around the world,” says Chaldeans Mensah, political science faculty member and the club’s faculty advisor. “This double award is an indication of the student’s hard work and it points to productive careers in the future for the delegates as engaged global citizens.” In advance of the conference, students held fundraisers and silent auctions to fund their trip. But the hard work didn’t stop once they arrived. For four days, the students engaged in debates and negotiated with fellow delegates on pressing global issues under the theme of “Change Your World.”

Christina Emberley was one of a handful of the delegates who recently attended the NMUN – Latin America conference in January, where the delegation also won an Outstanding Delegation Award. “The UN club is Chaldeans’ baby, and because of that, for almost 20 years we’ve been going to model UN conferences,” says Christina, the UN Club’s vice-president of information. “Chaldeans is always there for guidance, but gives us the space for our executive members to run the club.” Christina points out that students from other post-secondary institutions have a specific UN course that allows them to prepare for the national simulation in class. MacEwan University’s delegations form out of the extracurricular club and the students prepare on their own time. “It speaks highly of MacEwan University that our students are preparing for this on their own time and are winning these awards,” she says. “I was blown away by the competition, but impressed by the level of commitment that our club members showed.”

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University is a comprehensive university offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training. Its philosophy of inspiring minds, academic excellence, and providing career opportunities continues to be its guide as it serves the educational needs of students across Alberta, Canada and the world.

Our uniquely personal learning experiences enable our students to thrive and grow not just as learners, but as individuals.

For further information, please contact:
David Behary, Media Relations Advisor
(780) 497-5586
Cell: (780) 231-5954
e-mail: beharyd@macewan.ca