

THS Students Find Success at Model UN Competitions

By Brett Rosen and Katie Boland

In the Human Rights Council committee at the University of Connecticut Model United Nations Conference, Trumbull High Senior Emily Block (representing the United States) and twenty other students from schools throughout Connecticut and the Northeast voted to debate and solve the issue regarding child soldiers in militias, a practice quite common in less developed countries. While each country present at the committee discouraged the use of child soldiers in war, several factions developed over the appropriate way to change the policies regarding this issue. Emily Block stressed the importance of building a solid infrastructure within the country and to help improve the countries where this treachery is occurring due to instability. Block then expanded on her position, “these countries could then look ahead to future generations of stability.”

With the support of the Trumbull Academic Challenge for Excellence (ACE) Foundation this November, members of Trumbull High School’s Model UN Club debated and wrote resolutions on various issues facing our world today at Model UN competitions at UConn and Fairfield University. From November 4th to 6th, ten members of the Model UN Club attended the 12th annual Model UN Competition at the University of Connecticut for the first time. The United States delegation included freshmen Chitra Nidadavolu and Rakshana Selvarajan, sophomores Brandon Capece, Gulrukh Haroon, Evan LeClair, Ryan McEniry, and Jeff Netting, junior Michael McGuigan, and seniors Emily Block and Brett Rosen. McEniry won the “Best Delegate” award for his work as the United States on the Committee on the Status of Women during the weekend. He said, “It was an amazing experience to represent the United States at the competition and come away with an honor for Trumbull High School.”

Two weeks later and again with the support of the ACE Foundation, the members of the Model UN Club displayed their diplomacy skills at Fairfield University’s Model UN Competition on Friday, November 19th. At this competition, there were three different committees and Trumbull’s club represented nine different countries. In the Peace Building Commission, sophomores Paul Philben and Jeff Netting represented the small African country of Guinea-Bissau, while senior Kayla Mitchell represented Australia and sophomore Lily Bauer represented Sweden. The Peace Building Commission looked at the conflict in the Sudan and discussed various resolutions for bringing peace to the region. Ryan McEniry represented Russia and Michael McGuigan represented Iraq in the Disarmament and Security Commission, which debated and discussed possible resolutions for the nuclear proliferation talks in Pakistan and India. Finally, in the Human Rights Council, Block represented France this time, while sophomores Usha Latif and Thomas Keane represented Senegal, Evan LeClair represented Brazil, and senior Shannon Green represented Nicaragua. This committee exchanged heated arguments in their talks about child soldiers in Uganda during the morning and the Hijab controversy in Europe in the afternoon.

At each of three Fairfield University’s committees, there were over ninety students from Connecticut and New York high schools. Trumbull High took home two out of the three top awards on that Friday afternoon. Michael McGuigan won the “Best Delegate” award for his work as Iraq on the Disarmament and Security Committee while President of the club Emily Block won the “Best Delegate” award for her work as France on the Human Rights Committee. Ms. Katie Boland, teacher at Trumbull High School and the club’s advisor, said, “I am so proud of the students in the Model UN Club. They came to the conferences prepared with the background information and represented their country with integrity and professionalism. It was a joy to see the students of Trumbull show their expertise and skill in an academic setting outside of the classroom. They were tremendous!”



Ryan McEniry (middle) won Best Delegate recognition for his work as the United States on the Committee on the Status of Women



Emily Block (left) and members of the Human Rights Council at UConn



Trumbull's Model UN Delegation outside the Dolan School of Business at Fairfield University



Emily Block and Michael McGuigan with their "Best Delegate" awards at Fairfield University