



NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY  
MODEL UNITED NATIONS TEAM  
2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT

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## MODEL UNITED NATIONS OVERVIEW

For students interested in international affairs, the NMSU Model United Nations program offers an enriching experience, regardless of their field of study or whether they are an undergraduate or graduate student. Model UN encourages personal and academic growth and helps students develop skills in public speaking, writing, diplomacy, and research. Students are introduced to global issues, such as peace and security, conflict, environmental sustainability, nuclear security, and human rights protection—among many others. Our members come from a diverse academic background, including government, economics, and international business studies with ages ranging from freshman to graduate student. The 2015-2016 year brought fourteen outstanding delegates to the team, including one graduate student, seven team veterans and seven brand new members.

## RECRUITMENT

Model UN members were recruited from the NMSU student body. The primary methods of recruitment were: posting flyers around campus, classroom presentations, and recruitment events on campus such as New Student Orientation. The team also uses announcements on email list-serves, including the Student Hotline and Government Student list-serve.

All interested students were required to go through a two-step application process consisting of a written application followed by an in-person interview. The written application consisted of several short answer essay questions in addition to two essay questions on questions related to international relations. There were twenty applicants to the team this year; this was an increase in applicants from last year. Finalists that were competitively selected for an interview were notified via email on Monday, September 16, 2013.

Interviews were held on Friday, September 11<sup>t</sup>, 2015 in Breland Hall Room 358 from 3:00-9:00pm. In addition, two early interviews were granted earlier in the same week to students unable to make the Friday interview date. The interviews were conducted by the officers. Interviews consisted of several short answer questions including questions about the essay that was submitted as part of their written application, in addition to a role-playing exercise in which applicants were given a scenario and assigned between two different characters to respond as. The scenario involved the applicant either role-playing as Petro Poroshenko, the President of Ukraine, or as Vladimir Putin, the President of the Russian Federation. A series of challenging questions were posed to the applicants as they role-played to test their ability to role-play and think on their feet. Overall, this activity in the interview was of great importance in selecting applicants for the team. Finalists were notified of their acceptance to the team on the evening of September 11, 2016 via email.

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

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## FACULTY ADVISOR, DR. NEAL ROSENDORF

This was Dr. Rosendorf's first year as the faculty advisor to the team. Dr. Rosendorf is a Professor in the Department of Government at New Mexico State University. He joined the faculty in 2014. He teaches in the area of International Relations and American Politics.

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## PRESIDENT, MATTHEW MCNEILE

Matthew McNeile is a third-year veteran of the NMSU Model United Nations team. This was the first year Matthew served as president, and served as treasurer to the team last year. Matthew is a graduating senior from the NMSU Government Department and will be pursuing a career as an entrepreneur following graduation.

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## VICE PRESIDENT, PRASAMS TRISH DHAKAL

Prasamsa is a second year graduate student getting her MBA degree specializing in Finance and Applied Statistics. She has been involved in Model UN for three years now. Her first year, she served as a Member-at-Large, second year as the Treasurer, and third year as the Vice President. She is also the new President-Elect of the 2016-2017 team and is excited to lead the team to success over the next year. Her long-term goal is to work for the United Nations. She is working hard to make Model UN and her other extra-curricular pursuits a segue to receiving that opportunity.

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## SECRETARY, DANIELLE CEBALLES

Danielle Ceballes is from Alamogordo, New Mexico. She will be graduating in 2016 with her Bachelors of Arts in Government and her Bachelors of Business Administration in Human Resource Management. She is most proud of her involvement in on campus organizations such as the NMSU Model United Nations team, the ASNMSU Senate, and college ambassador programs. Following an internship with the State Department in Berlin and an internship with the Walt Disney Company, Danielle hopes to pursue a Juris Doctorate in Washington, D.C.

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## TREASURER, JOSEPH CAIRNS

Joseph Cairns is a Senior at New Mexico State University studying Government and Criminal Justice with a supplementary major in Law and Society and a minor in Public Law. Joseph is a two year veteran of the NMSU Model UN team and was a delegate for the UN Environment Program for both years. While in NMSU Model UN, Joseph participated in other organizations such as ASNMSU Senate, Criminal Justice Honor Society, and Arts and Sciences Ambassadors.

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### FUNDRAISING CHAIR, WILLIAM JONES

William Jones is a sophomore double majoring in Government and History. He is also a senator for the arts and science college on top of participating in MUN as acting treasury. He is born and raised in Las Cruces and is a Lance Corporal in the United States Marine Corps and plans on returning to active duty as an officer upon completion of college.

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### MEMBER AT LARGE, DAEDALUS LAROCHE

Daedalus Laroche is a graduating senior from the Government Department with his primary focus being International Relations. He is a shining angel and a beacon of hope in our dark and dismal world. After graduation Daedalus will take a gap year before enrolling in a graduate program after which he will pursue a career in public service.

## Member Biographies

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### ISMAEL TORRES

Ismael Torres is a Junior double majoring in Economics and Government at New Mexico State University. Torres is a second year member of Model UN, and plans to continue to contribute and support the team next year as an alumni. Torres will be working at the United States Department of the Treasury in the Office of International Affairs this summer, and plans on beginning a career in international policy.

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### MARCUS SANCHEZ

Marcus is a freshman studying government and criminal justice at NMSU. The youngest member of the team, he took interest in Model UN after a simulation in his high school English class. He learned a lot this year about communication and negotiation and hopes to use that in the coming semesters.

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### DELOREAN FORBES

DeLorean Forbes is a sophomore majoring in government at New Mexico State University. He has been a member of the Model UN team for one year and after his undergraduate studies, plans to attend law school.

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### MICAELA DE LA ROSA

Micaela de la Rosa is a sophomore, majoring in Government and Spanish with a minor in Anthropology. She is interested in law, public administration, and education policy. This was her first year on the Model United Nations team.

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## JOLI MCSHERRY

Joli McSherry is a senior at New Mexico State University pursuing a degree in Government, with a specialized interest in international relations. After graduation, she plans on a career as a Foreign Service Officer under the US Department of State.

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## HANNAH FORT

Hannah is a senior double majoring in Economics and International Business with minors in Spanish and International Relations. Her interests include diplomacy and international economic development. After graduating she is joining the Peace Corps in Timor-Leste as a Business Advising Volunteer.

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## RICARDO SERRANO

Ricardo Serrano is a 20-year-old student who will be graduating in May. He is currently pursuing a double major in International Business and Finance. Ricardo is trilingual, he can speak English, Spanish and French. He loves to travel and was fortunate to live in France.

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## CONNOR SCHULTZ

Connor Schultz is a sophomore in the Government department. Connor's choice to attend NMSU was greatly influenced by his knowledge of the highly successful Model United Nations team, and he considers it to be both the most enjoyable and most important activity he has engaged in as a student.

# FUNDRAISING

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## TRIP FINANCES

Total Cost for the NMUN 2016 Conference: \$25,232.40

These costs include conference registration and delegate fees, airfare, hotel accommodations, transportation in New York City, and any other travel-associated costs. The expenses were covered by the money generated through team fundraisers, the Banquet, the NMSU Administration, NMSU academic departments and the Associated Students of New Mexico State University (ASNMSU).

This year the team was fortunate enough to have passed a bill through our student government, ASNMSU, for our conference travels. The appropriations we received for the conference were \$7794 for the NMUN Conference.

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## FUNDRAISERS

The Team this year was fortunate enough to receive a large donation through our efforts helping the Arts & Sciences College of NMSU on Giving Tuesday. As a result, our fundraising efforts were limited to two events this year.

## **NMSU Christmas Ornaments Sale**

The Team produced over one hundred NMSU-themed Christmas ornaments to sell in the month of December to students and faculty of NMSU, as well as our own friends and family. The Team met for several nights in the month of November to produce the ornaments, and we were pleased with the quality of the ornaments produced this year. We sold out of all ornaments that were for sale, and received near \$850 in sales, resulting in a profit of \$750.

## **Giving Tuesday**

Former Dean of the Arts & Sciences College, Dean Slaton, invited the NMSU Model UN team to participate in this fundraising activity for the university. In order to participate, a few students helped sign postcards being mailed out to alumni of NMSU. Dean Slaton made a generous donation of \$4000 to the team after the success of the event for the university as a whole.

# COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service is an important aspect of MUN and it is also a way for the team to receive funding from the Associated Students of New Mexico State University, the student government. For every 2 hours on and off campus community service, student organizations are awarded a designated amount of financial assistance. This year, the MUN team completed 12 hours of on-campus community service and 12 hours off-campus community service in order to be eligible to apply for financial assistance from NMSU. Receiving funding through ASNMSU is an integral part of the team's annual success and greatly eases our financial burden.

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## **ON-CAMPUS**

The team participated in two on-campus community service events this year: Aggie Experience and Halloween Howl. Both events took place in the fall. The NMSU Model UN team facilitated NMSU Campus Recruiting in Aggie Experience by directing traffic and answering any questions inquiring high school students and their parents may have had for a period of two hours. Halloween Howl is an event the team traditionally participates in each year on Halloween. This year our team offered a Halloween-themed bean bag toss game for a period of four hours to children attending the event.

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## **OFF-CAMPUS**

The team achieved its off-campus community service hours this year from offering to teach high school students from Las Cruces about model United Nations. A total of two Saturday morning sessions at two hours each were offered to teach the fundamentals of model United Nations, and a simulation was held on Friday night and Saturday about the event. Four high school students from the community participated in the event this year.

# PREPARATION AND SPRING CLASS

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## FALL 2015

During the fall 2013 semester, the MUN team met as a chartered student organization and not as a class. Weekly meetings were held at 5:00 pm on Friday evenings. Meetings primarily focused on learning research methods, public speaking, conference rules and procedure, and preparing for our annual fall simulation. A full-length practice simulation was also held during the fall semester in late-October. The President led team meetings with the assistance of the officers.

In November, the team received our National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference country assignment; we were assigned the Ukraine. Country selection is done by a list of the team's top ten country preferences being submitted to the NMUN conference staff in addition to a detailed justification as to why our team believed that we would represent our top-choice country well. The team chose Ukraine as our top country choice due to the presence of a Ukrainian Eastern Orthodox church in the city of Las Cruces, NM that the president of the team attends.

The team was very excited to receive our top-choice country assignment. After being given our country, the MUN team was then divided into partners and assigned committees. As Ukraine we were assigned to seven committees for conference. Each committee provided delegates with a background guide that outlined three international issues that the committee was to discuss during the Conference. Members and their partners began to research Ukraine's position on the three issues in preparation for writing a position paper in collaboration with their partner. NMUN requires all delegates to submit a position paper outlining the positions and proposed solutions that their country has on each topic. Because the papers cannot be more than two single spaced pages, students are required to sort through a large amount of information, interpreting and articulating the main themes and priorities of their country.

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## SPRING 2016

During the spring 2016 semester, members enrolled in one of two Model United Nations courses (GOVT 313, GOVT 314) for three credits. First year Model UN students enrolled in GOVT 313 and second year veterans enrolled in GOVT 314. The spring class was instructed by our faculty advisor Dr. Neal Rosendorf and MUN President Matthew McNeile. Throughout the semester, the class met twice a week from 3:00 pm to 4:15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The MUN spring class requires each student to be actively involved in all aspects of the class with an emphasis on team leadership from the MUN officers and veterans on the team. The goals of the course were to: develop an understanding of the United Nations, international politics, and diplomacy; foster student research, public speaking, and diplomacy skills; and achieve a thorough knowledge of current global issues as well as the politics and culture of the country being represented at the time.

Throughout the spring, each student conducted research and continued to polish their position paper on Ukraine's position on each of the three topics discussed in their assigned committee. Students were kept under a strict timetable that required them to turn in multiple drafts of their position papers. The first draft of the position paper was due the first day of Spring semester, January 21<sup>st</sup>, and two additional drafts were required before the final copy of the paper was due on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, the team continued to learn, practice, and master the NMUN conference rules of procedure, practice resolution and report writing, improve public speaking abilities through a series of persuasive speeches, and learn about the United Nations. During this semester, the team participated in a simulation of the General Assembly First Committee in order to further prepare for the NMUN Conference. Each student was assigned a country for the simulation, with some of the veteran delegates chairing in preparation for Chair interviews at NMUN. At the time of the conference, each NMSU delegate was a confident and effective member of his or her committee because of the extensive preparation emphasized throughout the year.

Throughout the year, during both the fall and spring semesters, the MUN members-at-large, Daedalus Laroche and William Jones attended bi-weekly Arts and Science Council Meetings. At the Arts and Science Council, the MUN team is very active in discussing and voting on the NMSU student government's legislation,

## NMUN CONFERENCE 2016

The 2014 National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference was held at the New York Sheraton Hotel and Towers in New York City from March 20-24, 2016. This was the NMSU MUN team's seventeenth year attending NMUN, having previously represented Israel, Syria, Ghana, Haiti, Ecuador, Paraguay, the Philippines, the League of Arab States, Spain, Egypt, Finland, Switzerland, Lithuania, Lebanon, Argentina, Morocco, and the Central African Republic.

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### COMMITTEES AND ISSUES

As delegates of Ukraine, we sat on 7 committees. Each committee discussed the following topics:

**Head Delegate:** Matthew McNeile

**Co-Head Delegate:** Prasamsa Trish Dhakal

**General Assembly First Committee:** Ricardo Serrano and Micaela de la Rosa

Topic 1: Cyber Security and Protecting against Cyber Warfare

Topic 2: The Threat of Transnational Organized Crime to International Security

Topic 3: Efforts to Control Weapons of Mass Destruction

### **General Assembly Second Committee: Danielle Ceballes**

Topic 1: Promoting Access to Renewable and Sustainable Energy for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development

Topic 2: Financing for Development

Topic 3: World Commodity Trends and Prospects

### **General Assembly Fourth Committee: Daedalus LaRoche and Marcus Sanchez**

Topic 1: Comprehensive Review of Special Political Missions and the Future of UN Peacekeeping and Peace Operations

Topic 2: Intensifying Cooperation in Outer Space to Preserve Peace and Security

Topic 3: Improving the Situation of Non-Self-Governing Territories

### **UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development: William Jones and Prasmda Dhakal**

Topic 1: Building Resilient Cities to Promote Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Topic 2: Realizing the Right to Adequate Shelter through the New Urban Agenda

Topic 3: Inclusive Urbanization for the Promotion of Equality and Social Cohesion

### **Commission on Narcotic Drugs: DeLorean Forbes and Ismael Torres**

Topic 1: Addressing Drug Trafficking and the Financing of Terrorism

Topic 2: The Role of Civil Society in Addressing the World Drug Problem

Topic 3: Evaluating the Impact of Global Narcotics Drug Control

### **United Nations Environment Programme: Joli McSherry and Joseph Cairns**

Topic 1: Corruption and Environmental Governance

Topic 2: Improving Sustainable Forest Management Practices

Topic 3: Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans

### **UNESCO: Connor Schultz and Hannah Fort**

Topic 1: Education for All: Strengthening Rural Education

Topic 2: Promoting Women in Science

Topic 3: Protecting World Heritage Sites against New and Emerging Threats

## Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons: Matthew McNeile

Topic 1: Measures to Increase National Reporting of Member States

Topic 2: Incorporating Gender-Sensitive Approaches in the Implementation of the Programme of Action

Topic 3: Adapting to Recent Developments in Small Arms and Light Weapons Technology

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### AWARDS

At the National Model United Nations Conference in New York, three types of awards are distributed: Delegation Awards, Position Paper Awards, and Delegate Awards in Committee. Delegation awards are distributed based on the consistent performance on an entire delegation within each committee in which they are representing their assigned country. The areas of evaluation for Delegation Awards are: remaining in character, participating in committee, and proper use of the rules of procedure. Delegation awards are distributed at three levels, with the top award of "Outstanding Delegation", followed by "Distinguished Delegation" and "Honorable Mention". **Building on the successes of previous years, our Model UN team was awarded the Outstanding Delegation award at the NMUN 2016 conference**, which placed us in the top ten percent of schools at the conference. This year, the team received awards in six out of the eight committees it served based on the performance of fourteen team members.

At NMUN 2016, Position Paper awards were distributed based on individual delegate position paper submissions within each committee, and not based on all the position papers submitted by a delegation as a cohesive group. Position Paper Awards were chosen by the Director of each committee and distributed to the top position papers in each committee. Position papers are a critical part of our preparation for the conference and the following criteria are used by the NMUN conference staff to evaluate position papers: citation of relevant resolutions and important documents, general consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints, consistency with the constraints of the United Nations, and the analysis of issues.

### IN THE CATEGORY OF OUTSTANDING POSITION PAPERS:

- **General Assembly First Committee:** Ricardo Serrano and Micaela de la Rosa
- **UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development:** William Jones and Prasmada Dhakal
- **UNESCO:** Connor Schultz and Hannah Fort
- **United Nations Environment Programme:** Joli McSherry and Joseph Cairns
- **Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons:** Matthew McNeile

Delegate Awards in committee are selected by each committee by popular vote of committee delegates. The number of Outstanding Delegate Awards distributed in each committee is based on the size of the committee. NMUN identifies an Outstanding Delegate as one who stays in the character of their assigned Member States and who works cooperatively and diplomatically with others.

### IN THE CATEGORY OF OUTSTANDING DELEGATES

- **Commission on Narcotic Drugs:** DeLorean Forbes and Ismael Torres

In addition to the awards listed above, three members of our team were also selected to serve as a Chair. Chair and Rapporteur positions are competitively selected and delegates must undergo a written and an in-person interview to be selected for the position. The Chair of a committee is responsible for the procedural functions of the committee and works closely with the Director and the Assistant Director of their committee. A Rapporteur serves as an important aide to the Director, Assistant Director, and the Chair of the committee and is responsible for assisting with many of the administrative matters of a committee.

### STUDENTS SERVING AS CHAIRS AND RAPPORTEURS

- Prasamsa Dhakal in HABITAT3
- Danielle Ceballes in GA2
- Matthew McNeile in PoA SALW

## NEXT YEAR'S PROJECTIONS

### 2015-2016 MODEL UN OFFICERS

Elections were held on April 5<sup>th</sup> 2016; candidates were nominated based on club needs and positions desired. The votes were taken and counted in accordance with the club's bylaws and the results are:

- **President:** Prasamsa Trish Dhakal
- **Vice-President:** Joli McSherry
- **Treasurer:** William Jones
- **Secretary:** Micaela de la Rosa
- **Member-at-Large:** Open until the Fall 2014 semester

For more information about Model UN, please visit our website, [mun.nmsu.edu](http://mun.nmsu.edu), or email next year's president.

# QUOTES

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HANNAH FORT

"MUN is Fun!"

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JOLI MCSHERRY

"Model United Nations is easily one of the most rewarding activities I have participated in since arriving at NMSU. Being born and raised in a small, close-knit area such as southwestern New Mexico, I had never anticipated having the opportunity to be a part of something that allowed me to network with individuals from all across the globe so early in my professional career—not to mention being able to see the United Nations General Assembly in person! The new skills, experiences and relationships that I have cultivated through Model UN are all invaluable resources that I will keep with me the rest of my life."

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RICARDO SERRANO

"Model UN allows one to perceive the world through different lenses, all with the common goal of peace"

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WILLIAM JONES

"Model UN is an experience that I will forever be thankful for. It has grown me in multiple areas and aspects and also connected me with colleagues that I consider to be the brightest students at this college."

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MICAELA DE LA ROSA

"NMSU was one of the few state schools to participate in the NY Conference, and we were also one of the only schools from the Southwest. It was such an honor to show the world what NMSU students are capable of – I'm so proud to be an Aggie!"

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DAEDALUS LAROCHE

"They say that people prefer a strong horse, and I couldn't be more proud to have been a part of making NMSU Model UN the strongest horse in the race."

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DELOEAN FORBES

"Model UN is one of the coolest things I've ever done in college. This an elite organization filled with amazing people that really do some amazing things."

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### MARCUS SANCHEZ

"It's always been a goal of mine to learn more about the world and experience international diplomacy firsthand, MUN helped me Czech that off the list."

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### ISMAEL TORRES

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take. -Wayne Gretzky' -Michael Scott' -Ismael Torres"

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### CONNOR SCHULTZ

"There are two moments in my life which I will always remember because they represent a turning point; where if I had not done what I did then I would be a far different—and most likely far less happy—person. I have no doubt that, in a few years' time, I will consider the moment I chose to apply for Model UN as the third."

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### JOSEPH CAIRNS

"MUN is very unique and produces the best quality students at New Mexico State University. I have learned many skills such as diplomacy, speech and debate, and technical writing which will carry over into my professional career. I am truly great full for the friends I have made in MUN and person the organization made me today."

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### DANIELLE CEBALLES

"Model United Nations is an organization unlike any other at New Mexico State University. It's unique interdisciplinary nature gears its members to foster an understanding of international relations and diplomacy while simultaneously helps to build skills in research, writing, and public speaking."

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### PRASAMSA DHAKAL

"Model UN is something I believe I'll be involved in until I'm old and wrinkly, whether it be as a team member, alumni, advisor, or just an overly-enthusiastic supporter."

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### MATTHEW MCNEILE

"Model UN has been the highlight of my college career."

**The 2015-2016 Executive Board thanks the MUN team and Dr. Neal Rosendorf for their efforts, and wishes the new officers and next year's team success at the 2017 National Model United Nations Conference and hopes that NMSU students will continue to reap the many benefits of participating in Model United Nations.**