

ROMUN News

NEW YEAR, NEW LEADERSHIP THE 2018-2019 OFFICERS



As the new school year is getting underway, Royal Oak Model United Nations' (ROMUN) new officers are hard at work. Our officers for the following year are elected by their peers in late June of the previous year, so that the new batch has time to plan and strategize before school resumes early September. The club this year is headed by Spencer Barrer '19 as the Secretary General, and Laura Lynch '19 as the President of Assembly. Working together they have assembled an outline for the year, and met with all the other nine officers to make sure everyone is on the same page. They hosted meetings and calls throughout the summer, in addition to the meetings before school ended, to ensure that the new year goes off without a hitch. There are many small items that must be in place for the team as a whole to run smoothly, and they are all working hard to make sure they are all in place.



**THE NATIONAL
CONFERENCE**
CHICAGO HERE WE COME!



Every two years, ROMUN attends a National Conference in addition to the rest of the annual conferences the team prepares for. This year, the team is headed to Chicago, Illinois to put together all of the skills and talent the delegates have thus far to debate at the prestigious conference, Model United Nation at the University of Chicago (MUNUC). This conference is taking place early

February, and, as is implied in the name of the conference, is hosted by the University of Chicago. Any delegate who has at least one year of experience on the team is invited to come and debate with them team. Anticipation is already growing as students are signing up and committing to go, as those attending will have to start preparing soon.

The style of a National conference is slightly different than that of a one-day conference, in that all members of ROMUN will work together and debate as one country, as opposed to the more common style of only having three to four ROMUN members act as the same country. Because of this, MUNUC will serve as a wonderful team bonding event, as it will have to be ensured that everyone is presenting the same policy for the country, and a chance for members to learn skills and valuable techniques from one another.

TANZANIA

OUR INTERNATIONAL TRIP

Every two years, our club goes on an international trip during the summer, so our students can have the opportunity to learn about the politics and cultures of different nations across the world. This past summer, four of our students traveled with four adults to the nation of Tanzania, which lies on the coast of Africa, for 21 days. They brought back memorable experiences that they will carry with them forever, like their 10-day hike through mountains and rainforests, during which it rained multiple days, helping construction work at a local primary school, going on a safari, and meeting many of the local people. During the trip, the students had many



thoughtful conversations led by their guides, in which they discussed topics like “voluntourism”, how to bring stories back home, and the impact of the trip on how they will live their lives going forward.

The next international trip with ROMUN will be in the summer of 2020, and the team is

pondering locations already; one of which is Eastern Europe. ROMUN is so glad that they can give students the chance to go on trips like this one, where they will learn more than they could ever bring back, and gain exposure as to how people different from them live.

SUPERMUN

THE ROMUN HOSTED BEGINNER CONFERENCE

ROMUN is a strong advocate in teaching newer members to the club the fundamentals of Model UN and how it works before sending them off to a major conference. Last year, ROMUN decided to pilot a “beginners conference” for new members where the committees and chairs are more focused on teaching the delegates parliamentary procedure, how to give speeches,

and how to talk with other delegates. This experiment went so well last year, that the club has decided to run it again, but this year, it is called SuperMUN (the “MUN” standing for “Model UN”). ROMUN invites new delegates from multiple schools across the county to Royal Oak High School on a Saturday

morning to attend this conference. They even have a middle school committee for middle schoolers who are interested in joining Model UN when they get to high school. This conference gives the students the basic knowledge and confidence that they will need going forward in their Model UN career, so ROMUN is thrilled to share their wisdom and advice for a second year.

SUPERMUN:
OCTOBER 20TH



 [SuperMUN Website](#)



WHAT ROMUN MEANS TO ME

WRITTEN BY SPENCER BARRER, SECRETARY GENREAL

The first time I found out about Royal Oak Model United Nations was when, after much insistence from my parents, I talked to a trusted high schooler my family had known for a while about advice for high school, just before the end of my time as an 8th grader at Royal Oak Middle School. I barely knew the student, but whenever I had met her in the past, I admired her for her warm-hearted nature, her confident demeanor, and her brilliant success in high school. All of these achievements were ones that I respected her greatly for, but also envied, for I felt that they were impossible for me, with my coy and quiet attitude and my shyness to be confident in my abilities or myself. When I inquired about what helped her become the person I admired so much, it was clear that ROMUN was a pillar to what led her to become the person she was, and the one I wanted to learn to become.

When giving me advice on how to transition from middle school to high school, she described the two bodies as contrasting structures. She described the middle school as a pyramid, a single, hierarchical structure with everyone competing with each other, an elementary system without community and common interests. The high school, she continued, was different. The high school is a collection of “bubbles” or

communities you can join and not only find a common interest, but find a common family of people that are there to support you and are there to be some of your most loving friends. The high school allows you to have the freedom to choose what you want to learn, who you want to know, and, most importantly, who you want to become.

As I have journeyed through my high school career, her advice couldn't relate to my experience more. My time at Royal Oak High School, and more specifically my time at ROMUN, has given me the confidence to be the person I am, and still want to, become. ROMUN has connected me with some of my longest lasting high school friendships and has educated me not only in the world of politics and debate, but also in the meaning of what it is to learn, to think, and to act. My experience is far from exceptional, everyone I know, and have known, who is in ROMUN are the most extemporaneous students, friends, and advisors I have known thus far. ROMUN offers a unique academy for all students during the most important developmental period in their life. And while we are still just a high school club, we are more than that. We are an academy, a community, a family, and we are Royal Oak High School Model United Nations.



ADVISOR COMMENT

With every new school year comes a new and exciting MUN season. Returning delegates grow stronger as leaders while new delegates wade through the waters of research, *parli pro*, and caucuses. New vocabulary pairs with new topics as hope for resolutions fills each committee session.

As advisors, we get excited for prep as we guide these delegates through personal and country politics...and watch them become more confident with each passing conference.

This year, we are attending the national conference hosted by the University of Chicago. While we are brand new in attendance, we carry our traditions and knowledge into this new venture. In addition, we are attending SEMMUNA, GLIMUN and OU as well as hosting our own one-day beginner conference.

It's going to be a busy year, but with conferences and advocacy projects in the planning stages, who would expect anything less?

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

CLICK THE BUTTON TO CHECK IT OUT romun.org



Royal Oak Model UN

Royal Oak's International Debate Team

Since 1995, we have been Royal Oak's international debate team. Join the ROMUN team!



Did you see us at the Raven Rally?



Chicago Parent Potluck



SuperMUN 2018

Click the image above to download an application

Come to the MMR on September 11th from 7:00 - 8:30 for more info on the Chicago Trip

Our Beginner conference coming up on October 20th. Click the Image for more info



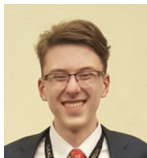
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STEVE CHISNELL

Royal Oak Model United Nations Advisor since 1995



OCTOBER 20TH

SuperMUN: ROMUN's beginner conference for those new to the team

OCTOBER 26TH

Application Deadline: Our new members have until this time to turn in their applications

NOVEMBER 10TH

SEMMUNA: Another beginners conference if delegates didn't have a chance to attend SuperMUN

NOVEMBER 28TH-DECEMBER 1ST

GLIMUN: Our biggest conference of the year that all are encouraged to attend



OUR SPONSORS

While ROMUN welcomes the support of individual sponsors to assist our delegates as they work to attend conferences and other national or international events, building sustainable partnerships to grow our program is also our goal. If you have ideas to help ROMUN fulfill its mission to educate its students and the wider community, please contact us!

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