

ROMUN News

SEMMUNA AND SUPERMUN OUR WARM-UP CONFERENCES TO START OFF THE YEAR



ROMUN delegates have already jumped head first into the fall/winter conference season. SuperMUN was the first conference that was hosted by ROMUN at ROHS for beginners in October, and SEMMUNA was the more recent conference that was held on November 11th. We had very successful delegates at both conferences, and students engaged in very thoughtful debate in both as well. At SEMMUNA every year there is a Senior essay contest where any Senior who has attended a SEMMUNA conference before can write about how Model UN has impacted their life, and first place wins \$500. This year, ROHS Senior, and our President of Assembly, Laura Lynch secured a first place win in this contest! We are all very proud, and glad to see how impactful ROMUN has been on many of our students. To learn more about both of these conferences, there is a short article written by ROMUN students who attended each of these conferences about what their experience was like.



GLIMUN2018 RECAP

OUR FAVORITE CONFERENCE OF THE YEAR

Early this month, a ROMUN favorite took place; GLIMUN. This is a conference we attend every year, and is always very favored by students. It is three days long and takes place in the Radisson

hotel in Kalamazoo, MI. Over the course of the three days, each committee is tasked with discussing and passing resolutions on two topics, which are both very intensive, as well as debating for up to 12 hours a day. It is hard and draining work, yet it is the most highly spoken of conference each year. ROMUN always does very well at the conference as well. This year, our team took home many awards, including two Best Delegation awards from the India and Syria delegations, as well as a Best Delegate award won by Senior Spencer Barrer. Awards are not the goal when going to a conference, but we are always proud that the hard work our team puts into a conference is recognized.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MAY 14TH

An important facet that keeps ROMUN running is sponsors and support from parents. Because this is so vital to our club, ROMUN has developed something called the Advisory Council, which is the meeting of parents and sponsors to discuss how ROMUN can grow. These meetings are run by the ROMUN advisors and the Secretary General. So far this year, there has been one Council meeting, in which they discussed how to get and maintain community partnerships. The next meeting will be May 14th, 6:00-8:00, so if you would like to attend, we would love to have you. It is not for students, but any interested parent, sponsor, or business owner who is interested in becoming a sponsor is more than welcome to attend, and to learn more about ROMUN and what we do.

ADVOCACY PROJECTS

PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY

This year, ROMUN has been working hard to make sure it is present in the community in conjunction with informing the community about global issues. As stated in the November newsletter, our advocacy branch has been hard at work coming up with projects and causes to raise awareness and fundraise for. The next project planned is related to the sensitive, yet ever present, issue of human trafficking. The ROMUN officers began brainstorming ideas about how to inform the school of this issue in an effective, yet appropriate, manner to then bring to the general body. Our Under Secretary General (USG) of Advocacy, Katherine Mooney, has begun planning the timeline for the project, as well as beginning to gather a core team to put it together.

In addition to just school-related projects, ROMUN members are being encouraged to participate in community events on their own time. One of these such events is called Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams that is put on by Beaumont Hospital every night of December. Every night, the community is encouraged to come and say goodnight to the children that can't

go home for the holidays. One of the nights the team created a "ROMUN night" where members were invited to come to make our club present. It's small community events like this that the team likes to attend and show their support for so that our education can continue outside of school hours.

SUPERMUN RECAP

WRITTEN BY: CONNOR BREZENSKI



When I moved here to Royal Oak High School a couple of months ago, the first thing I did was ask about what clubs were offered. Royal Oak has a fair selection to choose from. But the one that seemed to stand out and the one people talked about a lot was Model UN. I didn't know what to think of it for I have never done Model UN. Several of my friends told me to not do it or don't even waste your time with it. I was divided whether or not to immerse myself in the community. Fortunately, someone recommended I do SUPERMUN. They told me it was a beginner conference and that I would learn everything MUN had to offer. I decided it couldn't hurt to try one small conference.

When I walked into my room that morning for the first session, I had mixed feelings. Being a part of the debate community for a while, there was an inherent bias against Model UN.

"It's not real debate". "It's stupid!". Those words quickly faded and became irrelevant after finishing the conference, for I was absolutely hooked on Model UN. SUPERMUN all in all, really did an amazing job of introducing me to the world of MUN'ers. ROMUN members did an amazing job explaining the intricacies of a Model UN conference and guiding us beginners on the right path to becoming successful delegates in future conferences. It also made me want to be a part of ROMUN even more. I am incredibly grateful I did SUPERMUN which has introduced to me an amazing club and event! This makes me even more excited to be attending GLIMUN with the team this year! With only a couple days to go till our big conference, I probably wouldn't be attending if it not for the experience I had at SUPERMUN. I am looking forward for many awesome years with the team. Thank you!

REAL TIME SIMULATION

A NEW WAY TO DEBATE

ROMUN is used to the style of conferences, and what must be done prior to a conference. That is not the case now. The ROMUN advisors decided to give us a new challenge this year called Real-Time Simulation (RTS). What this is essentially is a five-month long caucus. The advisors wanted to give us something that's closer to how the actual United Nations runs and operates. A topic was set, and everyone who wished to participate was assigned either a country, an IGO/NGO, corporation, etc, which is how a typical conference works, but instead of meeting on one day to solve the issue, the participants must organize, write resolutions, caucus, etc on their own time. The topic is set in stages, so each month, a new stage will be discussed.

The topic that was chosen is the creation of a new city in Kenya. Germany was interested in trying to modernize the society of Kenya, so we are tasked with the job of planning out how this city will operate, from the finances to the integration of technology. ROMUN has never tried anything like this before, so it will be interesting to see what this new city will look like in May once the simulation has ended.

GLIMUN MEMBER RECAP

BY JACK SWANSON

GLIMUN 2018 was a great conference. It was the first major conference for many new delegates such as Alex and Connor, both of whom performed spectacularly. In Plenary, GA worked incredibly well on amending resolutions and shooting down those deemed unsatisfactory. We all put a lot of work into the conference, and it shows. Overall, GLIMUN 2018 was a great conference for both ROMUN and all attending delegates, regardless of school.



MEDMUN MEMBER RECAP

BY ALEX GARCIA

MedMUN was an interesting animal. In my committee, the Security Council, there was an agglomeration of persons with varying levels of conference experience in attendance, which led to interesting turns in debate.



The topics my committee was tasked with addressing included the Burundi crisis and the examination of various enforcement mechanisms used by the UNSC and possible alternatives. The former topic was interesting since many persons in the committee had a deficiency of knowledge in the facts at hand, which led to some quite interesting proposals and a generally ungrounded banter revolving more around restating the problem than on providing solutions. The latter topic ended up being quite barren as its intention was to produce alternatives to sanctions or military action as enforcement mechanisms, with the obvious problem being that none exist, leading to a circular debate.

The conference seemed competently run, with the exception of an unusual crisis scenario where the UNSC was to act as a war room for a hostage situation, and the chair of my committee seemed well versed in parliamentary procedure. Better topic questions and better prepared delegates would have made for a higher-end event, but for a somewhat fledgling single-day conference, it was well-executed.

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

BY: SYDNEY CONNORS

Twelve students from Royal Oak High School's Model UN team attended a debate conference in Chicago hosted by the University of Chicago this past February. The twelve delegates, along with their two advisors Mr. Chisnell and Ms. Crotty, prepared for months in advance so that the students could represent the small island nation of Palau across several different committees at the conference. Students that attended the conference ranged from second year to fourth year ROMUN members, and all contributed in the process of writing their individual position papers, as well



as a cumulative delegation paper. The students then debated from February 7th-10th in their various committee rooms and formed comprehensive solutions with other delegates in attendance from schools across the country and world.

ROMUN delegates saw great success in their committees, aptly representing the foreign policy of Palau and utilizing the debate skills that have been taught and practiced throughout this year in meetings and at other conferences. In the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), Juniors Mandy Morello and Sophia Papp received verbal commendations for their work in committee. In the Legal Committee, Junior Matt Catchick and Senior Sydney Connors also received verbal commendations for their influence in committee.

In addition to debate, the attending ROMUN students also got the chance to explore a bit of Chicago! The team attended the stage production of *The Woman in Black* at the Royal George Theater after having dinner at Trattoria Gianni in Chicago's Broadway District. Students also had brunch at Wildberry's Pancakes before heading to the Museum of

Contemporary Art Chicago. Overall students had a fantastic time and the entire ROMUN team is incredibly proud of the work that they accomplished in representing both Palau, as well as RÖHS.

**"PUT OUT YOUR ARM
AND A MAN'S HAND
WILL REACH BACK."
-PALAUAN PROVERB**



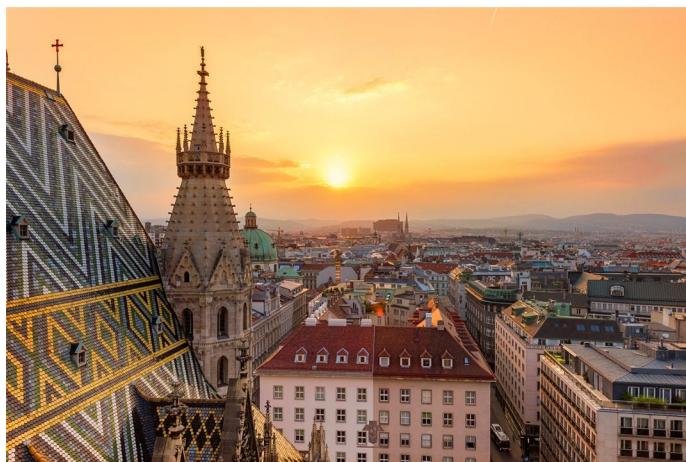
THE 2020 SUMMER INTERNATIONAL TRIP

WRITTEN BY: MANDY MORELLO

In the summer of 2020 Royal Oak High School Interact Club and Model United Nations Team will be traveling to Eastern Europe. After prolonged debate on whether or not the trip should be to learn about peace and reconciliation or to study cultural diversity in the Habsburg Empire, students chose to travel to Vienna, Budapest, and Transylvania over The Balkans. With this trip students have an opportunity for service, advocacy, and cultural enrichment. Steve Chisnell, advisor for Interact and Model United Nations, makes sure to provide his students with trips that they couldn't repeat on their own. In the informational meeting on March 14 he said that he takes these trips to "meet culture" in an attempt to provide attendees with an unique and enriching experience. Furthermore, students and alumni who have attended Interact and Model UN trips in that past have encouraged anyone with the opportunity to attend to do so.

The expected trip cost is around \$5,200. This cost includes meals, sleeping accommodations, day trips, flights, and the cost of supplies for volunteer projects. API Travel Agency (apitravel.net.au) has provided Royal Oak High School with a tentative itinerary to include tours of Vienna, Schönbrunn Palace, Hundertwasserhaus, Castle District, Târgu Mureș, Turda Salt Mine, and Sighisoara (Dracula's birthplace). Additional activities may include a sightseeing cruise on Danube, cooking and riding classes, dancing, and outdoor activities in Sovata and at Red Lake. With a tentative volunteer project in Zetea, to be determined while on the trip, afternoons off will be spent immersed in the culture by learning and observing. Do note that these activities are subject to change but students can expect all activities to be unique, informative, and life changing.

The trip sign-up deadline will be in September of 2019. Jackson Wicka (10) and Spencer Barrer (12) have been working on an extensive and effective sponsorship program for Royal Oak Model UN. If assistance is needed to fundraise it is highly suggested that you go to ROMUN.org's "About Us" page and click the link to "Support Us" to guide your process. Other methods of fundraising include but are not limit to bottle drives, CrowdRise, and GoFundMe. If you have additional questions contact Steve Chisnell (ROMUN and Interact), Jennifer Crotty (ROMUN), or Kelly Bracken (Interact).



VIENNA



TRANSYLVANIA



BUDAPEST

ROMUN'S FINANCES

WRITTEN BY: SOPHIA PAPP

This past December, a mid-year budget report was presented to ROMUN at Monday meeting, providing an overview of ROMUN financial actions and goals. Highlights of this budget report include:

- ROMUN members generated \$1,500 at Arts Beats & Eats in September, which will go towards individual conference expenses.
- SuperMUN, our second annual beginner's conference, generated a profit of \$643 in October. SuperMUN, ran by Ambassador to SEMMUNA Hannah Ziegler, was a fun and educational experience for new delegates and ROMUN staff alike.
- A \$100 profit was made at the PTA craft show in November.
- An investment of \$250 was made to upgrade the ROMUN webpage for long term savings on web transactions.
- Various transactions were made to pay for conferences and transportation.

Since December's report, ROMUN held its annual Crush for Crush fundraiser, a fun Valentines Day soda sale where Royal Oak High School students can buy a Crush soda for their Valentines. Members had a fun time creating amusing promotional posters and custom notes with hilariously clever United Nations puns. A \$160 profit was made from this event. Additionally, Spencer Barrer and Jackson Wicka have been leading a Sponsorship Club in efforts to make connections with our community and gain sponsorships for conference expenses. They have done a great job developing a system for outreach and club coordination, and many members have successfully used the process to accumulate sponsorships. None of ROMUN's fundraisers would have been possible without the great dedication of every member, all of which have enthusiastically stepped up to support the club with their time and talent.

OUMUN MEMBER RECAP

WRITTEN BY: ALEX PADFIELD

2019 marks ROMUN's fourth year attending the Oakland University Model United Nations Conference, and with each year the conference has continuously improved. This year, OUMUN piloted a new type of committee, a historical committee. This historical committee focused on the Treaty of Versailles with a variety of nations, organizations and important figure heads represented. Topics such as war reparations and territorial redistribution were discussed with a number of resolutions passed. Other committees focused on topics such as smart agriculture and disinformation on vaccines. Two members of ROMUN and one member of FitzMUN won committee awards due to their hard work throughout the conference. Every ROMUN and FitzMUN delegate worked with fervor and energy to share policy and agenda items, marking OUMUN as an extremely successful conference.





SEMMUNA RECAP

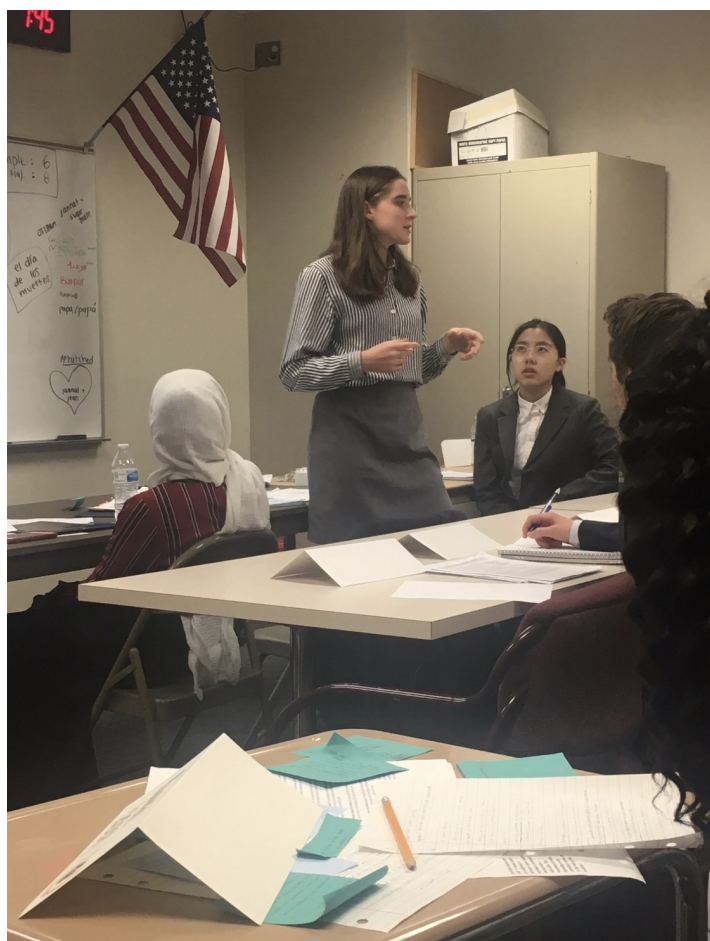
WRITTEN BY: HAVA SZARAFINSKI

This year SEMMUNA was held at Brighton High school, for being a new Model UN team they ran the conference, for the most part, rather smoothly. This year I was the United Kingdom in Security Council. It was my first time being in Security Council, which is a male dominated committee, but I held my ground. My room had a very small number of delegates, eleven to be exact, and although it was a lot of pressure to speak frequently due to the small number, it really helped me to develop the skill to create speeches in my head on the spot. I had much influence in my room, and in the end I passed the resolution I created. Throughout the day, my chairs were super kind and helpful, and in the end, they

awarded me the most passionate delegate. Overall this conference was extremely memorable.

This year at SEMMUNA the team did really well. Everyone on the team acted in a professional and

dignified manner. Many ROMUN members dominated their committees this year. I was proud to see so many of our new members engaged in debate, taking the first steps to becoming a strong delegate. Not only were we successful in committee this year but outside as well. I would like to congratulate Laura Lynch for tying first place for the SEMMUNA senior essay contest. Sadly she was not there to accept it herself, but she won a nice check for her efforts creating her essay. This year we have a lot to proud of, from our up and coming new members, to Laura Lynch winning the essay contest. Now we need to take this spirit from



SEMMUNA to our next big conference, GLIMUN.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

CLICK THE BUTTON TO CHECK IT OUT romun.org



Royal Oak's International Debate Team

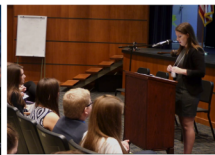
Since 1995, we have been Royal Oak's international debate team. Join the ROMUN team!



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



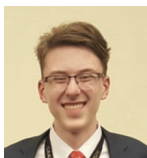
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Royal Oak Model United Nations Advisor since 2014



STEVE CHISNELL

Royal Oak Model United Nations Advisor since 1995



MAY 3RD

MaySim: this is a senior run simulation in May that is not like typical Model UN at all.

MAY 6TH

The New Officers Start: Nominations, Speeches, and Elections take place in April and those voted in start in May.

The Banquet: Also on May 6th is ROMUN's annual banquet. The theme of the event will be announced soon.

MAY 23RD

MIDSIM: The Model UN conference that ROMUN runs at the middle school to show the 8th graders what they can look forward to next year.

OUR SPONSORS

Thank you Kiwanis International for contributing to the members of the Royal Oak High School Model United Nations Team! We couldn't have asked for a better and more cooperative partner! As sophomores we have come to enjoy immersing ourselves in the environment of global politics, economy, and foreign policy. With a supporting team that nurtures individuals in public speaking, debate, and awareness of global current events, it has easily become a memorable extracurricular that we intend to stick with throughout our high school career. With your contributions, we are now able to attend more Model UN conferences that would usually be out of reach for us, bringing immense enjoyment, and allowing us to continue to develop a multitude of real-world skills such as communication, time-management, and leadership skills. Thank you again for contributing to an activity that will have a lasting impact on us.



Sincerely,

Tyler Cattini

Connor Brezenski

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