

Cardinal Model UN Conference Tops 100 Participants in second year

10/4/20

This past Saturday, October 3rd, 2020, the St. Michael High School Model United Nations team hosted its second annual Cardinal Model UN (MUN) Conference, welcoming students from five schools and over 100 delegates.

Since the first conference of 61 students in 2019, Cardinal MUN has grown to 103 students, making it one of the largest secondary school sponsored Model UN conferences in Alabama. This year, Cardinal MUN welcomed students from Christ the King School, McGill Toolen High School, Saint Michael, Saint Patrick, and Thompson High School, whose delegation traveled all the way from the suburbs of Birmingham.

After a short welcome address, the students role-played countries in two simulations. Led by St. Michael Co-Chairs Eloise Arthur and Mimi Smith and Legal Counsel Emma McBane, the delegates in the Social Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM) addressed the issue of cultural diversity. Led by St. Michael Chair Isaac McBane and Legal Counsel Bailey Kelly, the delegates in the Disarmament Committee (DISEC) addressed the weaponization of unmanned aerial vehicles (a.k.a drones). Cardinal MUN taught the participating students how the real United Nations (UN) works by guiding them through the rigors of speaking under the rules of parliamentary procedure and the process of resolution writing and advocacy.

During the Closing Ceremony, many of the students were recognized for their conference preparation and participation. Best Position Paper Awards for students completing research and optional position papers for their countries were presented to St. Michael students Andrew Corbett and Marguerite Cowles. St. Michael students Morgan Blackinton, Phoebe Cisneros, Lexi Kruse, Maeghan Reilly, and Minna Sellers, McGill Toolen students Chris Hunt, Isabela Flores, and Nina Poiroux, and Christ the King seventh grader Sarah Schott received Best Position Paper Honorable Mention Awards.

Best Delegate Awards were selected by the Committee Chairs for those students who best represented and advocated for their country and were presented to McGill Toolen student Janie Dunwell and Thompson High School student Maddie Machovec. St. Michael students Davis Billups, Morgan Blackinton, Andrew Corbett, Natalie Nelson, Maeghan Reilly, McGill Toolen students Sarah Burnett, Isabela Flores, Myrna Jalkh, and Thompson High School student Andrew Wilson received Best Delegate Honorable Mention Awards.

Finally, Delegate Choice Awards were voted on by the student participants and presented to McGill Toolen students Janie Dunwell and Isabela Flores. St. Michael students Andrew Corbett and Julia Fagan, McGill Toolen student Nick Hewitt, and Thompson High School student Andrew Wilson received Honorable Mention Delegate Choice Awards.

Model UN is a major activity at St. Michael with 62 students currently involved, which is almost 20 percent of the school. New students are welcomed and encouraged to become part of the team with this year's Cardinal MUN marking the first conference for 39 of the St Michael students. The St. Michael team looks to continue its past success, competing at the University of Alabama Model UN Conference and the Tulane Model UN Conference in Spring 2021.