

## **Third Time is the Charm for Cardinal Model UN Conference**

9/19/21

This past Saturday, September 18th, 2021, the St. Michael High School Model United Nations team hosted its third annual Cardinal Model UN (MUN) Conference, welcoming students from six schools and over 100 delegates.

Since the first conference of 61 students in 2019, Cardinal MUN has grown to 110 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, Fairhope High School, Foley High School, Spanish Fort Middle School, St. Michael, and Thompson High School.

“This marks our third time hosting this fall conference and our third timing hosting an in person Model UN Conference under Covid protocols,” noted St. Michael Model UN Advisor Paul Saboe.

After a short welcome address, the students role-played diplomats in three simulations. Led by St. Michael Chair Tradd McDaniel and Legal Counsel Joe Druhan, the delegates in the Disarmament Committee (DISEC) addressed the spread of nuclear weapons. Led by St. Michael Chair Mimi Smith and Legal Counsel Sarah Caroline Lott, the delegates in the World Health Organization (WHO) addressed the resurgence of Covid-19. Led by St. Michael Chair Margie Cowles, the delegates in the Mobile City Council addressed the building and funding of a new Mobile Bridge and Expressway while addressing the arrival and impact of Hurricane Nicholas.

“The best part about chairing a committee is seeing newcomers embrace Model UN and excel,” stated DISEC Chair Tradd McDaniel.

“Few people find themselves super comfortable when speaking publicly and being able to step outside one’s comfort zone provides a great opportunity for learning and success,” commented Mobile City Council Chair Margie Cowles.

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 were presented to St. Michael students Hadleigh Patterson, Maeghan Reilly, and Phoebe Cisneros. St. Michael students Minna Sellers, Andrew Corbett, Ali Esparza, Jack Garrison, Lexi Kruse, Judah McAleer, Natalia Pyatt, and John Traveis, and Foley student Kameron Prim 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 position and were presented to St. Michael students Morgan Blackinton and Connor Brown and Thompson High School student Jasmine Jones. St. Michael students Gabriel Cogollo, Andrew Corbett, Minna Sellers, and Noah Thompson and Thompson

High School students Callie Culver, Zoe Grodsky, Anderson Lee, Phillip Martin, and Andrew Wilson received Best Delegate Honorable Mention Awards.

Finally, Delegate Choice Awards were voted on by the student participants and presented to St. Michael student Morgan Blackinton and Thompson High School students Anderson Lee and Phillip Martin.

“I was really flattered and honestly super surprised,” said St. Michael junior Morgan Blackinton on winning both Best Delegate and Delegate’s Choice for the Mobile City Council. “It felt really good that my hard work paid off.”