Model Diplomats

Ryan Gillespie, Stefanie Njissen, Lauren Stroyeck, Max Wuttke, Julie Maggioncalda, Stephanie Kimec, Amber Ramsey, and I went to New York City during spring break 2007 to participate in the National Model United Nations. Our advisor, Dr. Laura Landolt, drove us from VWC all the way to what the official website calls “the world’s largest university-level simulation of the United Nations.” After some crazy Yahoo directions that sent us over the George Washington, through Harlem, onto the Cross Bronx Expressway, and over the Throgs Neck Bridge, we finally arrived at the Sheraton New York via the Triborough Bridge and followed FDR Drive to Midtown Manhattan. For those of you non-Tri-State Area folks, we should have taken the Lincoln Tunnel, the southern entrance into Manhattan by the Jersey Turnpike and then worked our way over via 42nd St. I’m not sure what Yahoo! Directions was thinking… If that sounds a lot more dramatic than it should be, then good! This was the “world’s largest university-level” etc. etc. thing. Only a dramatic road trip would be fitting for our trip to a five day extravaganza in New York City. The trip, days of caucusing, diplomacy, resolution and report writing, and finally voting procedures were actually the culmination of months of hard work, though. Everyone had been working for months, researching our country – Nicaragua. Every person had a committee that they would be serving on – alone – and a committee that they were the secondary on to help research and write position papers for the primary representative.

Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the International Hydrological Programme (note the crazy English spelling) (IHP), General Assembly

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meeting for the purpose of a 15 minute caucus,” (Robert’s Rules of Order are a lot more fun when you actually know them!), I had a blast. Even better, we got to visit the United Nations building, and to sit in the General Assembly Hall. The best, though, was that we all looked like secret agents as we strolled through the streets of New York in our business suits.

We were all nervous at the beginning, but in the end everything went great. Although my report did not pass in my committee, many of my fellow delegates got their reports and resolutions, which they had helped draft, passed in their committees. We had fun meandering to get Thai food on West 48th at my favorite restaurant. Most of all, though, we all had fun together.

Dear Fellow Scholars,

I hope this year has been both productive and enjoyable. For me it has gone by quickly, but has been packed with excitement. As I look back at my four years here, I notice many changes on campus, from new student activities and programs, courtesy of WAC, to the fresh look of the Marlin Chronicle. Perhaps one of the most interesting additions for scholars has been the Undergraduate Research Symposium and Academic Fair. With the event’s inception last year, undergraduate students were given the opportunity to showcase the work they had done during the semester. This year’s more than week-long event has demonstrated the staying power of the Symposium and inspired underclassmen to conduct their own research.

Whether planning on going to graduate school or seeking employment, conducting research is a valuable experience for several reasons. Independent research differs from other classes here at Wesleyan in that the researcher has a great deal of control over the content of the class. The research can be as specific as studying the amounts of various forms of Mercury in the air or as broad as the researcher would like. Independent research also allows students to work closely with a professor, which I have found to be an incredibly rewarding experience.

In addition to conducting and presenting research, I also highly recommend interning for a semester. After student teaching this semester I am convinced that I have chosen the right career path. Interning while an undergraduate student not only looks great on resumes and builds relationships with others in the field, but is also a safe way to test your satisfaction with that career. I have had many friends and acquaintances find that an internship has opened up opportunities within their field, or inspired them to go in another direction. Whether you find that you were correct in your career choices or learned something new about yourselves, an internship will be an asset to your college career.

So, at the end of this year, and the end of some of our undergraduate careers, I hope you feel that the Honors and Scholars Association has served you well. I encourage you to take advantage of all of the services offered on campus both through Honors and Scholars and through other organizations. It is all at your fingertips, but you must take the initiative to work toward your goals. We have been selected as members of this group because we are extraordinary students. Consider what you want to do next semester that will be extraordinary.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president. It has truly been an honor. All my best!

Sincerely,

Amanda Wolk
President of Honors and Scholars 06-07
Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Ruehlmann

Dr. William Ruehlmann, Ph.D
Professor of Communications
Executive Director, The Society for Collegiate Journalists

Dr. William Ruehlmann, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, joined the faculty at VWC in 1993. He earned a BA in English at American University, a MA in English at University of Arizona-Tucson, and a PhD in English at University of Cincinnati. Ruehlmann gained significant experience in the field of journalism in various newsrooms across the country from The Kentucky Post in Cincinnati and to The Ledger Star and The Virginian-Pilot locally.

In his nearly fifteen years at Wesleyan, Dr. Ruehlmann has been honored to receive both the Samuel Nelson Grey Distinguished Teaching Award and the United Methodist Church Exemplary Teaching Award, but also to be named the Advisor of the Year by the Society of Collegiate Journalists for his active leadership role as faculty advisor for The Marlin Chronicle.

In addition to teaching Journalism courses, Ruehlmann is an active scholar who contributes columns to Port Folio Weekly and writes books and articles. So what is a day in the life of Dr. Ruehlmann like? He admits that his daily schedule is typically ‘teach, teach, teach; write, write, write; read and then sleep.’ So, what does a dynamo like Ruehlmann do for fun? Well, as you might expect, he likes to teach, write, and read. The passage below by Robert Frost is one of his favorites.

My object in living is to unite My avocation and my vocation As my two eyes make one in sight, Only where love and need are one, And the work is play for mortal stakes, Is the deed ever really done For Heaven and the future’s sakes. Robert Frost

Student Spotlight: Nickole Bennett

Hometown: Chesapeake, VA
Class: Junior
Major: LAMP
Activities: Commuter Club, SAM, Phi Sigma Sigma, Panhellenic Council President, SGA Senator, Yearbook, PORTfolio, Tutoring, Batten Center staff, and Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society
Most rewarding activity: They are all rewarding, but I would say Phi Sigma Sigma because so much comes out of it both externally and internally.
Most demanding activity: Also all are demanding, but the Yearbook is the most because it takes a lot of time to get everyone pictured and put it together. There also isn’t a lot of open response right now so you really have to fight to get people to respond.
Activity you recommend for others: Join a Greek organization. Although not for everyone, there is so much that it can give you that people don’t really know about.
Favorite course: Technical Theater
I love working in the theater and helping with the production. I got to know one of my now best friends in that class.
Favorite Quote: “A wise girl kisses but doesn’t love, listens but doesn’t believe and leaves before she is left.” ~ Marilyn Monroe
Favorite thing you do to relax: Hang out with my friends and sisters, read, and watch movies.
Future plans: I want to go to graduate school, but I don’t know where yet. Eventually I would like to travel and see the world.

Student Spotlight: Kathleen Kern

Hometown: Chesapeake, VA
Class: Freshman
Majors: Sociology and Health & Human Services
Activities: Phi Sigma Sigma and SOC, Animals and the Environment
Most rewarding activity: Definitely Community Service
Most demanding activity: Both are, but well worth the effort
Activity you recommend for others: Both! Going Greek is a bond that one is lucky to form and community service is very, very helpful to a person’s self-perception and strength of heart.
Favorite course: Art History
Hennessy is an amazing teacher and definitely has a passion for what she teaches. It has opened my eyes to a new way of viewing the world.
Favorite Quote: "If you can not find peace within yourself, you will never find it anywhere else." ~ Marvin Gaye
Favorite thing you do to relax: Sleep
Future plans: Graduate school for social work, then a job somewhere in that field.
Senior Spotlight: Courtney Anderson

Hometown: Chesapeake, VA
Prior Education: Hickory High School
Majors: Communications & Social Sciences
One thing that attracted you to VWC: Small class sizes
Favorite course: Marketing Management, because I learned how to write my own integrated marketing communications plan and create the advertisements to go along with it.
Best Memory from VWC: Tug of war at Mud Games was a lot of fun!
Favorite Quote: "May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds. May your rivers flow without end." ~ Edward Abbey
May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds. May your rivers flow without end.
~ Edward Abbey
What you do for fun: Attend sorority events with my Tri Sigma sisters.
Future plans: Seek employment in the communications field.
Advice to H&S underclassmen: Get Involved! There are a lot of things to do on campus, you just have to find the one that is the right one for you.

Senior Spotlight: Leslie Clements

Hometown: Portsmouth, VA
Prior Education: Churchland High School
(Home of the Truckers!)
Majors: English & Religious Studies
One thing that attracted you to VWC: The vivacious and caring faculty.
Favorite course: Environmental Writings—but it is unfair to make me choose only one.
Professor who has inspired you: Dr. Carstens
Best Memory from VWC: Road Trips!
Favorite Quote: "May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds. May your rivers flow without end." ~ Edward Abbey
What you do for fun: Really nerdy stuff, like reading and writing. Otherwise, I enjoy being in the out-of-doors terrorizing litterers.
Future plans: MFA program in Creative Writing at Old Dominion University
Advice to H&S underclassmen: Get Involved! There are a lot of things to do on campus, you just have to find the one that is the right one for you.

Senior Spotlight: Laura Nogrady

Hometown: Hampton, VA
Prior Education: Kecoughtan High School
Majors: English & History
One thing that attracted you to VWC: The small size and location
Favorite course: History of the Old South
Professor who has inspired you: Dr. Margolies
Best Memory from VWC: Going to Homecoming with my best friend!
Favorite Quote: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." — Confucius
What you do for fun: Listen to music, watch TV, etc.
Future plans: Working for MacArthur Archives, maybe graduate school in History a little later on.
Advice to H&S underclassmen: Get those Honors courses and independent research projects out of the way early, better to do that than hope you do well in all of them your senior year!
Senior Spotlight: Danny Proud

**Hometown:** Mt. Pleasant, PA  
**Prior Education:** Mt. Pleasant Area High School  
**Majors:** Biology and Mathematics  
**One thing that attracted you to VWC:** The small, friendly community  
**Favorite course:** Comparative Anatomy  
**Professor who has inspired you:** Dr. Townsend  
**Best Memory from VWC:** Travel experiences in Trinidad and Belize  
**Favorite Quote:** “First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do.” ~ Epictetus  
**What you do for fun:** Workout, SCUBA dive, and snowboard  
**Future plans:** Attending University of Louisiana Lafayette starting Fall 2007 on a University Fellowship for doctoral study in Environmental and Evolutionary Biology.  
**Advice to H&S underclassmen:** Clubs and organizations are an important part of the VWC community. If you are not an active member in a club consider joining one.

Senior Spotlight: Tara Redding

**Hometown:** Chambersburg, PA  
**Prior Education:** Chambersburg Area Senior High School  
**Major:** Earth and Environmental Sciences  
**One thing that attracted you to VWC:** The soccer team and EES major  
**Favorite course:** Environmental Chemistry  
**Professor who has inspired you:** Dr. Malcolm  
**Best Memory from VWC:** Any community service I did, especially trash pick-ups on sunny days!  
**Favorite Quote:** “The fate of any situation is your reaction to it.” ~ unknown  
**What you do for fun:** Run, bike, enjoy the outdoors as much as possible  
**Future plans:** Whatever they will be, they will be great.  
**Advice to H&S underclassmen:** Having a high GPA is great, but in the professional area, how well you get along with people and your personality are important, so have fun in college too (Don’t let your books be your best friends)!

Senior Spotlight: Amanda Wolk

**Hometown:** Acme, PA  
**Prior Education:** Mt. Pleasant Area High School  
**Majors:** English & Theater  
**One thing that attracted you to VWC:** The small campus  
**Favorite course:** Comparative Anatomy  
**Professor who has inspired you:** Dr. Hall’s Love, Sex, and Marriage. I made him blush twice, a feat I thought was impossible.  
**Professor who has inspired you:** Dr. Shedd has been such a role model to me for everything from being responsible, to enjoying life, to being a strong, smart woman in today’s society.  
**Best Memory from VWC:** The first annual Relay for Life on campus. We raised over $13,000 for the American Cancer Society and we stayed up for nearly 20 hours.  
**Favorite Quote:** “Your chances of success in any undertaking can always be measured by your belief in yourself.” ~ Robert Collier  
**What you do for fun:** I like to go to the beach when the weather’s nice and watch movies when it’s cold outside.  
**Future plans:** I will be teaching high school English in Chesapeake next year. I am going to see where that takes me.  
**Advice to H&S underclassmen:** Soak it up. Sit in the middle of campus on a warm, sunny day, and enjoy being a college student surrounded by great friends with so many wonderful opportunities at your fingertips. Tomorrow you will look back and all those warm, sunny days and wonderful opportunities will have passed, so make sure you take advantage of them now.
It has been over four months since I made my Winter Session trip from Greece to Istanbul, and though my memories have become dull and faded around the edges with time, my experiences on that trip have become a part of me which will never fade.

For example, I remember having been woken up at 5AM in my small, stiff bed in the hotel room I shared with my roommate in Istanbul to otherworldly sounds of the Muslim call to prayer, sounding from the slender minarets which pierced the horizon everywhere you looked in the city. I can no longer remember the tune of the chant, or the dream from which it awoke me, but I do remember feeling misplaced, insecure, inspired, and, consequently, changed. I was out of my element, a stranger in a strange land, of whose language I knew barely three words. That morning was the pinnacle of my experience on the trip, lying in bed, caught between sleeping and waking, mesmerized by sounds which no doubt were everyday routine for the residents of that city.

More than any class or book or video, this experience, along with so many others on the trip, taught me how foreign a culture really can be. Seeing the ruins and remnants of ancient Greece brought what I have learned in class alive and branded facts, dates, places, and people into my brain more enduringly than have days of cramming for exams. And after riding tour buses in two of the oldest, most crowded cities in the world, I have not complained about traffic in Hampton Roads since returning.

Immersing myself in a foreign culture and country has allowed me to not only discover the beauty and wisdom to be gained in realizing and absorbing differences in ways of living and thinking about the world, but also to discover more about who I am, where I come from, and where I am going. By gaining a new perspective on the world, I gain a new perspective on myself. For these reasons, my experiences on this trip are invaluable. I encourage anyone who is given the opportunity to travel; it is an eye-opening life and learning experience.