

THE TARTAN

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Model UN brings home awards from first competition



Members of the Model United Nations Club represented various foreign countries at UNC Charlotte. **KLEMENT CAMAJ**

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Radford University's recently formed Model United Nations club brought home three awards after returning from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

RU's Model U.N.'s President, Klement Camaj, was awarded Outstanding Delegate. Most Improved Delegate was awarded to Nelly Abdul and the entire club won Best Delegation.

The club was formed in early September by Dr. Paige Tan, the new head of the political science department at RU, replacing Dr. Margaret Hrezo.

Tan, who has been doing model U.N. since high school, was formerly a professor at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

While there, she was also active in model U.N. organizations, forming her own club at the university. She also has dedicated a few class periods in one of her classes to doing a model U.N.

"I think that it's a really great experience for students, giving them a hands-on experience to see what it's like to be a political delegate. Some students can just look at the

material in the textbook and get it, but some students can really only grasp the material when they're hands-on with it," said Tan.

Out of the 15 club members, around nine or ten were in attendance at the conference.

The event took place over a two day period from Oct. 10-11. The process of a model U.N. delegation is very complex. First, every "delegate" must write a one page, single-spaced document explaining their assigned nation's position on an issue before getting accepted into the conference.

"There is a lot of research that goes into this paper, trying to understand what is going on in the issue being discussed and your nation's stance on that," said Camaj. "Each person has to represent a certain nation and act as a delegate for that nation on a specific event."

Camaj previously represented France in a delegation on the days before the beginning of the Rwandan Genocide of 1994.

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"You have to be able to get up, speak and convince others that your ideas are right while trying to draft a resolution solidifying that point," he said.

In Camaj's case, that proved a bit difficult as "France supported the Hutu's (the ethnic group that carried out the genocide against the Tutsi minority."

"You just had to go in there thinking as your nation would and act as if you do not know what actually happened after (the event). Coincidentally, our group reached almost the same outcome as what really occurred: a deadlock," he said.

Abdul, a new transfer student from NOVA Community College and winner of Most Improved Delegate, explained that although the Model U.N. assembly in North Carolina was initially overwhelming, the RU team kept their cool.

"When we all first got down there we were really nervous, but all it took to do really well down there was to get up and talk. My nation was Brazil, and the topic was on water. I found myself talking the most in my delegation," she said.

