



JCCC Dedicates Wall in Honor of U.N. Team

Dr. Brian Wright, associate professor, political science, was an undergraduate at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pa., when he

was convinced of the value of the Model United Nations. A member of the university's Model U.N. team, he was attending his first MUN conference on Sept. 22, 1980, when Iraq attacked Iran at the start of the First Persian Gulf War. He found his work on a document for MUN strikingly similar to calls for a cease-fire by the United Nations Security Council.

"If students do their research and play their roles correctly, their simulations are supported by the work of the real United Nations," Wright said.

Wright went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from Duquesne University and a doctorate in international relations from Kent State University, Ohio. His expertise is in transnational relations (the intersection of private individuals and governments), particularly in the area of environmental non-governmental organizations.

Wright came to JCCC in fall 2002 and became adviser to the JCCC U.N. team in fall 2003, serving previously as adviser to a U.N. team at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N.C.

Founded in 1997, the JCCC U.N. team, under adviser George Belzer, adjunct professor, political science, quickly developed a reputation for winning awards, winning its first Best Delegation award at the Midwest MUN in spring 1998. The following fall the team became the first community college to win such an award at the American MUN, Chicago, an achievement repeated every year since.

In the last two years, students in the JCCC U.N. team have won awards at the last six conferences they have attended. This achievement

places JCCC among the best MUN programs in the country.

Most notably, the JCCC U.N. team, in partnership with the Wichita State University team, won an Outstanding Delegation Award and Outstanding Position Paper Award at the 2007 NMUN, New York City.

The JCCC team won three Outstanding Delegation awards for its portrayal of Greece and Tanzania at the 2007 MMUN Conference, St. Louis, and an Outstanding Delegation award for its portrayal of Spain and Portugal at the 2006 AMUN, Chicago. These two wins together with the NMUN award gave the JCCC team a clean sweep for the 2006-2007 academic year in the Outstanding Delegation category.

The JCCC U.N. team also won at three conferences in the 2005-2006 academic year: an Outstanding Position Paper award for 12 position papers representing Mali at the 2006 NMUN Conference, New York City; Outstanding Delegation award for its portrayal of France at the 2006 MMUN, St. Louis; and an Outstanding Delegation Award for its portrayal of Kenya at the 2005 AMUN International Conference.

In recognition of the team's achievements, JCCC dedicated an MUN honors wall in October across from room 264 of the Office and Classroom Building. The dedication of the wall coincided with the date the JCCC team received a one-time Special Recognition award for its outstanding performance during the last year presented by the United Nations Association, Greater Kansas City Chapter, at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. 

Academics

JCCC's Model U.N. team received a one-time Special Recognition award for its outstanding performance during the last academic year presented by the United Nations Association, Greater Kansas City Chapter, at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Shown here is the fall 2007 team.

Front row: (left to right)
Vika Schnose
Jared Hedge
Jenn Edmonds

Middle row
Calvin Baumgarten
Brandy Schmitz
Joe DeNoon
Lois Grimshaw
Amy Pepper

Back row
Mick Larson
Nida Fatima
Mike Fields
John Thompson
Jerome Berndt
Norman Decelles
Dr. Brian Wright