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Model U.N. Conference to Focus on Peace, Security and Development

Winthrop University

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Model U.N. Conference to Focus on Peace, Security and Development

ROCK HILL, S.C. — A former Peace Corps volunteer and international trade analyst will serve as keynote speaker at the opening address of Winthrop University’s 37th annual Model United Nations Conference on March 20.

Isaac Wohl will address the conference theme of Globalization: Peace, Security and Development through his lecture on the implications of peace and security on the per-capita income of nations around the world.

Wohl earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics and philosophy at Grinnell College and a master’s degree in public policy at Harvard Kennedy School. He worked as a regional teacher trainer for the Peace Corps in Kachango, Uganda, led community outreach programs that helped facilitate post-Katrina reopenings of elementary schools with the Broadmoor Improvement Association in New Orleans and acted as consultant for the World Bank, where he analyzed data of the South African shipping industry.

Wohl currently works as an international trade analyst for the International Trade Commission in Washington, D.C. His address takes place at 7 p.m. in Tillman Auditorium.

In addition to Wohl’s address, “hot topics” concerning economic development, women, globalization and food justice are spread throughout the 3-day conference.

About Winthrop’s Model U.N.

The first Model U.N. was held on campus under the direction of Melford Wilson, professor of political science, and Alan Rash, the first student coordinator. Since then more than 2,000 Winthrop students and 10,000 high school students have participated in these conferences.

The Winthrop Model U.N. is unique in several ways. It was the first program of its kind to combine participation of college students and high school students. The Winthrop students, who enroll in the United Nations course, are each assigned a country. Throughout the spring semester, the students study and debate issues commonly discussed in the assemblies of the United Nations.

During the conference, these students act as delegates to the nation they represent, debating a resolution on Wednesday night and assisting the high school delegates of the same nation as they debate resolutions in committees and plenary sessions throughout the conference.

This year’s Secretariat is under the student leadership of Allie Briggs, coordinating general; Leonel Gonzalez, director general; and Summersby Okey, secretary general.

This year’s Model U.N. schedule:
March 20:
- Afternoon registration for high school participants.
- Keynote speaker Isaac Wohl will speak at 7 p.m. in Tillman Auditorium. Following the keynote address, the first session of General Assembly will be called to order, and the conference will have officially begun.

March 21:
- High school students will spend the day in committee sessions debating resolutions that have previously been submitted to the Secretary-General and the two student coordinators.
- Wohl will discuss the role of economic development in peace and security at 9 a.m. in 221 DiGiorgio Campus Center.
- Political science students Kayla Davis and Sarah Sladek will discuss women and globalization in the Zapatista case at 1 p.m. in 221 DiGiorgio Campus Center.

March 22:
- This is the second day of committee sessions. The General Assembly also meets twice this day, once as a full delegation minus the current Security Council. The afternoon session of General Assembly will be attended by all delegations, including both Security Councils.
- Following the closing session, awards will be handed out to delegations, delegates and schools.
- Associate Professor of Social Work Wendy Campbell will discuss globalization and food justice at 10 a.m. in 221 DiGiorgio Campus Center.

For more information please contact Chris Van Aller, Model U.N. faculty advisor, at 803/323-4667, e-mail vanallerc@winthrop.edu or visit the Model U.N. website at www.winthrop.edu/modelun.