Model UN Students Travel to Singapore
By Claritza Cruz

It was Saturday, March 12, 2011 when eight students from Savannah State University embarked on an intercontinental journey to Singapore. Their goal was to represent their university in an international competition hosted by Harvard University; The World Model United Nations 2011. In the past, Savannah State University Model United Nations has fared well in the rigorous contest by winning diplomacy awards and receiving honorable mentions. It was now up to these eight students to continue that tradition.

In preparation each student completed months of research on topics ranging from social issues such as gay rights, to economic problems concerning sovereign wealth funds. Each student was required to write position papers in which they detailed their country’s stance on the topics of their perspective committees. In addition, each Savannah State University MUN member was required to make presentations to students, professors and other members of the organization. On top of all this, each traveling delegate still had the obligation to attend the countless practices and meeting sessions. Therefore, on March 14, 2011 when the opening ceremony commenced, each Savannah State University delegate was thoroughly prepped and eager for the conference to begin.

It probably comes as no surprise, but representing Libya proved to be more of a challenge than in the previous year. World MUN considers any current actions by countries to be relevant to debates taking place during committee sessions. Since Libya is in turmoil and international action is being taken against the regime of Muammar Qaddafi, this left Savannah State University team in a precarious position. However, each student rose to the challenge presented before them.

From the very first day of committee sessions, Savannah State University students stood out becoming leaders in committees many having 400 delegates. They each exhibited leadership skills, oratory expertise and knowledge to compete with other delegates from prestigious schools and Model United Nations societies from around the world. They rose early, worked through lunch and stayed late in to the evening to ensure that the best resolutions were passed. This culminated in the receiving the diplomacy award; given to Richard Powell and Claritza Cruz for their work in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.
By the end of the trip, the Savannah State University Model United Nations team had garnered the international respect of their fellow delegates and their respective committee chairs. They were able to learn more about the operations of international organizations such as the United Nations, cultures of different students from Pakistan to Moldova and make new friends along the way. This unique experience enabled each student to broaden their international horizons while representing their university to the world.

**SSU Students Gearing Up for the Summer Study Abroad Programs**

More than 20 students are getting ready for the summer study abroad programs respectively in Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Ghana, and Trinidad and Tobago. The students will be joined by students from Fort Valley State University and Albany State University who are enrolled in the SSU study abroad programs. Most of these students are excited and nervous at the same time because this will be their first trip overseas. Dr. Rose Metts, Dr. Roenia Deloach, Professor Davida Harris, Professor Irena Tedrick, Dr. Teresa-Michelle Walker and Dr. LaJune Wise Wilkerson are traveling with students respectively to China, Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, Costa Rica and Ghana.

**A Fulbright Scholar-in Residence to join the SSU faculty in Fall 2011**

Dr. Dze Willibroad Ngwa has been recruited by the Institute of International Education and the US Embassy in Cameroon as the Fulbright Scholar-in Residence at Savannah State University for the academic year 2011-2012. Dr. Ngwa is currently a senior lecturer of Political History and International Relations at the University of Yaounde in Cameroon. He has taught and organized curriculums for American students visiting Cameroon under two study abroad programs: School for International Training and Dickinson-Cameroon program. Last year, Dr. Ngwa was nominated by the US Embassy to participate in the prestigious study of US institutions programs at the University of Massachusetts. In addition to teaching two courses per semester Dr. Gwan will work directly on various projects designed to internationalize Savannah State University.

**Savannah State Students Selected for Exchange with Jiujiang University in China**

The competition was tough and we are excited to have six outstanding students ready to launch our new semester long exchange program with Jiujiang University in China. Selected were: Janine Dawkins, Chad Mignott, Asia Lawrence, Aaron Brown, Jadon Forbes and Stasheia Durham. These young women and men are in for an adventure of a lifetime. In preparation to leave Savannah State and the U.S. the students met with the Mayor of Savannah as Jiujiang is located within our sister city that the mayor and his team travelled to late last year. They were given some good advice, suggestions and tips to help them prepare. They were also offered an opportunity to participate in a orientation session that will be modeled after the session the Mayor and his colleagues attended before their last trip to China.

Jiujiang University President and his staff will be visiting Savannah State University this summer as they prepare to send 5 of their students to SSU for a semester or two of studies on our campus. Preparations are underway to make sure these students are made to feel right at home and have plenty of opportunities to experience all that Savannah State and this region have to offer.
Clarissa Davis, Fulbright Student Scholar visits SSU

On April 20th, Ms. Davis was on campus to talk with students about opportunities available through the Institute of International Education (IIE). During her presentation she talked about scholarships and study abroad programs available to SSU students. Ms. Davis met with students in Dr. Bongang’s class and then met with students in the Student Center. Ms. Davis promises to visit SSU again in the fall! If you would be interested in having Ms. Davis visit your classroom the next time she’s on campus please let us know in the International Education Center and we will do our best to accommodate your requests.

Fulbright US Student Program

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Fulbright is the largest U.S. international exchange program. U.S. Student Program offers opportunities to undertake international graduate-level study, research, arts projects, and teaching in schools worldwide. Scholars and professionals are supported via the Scholar Program for advanced research and university teaching.

DEADLINE: October 17, 2011   |   WEBSITES: us.fulbrightonline.org, fulbright.state.gov

Critical Language Scholarships For Intensive Summer Institutes

For U.S. citizen undergraduate, masters and Ph.D. students, receive funding for beginning, intermediate and advanced level intensive summer language programs at American Overseas Research Centers.

DEADLINE: vary by center   |   WEBSITE: www.clscholarship.org

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program

Awards of up to $5,000 to support U.S. citizen undergraduates receiving federal Pell Grant funding at two-year or four-year undergraduate colleges or universities in study abroad. Students studying a Critical Need Language may receive a $3,000 supplement for a total possible award of $8,000. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

DEADLINE: October 2011 and March 2012   |   WEBSITE: www.iie.org/gilman

Boren Scholarships & Fellowships

Funding from the National Security Education Program (NSEP) supports U.S. undergraduate and graduate students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests: Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Up to $20,000 will be awarded to undergraduates and $30,000 to graduate students depending on cost and length of program.

DEADLINE: January 31 and February 9, 2012   |   WEBSITE: www.borenawards.org
International Students Making the News…
The last several months have been busy for our international students across campus. We have had several international students recognized for academic excellence and outstanding athletic achievements. The International Student’s Association hosted its annual ISA week and three students participated in SSU’s first annual Research Day.

The Athletics Department held an end of the year banquet and two international student athletes were given MVP awards were: Sandra Kirstjansdottir (women’s tennis) and Amara Jones (sprinter-women’s track). Amara Jones was also presented the W.W. Law Scholarship Award.

At the 2011 Honors Day Convocation more than 30 international students were recognized for the superior performance in the classroom. We had students awarded medallions for high GPAs- Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Many others were awarded the Blue Ribbon for their grades this Spring and Fall. In addition, 4 of our international students were listed in the 2010-2011 Who’s Who Among Students at American Colleges and Universities.

ISA Week was held April 10th to the 17th. The week started off with a Flag Raising Ceremony in the King Frazier Student Center. Several new flags were added to the collection and outdated flags were replaced. Music without Borders, a longtime favorite event was held with students preparing poster boards representing their home country. Many of the students and some international faculty members prepared foods for everyone to sample. On Tuesday, a fashion show was held and dresses and costumes from around the world were showcased. The first annual International Student Awards night was held to recognize students for their contributions to SSU. The week ended with a cook-out on Saturday. There was lots of good food, good music and of course fun! The students worked hard to put these events together and their efforts showed!

SSU Research Day
The National Science Foundation awarded SSU grants to implement the Minority Access for Graduate Education and Careers in STEM Programs to strengthen STEM education at Savannah State. April 12th was SSU’s first Research Day. It was a day for students to share their research with the community. Despite a little bit of rain, it looked like the event was well attended. Three international students participated in the event, Sonya Compton, graduate student in Marine Biology, Glen Izevbigie, Civil Engineering and Nateja Diaz all had conducted and prepared projects for the event.

International Student’s Association has become part of the City of Savannah’s Adopt a Street Program
The group was recently recognized by city officials for their willingness to come together as a group to help keep Savannah clean. The members of ISA will be meeting several times a year to clean up their section of LaRoach Avenue, near the front entrance of our campus.