



Stockton Model United Nations International Travel Team

Germany, November 16-25, 2023



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Willkommen (Welcome!)

From November 15-26, 2023, 24 students from diverse backgrounds, different majors, and varying levels of diplomatic skills came together to represent Stockton University at the international NMUN (National Model UN) conference in Erfurt, Germany, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Germany joining the UN. We were joined by Maud Dahme, a Holocaust survivor, educator, and keynote speaker; Irvin Moreno-Rodriguez, Interim Director of the Holocaust Resource Center (HRC); Rona Kaplan, a friend of the HRC and of Gail Rosenthal, and faculty leaders Dr. Michael Hayse (HIST) and Dr. Tina Zappile (POLS).

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Supported annually by the President's Office and School and Behavioral and Social Sciences (SOBL), this year we partnered with the HRC and private donors to increase the number of students, add a study tour in Frankfurt centered on German history and the Holocaust, and travel with our community partners to enhance the educational experience and expand Holocaust education in New Jersey.

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Overall Experience, Touring Germany

Our study tour in Frankfurt and cultural tours in Erfurt prepared us for the Model UN conference by making us better diplomats, ready to focus on peace and security, the advancement of human rights, and the protection of the environment.

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Photos

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to thank President Joe Bertolino, the Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center (HRC), and private community donors for their generous support that made our trip a reality.



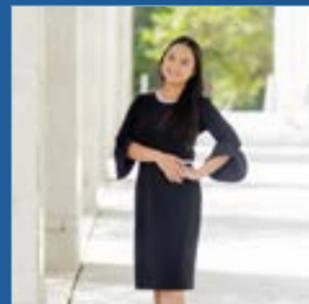
Meet the Team



Gina
Algeri

**Class of 2023,
Economics Major
(Concentration in Pre-Law)**

“My favorite part of the Model UN travel experience was the location of the conference: the beautiful and historically rich Erfurt, Germany. The history of the Holocaust and the wall separating East Germany from West Germany gave a useful perspective prior to the simulation of the importance of the United Nations’ goal of world peace. (The most unexpected part of the trip was) forming a friendship with Holocaust survivor Maud Dahme. I was so happy to spend bus rides and walks listening to her additional life stories that were not included in her book *Chocolate, The Taste of Freedom*.”



Nina Fatima
Argayoso

**Class of 2023,
Accounting Major**

“I enjoyed traveling internationally with Stockton Model UN, especially to Germany. I like making connections with students from around the world and improving my public speaking and writing skills. I never expected to become so close to my classmates. During the past ten days I spent with my professors and peers, I discovered that we share many similarities in our likes and dislikes. Additionally, I was pleasantly surprised to meet some of my fellow Filipinos from the Philippines. Overall, I truly appreciate the diversity, equity, and inclusion I experienced in Model UN.”



Grace
Baumgartel

**Class of 2024,
Environmental Science Major**

“The most challenging part of the Model UN journey was learning how to effectively manage time for myself, time for others, and time for committee work and cultural tours. It took a lot of effort to make sure I had enough energy for everything, and I often felt drained, but it is an experience that I wouldn’t have traded for the world.”



Isabelle
Boyer

**Class of 2024,
Social Work Major**

“One of the most unexpected parts of the trip for me was looking out of the window one night while at a conference and seeing that it was snowing.”



Sarah
Cirillo

**Class of 2026,
Political Science Major**

“My favorite part of the Model UN travel experience was being able to be culturally engulfed in the Erfurt culture during the two cultural days of the Model UN days. I loved that we experienced these days with other students who were going to participate in the simulation, and we all had been culturally engaged in this new place we all were not aligned to.”



Riley
Crabtree

**Class of 2023,
Historical Studies & Political
Science Majors, Holocaust &
Genocide Studies Minor**

“My favorite part of the study tour was being able to see the beautiful architecture, taste the food, and overall experience the German culture. The most challenging part of the trip was building up enough confidence to deliver a speech in front of everyone in the General Assembly. It was a goal of mine to be able to deliver at least one, and I successfully did.”

Meet the Team



Karlie
Deckert

**Class of 2024,
Social Work Major**

“My favorite part of the Model UN travel experience was getting to travel to Germany for ten days and getting to experience the culture and learn about the history of the country.”



Jordan
Dougherty

**Class of 2025,
Biology Major**

“I really liked meeting people, especially from around the world. I loved getting to know people and even going to events that involved everyone at the conference. I also loved hearing people’s stories and how they came to be at this specific conference. I was very surprised at how close we all got during our adventures. I didn’t really like to talk in class. However, when we were all placed in a foreign country, we all became really close. Public speaking has always been my enemy, and I did not want to speak at all. But, with encouragement, I gave four speeches.”



Cristian
Della Fave

**Class of 2026,
Psychology Major**

“My favorite part was being able to spend so many memorable moments with my classmates who I was able to bond with, unlike I’ve ever bonded with strangers before.”



Natalie
Salgado-George

**Class of 2024,
Health Science Major,
Business Studies Minor**

“The most challenging part of my Model UN journey was listening to a Ukraine survivor and a CPR instructor speak about their personal experience, the impact it had on them, and the impact they inspired to have on the people they share their stories with.”



Aurora
Gill

**Class of 2024,
Marine Science Major
(Concentration in Marine
Biology)**

“My favorite part of the Model UN travel experience was the cultural tours, which really allowed us to be immersed in the culture of the area by visiting areas that changed the way of life in Germany. The most challenging part of my Model UN journey was giving a speech in front of the whole committee because I am not the best public speaker, and it terrified me, but everyone was so supportive and really helped me feel more comfortable with it.”



Lindsay
Grande

**Class of 2026 and 2027,
Criminal Justice Major (Dual
Degree), Political Science Minor**

“My favorite part of the trip was being able to meet people from across the world at the conference and be able to come together from these different backgrounds to create resolutions. The most unexpected part of the trip was getting closer to the rest of my class. It was a very gratifying experience to be able to get closer and form bonds with people I would never have met if it wasn’t for this experience. Breaking out of my comfort zone was the most challenging part, but it provided me with so many new friends and opened me up to amazing opportunities that I would not have been able to do without this experience.”

Meet the Team



Emmanuella
Hammond

**Class of 2025,
Master of Public Health**

“I loved getting to discuss real-life issues and finding solutions, and this puts into perspective what other countries are going through. I also loved getting to meet people from all over the world and learning the different ways to communicate with someone who does not speak the same language as you.”



Arti
Kapoor

**Class of 2025,
Political Science Major
(Concentration in Pre-Law),
Business Minor**

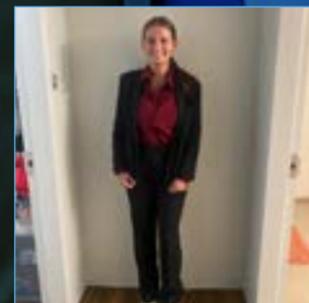
“My favorite part was traveling abroad, especially to Germany; I had always wanted to travel to Germany, and the Model UN opportunity allowed me to fulfill that ambition. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to represent my school internationally, and I enjoyed getting to know people from all backgrounds and understanding their perspectives on world issues. It was a fantastic pleasure to visit the Buchenwald Memorial and the Frankfurt Parliament, not to mention making a ton of lasting friends. I felt a renewed feeling of obligation to stand in for the people who perished at the hands of the Nazis. We were given the chance to polish the Steppertsteine Stone to keep them alive in our hearts.”



Jared
Keane

**Class of 2024,
Communication Studies Major**

“It was a very transformative experience to debate with students from vastly different nations and to listen to their personal, unique perspectives. Collaboration was often difficult; working together required the ability to shed preconceived notions and work with every one of varying personalities and opinions. However, I found that the rainy weather and pre-conference stress were not unique to our group; all the students discovered common ground in the shared experience.”



Mariah
Khan

**Class of 2025,
Psychology Major**

“The first thing that comes to mind was the incredible cultural and historical experience and education gained from this trip through all of the cities and landmarks we visited. Places left us speechless due to how meaningful, surreal, and insane it was for all of us to be there. Being able to experience this with all 29 of us, especially Maud Dahme, was an honor and a privilege. The relationships created between us students are relationships that I will not be able to create with anyone else, and I am thankful that these were the people and professors that I got to travel with. The NMUN was a highlight of this trip because interacting with fellow college students from all around the globe was an incredible experience. It created unity, connections, and relationships that are indescribable.”



Hayden
Nguyen

**Class of 2024,
Computer Information
Systems Major, Business
Administration Minor**

“The most challenging part was trying to stay focused for the three days of the conference, the moment I got called for a motion unexpectedly after raising my placard, and especially the moment I was standing in front of the entire committee and giving a speech with my partner. This quote by Jillian Michaels motivated me a lot: ‘Get comfortable with being uncomfortable!’”



Christian
Pimenta

**Class of 2024,
Historical Studies and
Political Science Majors**

“(My favorite part of the Model UN travel experience was) meeting new people from all across the globe, making amazing new friends from both the class and the conference, as well as the bus rides and the hotel conversations. (I didn’t expect) how close I got to the rest of my classmates. Before the trip and during the flight to Frankfurt, I still had not even learned all of their names, but by the end of the trip, it felt like they were like family.”



Meet the Team



William Powers

Class of 2025, Political Science Major (Concentration in International Affairs), Holocaust & Genocide Studies Minor

“The most challenging part of the conference was when my ideas were constantly being limited on a working paper, pushing me to find a friendlier working group to join minutes before the first draft of all working papers had to be finished, in which my contributions to the group received praise from the Dias, all whilst developing a sinus infection.”



Jenna Samiz

Class of 2025, Social Work Major

“The most challenging part was finding the confidence to approach others, lead a group, and speak publicly.”



Té Sammons

Class of 2025 and 2026, Psychology & Finance Majors (Accelerated Dual-Degree MBA)

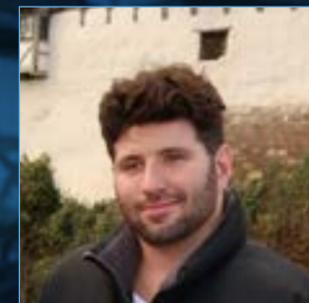
“The most unexpected part of this trip for me was how in my element I actually was. I pushed myself out of my comfort zone doing this from the start, but I was head delegate for my first conference with applauded speeches and got close with so many people in and out of my travel group. I know I’ll take these memories and connections with me for years to come, and thank this experience for further specifying what I’d like to do in my future career.”



Katie Trout

Class of 2024, Biology Major

“My favorite part of this experience was stepping out of my comfort zone and traveling abroad for the first time. After coming back home, I realized this trip had unlocked a love of travel for me, and now I find myself wanting to go to more places around the world.”



Joseph Wozniak

Class of 2024, Political Science Major (Concentration in International Affairs), History Minor

“My favorite part of the trip was how it was an opportunity to expand my cultural horizons. I also feel it enhanced my understanding of the importance of human rights and how the risk of democratic backsliding is still a valid concern. The most unexpected element of the trip was how pleasant and easy-going our conference was. Though I anticipated a solid trip, I was surprised over how much I enjoyed myself while bonding with my fellow Delegates.”



Rebecca Yamoah

Class of 2025, Biology Major, Chemistry Minor

“My favorite part of the Model UN Travel Experience was visiting Wartburg Castle. The castle holds a wealth of German and European cultural history as it served as home to Saint Elizabeth and was where Martin Luther made his translation of the Bible. The climb up the hill to get to the castle was grueling as it stood at a height of 1300 feet above the city of Eisenach. However, it was rewarding to reach the top and enjoy the view of the beautiful city. That whole experience was a metaphor for life. Although the climb to the top might be difficult, it is important to keep moving to reach your goals and experience your sweet reward.”

Preparation for NMUN-Germany

Preparation for the Model UN Conference and study tour began in September, including the Insider's Guide to the UN and readings about the Holocaust, including *The World Must Know*, and *Chocolate, The Taste of Freedom*, which later became very important to us as the author, Maud Dahme, traveled with us, guiding us through many historical sites related to the Holocaust, and serving as an opening speaker for the Model UN conference.

Maud is a Holocaust survivor who was a hidden Jewish child during World War II, saved by a Christian family in the Netherlands. Currently, she serves on the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, where she advocates for continuing education and leads annual trips to Europe for K-12 teachers. It was a pleasure and honor for all of us to have had the opportunity to learn from Maud and hear her stories.

Our class was split between the United Nations (Dr. Zappile) and the historical portions of our study tour (Dr. Hayse). The class prepared us not only for the rigorous United Nations simulation on Thursdays but also for the historical weight of the sites we visited on Tuesdays. To prepare for the UN simulation, we focused on writing impromptu speeches, developing position papers, sharing solution ideas for our topics, working with our partners, and writing working papers with

solutions to topics. A massive part of our success and understanding of these topics was teamwork in our classroom, where many positive and meaningful relationships were created and will remain. The connection and friendships prior to the trip were important for our triumph at the Model UN conference.



At the Model UN conference, Stockton represented five different countries - Sweden, Spain, Ghana, Morocco, and Romania - and participated in four UN committees - United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), General Assembly (GA), Security Council (SC), and Human Rights Council (HRC).

It was intimidating for us to understand and learn about the

processes and functions of the United Nations and how to replicate them through the Model United Nations Conference. To retain all of the information of such a complex organization was scary; however, through an immense amount of practicing, reading, teamwork, and our professors being so helpful and insightful, it made the process more comforting for the class.

The professors were incredible mentors and answered all of our questions about traveling tips. Dr. Hayse's prior experience in Germany, language skills, and important cultural knowledge were invaluable to the entire group. We could not be more thankful for the help of the professors in not only the traveling portion but what they taught us throughout the semester.



Outcomes, Skills Gained, Awards

We were incredibly honored and thrilled to have represented the university internationally. Our delegations of Morocco and Ghana both received an award for Best Delegation, Honorable Mention. We all enhanced our leadership skills and developed excellent communication, public speaking, and debating skills. Within our working groups, we also increased our knowledge of international issues and learned how to effectively collaborate with others to develop solutions, write UN resolutions on our assigned topics, and achieve consensus as a larger group. The Model UN Conference experience overall provided an opportunity for collective learning and problem-solving to address the issues we all care

about. This was achieved through inclusive leadership, a reminder of the importance of teamwork, and listening skills. Time management is a crucial part of the UN process, especially whilst assuming the position of representatives from countries with varying ideologies and worldviews. Learning how to interact, collaborate with, and accept others who could or might not have similar viewpoints was a humbling lesson to draw from.

From immersing ourselves in the rich history of a country plagued with tragedy and survived by miracles to interacting with students from around the globe, our main takeaway from Germany has to be an expansion of knowledge and experiences. We enjoyed the privilege of sharing

experiences as a team, such as traveling outside of the country with new people, trying different cuisines for the first time, appreciating art and culture, and so much more. In addition to the experience providing us with lifelong friendships and memories, the journey increased our desire to learn more about Germany's brutal past and to show more respect and dignity for those who perished.



Overall Experience, Touring Germany

Stockton University's "Model U.N. Study Tour" class traveled to Germany to represent varying nations at the National Model U.N. Conference in Erfurt, Germany. On this trip, we experienced cultural tours and the opportunity to visit a concentration camp and learn about the dark history of Germany. Led by our professors Dr. Hayse and Dr. Zappile, we spent the first half of the trip on various cultural tours accompanied by Maud Dahme, Irvin Moreno-Rodriguez, and Rona Kaplan.

Our study tour of Frankfurt included visits to the Jewish Museum to learn about Germany's memory culture and the city's Old Town. We also toured the Memorial at the "Grossmarkthalle" (wholesale market) for its historic role in the deportation of German Jews from Frankfurt and the surrounding metro area. This was followed by a lecture on modern EU monetary policy at the adjacent European Central Bank.

We then met with local memory activists and did a walking tour of the "Stolpersteine" (stumbling stones memorials) to learn about the burden of memory as a touchstone of German culture; these are specifically located in locations of the last known residence of victims of the

Holocaust. Since many of these victims do not have gravesites, it is a way to remember what has happened in an otherwise normal and peaceful community.

We also explored museums, including the Modern Art Museum and the German Film Institute, which were both very interactive and thought-provoking. That evening concluded the Frankfurt portion of our study tour. The next stop was the well-preserved medieval city of Rothenburg ob der Tauber in Bavaria, where we explored cobblestone streets filled with baked goods, Christmas shops, and Döner Kebab!

After our small excursion, we headed to Erfurt, where we were enriched by cultural and city tours that focused on the UNESCO-recognized "Jewish-Medieval Heritage of Erfurt."

Our visit to another UNESCO World Heritage site, Wartburg Castle, highlighted the legacy of the Protestant Reformation (where Martin Luther translated a portion of his bible) and early efforts to create a modern German democracy in the 1800s.

On our visit to the Buchenwald Memorial, we talked about the dangerous consequences of hate and how the legacy of the Third

Reich inspired today's Federal Republic of Germany to be a vigorous defender of human rights. We saw first-hand the conditions of the camp.

We also visited the Point Alpha Memorial in Geisa at the former border of East/West Germany. The memorial laid bare the profound human toll that inter-German division took during the Cold War. We heard first-hand accounts from those who knew what it was like to live in a divided nation and the hardships people suffered.

Once the Study tour portion of the trip had concluded, the Conference officially began. The conference was very successful, and it was attended by students from universities all over the world representing over 80 sovereign countries. The experience of traveling to a foreign country, visiting cultural sites and various Holocaust sites, hearing from Maud, and participating in a conference with countless international students was a truly life-changing experience.



NMUN



**Stockton Model United Nations
International Travel Team**

Kobe City University, Japan November 20-26, 2016



Stockton is an equal opportunity institution.

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