UMSL IB students excel once again in the Midwest Model European Union

By Donald Counts, MFA 2014

The Midwest Model European Union began in 1993, making it the second oldest intercollegiate simulation of its kind in North America. For over 20 years, the three-day event has provided students with the opportunity to understand the inner workings of the European Union through a hands-on simulation. This year, the MMEU was comprised of 12 universities representing 28 countries in the European Union.

The annual event draws dozens of students and advisers from regional universities to Indiana University-Bloomington. Each university brings two or three delegations, which serve to represent the European Union’s 28 member states. The students spend two and a half days demonstrating their debating and negotiating skills as they embrace the roles of EU commissioners and national prime ministers, along with their respective foreign, finance, environmental and agricultural ministers.

When interviewed by UMSL Daily about her experience, Gray stated that she “learned a lot more about the process of how proposals are handled and how they move between the various groups. They say the best way to learn is to actually get your hands dirty and try it yourself. I couldn’t agree more.”

In addition, Brent Simmonds, a senior public policy administration major, earned third place as the Finance Minister of Estonia.

The students were led by Curator’s Professor of Political Science Joyce Mushaben and Assistant Professor of Marketing Elizabeth Vining.

UMSL’s team of 19 students continued the tradition of success in the MMEU!

Brittany Gray, senior business administration major with an emphasis in marketing, was a first place winner for her role as Director GeneralNatasa Pirc Musar of Slovenia. Preparation for the simulation took hours of research to ensure she was well versed in the country’s stance on a myriad of issues.