

MUNIFICENCE - Issue 1

MUNIFICENCE

Issue 1

In this Issue:

A Letter from the Head of Press: Max Jakobsen
Page 2

Politics & Paris (Part I)
Page 2

Introducing the Keynote Speaker: Eleanor Beard-sley
Page 3

Meet the SG: Mia Kwon
Page 4

Humanitarian Aid Kit
Page 6

The Neverending War: the Iraqi Civil-War
Page 7

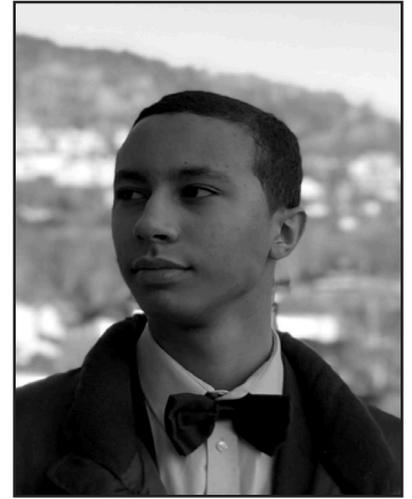
MUN-inspired Pickup lines!
Page 8

A Letter from the Head of Press

Dear delegates,

On behalf of the entire PAMUN Press Team, I would like to warmly welcome you to PAMUN 2018.

My name is Max Jakobsen and I am the Head of Press (Editor-in-Chief) of MUNificence, the official press publication of the conference. Growing up bicultural, alternating between Guinea and Sweden, I have been exposed to contrasting perspectives of the world. As a result, I have always been invested in Politics and International Relations, which, in recent years, had allowed me to travel to places such as Cambridge, Madrid, Tbilisi, Vilnius. Having participated in over a dozen European Youth Parliament conferences as delegate, journalist, and chairperson, I am thrilled to delve further into the world of MUN.



Preparations for PAMUN 2018, have been going on since October and we are thrilled for you all to finally join us and for the conference to begin. Although this is sure to be an intense weekend, it is sure to be one filled of unforgettable experiences. The goal of the PAMUN Press Team is to catch all these moments both in our daily newspaper or on our Snapchat account (@pamun2018). Our reporters, photographers, and editors, work all day to make sure to provide a high-quality publication for you - The MUNificence newspaper will be distributed to you at the end of each day.

Looking forward to meeting you all!

Sincerely,
Max Jakobsen

P.S: If you'd like to contribute in any way to MUNificence or contact the Press Team, please feel free to email me at @majakobsen@asparis.fr !

Politics & Paris (Part I)**PAMUN PRESS TEAM**

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Since the 17th century, Paris has been one of Europe's major centers of finance, commerce, fashion, science, and the arts. It is by far the most populated city in France, and naturally, contains some very important political history. Throughout the four issues of Munificence, we will be *enlightening* you on the major events and time periods in French history in order to shed light on the importance of Paris as a political and cultural capital. Our first stop, the 18th century.

The Enlightenment (1715-1789): Although the first major figures of the Enlightenment came from England, the movement truly exploded in France thanks to great philosophers like Montesquieu, Voltaire, Rousseau, Diderot... In fact, Paris is now commonly referred to as the "City of Light", due to the leading role it played during this movement in the 18th century. In broad terms, the Enlightenment was an intellectual and philosophical movement that dominated the world of ideas in Europe, allowing for liberating

and progressive thoughts, largely grown out of resentment and discontent over the decadence of the French monarchy in the late 1600s.

Lucas Lippman

STORY

Eleanor Beardsley: a witness of France's 21th century



Introducing the Opening Ceremony Keynote Speaker.

In this rapidly moving world, events happening in one country are no longer restricted to regional effects, as we now truly live in a global village. Besides renowned, worldwide leaders and activists who have contributed to this village as the outwardly visual “heroes”, there are people who play roles behind the scenes and report those events with astute minds. Eleanor Beardsley, our keynote speaker, is an outstanding journalist who falls into this category.

The Arab Spring revolutions were some of the most significant democratic milestones in modern history. As a journalist, Beardsley witnessed, first-hand, this large-scale series of events which drastically affected the political situation in the Middle East with a calm mind and critical thinking.

The world was horrified by the ISIS attack in France on November 15, 2015. As a reporter, as well as a mom, Beardsley demonstrated her firmness living through the situation. In an atmosphere of fear, she chose to stay in this city she loved, one she believed to be a city of liberty and lofty ideals. Despite the dangers, she committed herself to the job she cherishes and the people she loves. She said: “Paris is a place where the world came together to solve its problems.” This is why she is here with us today, and this is what we, the conference delegates, are here for!

Furthermore, she has contributed her journalistic talents to covering less dangerous but equally significant political events. As a major power of the European Union, France’s presidential election naturally

attracted widespread attention. As a journalist passionate about the French language and culture, Beardsley covered both the 2007 and 2012 French presidential elections.

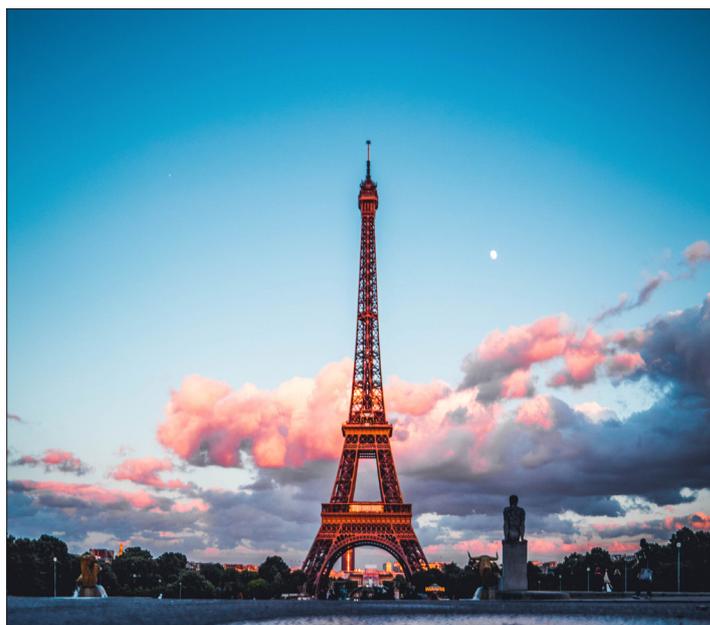
However, politics is not her only interest. She is also passionate about social issues. Recently, she published a report about banning smartphones in French high schools. Her words demonstrated her love and caring nature for the young generation. She is more than a hero that fights against terrorism, she is also a parent of two teenagers and cares about the everyday lives of young people. In her report, she objectively mentions both the advantages and disadvantages of the policy and leaves the consideration to the audience.

Beardsley also has another hobby: Gastronomy. An article she published last year takes the audience on a journey of Parisian culinary traditions and cultural background.

Beardsley not only describes a variety of ingredients and cuisines but also goes deeper into its historical context, describing how French civilians under the rule of King Louis XIV, made Paris “a city of food”.

Eleanor Beardsley has overcome many challenges. Her courage and passion is the perfect model for us -the younger generation- to look up to. We should always have curiosity and enthusiasm towards the world. Whenever we face difficulties during this conference or in life, we should not step back, but be brave and devote ourselves with an unbiased, and sharp mind to overcome them.

Xueting Meng
& Yunrong Chen



Picture taken by Lucas Lippman.

INTERVIEW

Meet the SG: Mia Kwon

Mia Kwon, a 18 year-old senior at the American School of Paris, is the Secretary General of PAMUN 2018. We sat down with her and asked a couple questions.



Q: How long have you been involved with MUN?

SG: I started MUN when I was in 7th grade and living in Shanghai. Then, I moved to Paris, which opened a lot more pathways since its MUN club was much more active. This year, marks my sixth year being involved in MUN.

Q: What have you learned from MUN?

SG: The number one thing I've learned from MUN is the importance of civil participation. What I've realized, being heavily involved in MUN throughout my high school years, is that when we discuss some of the major issues that have been going on in our world, it's easy to pinpoint it on our governments or our United Nations Representatives,

or some of the higher level officials, and we begin to think that we're immune to these issues, that we're not a part of what's going on. But what I realized is that what aggravates the cycle of aggression is our indifference to these issues. MUN taught me that you always have to be aware of what's going on, and you also have to make your decisions based on your knowledge of the situation. In the end, you become an active civil servant.

Q: What advice do you have for any new delegates hoping to be successful in their MUN careers?

SG: I feel that delegates have to be willing to take risks, regardless of one's experience or the number of conferences they've attended. As a first-time delegate, one must be willing to push themselves

out of their comfort zone, and although this can be frightening at times, in MUN conferences, I feel as if this is the only way to truly grow and improve. I remember my first conference that I attended as a middle school student in a sea of high school delegates. It was definitely intimidating, but at the end of the day, I thought, it's highly likely that I'm never going to see these people anyway for at least the next few years of my life. So, I said "what the heck" and took the podium as many times that I could. I was definitely lacking compared to the other delegates, but regardless, I felt good about myself and my accomplishments, which drove me to continue pursuing a "career" in MUN. And look at me now! Meanwhile, for delegates with a few years under their belt, it's very easy to fall into a certain groove, having been used to a pattern of arguments or procedures. However, I think it's important that delegates aren't stagnated by this, but instead are willing to push out of their self-established boundaries. Delegates will find that this will allow them to be very strategic about their speeches, or predict if their clause will pass or fail. In

other words, don't be restricted by your own role or delegation, but reach out to seek knowledge of the entire world! And once a delegate feels that they've accomplished this, they can seek other positions, such as a chair at PAMUN XIX!

Q: What are some challenges you've faced in the past at MUN conferences and how are you planning to prevent the same issues occurring at PAMUN?

SG: Some of the more technical challenges that I've faced are just resolution-based debates because I've gone to several committees that are resolution based, and one of the biggest flaws of those is that the number one arguments that come up while discussing these resolutions are: "it's too vague," "it doesn't address specific points" or that "it doesn't address any enforceable methods". Regardless of the overall quality of the resolution, it gets struck down because of those cliché reasons. I feel like a lot of people have gotten very frustrated with this kind of obvious pattern, and at PAMUN we do a clause-by-clause debate. This resolves some of the conflicts by focusing on a very specific aspect of a topic or a specific aspect within one clause. But then again, clause-by-clause also has its problems. Delegates are trying to introduce relevant aspects of the topic which can make the overall resolution very redundant. This was implemented last year, but we didn't see it fully enforced. So, beginning this year, we're firmly pushing this feature called specialized topics,

"What aggravates the cycle of aggression is our indifference to these issues."

INTERVIEW

“Each nation must recognize their own responsibilities as a member of this international community”

which is that for each issue of a committee, the chairs will set specific aspects or specific topics. For example, the chairs can set specialized topics such as political, economic, social, or religious issues. Then, when delegates will submit or write clauses, they will write one that is associated with one specialized topic, reducing the risk of a resolution that is redundant.

Q: How is PAMUN different from other MUN conferences?

SG: This year at PAMUN, we have around 800 people attending from 60 schools in 20 countries. Likewise, our conference is filled with diversity, which is what allows this conference to flourish. In every committee, we have different perspectives and ways of looking at things that are introduced by the diverse background of our delegates, making the debate even more fruitful and engaging. Yet at the same time, we're not like THIMUN where thousands of people come to attend a conference, and I feel as for occasions like that, it's hard to create a theme and a list of issues that go well together, simply because there's just too many people. On the other hand, I think the size of our conference has a very good balance, one that our executive team has fully taken to its advantage to generate a theme and a coherent list of issues for each committees. Over the next few days, the delegates will find that all the issues they'll be discussing in their committees, such as the question of agriculture and food security or the issue of state-

building to combat radicalism, are linked to the overall arching theme of “Sharing Responsibility to Implement Sustainability”. Essentially, this is the message that the executive team is trying to resonate – the notion that each nation must recognize their own responsibilities as a member of this international community while reaping the benefits as a mutual organization.

Q: What are your goals for PAMUN?

My principal goal as Secretary General is to produce a PAMUN where delegates can actually use the opportunity to discover what their actual passions are. This year we've introduced a very diverse range of topics that the delegates can confront in their respective committees, and we've also set a GA topic: “Drafting a global compact for migration”. We've tried to address all of the goals of sustainable development, and I'm hoping that delegates can realize how relevant these goals are to our individual lives, both in personal lives and as parts of communities. These are issues that not only touch upon issues of macro importance, such as the crisis in Iraq or government corruption, but also issues of agriculture and food security, which have a day to day impact on us. I'm hoping the delegates can come to PAMUN and realize how the topics that are seemingly so distant to us when we discuss them in this more formal setting are actually going to be influencing our present and our future.

Ryley Menges



Nicholas Julian, SG of PAMUN 2017



Opening Ceremony of PAMUN 2017

Humanitarian Aid Kit



At PAMUN, the Human Rights Committee will be discussing the avidly debated topic of humanitarian aid.

In a world that is unfortunately afflicted by several ongoing humanitarian crises, it is of no surprise that there is an urgent need for humanitarian aid. Humanitarian aid is life-saving assistance provided in form of medical care, resources, shelter and other necessities, to people and populations who are being affected by a humanitarian crisis. Examples of such include, natural disasters and wars. Amongst those who have the most need of humanitarian aid, are refugees, the homeless and victims of emergencies. The UN has been working restlessly in order to increase the efficiency of the delivery of humanitarian aid all around the world. The countries who provide the most funds to this cause are currently the USA, the UK, the EU and Japan. As the number of people who necessitate this as-

sistance increases exponentially, the gathering of resources and funds in order to aid these people has become a number-one priority for the UN, as well as NGOs worldwide.

With all the ongoing conflicts in the world. Such as the Yemenite conflict, the Syrian Revolution, the earthquake and tsunami that occurred this September in Indonesia and the Typhoon in the Philippines, it is crucial for humanitarian aid to reach all the people struggling in these areas. The Global humanitarian Overview of 2018, indicates that there are currently 133.8 million people in urgent need of humanitarian aid, and only 97.4 million are receiving it. As previously stated, Humanitarian aid is one of the UN's primary concerns, especially in terms of coordination. According to ATHA (Advanced

Training Program on Humanitarian Action). Humanitarian coordination is the systematic utilization of policy instruments to deliver humanitarian assistance in a cohesive and effective manner. Although this may seem quite obvious, delivering humanitarian aid effectively is a challenge, especially when dealing with such an overwhelming amount of people who are in all sorts of distress, ranging from physical to psychological.

Of course, the crises that have been requiring humanitarian aid have been tackled on several levels, however it does not cease to be a primary concern. The UN has put in place the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, an organization that promotes early action and reduces human losses. Another UN organization is the OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) which, formed in 1992, strengthens UN response to complex emergencies. Also first established in 1992, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,

comprising UN programs, non-UN affiliated organizations and other NGOs, aids millions on a daily basis.

All of this however, still seems not to be enough, and that is where we all come into play. Yes, there are many organizations in place, but coordination remains poor when it comes to dealing with the crises. For instance, the UN was largely criticized for its management of the Ebola Crisis between 2013 and 2016. Additionally, on a more general note, there is a lack of funds and accountability when it comes to humanitarian aid. Crises are ongoing and everyday become more intense; people are in need of humanitarian aid. Its provision is not a choice but a duty that must be fulfilled in order to extend relief.

Irence Colombo



The Neverending War

What further steps can the international community take to de-escalate the radicalization happening in Iraq and promote sustainable peace in the region?

Boko Haram, ISIS, Al-Qaueda; all of these are just a few examples of terrorist organizations that arose from countries in the midst of political chaos. Mass radicalization usually occurs after socio-economic or political stress, therefore fragile states - those that cannot or will not provide core functions to the majority of their population - can serve as bases for international crime organizations, locations for civil and external wars, and centers for terrorist groups. Such countries need state-building policies to strengthen their governance, not only for the benefits of their citizens - but also for the international community.

In 2016, there were almost 35,000 fatalities around the world at the hands of terrorism - and that isn't counting injuries, kidnappings and unreported casualties. Unfortunately, much of the damage has both stemmed from and affected Iraq as well as its surrounding countries in the Middle East.

After being invaded in 2003, Iraq is still unstable. Its public debt is 63% of its GDP; over 3 million citizens have fled since the start of the conflict; it has a 41.6/1000 infant mortality rate. Although most of the territories that were once occupied by ISIS have now been recaptured by the Iraqi government and its allies, there are still sectarian conflicts between numerous insurgency groups. These include the Baathists, supporters of Hussein; Iraqi nationalists; the Salafi Islamists; and Shi'a militias.



So what steps should the international community take to help promote state-building to de-escalate the radicalization happening in Iraq? The Political Committee will be discussing exactly that at this year's PAMUN.

Earlier this year, the Kuwait International Conference for Reconstruction of Iraq was held, being led by Kuwait, Iraq, the EU, and the World Bank. As a result, \$30 billion was promised to Iraq from international contributions. However, Iraq says that although it is a generous start - it is still not enough. Officials report that over \$88.2 billion is needed to recover from years of warfare and destruction.

There is also the issue of a lack of legitimacy in the country. Many citizens do not view the institutions the US created in Iraq as credible, choosing to legitimize

unofficial political orders instead. This created a split in national perspectives and contributed to the instability we see now.

Another hindrance in state-building is the widening fragmentation happening after the American invasion. Religious divisions between the Shia and Sunni Muslims widened post-2003 and Iraq was in the midst of a religious conflict. This has made it even more challenging to strengthen the constitution and government in the years following.

“The Political Committee will be discussing exactly this at this year’s PAMUN.”

A possible solution would be for aiding nations to step in and help Iraq with building and strengthening their government. To create an atmosphere of collaboration instead of control like in the past, formal agreements could be drafted to hinder further abuses from happening.

Another solution could be to define measures for compromise and unification. Compromises could be made between the current political groups seeking power in Iraq. These could be moderated by the UN to ensure that fair and safe deals are being made. Meetings and forums could also be created to facilitate a political conversation between the population.

The issue of Iraq is an interesting but complex one. We will get to see what stance delegates hold on this, and what measures they propose to help alleviate this issue.

Anna Kuznetsova

Pickup lines! *European Edition*

Debating all day can get tiring. Here are some pick-up lines you can use to liven up someone's day. Safe flirting.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Austria?
Because you're alps-olutely stunning | Ireland?
Because you've got my heart rate Dublin. |
| Czech Republic?
Because I can't help but Czech you out. | Italy?
Because you've got a pizza my heart. |
| Denmark?
Because I'm in Dane-ger of falling in love with you. | Latvia?
Because you make my heart beat Riga-rously. |
| Estonia?
Because I'm Tallin' you, we'd be a great couple. | Netherlands?
Because AmsterDAMN. |
| Finland?
Because I think I've Finnish-ed searching for my soulmate. | Poland?
Because I'd love to Gdansk with you all night. |
| France?
Because you're looking pretty Nice and it's driving me in-Seine. | Portugal?
Because getting with you is my Portu-Goal. |
| Germany?
Because you're a Nein out of 10 and I'm Ja one you need. | Romania?
Because you should be Buch-arrested for stealing my heart. |
| Greece?
Because you sure look like a god-dess. | Spain?
Because you're driving me Mad-rid. |
| Hungary?
Because I'm Hungary for you. | Sweden?
Because you Sweden up my life |
| | UK?
Because I want U, K? |

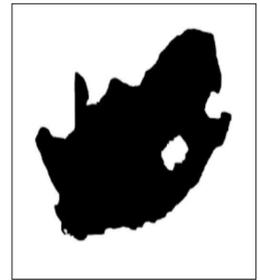
Unscramble the country name!

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. RCNFEA | 6. CEOXMI |
| 2. LTAYI | 7. NTEIAVM |
| 3. MEYNAGR | 8. SLERIA |
| 4. NIHCA | 9. BMOOIACL |
| 5. AJANP | 10. OPETIAHI |

Can you recognize the country?



1: _____



3: _____



2: _____



4: _____

Answers will be in Issue 2.

Poetica Wang

Don't forget to add us on Snapchat!

@PAMUN2018

