



FOCUSED GLOBALLY • EDUCATING LOCALLY

A Student Reflects On Her Years of Participating in IC 21 Programs

Every year InterConnections 21 (IC 21) provides numerous opportunities for globally curious students, both locally and within greater Teton region. With programs ranging from volunteer-based service trips to national Model United Nations (MUN) conferences and even a local MUN conference, the possibilities offered to our students really are limitless.

Personally, InterConnections 21 has impacted my outlook on the world since I was first introduced to the organization in 8th grade. Since then I have attended multiple trainings hosted by IC 21, participated in national trips for Model United Nations (MUN), attended national environmental conferences, and most recently assisted in hosting the 10th annual Teton County Model United Nations as the Secretary General.

I was proud to be the Secretary General of the 10th annual Teton County Model United Nations conference. Over the past 10 years IC 21 has had 1,478 student registrations! InterConnections 21 launched this program 10 years ago with only 3 schools (Jackson Hole High School, Jackson Hole Community School, and Journeys School of Teton Science Schools), and only 72 students. In the decade since

the conference's inception, the number of schools participating is now 11, with up to 223 students at a single conference. In addition to bringing schools from all over Wyoming, TCMUN draws delegates from 3 schools in Idaho as well.

As Secretary General I had the honor of interacting with and observing 199 students

was during this process that my months of hard work really paid off as I got to stand before all of the delegates and congratulate them on the fantastic work they had done, both in and out of the conference. Being able to open and close the Teton County Model United Nations conference that had introduced me to a larger global community



from all around Wyoming and Idaho as they debated in the Teton County Model United Nations conference. I loved watching as the delegates debated worldly topics with knowledge and passion and drafted solutions based on the months of research they did. For a large part of the conference

I sat in on a committee that focused on environmental issues, because that is my personal passion, but the list of committee topics was so interesting that it was hard for me to stay in one place. Toward the end of the conference, I found myself more focused on the resolutions that had been passed in committee session and worked towards preparing them for closing ceremonies. It

meant everything to me. I can only wish for that positive of an experience for all of my peers.

It is because of this exact experience that I advocate so strongly for Model United Nations. Just through trying parliamentary procedure in committee students learn voting procedures, the processes of points and motions, speech giving techniques and the fundamental rules of group debate. And with those skills they can take on new and challenging roles, just adding to the incredible community of global thinkers we have here in Jackson Hole.

- Sara Van Hatten, JHHS Class of 2016

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Local Students to Travel to Berkeley, CA, to Participate in a Model UN Conference

Every March, over 1,500 high school students from all over the world travel to Berkeley to participate in the Berkeley Model United Nations conference. On March 3, 11 students from Journeys School and the Jackson Hole Community School will travel to the University of Berkeley in California for the 64th annual Berkeley Model United Nations conference.

Berkeley Model United Nations (BMUN) is a student-run organization on the UC Berkeley campus dedicated to continuing its six decades of excellence

as the world's premier, and very first, United Nations simulation. BMUN's mission is to spread awareness of international issues and the spirit of diplomacy. The conference also aims to create an educational experience for high school students to help them realize their potential in public speaking as well as policy debate.

In the context of our mission to promote student learning and action about critical global issues, InterConnections 21 has made participation in national Model United Nations (MUN) conferences one of our signature programs. Ongoing mentoring of high school students, who are motivated and passionate about global issues and keen to develop their leadership skills, is a high

priority for IC 21. MUN conferences simulate various bodies and agencies of the United Nations. Students from around the state, country, and world get together at such conferences to play the roles of delegates from different countries, assigned to them by

the conference organizers. MUN involves dynamic debate, public speaking, research, teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking about important global issues.

At the Berkeley MUN conference, students will spend three days in committee sessions, where

they will uphold their assigned countries' positions on pre-assigned topics. Each student is currently working on a paper that frames their country's stance on the assigned topics. These papers will be submitted prior to the conference in an effort to win an award for academic research. Leading up to the conference, IC 21 will host weekend training sessions for all participants, wherein they can hone their skills at using parliamentary procedure, swap research tips, and seek guidance on their papers. In addition to a very busy conference schedule, students will take a UC Berkeley campus tour and, if we can squeeze it in, go on a double-decker bus tour of San Francisco!



LXIV

SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION

Trevor Houser Connects Global Environmental Policy to Wyoming



On Sunday, November 15, InterConnections 21 welcomed the 2015 Teton Model United Nations keynote speaker, Trevor Houser, to a packed house at the Jackson Hole Community School. Mr.

Houser is a former Jackson resident and is currently a partner with the Rhodium Group and leads the firm's energy and natural resources work. He is also a visiting fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, an adjunct lecturer at the City College of New York, and a visiting fellow at the school's Colin Powell Center for Policy Studies. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the National Committee on US-China Relations and serves on the Advisory Board of Center for US-China Relations at the Asia Society. In 2009, Mr. Houser served as a Senior Advisor to the U.S. State Department and also served as a U.S. climate change negotiator through the 2009 Copenhagen Conference. He has traveled and worked extensively overseas.

Mr. Houser spoke and took questions about "Climate Change Negotiations and the Prospects for a Global Deal in Paris." He delivered a rousing lecture on what we could anticipate coming out of the Paris climate talks, which took place in December of 2015, and discussed his unique path to becoming an expert in his field of environmental policy. The question-and-answer period proved quite interesting as he fielded thoughtful questions from many of the TCMUN participants and community members alike. The discussion concluded with an exploration of the possible outcomes for Wyoming after the Paris climate talks, given Wyoming's large coal and oil industries.



Mark Jenkins Returns to Jackson to Discuss His Epic Burmese Adventure

In partnership with the University of Wyoming's Center for Global Studies, IC 21 is pleased to announce the return of Mark Jenkins, a National Geographic writer whose last presentation in Jackson was standing room only! On Sunday, March 6, at 5:30 p.m. at the National Wildlife Museum, Mark will give a talk entitled "Burma's Resurrection: An Expedition Deep Into A Forbidden Land." Last year, Jenkins, along with a team of North Face athletes, attempted to climb the highest peak in Burma, Hkakabo Razi, which reaches 19,300 feet. The peak lies in the far north of the country on the border of Tibet. Taking trains, motorcycles, buses, and a boat up the Irrawaddy River, and then hiking for two weeks through an almost impenetrable jungle, the team battled leeches, poisonous spiders, and venomous snakes. From basecamp they set out to ascend the serrated, heavily glaciated West Ridge of Hkakabo Razi.

Their expedition was featured in the September 2015 issue of National Geographic Magazine in the story, "Point of No Return," and in the Renan Ozturk documentary "Down to Nothing." Mr. Jenkins' presentation will provide a complete account of this unrivaled expedition to Burma---stories of hardship and hilarity, bear hunters and Buddhist monks, fear, failure and freedom. Prior to Mr. Jenkins' lecture, three students supported by University of Wyoming Center for Global Studies Fellowships will give presentations about their fieldwork. The "What in the World?" presentations will be at 4:00 p.m. at the National Wildlife Art Museum. The presentations are an opportunity to present their work, which focuses on sustainable development and land management themes with work from Panama, Kyrgyzstan, and Nepal. Join us at the National Wildlife Art Museum to learn about the great work taking place through the Center for Global Studies!



Please Donate to InterConnections 21 today!

InterConnections 21 has been working in the valley and around the state of Wyoming for seventeen years to connect our students and community to important global issues. IC 21 brings world-class lecturers to our corner of the state with our Global Speakers Series. Your support of IC 21 allows for us to continue to host speakers such as Nicholas Kristof, Tracy Kidder, Paul Farmer, and Ishmael Beah, just to name a few. These events reach hundreds of community members who relish the opportunity to hear speakers of this caliber in Jackson. For Nicholas Kristof

alone, the event was completely sold out! This equated to 500 people from our community who attended a single event.

In addition, InterConnections 21 provides scholarships to students who need financial assistance in order to participate in our programs--from TCMUN registration fees to international service trips and national conference attendance. A local Jackson parent wrote to us about her daughter's receipt of a scholarship to attend a MUN conference in Washington D.C. last March:



Thank you very much for awarding financial aid to my child to participate in the WAMUN [Washington Area Model United Nations Conference] this year! This grant award made the event feasible for our family. Because of the scholarship, she had the opportunity to work collaboratively and think critically about global issues with students from around the country. I recognize that the MUN conferences have fostered a profound interest in world affairs. We couldn't have done it without you. Bravo IC21 & Thanks again!

A senior Jackson Hole High School student recently reflected,

I can proudly say that IC 21 has had a huge impact on my perception of the world, by providing me with opportunities I could not get elsewhere in Jackson. IC 21 has allowed me to take on the role of a delegate from country states such as India, Thailand, and Burkina Faso and participate in debates to form solutions with fellow delegates. It has allowed me to travel to Pittsburgh where I spent 3 days learning about a wide range of environmental issues and solutions with some of the most passionate people in the country. It has allowed me to stand in front of 199 of my peers and call to order a conference that I was instrumental in planning. And, it has allowed me to meet some of the most influential people in my life, people that I look up to or confide in for information; ultimately people who have become my friends and my global teammates.

Support IC 21 in our mission to connect students, teachers, and our community to critical global issues by donating today! You can donate online or you can mail your donation to PO Box 4399, Jackson, WY 83001.

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