



## NCCA Board of Directors

### **Jennifer Contreras:**

Jennifer Contreras served as a NMUN staff member for seven years in senior roles at our conferences in New York, China, Ecuador and the Czech Republic. She joined the NCCA Board of Directors in 2011. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism and Photography from the University of La Verne in Southern California. She also serves the community as a volunteer tutor for the non-profit organization 826LA. Jennifer currently works as a freelance television producer in Los Angeles.

### **Eric Cox:**

Eric Cox is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Texas Christian University, where he also directs the Model United Nations program. He received his Ph.D. and M.A. at the University of Virginia, and his B.A. at Austin College where he participated in Model United Nations as a student. He teaches Introduction to International Politics, Game Theory in International Relations, United Nations Institutions and Processes, and International Organizations Research. His first book, *Why Enduring Rivalries Do---or Don't---End*, examines the factors that lead rival states to the negotiating table through a comparison of rivalry relationships in the Middle East and Latin America. His current research focuses on the UN, including a forthcoming article examining the first few years of the new UN Human Rights Council and a book manuscript in progress on US policy at the United Nations. He also has publications and numerous presentations relating to the scholarship of teaching and learning.

### **Kevin E. Grisham:** Board Secretary

Kevin E. Grisham is the Coordinator of the Social Science Bachelor of Arts Program and the Faculty Adviser for the Model United Nations and Model Arab League Programs at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB). He also serves as the Co-Director for the Center of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies (CIMES) at CSUSB, the only Islamic and Middle East Studies Center in the CSU system. He holds a Masters Degree and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Riverside. He has been involved with the NMUN Conference-NY since 1997. He founded the MUN program at Victor Valley College in Victorville, California in 2001 and has previously taught the coursework for Model UN at UC Riverside. He has served as a delegate, a faculty adviser for MUN teams that participate at the NMUN-NY conference, a member of the NMUN-NY staff, and a member of the NMUN-NY Advisory Board. He served as the Director General for the 2006 NMUN-NY Conference and in 2008, Dr. Grisham served as the Director-General for the first international NMUN Conference, NMUN-China. Dr. Grisham writes on international issues and is often a guest speaker at various venues in the Southern California region. Also, he is regularly interviewed by the media on issues relating to the Middle East and North Africa, politics in the Islamic world, and political violence in the developing world. Dr. Grisham has published two textbooks on the developing world, *The Developing World: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* (Kona Publishing and Media Group) and *The Nonwestern World: Perspectives on the Developing World and its Peoples* (Cognella Publishing).

### **H. Stephen Halloway:**

H. Stephen Halloway is a Special Advisor to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) He was formerly Senior Advisor in the Inter-American Development Bank's Office of External Relations where he had responsibility for Congressional Affairs and Private Sector Outreach related to the IDB group. Additional positions include Head of Mission, UNIDO at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1990 to 1994 and prior to that as the first Chief, Public Information Section at the Inter-American Development Bank. Before being appointed to his position at the Inter-American

Development Bank, Mr. Holloway served from 1981-1985 in a variety of Senior Executive Service positions in the Office of the Secretary, United States Department of Commerce including Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulation and Chief Regulatory Officer. He is Director of the Center for Comparative Legislative Management at the International Law Institute and Co-Program Advisor, Anti-corruption and governance programs. He served on the Board of Directors (Executive Vice President) of the Canadian-American Business Council 2002-2010 and serves on the Board of the National Collegiate Conference Association. He serves on the Corporate Advisory Board to the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute. From 1995 to 2000 he was Senior Washington Editor for the Diplomatic World Bulletin and The Wall Street Transcript (accredited to the State Dept., World Bank, UN, and White House). He is a member of the Wisconsin and District of Columbia bars. He is a 1969 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison; holds an MA in Political Science from Rutgers University in 1970 (Ford Fellow at the Eagleton Institute of Politics); and a J. D. from the Boston University School of Law in 1973.

**The Hon. Joseph H. Melrose, Jr.:**

Ambassador Melrose served the U.S. Department of State for more than three decades in the Foreign Service. He is currently Ambassador in Residence and Chair of International Relations at Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania. During his diplomatic career, he held a variety of positions in Washington and abroad, including Vietnam, Syria, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone, where he served as Ambassador (1998-2001). In 2001 he was selected to coordinate the post September 11th Task Force and act as a Senior Consultant on Counterterrorism for the Secretary of State. He has served as a Senior Advisor to the U.S. Delegation to the 61st, 62nd and 63rd UN General Assembly. From 2009 until 2011 he served as the Acting U.S. Representative to the United Nations for Management and Reform. Additionally, he led the Foreign Emergency Support Team, deployed to Nairobi, Kenya in the aftermath of the Embassy bombings, where he helped to reestablish Embassy operations and the recovery effort. Throughout his life Ambassador Melrose has supported numerous charitable and community activities. Currently he is a volunteer consultant for the International Medical Corps (IMC) and a board member of both the NCCA (President from 2005 to 2008) and Restless Development (formerly known as Students Partnership Worldwide) as well as the Board of Trustees of The Speaker's House (President from 2007 to 2010) - the home of Frederick Muhlenberg, the first Speaker of the US House of Representatives. Among the awards Ambassador Melrose has received are the H. Lloyd Jones Award for distinguished advising and mentoring, an honorary degree in Democratic and Human Rights Studies from Hilla University in Hilla, Iraq, the Department of State's Distinguished Honor Award, the Secretary of State's Career Achievement Award, the Presidential Distinguished and Meritorious Service Awards, an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Ursinus College, the Department of State Group Distinguished Honor Award, as well as several Department of State meritorious and Superior Honor Awards, the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America, and the Award of Merit from the World Islamic Federation. In 2008 Ambassador Melrose was awarded the U.S. Foreign Service Cup. He is a contributor to the recently published books Human Rights in Context and The New Dynamics of Multilateralism as well as two journal articles on Pakistan. Ambassador Melrose is also President of Melrose Associates LLC.

**Chaldeans Mensah:** Board Treasurer

Professor Chaldeans Mensah, is the Chair of the Department of Anthropology, Economics and Political Science at Grant MacEwan College, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He is a member of the University's Board of Governors, and is currently Special Advisor to the Board of the Edmonton branch of the United Nations Association in Canada. In 2007, he received an Internationalizing the Teaching and Learning Practice Award of Distinction from Alberta Advanced Education and Technology for his work in promoting UN simulation through the MacEwan Model UN for Western Canadian universities and

colleges. In 2006, he received an Alberta Centennial Medal in recognition of outstanding service to the people and province of Alberta. As well, in 2005, he received the MacEwan Medallion, the highest recognition awarded to a Grant MacEwan University employee. He is a frequent media commentator on Alberta and Canadian politics.

**Raul Molina-Mejia:**

A civil engineer graduated from Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala (USAC), a thirty-year-long human rights defender, and a Social Sciences professor, Raul Molina-Mejia is currently the Coordinator of the Model UN Program at Long Island University. Academically, he started as a researcher and professor at USAC. He was elected as Dean of USAC's School of Engineering, and he was acting President of that university in 1980. He then shifted his career towards human rights, joining and eventually leading a small team of Guatemalans to do human rights work at the UN, mainly the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. He was an advisor during the UN-supported peace-seeking negotiations process in Guatemala, which ended with the signature of the Peace Accords between the Government of Guatemala and the revolutionary organizations in 1996. He is currently a resident in the United States, and he has done research and/or taught at Columbia University and New York University. He became professor of History and Political Science at Long Island University in 2004, and since 2009 he has been in charge of LIU's Model UN Program.

**Richard Murgo:**

Richard Murgo has been a Professor of Political Science at Tallahassee Community College since 1994 and is currently Chair for Political Science and Economics. He holds Masters Degrees in Political Science from Florida State University and in Applied Economics from the University of Central Florida. He received his Ph.D. from Florida State University. Dr. Murgo served as faculty Senate President 2005-2006, continues as the dual enrollment education coordinator of the statewide Florida Boys State and Girls State programs, and is an advisor and co-founder for the TCC Model United Nations program. He has founded and developed a faculty exchange program with Tianjin Foreign Studies University, as well as developed partnerships with other colleges for students study abroad programs in China and the Czech Republic. Dr. Murgo has served also on the United Nations Association of American Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Community Colleges Committee and is a current member of the Executive Board of Directors of the Florida Political Science Association. Dr. Murgo has presented numerous papers including , "United Nations Human Rights Treaties: Obligations and Compliance" and most recently, "EU-China Relations: Balancing Economic Opportunities with Political Challenges".

**Richard Reitano: Board President**

Professor Richard Reitano is the longest serving member of the Board of Directors of the National Collegiate Conference Association. He has also served as treasurer of the organization. Richard Reitano is Emeritus Professor of Government at Dutchess Community College (DCC), where he still teaches courses, and he is an Adjunct Professor of Political Science at Vassar College. He was the recipient of DCC's first Endowed Chair for Excellence in Teaching and was the first holder of the Handel Chair to Honor the Memory of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt at the college. An academic chair, the Richard Reitano Chair in the Social Sciences, was also established in his honor. His course on the Model UN, which he teaches jointly at Dutchess Community College and Vassar College and which sends a combined delegation to the National Model UN as The Hudson River Group, was selected by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, one of twenty-one courses chosen nationwide, for a major three-year national study on political engagement of American college students in 2002. Professor Reitano is a recipient of the 2007 State University of New York's Chancellor's Award for

Excellence in Teaching. He is also the co-author of *Multilateral Diplomacy and the United Nations Today*, and the co-author of *The New Dynamics of Multilateralism*. Professor Reitano is actively involved in his community as a board member of the Gillespie Forum and as a lecturer for The Center for Lifelong Learning.

**Donna M. Schlagheck:** Board Vice President

Donna M. Schlagheck is Professor and Chair of Political Science at Wright State University in Dayton Ohio. She received her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota in 1985, and her research and teaching focus on the intersection of terrorism and American foreign policy. She is the author of multiple books, articles and conference papers. Professor Schlagheck is a board member and past President of the Dayton Council on World Affairs (DCOWA), and awarded the first Dayton peace prize to Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Donna has briefed many officers at Wright-Patterson AFB prior to their assignments overseas, and has advised her university's Model UN delegation since 1986.

**Adam X. Storm:**

Adam X. Storm has served the NCCA as a NMUN staff member from 2002 until his election to the Board of Directors. Adam graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Russian Studies from Rider University. While in attendance there, Adam had the opportunity to study medieval society and law in Veliki Novgorod, Russia. In 2006, he received his Juris Doctorate from Temple University of Philadelphia and is currently a member of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey bars. Adam now lives and practices law in Los Angeles, California.

**Karen Young:**

Karen Young is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Sciences at Clayton State University, a unit of The University System of Georgia. In addition, she is a Faculty Associate with the Resource Center on Minority Aging Research at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Wayne State University in Detroit, a Research Fellow with the Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research at the University of Michigan, and a Faculty Associate with the Research Centers in Minority Institutions at the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles. She has been a member of the Board of Directors of the National Collegiate Conference Association since 1998, developed the Diversity Building Scholarship Initiative Program, and is currently its Program Chair. She has served on a number of other boards, including the Board of Directors of the YMCA of the USA and the Board of Governors of the California YMCA Youth & Government Program. She is a professional consultant and trainer in the field of Multicultural Diversity Training in the Workplace.

**Markéta Žídková:**

Markéta Žídková is a senior lecturer at the Department of Politics and European Studies, Palacky University, Czech Republic. She graduated from Palacky University (Mgr., 2000) and received her Ph.D. there in 2010. Apart from that, she is a graduate of Loughborough University, UK (M.A., 2001). She specializes in Russian politics and society, the Caucasus, and conflict resolution studies. She teaches classes on Russian government and foreign policy, conflicts in the post-Soviet world, international relations, and Model UN. Marketa has taken student delegations to NMUN-NY conferences since 2009. In November 2010, she co-organized the NMUN-Europe conference in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

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**Michael Eaton:** Executive Director (Member Ex Officio):

Michael Eaton has served as full-time Executive Director of the National Collegiate Conference Association since 2004 and has helped expand National Model UN programming to include more than 5,000 college participants. Prior to his current position, he was the Director of Enrollment Services and Marketing for the Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs ([www.hecua.org](http://www.hecua.org)), an educational nonprofit offering social justice-based off-campus study programs. He began his undergraduate studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and ultimately received his B.A. in Economics, summa cum laude, from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN and his M.A. in Nonprofit Management from Hamline University in St. Paul, MN. Additional honors include being named a Truman Scholar as well as the Scholar Award from Hamline University. Mr. Eaton also serves as an adjunct faculty member at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, a Trustee of the Center for UN Reform Education and board member and past-President of the United Nations Association of Minnesota. He resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Shelton L. (Shelly) Williams** (Member Ex Officio):

Shelton L. (Shelly) Williams is the president and founder of the Osgood Center for International Studies in Washington, DC and Emeritus Professor of Political Science/International Studies at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. He has also served as a Visiting Fellow at the US Department of State where he was a US delegate to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference in 1995 and where he did extensive work on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1996. From 1983 to 2005, he served as the faculty adviser to the Austin College Model UN program and from 1991-1993, he also served on the NCCA Board. Shelly has written or contributed to many books and articles on international affairs, but he has also written two non-fiction novels, *Washed in the Blood* (2007) and *Summer of '66* (2007).