

a local teenager success story

By Karen Joostema, Madeira and Great Falls Resident

Madeira Senior AWARDED OUTSTANDING DELEGATE at Model UN Competition in Budapest



Madeira senior Casey Ocasal was awarded Outstanding Delegate at the Yale Model Government Europe (YMGE) competition in Budapest, Hungary, placing second out of 40 delegates. Casey competed on the All-American Model United Nations team, which was awarded Best Large Delegation. The All-American Model United Nations team is a highly selective national model UN travel team that attends international conferences.

Ms. Sara Rhodin, who serves as an advisor to Madeira's Model United Nations team, spoke highly of Casey's talent. "Like a professional diplomat, Casey always maintains a measured tone and calm under pressure. Her argumentation is eloquent, informed, and engaging. We're so proud of Casey for taking part in YMGE; it is a huge accomplishment and wonderful opportunity." Casey has been heavily involved in Model UN since she arrived at Madeira and explained why she is passionate about the activity.

"As an involved debater in middle school, I joined Model UN because I thought it would be the best way to keep exercising my debate skills while fulfilling my passion for current events and international politics. Not only is MUN an exciting way to stay engaged in global affairs, I think it's some of the best preparation for the business world. Because of Model UN, I've grown so much as a writer, presenter, speaker, and team member. I've also met



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YMGE was created as a more educational and dynamic re-imagining of the usual Model UN format. Delegates debate in both national cabinets and EU institutions over pressing current issues. During this conference, all committees were hit with a simulated crisis that had significant consequences throughout Europe and the rest of the world. The delegates were forced to work within and across committees to arrive at a solution.

Anin Luo, president of YMGE, noted, "YMGE isn't just traditional Model United Nations--with our dynamic format and experienced chairs, we aim to provide delegates an exciting and rapid simulation focused on European politics."

In addition to her Model UN successes, Casey attended the Governor's School of Virginia for the Visual and Performing Arts and Humanities in summer 2018. She is also a contributing writer for *The Spectator*, Madeira's school newspaper, and a member of Madeira's cross country team.



During her time at Madeira, Casey has completed three internships through Madeira's award-winning co-curriculum experiential learning program. As a sophomore, Casey interned with NOVA HeadStart. For her junior year Capitol Hill internship, she worked with Senator Marco Rubio, and in her senior year, she completed an internship with the National Endowment for the Humanities.