**ARTICLE FOR MUNC**

The 2014 delegates to the Model United Nations in China selected to represent the UNSW Law Faculty, the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Centre were Stephanie Blaker, Samuel Emery, Sarah McIntosh and Rebecca Stanley. The delegates travelled to Nanjing in the Jiangsu Province of Eastern China to participate in the 11th China National Model United Nations Conference. The Conference was created to help foster deeper diplomatic relations and human rights dialogue as part of the China-Australia Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program. This year the Conference took place between 7-9 November, 2014 at the beautiful South East University campus in the heart of Nanjing. The event involved over 420 students from around 100 Chinese universities simulating the procedures of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee of the General Assembly of the U.N. The students were all divided into three distinct committees for separate debates about certain key areas of the central topic and all of the proceedings were undertaken entirely in English. The delegates from UNSW were divided into two groups, one representing Uzbekistan (Stephanie Blaker and Rebecca Stanley) and the other representing Brazil (Samuel Emery and Sarah McIntosh) in separate committees.

The delegates were required to prepare a position paper before leaving on the trip and undertook in-depth research on the issues facing aged persons worldwide. The particular focus was on presenting a view on how the two selected countries would be likely to approach engaging with these challenges. The issue of the rights of aged persons is of growing concern to the entire international community, with the number of people over the age of 60 estimated to reach around 2 billion in 2050. In light of this, dealing with the enormous challenges associated with improving the human rights protections and living conditions of aged persons was the focus of much of the argument. The debate and negotiations lasted for three intense days, during which allegiances were formed through discussion and by reaching compromises over the goals of the different countries which the students were representing. The UNSW delegates worked closely with Chinese delegates to formulate strategies and form blocs to vote for and against draft resolutions on the issues covered by the different committees. The Conference involved a combination of public speaking, diplomacy and late nights drafting ideas with other students. Friendships and connections were made between the delegates and a great deal was learned and shared. The food was absolutely incredible and the delegates certainly were well fed!

As recognition for their effort the UNSW delegates were given the awards for Outstanding Delegation, Best Position Papers, Best Communicator (Sarah McIntosh) and Outstanding Delegate (Sam Emery). The delegates are extremely grateful for the assistance of Professor Andrew Byrnes, who accompanied the group on the trip, and for the opportunity provided by UNSW, the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The group wishes to thank all of those involved who made this such a rewarding and memorable experience.