Intercultural night was full of fun and exciting activities, displaying the different cultures through dance, games, stories, and (of course) food. Many memories were created on Intercultural night and will be remembered well and fondly by all of the MICC participants.

By the time Intercultural night had ended, everyone was wishing they were wearing tank tops and shorts rather than their bulky winter clothes. All four countries incorporated dancing into their presentation. The Americans, the first act of the night, showed the other students a line dance. The dance was funny, but the nicknames for the dance moves were debatably more comical. If a stranger would have walked in at the moment, they would have been terribly confused to why everyone was shouting eat it and lasso. Next, the Polish taught a traditional dance that required walking under peoples arms. It seemed as one too many people stood up a little bit early and shoved their head into another group's arms. The students from Israel showed many different middle eastern dance moves while wearing fashionable scarves around their waists. Lastly, the German students wanted to do a dance called the Cha-Cha slide, but due to technical difficulties everyone danced to Gangnam style, a Korean song that is popular in all four of the cultures.

Technological mishaps was a theme of the night, but no one let that get in their way of having a good night. The Polish students had it perfected, bringing their music and information on a jump drive, but, unfortunately, the other presentations were not as prepared. The American team has a hard time playing the song on their Ipod and because of the slow internet videos would not completely load for any of the groups. Marc Lucero, an American student says, “The lack of technology was upsetting, but I think we pulled through with enough energy.” Although the technology was not necessarily cooperative, it made intercultural night full of fun surprises.

Overall, the night was completely successful. The different cultures were represented very well through the various different activities and everyone seemed to become better acquainted with each other. Intercultural night was most definitely a highlight of MICC for all the students.

Hallie Brown

Freedom of Expression, or Not?

Simon Bikindi is accused of aiding the genocide in Rwanda through his song lyrics. Both the prosecution and defense made great arguments, making the job difficult for the team of judges. The questioning period presented interesting points while the three areas of analysis, historical context, material context, and mental context presented the topic and issues well.

In the history of MICC, the prosecution has never successfully convicted Simon Bikindi of aiding the genocide, although they presented an incredibly strong case as well as pointing out flaws in the defense’s case. The defense provided strong arguments, most notably that the lyrics to Bikindi’s songs are up to interpretation and the intention of the songs is to be continued on page 2.
Prosecuter tries to convince the judges that Flick is guilty, photo by Karo Skibinska

The case of Friedrich Flick

Friedrich Flick, the owner of the previous of the Flick-group, employed an endless amount of forced slaves during the second world war. The reason why Flick employed so many of them was, because of the missing normal, german workers which had to fight for Nazi-Germany. Because of the catastrophic circumstances the workers had to live in, more than 10 000 died, with a death rate of ten up to fifteen people a day.

Everyone in the room was silent. The Judges Betty Hadgembes, Noga Eldan and Izabella Dorywala entered the room with a thoughtful face, just like the Defenders Uri Alon, Julisz Hnatow, Annika Klee and the prosecutors Erin Piasecki, Daria Kuloga and Sophie Krahn.

The accusation, read by Erin Piasecki, said that Flick must been brought to justice for his actions, to employed forced slaves on purpose and let them live and work under unbearable circumstances, which killed over ten thousand of them. A main argument saying that he supported the Nazi regime with money, weapons and armored vehicles is inacceptable.

The Defenders answered with their arguments why Flick is not guilty. For them he could not know that the workers were treated so badly and even if he would, he could not have fight back, he had no choice.

Later on the Judges made their decision - Flick gets two years of inprisonment and 110 000 000 euros fine.

Hallie Brown

Note on Krzyzowa

Krzyzowa was founded in 1764. In 1939, the second world war started and Nazi regime was overwhelming the world. During the war, Krzyzowa served as a meeting place for a Nazi resistance group. This group, the Kreisau Circle, had many members. Helmut von Moltke and others shared the same ideologies and were members of this group. After 1945, the second world war finished and the political situation changed. Krzyzowa was under German occupation because of the results of the war. The victors decided that this place is under Polish control, so the borders changed. As a result, the Germans and the Polish had conflict because Krzyzowa was impacted by German culture through architecture. The Germans felt like refugees in the newly claimed Polish territory. Today people in Krzyzowa live in peace without any conflict or discrimination and welcome students from around the world to their small village. This is the perfect meeting place for MICC, not only because of the wonderful facilities but because Krzyzowa has a history relating to human rights, thus fitting our cause.

Asmahan Barhum

Hallie Brown

continuation from page 1

not known. It was surprising to see that both teams could pronounce Rwandan words well, showing that they were not only well researched but ready and prepared to read their cases with poise. Karmy, a student from Israel and a prosecutor for Bikindi said, “It was more exciting fun, and interesting than I ever thought it would be. I think both teams raised fascinating questions and arguments. I was especially impressed by the great charismatic speeches the defense team gave.” The judges did a great job keeping order in the courtroom while asking thought-provoking questions.

The highlight of the trail was most definitely a combination of the comedy provided by Milo, a member of the defense team, and the statement from the prosecution showing that evidence the defense presented was not in the case material. Overall, this trail created an interesting courtroom battle and acted as a great learning mechanism. The trail came down to whether or not this “expression” is free from judgment.

All in all, the Judges found Bikindi not guilty.

Hallie Brown
If you see her the first time, she seems to be a normal person, like everyone else in the room. But there is something about her, something that nobody could have guessed. That woman with a sense of humor, who stood so self-confident in front of the participants, is a contemporary witness of the Yugoslav Wars started in 1990.

‘War starts with words.’ - with this sentence Maja Nenadovic expressed how to recognize the very beginning of the conflict. At that time she was only ten years old when the war reached her home without any warning. From that moment on she and her 5 year older sister gave their best to escape from the war.

But that was not the only bad experience she had to deal with. Right now she is living in Hungary, but she is still suffering under the political pressure in the country. The third biggest party of Hungary, called Jobbik, has an extremely nationalistic ideology and because of their influence major newspapers are publishing letters and articles filled with xenophobic content. Citizens are full of spite for the Roma people, though most of them didn’t even meet any. These are few of the reasons why Maja became an activist, helping people to protect their human rights.

Recently she invented a system to talk to racist people, to understand how their thoughts on the problem are provoked and to respect their opinion in a certain way. This system is called PLEASE - Pause, Listen, Empathize, Analyze, Speak up, mind your Expectations. Isabella and Julius, two participants from Germany said: ‘It was very affecting and suspenseful and we are trying to use the PLEASE-system if we have the chance.’

Karny, a participant from Israel: ‘I think that it was really interesting and inspiring, but she didn’t give us the chance to comment.’, she claims. The way Maja presented her history and what she is doing right now greatly impressed the participants of the MICC project.

The Intercultural Tribune

Her name is Maja

Maja debating with the participants, photo by Adam Rudnicki

To kill or to be killed

The trial for Erdemovic case in MICC was on January 17th. The case is talking about Erdemovic from Croatia. He joined the military because he believed in the former Yugoslavia, he was accused of killing 10-100 unarmed muslim civilians.

It was such a difficult case because the details in case tell that Erdemovic was forced to kill people. The court includes the prosecution team, defence team, and the judge team.

The prosecution team started the trial by their indictments for the accused. In this team were 3 participants; Nella, Alice, and Taylor. Then, the defence team started to present their justification for the accused. The judge team listened to the two teams very carefully.

Serene, a member of the defense teams said, “The trial was very interesting to see how the two sides of the story and to see how both sides use the same facts to come up with different arguments, the difficulty was hard to stand up and give a speech with confidence.”

Julius, a judge for this trial said, “The trial was interesting. The defence and prosecution teams did good job the used every available argument. It was very difficult to decide because there are so many options”.

The Judges found Dražen Erdemović guilty and agreed on five and a half years of imprisonment.

Lucas Begon

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Maja debating with the participants, photo by Adam Rudnicki

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Lucas Begon
The Winner Is...

The mock election went over with overwhelming success. The results you have been waiting to know are finally here, with first, second, and third place winners in the categories of most comical, best dressed, most interesting, best dressed, most interesting, best hair, biggest flirt, and most memorable. May the odds be ever in your favor.

Here we go, for the most comical girls, in third place are Amelie, Alice, and Serene tied. Second place goes to Karny, Betty, and Isabella also tied. The honor of being the most comical female goes to myself, Hallie. Weirdly enough, I do not think I am all that funny, but thank you all. As for comical males, in third place tied are Milo and Tyler. In second place is Marc and the first place, with the bragging rights, is Uri.

As for best hair, practically everyone at MICC were nominated, so in third place are Tyler, Karny, Sophie, Nela, and Zuzanna. The second best hair goes to Asmahan, Amelie, Betty, Uri, Isabella, and Tobi. The best hair here, at MICC, belongs to Lucas and myself, Hallie.

Time now for, in my opinion, the funniest of these categories, biggest flirt. Tobi, and Alice are the third place flirters and Lucas and myself are the second biggest flirters. The biggest flirts are, you guessed it, Marc and Amelie. pulling in 11 votes together.

Lastly for the most memorable, in third place are Betty, Annika, Erin, Karny, Anton, and myself. Second place goes to Isabella, probably because she is so darn beautiful, and Marc. The most memorable people at MICC are Uri and Amelie.

Although we cannot all be in the top three, there is an honorable mention. A shout out goes to Lucas and Uri, who were both nominated a girl in certain categories, to Jens for placing third with the other male students for most memorable, to Karolina for being nominated most memorable girl, to Wasim for tying for third place in the best dressed category and being nominated for best hair, and to all the other people who were nominated but did not place in certain categories; Tyler, Anton, Daria, Nela, Erin, Uri, Lucas, and Tobi.

My favorite response of all though is the people that nominated everyone as the most memorable. I will remember everyone here, not only because they had the best hair, but because I consider them my friend.

Hallie Brown

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Reinhard Frank Foundation

For MICC, with love, Press Team