

“...I couldn’t even begin to imagine high school without it.”

By Nicole Hobbs, President 2010

“Focus and grind.” “Eyes and teeth.” “Game face.” My high school experience would not have been complete without hearing these phrases incessantly over the past four years. I am not the same person that I was when I entered high school, and I owe so much of that to MC. Freshmen year I was so quiet and shy that I didn’t make any speeches at HMC freshmen year. Seeing the seniors that year was inspiring, and I wanted so badly to be as good as they were one day. Looking back, I have gained so much confidence from MC. If you had told me freshmen year all that I would accomplish by the end of my MC career, I wouldn’t have believed you. I have had so many amazing experiences because of MC. I have been able to travel so much and I have had so many great times at all of my MC trips. Better than any textbook could teach me, I was able to see history in action as I read the Gettysburg address inscribed on the walls of the Lincoln memorial, looked in Al Capone’s cell in Alcatraz, and walked the same streets of Boston that the founding fathers did during the time of the American Revolution. To pick a favorite memory would be impossible, but the moment that stands out the most from my four years of MC would be winning PMoot my junior year. That was the turning point in my MC career. Each time Caitlin and I advanced to the next round, I was so shocked I didn’t even know what to think. I was speechless when they announced that Caitlin and I had won. The nine presidents this year are my best friends and I would not be so close to them without MC. I owe those friendships to this program. I have so many vivid memories of all of my MC trips. While so much of high school feels like a blur: walking to and from class every day, sitting in class, taking notes, discussing homework, all of the MC trips I have been on feel like moments frozen in time. I remember those trips like they were yesterday; when I think back to my high school years MC will be my most vivid memory. Those five-day (sometimes even less) trips stand out in my mind and I can’t help but smile at all of the great memories and the friends that I have spent the past four years with. I know that all of the presidents this year have left a legacy; something to which future generations of MCers will aspire. MC has been the most important and the most memorable thing I have done throughout high school and I couldn’t even begin to imagine my high school years without it.

Although I didn’t win any awards until the end of junior year, since PMoot ’09 I won an award at each successive conference. However, I feel that some of the most valuable contributions I have made to this program have been outside of the conferences. Especially this year I feel I have given so much to MC. I have helped stuff so many envelopes this year that I feel qualified to list it as a skill on my resume. I have also helped hang photos and decorate for Christmas, both time consuming, but more fun, tasks. Recently I have helped with the ad for the Sound which has been a very time consuming project...Aside from secretarial things, I feel I have also gone out of my way to help the underclassmen. Between the prep sessions and being there for them at the conferences I hope I have left a lasting impression on the underclassmen and that they feel I have helped them along the way.

To the underclassmen: Enjoy the experience and make the most of it because in the blink of an eye it will be over. Don’t be afraid to try something new, whether it’s a different committee or special programs. Take the time to enjoy each conference because they are so much fun. Many of my best memories from high school are from MC. Especially for the freshmen and sophomores, know that I was once where you are. I was once afraid to speak in front of the upperclassmen, and that’s okay. But you can get over that, gain confidence, and accomplish some really great things through MC if you work at it. You don’t have to be great at it right away to be successful; it’s something you have to work for. Everyone’s experience is going to be different, but find some really great people to spend your four years with because that will make your four years with MC all the more amazing. I don’t want to give you too much advice, because you need to make your own memories and find your own way, but don’t worry if you become discouraged. There were so many times when I felt frustrated and that I wasn’t as good as everyone else, but just take that energy and focus it into something positive. Set a goal and believe that if you work hard enough you can achieve it.

Finally, I’d like to end by saying thank you Petela for everything. Without MC I would not have been given all of the opportunities I have been given and I owe that all to you and all that you do for the program. This year I have really gained an appreciation for all of the hard work that goes into making this program run and smoothly and efficiently as it does and I commend you for that. It is really amazing how much time and effort you put into this program...

Nicole attended 11 conferences, winning 6 awards including 3 gavels and two PMoot Tournney victory Trophies. To my deep delight she will be a Bulldog attending Yale University as a Political Science major and insuring future bhsmc YMC awards as chair for the Yale MCongress! She is one of our most dedicated and best debaters ever ☺ and she won’t be missed because she will be close by☺