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2-27-2008

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**Mock Trial team places first**

*Summary: The University of Minnesota, Morris Mock Trial team finished first during the Upper Midwest Durst Memorial Regional Competition in Superior, Wis., February 8-10. UMM competed against teams from Madison, Carleton, St. John's and the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, among others.*

(February 27, 2008)-The University of Minnesota, Morris Mock Trial team finished first during the Upper Midwest Durst Memorial Regional Competition in Superior, Wis., February 8-10. UMM competed against teams from Madison, Carleton, St. John's and the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, among others.

The first-place team from UMM is comprised of Jonathan Bringewatt, Jeremy Jost, Chris Omlid, Eva Wood, Collin Tearny, Mark Meyer and Adam Kopel. Omlid and Kopel each received Outstanding Witness Awards and Wood received the Top Attorney Award. Greg Thorson, UMM associate professor of political science, is the team's faculty adviser.

Each year the UMM Mock Trial team receives a case from the American Mock Trial Association and spends the season working on that specific case. The team formulates case theory, prepares witnesses, writes direct and cross-examination questions and prepares opening and closing statements. The two teams representing UMM travel regionally and nationally to compete with other schools at the collegiate level. In each round of competition the team is either assigned to act as the defense or prosecution and the students simulate the roles of witnesses and attorneys. The team is then judged on its case theory, knowledge of law and presentation of material.

The regional qualifier was especially rigorous, as the team was expected to present four trials that lasted three hours each. All participants, including the witnesses, are judged on their performance and ability to make convincing arguments.

Team captain Jeremy Jost commented: "We are very excited to have the opportunity to go to the national tournament and compete against the top programs in the nation. All but one of our members are returning next year and the future of Mock Trial at UMM looks very bright."

Photo: Mock Trial team with their first-place trophy

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