



ONE SMALL STEP...AND?: NASA, 1970S

The year is 1970. America has succeeded in putting men on the moon for the first time, and congratulations are in order. However, with the Space Race won, the public has begun to lose interest, and many in Washington are suggesting that those billions in federal funding could be better spent elsewhere- Laos and Cambodia, perhaps. NASA will have to fight to save their plans for the vital work still to come for the Apollo program. At the same time, the agency will be looking ahead to the next frontier in spaceflight- but no one is quite sure yet where that frontier lies. Nevertheless, the best-laid plans often go awry, and NASA will have to cope with engineering setbacks, political machinations, and their Soviet counterparts behind the Iron Curtain.

Delegates will be part of the team heading NASA's administration starting in 1970, representing the various departments and interests that drive the agency onward. Putting together their resources and responsibilities, they will tackle the challenges and opportunities of continuing American space exploration, all while competing for their piece of the pie. With the first moon landing successfully and safely completed, the team will have no time to rest on their laurels as they confront the task ahead of them- how do you follow up one giant leap for mankind?

BACKGROUND GUIDE

CARTER BECKSTEIN

CHAIR

Carter is a second-year at the University of Chicago from Sarasota, Florida. He plans to major in Economics with a minor in Romance Languages and Literature. After getting his start as an Assistant Chair last year for the committee on Robber Barons, Carter is excited to take his seat as Chair this year for ChoMUN XXIV. Outside of Model UN, Carter competes on the Mock Trial team and is a copy editor for the Chicago Maroon, UChicago's student-run newspaper. Despite coming from Florida, Carter actually finds life in Chicago to be warmer than back home, since all Floridian interiors are kept at arctic temperatures while people in Chicago use the exotic device known as a "heater." Carter has spent many summers on the Space Coast and learned a lot about space flight while growing up; in preparation for this committee, he intends to learn even more than he did in the intensive program known as "Mission: SPACE", dutifully carried out at Epcot in Disney World. Carter is looking forward to an amazing committee this year and can't wait to see the direction NASA will take. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out at cbeckstein@uchicago.edu.

ALEXANDER RODRIGUEZ

CRISIS DIRECTOR

Alexander is a third-year at the University of Chicago studying Political Science. Born and raised in Houston, Texas, you'd think he'd have gotten his fill of NASA content already, yet here we are. In fact, he used to work as a tour guide at Johnson Space Center, so buckle up for the ride! (And keep all limbs inside the vehicle at all times, and no smoking on the tram, and...) After competing as a delegate in high school, he has served in ChoMUN as an Assistant Chair for the First Venezuelan Republic and as an Executive Assistant Chair for the Progressives in a Baron Wasteland JCC. Outside of Model UN, Alexander serves as a Resident Assistant, plays guitar, and gets far too excited about Intramural sports. He studied abroad in Paris for a time, but to his surprise learned that they actually speak French there, so he has returned stateside to brush up on the language. Alexander is thrilled to be a part of the leadership for this NASA committee alongside Carter and Dimitriy, and he looks forward to bringing it to life with you in ChoMUN XXIV. He invites you to send any questions, or fun cookie recipes, to akrodriguez@uchicago.edu.

DIMITRIY LEKSANOV

CRISIS DIRECTOR

Dimitriy is a third-year from New York City, NY majoring in CAAM and Economics, and he is excited to defy the wishes of Richard Nixon and spearhead the American space program alongside Carter and Alexander. During ChoMUN XXIII, Dimitriy was an Assistant Chair for the New Orleans Committee, and has also served as an AC on MUNUC for Herbert Hoover's Cabinet in the 1930s, as well as the UN Security Council - Democratic Republic of the Congo. Outside of MUN, Dimitriy is a tutor for the Neighborhood Schools Program, a research assistant in the Economics department, and a News reporter for the Chicago Maroon. As far as his space experience goes, Dimitriy has ridden Space Mountain exactly two times, and when his Astrophysics major roommate told him that one of his dreams is to travel to space one day, Dimitriy replied, "Better you than me." If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dimitriy at dleksanov@uchicago.edu.

SECRETARIAT OVERSIGHT:

SHAYNA COHEN, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL