

**Ontario high school students to hone debating skills at King's Model United Nations May 10
For Immediate Release – May 7, 2012
London, Ont.**

On Thursday, May 10, 2012, the King's University College Debating Society, in partnership with the Western Model UN club, will host over 100 Ontario high school students for a day designed to hone their debate skills while igniting their passion for politics.

Participants at the King's Model United Nations (KMUN) will get an inside look at how the UN operates by representing various countries and participating in committees that mock the everyday events that take place at the United Nations. True to form, the KMUN will place students in the General Assembly and many other small committees including the Security Council. The KMUN will also include crisis committees where participants are placed in high-pressure scenarios where quick thinking and fast responses are requirements.

The King's Model United Nations will feature three debate sessions, an awards ceremony and dinner, and will be kicked off by a keynote address by King's Political Science faculty member Jacquetta Newman. Newman's talk will discuss democracy, the Occupy movement, the Arab Spring, and why states must trust their people. Newman's research focuses on the politics people undertake outside of political parties and mainstream political structures and ideologies. She is keenly interested in the politics of everyday life and how 'the common people' organize themselves into groups and communities.

"KMUN provides high school students with a forum to debate critical global issues such as eco-terrorism, the use of drones in warfare, and the prospects for democracy in countries liberated by the Arab Spring," says King's Political Science faculty member and organizer Erin Hannah. "By participating in this exciting event, students will gain a deeper understanding of international affairs and multilateral diplomacy and hone their team work, problem solving and public speaking skills. Our hope is that this experience will inspire curiosity, critical thinking and confidence."

"This is a very important event at King's," notes King's Students' Council President David Ennett. "While learning the various processes of the United Nations, participants will build on their teamwork abilities and diplomatic skills while dialoguing with individuals who do not agree with one another on the issues being debated."

The King's University College Debating Society is a new entity at King's and was formed out of a recent trip to the 58th Harvard Model UN held this February in Cambridge, Mass. The Society exists to enhance the undergraduate experience at King's by offering venues for debate, an important element of a strong liberal arts institution.

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