

# Model UN team from Radford brings home awards from N.C.

Radford University's Model United Nations team traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina, in April and participated in the Southern Regional Model United Nations, which attracted more than 320 delegates from schools throughout the southeastern United States. Radford's team, though new to the university this year, came home with four awards.

Model United Nations competitions are most popular at the high school and college levels. In Model UN, students represent countries and engage in negotiation with other delegates representing other nations. To prepare for the conference, students need to learn about their country, its foreign policy and its history with the issue before the committee. For the Southern Regionals, Radford's team represented Spain and the Persian Gulf sultanate of Oman. Students participated on the General Assembly plenary, where they dealt with issues of Ebola and water access; in the League of Arab states, where they negotiated on Syria's membership and terrorism; in Interpol, the International Police cooperation organization, where they tackled cybercrime and arms trafficking; and the African Development Bank, where they engaged on issues of African youth employment and intra-African trade.

Michael Wilson, representing Spain, won Outstanding Delegate at the conference in the General Assembly Plenary, where there were more than 60 delegations. Steven Lowery won Outstanding Delegate in the League of Arab



Photo courtesy of Radford University

Pictured are Radford University's delegates to this spring's Model UN: Thomas Creed (from left), John Bimler, Mike Wilson, Steven Lowery, Elliott Smith and Klement Camaj.

States, representing Oman; this committee was composed of 17 delegations. Steven represented Sultan Qaboos of Oman. A conference organizer remarked to Paige Tan, professor and chair of the political science department at Radford as well as advisor to the Model UN club, that our delegate stood out because he "knew the difference between being a delegate and a head of state." Both the Oman and Spain teams won Honorable Delegation awards (just under Outstanding) for the overall quality of the three-student team of delegates.

Reflecting on his experience, delegate Elliot

Smith said, "I came into the Charlotte conference eager to learn and participate in many of the challenges that were handed to us." Over the course of the weekend he said that he "learned a lot about negotiating, working as a team and convincing many countries to back up our plan. Now I am more knowledgeable about Model UN, and am eager to continue and attend the next conference. I know that I will be more prepared and polished not only in my public speaking but my awareness about the issues given."

Lowery noted that "[Model UN] informs you of current geopolitical issues in an engaging

way: you're not just learning about the issues, but actively participating in an effort to come up with valid solutions to them." With conferences such as these, Lowery feels that it adds a unique dimension to his college experience that normal coursework or class time cannot imitate.

Tan expressed her pride in the club's accomplishments in its first year as a testament to the students' hard work and determination to win. She is pleased with the club's achievements this year, and is looking forward to a new semester and continued success with her group.

— Submitted by Mary Hagan

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