UCA welcomes 44th AMUN

The opening session of the 44th annual Arkansas Model United Nations (AMUN) convenes today at 1:00 P.M. in Reynolds Performance Hall on the campus of the University of Central Arkansas.

For the attending delegates this weekend, the campus will function as the United Nations Headquarters, with seven committees and councils of the United Nations being simulated. Events today and tomorrow will also include simulations of the International Court of Justice and the Arab League.

Now one of the largest MUN conferences in the region, nearly 70 countries are represented in this year’s simulation. Delegations have traveled from high schools all over Arkansas, as well as Tennessee and Mississippi.

Jointly sponsored by UCA and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, this year’s AMUN is dependent on the collaboration of several other universities from around the state as well. Arkansas State University, Arkansas Tech, and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville have all contributed to make this forty-four-year tradition a continued success.

Last year was my first year involved with AMUN, and I was inspired by the motivated discourse occurring between such youthful minds. I was even tempted to jump in amidst the arduous remarks and equally assiduous rebuttals. I kept quiet but now would like to say to all delegates, new and returning, “Keep up the great work!”

Thank you for your attendance and participation and be sure to make the most of this remarkable experience.

For those out there nervously reading this article, I’ll leave you with some pertinent advice from our Secretary-General:

“From my own experiences, the first time participating in AMUN (or any other Model UN conference) can be quite challenging and confusing. However, if you give it your best, you can quickly see the results of your hard work.”

“If it is your first time, and you don't understand everything or don't get an award, don't be alarmed. I think it is amazing what you learn by just sitting in one of the committee rooms and paying attention to what is going on. You will then have a better idea of how to get yourself prepared for the conference and will have a great chance to succeed the next time you participate.”

“I think it is simply wonderful that so many

SEE WELCOME • P. 4

ICJ rules in Central American river dispute

BY KATHY HILL
STAFF REPORTER

On July 13, 2009, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a conclusion in the dispute between Costa Rica and Nicaragua regarding navigational and related rights of the San Juan River.

Problems arise because the border does not run along the thalweg -- the invisible line tracing the lowest depths of the river -- as is usually the case with river borders, but is rather set by treaty to run along the Costa Rican coast. Therefore, even though the river serves as a natural border between the two countries, it does not function as a political boundary, granting Nicaraguan sovereignty over the entirety of the San Juan River. In settling the dispute, the Court found Article VI of the 1858 Treaty of Limits to give Costa Rica perpetual freedom of navigation on the river “for the purposes of commerce.” But such a statement still left the meaning of the word “commerce” to be defined.

According to Costa Rica, this term encompassed everything and anything, any activity or dealing between persons, including the transportation of passengers and the use of the river by Costa Rican officials providing public services. This interpretation of the definition is vital from the Costa Rican perspective because tourism has in recent decades become such a significant portion of their overall economy.

For Nicaragua, in 1858 the term “commerce” meant only trade in goods, an obviously much narrower

SEE RIVER • P. 4
Developing a Global Partnership for Development

**BY TRENT MOODY**  
**STAFF REPORTER**

In the modern day it is seemingly impossible to do something without affecting other people across the globe. Deep interconnection between nation-states has led to highly developed countries growing even richer but, unfortunately, has likewise left some of the underdeveloped states in turmoil.

So it is not a surprise that partnership, globalization, and interconnectedness have become some of the most important global issues in recent decades. This insight is most evident in the fact that “Global Partnership” is one of the eight Millennium Goals that the UN proposed to be achieved by the year 2015.

This goal is comprised of five targets that the UN believes must be considered in order to accomplish this arduous task.

1. To address the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing states;
2. To further develop an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory system of finance and trade;
3. To deal comprehensively with the debt of developing countries;
4. To provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries, partly in cooperation with pharmaceutical companies; and
5. To disseminate the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications, through increased cooperation with the private sector.

These issues will be thoroughly discussed during this year’s UN summit at the University of Central Arkansas. The participants will put forth great effort to address the obstacles preventing the member-states from accomplishing the UN’s goal of Global Partnership. However, it goes without saying that debates will be instigated and obstacles will arise anew. We wish all delegates the best of luck in the decision-making process and hope that they may bring us one step closer toward realization of this elusive goal.

It is hoped that the UN’s eight Millennium Goals will be achieved worldwide by 2015.

Former Secretary-General Returns to AMUN

**BY BRIAN BROUSSARD**  
**EDITOR**

A UCA graduate and former AMUN Secretary-General, retired Lieutenant Colonel James Lionell Owens returns to UCA for the first time in 15 years to speak at today’s opening session.

Owens was a student here when the State College of Arkansas officially became the University of Central Arkansas, and since graduation, he has led a career full of equally profound changes.

Interested in foreign countries and cultures from a young age, Owens points to his first experience at AMUN as an event that enabled him to fully appreciate the differences in perspectives that only a multiplicity of cultures can provide.

Owens attended law school at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, encouraged by his UCA professors that “other opportunities with an international flavor could develop from [his] legal training.” With that same, constant xenophilius desire in mind, Owens enrolled in Fayetteville’s ROTC program while still pursuing a law degree.

Taking four hours of ROTC classes and up to 15 hours of law school classes simultaneously, Owens was obviously willing to work very hard for the hope of seeing the world. Indeed, he completed the requirements to become an Air Force officer, earned a Juris Doctorate, and passed the Arkansas Bar Exam. And his motivation and diligence paid off: Owens has lived and worked in seemingly every corner of the world, from Illinois to Iraq, Alabama to Saudi Arabia, and Abilene to the Philippines.

“My experience at UCA in the Arkansas Model UN was one of the primary catalysts for my decision to attend law school and later to enter the USAF,” Owens remarks. Additionally, AMUN was probably “the best ‘on the job training’ I could have had in preparation for my seven command or deputy command jobs I had” in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, basically the equivalent of the “FBI.”

So delegates, as you work on your consensus-building skills and try to work on the best resolution possible, remem-
Cherkasy, a provincial capital in the very heart of Ukraine, is the hometown of Secretary-General Anatoliy Shatkovskyy. However, Shatkovskyy was not actually born in Ukraine. Interestingly enough, at the time of his birth, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic was still a part of the Soviet Union. Ukraine as an independent, democratic state was not born until 1991, when Shatkovskyy was three-years-old, in effect making him three years older than his country.

In 2004, while attending the First City Gymnasia in Cherkasy, Shatkovskyy won a scholarship sponsored by the U.S. Department of State to study at Wootton High School in Rockville, Maryland for one academic year. This experience marked his first journey to the United States.

Shatkovskyy returned to the U.S. to intern in Washington, D.C. before enrolling here at UCA. His first collegiate year precipitated his inspiration to become involved in Model UN. His friend was the Secretary-General for that year’s conference, but that fact meant little at the time. He told Shatkovskyy about an open position the night before the conference; Shatkovskyy studied the rules and materials given him the night before.

The Struggle of Developing Countries amidst Energy Insecurity and Dependence  

It is no secret that energy dependence has become an increasingly important issue in recent years. Many countries struggle in order to receive the sufficient amount of resources to simply maintain their sustainable economy and therefore struggle much more to compete in the modern market.

The situation severely worsens when the prices of energy resources are manipulated by the holding countries. Unfortunately, such a strategy greatly damages the development of smaller economies that are unable to produce their own energy.

Contemporary energy insecurity illuminates an imperative fact: the first country to develop and implement a viable alternative energy source will become the world’s new hegemony. In recent years, this realization has initiated a rapid development of energy research; however, such research exists only in the highly developed countries. Yet again the lesser-developed economies are already doomed to fail in the worldwide competition.

So all the eyes are pointed to this year’s UN summit, where countries will be able to discuss their economic problems caused by an absence of energy resources.

Today should provide us with a clearer understanding about how countries are looking into the future development and further independence from the world’s current energy holders. Today, we will witness the crucial debates between the member-states present and look forward to hearing the perspectives and innovations the delegates may present this year.

Consumption Per Capita 2008, Tons of Oil Equivalent  

(Data from BP Statistical Review of World Energy, 2007)
Welcome (cont’d from cover)

students voluntarily participate in these conferences, as they prepare to become outstanding future leaders of the world. In my book, consensus building will always be a feature that the greatest leaders possess.”

Congratulations on your accomplishments thus far and enjoy this year’s conference. Check out more about the AMUN Secretary-General, Anatoliy Shatkovskyy, in this year’s AMUN Profiles section.

For further information on this weekend’s events, the AMUN website, www.uca.edu/org/amun, provides details of this year’s committee topics, schedule of events, country assignments, and the secretariat & staff. Information on the AMUN organization itself, parliamentary procedures, and conference rules and guidelines can be found on the website, as well.

Owens (cont’d from page 2)

ber that you are not doing so in a vacuum. These experiences will outlast the weekend that they constitute.

Likewise take note that the ideal MUN experience is a “two-way street”; it is not enough to be receptive to others from foreign countries. American students “need to learn to adequately present the perspectives and values of their own country and culture,” Owens urges. Oftentimes, the American perspective is “misrepresented and misunderstood.” Therefore, delegates, remember that when you leave this year’s AMUN conference and go back home, you are still representing a country. Each day, in some form or another, you may be serving as an ambassador, whether you know it or not.

River (cont’d from cover)

view. The latter interpretation has been the meaning that governed.

In the end, the International Court of Justice ruled that Costa Rican tourist and commercial boats have the right to travel along the river and also grants customary fishing rights to inhabitants; however, the Court did grant Nicaragua the right to regulate traffic on the San Juan River. This final ruling, which is binding and without appeal like all ICJ cases, brings the four-year legal battle between the two countries to an end.

Profiles (cont’d from page 3)

before and basically learned everything on the go, quite nervously at that. If you, the reader, are nervous about the ongoing proceedings, don’t worry: you have more preparation than our Secretary-General did his first year!

Shatkovskyy made his way up the AMUN ladder, serving as co-chair and chair the two subsequent years. Now Secretary-General, Shatkovskyy has also successfully represented UCA at the Midwest Model United Nations in St. Louis for the past three years.

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All AMUN participants are encouraged to contribute to Model Times by submitting letters of opinion or articles on any topics of interest pertaining to this weekend’s conference.