Opening Speeches Extol Diversity, Opportunity

“A lot has changed in 44 years.”

Dr. Mullenbach’s introductory statements invoked revealing points. Here, he was referencing the comparably immense diversity that one inevitably encounters at every AMUN conference. That simply wasn’t the case a few decades ago. The delegates, secretariat, staff, and even professors represent much more diversity now than then. To illustrate his point, Mullenbach had the audience raise their hands if they were born in a country besides the U.S. As the lights brightened, one could view hands raised all around the auditorium.

During the Provost’s address, he thanked everyone present for making such an event possible, expressing that he didn’t even have such an opportunity as a kid. The keynote speaker, James Lionel Owens, seemed to reiterate this point by beseeching the delegates to seize the opportunities abounding via AMUN, specifically the diversity that it affords.

After growing up in the insular Ozarks, when Owens first came to UCA in 1972, his worldview was pretty limited. Cultural appreciation was not at the top of his list of priorities at the time. Owens repeated that he came to college seeking other opportunities, namely, to “have a good time, to find a place with lots of girls, and to play football, in that order.”

Owens says he had a cavalier attitude about academics and his future.

SPECPOL addresses Veto Power, Failed States

BY KAYLA FLORES
STAFF REPORTER

Twenty minutes into the 44th session of AMUN and the debate has begun. The Special and Political Committee (SPECPOL) saw an overwhelming consensus on the agenda items. The most heated topic on the floor was Security Council (UNSC) reform of Veto Power.

The delegates have come up with various ideas, but most of the delegates seem to agree that the five permanent members (P5) on the Security Council will refuse to relinquish their seats or veto power in favor of adding new ones. A cap on the permanent members’ ability to use the veto power is one of the ideas presented by the delegate from Saudi Arabia. Turkey suggested the main opposing idea, that is, for the UNSC to “add five new permanent members to the Security Council” as well as five new Non-Permanent members that would be rotated based on regional representation.”

However one of the ideas that has yet to cross the delegates’ minds is how the Security Council would fare knowing that their rights were in threat of being restricted and changed. Would they actually vote “yes” on a bill that would restrict their own veto power, and possibly jeopardize their seat on the most revered council in the United Nations?

The hope would be yes, that the Security Council’s Permanent Members, which consist of The United States, China, France, Russia and the United Kingdom, would look beyond their seats and into the best interest of General Assembly.

After passing two resolutions germane to the first topic, the Council moved to its next topic, Responsibility for Failed States, which at once became an all out debate between nations. Nearly a quarter of the committee is failed states, and they seized the opportunity to speak on their current status and what they thought would be beneficial to reverse their failed status.

After an hour of discussion, a consensus was brought about by a majority of the Council on resolution 2-1, which called for “sustainable and educational aid,” as well as declaring that “the General Assembly must agree by a 2/3 vote that a state is ‘failed’ for it to be considered as such.”

SPECPOL continued on the path of compromise to bring about yet another two resolutions before the committees ended.
HRC Resolution: Rights of victims of HIV/AIDS in regards to treatment, mediation, and tolerance

BY ZAKHAR KRAVTSOV
STAFF REPORTER

The common argument in this committee has focused around allowing international funds from the IMF, which operates hand in hand with the UN, to be used for the creation of separate organizations that would deal with related problems.

Many representatives from countries such as Netherlands and Egypt have declared that “they will not support the resolution of creating multiple organizations as such. Treatment of AIDS, education about tolerance, and similar issues would be a lot easier to deal with if the summit agreed to create a single body to deal with it all.”

Yet, the Netherlands’ announcement was not supported. The delegation of Malaysia declared that the “funding necessary for an above described organization has already been in use in their country for a number of years already, applied to resolve the exact same issues.” For this reason, they will not be able to support others in their strive to achieve a uniform decision on management of pandemic like AIDS and issues in education about this disease.

The delegation of China at the same time created a controversy by writing their resolution in a short period of time and luring others to sign it based predominantly on the fact that they had already developed a resolution, instead of on any profound premise.

In summary, the resolution on the Rights of victims of HIV/AIDS in regard to treatment, medication and tolerance has been a headache to pass, but this committee progressed much further in comparison to some other delegations during the first day of the conference.

MICJ Rules India Victor in Tawang District Land Dispute

BY KATHY HILL
STAFF REPORTER

On November 20, 2009, the Model International Court of Justice met to discuss the dispute regarding the Tawang District in Arunachal Pradesh, India. The majority opinion of the MICJ was to grant the Arunachal Pradesh including the Tawang District to the Respondent India.

The Court believes that greater good of the people of the Arunachal Pradesh province would best be served by the jurisdiction of the Indian government.

According to the Court, the People’s Republic of China has demonstrated that it is ill fit to care for its own people, much less the people of the Arunachal Pradesh Province, by such instances as the pollution of the Yangtze River. In contrast, India demonstrated initiative in improving the infrastructure of the Arunachal Pradesh region by requesting funds from the Asian Development Bank to develop a better water supply and improve transportation.

The International Court of Justice also believes that Indian dominion will be best for the Arunachal Pradesh province because India has a more politically stable democracy, while China’s government has “roiled with political turnover and changes of regime.”

The strongest defense of the majority opinion of the MICJ was the fact that India has provided legal documentation justifying its ownership of the Arunachal Pradesh Province while China has failed to prove any evidence for its ownership.

The Model International Court of Justice encouraged peacekeeping forces from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to supplement Indian forces guarding and patrolling the border until the region has been stabilized, justifying the recommendation on the grounds that “China has a history of using military action to solve its domestic and international disputes.”

The majority opinion was supported by all representatives of the Court, excluding the justice representing the People’s Republic of China.
ECOFIN Considers Modification of the IMF Distribution Policy

BY TRENT MOODY
STAFF REPORTER

During the first day of the conference, one resolution the ECOFIN discussed focused on the issue of developed countries economically assisting in the development of underdeveloped countries in light of current economic instability and crisis.

The resolution allowed for more equality in the voting process by which financial affairs are decided and money is issued to countries for development. The major point of controversy that existed was raised by the major powers in the world, e.g. the United States, Germany, and the Russian Federation.

Their concern centered around the fact that if they are supplying the majority of the money that is financing the development of these countries, they should have more of a part to play in deciding where the money is sent and how it is being used. They, therefore, disagreed with the equality of voting.

While it was commonly agreed that a radical change must take place in order to help not only those underdeveloped countries but also the larger countries who serve as financial lenders, there was a difference of opinion as to what was “too radical.” In the end, the resolution demanded a restructuring of the IMF distribution policy with little other change. While some found this an appropriate modification, others saw it as much too radical.

A Role Model Arab League

BY TYLER PEARSON
STAFF REPORTER

This weekend delegates representing members of the Model Arab League (MAL) met in the UCA Student Center to discuss some of the important challenges currently facing the Arab world. In a striking display of professional diplomacy, the spirit of cooperation and creativity reigned supreme over the all too often negative perceptions that normally accompany the Arab League.

Saudi Arabian representative Charlie Marczyński of St. Benedict High School credits the success of the conference to the “lack of accusations made against other members and a strong desire for more unification amongst Arab States”.

The MAL hammered out several binding resolutions in reference to the items on their agenda, which included education, border security, maritime piracy, and criminal extradition. Unanimous consent was often the norm in the voting procedures.

The conference’s committee meetings began shortly after 2PM on Friday with the first of what would soon seem to be an endless cycle of caucusing. However, despite the mundane atmosphere that sometimes accompanies the bureaucratic process, the delegates remained passionate, focused, and committed to their task of unification amongst Arab States. The MAL concluded the conference with several resolutions, including education, border security, maritime piracy, and criminal extradition.
MAL (cont’d from page 3)

working towards solving these issues.

Among their many accomplishments lies a resolution showing the League’s strong support for the creation of a United Arab Coast Guard to combat the growing threat raised by maritime piracy. The resolution calls upon member states of the Arab League to contribute monetary and logistical assistance in the creation of this Guard. If instituted, the Guard would provide protection to the hundreds of ships that are effected by maritime piracy each year.

Jordanian representative Ashton Williams of Bryant High School was quoted saying that “even though Jordan is not directly affected by piracy we are indirectly affected by it when pirated goods infiltrate our markets and therefore hurt our economy. So, in the future we, the Jordanian people, are open to the idea of providing financial assistance to help with the creation of such an institution.”

Other accomplishments made by the MAL this weekend include resolutions passed in regard to declared education standards that are to be met by all member nations in the future. These standards include: a mandatory 9-year education for all youth, 65% literacy rate of both genders, and at least 2 years of higher education for government approved teachers.

In the final hours of the conference the League worked diligently to find solutions to the problem of the extradition of criminals between member states. A resolution was proposed by member countries Egypt, Qatar, and Jordan suggesting the creation of an inter-Arab police organization to function in a similar role to that of Interpol, the international police organization that functions in over 180 countries around the world. The creation of an Inter-Arab specific police organization would be done with hopes of earning the institution mutual respect from member countries based on its adherence to certain cultural sensitivities.

Delegate Lauren Long of Parkview High School gave comment on Somalia’s position toward the idea saying, “We, Somalia, believe ArabPol is a good idea. However, we do have a few minor wishes that we wish to see changed in the future, but for now, we are content.”

The Model Arab League conference ended on Saturday just before 4 p.m. The delegates then attended a closing ceremony to announce to the world what they had accomplished. With their heads held high, the members of MAL displayed a unanimously felt sense of satisfaction.

Veto Power an Issue within Security Council Simulation

BY KAYLA FLORES
STAFF REPORTER

Engrossed within the Nuclear Program in Iran, the Security Council was determined to come out with a resolution that would please the whole Council, but first the dias had to deal with an obstacle within the Council.

The Chair, Manuel Ráparo, had decided to not allow the countries within the Security Council that were permanent members to use their veto power for the “purpose of the exercise”; however, the delegate from the United States brought up the argument that “if this is to be like a real simulation then those permanent members that are present within our Council today should be allowed to use their veto power.” The response of the Chair was simply, “As long as every member present in the Council feels as if their vote is heard.”

The first resolution to be brought up within the council went through six amendment processes before an adequate was reached, and the resolution then passed with a nine to four vote. However, the resolution ultimately failed due to the vetoes of The United States and The United Kingdom.

But even with this immediate exercise of the veto power, the topic never again became an issue of discussion. The AMUN delegates never showed an abuse of the veto power; in fact, later in the conference’s first day, two resolutions were passed unanimously.

UCA’s Saudi Arabia Club

hopes to sponsor a high school’s first trip to AMUN in 2010.

For information on how you can help with this endeavor, contact Dr. Mullenbach at MarkM@uca.edu.
Diversity (cont’d from cover)

science class. He was acting up in the back of the classroom, and his professor, Dr. Whistler, grew fed up, got in his face, and declared “This is not what college is about!”

I myself have had Dr. Whistler as a professor and can testify that such an encounter would be terrifying. But the experience proved positive for Owens: “It made me think.” Dr. Whistler was present in the audience and received a roaring ovation.

Not too long after his enlightening moment, Owens became involved in AMUN just so he could get extra credit points. At the conference he saw an entirely different perspective on the world and became engrossed in the experience, participating in each MUN conference he could until graduation.

Owens credits his AMUN experience with influencing and enabling his notable career in the Air Force, and this career has given him many more perspectives from which to view the world: Owens has so far lived or worked in a total of 26 countries and one U.S. territory.

For those without the ability to travel as extensively as Owens, the AMUN serves as an opportunity to convolve the diverse regions of the world a little closer to home. As Dr. Mullenbach pointed out, the majority of our Secretary-Generals over the past several conferences have been international students, such as Anatoliy Shatkovskyy this year.

Indeed, AMUN is a great chance for students to experience new cultures firsthand. However, Owens warns of the limits of technology in communicating between cultures. It is imperative to make the effort to get to know people and their culture in a real relationship, to do things in the “old fashioned face-to-face manner.” “That cannot be done by e-mail; that cannot be started by cell phone.” Owens ends his address by declaring, “This experience will be what you make it. Throw yourself into these roles enthusiastically…you owe it to yourselves.”

On behalf of the entire AMUN staff, we hope that you have enjoyed the conference, but even more we hope that you will take the knowledge and perspectives you’ve garnered into the world with you every day.

From Arkansas, Around the World: the Travels of James Owens

Below are photos from the travels of this year’s keynote speaker, Retired Lieutenant Colonel James Lionell Owens.

Top Left: Owens with a Blackhawk in Iraq.
Top Right: Owens in front of a volcano in Yemen.
Bottom Left: Owens in the streets of Yemen.
Bottom Right: Owens on a mountainside in Iraq.
Controversy Surrounds LEGCOM’s Definition of Torture

BY TRENT MOODY
STAFF REPORTER

One resolution focused on during the first day of the AMUN conference centered on the issue of torture and enhanced interrogation as a means of ascertaining information from those who may have vital knowledge, such as in the case of terrorist attacks.

The primary focus of debate was establishing what distinctions (if any) exist between torture and “enhanced interrogation.” China, supported by France, Brazil, Ukraine, Russia, and several other countries advocated that torture includes only those actions which yield “long term pain or injury, cultural or sexual humiliation, exposure to extreme weather conditions, or prolonged isolation; as well as any subjugation to lack of basic human needs.”

This definition excludes any psychological aspects associated with torture. Says Israel, a signatory with China, “The Taliban has taught their soldiers to imitate mental disability to claim stupidity.” Argentina, Croatia, and Jordan disagree with this notion, arguing that torture should include psychological aspects.

The resolution also suggests that a UN committee be created, the “Task Force on Enhanced Interrogation and Torture,” to ensure that a country does not employ torture as a means of obtaining information.

The resolutions allows for monetary rewards to be given to a country simply for letting the UN’s Task Force verify its non-involvement in torture techniques. The source of the money, however, was a point of controversy. While some wanted the money to come from the World Bank, others disagree with the idea of a reward of this kind at all.

2009 AMUN Conference Awards

The 2009 AMUN Conference was filled with outstanding students, below are listed those who excelled beyond expectations and received awards for their hard work.

Outstanding Delegation:
India – Pope John Paul II High School

Outstanding Delegation - Honorable Mention:
Brazil – Pope John Paul II H.S.
China – St. Benedict at Auburndale H.S.
Cuba – Mount St. Mary Academy
Iran – Pulaski Academy
Israel – Valley View H.S.
Japan – Russellville H.S.
Turkey – Home Educators of Conway
United Kingdom - ASMSA

Best Position Papers:
China – St. Benedict at Auburndale H.S.
Dem. Republic of Korea – Mount St. Mary
Denmark – DeSoto Central H.S.
Greece – Pope John Paul II H.S.
India – Pope John Paul II H.S.
Japan – Russellville H.S.
Malaysia – ASMSA
Netherlands – ASMSA
Norway – Pope John Paul II H.S.
Pakistan – Mount St. Mary Academy
Qatar – Russellville H.S.
Sudan – St. Benedict at Auburndale H.S.
Sweden – Pope John Paul II H.S.
Turkey – Home Educators of Conway
United Kingdom – ASMSA
Uruguay – ASMSA

Awards continued on next page...
Awards (cont’d from previous page)

**Security Council**

**Rapporteur**
Colin Brineman (Uganda) – Little Rock Christian Academy

**Outstanding Delegate**
Stephanie Gray (Japan) – Russellville H.S.

**Outstanding Delegate-Honorable Mention**
Robert Joiner (United States of America) – Pulaski Academy
Paul Loftness (Turkey) – Home Educators of Conway
Matthew Timmins (China) – St. Benedict at Auburndale H.S.
Londyn Cullifer (United Kingdom) – ASMSA
Colin Brineman (Uganda) – Little Rock Christian Academy

**Economic and Social Council - ECOSOC**

**Rapporteur**
Joseph Griggs (Brazil) – Pope John Paul II H.S.

**Outstanding Delegate**
Mary Smith (Malaysia) – ASMSA

**Outstanding Delegate-Honorable Mention**
Devika Mehta (Netherlands) – ASMSA
Alexa Potter (Pakistan) – Mount St. May Academy
Andreas Kofler (Uruguay) - ASMSA
Austin Sandy (Israel) – Valley View H.S.
Tayler Crabtree (Indonesia) – Parkview H.S.
Rob Evans (United States of America) – Pulaski Academy
Joseph Griggs (Brazil) – Pope John Paul II H.S.
Ian Redding (Sweden) – Pope John Paul II H.S.

**Human Rights Council-HRC**

**Rapporteur**
Seth Gilleran (Netherlands) – ASMSA

**Outstanding Delegate**
Victoria Darling (China) – St. Benedict at Auburndale H.S.

**Outstanding Delegate-Honorable Mention**
Tyler Sullivan (United Kingdom) – ASMSA
Seth Gilleran (Netherlands) – ASMSA
Josh Weeden (Germany) – DeSoto Central H.S.
Amy Anderson (Malaysia) – ASMSA
Olivia Gardner (Pakistan) – Mount St. Mary Academy
Michelle Ko (Egypt) – Pulaski Academy

**Special Political Committee-SPECPOL**

**Rapporteur**
Tommy Joe Bednar (India) - Pope John Paul II H.S.

**Outstanding Delegate**
Anthony Stvartak (United Kingdom) – ASMSA

**Outstanding Delegate-Honorable Mention**
Jim Burke (Netherlands) – ASMSA
Avery Story (Brazil) – Pope John Paul II H.S.
Tommy Joe Bednar (India) - Pope John Paul II H.S.
Arthur Nystrom (Turkey) – Home Educators of Conway
Micah Hunter (Japan) – Russellville H.S.
John Bamrick (China) – St. Benedict at Auburndale H.S.
Logan Spurlock (Israel) – Valley View H.S.
Louise Carter and Caroline McGibbony (Cuba) – Mount St. Mary

**Legal Committee-LEGCOM**

**Rapporteur**
Wilhelm Bunjor (India) – Pope John Paul II H.S.

**Outstanding Delegate**
Alex Bardos (China) – St. Benedict at Auburndale H.S.

**Outstanding Delegate-Honorable Mention**
Vikram Gondhalekar (Nigeria) – Pulaski Academy
Wilhelm Bunjor (India) – Pope John Paul II H.S.
Nathan Eldridge (Zimbabwe) – Benton H.S.
Jack Mizes (Japan) – Russellville H.S.
Jeremiah Moore and Nathan Redding (Turkey) – Home Educators of Conway
Michael Newton (Poland) – Russellville H.S.
Addison Brandkamp (France) – West Fork H.S.
Adrian Clark (Pakistan) – Mount St. Mary Academy

**Economic and Finance Committee-ECOFIN**

**Rapporteur**
Stephanie Kerrigan (India) – Pope John Paul II H.S.

**Outstanding Delegate**
Stephanie Kerrigan (India) – Pope John Paul II H.S.

**Outstanding Delegate-Honorable Mention**
Tanner Kuntz (Germany) – DeSoto Central H.S.
Michael Chernauskas (China) – St. Benedict at Auburndale H.S.
T. C. Zhang (Iran) – Pulaski Academy
Rhiania Taylor (Russian Federation) – Mount St. Mary Academy
Sreesh Reddy (United Kingdom) – ASMSA
Kate Loyd (Japan) – Russellville H.S.
Christina Aruffo (Cuba) – Mount St. Mary Academy
Emma Morse (Sudan) – St. Benedict at Auburndale H.S.
Sai Desika (Democratic Republic of Congo) – Little Rock Central

*Awards concluded on next page...*
Congratulations on another outstanding Arkansas Model United Nations!