Model UN to host annual conference

BY BETH MCCULLOUGH
Editor

UCA’s Arkansas Model United Nations is hosting its 39th annual conference this weekend, Nov. 19 and 20, at the Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center on campus. The conference is for high school students who want to learn more about international politics and participate in mock sessions that simulate a real-life United Nations experience.

“Our conference is one of the oldest in general and the biggest in the South,” Undersecretary General for the conference Hristijan Gjorgievski said. “The Model UN program was established by former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to primarily target young people to acquaint them with the way the United Nations functions and introduce them to the world of international politics.”

Each high school attending the conference will bring a delegation of students to represent one or more countries in committee reports, hearings and other simulation events. The conference will open Friday at 1 p.m. with AMUN coordinator and UCA political science Assistant Professor Mark Mullenbach and UCA President Lu Hardin speaking.

Gjorgievski said one of the highlights of the conference will be a speech by Lt. Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller during the opening session. Gjorgievski said he hopes Rockefeller will emphasize the benefits of participating in a model program and take pride in so many young people being interested in politics.

Area high schools from Arkansas, Tennessee and Oklahoma will participate in the conference that Gjorgievski said will teach students about the functions of international politics but also help them develop negotiating and public speaking skills.

“First of all we want them to have fun, meet their peers and establish contacts while at the same time increase cognizance of international affairs,” he said. “We want them to take the skills they learn and apply them within their communities.”

UCA students will work with students from other state colleges, including Hendrix and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville to make the conference a success. UCA student Molly Smith is the secretary general for this year’s conference. Undersecretary generals include Gjorgievski, Michael Bynum, Sarah Freeman and Jarred Kibbey.