Model UN conference kicks off

47th Annual Arkansas Model United Nations Conference

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THE LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT

The 47th Annual Arkansas Model United Nations Conference is planned to start at 1 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the University of Central Arkansas. The conference, created by the late Professor Sims McClintock as an educational simulation of the UN General Assembly and other UN bodies, was first held at the then Arkansas State Teachers College in Conway in 1966. Since then, thousands of in- and out-of-state students have participated in the conference.

The 2012 AMUN conference expects some 450 high school students and teachers from 28 high schools in Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Florida. Conference staff consists of some 40 university students from UCA, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Harding University. UCA senior Jake Logan, who has participated in Model UN activities for the past several years at UCA and Sheridan High School, is the 2012 AMUN Secretary-General. Dr. Mark Mullenbach, an Associate Professor and Director of the International Studies Program in the Department of Political Science at UCA, has coordinated the AMUN program since Fall 2001.

The AMUN conference will include simulations of several UN bodies, including the UN General Assembly, UN Security Council, Human Rights Council, and International Court of Justice.

The opening session of the 2012 AMUN Conference will take place on Friday in Ida Waldran Auditorium in Main Hall. The keynote speaker will be Mr. Hristijan Gjorgievski, program manager in Macedonia for the National Democratic Institute. Gjorgievski, a graduate of UCA and Johns Hopkins University, served as Secretary-General of the AMUN in 2005.

Afterward, participating delegates will convene in their respective committees and councils.