2010 United Nations Day

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Submitted by Mark Stanley

The UALR International Simulations Organization (ISO) and the UCA Model UN Organization hosted the 2010 United Nations Day Conference in the DSC Friday, Oct. 22.

Samuel Rodgers, senior political science major, said the goal of the program was to provide high school students of Pulaski County the opportunity to learn about two of the world’s most influential governing bodies: The United Nations and the Arab League.

The program also provided information about world issues, public speaking and technical writing. It focused on strong knowledge of rules and procedures by providing several sessions.

Rodgers, president of the International Simulation Network (ISN), and UALR student Shariq Ali addressed the students, informing them of the rules and regulations regarding the simulations. Ali is a senior chemistry major and the vice president of ISO.

Graduate student Anmol Bhatia (right), who is pursuing a certificate in conflict mediation, explains the experience of being an international student to Shanice Hood (left), freshman chemistry major who took notes for her anthropology assignment. Photo by Ricky Harris.

Jaceck Lubecki, coordinator of international studies and Middle Eastern studies at UALR, opened the ceremony by addressing the students from five Pulaski County High Schools. Lubecki is also the Faculty Advisor for UALR International Simulations Association.

Mark Mullenbach of UCA said, “The experience allows the students to learn parliamentary procedure, which will prepare them for real life experience in the world.” Mullenbach, an ISN administrator, is an assistant professor of political science at UCA and coordinator of Arkansas Model UN. Mullenbach provided expertise for the panel on international peacekeeping.
Andrew Drummond, assistant professor of political science at UALR, presented the keynote speech on the European Union. After his presentation, he enthusiastically said, “the students were amazing and engaged.”

Colton Babbit, a freshman at Benton Junior High School, expressed that he was glad to participate. “It is important to learn how the United Nations works,” Babbit said.

Another student attending school with Babbit, freshman Elizabeth Harp, said, “I like the way students can portray a realistic United Nations setting to solve global issues.”

Rebecca Glazier of UALR presented the closing ceremony and remarks. Glazier is an assistant professor in political science also the faculty advisor for the UALR International Simulations Organization.