



United World College–USA

Armand Hammer UWC
of the American West

PO Box 248
Montezuma, NM
87731
USA

Telephone: 505 454 4200
Facsimile: 505 454 4274
www.uwc-usa.org

For Immediate Release
March 13, 2008

Contact: Andy Nowak
anowak@cybermesa.com
505-310-0095

Alan Wicks
alan.wicks@uwc-usa.org
505 454 4250

Largest Private Chess Tournament in New Mexico to Feature New Mexico’s Own Grandmaster, Jesse Kraai

Montezuma, NM. March 13, 2008. United World College-USA will host the 6-point US Chess Federation Grand Prix Event, the 14th Annual Pir Maleki Memorial Chess Tournament, on Saturday, April 26. The tournament is organized and co-sponsored by the Northern Schools Chess League.

The tournament will feature participation by American Grandmaster Jesse Kraai, who currently resides in Santa Fe, NM. Kraai’s most notable chess achievements are winning the Denker Tournament of High School Champions in 1989 and 1990, and competing in the US championship from 2002-2006. Kraai is 34 years old and has a Ph.D in Philosophy from the University of Heidelberg. He is an active scholastic chess coach in New Mexico.

Top-rated chess players will have the chance to try to beat the Grandmaster and win \$300 or tie and win \$150. “If you lose, we’ll give you a hearty consolation handshake,” says tournament organizer Andy Nowak.

There will be a total of \$1350 in prizes and trophies, with a first place prize guaranteed in all sections.

Chess players of all levels are invited to enter the tournament. “Because we offer so many sections, we are able to give a good game of chess to players of every skill level, and age does not always correspond to skill. In the past, we’ve had kids as young as seven or eight years old compete against far older players—and win! It’s a great community event for chess players of every age, and it shows what a strong chess community there is in New Mexico,” notes Alan Wicks, UWC-USA math teacher and long-time tournament volunteer.

The tourney will be held in the beautiful 19th century Montezuma Castle high on a hill overlooking the UWC campus. According to Nowak, “The lush mountains of northern New Mexico provide one of the most attractive settings for a chess tournament in the entire country.”

The tournament is held every year to honor the memory of Pir Maleki, a former math teacher at United World College-USA who had a life-long love for the game of chess.

For tournament entry information, please see <http://www.uwc-usa.org/whathappening/Pir%20Maleki.htm>.

#

United World College-USA is located in the northern New Mexico town of Montezuma, six miles from Las Vegas, NM. UWC-USA is one of 12 United World Colleges located on five continents dedicated to making education a force to unite people, nations, and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. Founded in 1982, UWC-USA offers a unique program of academic and experiential education for 200 students from over 80 countries.