

## UVSC Global Engagement Week 2007

The third annual UVSC Global Engagement Week (GEW) was held November 12-16, 2007 in conjunction with the nation-wide **International Education Week (IEW)**. IEW is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. GEW is an opportunity to celebrate IEW on the local, institutional level. Moreover, GEW is a unique chance for UVSC students, faculty and staff to feel a part of the global community. Engaged learning is one of core strengths of UVSC, and exposure to learning about international affairs is an important component of that.



*International Food Extravaganza by ISC*

**Utah Governor Jon Huntsman** yet again signed a declaration in support of the IEW's celebration. Governor himself spends much of his time furthering international trade and development in the state; international education is a big part of this endeavor.

The GEW celebration was kicked off by an informal mingling of the **international faculty, staff and students**. Attendees got a chance to share authentic international dishes as well as their life stories. Currently UVSC has close to 542 international students and 75+ international faculty members.

**UVSC International Student Council (ISC)** offered an exposure to different cultures and countries through the parade of flags and their famous international food cook-off which sells out every year! The dishes featured in this year's buffet included *qabeli pilave* (Afghanistan), *nanaimo* bars (Canada), apple cake and peach cream cake (Germany), *adobo* (Philippines), dumplings (Mongolia), fried rice (Korea), shish kabob (Peru), sausage rolls (Ukraine), *byrek* (Albania), egg rolls (Taiwan) and salad (Zambia). As one can see, customers had a wide variety of entrées to choose from, and for \$5.00 they could not have found a better deal in any of the authentic restaurants around the valley!

The annual **Mr. and Mrs. International** pageant was a success. The showcase, which is sponsored by **UVSC's Black Student Union Club and the Multi-Cultural**



*Finale of the showcase with contestants lined up in their eveningwear*

**Center**, featured seven student couples who represented various cultures and regions from around the world. The participating couples gave a brief presentation on their culture, followed by a talent portion and a presentation of traditional costumes. Because the cultures presented were so different from each other, participants were judged based on their own performances, not against one another. Contestants were judged as a couple on factors such as competency, presence, charm and confidence. This year's winner was a couple who represented Latin America. Their Mayan traditional costumers were absolutely stunning!



Brining in an international expert to speak to UVSC business students at the **Executive Lecture Series** during the GEW week has become a tradition. This year students had a unique chance to hear from **Lew Cramer, President and CEO of the World Trade Center Utah** (photo left). Governor Huntsman named Lew Cramer President and CEO of WTC Utah, effective September 2006. The WTC Utah is in the process of gaining a charter from the World Trade Center Association, which includes 287 centers worldwide, 58 of them in the United States. WTC Utah World Trade Center Utah is charged with helping local businesses broaden their operations overseas. Mr. Cramer's professional credentials are sufficient to offer a valuable advise to students. He is a former director general of the U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service and managing director of Summit Ventures International, a business consulting firm based in Washington, D.C., and Utah. One of Mr. Cramer's numerous successes was opening up the market for cellular services in the countries of the Former Soviet Union. In his speech, Lew Cramer emphasized how competitive the business world has become in the past decade with the emergence of the global trade. He mentioned that nowadays employees have to compete not only with domestic workforce but also with the workforce overseas who are willing to work longer and harder for the same amount of pay. He urged the students to learn at least one foreign language and to always strive for self-improvement whether it is continuing education or meaningful experiences throughout one's career path.

GEW celebration also included the annual **World Hunger Banquet**, sponsored by **UVSC's Center for Service and Learning**. The Banquet is an event that increases understanding of hunger in Utah and around the world. It is a charitable event where attendees pay a fee for dinner and are randomly split into three different classes: upper (10%), middle (30%) and lower (60%). Those who represent lower class communities receive rice and beans for their meal while the middle class gets pizza. The upper class, representing the elite first-world countries, is treated best with a three-course meal. This year's hunger banquet funds were raised for the benefit of Oulessebouyou, pronounced "Wuh-less'-uh-boo'-goo," a region in the country of Mali located on the West coast of Africa. This region is rural and impoverished so much that the Malian government does not track the people in the area. The proceeds (about \$950) of the Banquet went to the Oulessebouyou-Utah Alliance, a non-profit organization based in Salt Lake City that works with 71 villages in this section of Mali to

develop programs on health, economics and education. One hundred and forty people attended the 5th annual banquet. The speakers were Reverend Dr. Michael Minch, professor of Philosophy at UVSC; Danielle Dallas with the Ouelessebougou-Utah Alliance; and Moussa Sissoko, a BYU student from Mali, West Africa. Also, a special dance/poetry reading performance called The Dustbowl by Angela Banchemo-Kelleher and Rob Carney, both faculty at UVSC, was presented to the audience.

Each year, as a grand finale of UVSC GEW, the **Office of International Affairs** brings in an international performing group so students, faculty, staff and community can come together in the celebration of the cultural diversity. This year's "**Jewels of the Orient**" show was the first of its kind and professionalism in Utah. The program mostly consisted of various belly dances with emphasis on traditional Egyptian style called Raqs Sharqi. The show also included flamenco, oriental folklore and classical dances from India. The key performers of the show are well-known in their industry not just within the U.S. but also throughout the world. DaVid of Scandinavia, Nalini, Solange Gomes, Isidora Bushkovski and Viktoriya among few others wowed the audience with their energizing performances.

