

UVU Global Engagement Week (GEW) 2008 involved participation of more departments than ever before! Orem Institute of Religion became the newest ally in organizing the celebration of cultural diversity on campus.

This year's GEW included numerous events, brief summary of which are outlined below.



UVU GLOBAL
ENGAGEMENT WEEK

November 17-21, 2008

Monday, November 17: Guest speaker—

Ambassador of Moldova to the U.S. Nicolae Chirtoaca (sponsored by History and Political Science Department and the Office of International Affairs & Diplomacy). Ambassador Chirtoaca shared his first-hand knowledge on Moldova's challenging transition from communism and planned economy to democracy and free market economy. Students, faculty as well as community members also had a chance to mingle with the ambassador at the reception held in his honor.

Tuesday, November 18: International Student Cook-off (sponsored by International Center). Nine groups of students prepared a dish from their home country or region and were competing for the first, second or third prizes. The countries/regions represented were: Japan, Columbia, Mongolia, Latin America, Tajikistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Ghana, and Switzerland. Approximately 200 tasters sampled the food and decided on the winners. The awards were as follows: first prize \$100 to Tajikistan; second prize \$75 to Japan; third prize \$50 to Columbia. Musical entertainment was provided by Voice of Africa.

Thursday, November 19: Executive Lecture Series, guest speaker **Gary Neeleman** (sponsored by the Woodbury School of Business and the Office of International Affairs & Diplomacy). Mr. Neeleman is President and owner of Neeleman International Consulting, Inc., a consulting firm which deals with newspaper and broadcast industry throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal, Japan and Korea, Australia and New Zealand. He was talking to UVU students about doing business in Brazil and why Brazil is emerging as one of the leader countries in international markets.



Remember Our Culture (ROC) performs at the appreciation dinner

Friday, November 20: International Faculty/Staff Appreciation Dinner (sponsored by the Office of International Affairs & Diplomacy). UVU faculty and staff

who are engaged in international courses, projects and programs were honored that evening for their outstanding efforts to internationalize UVU.

Two awards, “**Faculty Member of the Year: Global Engagement**” and “**Staff Member of the Year: Global Engagement**”, were given to nominees. The purpose of the two awards is to honor an outstanding faculty member and staff member who have made significant contribution to internationally-related programs at UVU. Internationally-related programs can include academic courses, study-abroad programs, international conferences and visits, cultural celebrations, multicultural events, etc. The first award went to Dr. Liliana Riboldi, Professor of Spanish, for her pioneer efforts in organizing numerous successful study abroad programs to Mexico and Spain. The second award went to Junko Watabe, Senior International Student Advisor, for her relentless efforts in helping international students succeed at UVU. Attendees were treated to the most memorable musical performance by Remember Our Culture (ROC) group which showcased five cultures: African, Native American, Polynesian, Asian and Latin American. Annual **international photo contest** winners were also acknowledged during the evening. Their works were displayed at the Student Center art wall all week long.



Gary Neeleman speaks to UVU business students

That same night, **Legacy Polynesian Dance Company** presented the *Drums of the Islands* show in the Ragan Theater (sponsored by the Multicultural Center). All of the proceeds from the performances went toward the Legacy student scholarship fund.

UVU Library featured the **photo exhibit from Kyrgyzstan** *JETI-ATA: Remembering Seven Fathers*. The photographs of many tribes and regions of this small mountainous country provide windows into Kyrgyzstan’s unique culture.



International food cook-off: sushi from Japan

Orem Institute of Religion provided the following events for GEW.

International Fireside (Sunday, November 16, 2008)

This fireside meeting merged the musical and speaking talents of students from all over the world. A choir made up of Japanese students, a duet from the islands of the South Pacific, speakers from Africa, Russia, and South America were some of the participants in the fireside. The key-

note speaker was Gwen Anderson from the Multicultural Center at Utah Valley University. Approximately 80 people attended.

International Luncheon (Tuesday, November 18, 2008)

This luncheon was dedicated exclusively to the international students as well as the faculty and staff that serve them at the university and the institute. From 11:30-2:30 food was served to students from over twenty-five nations. Approximately 200 people were served.



*1st Place International Photo Contest:
Daniel Horns "Rice and Water Buffalo"*

International Ping Pong Tournament (Wednesday, November 19, 2008)

Our second annual international ping pong tournament was very successful. International students signed up with partners and played doubles. Fifteen teams enjoyed camaraderie and competed for prizes. Refreshments were served to participants and spectators. Approximately 50 people participated.

International Futsal Tournament (Thursday, November 20, 2008)

This indoor *futsal* tournament brought together students from all over the world. Eight teams of five players competed vigorously through the brackets until a championship team was named. A large number of spectators stood by as two games were played simultaneously at the institute gym. Approximately 100 students participated in or attended this event.

International Basketball Tournament (Friday, November 21, 2008)

This tournament was co-sponsored by the institute International Committee and the International Center. Student leaders from both organizations coordinated the tournament to ensure success. Ten teams of five players each competed. Due to the joint sponsorship, attendance at this event was larger than previous activities during the week. Players, fans, and others constituted large audiences for these games. Approximately 200 people attended this event.

GEW 2009 will be held November 16-20.