

# Global Engagement Newsletter

[uvu.edu/global](http://uvu.edu/global)

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## Upcoming Events:

**April 5:** Peruvian Delegation

**April 9:** Gentrification, Poverty and Homelessness: Global Issues, Local Solutions

**April 10:** Global Spotlight: Ramadan Celebration

**April 11:** International Faculty/Staff Networking

**April 17:** Really Really Free Market

**April 17:** Greek Architectural Engineering, Dr. Ganiatsas

## Welcome

For the Office for Global Engagement, March marked one of our most important conversations yet—that of academic freedom and its importance in education. We were honored to have four amazing scholars come and speak at the Symposium for Academic Freedom, sharing their experiences from all around the world, including Turkey, Pakistan, China, and domestic challenges even here in Utah. Their stories of what they have fought for, what they have lost, and what they are yet hoping for cause the utter importance of academic and other freedoms to hit home, even to those who have never experienced a lack of it. Faculty around the world are facing jail and reeducation camps simply for being professors, and knowledge is being stifled. Academic freedom has never been more important to discuss, learn about, and support.

**ACADEMIC  
FREEDOM  
SYMPOSIUM**  
**UVU** Office for  
GLOBAL  
ENGAGEMENT



## Table of Contents:

Events	—2
Symposium for Academic Freedom	—5
75th Anniversary of the Declaration for Human Rights	—6
Wolverines Around the World	—7

# Events



## International Women's Day

Friday, March 8 was International Women's Day! In honor of the day, the Office for Global Engagement hosted a panel of women from all around the world to speak on this year's theme: "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress." The panel featured Ms. Jennifer Hogge Ellsworth as the moderator, as well as Dr. Rasha Qudisat, Dr. Maritza Sotomayor, Dr. Violeta Vasilevska, and Ms. Maryna Storrs as panelists. They discussed the importance of having a mentor, as well as how women can be their own catalysts to empower themselves in this world. It was an inspiring panel, one that closed with the reminder that women can be their own decision-makers and can be involved in all aspects of life.



## International Faculty and Staff Social

On March 20, the Office for Global Engagement hosted the March international faculty and staff social! For this month, the social was focused on the Persian New Year, featuring Persian and Turkish foods and traditional decor. A video was shown that taught about the traditions of the Persian New Year, and Dr. Masood Amin talked about his experiences with the festivities. It was a wonderful opportunity for all present to learn about another new year.



## Events

### Visit from the Rwandan Ambassador

On March 22, Ambassador and Permanent Representative Ernest Rwamucyo, from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations came to visit UVU. He is the former ambassador of Rwanda in New Delhi, India; London, UK; and Tokyo, Japan. Dr. Baldomero Lago invited him to come again to UVU in August as a part of the commemoration of the UN Day of African Descent and meet with UVU's African Diaspora. During his visit, we would also commemorate of the 30th anniversary of the Rwanda Genocide. This will be a wonderful opportunity for implementation and collaboration with UVU of the 2030 Global Agenda and 17 SDGs.



### Kurdistan Ministry of Health

On Thursday, March 27, the Kurdistan Ministry of Health came to visit UVU! The delegation included His Excellency, Dr. Saman Barzangy, Minister of Health; Dr. Mateen Aldosakee, Director of International Health Department; Dr. Hawraz Saadi, Head of Minister Office; and Mr. Salam Hussein, Head of Protocol. They were welcomed to UVU by Dr. Cheryl Hanewich, Dean of College of Health and Public Services; Dr. Karen Multalo, Director of Physician Assistant Studies; Dr. Summer Karafiath, Professor of Physician Assistant Studies; and RN Katelyn Robbins, Nursing Learning and Simulation Center Manager. The delegation visited classes, laboratories, and the Nursing Learning and Simulation Center. This visit could lead to potential collaborations between the Minister of Health and Academic Institutions in Kurdistan.



#### Global Student Leadership Council Scholarship Opportunity!

This is an opportunity for students to become a part of the Office for Global Engagement's Global Student Leadership Council and receive a \$1000 scholarship per semester. More information can be found on our website, [uvu.edu/global](http://uvu.edu/global), under Global Student Leadership Council.





# Events

## UNESCO Presentation

On March 28, the Office for Global Engagement hosted the Symposium for Academic Freedom. This included a presentation from UNESCO's senior liaison officer, Lily Gray. She started off by addressing the question—what does the right to education really mean? UNESCO is making a recommendation that will work to empower learners with knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that will build towards more peaceful and sustainable societies. She then discussed open science and how it can bridge the science, technology, and innovation gap between countries. UNESCO has just adopted a new international standard setting instrument on open science, which puts forth key pillars for open science: open scientific knowledge, open science infrastructure, open engagement of sociative actors, and the open dialogue with other knowledge systems. This recommendation recognizes the richness of diverse knowledge systems, emphasizing the fact that academic freedom is fundamental for the pursuit of knowledge, creativity, and sociative progress.



Also on March 28, the South African Zulu queen, Her Majesty Queen Nompumelelo, and her aunt, Ms. Thembelihle Ngcobo, had the opportunity to briefly visit UVU. They were given a brief tour of the Roots of Knowledge gallery by one of the curators, and they were given a couple gifts from the Office for Global Engagement.



## Really Really Free Market

On Wednesday, March 20, the Office for Global Engagement hosted another free market, and it was yet another success. Many items found new homes, and many people found new things they could use. We are delighted to have the free market each month and are glad it has continued to be a success for the UVU community.



# Academic Freedom Symposium Summary



Uzeyir (Uzi) Ogurlu, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
School of Education  
Utah Valley University

Dr. Uzi Ugurlu is a professor here at UVU, originally from Turkey. He delved into the history of academic freedom in Turkey, describing how many schools and universities were closed in the wake of recent political events, sending thousands of university presidents, professors, and students to jail. Dr. Ugurlu himself had his house raided in the early morning, though he was, at the time, an international scholar in the US. Simply because he is a professor, he has not been able to return to his country in many years. Dr. Ugurlu has had personal experience with the lack of academic freedom, and therefore emphasizes the sheer importance of having it and that we need to protect it.

Dr. Amna Afreen is from Pakistan and discussed how political events prevented her safety in her home country. Consequently, following these political changes, education and curriculum changed drastically. A high percentage of Pakistani children are not in school. Education that is taking place suffers from exclusivity and the belief in the inferiority of women. Several scholars have been assassinated, and others are having their findings silenced. Her experiences have also led her to strongly believe in the importance of academic freedom and why we must protect it.



Dr. Amna Afreen  
Public Schools  
Baltimore City



Dr. Gülnar Eziz  
Preceptor  
Arts and Sciences  
Harvard University

Dr. Gülnar Eziz is from China, but is not Chinese. She is Uyghur—a part of a Turkic ethnic group living in the northwest part of China, called Xinjiang, and a group that is facing genocide today. While they, on paper, have their own autonomous region, this does not mean anything for the freedoms they have in practice. Unfortunately, for this people, the right to seek knowledge is being stunted. Scholars and intellectuals are being targeted in order to stifle progress. Over 500 scholars and researchers are being subjected to reeducation camps and jail. Their textbooks are burned and the teaching of their language, the Uyghur language, is banned. Those who can must support academic freedom to prevent the erasing of languages and cultures of those who are prohibited to speak up.

Dr. Blair Bateman is a professor at the University of Utah. He spoke on his experiences as a gay professor at Brigham Young University, with conflict and discomfort that came with that, as well as experiences at the University of Utah with the new Utah law prohibiting diversity, equity, and inclusion centers at Utah schools. He brought up that in order for academic freedom to exist, faculty and students need to feel safe in being who they are and expressing who they are and expressing their beliefs, regardless of their country, their political ideology, and their religion.



Dr. Blair Bateman  
Professor  
University of Utah

# 75th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document was written by representatives from all over the world and was adopted by the UN General Assembly in Paris on December 10th, 1948. To honor the 75th year of this first document of fundamental human rights, we are highlighting a few articles each month.

## 22



You have the right to social security and are entitled to economic, social, and cultural help from your government.

**Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.**

**Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.**

## 23



Every adult has the right to a job, a fair wage, and membership in a trade union.

## 24



You have the right to leisure and rest from work.

**Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.**



# Wolverines Around the World

## Mexico

Recently, UVU's softball team had the opportunity to travel to Mexico for several games as a part of the Puerto Vallarta College Challenge! They were able to play four games, three of which were against teams ranked in the top 15 of the country. After the final game, the team was able to host a softball clinic for local children who aged from about kindergarten to high school. It was a wonderful experience for the team and one they are not likely to soon forget.



## London, United Kingdom

Professor Katherine Jackson recently had the opportunity to go to London for two presentations! The first was at the University College London, for the Slade School of Fine Art, where she was able to lead a masterclass directed at MA students of art and writing and then led a seminar for a research group on ecology and sustainability at a local nonprofit, entitled "The Work of the Artist Placement Group (1960s/70s) and Contemporary Parallels." Professor Jackson has been a part of this research group with two UCL professors since 2016. In addition to her two presentations, she was able to see a lots of art and revisit old connections from when she previously lived in London. It was a wonderful opportunity for her to plan future projects with colleagues and build connections for UVU.