

Global Engagement Newsletter

uvu.edu/global

February 2024, vol. 18

Upcoming Events:

- February 3:** High School Model UN
- February 7:** Foundations on Inclusion: Global Competence
- February 9:** Global Spotlight: Chinese New Year
- February 20:** International Faculty and Staff Social
- February 21:** Really Really Free Market
- February 21:** Mother Language Day
- February 23:** Autism Conference with Global Keynote Dr. Eduardo Canal

Welcome

Why is it important to be globally engaged? In these times, it may feel like we have too much going on in our own countries, without looking at what's going on in the entire world. However, it remains just as important as ever to be globally engaged. The more we can learn about other cultures and peoples, the more we can understand both the similarities and the differences that make up humanity as a whole.

Just like how learning a new language helps you better understand your own, traveling to a new country or learning about another culture highlights aspects of yourself and your own culture—and you are better able to understand others as well! Ultimately, we are here to better connect with each other—so go travel somewhere, meet new people, and learn more about yourself.



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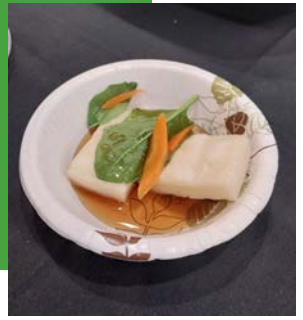
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Global Spotlight

Japanese New Year

On January 25, the Office for Global Engagement celebrated the Japanese New Year with a Global Spotlight involving the Japanese classes on campus. The students got to learn about how the Japanese celebrate the new year by playing traditional games and enjoying some mochi.



Careers Using the Russian Language

On January 29, the Office for Global Engagement hosted a Global Spotlight focusing on careers for Russian students who may be wondering what options they have for after college. Dr. Fred White talked about his career pairing Russian with academia, and Amy Barnett, from our office, presented and told her story about discovering a wide variety of jobs available to her with her degree in Russian. In addition to the presentations, the students also got to enjoy many different Russian snacks.



Events

Old Slavic New Year

On January 12, the Office for Global Engagement hosted a event to celebrate the Old Slavic New Year, a holiday which takes place on the thirteenth of January each year. Grandfather Frost and the Snow Maiden, Snegurochka, came to visit the children as well! It was a wonderful opportunity for UVU students as well as members of the local community to come together and share this Slavic tradition.



International Faculty and Staff

Our first get-together for our international faculty and staff took place on January 17! Our group continues to grow each time, and it's wonderful to get to know our new additions. We had people representing countries such as Macedonia, China, Bangladesh, Italy, Mexico, Canada, Brazil, Pakistan, India, and several others. It was a great opportunity to socialize and network with other faculty of the university, as well as a good opportunity to eat some delicious treats.



Events

Visit From the Consul General of Czech Republic

On January 29, UVU was visited by three dignitaries from the Czech Republic: the Special Envoy for Czech Expatriate Community and Expatriate Affairs, Jiri Kratky, M.A.; the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles, Ambassador Jaroslav Olsa, Jr.; and the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Utah, Jonathan Tichy. They were able to tour UVU campus and spend some time in the Roots of Knowledge gallery.



World Trivia!

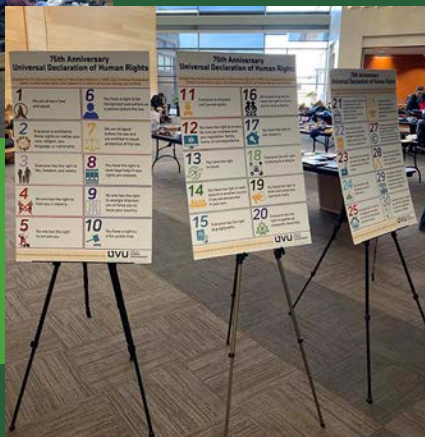
What is Scotland's national animal?

It's a unicorn!



Really Really Free Market

The Office for Global Engagement hosted their first really really free market of 2024 on January 17. It was an overall success, many items found new homes, and many people found things they could use. Our next free market is on February 21.



Upcoming Events

International Women's Day

Next month, the Office for Global Engagement will be hosting a panel for International Women's Day! The panel will feature five outstanding women from all around the world. The theme of the panel will be "Invest in women: Accelerate progress." This event will take place on March 8 from 11–12:15pm in SC 213ab, and all are welcome to attend.



Ms. Jennifer Hogge Ellsworth
Moderator, Executive Director of
Engage Now Africa



Dr. Rasha Qudisat
UVU Chief Diversity Officer
- originally from Jordan



Dr. Maritza Sotomayor
UVU Professor of Economics
- originally from Peru



Dr. Violeta Vasilevska
UVU Professor of Mathematics
- originally from Macedonia



Ms. Maryna Storrs
Head of Global HR at Partner, Co.
CEO & Founder, Ukrainian
Center Utah - Dzherelo
- originally from Ukraine

Symposium on Academic Freedom

Also in March, the Office for Global Engagement is hosting a Symposium for Academic Freedom in conjunction with UNESCO and Scholars Rescue Fund. This symposium will focus on scholars that have been exiled from their home countries because of their research and scholarly work. It will feature two panels, one consisting of scholars from all around the world, and the other featuring scholars from the United States. The symposium will take place on March 28, at 10am in Center Stage.

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.

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All consenting adults have the right to marry and to raise a family.

Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

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You have the right to own property.

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Everyone has the right to belong to a religion.

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Wolverines Around the World



New Zealand



In November 2023, Professors Marinda Ashman and CC Franklin traveled to New Zealand to present at the 7 Experiences Summit. As the flagship event for the Experience Research Society (EXPRESSO), the summit featured a global panel of researchers and practitioners with expertise in cross-disciplinary topics around human experiences. Their presentation, “Unlocking Innovation Through Rapid Collaboration” helped participants foster a collaborative culture that accelerates innovation across diverse sectors. Their presentation was so successful that the conference organizers asked Professors Ashman and Franklin to host the final event - an experience design hackathon where teams rapidly collaborated to propose solutions to hot topics in experience design.

As part of their New Zealand experience, Professors Ashman and Franklin also enjoyed many fun adventures such as visiting the Hobbiton movie set from the Lord of the Rings, going blackwater rafting in a glowworm cave, visiting the All Blacks Rugby museum, climbing on the top of the Auckland Harbour Bridge and soaking in geo-thermal mud baths.



Taiwan



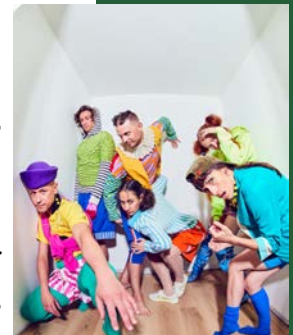
Drs. Bryan Eldredge and Alex Yuan had the recent opportunity to travel to Taiwan in an effort to seek an alternate location for UVU’s Chinese immersive and enriching summer study abroad program, to allow students a unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Chinese language, culture, and history, even while China is under a travel advisory. There, they had the opportunity to visit four universities while in Taiwan: Yuan Ze University, Fu Jen Catholic University, and Taipei City University of Science and Technology. They studied the academic, cultural, and social environments of each institution community, as well as other factors such as security, medical facilities, and convenience. It was a rewarding experience and

Dr. Eldredge and Dr. Yuan look forward to returning to Taiwan as part of the Chinese Study Abroad Program.





Professor Brian Gerke recently had the opportunity to visit Iceland to take part in the Reykjavik Dance Festival. The theme of the festival is Feminist Futures, and it focuses on inclusivity, care, and sustainability, recognizing recognizing that the unique history of dance is the history of predominantly female and queer bodies and voices.” (reykjavikdancefestival.com). Professor Gerke also used to live in Iceland, where he was the director of Modern Dance at the National Ballet Academy, teaching classes in Contemporary Dance, Improvisation, Choreography, and Repertory, and when he returned, he saw many of his former students working as choreographers. He attended eight performances over four days and was inspired by the theatrical aspects of the dances—particularly the voices, sets, and rich colors of each performance. While there, he also was able to be a guest instructor at the Iceland University of the Arts in contemporary dance. In addition to professional experiences, Professor Gerke got to explore Reykjavik’s beautiful architecture and see the breathtaking nature of Iceland. Overall, this most recent experience in Iceland inspired him to take what he’s seen back to Utah. Professor Gerke pointed out that to care about diversity, one ought to expose themselves to diverse experiences, cultures, peoples, and arts—and travel can do that. Submersing yourself in the experience of a different place will add “a different spice or flavor in your soul when you come back.”



World Trivia!

What European city has the most bridges?

Hamburg,
Germany!



What is the largest island in the world?

Greenland!



In which country did cheesecake originate?

Ancient Greece!

