

Global Engagement Newsletter

uvu.edu/global

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Upcoming Events:

January 13: Old New Year
— Slavic Celebration

January 25: Global
Spotlight: Japanese New
Year

January 29: Global
Spotlight: Careers Using
the Russian Language

Welcome

Welcome to the new year! We hope the new year is filled with success and opportunities to travel and engage globally for Wolverines.

The month of January also includes the UN International Day of Education on the 24, which celebrates the role of education for both peace and development. Education is one of our essential human rights and is included in the UN Declaration of Human Rights, which calls for free elementary education. Education is also a part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as Sustainable Development Goal 4, which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”

Utah Valley University’s motto, “A Place For You!” exemplifies these education goals by creating a place where anyone can access higher education who wants it. Education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty that is leaving millions of people behind. Without it, doors to lifelong opportunities stay closed.



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Events

Really Really Free Market / Celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights



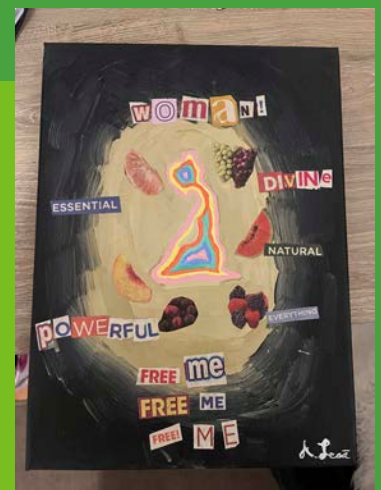
On December 6, the Office for Global Engagement hosted their December free market! It was another success, with many people taking new things. In addition to the free market, there was a small celebration in honor of the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Students submitted creative works showcasing what the UDHR means to them, and these works were displayed at the market.

Spencer Hines
Abbie Simpson
Anna Lesa
Abbie Fisher
Anna Titcomb
Kaleb Payne

We'd like to recognize the students who went out of their way to submit creative works for the celebration of the UDHR! These students submitted poetry, essays, dance compositions, and posters that demonstrated what the Declaration of Human Rights meant to them individually. Relating the declaration to us on an individual level helps us internalize the vital importance of this document and why it is still relevant today, 75 years after its signing.



Art by Spencer Hines



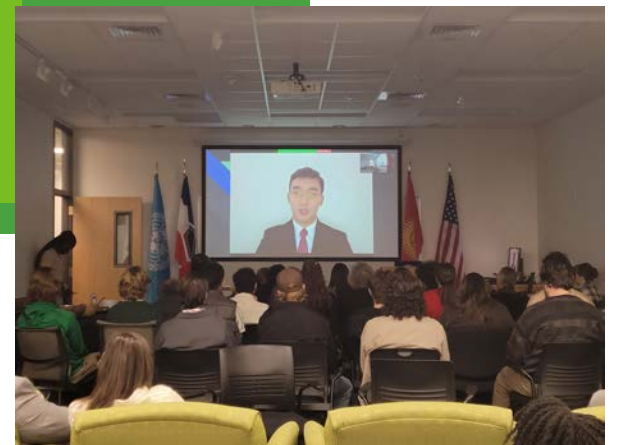
Art by Anna Lesa

Events



Ambassador Aida Kasymalieva's Visit to UVU

On December 5, Ambassador Aida Kasymalieva, permanent representative from the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN, spoke to students on International Mountain Day for the keynote address. She discussed the shared responsibilities of Utah and Kyrgyz Republic in addressing issues related to mountainous regions and communities. Mountain ecosystems are struggling with various changes to their climates, and water resources are literally melting, and these are issues that both Utah and the Kyrgyz Republic are facing right now. It was an honor to have Ambassador Kasymalieva speak to UVU about these issues and how we can work towards sustainability in mountain economies and support the people who live there.



Where Did Wolverines Travel in 2023?

During the year of 2023, we had approximately 950 Wolverines travel the world! About 650 of them were students. This map shows where our students traveled this year.



Countries visited by students:

- Austria, 24
- Bulgaria, 3
- Canada, 4
- China, 15
- Costa Rica, 25
- Cuba, 7
- Cyprus, 1
- Fiji, 15
- France, 65
- Germany, 14
- Ghana, 20
- Greece, 27
- India, 13
- Israel, 5
- Italy, 54
- Japan, 16
- Mexico, 50
- New Zealand, 15
- Panama, 19
- Peru, 10
- Portugal, 14
- Samoa, 47
- Singapore, 32
- Spain, 35
- Taiwan, 1
- United Kingdom, 119

The other 300 travelers were UVU faculty and staff! This map shows where our faculty and staff traveled this year.



Countries visited by faculty and staff:

- Australia, 2
- Brazil, 4
- Bulgaria, 1
- Canada, 19
- China, 1
- Colombia, 3
- Costa Rica, 10
- Cuba, 1
- Czech Republic, 3
- Denmark, 1
- Estonia, 1
- Fiji, 14
- Finland, 1
- France, 17
- Germany, 6
- Ghana, 13
- Greece, 4
- Guatemala, 1
- Iceland, 1
- India, 1
- Ireland, 6
- Israel, 6
- Italy, 24
- Japan, 4
- Kosovo, 2
- Malta, 1
- Mexico, 6
- Morocco, 13
- Netherlands, 3
- New Zealand, 17
- Norway, 3
- Panama, 3
- Peru, 3
- Philippines, 4
- Poland, 1
- Portugal, 12
- Samoa, 20
- Singapore, 4
- South Africa, 2
- South Korea, 2
- Spain, 12
- St. Kitts and Nevis, 1
- Taiwan, 4
- Tunisia, 1
- Turkey, 3
- Uganda, 2
- United Arab Emirates, 1
- United Kingdom, 32

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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You have the right to travel.

Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

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You have the right to seek asylum in another country if you are persecuted in your own.

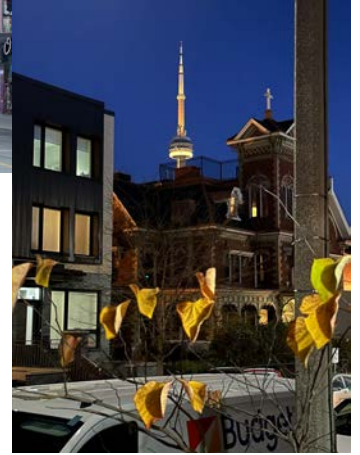
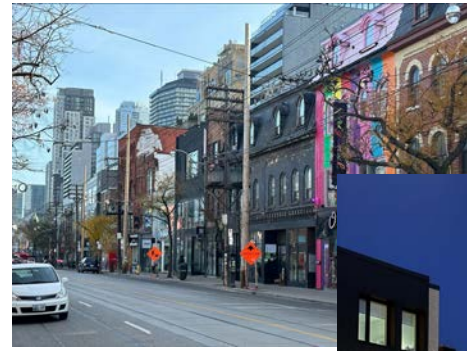
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Everyone has the right to a nationality.

Everyone has the right to a nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Wolverines Around the World

📍 Toronto, Canada



Professor David Knowlton recently had the opportunity to visit Toronto, Canada, for a joint conference between the American Anthropological Association and the Canadian Anthropological Society. There, he presented on a panel with several other accomplished anthropologists and was able to discuss his paper, “Holding to the Rod: Benevolence and Agony, Latter-day Saint Men.” He also was able to attend several other panels and learn about Haitian African religion, Latin archaeology, languages in the Andes, and the Quechua language and how it’s taught in class. It was a wonderful conference and a great place to expand networks with people from all over the world. Professor Knowlton’s favorite part of the trip was being able to explore Toronto, which is a very international city in and of itself. He met people from Turkey, China, Portugal, Bengal, Pakistan, Palestine, and other places. He heard languages from all over the world and loved interacting with people with all kinds of life stories and experiences. It reminded him of the fact that we do live in a warm and friendly world, even if bad things happen in it.



Bogota, Colombia 📍



Professor Meghana Rawat started out the holiday month in Bogota, Colombia, representing UVU at the #ShiftThePower summit. The summit was organized by the Global Funds for Community Foundations, an international grant-making organization based in South Africa, which has been supporting smaller community foundations to mobilize around the concept of power shifting in the development space. Her research work involves learning about communication practices that lead to such significant structural changes, and she had the opportunity to present the work she is doing with her colleagues at the summit, as well as participate in workshops where she could apply what she teaches in the classroom about intercultural work. The summit was attended by 700 people from various development and research organizations located across 80 countries and proved to be a wonderful platform to network with people who are committed to advancing research and partnering with universities to promote community development work. She hopes to be able to continue her conversations with people she met in Bogota for her research and potentially invite them to her classroom in the future.

