

Global Engagement Newsletter

uvu.edu/global

March 2024, vol. 19

Upcoming Events:

March 8: International Women's Day Panel

March 20: International Faculty/Staff Networking

March 20: Really Really Free Market

March 28: Academic Freedom Symposium

Welcome

Early on in March, we celebrate International Women's Day. The Office for Global Engagement is honoring this day by hosting a panel of working women from all over the world to present on this year's theme—"Invest in women: Accelerate progress." While the world has come a long way in gender equality, there is still a very long way to go. This year, we are going to be focusing on five key areas of gender equality and women's well-being:

- Investing in women, a human rights issue
- Ending poverty
- Implementing gender-responsive financing
- Shifting to a green economy and care society
- Supporting feminist change-makers



This International Women's Day, let's unite to transform challenges into opportunities and create a better future.

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Global Spotlight

Chinese New Year

On February 9, the Office for Global Engagement hosted a Global Spotlight, this time in honor of the Chinese New Year. Six high schools—Timpview High, Orem High, Sky Ridge High, Westlake High, Lone Peak High, and Springville High—participated in the event. There were many performances involving Chinese language and culture performances, including singing and instrument playing. People from all over the community attended the event, and it was overall a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Chinese culture.



Mother Language Day

The Office for Global Engagement sponsored another Global Spotlight on February 21, in conjunction with the Department of Language and Cultures. This event featured multicultural and multilingual performances from people all around campus, from cultures all over the world. It was a delight to watch, and people from all over campus had the opportunity to participate.



Events

High School Model UN Conference

On Saturday, February 3, the Office for Global Engagement hosted a high school Model UN for students from nine schools all throughout the Wasatch Front. A total of 188 high school students participated in the event, with the help of eight UVU student volunteers from UVU's Model UN Team, who ran the individual committees: General Assembly, General Assembly 3rd Committee, World Health Organization, and Security Council. Stephan Atkinson acted as the Secretary General and ran the assembly as a whole. The students had a great time, and it was an overall wonderful experience for them.



Winning High Schools!

Best Large Delegation:
Wasatch Independent
Debate League

Outstanding Large Delegation:
Brighton High School

Best Small Delegation:
Westlake High School

Outstanding Small Delegation:
Park City High School



Events

International Faculty and Staff

We had another delightful social with our international faculty and staff this month on February 20. Everyone was able to enjoy some cheese and crackers and chat about memories from specific years in their lives. Our next social will be on March 20 at 2pm.



Really Really Free Market

Our really really free market on February 21 was yet another success! Many items found new homes, and many people found things they needed. Our next free market will take place on March 20.



Autism Conference

On February 23, the Office for Global Engagement hosted Dr. Eduardo Canal, Director and Chief Researcher of the Department of Personality, Assessment and Psychological Treatment at the University of Salamanca in Spain to be a global speaker for the Autism Conference. Dr. Canal spoke on the efforts to detect signs of ASD early on in young children. There have been impressive efforts over decades to increase detection of ASD, so that children and families can have better long-term outcomes. Dr. Canal's presentation focused on why we haven't made as much progress as expected, as well as current most effective strategies for doing so.



Upcoming Events

International Women's Day

This 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

ACADEMIC FREEDOM SYMPOSIUM UVU Office for GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



Lily Gray
Sr. Liason Officer
UNESCO



Dr. Blair Bateman
Professor
University of Utah



Dr. Gülnar Eziz
Preceptor
Arts and Sciences
Harvard University



Dr. Amna Afreen
Public Schools
Baltimore City



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

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 At Risk. This symposium will focus on scholars that have been exiled from their home countries because of their research and scholarly work, as well as scholars who have a special interest in academic freedom and DEI. It will feature a panel with scholars from all around the world, as well as a keynote speaker—Lily Gray of UNESCO. 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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You have the right to think and voice your opinions freely.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

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Everyone has the right to gather as a peaceful assembly.

Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

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You have the right to participate in the governance of your country, either directly or by helping to choose representatives in free and genuine elections.

Global Visiting Scholars

Kyunghee Shin—South Korea



Kyunghee Shin is a new faculty member on campus from South Korea teaching curriculum theory! Professor Shin is new to UVU, but not to the States, and consequently has observed many differences between the cultures and education systems of the two countries with an international perspective. In particular, she has noted how South Korea's government regulates education, which maintains quality no matter where you are in the country. On the other hand, it limits creativity in the classroom because it is so standardized. It also means that the role of schools in society is different between the two countries—since the Korean government regulates education, schools don't play a big role in the community like they do here. Professor Shin is excited to teach about her language and culture at UVU and see more of how the two education systems differ from each other.

Zhenxing Zhao—Singapore

Zhao Zhenxing is a full-time faculty member and program director at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). He is honored to be a Fulbright Scholar for the 2023-24 academic year. His academic focus encompasses Classical Chinese Literature, Comparative Literature, and Digital Humanities. During his time at UVU, he had the privilege of inaugurating the first course in classical Chinese literature and instructing Business Chinese for business majors. UVU's open campus and vibrant campus life made a significant impact on Professor Zhao. Beyond academia, he found joy in attending UVU volleyball games, even winning two movie tickets at a memorable event. Utah's picturesque landscapes left a lasting impression on him, and his extensive travels for academic conferences and personal enjoyment have enriched his perspectives.



Professor Zhao's deep interest lies in researching the opportunities and challenges presented by the intersection of current AI and higher education. He is currently planning a seminar on AI and Humanities in research and teaching, aspiring to deepen the partnership between UVU and SUTD through his contributions in this field. It is his hope that this collaboration will encourage more scholars and students to explore the academic and cultural richness of Singapore in the future.

Victor Coelho—Brazil

Victor Coelho is one of our Fulbright scholars, teaching Portuguese! He is nearing the end of his program, and he has really enjoyed his time at UVU, and is currently enjoying each day like it's his last day here. As a kid, Professor Coelho always wanted to live abroad and share his culture, so this program has been a bit of a dream come true for him. He has especially enjoyed the opportunity to shed a light on the culture in northern Brazil, where he is from, and talk about indigenous and endangered languages, because that area is a little overlooked. While initially, Professor Coelho didn't think UVU would be the best place for him because of the significant weather differences between here and northern Brazil and the difference in city size, it turned out to be the perfect place because he got to experience that snow and a smaller city in a new part of the world. Professor Coelho has always felt like he belonged to the world, and he got to experience a lot of it while at UVU because it's so international. While here, he has been able to meet people from all over the world and experience new cultures and languages just on campus. He also feels like more a part of the United States as a member of the faculty here, where previously he had experienced the US as a tourist. While his experience here has been out of his comfort zone with experiencing culture shock and so many new people, it has been an exciting time for him and the best moment of his career.



What are the only two South American countries that do not border Brazil?

Chile and Ecuador!



Connect. Engage. Collaborate.

UVU Office for Global Engagement is now associated with SUNY COIL! SUNY COIL connects students and professors from different countries for collaborative projects and discussion, creating meaningful opportunities for global experiences. Professor Maritza Sotomayor of the Woodbury School of Business will be a new instructor for SUNY COIL. To learn more about SUNY COIL and what it stands for, visit coil.suny.edu.

Wolverines Around the World



Belgium



In December 2023, Dr. Maureen Andrade explored Leuven, Belgium, to determine its benefits for a business study abroad program. She met with the CEO, David Grant, of Irish College Leuven, an international center for education, training, and research, located in the former campus of a 17th century Irish Franciscan college. They discussed synergies between the mission of Irish College and UVU's business study abroad program and ways to integrate the in-country experience with course curricula.

Dr. Andrade stayed in the facilities at the college to experience first-what what students would experience, and visited sites that would contribute to the students' business and cultural knowledge. She is pleased to report a new partnership with Irish College Leuven to provide residential facilities and programming with access to NGOs, chambers of commerce, entrepreneurs, start-ups, and parliaments.



World Trivia!

Which city has more cars than people?

San Marino!



What is the newest country in the world?

South Sudan! South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011.



Which country has three capital cities?

South Africa! Its three capitals are Pretoria, Cape Town, and Bloemfontein.

