

## Rotaract hosted UN 75th anniversary event at UVU



*Panel of presenters during the event at UVU*

The Utah International Mountain forum (UIMF) celebrated the United Nations 75th anniversary at Utah Valley University (UVU). The Utah International Mountain forum is a coalition of clubs at UVU that draws attention to the United Nations 17 sustainable development goals with focus on mountain communities in the State of Utah.

As a member of the UIMF I helped advertise and set up for the event. I also helped write a summary of the agenda for the event for the UIMF website in order to draw interest to the event. This was part of the student engaged learning model which has been highly beneficial to me and has taught me how to work in groups with peers and professors alike. This model of learning has been effective in teaching me skills that I can take beyond the classroom and apply it to the workplace and everyday life.

The event and panel were introduced by Kyle Warren, President of Rotaract at UVU. The panel included UVU staff as well as international and local leaders.



*Dr. Baldomero Lago speaks during the event*

The first speaker was Dr. Lago, Chief International Officer for Utah Valley University Global Engagement Office, explained how he has built a relationship with the United Nations and UVU and helped UVU become an affiliate to the United Nations, an honor that only few universities can claim. Dr. Lago explained that the university hosts around ten United Nations events which is a great opportunity for students and staff to learn and engage with the needs of the international community and how it relates to local issues.

After Dr. Lago spoke, Professor Cockerham, Assistant Political Science Professor at UVU, shared with us some of the history behind the United Nations. His presentation included the very beginning of the United Nations including the League of Nations and how it paved the way for the United Nations as we know it today. After, Dr Ryan Vogel, Director of National Security Studies at UVU, talked about the history and role of the security council and why it is composed of only five nations, The United States, Russia, France, United Kingdom and China, and how they were chosen. Dr Vogel also discussed the future of the United Nations and the discussion around bringing in new countries to the UNSC.

The next panelist was Dr. Clark Merkley, President of Utah's chapter of Rotaract. He talked about the importance of Non-Governmental Organizations and the role they play in making positive change in the world, he showed us examples about how Rotary International has played a part in supporting the United Nations sustainable goals and has helped in the eradication of Polio around the world. He highlighted the importance of NGOs in bringing up important issues to be addressed around the world.

The last speaker was Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, Political Science Assistant Professor, he talked about the everyday importance of the UN for ordinary individuals. Dr. Abdrisaev also encouraged us to get more involved in UN events in campus and he also encouraged us to get engaged in local clubs that directly address the problems in our own communities. Dr. Abdrisaev also highlighted how UVU students in the past have been catalysts for great change and have a voice within the United Nations and the broader discussion of mountainous communities seeing as we are part of one.



*UVU students in the audience during the event*

This event was a great reminder of the impact that the United Nations has and personally, served as an encouragement to have a positive impact in my community and the world. I am very

excited to keep working with the UIMF in other projects and being part of more of the United Nations events on campus.

***Jose Coreas, UVU Rotaract member,***