

G L O B A L   E N G A G E M E N T  
**NEWSLETTER**

## A NEED FOR GLOBAL AWARENESS

Imagine standing in a bustling marketplace, surrounded by unfamiliar languages, vibrant smells, and music filling the air—a sea of distinct faces moving around you. Without a sense of global awareness, such a scene might feel overwhelming. Yet, each person carries a story, shaped by their unique experiences and perspectives. Global awareness begins when we choose to embrace these diverse worldviews, setting aside stereotypes, celebrating other cultures, and sharing our own with openness and curiosity.

In today's interconnected world, technology has brought us closer than ever, but true connection requires effort—an intentional choice to learn from those around us, recognize our civic duties, and understand our shared responsibilities as global citizens. Global awareness enriches our lives with understanding and cultural depth while ensuring that everyone feels valued in our global community at UVU.

We hope that as you read this newsletter, you'll discover new ways to expand your global perspective and feel inspired to continue fostering attitudes of understanding, respect, and curiosity about the world and its people.

Best regards,

Kaisë McLane and the Office for Global Engagement

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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**FEBRUARY 4**

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**REALLY REALLY  
FREE MARKET!**  
SB ATRIUM • 10AM-2PM



**FEBRUARY 8**

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**HIGH SCHOOL MODEL  
UN COMPETITION**  
CB • 9:30 AM- 3:30



**FEBRUARY 11**

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**GLOBAL FACULTY AND  
STAFF NETWORKING**  
LA 210 1-2PM



**FEBRUARY 20**

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**“EXPLORING THE  
INTERSECTION OF AI AND  
GLOBAL GOVERNANCE”**

**SC 206 • 1:00 PM**

*Lecture by United Nations  
Communication Officer Felipe Queipo*



**MARCH 5**

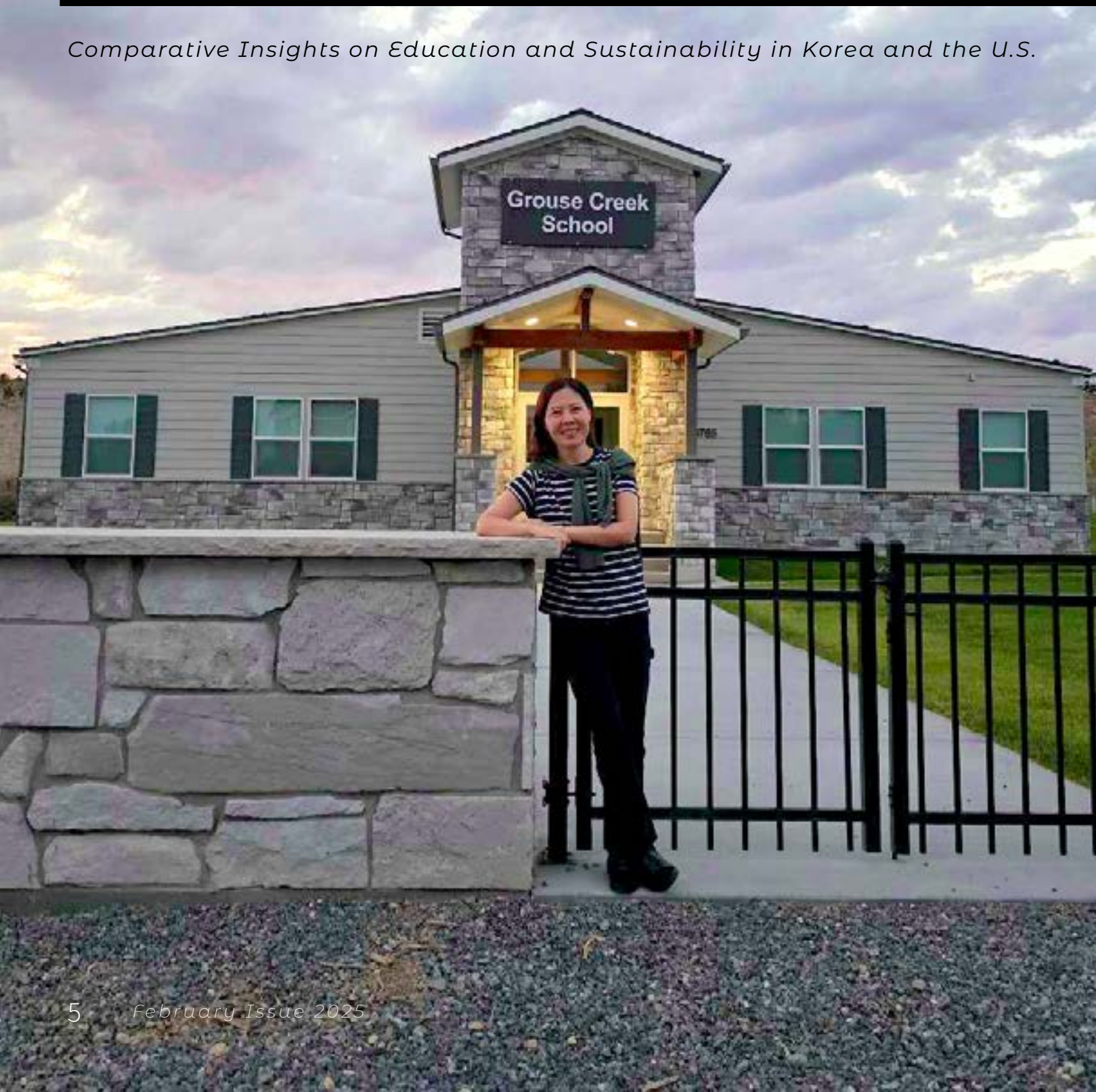
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**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**  
SB ATRIUM • 12PM

*Celebrate with a panel  
discussion, and service project.*

“ GLOBAL  
PERSPECTIVES  
ON EDUCATION ”

*Comparative Insights on Education and Sustainability in Korea and the U.S.*



visiting scholar from  
south korea,  
kyunghhee shin

BRINGING THE WORLD TO UVU

**H**ello, this is Kyunghhee Shin. I am a professor at CNU (Chonnam National University) in Korea and a visiting scholar at the School of Education at UVU. I have greatly benefited from my time at UVU, both academically and personally, and have truly enjoyed conducting my research here.

**M**y research focuses on how schools and communities collaborate to achieve sustainable development. Historically, education in Korea has been highly standardized, but recent shifts toward granting teachers greater autonomy are reshaping the educational landscape. This transformation aligns with one of my key research interests: examining how educators in the United States utilize their autonomy to reconstruct curricula. With this focus, I have sought to compare the practices and approaches of Korean and American teachers.

*“recent shifts  
toward granting teachers  
G R E A T E R  
A U T O N O M Y  
are **R&SHAPING**  
the educational  
LANDSCAPE.”*

**M**oreover, I have concentrated on the unique challenges of rural education. Thanks to the generous support and resources of the School of Education at UVU, I had the invaluable opportunity to study and observe rural education in Utah. As a qualitative researcher, this experience has provided me with profound insights and has been an essential step in my academic journey.

**L**ooking ahead, I am eager to continue this line of research and maintain ongoing academic collaboration with UVU after returning to Korea. I hope to deepen further the comparative studies between the United States and Korea, contributing to a more global perspective on sustainable education and rural development.

*a visit from*

# GRANDFATHER FROST

“CELEBRATING THE SLAVIC OLD NEW YEAR”

**GLOBAL  
SPOTLIGHT**

# “Ded Moroz!”

*January 13, 2025*

The Russian Studies and Global Engagement Office collaborated to put on a successful celebration of the annual Slavic Old New Year. In the Slavic tradition, Grandfather Frost arrives on New Years Eve, often accompanied by his granddaughter, the Snowmaiden. He brings bags of treats and gifts for the children and listens to them sing songs and recite poems.

To bring Grandfather Frost into the room, the children chant his name, “Ded Moroz!” as he bangs his magic staff. Ded Moroz comes from Slavic mythology and fairytales, but carries some similarities to the Western tradition of Santa Claus as a symbol of kindness, festive spirit, and a cultural icon for Slavic countries.



**W**e had an excellent turn out of family, friends, students, faculty, and community members. They enjoyed an evening of sharing their common connections and personal interests in Slavic traditions over festive food, music, and activities.



# Language and the Brain

A PRESENTATION WITH  
BALDOMERO LAGO



GLOBAL  
SPOTLIGHT

January 30, 2025

Dr. Baldomero Lago, from the Office for Global Engagement, delivered an enlightening lecture on Language and the Brain to a Spanish class at UVU. As a former professor of language pedagogy, Dr. Lago shared his expertise on language retention and the formation of accents, offering students a deeper understanding of how the brain processes new languages. He explored both the psychological and physiological mechanisms at play, highlighting the brain's remarkable adaptability in acquiring and structuring language.

This discussion underscored the incredible capacity humans—

especially young children—have for grasping complex linguistic patterns. From sentence structures to phonetic nuances, the brain's ability to internalize and reproduce language is a testament to its intricate design. These insights not only shed light on the science behind language learning but also inspired students to appreciate the cognitive journey involved in mastering a new language.





# GLOBAL ACADEMIC PROJECTS

# P E R U



## “ Battling Floods in Lima ”

### COLLABORATORS

President Dra. Lida Violeta Asencios Trujillo.  
Mayors Of Santa Eulalia & Chosica  
Congressman Ilich Fredy López Ureña  
Weihong Wang  
Kevin Shurtleff  
Hillary Hungerford

Universidad Nacional de Educación Enrique Guzmán y Valle(une)  
Universidad Nacional del Antiplano - Puno  
Universidad Nacional Del Santa  
Universidad Nacional Del Centro Del Perú  
Universidad Nacional De Trujillo (Unt)  
National University Of Education

*On the western side of Lima, the municipalities of Santa Eulalia and Chosica are facing significant challenges due to excessive water, resulting in flooding. Researchers, collaborating through UVU, are actively working to address these issues. Flooding can have widespread impacts on various aspects of the community, such as horticulture, local water sources, and infrastructure. These researchers are studying the effects and developing solutions to help mitigate the consequences of such water-related problems.*

## “ Utah Lake & Lake Titicaca ”

### COLLABORATORS

President Dra. Lida Violeta Asencios Trujillo.  
Alessandro Zanazzi  
Weihang Wang  
Eddy Cadet  
Hilary Hungerford  
Sally Rocks

Universidad Nacional de Educación Enrique Guzmán y Valle(une)  
Universidad Nacional del Antiplano - Puno  
Universidad Nacional Del Santa  
Universidad Nacional Del Centro Del Perú  
Universidad Nacional De Trujillo (Unt) National University Of Education  
ALT Binational Peru-Bolivia Institute Lago Titicaca

*In another project on the eastern side of Peru, Lake Titicaca is facing similar water quality issues as those of Lake Utah. To address these challenges, collaborators are working together to develop solutions. The focus of the project includes analyzing the contents of the water, such as the presence of heavy metals, microplastics, pollution, and algae blooms. Researchers are exploring methods for harvesting the algae to reduce its impact on the ecosystem. They are working directly with President Dra. Lida Violeta Asencios Trujillo, President of Higher Education - University Presidents of Peru. Additionally, Hilary Hungerford is leading efforts to educate the public about the importance of preserving and caring for the lake to ensure its long-term health.*

# GLOBAL ACADEMIC PROJECTS

# PERU



## “Training for Change: Enhancing Law Enforcement and EMS Training in Peru”

### COLLABORATORS

*Erick Caso from Peru (Deputy Ministry of Interior)*

*John McCombs - UVU Law Enforcement Director of Police Academy*

*Kevin McCarthy - UVU EMS*

*An emerging initiative between the Police Academy and the EMS program at UVU aims to develop best practices for law enforcement in Peru. This collaborative project will bring valuable training opportunities to Peru, focusing on emergency medical services (EMS) and law enforcement. UVU faculty and students will be involved in providing specialized training, helping to enhance the skills and knowledge of local law enforcement officers and EMS professionals in Peru. The goal is to strengthen the effectiveness and professionalism of emergency response teams in the country.*

# GLOBAL ACADEMIC PROJECTS

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



## “Empowering Communities: Advancing Law Enforcement and EMS Training in the Dominican Republic”

### COLLABORATORS

Kevin McCarthy  
Steve Allred  
Ben Williams  
*Universidad Católica de Santo Domingo*

*This Global Academic Project is focused on providing specialized Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and training to students and faculty at the Universidad Católica de Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. Students will work with UVU teachers, and students and faculty at Universidad Católica de Santo Domingo to participate in these practicums. The current progress of this initiative includes the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the university to formalize the collaboration. The project team has been working closely with the president of Universidad Católica de Santo Domingo, Father José Luis de la Cruz, to ensure the successful implementation and alignment of the training programs with the university’s needs.*

# GLOBAL ACADEMIC PROJECTS

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## “Global Minds: Advancing Psychology Together with UVU and Khmelnyskyi Humanity and Pedagogic Academy”

### **COLLABORATORS**

*University Khmelnytskyi Humanity and Pedagogic Academy  
UVU Psychology Department*

*The University Khmelnytskyi Humanities and Pedagogical Academy, particularly its departments of Psychology, Social Work, English, Tourism, and Languages, is partnering with UVU for future collaborative initiatives. In August 2024, UVU’s Office for Global Engagement facilitated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University Khmelnytskyi Humanities and Pedagogical Academy. This agreement paves the way for ongoing collaboration between UVU’s Departments of Psychology, Social Work, and English & Literature. The partnership will focus on developing academic exchanges, joint research projects related to a variety of topics, including the influence of war on psychology and PTSD. This project is aimed at enriching the educational experiences of students and faculty at both institutions.*

# GLOBAL ACADEMIC PROJECTS

# S P A I N



## “Financial Inclusion, Human Development, and Environmental Sustainability: A Global Perspective”

### COLLABORATORS

*UVU led by Dr. Maritza Sotomayor  
Dr. Laura Muro  
Dr. Paolo Saona  
The University of St. Louis, Madrid*

*The UVU Business School, in collaboration with the University of St. Louis in Madrid, is embarking on the development of a Global Academic Project aimed at addressing some of today’s most pressing challenges. This initiative will center on Financial Inclusion, Human Development, and Environmental Sustainability, fostering a cross-continental exchange of knowledge and solutions. By integrating perspectives from both Spain and the United States, the project seeks to explore innovative strategies that promote equitable access to financial resources, enhance social and economic well-being, and advance sustainable environmental practices. Through research, academic collaboration, and experiential learning opportunities, this partnership will provide students and faculty with a global framework to tackle these critical issues, ensuring a more interconnected and informed approach to global problem-solving.*

# GLOBAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



***“LOVE ALL THINGS GLOBAL?”***

**APPLY TO THE GLOBAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

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- STRENGTHEN LEADERSHIP SKILLS
- INTERACT WITH FOREIGN & UN DIGNITARIES
- RECEIVE \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP PER/SEMESTER

**DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2025**



