

UIMF Hosts Dignitary From The National Defense University

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The Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University, will host Roger Kangas, a prominent U.S. expert on Afghanistan and Central Asian affairs, as he visits the campus this week. Kangas will present "Post-2014 Afghanistan" on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 10 a.m. in Sorensen Student Center, room 213b. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Kangas is the academic dean and a professor of Asian studies in the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. He was an adviser to the Combatant Commands, NATO/ISAF, and contributed to the promotion of political and economic reforms in Eurasia as a representative of the National Democratic Institute, American Councils for International Education, USAID and many other U.S. government agencies.

This visit of a dignitary from Washington, D.C., represents just one example of the UIMF's approach to UVU's student involvement in community engagement learning, on national and international levels. Members of the UIMF arranged the entire visit, which allows them to gain important professional skills and knowledge in protocol, logistics, building relationships and networking.

While at UVU, Kangas will discuss areas of possible joint cooperation between his institution and UVU, including a UVU initiative to promote a sustainable mountain development agenda of the United Nations as a basis for working with Central Asia.

Kangas will also discuss his professional experiences as well as possible tips for students interested in international relations and security matters. He will also visit the ROTC headquarters at UVU and have lunch with cadets.

"This visit by Dr. Kangas gives many of our students a unique chance to gain great professional experiences and knowledge," said Anton Koshelev, UVU student and vice president of the UIMF. "And at the same time we get a chance to share with him many interesting initiatives and projects advocated by the UIMF and UVU, on an international level in the region of Central Asia and Eurasia."

UVU's Office of International Affairs and Diplomacy, Department of History and Political Science and the Center for Constitutional Studies provided funding for Kangas' visit.

<http://blogs.uvu.edu/newsroom/2014/02/26/uimf-hosts-dignitary-from-the-national-defense-university/>