

## **National Security Club Contributes To Hosting Ambassador Malloy**

On Monday March 6, 2017 the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU) had the opportunity to host the distinguished Ambassador (ret.) Eileen Malloy.



*Ambassador Malloy with Matthew Rands, President, Foreign Affairs Club at UVU*

Ambassador Malloy has spent close to 40 years working in Foreign Service with the State Department specializing in Soviet Union and Russian politics. Throughout her career Ambassador Malloy has had the opportunity to work in many different states including the Kyrgyz Republic, Australia, the former Soviet Union, and its successor state Russia. In her first presentation Ambassador Malloy conducted the event as a Q&A. This allowed Ambassador Malloy to specifically address what the attendants were interested in. Ambassador Malloy also spoke of the challenges faced in Ukraine as the Kiev government fights for sovereignty due to her recent posting in Kiev as head of US delegation to facilitate Ukrainian-Russian negotiations.

During her presentation Ambassador Malloy explained that in order to understand the current situation in Ukraine one must understand the history of U.S.-Russian relations. She then emphasized that in order for the U.S. to improve her relations with Russia both parties must focus on mutually beneficial topics such as counter-narcotics and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Being a student of national security it was very insightful for me to hear about the work Ambassador Malloy has been doing with Russia at a time when tensions between the U.S. and Russia continue to grow.



*Ambassador Malloy with UVU Faculty and Students*

In preparation for this event I became the liaison for the National Security Club and UIMF with the further idea to have the National Security Club join the UIMF. My membership with the UIMF since 2015 helped me to facilitate that process. At the same time as a UIMF member I was responsible with working with UVU Marketing and issued the press release about student coalition hosting such a distinguished guest. Such an opportunity has allowed me to learn and develop a new media based skills which will allow me to better contribute to future UIMF activities and to my professional experiences as well. Upon my arrival to Ambassador Malloy's first presentation I was asked to take photos. UIMF leadership asked me to do this in addition to working with UVU Marketing taking into account my experiences in hosting such high level VIP

guests and in advocating the United Nations gender and sustainable mountain development agendas. Despite having no prior training I was more than willing to fill in as the photographer for two presentations which our distinguished guest gave, during the lunch, and tour as Ambassador Malloy was taken around UVU. As the photographer I had to quickly learn to consistently take many different pictures from different angles in order to ensure that I could capture the best moments of this event.

I am extremely grateful to have been a part of such a great event. Because of my time spent working to help host Ambassador Malloy I have been able to develop new media based skills which I am confident in. Because of this event I am now more confident in my ability to assist the UIMF in future events. Before working on this event I was able to contribute too many other activities of the student coalition including to successfully hosting the Fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference under the umbrella of the United Nations Mountain Partnership in October 7-9, 2015. The UIMF was praised for that by the 2016 United Nations Secretary General's Report on Sustainable Mountain Development. Now I have the ability and the confidence to work in both protocol and media. I am excited to continue working with the UIMF and look forward to seeing what the future has in store.

*Mark Driggs, member of UIMF and liaison for National Security Club with UIMF*