

Former Official of the United Nations Speaks on International Women's Day

Utah Valley University (UVU) hosted Ms. Gail Bindley-Taylor Sainte, a high level former Senior Information Officer at the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), on March 6th, 2018. VIP guest, in addition to other guest speakers, participated in a panel discussion to celebrate the International Women's Day. The theme these panelists related their lectures to happened to be: "Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives."

Unfortunately, I missed the opportunity to be present at this great event but on the bright side, Professor Abdrisaev's International Relations class was invited to attend a more personal lecture given by Mrs. Gail Binley-Taylor Sainte herself two days later, on March 8, 2018. She spoke about the role of the United Nations in the modern world and benefits for UVU students to possibly working with different institutions in this intergovernmental organization. She also explained how the UVU students could benefit from new UVUN program established between UVU and UNDPPI in November 17, 2017.

As she proceeded with her presentation, Mrs. Gail Bailey-Taylor Sainte highlighted concepts such as inequality problems between men and women, civil rights issues across the country, and humanitarian concerns throughout the world. Her experiences has led her to develop a sense of empowerment for women. She emphasized how women should have the confidence and liberty to raise their voices and set the tone of equality for all genders.

It was a very impressive for the former Officer of the United Nations to speak about International Women's Day as she shared plenty of resourceful information on what feminism is and how we can utilize it to promote equality and equity all around the world. The approach she took to include the audience helped us all relate more to each other and understand the concept of feminism as we were able to comprehend it in ways we've experienced it. Mrs. Binley-Taylor Sainte really impacted me with the importance of feminism as I was inspired to really use my privilege of underrepresentation to demonstrate the power of being a Hispanic female.

I was inspired by the multiple titles Mrs. Gail Binley-Taylor Sainte had throughout the jobs in her lifetime at the UN. In no particular order, she served as the Deputy Chief of Public Information of the United Nations Development Program in Ethiopia, Information Officer to the nongovernmental organization relations for United Nations, staff representative, vice president,

secretary, and in staff management for several committees. By hearing about all of her efforts and positive outcomes that came with her responsibilities I gain a hope to become someone like her in the workforce, and most importantly, in the male-dominated workforce. She took chances and wasn't afraid to hold positions outside of her comfort zone. I believe I can do the same. She is the great leader to all women and an example to all men as she demonstrates that, women too, are able to be successful in any job field at the UN.

Leslie Sixtos-Cruz, Utah Valley University student