

## My day 2 at CSW63 in New York

Early in the morning on March 18, 2019, Utah Valley Students gathered to meet at the United Nations Pass and Identification Office to receive badges that would grant them access to UN secured offices. Once they collected their badges, Students were able to pass through the security checkpoints that lead in to the UN Headquarters. Inside the main entrance, guests can visit the cafeteria, giftshops, bookstores, and bank on the lower level or proceed to the conference rooms and sit in on events held by the 63<sup>rd</sup> Commission on the Status of Women events.



*William Gum at UN bookstore*



Visitors, including the UVU students also gained access to an additional waiting area, furnished with luxurious chairs and tables that overlooked the East River.



*Hannah Bieker looks at East River from the UN delegates lounge*

One of the events that students sat in on include “Infrastructure Development as an Enabler in Achieving Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: the Role of MDBs” which was held by Islamic Development Bank and MDB Working Group on Gender. For lunch, the UIMF members prepared for the parallel event they would be holding the next day by reading statements they would present during their CSW63 parallel event titled “Hosting a parallel event: “Student Engaged Learning to Empower Mountain Women and Girls.”





*Brianna Gum, wife of William Gum near the statue-gift of Italy to the United Nations*



After lunch, students walked to the Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission building to sit in on a parallel event titled “Recreating a Healthier Environment for Empowering Women and Girls” sponsored by Jieh Huey Social Welfare and Charity Foundation. One of the panel participants was Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, former Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the USA and Canada and current Utah Valley University professor, who spoke about using UVU’s student engaged learning model as an example to promote education for women and girls internationally. Dr. Abdrisaev discussed how allowing students to accomplish tasks prepares them for professional work while teachers serve as mentors. “Hosting a parallel event: Student Engaged Learning to Empower Mountain Women and Girls” is an example of the results of this model. Programs like this can place women and girls in positions of leadership and help overcome gender inequality.



*Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev speaks during a parallel event*

Another speaker was Hsin Chin Shih, CEO of Jieh Huey Social Welfare and Charity Foundation. She spoke about an innovative approach to empowering women that she is working on that provides opportunities to employ women in the rural areas of Taiwan. This program places rural women in jobs that provide assisted living for aging populations in rural areas. This creates jobs that empower women, mothers, and the people they serve. It creates living wages for women,

allows for them to work locally, and helps women develop career skills. This program has broad implications for empowering women globally as well as in mountain regions.



*Dr. Ali Mazzara speaks during the panel*

Panelist Dr. Antoinette Ellis-Williams, the Chairwoman of Women's and Gender Studies for New Jersey City University, discussed her experience of migrating to the United States from Jamaica, her life experiences growing up as a girl and young women, and gender inequality in the United States. Pauline Tzuang, Charter President of the Zonta Club of Taipei Cosmo from 2016-2018, spoke out against sexual harassment, rape, and assault attacks that women face daily, and the need to combat these kinds of discrimination in our society. Dr. Ali Mazzara was the substitute moderator and panelist, her discussion was on her current efforts working as the Director of Educational Programs in the Office of Global Affairs for the State University of New York which helps place young women students in leadership internships throughout the state.





*Brianna Gum, wife of William Gum at the entrance to the Salvation Army auditorium*

This parallel event displayed the important work taking place globally, in the United States, and at universities that promote the 17 Sustainable Goals of the UN, the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, and specifically address Sustainability Goal 5 – gender equality. Important events like this help us to understand why gender equality is important and what we all can do to help make gender equality a reality.

After this event, entire UVU group went to the Church Center of the United Nations, on the second floor, to look the room where they would be presenting their parallel event on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 8:30am.

*William Gum-Causey, UIMF member*