

## Day 2 for UIMF members in New York: inside the UN Headquarters, Dr. Abdrisaev speaks about empowering students



*Hailee Hodsgon in front of the CSW63 Banner inside the UN HQ*

Today, on March 18, 2019 our team of UIMF members met at 8:30 outside of the Pass and Identification Office, in order to receive our identification cards so we could enter the United Nation headquarters. After we all got our ID cards, we headed over to take a picture in front of the UN. Joining us was a Ms. Noorani Barkat. Noorani is currently doing her Ph.D. in agriculture from Washington State University. She is from Hunza Valley, Pakistan and will be joining us in speaking at our event tomorrow morning, "Student Engaged Learning to Empower Mountain Women and Girls." There were also Dean two students from Ausbury University, Kentucky, who will be listening, and attending side and parallel events with us



*UIMF Students in front of the UN Headquarters*

Once all the students had made it through security, we walked around the UN and saw many different rooms, hosting different parallel events, all centered around empowering women.



*UIMF members posing as "UN Peacekeepers"*

Inside the UN our mentor and advisor, Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev showed us several different spots for food, the bookstore where we found UN Peacekeeper helmets, and then finally he showed us a room filled with very fine furniture, which he called the “Delegates Lounge.” The view from the window overlooked the East River, and we all hung out in there for a while.

Around 12:30 pm our group met up at the cafeteria inside the UN and grabbed lunch, while we quickly rehearsed our speeches for tomorrow’s event. After that we headed over to listen to Dr. Abdrisaev who was speaking at a parallel event at the Salvation Army Auditorium, titled “Recreating a Healthier Environment for Empowering Women and Girls.” Dr. Abdrisaev was one of five speakers at the event, we also heard from Hsin Chin Shih, the CEO of Jieh Huey Social Welfare & Charity Foundation (the sponsor of the side event); Dr. Antoinette Ellis-Williams, who holds a chair at the Women’s & Gender Studies program at New Jersey City University; Pauline Tzuang, who was the Charter President of the Zonta Club of Taipei Cosmo from 2016-2018, and a member of the Translation Committee, and Zonta International; and finally from Dr. Ali Massara, the Director of Educational Programs, in the Office of Global Affairs, at The State University of New York.

Dr. Abdrisaev spoke on about the program Student Engaged Learning (SEL), at Utah Valley University. The SEL model is a way for students to have a hands-on learning experience, by getting involved in their education and learning through involvement in the community, and in small or large groups working on local and global issues with the supervision of an advisor. Since Dr. Abdrisaev learned about SEL at

UVU, he has taken the model and implemented it into his teaching, and brought many of his students into the folds of SEL, including all of us here at CSW63.



*Professor Baktybek Abdrisaev with other panel speakers*

We finished the day with a walk back toward the UN, and stopped by the Church Center, which is where we will be speaking tomorrow morning. The message of empowering women that CSW63 is pushing is a message that needs to be heard by a global audience. I am very grateful for the opportunity to be surrounded by powerful women in UIMF and to attend CSW63, to listen and learn from women who are working towards positive change at a local and international level.

***By UIMF Member: Hailee Hodgson***