

Learning from Ambassador Polyanskiy about Russian Foreign Policy Priorities



On Friday April 5th, I had the opportunity to attend a lecture given by Ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy, which was hosted by The Office for Global Engagement at Utah Valley University. Ambassador Polyanskiy is the First Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations.

Overall, the lecture and following question-and-answer portion were successful. The event gave students and staff an opportunity to hear from a high-ranking ambassador to the UN. The majority of the lecture was a question-and-answer format.

I learned a lot about the current state of affairs in Russia, from the unique perspective of a Russian diplomat. Although I didn't agree with many of the stances that he took on foreign aid and treaties, I was impressed at his ability to control the conversation and spin potentially negative elements.

It should be noted that there was a somewhat awkward verbal back and forth between a student and Ambassador Polyanskiy. Both individuals were aggressive towards the other one. Although uncomfortable, these series of exchanges are important. Living in the United States of American and attending Utah Valley University gives us a limited view of international relations and limits our understanding of what ought to be our role – and the role of other countries like Russia – in this conversation. Conversations like these help us better understand other cultures and governments.

It was a valuable experience to be in that lecture hall during the entire lecture and I hope that the Ambassador will come back in the upcoming years for more lectures. He offers unique and invaluable information and perspectives.

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