

UVU Rotaract hosted World Polio Day



World Polio Day was commemorated on Wednesday, October 23rd at Utah Valley University (UVU) campus. The event represented a collaboration of members of UVU Rotaract and Rotary International (RI). RI, as a humanitarian non-governmental organization, aims to strengthen communities and empower young people around the world by establishing student clubs like Rotaract.

The event focused on the history and efforts of RI to eradicate Polio around the world. Kyle Warren who is president of UVU Rotaract made opening remarks and Rotaract Vice-President Yana Andersen introduced Dr. Baldomero Lago, CIO for Global Engagement at UVU. Dr. Lago reported about his work towards student engagement in local and international affairs. He also described how he and his office had worked to host the 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference in Salt Lake City during August 26-28, 2019.

Then Kyle Warren introduced Dr. John Hanrahan, President of the Utah Rotary, as the main guest speaker. His work with eradicating Polio really stunned me as I didn't realize how big of a problem it had been in past generations. A moment which really stood out to me was when he asked how many people had known someone with Polio and nearly every adult in the room raised their hand. I was also amazed at how little I knew about Polio eradication and presentation of Dr. Hanrahan really was an eye opening for me, considering how in two or three generations Polio had gone from infecting the President of the United States to being endemic to only three countries in

the world. This progress really put in perspective the hard work that RI has done, and it humbled me to be part of such a world changing organization.



Dr. John Hanrahan, President of the Utah Rotary, speaks about Polio eradication

After Dr. Harahan's presentation Kyle Warren invited to the podium the Rotaract Secretary Albeny Singh, who introduced Dr. Steve Anderson, the UVU Director of community and government relations. Dr Anderson is a Utah Valley University Graduate and his office focuses on helping students to find internships on the local, national and international level. Dr Anderson also shared how his grandmother was struck with Polio.

Overall this event was an amazing experience for everyone involved. Personally, it was a humbling and exciting experience to contribute to it by handling logistics and being able to talk to people who have dedicated their careers and life to the betterment of other people around the world.

Jose Coreas, UVU Rotaractor