

### **Day 3 at CSW67: Meeting the President of the GA and other Dignitaries**

On March 8, the UIMF delegation started off their last day at CSW67 by meeting the President of the United Nations General Assembly Csaba Kőrösi. We met him in his office, shook his hand, and took pictures with him. As a political science major, this was a dream come true.



**UIMF delegation meets with President Csaba Kőrösi in his office.**

Afterwards, he led us on a small tour where we were able to stand on the floor of the General Assembly Hall. This moment was special for me because I remember how awed I felt on the balcony yesterday looking down at the rows of tables and the dais. Getting to see it up close in-person made me feel like I could achieve great things that might have previously seemed out of reach.



**Natalie stands underneath the United Nations seal in the General Assembly Hall.**

Next, we prepared for the side event we helped facilitate for the Kyrgyz Republic: “Advocating for Mountain Women and Girls’ Education Through Student-engaged Learning.” Within just fifteen minutes, we tested the mics and cameras of the room and set up for the event. I was tasked with helping ensure the tech ran smoothly before we started our program. President of UIMF Alitha Thompson moderated while other team members spoke, managed the cameras, communicated with those up in the booth, and more. We worked well as a team because we had prepared carefully for this moment.



**Natalie helps test the microphone and cameras before the start of the side event.**

After finishing the side event, the delegation left to meet Ngoyi Ngoyi at the United States Permanent Mission to the United Nations. Mr. Ngoyi was once a student of Professor Abdrisaev who now works as a political advisor at the US Department of State. He sat down with us and allowed us to ask him many questions relating to his life after UVU, his responsibilities as a political advisor, and how we might obtain a position like his someday. Between him and his colleague Cyndee Trinh, we were able to get all of our questions answered. We even met Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations Mr. Richard Mills. They all gave excellent advice to us future graduates.



**Natalie and the UIMF delegation has a discussion with the Honorable Mr. Richard Mills at the US Mission to the United Nations.**

Even though we had already had so many amazing experiences, the day was not over. I and a small group of other students, Jokudu Winnie Jada, Hendrix Bailey, Stephan Atkinson, and Rachel Welker, then had the pleasure of meeting with His Excellency Mr. Akuei Bona Malwal, the Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Sudan to the United Nations. Ambassador Malwal spoke of his educational background and his path to his position. He explained South Sudan's current tense relationship with the US and how that impacts his work. Overall, he was open to all of our questions and we had a great discussion.



**Natalie stands with H.E. Mr. Akuei Bona Malwal and fellow students.**

South Sudan happened to have their own side event that evening which we walked over to with Ambassador Malwal: “Development of Peace Education in the Digital Age for Global Partnership and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls.” The event was co-hosted with the International Women’s Peace Group.



**A crowded room watches a side event presenting on peace education for women and girls.**



**Natalie and a group of students take a selfie at the side event held by South Sudan and IWPG.**

I really enjoyed this event because it was closely correlated with the speech I gave on Monday at our parallel event. Both South Sudan and IWPG are working on expanding initiatives that increase capacity building of local groups. Through video lectures and creating platforms,

women and girls from around the world can participate and discuss issues that impact them. I learned a few interesting facts from Ms. Stephanie Copus Campbell, Australia's Ambassador of Gender, who was a panelist. She stated that when women are involved in peace negotiations, they are 64 percent more likely to last. Also, gender equality is the strongest predictor of peaceful societies above any other factor.

This day was a great end to my trip to the United Nations Headquarters for the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The experiences I had are unforgettable. I have benefitted so much personally and professionally from having this opportunity. I want to thank UIMF for letting me participate and bring my skills to the team.

*Natalie Williams, UIMF Delegation Member at CSW67*