

My contributions to hosting International Mountain Day at Utah Valley University



Student leaders accompanied by Faculty of the History and Political Science Department take a moment to take a picture with Ambassador Aida Kasymalieva of the Kyrgyz Republic.

On December 5, 2023, The UVU Rotaract club had the privilege and honor to host Permanent Representative to the United States, Ambassador Aida Kasymalieva of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Ambassador as the special guest and keynote speaker shared the importance of the need and assistance for Mountain communities in a jam-packed room. Ambassador Kasymalieve highlighted the collaboration for future projects with the Rotary International Organization.



UVU Students and special attendees observing the presentations of UIMF.

Supported by the Office of Global Engagements and Dr Baldomero Lago, Chief International Officer at UVU, the 14th International Mountain Day observation was a very informative event. With guest speakers from The Rotary Clubs all over The Kyrgyz Republic, UVU students were able to learn more ways to get involved with efforts to support Mountainous communities. Drawing similarly to the struggles isolated communities here in Utah face, we were able to connect with Ambassador Kasymalieva and other speakers to contribute to resolution possibilities.



Janessa-Michelle Purcell, UVU UIMF Club Treasurer, introduces guest speakers.

Hosting this event was no easy feat and it came with challenges. As the leader of the UVU UIMF club, an occurrence of late nights, and constant adjustments were made to make this event amazing. I worked until 1 am one night with my peers and our mentor, Dr. Abdrisaev to ensure the brochure for our event was ready. Through a combined effort, we as the leadership were able to accomplish our assigned tasks and all have a hand in the end result of this event.



UIMF Club Officers, UVU Students, Faculty Members enjoy a private lunch with Ambassador Aida Kasymalieva.

While enjoying a wonderful Pot Roast for lunch, Ambassador Kasymalieva took the time to give us students in attendance her attention. By her prompting, we were able to ask her questions in she was able to expound her answers about the current state of the United Nations assemblies. Encouraged by her words of advice and her enjoyment of her visit, she has motivated me more than ever to continue pursuing my career goals. It is not often we are able to connect and talk with women in positions of authority, but this opportunity was a great example of the need for more diverse women leaders throughout the world.



Ambassador Aida Kasymalieva presents a certificate of participation to UVU UIMF Club Treasurer, Janessa- Michelle Purcell.

Ambassador Kasymalieva exudes grace, kindness, and humility, traits that are necessary to be in such a position to help not only her own communities but the minority communities around the world. I hope to continue developing a relationship and connection with the Ambassador as we prepare to participate in the 68th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March.

Janessa- Michelle Purcell, UVU UIMF Club Treasurer