

The Honorable Eileen Malloy Prepares UVU Students for Foreign Service

UVU has a culture of practicality and hands on approach that has evolved from its days as a trade school decades ago. This approach gives students the upper hand because they are doing the work themselves rather than learning about it from a lecture. A group of students from the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at UVU, organized an event to host retired US Ambassador Eileen Malloy in an attempt to give students from various organizations and backgrounds, a view into the life of a Foreign Service officer.

Ambassador Malloy has over 40 years of experience ranging from positions in the State Department to an Ambassadorship in the Kyrgyz Republic where she was a colleague of Baktybek Abdrysaev, a UVU professor and former ambassador. Her focus though, was in the Soviet Union(formerly) and surrounding areas of Russian influence. Her passion for history and policy was well reflected in her career but it was also noticeable on a visit to the Springville Museum of Art, which holds the largest collection of 20th century Russian art in the region. Even with the museum director Dr. Rita Wright giving us a tour, Mrs. Malloy showed her expertise on Soviet art and propaganda, giving us all an insight that otherwise would have been overlooked in the paintings.



(L to R): Ambassador Eileen Malloy and Josman Cereceres at The Roots of Knowledge exhibit at UVU

During a roundtable discussion for UVU students on March 6, 2017, Mrs. Malloy gave deep insights and personal stories about becoming a Foreign Service officer. Not only did she speak on experiences and what one ought to expect, but she delved deep into the matter of even getting a career off the ground as a student. This is often where students get discouraged from pursuing a career, when they have no idea how to get their foot in the door, per say. Ambassador Malloy gave detailed expectations on how to do well for the examinations and what to focus on from day 1. She encouraged the audience that was listening so intently and was willing to follow up with interested students.



(L to R): Aaron Holloway, Regan Wagner, Ambassador Malloy and Cholpon Almatalieva Assemble Hygiene Kits for Girls in Samoa as Part of International Women's Day at UVU

We then moved forward and escorted Mrs. Malloy to the International Women's Day event in order to discuss hardships of women around the world. For the Ambassador, I believe it was needless to say that it was important to celebrate the achievements of women as well, including her own. She spoke of the difficulty of advancing in her career as a mother in a time when women were not taken as seriously in the capacity that she served in. She overcame all the stigmas and became very successful in her career.



Ambassador Malloy with UIMF Members Tours UVU Campus

A lunch was held in her honor hosted by the Office of International Affairs, where she talked about her experiences abroad and working with the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training where she was able to give her experiences in an oral history report for the public to see. This was also an organization where students are able to do an internship and work with other retired Foreign Service officers.

A tour of UVU was given as we presented her a history of the school and touched on our many values as an organization, one of those being engaged learning. To give her an example during the tour, we went up to a little known greenhouse on the roof of the school. Little did we know that Mrs. Malloy was also an expert on gardens and greenhouses as well. She told us the many uses and stories behind some of the plants housed on the roof of the Science Building, as UVU's horticulture professor showed us some of the work they were doing and then proceeded to give us one of the greatest views in the Utah Valley. Our last stop had to be the Roots of Knowledge exhibition of stained glasses reflecting the history of humankind and knowledge. A UVU docent gave us a tour and pointed out several "Easter eggs" and actual artifacts of history embedded within the glass. Distinguished guest was very impressed with the detail and precision and even pointed out several Russian references within the murals.



Josman Cereceres, Ambassador Eileen Malloy, and Matt Rands During the Visit to the Green House

Eileen Malloy is a remarkable woman of many talents as we discovered on this visit. Most importantly, is the take-away and the knowledge the students gained during her visit. I know we are much richer for the experience and we are grateful for the colorful stories she had to share with us. Mrs. Malloy will always be welcome at UVU and her passion for service has left a mark on the minds of the students that came to see her.

Josman Cereceres, Representative of UVU's Political Science Department