

Learning from Ms. Hawa Diallo about United Nations



Ms. Hawa Diallo (center) with Utah Valley University faculty and students

Ms. Hawa Diallo, representative of the United Nations Department of Public Information's visit to Utah Valley University on April 3, 2018 was a unique opportunity to have as a college student. It was such a privilege to be in a class that hosted a dignitary from the United Nations (U.N.). Getting to hear about her experiences working at the U.N for the past 30 years was enlightening and informative as she told us about her peacekeeping missions around the world.

Also hearing about how she started her career at the U.N was for me inspiring because I hope to one day work at the U.N myself. She started her career there as a tour guide and worked her way up to the position she currently holds now. What I found inspiring about that is she showed how through hard work and desire we can accomplish our goals, and her being an African-American woman who is successful in politics and has helped to make the world a better place has made me even more anxious to work at the U.N. and help those around us.

Something she kept mentioning was for the students to not see the United Nations as just a building in New York. One of the reasons she repeated that was because many people do not know that the U.N. is all around the world, it is an organization that is designed to be around the world to help the world.

Even though she spoke mostly about peacekeeping operations she did briefly mention other needed jobs at the U.N. such as translators and interpreters. I thought that everything she was talking about was interesting but when she mentioned translators and interpreters my interest peaked. I have always wanted to work somehow with languages and politics so when she said that the U.N. always needs translator and interpreters it gave me hope of one day working as a translator at the U.N.

One of the last things she said was at her job they party with a purpose, meaning that they work hard but they also use fun to benefit their assignments and operations. I took that as a message to love what we do, because when we love the job or assignment we have we will be happy and motivated to be the best at that task given to us. Work does not have to be mundane and repetitive with no excitement, it can be a life-changing experience with an exciting new challenge every day. That is what I look forward to if I am privileged enough to work at the U.N. after graduation.

Jessica Marinho, Utah Valley University student