

## **Day 2: attending CSW63 activities**

On August 18, 2019, Utah Valley University students ventured towards the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Before being permitted to enter the compound, we first went to the UN Pass and ID Office. We arrived early and were quickly admitted into the office for our picture and ID.



*United Nations Pass for Ezra Pugliano*

After arriving inside the headquarters each student was able to venture on their own. Some attended panels, some networked, and some explored the UN and became acquainted with the massive building. I spent my time exploring the building and speaking with different people at the UN.



*Ezra Pugliano near CSW63 poster*

My personal highlight of the day was attending a parallel event in the Salvation Army Auditorium. The event was titled “Recreating a Healthier Environment for Empowering Women and Girls”.

The first speaker was Hsin Chin Shih. Her organization sponsored the event and she did a wonderful job presenting on the Jieh Huey Social Welfare & Charity Foundation. This foundation employees younger and older women who give back to the community by serving the elderly and disabled. The work her organization leads is vital to the confidence of those employed and the wellbeing of those who are helped.

We also heard from Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev who spoke about student engaged learning. My favorite thing he said was, “I have spent enough time behind a podium, it is now time of the students to have their turn”. He was referring to the importance of student engaged learning and the opportunity professors have to encourage students to get involved. I am grateful that his classroom is set up in a way that allows students the opportunity to lead discussions and become problem solvers.



*Dr. Abdrisaev during Q&A session*

Lastly, we heard from Dr. Antionette Ellis-Williams. She is the chair of Women's & Gender Studies at New Jersey City University. She spoke about her own personal story of immigrating to the United States from Jamaica. She grew up in a middle-class home and was the only girl, with four brothers. She was taught that she could be anything she wanted to be. I enjoyed her lecture because she explained that she worked hard and because of that, she succeeded in obtaining her education.

Today was incredible. I am honored to attend this conference and have learned many things regarding women's rights, persistence, and the need for individuals to step up when they see a need arise.



*Group photo after the parallel event*

*Ezra Pugliano, UIMF member*