

## Attending the presentation of Mr. Richard Jordan at UVU



On April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Joel Frost, President of Foreign Affairs club at Utah Valley University (UVU) and the UVU Office for Global Engagement to help host Mr. Richard Jordan. Richard Jordan the Dean of UN Non-governmental representatives in New York.

Joel Frost planned and executed this lecture series with Richard Jordan here at Utah Valley University. I was part of the team that worked alongside Joel. This lecture was only one of many different events that Joel planned for the three days that Jordan was in Utah. Joel worked on advertising the event effectively, community engagement and outreach, and held guide question and answer sessions with Jordan. Being able to work for Joel was a privilege and has helped me hone my own leadership skills.

This lecture that Richard Jordan gave, following a luncheon, provided an excellent overview of the recent history of the UN and the possibilities that lie ahead for the organization. Because Jordan primarily deals with non-governmental organization and committees, the majority of his lecture was focused on this. Specifically, Jordan emphasized the changes that has been implemented to give women better standings in the UN and globally, as well as the problems and solutions of global warming.

Part of what makes Jordan such a valuable asset to the university and the UN is his ability to create and share a vision. A vision of a more-unified global community, better education, and a cleaner future. Additionally, Jordan was able to offer suggestions on how to accomplish some of the aspects of his vision, even here at UVU. He offered scenarios in which engaged students at UVU – like Joel Frost – would be able to create substantive change in domestic and international politics.

It was a rare opportunity to hear from someone who has been able to grow alongside the UN. His insights were invaluable and merit further discussion. I would recommend having Richard Jordan come back to UVU at least once a year to teach students about the UN and to allow him to help students find further opportunities to grow their professional experience.

*Parker Dolton, UVU student*