

Matthew Rands



Matthew Rands grew up in Fairfax, VA and St. Louis, MO. He attended high school at Asociación Escuelas Lincoln in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Obtaining an eagle scout award, he believes strongly in service to others. After graduating high school, Matthew enlisted in the Utah National Guard as a parachute rigger. Later he was authorized a 2 year leave to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Santa Cruz, Bolivia where he further refined his Spanish and grew to love the Bolivian people.

He began his work with the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU) in 2014 by hosting foreign dignitaries and scholars to Utah Valley University. As president of the Foreign Affairs Club he hosted Ambassador Eileen Malloy to the university on March 5-6, 2017 as well as a round table panel at UVU on October 2, 2017 which comprised of several non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations on how to advocate at the United Nations. Matthew also played a key role in coordinating efforts of his peers at UIMF during the seventh annual commemoration of the United Nations International Mountain Day at UVU on December 4, 2017.

Upon becoming president of the UIMF, Matthew coordinates efforts between the UIMF clubs and the international community to promote UVU's Student Engaged Learning model. This includes supervising the student members of the UVU delegation to the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) at the U.N. Headquarters.

Matthew currently studies Political Science with an emphasis on World Politics including minors in Spanish and Latin American studies. He contracted with the UVU ROTC and anticipates being commissioned as an officer in the U.S Army upon graduation. While serving in the military, he hopes to apply for the army's Funded Legal Education Program where he will attend law school and become an army JAG officer. Matthew intends to live a life of service to his country and the international community.

Matthew married his wife Amayrani Gonzalez in November 2017. He enjoys hiking, rock climbing, and visiting history museums.