

## UVU Press Releases » Blog Archive » UVU Student Clubs To Celebrate United Nations' International Mountain Day

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**For Immediate Release**

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The Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of Utah Valley University student clubs, is presenting a Dec. 9 conference on the ecological importance of the sustainable development of mountains, in conjunction with the annual United Nations International Mountain Day.

In 2003, the U.N. General Assembly designated Dec. 11 of each year as International Mountain Day, an initiative which aims to develop partnerships that will bring positive change to the world's mountains. The initiative also encourages local communities and organizations to bring awareness to the importance of mountain forests in the ecological health of the world. The theme for International Mountain Day 2011 is "Mountains and Forests."

The Dec. 9 conference, which begins at 6 p.m. at the Orem City Library, 58 N. State Street, will feature presentations on the importance of economically and environmentally sustainable mountain development from Rusty Butler, associate vice president of UVU's Office of International Affairs & Diplomacy, and representatives from Provo City and Orem City who are also members of Mountain Partnership — a United Nations global alliance that promotes sustainable ways of mountain life through joint efforts.

The UIMF will also hold a roundtable discussion on a number of initiatives accomplished by students and faculty at UVU during 2011 that strengthened their regional role in promoting Mountain Partnership's agenda and helped build ties for UVU with other mountain regions of the world.

"This conference focuses both on UVU's participation in the Mountain Partnership and the initiatives we've been pushing," said UVU student John McClure, a founder of the Utah International Mountain Forum. "UVU students have been the frontrunners in supporting the Mountain Partnership in the United States and would like next year to accomplish a number of new initiatives that give students an opportunity to grow professionally and raise the image of UVU internationally."

The conference will also feature a cultural performance and a fashion show by international students at UVU. The gathering is also co-presented by UVU's Office of International Affairs & Diplomacy, History & Political Science Department and Languages Department.

The event is free and open to the public.

More information about International Mountain Day is available online at [www.fao.org/mnts/en/](http://www.fao.org/mnts/en/). More information on Mountain Partnership is available online at [www.mountainpartnership.org](http://www.mountainpartnership.org).

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### About UVU

Utah Valley University is located in Orem, Utah, and is home to nearly 33,000 students. UVU began as a vocational school during World War II, and in the seven decades since has evolved into a technical school, community college, state college and, finally, a comprehensive regional teaching university. UVU is one of Utah's largest institutions of higher learning and offers programs ranging from career training to high-demand master degrees, with emphasis on undergraduate education.