

Day 0-1. Getting to know New York before participation at CSW63

With a goal of participation in parallel event during 63rd Session of the Commission on Status of Women on March 19th, 2019 a group of Utah Valley University (UVU) students (promoting sustainable mountain development (SMD) and women's issues) arrived in New York between March 15th and March 17th 2019. Every student had a different schedule for the first days of visit, with me personally - as a first time visitor of New York – going to see the most interesting places in NY, such as Times Square and American Museum of Natural History located in Central Park.



(1) Times Square and (2) Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Hall at American Museum of Natural History

My childhood interest in paleontology and prehistoric marine species made the visit incredibly exciting, while presenting to me many areas of natural history of which I wasn't even aware of, or had a vague understanding of before my visit. Another phenomenon I was happy to observe was the amount of families with small children coming to museum, with all speaking a multitude of languages, which not only speaks for bounding effect of such institution on our communities and society, but also highlights the variety of people of different age groups and nationalities expressing interest in science and history.

Also, my observation was that by expanding my expertise in SMD, I also started to pay more attention to the sustainable development efforts (and creative approaches) from NGOs and state-run programs around the globe. Thus, I found it interesting that the Museum had multiple exhibition on cultural preservation and biodiversity, waste management and human-related environmental damage, all of which make up the core of sustainable development.



The Clock at Grand Central Station

On the first day together, March 17th, all students met up at 12:00pm at Grand Central Station - another significant New York sight. As many students arrived on the different flights before the move-in time for their accommodations, Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev – the mentor of our team – managed the drop-off of student's baggage in his hotel room for students to be able to take a walk and enjoy their experience in New York. Unfortunately, some of our daily group plans had to be cancelled due to the exhaustion of all team members caused by lack of sleep on overnight flights and generally intense workload during the last week of school.



UVU group for CSW63 in front of UN headquarters

Thus, after a meet-up and a quick lunch, we all headed up towards United Nations Headquarters, with many students visiting the area for the first time. After checking out the building of Church Center for the United Nations in which we will be hosting the parallel event on Tuesday, we took a couple of pictures in front of main UN building, as well as next to Trump Tower located not so far away.

After brief sight seeing, many students returned to the Dr. Abdrisaev's hotel to pick their luggage and headed towards their respective accommodations (with further plans to rest and continue revision process for their statements and presentation). Overall, it was nice seeing everybody having a good time and bounding over after seeing of new sights and spending time together as a group.

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