

Observations on day one in New York City before CSW63

On March 17, 2019 I arrived in New York along with the rest of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU), to begin advocating for mountain women at the 63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63). I was in charge of making sure all UIMF members had their tickets booked and accommodations secured, along with working with each student to make sure all travel grant forms were finished on time to secure travel grants from UVU. This process began late January and had to be accomplished by late February. Fortunately, everything went off without an issue and everyone arrived on time to NYC.



Myself and UIMF outside UN Headquarters.

I arrived early that morning, at 5 AM at the Newark International Airport, and took the express train into Penn Station into Midtown New York. From there I took the E train to midtown east and checked in at my Airbnb at 12PM, and I met the rest of the UIMF delegation at 12:30 PM at the United Nations headquarters for a grounds tour. I grew up visiting downtown NYC regularly, and often saw the UN building, and it was a really exciting day to come tour the outside of the building with the expectation of going in the next day. Once we all arrived at the UN headquarters we toured the area and learned where we would be picking up our UN passes the next morning and took

group pictures in front of the CSW63 signs and UN building. Tomorrow we will all get registered and obtain our passes, and will begin to attend side events. I am very excited about the opportunity to represent UVU, Utah, the Youth and the Mountains Journal, and stress the importance of Sustainable Mountain Development and advocate for Sustainable Development Goal #5 for gender equality. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to speak about the Youth and the Mountains Journal at the UN, and feel eager to highlight the journal's accomplishments from the first to the sixth edition.



An example of New York cuisine which I had at Shinka Restaurant.

After the UN grounds tour the night was ours, I was so tired after the red eye flight and the days' activities, so I went home and took a long much needed siesta. Fortunately, it still wasn't too late when I woke, so I traveled to Chinatown that night and went to dinner at Shinka because it won an award for best Ramen in NYC, and was the 2018 Japan Fest Ramen Contest winner. Suffice to say Shinka delivered on that promise, it was wonderfully decadent and certainly the best vegan ramen dish I've ever had. It was a great way to end the evening was wonderful to be home. I went to sleep excited for the what the next day's activities would bring us.

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