

International Mountain Day observation at UVU

I recently changed my major just one semester before I was supposed to graduate, and I decided I wanted a career that would allow me to get involved with my community and help the world become a better place. I was excited when I found out that UVU offered a Peace and Justice emphasis, with a Political Science major. I took the jump, made the change, and began looking for ways to get involved.

In a couple of my classes, my professors had brought up different clubs and even had someone come in and speak on the Utah International Mountain Forum. At first, I wasn't very interested, but as I learned more about it, their goals and even that they've been able to present at the United Nations, I decided that I would be willing to take a risk and volunteered to help with the organization. Throughout the semester, the members of UMIF prepared for the 10th Annual International Mountain Day Conference, held at UVU on December 2nd, 2019. As soon as I reached out to see what help was needed, I was greeted with enthusiasm and things to do. I was able to help advertise for the program, by passing out flyers in each of my classes and around campus and get to know the speakers that would be involved. I was able to receive a certificate for my contribution to this wonderful event, and my experience with UMIF will be something that I can continue to add to my resume.



Six speakers were present during the conference, all of them speaking on key issues that affect mountain communities and the world alike. Dr. Baldomero Lago said, "Only a handful of

fanatics deny now, the evidence of climate change.” And encouraged students and others who

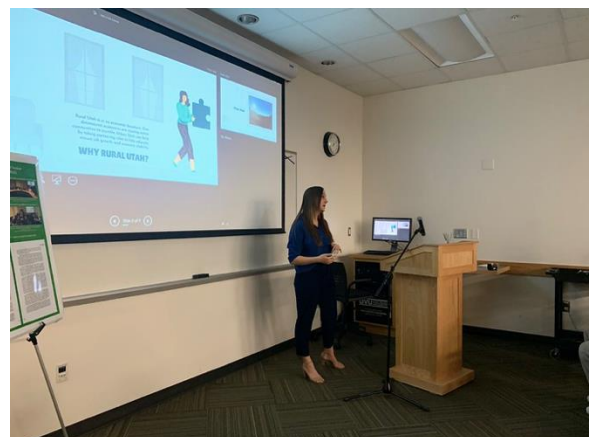


wished to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives of those everywhere, to step up and get involved. Dr. Rusty Butler spoke on the problems of inequality in mountainous regions in the Middle East and commended UMIF for their work done in regard to gender equality.

Ms. Wendy Jyang said, “People have disappeared and flourished because of mountains” and encouraged everyone to come together to make a difference. Mr. Uday Teki has been working with mountainous regions and tribal communities in India who needed new homes, due to their livelihoods being affected by climate change. They had been completely dependent on agricultural production and were unable to maintain their lifestyles. He asked those in attendance to get involved.

Mr. Michael Hinatsu, Vice President of UMIF, advocated for UMIF’s campaign at the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in order to raise awareness of mountain communities and their goals in the future. Ms.

Lacey Meyer, Vice President of UMIF, spoke on the importance of educating, partnering and empowering rural communities so that they can be sustainable for the future. She encouraged those connected to rural communities, and those not, to



help by attending events and taking opportunities for action, like getting involved in UMIF.

As you can see, each of these speakers was able to give an opportunity, or encourage a way, for each of us to get involved and make our impact. That is what UMIF is all about and it continues to open doors for more ways the students of UVU can change the world.

Moesinger Krosbi, UVU student