

Presentation of Mr. John McClure, Assistant Director of the UVU Center for National Security Studies and UVU Political Science Alumnus

Utah Valley University hosted John McClure on February 14th, 2024. Mr. McClure was the first president of Utah International Mountain Forum from 2011-2012

Mr. John McClure, the current Assistant Director of the Center for National Security Studies at UVU, shared insights into the beginnings and development of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) as well as his experience as an Intelligence Analyst in his professional career.



John McClure presenting in front of POLS 3640 class

Mr. McClure began his presentation by sharing the early beginnings of UIMF and his participation with UIMF. McClure originally went to UVU to focus on security studies but with his involvement in UIMF he started to look at a more micro and local view of the world compared to his overall focus on wider security. This more local view allowed for even greater insights into

his wider field. He stressed that UIMF provides the skills and insights that employers seek in a wide range of fields.

McClure as the first president of UIMF began with a focus on garnering support from the local community and with starting sister city programs which are exemplified by exchanges between Orem, Utah and with cities in the Kyrgyz's Republic. These initial more local initiatives laid the groundwork for UIMF's future success eventually allowing UIMF to influence certain Utah State Senate discussions.



John McClure on RIO+20

In 2012 the Women of the Mountains Conference in Peru marked a significant milestone for Mr. McClure and UIMF. McClure could talk about his research and present in front of professions, leaders, and policymakers to impact sustainable development in a global forum.

Mr. McClure's efforts led him to contribute to the Rio+20 Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. McClure had two separate presentations emphasizing the Rocky Mountains' role in promoting gender equality and SMD agendas in North America.



John McClure on national security

From his experiences at UVU and with UIMF, McClure began his work in national security working with Salt Lake County on responses to domestic terrorism threats. He was involved in a \$2 million grant for Salt Lake County's response to terrorist attack plans. McClure stated that there was a critical need for information security post-9/11, he highlighted the establishment of fusion centers where all federal and local agencies were able to gather information and how these were conduits for analyzing and disseminating crucial information to prevent future terrorist and security threats. He cited instances of domestic terrorism as the greatest domestic threat, emphasizing the need to recognize and address threats to vulnerable infrastructure.

Throughout the presentation McClure stressed continuous learning, adaptability, and an open mindset. Through stories of raising a family and attending a master's program at St. Andrews in Scotland he advised developing specialized skills, such as rapid reading and multitasking, to navigate the complexities of both the professional world and personal life.



John McClure (center right) and POLS 3640 class in group photo

Mr. McClure's presentation shows the progress of UIMF from its early beginnings, emphasizing its significant contributions to sustainable mountain development and shedding light on the broader challenges in national security. His talk provided encouragement for both students and current UIMF members and encouraged them to embrace opportunities and contribute to the advancement of sustainable development and security studies.



Mr. John McClure (right), Braden Birbara (left)

I was able to contribute to the hosting of Mr. John McClure through the student engaged learning model by filming and editing the recording of the event as well as uploading the event to the UIMF YouTube channel. The most important advice I learned from McClure is that if there is an opportunity available, take it and if there is not, make one and try your hardest.

Braden Birbara – UIMF Vice President