

My contribution to the advocacy for mountain women and girls during the parallel event at CSW68.



Students in the Sustainable Development Class take pictures after the completion of their parallel event on March 20, 2024.

On March 20, 2024, my colleagues and I had an early morning call time of 6 am to meet at our classroom to participate in the parallel event of the United Nations. Commission on the Status of Women. We have finally reached the culmination of months of preparation beginning in August. The Commission on the Status of Women is a two-week-long series of presentations to hear the importance of investing in women and girls in the world. Our Political Science 3640 Sustainable Development Goals Class had the opportunity to share statements that we have prepared with our

personal experiences and apply what we have learned in our Sustainable Development Goals class to advocate for women and girls in mountain communities.



UVU Students wait patiently for their turn to share their statements.

After the excitement of presenting at the United Nations headquarters in New York last week, I didn't have any nerves going into the last presentation. Presenting my statement this goes around was a little bit easier for me. In preparing for this parallel event, I made minor adjustments to my statement to have it formatted to the needs and time constraints of the event. While I was not nervous about presenting, I was anxious about making it to campus on time. Luckily, I was able to make it on time to our class and help with the last-minute review of everything we needed to make this event just as successful as the side event from the previous week.



Handen Torsak had the responsibility of overseeing the progression of the parallel event.

Handen Torsak was responsible for coordinating the parallel event as Stephen Atkinson, Noah Farnsworth, Braden Birbara and I were facilitating the side event in New York. I assisted in reaching out to the Mountain Youth Hub and confirming their speaker and video presentations. Stephan supported Handen in creating the order of the speakers, and ensuring as each statement is made, the transition from one to another is smooth and concise. Noah and Braden were once again in charge of the technology aspect of our presentation. While Noah was charged with manning the livestream, Braden was entrusted with making sure our video quality was clear and presentable.

Together as a leadership, we were able to organize, plan, and execute this event to achieve our goal of promoting Sustainable Mountain Development and the roles women and girls play. It was a stressful 5 months of preparations, meetings, and continuous efforts, but to see that our hard work paid off was very rewarding. It was a sigh of relief after all the presentations in our lineup were complete, each statement was made and questions were asked and answered. I felt like I could finally sleep after the amount of energy we collectively put into making this event a success.



Braden Birbara, Vice President of UIMF, presents his statement.

This experience has taught me many things, some of which include how unprepared I was for the amount of work and attention to detail that goes into preparing an event such as this. For every aspect to work, everyone has to buy into our end goal and do their part to ensure that all of our bases are covered. There was a lot of adding and cutting, whether it be speakers or their statements, or adjustments to ensure our targets were being met. Being adjustable and flexible during this time was imperative for us to be able to carry out this model of student-engaged learning. Lastly, after exerting much energy and effort into both the side event and the parallel event, it is important to take a much-deserved rest to reset the body and give your mind a break.



UVU Political Science student, Abe Weisler, presents his statement during the parallel event.

Working as a team is essential for the student-engaged learning model to achieve any goals we might have. This opportunity to organize this event gave us students, traditional and nontraditional, the experience to put our leadership skills into action. We were able to strengthen our talents but also develop others' skills that could help us progress as leaders. I have improved my skills of communication and organization. As a Utah International Mountain Forum leader, I have been thrust to be the face of events such as these, extracting me out of my shy shell. I learned the importance of delegating tasks and responsibilities not because I am incapable of completing them myself, but by spreading the work around we are helping one another improve and expand our skills.

March 20, 2024 08:30 - 09:45 ET Ended

Empowering Mountain Women Economically Through an Inclusive Student Engaged Learning

VIRTUAL

Wednesday, March 20

Time zone:
08:30 – 09:45 America/NYC
06:30 – 07:45 America/Denver

Google Meet joining info
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/cys-qbws-dos>

Parallel Event
Empowering Mountain Women Economically through an Inclusive Student Engaged Learning
PLACE: VIRTUAL EVENT
DATE: MARCH 20, 2024
TIME: 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM EST
Youtube Livestream: [at/tryal.com/CSW68MP](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Handen Torsak UVU student	Stephan Atkinson UVU student	Janessa- Michelle Purcell UVU student	Danielle Keysaw UVU student
Abraham Weisler UVU student	Noah Farnsworth UVU student	Richard Farah UVU student	Braden Birbara UVU student
Jessica Van Woerkom UVU student	Stefanie Camara Manoel UVU student	Thomas Mogensen UVU student	Jinwoo Song UVU student
Louyoko Nianza Rotaract Congo	Dr. Rusty Butler UVU student	Jacob Alan Burnthorn UVU student	Priyanka Prem Kumar Researcher from India
Mary Cisneros UVU Alumnus	Dastan Abikov Bishkek Nomad Rotaract Club	Aidana Nurlanova Bishkek Nomad Rotaract Club	Ritikaa Gupta Mountain Youth Hub
Dr. Jay DeSart UVU faculty	Dr. Geoffrey Cockerham UVU faculty	Dr. Hong Pang UVU faculty	Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev UVU faculty

+ Add to My Schedule

List of speakers and their bios from UVU for the parallel event at NGO/CSW68 website.

In this experience of the side event and the parallel event of the Commission on the Status of Women 68th Session 2024, I learned more about myself and my capabilities. I found that even as a woman, as a non-traditional student, and as an undergraduate these activities I participate in as a member of the UIMF club and the UVU Rotaract club, I can make my mark on the world. Everyone has a place in the world, and through these experiences, I was able to find my own.

- ***Janessa- Michelle Purcell, UIMF President-designate***