

Promoting Mountain Sustainability with UIMF during Club Rush at Utah Valley University



On January 23rd and 24th, Utah Valley University hosted its semi-annual club rush event. There are over 150 clubs at UVU and during this event, each club had the opportunity to set up a table in the Liberal Arts building hallway and recruit new members to their clubs amongst the university's vast population of 39,000. As a leader and member in The Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), I had the opportunity to sit at our club's table and contribute to promoting the goals of our club and inform the student body of UVU exactly who we are and what we do. To have a basic understanding, UIMF is a coalition of different clubs at UVU that includes the Foreign Affairs Club, Model UN, Women of The Mountains, Sustainable Development Club, American-Israeli Alliance, Cinematography Club, Russian/Slavic Club, History Club, and Rotaract. By participating in the club-rush, UIMF and all of the other member clubs will

be given funds from the university to help us promote our main goal directly implemented by the United Nations' agenda, which is sustainable mountain development (SMD).

The start of this new semester with UIMF is a vastly different experience than last semester, partly because I've already done so much with this club and it's not a brand new encounterment for me. Last semester, I was able to help conduct and present during the visit of the ambassador of Tajikistan, Mr. Mahmamin Mahmaminov. I also assisted my colleague Hagen Isaacson in the planning and carrying out of the International Mountain Day celebration at UVU. Not only did I help prepare for those two major visits, but I helped out with the daily minor in between tasks and even ran the social media for UIMF. It was a better experience for me this time at the club rush event while I was tabling because I could actually share some of personal experiences with students inquiring about our club. I was not only able to just share my personal experiences though, I was able to take those experiences and turn them into a promotion of sustainable mountain development and the actual goals of UIMF. As the newly titled UNA-USA liaison I had the opportunity to talk about our relations we have formed with the UNA-USA and my experiences with that. We also have an upcoming United Nations trip that we heavily highlighted. Students enrolled in either the Globalization and Sustainable Mountain Development class or UIMF were invited to present at the United Nations' 63rd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) about mountain sustainability, women in the mountains, and UIMF's contributions to sustainable mountain development (SMD) this upcoming March in New York City.

This club rush was very successful per usual. We reached our previously set goals for this event through our joint collaboration and hard work by getting club members involved, promoting and raising awareness to UIMF and SMD goals, and it created a good learning experience for all party members involved.

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