

How UIMF hosted parallel events at CSW63

Day 3. Early on March 19th 2019, Utah Valley University students gathered to host the event that they traveled to New York to present. “Student Engaged Learning to Empower Mountain Women and Girls” drew a large crowd of supporters who were interested in what the students had researched. Michael Hinatsu moderated the event and introduced every speaker; the first speaker was Dr. Baldomero Lago, UVU’s CIO and Vice Rector for Global Engagement. He discussed the formation of the office of Global Affairs as well as the effort of students that led to the current event. The next speaker was Taylor Bell, the recently elected UVU Student Body President who discussed the broad topic of student engagement.



Michael Hinatsu speaks at the parallel event

Michael Hinastu presented his research on mountain sustainability development and how improving the education of women and girls can help achieve this. Noorani Barkat is from Hunza Valley in Pakistan and is currently working on her Ph.D. in agriculture from Washington. She advocated for market entry support structures that help women who work in agriculture in Pakistan

so that they can improve living standards. Abdulrahman Alghanmi, UVU student from Saudi Arabia majoring in Political Science, shared that as an international student, he has helped the UIMF and has learned much about SMD. Viktoriia Bahrii, an international student from central Ukraine, Director of Logistics for UIMF, and Political Science major with minors in National Security Studies and Mathematics at Utah Valley University, discussed how UIMF has helped her to research SMD which she hopes to use to help women living in the Ukrainian Carpathian Mountains.



Participants of the parallel event at the Church Center for the United Nations

Hannah Bieker, UIMF Member, Rotaract Liaison, and National Security major at Utah Valley University (UVU), talked about her family’s migration to the United States, her continuing education, and empowering women to work together in order to achieve SMD. Rebecca Bindraban, the Editor-in-Chief of the Youth and the Mountains Journal discussed how this journal provides a forum for student undergraduate research that advocates for the empowerment of women and girls. Megan Davis, the UNA-USA Liaison, Director of Public Relations for UIMF, and Political Science major at Utah Valley University, gave a history of progressive empowerment

of women and included her research and activities that she has participated in while working at UVU to empower women and girls. When I spoke, I mentioned that I am a non-traditional student majoring in Political Science with an emphasis in Public Policy, and told the crowd about how I learned that indigenous women living in the Utah area are targets of sexual violence, and that through engaged learning, I became aware that there is a need to advocate for these women.



William Gum speaks at the parallel event

Hailee Hodgson, UIMF media specialist and National Security Major at Utah Valley University, presented her ancestry of Mormon women who migrated to Utah in the 19th century. She also presented research on pay inequality. Laila Mitchell, UIMF media specialist and National Security Major at Utah Valley University, spoke about the opioid epidemic facing Utah and mountain regions globally and the efforts women have made in trying to address this issue. Ezra Pugliano talked about how he has used community engagement to provide services that help women and children in mountain regions and the importance of hiring women in leadership roles to help bridge the gap of gender inequality.



Aldon Trimble, a senior at Utah Valley University advocating for engaging students and sustainable development goals, presented the project he has been working on with the Office of New Urban Mechanics which implements the UN sustainable development goals in the state of Utah, and hopes to use their work as a model for national and international policies. This event is the culmination of hard work that these students have done this semester to present a parallel event during the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission for the Status of Women. This work appeared to pay off as spectators swarmed the students at the end of the event to further probe these topics after the event ended.

William Gum, UIMF member