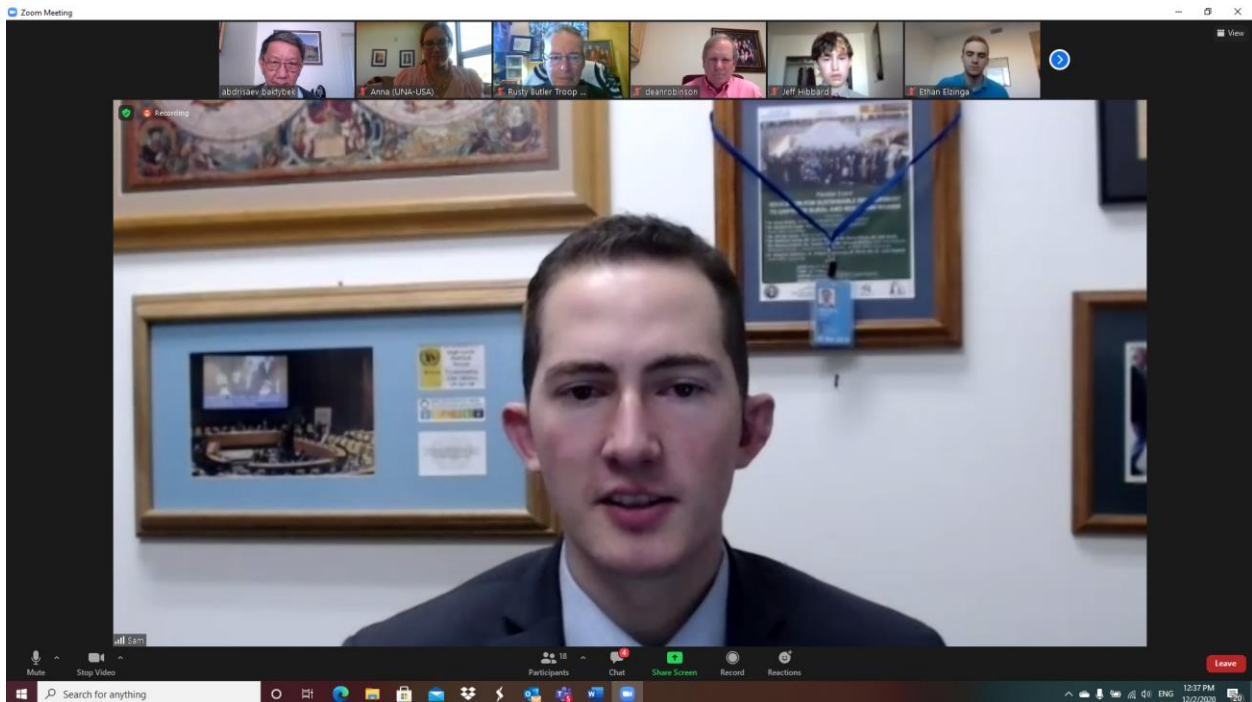


UVU Rotaract Contributes to the International Mountain Day Observation at Utah Valley University

On Wednesday, December 2nd, Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley university (UVU) and a chapter of UNA-USA at UVU hosted a United Nations' International Mountain Day observation at Utah Valley University. UNA-USA is the United Nations Association of the United States of America, a prominent and one of the oldest NGOs in the United States which promotes the United Nations. This event was sponsored by the UVU Office for Global Engagement and the Orem Rotary Club and UVU Rotaract, as UIMF members.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges, to which UIMF adapted to. In order to respond to these challenges and ensure a successful event, UVU students employed the UVU student engaged learning model. Those helping with the event met every week, headed by UIMF Vice President Dallas Karren. At these meetings, we discussed updates on each of our assignments on the event task list. Each student reported on what they had accomplished, and made plans to complete any other necessary assignments.



UIMF Vice President Dallas Karren moderates the virtual event

In organizing the event, I was able to work with Orem Rotary member Clark Merkle to assure the event could be hosted over Zoom, and sent out the appropriate links and other information so all attendees could have access to the event. We appreciate Orem Rotary for allowing us access to this service.

In addition, I was able to create a virtual brochure for the event. In order to accomplish this, I worked with Dylan Genes who collected the biographies from each speaker. I used these biographies on the brochure.

Host: UNA-USA

UIMF Mission:

- To raise awareness of mountain sustainability topics especially in Utah
- To bring the public into contact with international guests and foreign dignitaries
- To bring communities together to recognize their shared mountainous heritage.

Website: www.utahimf.org
E-mail: utahimf@uvu.edu

Our Sponsors: Mountain Partnership, UVU, Orem Rotary Club, UN7

11th International Mountain Day Observation at UVU

Theme: "Protecting Mountain Biodiversity"

Date: Wednesday, December 2nd, 2020
Time: 12:00pm

Presenters:

- Mr. Samuel Elzinga** *President, UIMF*
Samuel Elzinga is a current senior at Utah Valley University, studying Political Science, National Security, and Russian. Sam hopes to pursue a career relating to South and Central Asian international security affairs.
- Dr. Rusty Butler** *Main Representative at UN, Russian Academy of Natural Sciences*
At Utah Valley University, Dr. Butler was the Associate Vice President for International Affairs & Diplomacy and Director of the Utah Russia Institute until his retirement in mid-2019.
- Mr. Dustin Liu** *Youth Observer to the UN for the United Nations Association of the United States of America*
Dustin graduated from Cornell University in Industrial and Labor Relations and served as the Student Trustee on Cornell's Board of Trustees. Dustin has worked with organizations such as Breakthrough Collaborative, Matriculate, and New Profit and served as the Graduate Assistant for Social Innovation at MIT.
- Mr. Dean Robinson** *Orem Rotary President*
Dean F. Robinson, DMD attained his undergraduate degree from BYU and then continued on to dental school at Oregon Health Sciences University. Mr. Robinson has since practiced in Provo for nearly 31 years and has been a member of the Orem Rotary club for nearly 30 years.

Event Agenda:

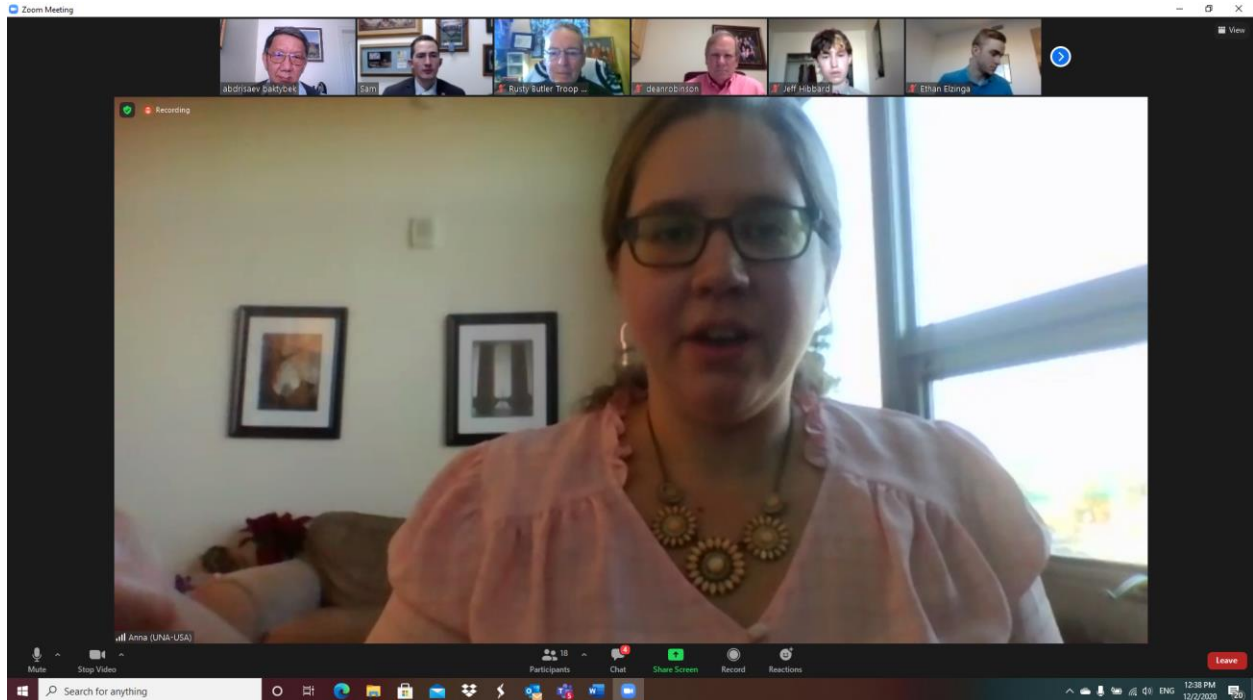
- Welcoming Remarks: Dallas Karren, Vice President, UIMF
Intro: Jeff Hibbards
- Greetings: Sam Elzinga, UIMF President
Intro: Yana Andersen
- Speaker Dr. Rusty Butler
Main Representative at UN, Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, an NGO in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC
Intro: Byan Alghammi
- Speaker Mr. Dustin Liu,
Youth Observer to the UN, United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA)
Intro: Ethan Elzinga
- Speaker Mr. Dean Robinson
President, Orem Rotary

5. Presentation of FAO-UN Certificates for SMD Contribution
By Dallas Karren, Vice President, UIMF, and Sarah Michaelis

On the day of the event, UIMF members, UVU Rotaract Members, Orem Rotary members, and other students met together virtually to celebrate the work of the United Nations, other NGOs, and local efforts at UVU made to advocate for those in mountainous communities. UIMF Vice President Dallas Karren moderated the event.

First we heard from UIMF President Sam Elzinga, who highlighted the work UIMF has done to contribute to the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs), and to advocate for mountainous communities. He discussed the effective student engaged learning model UIMF employs to achieve these efforts.

I had the opportunity to introduce Dr. Rusty Butler, who has contributed significantly to these efforts, and who is aiding UIMF members preparing to attend the 64th UN Commission on the Status of Women. UVU Rotaract advisor Abdrisaev then spoke to us.



UNA USA Youth Engagement Manager Anna Mahalak address the event attendees

Following his remarks, we were able to hear from Anna Mahalak, the Youth Engagement Manager at UNA USA. Ms. Mahalak spoke to us about the history of UNA USA, their youth programs, and invited UVU students to become involved in the UNA USA events. It was exciting and informative to hear from someone so involved in UNA USA.



Orem Rotary President Dean Robinson speaks virtually at the event

The final speaker of the event was Dean Robinson, Orem Rotary President. He provided context for the relationship between the UN and Rotary International, their mutual goals, and discussed local efforts Orem Rotary has made to contribute to the UN SDGs. As a member of UVU Rotaract, I am grateful to participate in the efforts of these two organizations to create wellbeing in our communities. We are thankful for Orem Rotary's participation in the event.

The event ended with a presentation of the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization's certificate for all those who have contributed to UN goals on campus this year. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, UIMF and UVU Rotaract continue to use student engaged learning to advocate for vulnerable populations in mountainous regions.

Yana Andersen, UVU Rotaract President