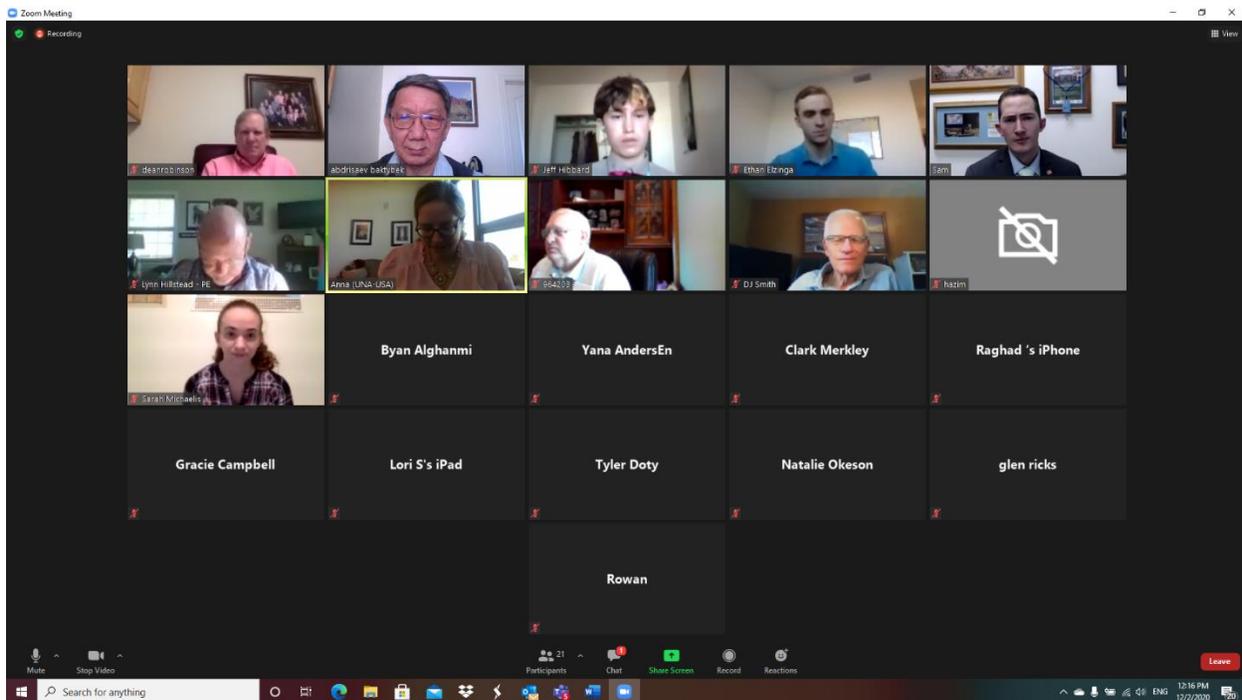


11th International Mountain Day Celebration at UVU

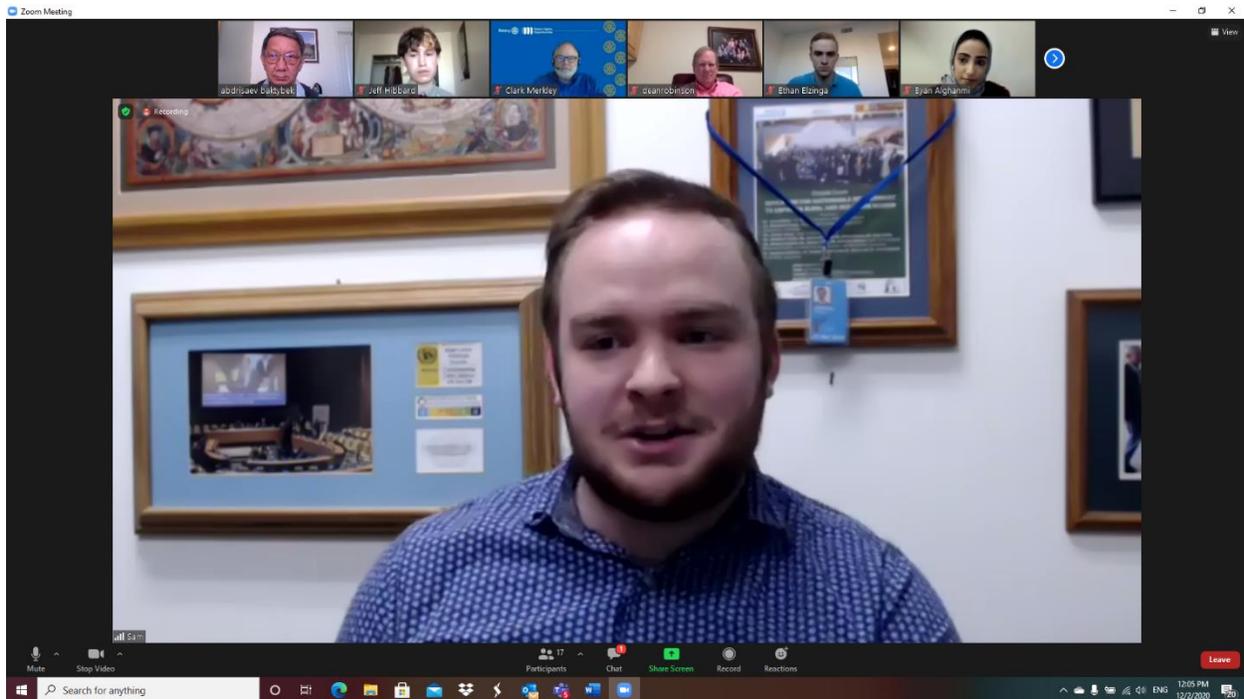


On 2 December 2020 Utah Valley University students hosted the International Mountain Day (IMD). On this Day Dallas Karren, Vice President of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU explained that IMD's goal is to address real world problems which mountain communities face in their everyday lives. UIMF does that through a student engaged learning when its members work as a group. They raise awareness about mountain communities who are lagging behind worldwide in providing quality of life and a decent future for their families and children.



Participants of the IMD 2020 at UVU

Samuel Elzinga, President of UIMF has been involved in the celebration of IMD for 3 years, and this year was done very differently due to COVID which is a first for this event. UIMF was founded over one decade ago and they work to advocate for the sustainable mountain development agenda both locally in Utah and around the world. This is something unique that UVU does and it is the only one in the world where they combine the student engage learning model and an interdisciplinary approach to Sustainable Mountain Development to show result.



Samuel Elzinga, President of UIMF speaks at IMD 2020

Dr. Rusty Butler, one of the speakers, supported establishment of UIMF in 2011 and was the first person who spoke during IMD celebration at UVU in 2010. Next year the United Nations will host this event again, however it will be not a virtual and UVU will be in it once again playing their part in supporting this cause.

Dustin Liu, the youth observer at the UN from the United Nations Association of the United States has been newly selected as part of the initiative running for the past 9 years to represent youth voices at the UN. Other countries have the same program as well which goes to show how impactful this program really is. They aim to raise awareness of biodiversity and sustainability. Dustin Liu does a great job communicating and connecting with his audience by engaging young people with the work of U.N.

This was a great event with topic and agenda very new for me. I liked the mission of preserving biodiversity which affects all species including humans.

Diogo Dasilva, UVU student