

Seventh Annual International Mountain Day Celebration at UVU



On December 4th, 2017, the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU), will celebrate United Nations International Mountain Day (IMD). The 2017 theme for IMD is ‘Mountains under pressure: climate, hunger, migration.’



First established by the United Nations in 2003, this will be the seventh IMD celebration held by UIMF at UVU. Through the IMD celebration, UVU students raise awareness among their peers and local communities about the importance of ensuring the sustainable development goals among the mountain communities worldwide, who are usually the poorest and the most vulnerable communities to challenges such as migration, hunger and climate change, to name a few. While the established date by the United Nations for IMD is December 11th, it was decided to push back the event a week as the established date would be during the time period of final examinations week at UVU. It is UIMF’s hope that this will allow for more students and faculty to attend the celebration.

The keynote speaker for this year's IMD celebration will be Dr. Baldomero Lago, the CIO/Vice-Rector for Global Engagement at UVU. Dr. Lago will speak in particular about new a partnership initiative between UVU and the United Nations, which will provide students many new opportunities to contribute to the UN's activities including the advocacy of the mountain cause. Other featured presenters will be Ms. Chelsey Butchereit, Refugee Advocate in Utah, who will speak about assisting refugees and migrants in Utah and many parts of the mountain world, Ms. Gina Cornia, Executive Director of Utahns Against Hunger (UAH), who will speak on programs to assist impoverished people in Utah, Dr. Colleen Bye, representative of the group Citizens Climate Lobby, who advocate for sustainable climate change in the state of Utah and internationally. An important part of the IMD celebration will be presentations of UVU students Derek Garfield, and Megan Raines about their cooperation with representatives of mountain communities in different parts of the world to deal with climate change and hunger.

UIMF members will also present certificates of FAO-UN to the contributors of the UN agenda of sustainable mountain development in the State of Utah and North America.

The event will be held in the Liberal Arts building at UVU in room 116 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. UIMF hopes to actively engage with all attendees in sustainable mountain development in working towards the United Nations 2015 and post-2030 agendas.

Lacey Meyer, Vice-President, UIMF