My Experience presenting at 12th International Mountain Day Celebration At Utah Valley University

Screenshot of the participants of the IMD 2021

On December 1, 2021, I was able to participate in Utah Valley University's 12th International Mountain day Celebration. It was a great experience to present some of my research on SMD with our friends from OSH Technological University and share experiences of Kyrgyzstan and Utah's efforts in tourism. First of all, learning about Kyrgyzstan from my fellow students was refreshing and fun to see, especially the many similarities that Utah has with Kyrgyzstan. The main purpose of the event was to highlight the sustainability of tourism in mountainous regions. Baiel Abibillaev from Kyrgyzstan spoke on the various ways their country promotes "environmentally friendly" tourism of their magnificent landscapes. I also participated in the event by sharing research I have made on sustainability. This event was a great experience to participate in a professional way to sustainable development, the positive feedback from the

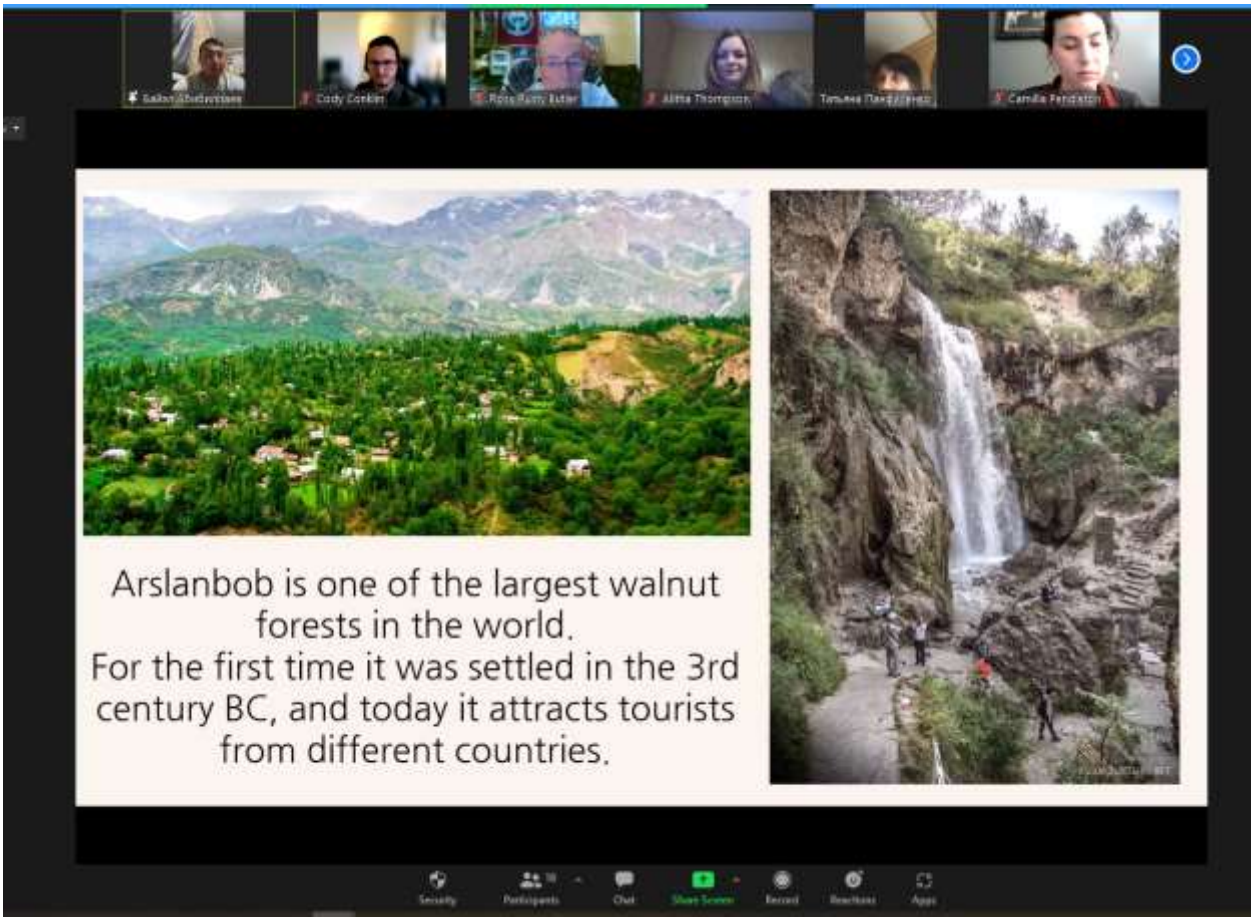
presentation also encourages me to continue engaging and working towards furthering my education and experience on this topic.

Dr. Rusty Butler, keynote speaker of the 2021 IMD at UVU

Dr. Butler's presentation of what Utah has done in the tourism section was quite impressive to see all that Utah does to attract visitors and share its SMD model with the world. Dr. Butler was Associate Vice President for International Affairs and Diplomacy at UVU during 1992-2016 and he is currently the main representative at the United Nations for the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences.

I am not a native of Utah or the Rocky Mountains, but I am always impressed by the people and efforts that students and leaders in Utah make to engage as global citizens. This type of effort is not common, and my experience attending schools even outside Washington, DC does not come close to what the UIMF is doing here with their Student Engaged Learning Model (SEL). Another thing that impressed me was the contributions of non-traditional students like myself to

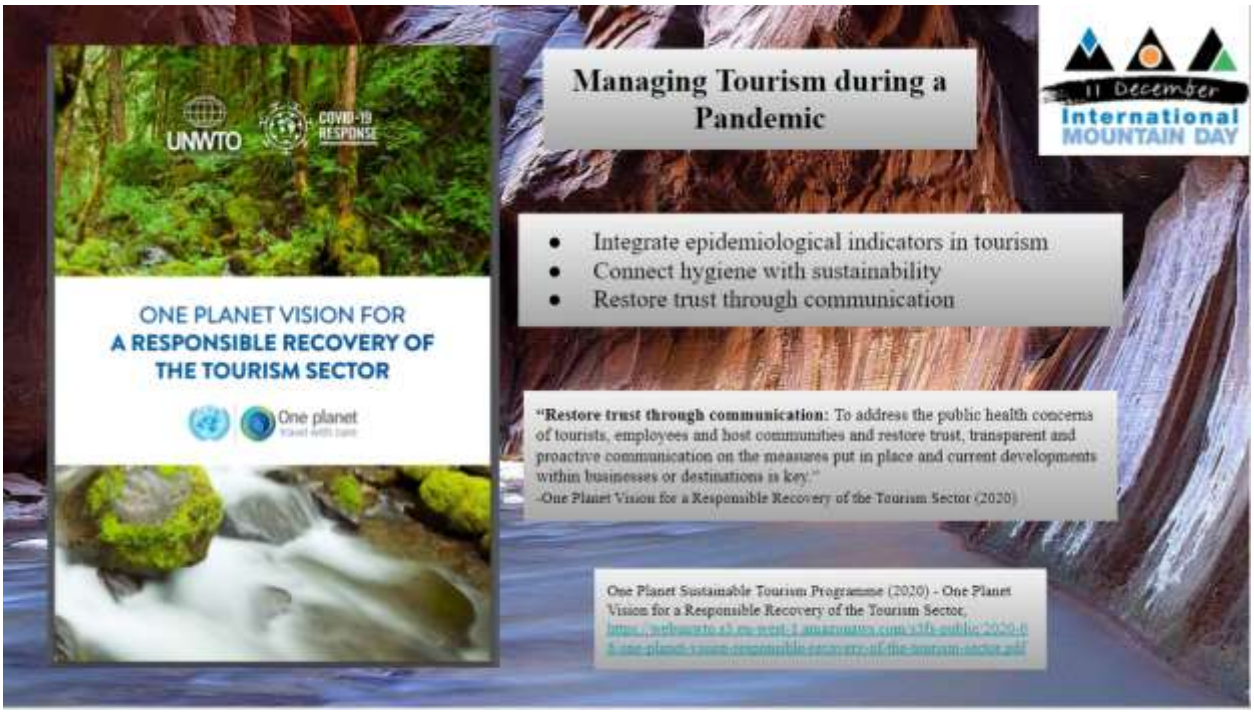
International Mountain Day. Alitha Thompson is a non-traditional student who organized and managed this entire experience and the event was managed very well. It goes to show how great of an impact non-traditional students have in promoting the SEL model and it really does inspire other students to work harder to become more engaged.



Baiel Abibillaev Presentation of Sustainable Development in Kyrgyzstan

The focus of my presentation was on my research article which will be published in the 2021 Youth and Mountains academic journal. The title of the article is "The Impacts of COVID-19 on Tourism in Austria and Utah." The purpose of this article was to discover how it may be possible to respond to a global pandemic and still protect valuable tourism sectors especially for mountainous communities. My main concern for presenting on this topic and writing a research

paper is how government policy can interfere with mountain tourism. Since tourism is a valuable source of income to these communities, a bad government policy can really be disastrous to this sector. According to what I found, it is still possible to keep people safe while encouraging tourist activities.



UNWTO - One Planet Vision for a Responsible Recovery of the Tourism Sector

I cited directives such as; clear communication, epidemiological indicators and hygiene promotion as great tools to preserve public health. With the global pandemic ranging, many countries closed their borders, and instituted lockdowns. The combined effect of these variables led to a significant decline in tourist arrivals. So as we see the rise in different COVID-19 variants, we also need to consider all tools at our disposal for managing tourism before we consider lockdowns and closed borders as a viable alternative.

Cody Conklin, member of the UIMF

Link to Cody's Presentation for International Mountain Day
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1qM-puSwqUIVc_V5Nki12-dxh-_u77iT-748Cd1XwcC0/edit#slide=id.g103c02cb406_0_0

Link to Cody's IMD Statement on Sustainable Mountain Development
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aMozxnWXRAUKV3geuLj7E8InHmdc5SVP_g83XiL2QCk/edit