

## Hosting International Mountain Day Observation at Utah Valley University

2023  Five Years of Action  
2027 for the Development of  
Mountain Regions

11 December  
INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY

### 16th United Nations International Mountain Day at Utah Valley University

# SNOWPACK MATTERS FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER, FOOD AND LIVELIHOODS IN MOUNTAINS AND BEYOND.

Lynn Hill,  
Internationally  
Known  
Climber,  
Author of the  
book: Climbing  
Free: My Life in  
the Vertical  
World!

Dr. Muktar  
Djumaliev,  
Expert on Trade  
and Climate  
Policy, FMR  
Ambassador of  
Kyrgyzstan to  
the USA.

Dr. Matt Olson,  
Assistant  
Professor of  
Earth Science at  
UVU, Expert in  
Global Alpine  
Glacier Change

Thank you for the great work!  
Lynn Hill

Looking forward to continue working with UVU team in Geneva and Bishkek

Excellent work!  
[Signature]

DEC 2, 2025  
11:30 AM - 12:45 PM MST  
CB510, Utah Valley University

Livestream At  More Info At 

Hosted through Student Engaged Learning

 COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES  COLLEGE OF SCIENCE  HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE  DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCE 

On Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at Utah Valley University (UVU), the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF; a coalition of UVU student clubs), in partnership with the student participants of POLS-3560G, hosted their sixteenth annual International Mountain Day Observation. The theme was "Glaciers matter for water, food and livelihoods in mountains and

beyond,” as defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Lynn Hill, an internationally recognized climber and the first to free climb The Nose on El Capitan in 1993, was the featured keynote speaker who presented alongside Dr. Muktar Djumaliev (who joined via conference call), a Trade and Climate Policy expert and former Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic, and Dr. Matt Olson, Assistant Professor of Earth Science at Utah Valley University.

The planning and implementation of this event was entirely student-directed, with each student participant bearing responsibility for a specific task or component of the preparation process and putting it into action. This approach, known as student-engaged learning (SEL), showcases the impact of meaningful student involvement when it moves beyond the classroom and bridges gaps between academic learning and real-world challenges.

As a UIMF member and student of the course overseeing the affair, I contributed to this initiative as the graphic designer for the event’s brochure and student certificates of recognition. Being able to utilize my design skills, while they are not typically central to my participation in most activities, highlighted the impact of drawing upon diverse and sometimes unexpected competencies to move forward collective goals. As the principal graphic designer, I worked to develop a continuous brand between these works, that combined the traditional expectations and nature of the event with a more robust, clean, and cohesive appearance. As part of the design process, I collaborated with my peers and other stakeholders on campus (such as printing services/the copy center) to establish the initial design, make iterative changes as new needs arose, and execute the final physical deliverable. Not only did I work to refine my design skills through practical application, but I also worked to develop durable skills such as collaboration, delegation, and stewardship.

Skills like these are crucial for preparing students to engage in global policy discussions, such as UIMF’s continued participation in United Nations sustainable development forums. Through the service-based learning gained from participating in and contributing to the International Mountain Day observation at UVU, students like myself steward local community engagement on important topics, while developing a global perspective on sustainable mountain development and practical experiences necessary to address complex challenges in matters of sustainability and international policy.

Seeing my work come to life and contribute to the visibility and effectiveness of the International Mountain Day event was deeply meaningful. Witnessing the impact of this event and the people we reached reinforced the value of applying diverse skills to collective initiatives, and through the student recognition certificates, provided me with a personal reminder of this experience and the role I played in making the event a success.



*Lynn Hill & Dean Horns (Dean of the College of Science at UVU) Pose With the Certificates Designed by Abbie Fisher*

**By Abbie Fisher: Psychology Major & UIMF Club Member at Utah Valley University**