

contributions and some state money.

The event continues with a presentation on "Snow Science in the San Juans: Development of New Hi-Tech Tools for Snow Avalanche and Hydrology Applications" by H.P. Marshall at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2 in 640 Berndt Hall.

Marshall began his snow science career 12 years ago doing research on wet snow avalanches in the Washington Cascades, and spent summers participating in glaciology research on Blue Glacier, Mt. Olympus, while working on his physics degree at the University of Washington. He took a year off before entering graduate school and taught at-risk youth in the small remote Athabaskan village of Old Crow in the Canadian Arctic. He has spent two field seasons in Antarctica, and currently works in Alaska, the Canadian Arctic and in the San Juans. His doctoral work in geotechnical engineering has focused on measurements and modeling of snow slope stability, through the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research at University of Colorado at Boulder. He now works remotely from Durango for the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, and hopes to get undergraduates from Fort Lewis College involved with his research in the San Juan Mountains, through the Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies and the Mountain Studies Institute.

The celebration concludes with the observance of International Mountain Day on Sunday, Dec. 11. This event will help create awareness about the importance of mountains to life, highlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development and build partnerships that will bring positive change to the world's mountains and highlands.

The United Nations General Assembly designated Dec. 11 from 2003 onwards as "International Mountain Day." This decision results from the success of the UN International Year of Mountains in 2002, which increased global awareness of the importance of mountains, stimulated the establishment of national committees in 78 countries and strengthened alliances through promoting the creation of the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, known as the "Mountain Partnership."

People are encouraged to celebrate International Mountain Day in their own way on Dec. 11.

For more information, contact the Mountain Studies Institute at 970-247-7044 or visit www.mountainstudies.org or contact the Environmental Center at 970-247-7676 or visit <http://envcenter.fortlewis.edu>.

The Mountain Studies Institute provided this news release.

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