
CCE Newsletter: Winter 2022 Issue

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CCE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the CCE Newsletter, in which we cover updates of the center's activities and initiatives, upcoming events and opportunities!



**AUCA Center for
Civic Engagement**

SIDP & ACEP Projects

Student Initiative Development Program

In Fall 2021, SIDP Committee decided to support 13 student projects (10 local, 3 international):

- **“Basketball for All”** by Saliya Khurova (founder: Aidin Turganbekov), Kyrgystan
- **“Advanced Training in Digital Literacy for Regional School Teachersby: Second Round”** by Adina Sulumbekova, Kyrgystan
- **“Self-Development Club”** by Aizhamal Duishonbekova, Kyrgystan
- **“Kurmanjan”** by Aizirek Erkebaeva, Kyrgystan
- **“Leaders of Changes”** by Anara Tentikeeva, Kyrgystan

- **“Ayalzat Kuchu”** by Begimai Azizbekova, Kyrgystan
- **“Central Asian Nomad Youth”** by Erkebai Bakhadinov (founder: Nurmukhamad Turkbaev), Kyrgystan
- **“Tech Youth Collab KG”** by Gulaiym Dadabaeva, Kyrgystan
- **“Art Up”** by Saltanat Namazbekova, Kyrgystan
- **“Water and Climate Security Program”** by Samar Kanatov, Kyrgystan
- **“Cinematography for Civic Activists”** by Dilshod Hamroboev, Tajikistan
- **“Girl’s Empowerment Boot Camp”** by Nekkhotun Qirghizbekova, Tajikistan
- **“Hope For Afghan Girls”** by Mursalina Amin, Afghanistan (online)

Afghan Civic Engagement Program

ACEP was designed specifically for the new cohorts of Afghan students of NGA (2019 & 2020) to support their civic engagement initiatives in Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Due to the current impossibility of implementing projects in Afghanistan, it was decided to give Afghan students an opportunity to start new projects in Kyrgyzstan with the help of local students, contributing to the development of peer to peer learning.

In Fall 2021, ACEP Committee approved 3 student projects:

- **“Team Building”** by Mursal Jamal
 - **“Leadership Empowerment and English Advancement Program (LEEAP)”** by Hawa Taban
 - **“A Step Ahead”** by Roona Farahi
-



SIDP & ACEP Showcase

On December 14, 2021, Jonathan Becker, Acting President of the American University of Central Asia and Vice Chancellor of the Open Society University Network, joined the showcase of students' projects organized by AUCA's Center for Civic Engagement (CCE). In total, 14 student leaders who implemented and who intend to implement their projects in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years, respectively, under the SIDP and the ACEP participated in the showcase.

Despite the challenges the pandemic created, AUCA students have demonstrated passion and enthusiasm in realizing projects for the public good both on local and international levels. Out of 25 projects, 11 initiatives are international (i.e., Afghanistan and Tajikistan). Even more so, most prominent students' projects become sustainable and are transferred from project founders to other active student leaders.

AUCA CCE strongly supports both the continuation of successful initiatives and the conception of novel initiatives by new student leaders.





Fatima Club



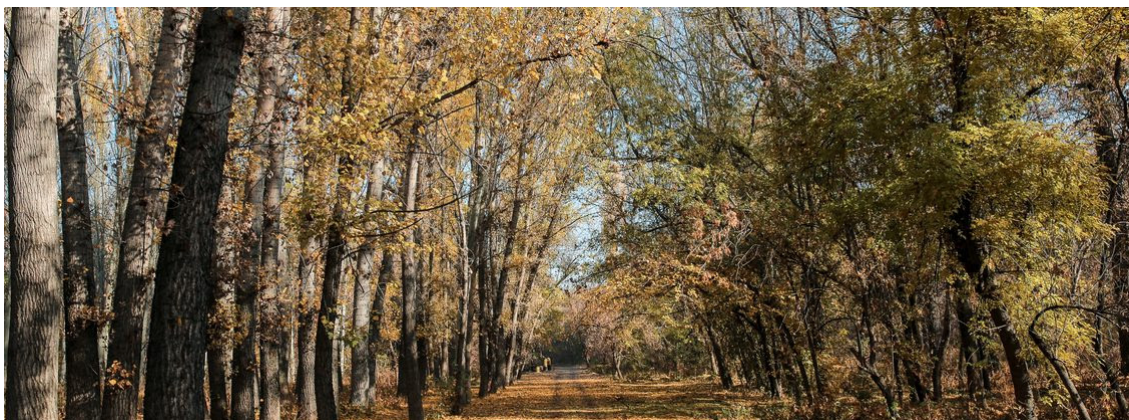
On October 1, 2021, the Center for Civic Engagement invited the AUCA Afghan community from 2019 and 2020 cohorts to the grand reopening of the “**Fatima**” club in the new academic year of 2021-2022. Around 30 students attended the reopening and had an opportunity to learn more about the Afghan Civic Engagement Program and Global Fellows Program, listen to success stories of AUCA Afghan active student leaders and watch the “Fatima” documentary film (directed by Zarlisht Sarmast).



The next club session took place on November 26 and focused on the topic of career skills. Erica Eisen, [WARC's](#) Coordinator, led an informative workshop on CV writing tips, which equipped the club members with the necessary knowledge and skills.

The Center for Civic Engagement
thanks the Writing and Academic
Resource Center for active
cooperation and looks forward to
future collaborations!

Writing &
Academic
Resource
Center



Elm Grove Tree Planting

On October 30, 2021, AUCA CCE together with the [French-Kyrgyz Ecotourism Association \(AFKE\)](#) organized a massive tree planting activity in Elm Grove in memory of Fatima Khalil. The purpose of the tree planting was to build a garden named after Fatima on the territory of Elm Grove, which is one of the most unique, largest and oldest urban forests in Central Asia.

As a result, 215 trees were planted that day, 130 out of which were planted by AUCA and TSI students.



Mask Design Contest

In order to protect AUCA community and promote safety measures, the Center for Civic Engagement, together with the Student Life Office, organized the “[Mask Design](#)” contest in the first half of Fall 2021. On October 15, during AUCA Spirit Week, three student winners were announced:

1. Ruslan Musalimov
2. Masuma Saeed
3. Elnura Rysbekova



As promised, CCE produced 1500 masks according to the designs of three winning participants, which were further distributed to students, faculty and staff for free.



Lottery for Vaccinated

On November 24, 2021, another important event that focused on encouraging the community of AUCA to follow self-protective measures was the [Lottery for vaccinated](#) students, faculty and staff members, organized by the Center for Civic Engagement, the Student Life Office, the Public Relations Office, the Human Resources Department, and the Medical Office.

More than twenty prizes were drawn; the grand prize among the students was won by Edith Don, while the grand prize among the faculty and staff - by Olga Tarabashkina.



**LOTTERY
FOR VACCINATED STUDENTS,
FACULTY AND STAFF**



World Cleanup Day

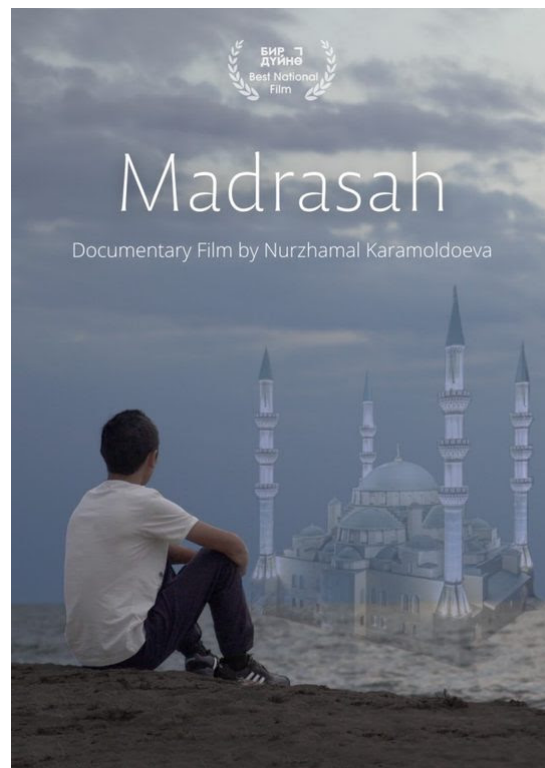
The "World Cleanup Day," which is the global action aimed at solving the problem of solid waste and recyclable materials (glass, metal, plastic), was held on September 18, 2021, on the territory of AUCA campus.



“Madrasah” Film

The Center for Civic Engagement is proud to share that the “Madrasah” documentary directed by Nurzhamal Karamoldoeva (the award-winning film director, AUCA faculty member and Executive Director of the Center for Civic Engagement) with the help of creative AUCA students won the grand prize – **“Best National Film”** at the XV International Festival of Documentary Films “Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan.”

“Madrasah” tells a story of one boy, who dreams of attending a city school, compared to his two older brothers, who chose a madrasah over secular schools. It is common for teenagers in rural areas of Kyrgyzstan to choose religious madrasahs to continue education. So, the question is: Is his desire attainable? And what future holds for him?



Annually, the festival becomes a platform for creating discussions about the topical problems in society, as human rights documentaries are an opportunity to show the world about what is happening in each country and thus draw attention to urgent problems. This year, the festival was dedicated to the theme of citizens' rights in times of risks and disasters. In total, 45 applications from 17 countries had been received, out of which only 26 were chosen by the festival's selection committee.



OSUN Visual Storytelling: CE Film Case Studies

Within the framework of the "OSUN Visual Storytelling for Civic Engagement" course, AUCA students produced 6 civic engagement documentaries for the culminating virtual film festival that took place on December 14, 2021. Students had been working with award winning filmmakers Adam Stepan, Nurzhamal Karamoldoeva, Dina Hossain, and Julia Titowa to create enlightening case studies from across the globe.

To take a look, click the button bellow:

[CE Film Case Studies](#)

AUCA Community & Civic Engagement

Civic Engagement is deeply rooted within the values of AUCA as it strives to prepare future leaders of the Central Asian region.

Our students, faculty, staff, and alumni are among active participants in their communities. Serving the community, knowledge sharing, giving back to society are instilled through the spirit of our academic institution.

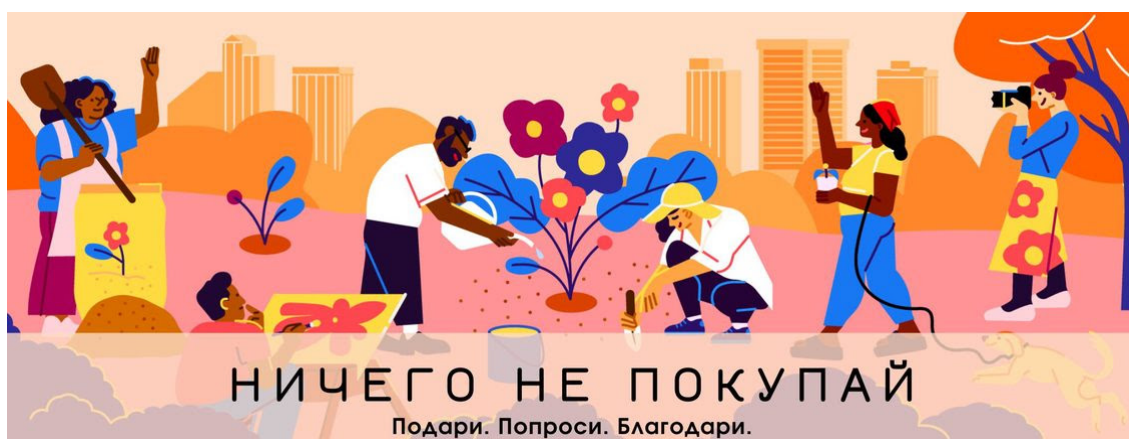
Faculty Civic Engagement: Engaged Learning - Assisting SOS Children Village Bishkek

In Fall 2021, Dr. Olga Tarabashkina (Assistant Professor at SOC Department) in cooperation with SOS Village Bishkek involved Sociology students in service learning activities in the framework of “Social Stratification and Inequality” course, such as meeting with key stakeholders, identifying needs, planning the milestones to achieve the project objectives, collecting secondary data and verifying it, producing an excel file with relevant information of various social services provided to people in need in Bishkek.

As a result of this in-depth exploration, an extensive excel file was compiled which will be further disseminated among more than 100 residents of SOS Village Bishkek and their families. Moreover, students taking part in the course were able to greatly enhance their learning and on-the-job skills fulfilling OSUN-wide dedication to engaged learning initiative.

Faculty Civic Engagement: Buy Nothing

“Buy Nothing” project aims to popularize and spread the practices of upcycling in the Bishkek community, which is one of the sustainable behaviors that reduces the rates of consumption and rubbish accumulation. The project also fits in the realm of gift economy where people in need can receive objects for free.



During Winter-Spring 2022, professor Olga Tarabashkina will be working on creating advertising campaigns and spreading awareness about the project among AUCA community and beyond, thus contributing to the redistributive justice in Bishkek suburbs. It is expected that by the end of April, more than 400 objects will have been redistributed to various households and residents of Bishkek city will have gained an increased awareness

of the upcycling behavior and its benefits for the environment and redistributive social justice.

“Buy Nothing” project was supported by the AUCA Sociology Department.

To learn more about the project, please visit its Facebook Page:



Faculty Civic Engagement: Groundwater Level Research in AUCA Forest Park of Elm Grove (Diploma Project)

Drs. Sagynbek Orunbaev (Assistant Professor at GEO Department) and Zheenbek Kulenbekov (Associate Professor & Chair at GEO Department) had been conducting a groundwater level research project in AUCA Forest of Elm Grove for two years (2019-2020). This project is relevant both in the study and analysis of the presence of underground water, as well as many factors that contribute to the rapid assimilation of mineralogical properties of the soil due to the assimilation of the nutritional properties of water in all its manifestations. It reveals the real potential of many factors that are important both economically and socially for conducting and solving many complex problems for Bishkek city and the surrounding villages.

The study resulted in the identification of the depth of groundwater in Elm Grove, which is close to the earth's surface saturated with water in the Bolshoi Chuy Canal (BCC), of groundwater seasonal moves from areas of high hydraulic head to areas of low hydraulic head, and two publications.

Equipment was provided by the grant from the PEER-NAS-USAID project.

Faculty Civic Engagement: Training in Specific Special Needs and Inclusive Classrooms

Over 3 years, Joanna Major, Inclusive Education Specialist at MAT Program, has been working on the “Training in Specific Special Needs and Inclusive Classrooms” project that addresses the lack of resources and trained professionals to teach people with disabilities or challenges.

Throughout the project, numerous activities have benefitted hundreds of families, several schools and teachers, 1 autism center, 1 Down syndrome center, such as parent trainings, therapist/teacher/other professions trainings and conferences, one-on-one support coaching, modeling with students and lessons for student and family involvement. Furthermore, first Autism center was opened in Bishkek city.

The project is supported by Clemson University (USA) and Hope Academy of Bishkek.

Faculty Civic Engagement: Student Counseling and Psychotherapy Services for the Community of Bishkek

The current project led by Dr. Elena Kosterina (Associate Professor at PSY Department) provides psychological services (i.e., psychotherapy, group therapy and trainings) for individuals and families from Bishkek and other regions.

Annually, around 80-120 clients receive help, including beneficiaries of local community partners and partner organizations of the AUCA [Institute for Behavioral Health \(IBH\)](#), which operates under the Psychology Department.

**Faculty Civic Engagement:
Protection of the 11th
Century Burana Tower in
Kyrgyzstan against**



Anthropogenic and Seismic Threats Cultural Preservation

The “Protection of the 11th Century Burana Tower in Kyrgyzstan against Anthropogenic and Seismic Threats Cultural Preservation” project led by Dr. Cholpon Turdalieva (Professor & Chair at ANTH Department) aims to prolong the lifetime and preserve the integrity of the Burana Tower, an UNESCO World Heritage site, by protecting it from decay and natural disasters such as earthquakes.

The project began in September 2021, and it is expected that by March 2023, the following outcomes will have been achieved:

1. Creation of the plan protection measures of Burana Tower.
2. Implementing measures hindering cattle and trespassers from approaching the Tower.
3. Increasing awareness about the protection of the Burana Tower among the local communities.

The project is funded by the Ambassadorial Fund for Cultural Preservation and administered by the US Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic.



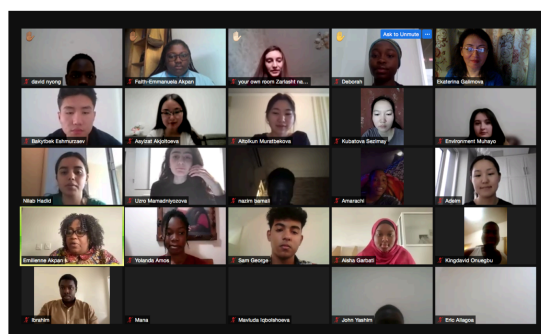
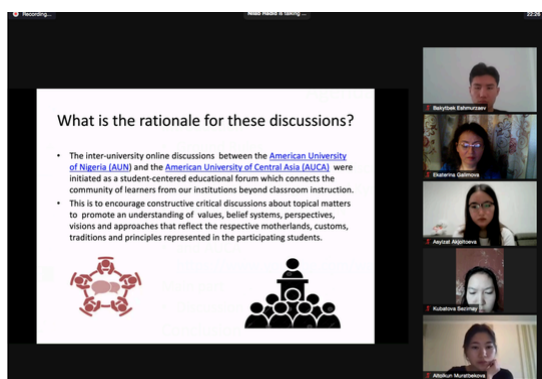
Faculty Civic Engagement: Digitization of the Herbarium at the Kyrgyz National Academy of Sciences

Due to the fact that many of the specimens in the herbarium at the Kyrgyz National Academy of Sciences are at risk of being destroyed, there is an urgent need to digitize and database the herbarium in order to preserve the valuable data. Since 2020, Amadeus DeKastle (Assistant Professor at ESCS Department) together with the students from the department has been working on building the digital resource.

It is planned that by April 2022, a few thousand specimens will have been digitized and uploaded to the database, as well as transferred to the AUCA server and released for public use. This will benefit not only the Academy of Sciences and ESCS students, but also will be useful for scientists and researchers around the globe who are studying the botany of Central Asia.

“Digitization of the Herbarium at the Kyrgyz National Academy of Sciences” project is supported by the AUCA Presidential Research and Education Fund (PREF), the Kyrgyz National Academy of Sciences, and the Plateau Perspectives.

Faculty Civic Engagement: Crossing the Border: Interuniversity Virtual Discussion between American Universities of Nigeria and Central Asia



Annually, Dr. Ekaterina Galimova (Associate Professor at GENED Department) in cooperation with Emilienne Akpan (Instructor, American University of Nigeria) organize online discussions between AUCA and AUN students on diverse and socially important topics, like “Immunity of Political Officials is Lawful” or “Bride Kidnapping.” During 8 months each year, participating students can volunteer to be hosts and lead discussions on certain themes.

As a result, students have an opportunity not only to practice their listening comprehension and public speaking skills, but also to improve their leadership and team-building skills, ability to prepare and lead a discussion in a diplomatic way, conceive interview questions, conduct research and analyze collected data.

Currently, the American University of Nigeria is the sole partner of the project.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES



Certificate in Civic Engagement Program

Freshmen, sophomore and junior students, who have some experience in the field of civic engagement, are eligible to apply for the Certificate in Civic Engagement offered by the Open Society University Network (OSUN)!

APPLICATION PORTAL / DEADLINE: February 27, 2022



[OPENSOCIETYUNIVERSITYNETWORK.ORG](https://opensocietyuniversitynetwork.org)

**Student Opportunity: Apply for OSUN
Certificate in Civic Engagement**

OSUN is currently accepting applications for the Certificate in Civic Engagement until February 27, 2022. The certificate provides a structured path for undergraduate students interested in deepening their knowledge and understanding of civic and community engagement by merging curricular and co-curricular interests.

Get Engaged Conference 2022

The Get Engaged Conference brings together students from across the world to develop community leadership skills and collaborate on solutions to local and global challenges. Workshops focus on leadership, public speaking, networking, social media, community partnerships, innovation and creativity, fundraising and grant writing, and emotional intelligence.

APPLICATION PORTAL / DEADLINE: February 25, 2022



[OPENSOCIETYUNIVERSITYNETWORK.ORG](https://opensocietyuniversitynetwork.org)

[Get Engaged Conference | Open Society University Network](#)

Get Engaged Conference at OSUN

Microgrants



[OPENSOCIETYUNIVERSITYNETWORK.ORG](https://opensocietyuniversitynetwork.org)

[Student Opportunity: Apply for Civic Engagement Microgrants for Spring 2022](#)

The Open Society University Network invites campus and community-based project to apply for grants up to \$750. Microgrants fund student-led civic engagement projects throughout the network.

APPLICATION PORTAL / DEADLINE: January 15, 2022

Engaged Senior Project Grants

[OPENSOCIETYUNIVERSITYNETWORK.ORG](https://opensocietyuniversitynetwork.org)

Student Opportunity: Apply for Engaged Senior Project Grants

Applications are now open for juniors from within OSUN seeking grants to fund their 2022 senior research projects.

APPLICATION PORTAL / DEADLINE: February 27, 2022

Global Commons



[OPENSOCIETYUNIVERSITYNETWORK.ORG](https://opensocietyuniversitynetwork.org)

Call for Submissions: OSUN Global Commons

The student editors of Global Commons invite students to submit pieces from a range of genres for consideration for its inaugural spring '22 issue.

APPLICATION PORTAL / DEADLINE: January 30, 2022

OSUN Engaged Learning Course Development Grant

[OPENSOCIETYUNIVERSITYNETWORK.ORG](https://opensocietyuniversitynetwork.org)

Faculty/Staff Opportunity: OSUN Engaged Learning Course Development Grant



OSUN is pleased to announce that applications are now open for the OSUN Engaged Learning Development Grants for the '22-'23 academic year. CAO's at OSUN partner institutions are invited to submit a funding proposal for up to five course development grants for faculty who seek to integrate community engagement into the curriculum.

APPLICATION PORTAL / DEADLINE: January 15, 2022

Experiential Learning Institute



[OPENSOCIETYUNIVERSITYNETWORK.ORG](https://opensocietyuniversitynetwork.org)

Faculty/Staff Opportunity: Apply to Experiential Learning Institute

The OSUN Civic Engagement Leadership Team and the IWT Center for Liberal Arts and Sciences Pedagogy (CLASP) invite applications from OSUN network partners to participate in the OSUN Experiential Learning Institute (ELI) in Spring 2022.

APPLICATION PORTAL / DEADLINE: January 28, 2022

Important Dates

- **31 January, 2022:** SIDP Spring 2022 Call Opens
- **14 February, 2022:** ACEP Spring 2022 Call Opens

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AUCA Center for
Civic Engagement

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