CCE Newsletter

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

CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

CCE Media Fellows

In Fall 2022, in order to promote civic engagement culture at AUCA and across the OSUN Network the Center for Civic Engagement decided to launch a new initiative - **CCE Media Fellows**!

CCE Media Fellows are AUCA students who engage in matters of public concern and create media materials (i.e., articles, documentaries) about various community-based initiatives of regular citizens of Kyrgyzstan. The idea is to raise awareness about such initiatives and thus encourage our community to become more socially responsible and civically engaged.

This 2022-2023 AY, **Salima Almazbekova (JMC)** and **Alina Baitokova (TCMA)** became the first Media Fellows at the Center for Civic Engagement.

To take a look at the first issue of our Media Fellows, please, follow the links below ⬇️

Article: "If you have an idea to make a better future, then the whole world will support you," the story of Omar Dairov, founder of one of the largest youth environmental organizations of Kyrgyzstan.

auca.kg

Documentary: The Story of Omar Dairov - Founder of One of the Largest Youth Environmental Organizations of KG

youtu.be

SIDP & ACEP Projects

In Fall 2022, **SIDP** approved 13 student projects (12 local, 1 international):

In Fall 2022, **ACEP** approved 10 student projects (4 local, 6 international):

- **"Basketball for All"** by Aidin Turganbekov, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Tech Youth Collab KG"** by Alina Mamatova & Begaiym Buzurmankulova, Kyrgyzstan (hybrid)
- **"Village Girl"** by Ainazik Zhanyshbekova, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Batken Youth Association for Mental Development"** by Azamat Azimov, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Altynym"** by Dzhamilia Lansarova, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Mental & Academic Counseling Service for Batken Youth"** (original title: Central Asian Nomad Youth) by Zhasmina Khalilova, Kyrgyzstan (online)
- **"Youth Potential of the Country (YPC)"** by Nurbolot Piridinov, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Advanced Training in Digital Literacy for Regional School Teachers"** (3rd round) by Nurkyz Sydykbekova, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Kurmanzhan"** (2nd round) by Symbat Kasymbekova, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Manas Ordo"** by Zhanet Oskoeva, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Green Day"** by Nurbubu Abdyashim kyzy, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Youth Empowerment Summer Camp"** by Waez Azizi, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Kaaj Girls Educational Program"** by Sakhi Ataye, Afghanistan (online)
- **"No Limit to Education"** by Arezu Kawah, Afghanistan (hybrid)
- **"Crisis Communication Training for 10 Journalist Students"** by Hafasa Yousufzai, Afghanistan
- **"Developing Project** Proposal **Idea"** by Mursal Jamal, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Let Girl Go & Get Knowledge"** by Najla Amini, Afghanistan (hybrid)
- **"Healing Arts Hub"** by Sanam Younasi, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Mental Health Awareness Program for Afghan Girls"** by Sitara Ahmadi, Afghanistan
- **"Afghan Girls Skill Capacitaion Workshop"** by Sophia Siddiqi, Afghanistan
- **"Living in an Empty Space"** by Zainab Amirzai, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Kyrgyz Girls Empowerment Program (KGEP)"** by Hawa Taban, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Afghan Girl's Health Crisis (AGHC)"** by Mina Tabibzadah & Hawa Taban, Afghanistan

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CCE Senior Capstone Projects Grant

In Spring 2022, CCE opened a new grant for AUCA graduating students - **CCE Senior Capstone Projects Grant (SCPG).**

CCE SCPG was created to support junior and senior students who are working on their senior projects that are related to the field of civic engagement, community work, outreach, and research. *This Fall 2022, students can apply for up to $500 USD of the grant between 25 November - 5 December.*

CCE supported 6 student projects in 2021-2022 AY:

- **"My friend Kuba, The Cinderella man"** documentary by Lutuofula Abudouxukeer (TCMA)
- **"Experiences of female youth in YNGOs: challenges and strategies of balancing different roles of female participants in YNGO activities"** research by Adina Sulumbekova (LAS)
- **"Stress levels, mental health awareness, and help-seeking behavior among undergraduate students of the American University of Central Asia"** research by Adinai Abdyrasulova (PSY)
- **"Engineering and Estimating Efficiency of the Artificial Intelligence Chatbot in Reducing Cognitive Distortions among AUCA Students"** research by Deniz Nazarova (SFW & PSY) - *postponed till Spring 2023*
- **"The Sounds of a City"** documentary by Mariia Pankova (TCMA)
- **"Rain is salvation": How do residents of Budalyk village live without access to clean water"** article by Zhamilia Asanova (JMC)

"My friend Kuba, The Cinderella man" documentary by Lutuofula Abudouxukeer

youtube.com

"The Sounds of a City" documentary by Mariia Pankova

youtube.com

"Rain is salvation": How do residents of Budalyk village live without access to clean water" article by Zhamilia Asanova

Such different, but identical stories of people from distant Budalyk village...

shortageofwaterinkyrg...

Fatima Club

In the academic year of 2022-2023, the Center for Civic Engagement decided to open the **"Fatima" club** to the whole AUCA community.

In Fall 2022, CCE has held 2 sessions so far on September 30 and October 21, 2022, inviting the team of a highly successful project “Teenagers in Free Enterprise (TIFE): Accelerator” as guest speakers (Open Society University Network’s Community Innovation HUBS Grant 2021 & Talloires Network’s MacJannet Prize Award for Global Citizenship 2022 winners), following the club members' growing interest in the field of social entrepreneurship. The “TIFE: Accelerator” coordinators talked about their project, introduced the students to social entrepreneurship and design thinking.

Partnership with FHI 360

In October 2022, **AUCA's Center for Civic Engagement signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the The USAID “Jigerduu Jarandar” project implemented by FHI 360** for establishing a partnership between the two parties in the areas of civic engagement, environmental awareness, and education.

In the framework of established partnership, on October 24-26, 2022, CCE held the **poster-exhibition "Araket sozuz aktalat!"** which presented the initiatives supported within the USAID “Jigerduu Jarandar” project. The project assisted LSGs in organizing initiative groups around the priority issues. The main goal was to provide information to all members of the community about the opportunity to participate in addressing priority problems of local importance.

CCE Public Lecture & Workshop

On November 20, 2022, CCE invited AUCA students, faculty and staff to the **public talk** and **workshop** conducted by two renowned scholars from the Institute for Public Life and Work (IPLW), USA - **Dr. Harry Boyte** and **Marie Ström**.

The "Building Flourishing Communities: Productive Citizenship"public talk and “Citizens as Co-Creators - Some Key Skills” workshop introduced the audience to the topic of active and engaged citizenship, as well as equipped them with the necessary skills in order to become one.

Moreover, Dr. Harry Boyte kindly signed and gifted his book **"Awakening Democracy Through Public Work:**

Pedagogies of Empowerment" to the Center.

Club Fair

On September 29, 2022, the American University of Central Asia held an annual **Club Fair exhibition**, where student leaders and their teams had an opportunity to promote their clubs and recruit new members among freshmen.

Together with the student Green Club, the Center for Civic Engagement participated in the event, promoting civic engagement culture among new students.

World Forum of Rectors & EXPO 2022

On September 14-15, 2022, on behalf of the American University of Central Asia, the Center for Civic Engagement participated in a 2-day event - **"World Forum of Rectors: The Role of Universities in Building National Innovation Ecosystem"** and the **international exhibition of universities "EXPO 2022"** within the framework of the rectors' forum organized by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Association of Higher Education Institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The exhibition was attended by the representatives of the leading universities from more than 60 countries, such as the USA, Great Britain, Germany, United Arab Emirates, India, South Korea, etc., famous scientists, representatives of the business community, creative intellectuals, international educational organizations, and mass media. The purpose of the exhibition was to show the role of higher education institutions in the formation of an innovative ecosystem, where advanced innovative developments created by students and university teachers were accumulated.

CCE Get-Together

On October 17, 2022, CCE invited over for a dinner the students and alumni with whom we had been working together in previous years in order to discuss new ways for future collaborations. Among the guests were OSUN Get Engaged 2022 conference alumni, OSUN Global Fellows, "TIFE: Accelerator" project team and other student leaders.

Thanksgiving Letter Marathon

On November 23-25, 2022, CCE decided to launch a small initiative - **Thanksgiving Letter marathon**. AUCA faculty and staff were invited to write letters of gratitude to each other for the past year: to colleagues, other offices or departments, the university administration or anyone else within AUCA, to whom they are grateful for something.

CCE was especially moved by the letters of **Elmira Amandykova** (AUCA medical therapist) and **Ekaterina Kombarova** (AUCA website director) and awarded them with some interesting prizes on November 30.

Ecological Programming

6R Festival

On October 1, 2022, AUCA hosted the **"6R Fest: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse, Rot, Rethink" social and environmental festival** dedicated to the topic of waste management in everyday life. The festival included EcoTEDx-2, a fair of hand-made products from "waste" and eco-goods of domestic manufacturers, a photo exhibition, a book fair, master classes, a lottery with prizes, an initiative "Buy Nothing" (exchange of clothes and books).

6R FEST: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse, Rot, Rethink

youtube.com

There was also a promotion - bring 5 kg of waste paper and get a book as a gift.

Overall, during the festival, we collected more than 90 kg of waste paper in exchange for 20 books! No one left without gifts!

6R Fest: об отходах интересно и разнообразно

Первого октября в АУЦА прошел социально-экологический фестиваль "6R Fest: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse, Rot, Rethink", посвященный теме управления отходами в повседневной...

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Eco-Activism International Day

October 14, 2022, CCE in partnership with the public foundation "ЭкоМир - environmental monitoring and investigations" and support of the Kyrgyz-German-Swiss program "Green Economy and Sustainable Development of the Private Sector in the Kyrgyz Republic" implemented by GIZ held the **International Day of Eco-Activist** - a very special event dedicated to people who invested a piece of themselves in civic engagement and eco-activism.

The intrigue lies in the fact that such a date does not exist in the global calendar of holidays, but AUCA, together with eco-activists, proposes to initiate such an environmental date.

The International Day of Eco-Activist

On Friday, October 14th, the AUCA Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) in partnership with the public foundation "ЭкоМир - environmental monitoring and investigations" and with support of the Kyrgyz-German-Swiss program "Green Economy and sustainable development of the private...

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Eco-Tour

On October 15, 2022, as part of the "Green October" month at AUCA, CCE organized an **educational eco-tour** for students of AUCA and other universities of KR to locations near Bishkek with environmental problems with air, water, soil, flora, and fauna. The trip was attended by 30 students and 3 experts - ecologist/medic, eco-activist and urbanist. Eco-tour participants visited the Kant cement-slate plant, made stops near the river, reeds, in the fields of the Chui region, as well as the Ala-Archa reservoir and the city dump.

Eco-Exhibitions

In October 2022, there were 3 exhibitions at AUCA dedicated to the topic of environmental protection: a **photo exhibition by Vlad Ushakov "The Time of Kozhozhash"** and **two exhibitions of eco-caricatures by** the famous scientist, biologist, ornithologist and ecologist **Emil Dzhaparovich Shukurov** and the famous cartoonist **Ruslan Valitova**.

The photo exhibition was presented for the first time - photos were printed specially for our exhibition. Exhibitions were organized by the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) of AUCA within the framework of the "Green October" month together with the "EcoMiR" organization and with the support of the Kyrgyz-German-Swiss program "Green Economy and Sustainable Development of the Private Sector in the Kyrgyz Republic" implemented by GIZ.

At AUCA, until the end of the week, you can watch 3 eco-exhibitions. There are photos and ecocaricatures

At the American University of Central Asia, until the end of this week, you can see 3 exhibitions dedicated to the topic of environmental protection: a photo exhibition by Vlad Ushakov "The Time of Kozhozhash" and two exhibitions of ecocaricatures by the famous scientist, biologist, ornithologist...

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Green Day in Elm Grove

Lecturer of the Sociology department Zharkyn Shadymanova together with the Center for Civic Engagement initiated a **Green Day in Elm Grove** on November 5, 2022. AUCA students, schoolchildren from 3 metropolitan schools and volunteers from the educational center joined the event. In total, about 90 volunteers took part in planting of 35 trees, 500 hedge seedlings and 1000 tulips and cleaning in Elm Grove.

On November 18, the "Green Day" project team hosted a presentation and an Award Ceremony to conclude the efforts and achievements of the participants.

Green Day in Elm Grove

AUCA students and schoolchildren planted 35 trees, 500 hedge seedlings and 1000 tulips in Elm Grove. Lecturer of the department "Sociology" Zharkyn Shadymanova together with the AUCA Center for Civic Engagement, initiated a Green Day in Elm Grove...

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"Green Day" Project Presentation and Award Ceremony

On Friday, November 18th, the Green Day Project hosted a presentation and an Award Ceremony to conclude the efforts and achievements of the participants of the Green Day in Elm Grove...

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Green AUCA: Eco-Boxes

As part of the Green AUCA project, CCE purchased and installed additional **15 new eco-boxes** for waste paper in 13 AUCA offices/departments. We send all waste paper for recycling.

To date, AUCA has delivered more than a ton (1000 kg) of waste paper.

Saved Pumpkins Day

Three AUCA offices - the Center for Civic Engagement, Office for Extracurricular Activities of Students and Kitchennet - announced **Pumpkin Day** and invited everyone to taste pumpkin dishes saved after Halloween on November 2, 2022! As part of the Green AUCA project, we want as little food as possible to be thrown into the trash on our campus. Thus, this year, we decided to do such a culinary experiment.

Open Society University Network: Opportunities

Certificate in Civic Engagement

Freshmen, sophomore and junior students, who have experience in the field of civic engagement, are eligible to apply for the Certificate in Civic Engagement program!

Deadline: March 15, 2023

Certificate in Civic Engagement | Open Society University Network

The Certificate in Civic Engagement 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...

opensocietyuniversity...

Get Engaged Conference 2023

Students are welcome to apply for the Get Engaged Summer Conference taking place on June 28-July 4, 2023 at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary!

To apply: CLICK HERE

Deadline: December 3, 2022

Get Engaged Conference | Open Society University Network

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,...

opensocietyuniversity...

Important Deadlines for Winter 2022-23

25 November - 5 December: CCE SCPG call for Fall 2022

1-10 February: CCE SCPG call for Spring 2023

6-20 February: SIDP call for Spring 2023

13-27 February: ACEP call for Spring 2023

Support Us