

CCE Newsletter

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



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 Baltokova (TCMA)** became the first Media Fellows at the Center for Civic Engagement.

To take a look at the second issue of our Media Fellows, please, follow the links below [!](#)



Article: "Art and women empowerment in "Synergy": how three Kyrgyzstani female artists do it."

[auca.kg](#)



Documentary: "Synergy" - Embodiment of Art & Women Empowerment

[youtube](#)

Student Initiative Development Program

For Spring 2023, **SIDP** approved 12 student projects (11 local, 1 international):

- **"Digital Skills and Self Learning for Afghan Youth"** by Abdullah Nazari, Afghanistan (online)
- **"Self-Development Club"** (2nd round) by Alzhama Duihoronbekova, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Disabled children in Bishkek"** by Arifa Anni, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Art for Everyone"** by Baizaman Bakirov, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Altyntym"** (2nd round) by Dzhamilia Lansarova, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Training on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights"** by Erbol Tiukebaev, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Our Wasteful Impact on Climate Change"** by Jung Yoonho, Kyrgyzstan
- **"EcoDea"** by Kanykei Kochkambaeva, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Basketball for All"** (5th round) by Magimur Dzhaiparova, Kyrgyzstan
- **"English Summer Camp 2023 (UNET)"** by Nurbotol Pridinov, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Girls for Girls"** by Saikynai Emilbekova, Kyrgyzstan
- **"Training on Raising Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder"** by Taazim Ulan, Kyrgyzstan

* **Finalists of the Afghan Civic Engagement Program (ACEP)** will be announced later.

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.

CCE approved 6 student projects this 2022-2023 AY:

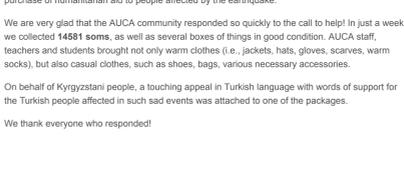
- **"Adaptation of Wheelchair users in Bishkek and Public Kindness"** research by Saltanat Namazbekova (SOC)
- **"The Impact of the Trash Polygon on Bishkek citizens"** research by Zuhayro Zulflova (JMC)
- **"Sex education in the families: how to talk about "that" with children?"** educational project by Valeriia Radchenko (PSY)
- **"Climate Change and its Impact on Economic Activity of Kyrgyzstan"** research by Nargiza Maksatova (BA)
- **"Short film about a woman director editor who overcomes difficulties of the post-war period and becomes a significant part of the Kyrgyz cinema"** documentary by Elina Likhodiava (TCMA)
- **"Unseen Heroes: The Invisible Struggles of Mothers Raising Children with Disabilities in Kyrgyzstan"** documentary by Nazarbakt Yulfova (JMC)

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 Winter 2022-23, CCE held 2 sessions on December 9, 2022 and February 17, 2023. Due to the upcoming final exams season and thus students' heightened levels of anxiety and stress, the session on December 9 focused on creative therapy to help students relax and relieve some stress. The session on February 17 was dedicated to the topic of project proposal writing to support them in applying for different grants, including the Student Initiative Development Program and Afghan Civic Engagement Program.



Fundraising for Earthquake Victims

From February 17 to 24, 3 AUCA offices - the **AUCA Student Senate**, the **Student Life Office** and the **Center for Civic Engagement** - announced the collection of belongings and funds for the purchase of humanitarian aid to people affected by the earthquake.

We are very glad that the AUCA community responded so quickly to the call to help! In just a week, we collected **14881 soms**, as well as several boxes of things in good condition. AUCA staff, teachers and students brought not only warm clothes (i.e., jackets, hats, gloves, scarves, warm socks), but also casual clothes, such as shoes, bags, various necessary accessories.

On behalf of Kyrgyzstani people, a touching appeal in Turkish language with words of support for the Turkish people affected in such sad events was attached to one of the packages.

We thank everyone who responded!

Christmas Gift Fair 2022

On December 9, 2022, CCE together with the student volunteer Green Club held a Christmas damarka (i.e., gift fair) with a dance flash mob and eco-contests. The purpose of the damarka was not only to exchange clothes and books, thereby prolonging their lives, but also to raise funds for the residents of the Bishkek city nursing home for the elderly. The administration of the nursing home asked for 60 winter warm hats for their residents.

Everyone could buy anything they liked on damarka, including sweet pastries, at a very affordable price. We thank those staff and faculty members who responded and brought home-made pastries to the event! Pies, cakes and healthy desserts were sold out very quickly! Also, at will, everyone could put any amount in the donation box.

Thus, in 3 hours, we collected **14500 soms!** After the event, we continued to receive donations from the AUCA community and together we were able to gather the necessary **21000 soms** for the nursing home, on which we bought 60 hats for the elderly.

Visit to Nursing Home

On December 22, 2022, before Christmas and New Year holidays, together with a couple of staff and student volunteers, we went to the Bishkek city nursing home for the elderly and presented them with 60 winter hats purchased with donations.

A Secret Santa from one of AUCA employees presented their camera to the nursing home so that the staff of the nursing home could capture all the joyful events taking place in their home. Also, with the money we collected, we bought SD cards and long-term batteries for the camera and several grand cakes for tea for the elderly.

We brought all these gifts on behalf of AUCA to the administration and residents of the nursing home. The residents were very touched by the gifts and attention, thanked us with tears of joy in their eyes and invited us to visit them more often.

We cordially thank everyone who donated and took part in our Christmas campaign - purchased something on damarka (i.e., gift fair), donated money, cooked pastries or bought sweets, gave home-made pastries to the nursing home, etc. Thanks to all of you, we performed a small miracle: we gave the elderly not just the things they needed, but also joy and attention of young people - what they lack so much!

This is not our last charity event, follow our announcements and news!

ANNOUNCEMENT: Craftswomen from Bishkek Nursing Home in 6R FEST!

When we were visiting the Bishkek nursing home, we were showing a room filled with very beautiful and interesting hand-made products. There you could see sewn and knitted items, jewelry, toy houses, vases, baskets, coasters for hot beverages and much more. It turned out that all these unique products are created by the residents of the nursing home themselves!

These items can decorate any home, they can be worn and used for their intended purpose, and will create a special village atmosphere. Moreover, the craftswomen make them from unnecessary things - pieces of fabrics, newspapers, used plastic bottles, glass containers, cans of cosmetics, tetrapacks, etc. These are examples of the real upcycling - the most trendy and eco-friendly art right now!

We invited the craftswomen from the nursing home to take part in their products in our **2nd 6R FEST** - a festival dedicated to waste management in everyday life, which will be held on **April 15 at AUCA**.

Moreover, they will make new hand-made products specifically for our festival. Their products will be available for purchase at the fair sale during **6R FEST**. All funds from the sale of products will go to the needs of the Bishkek home for the elderly.

In the photos below you can see a small part of what the residents of the Bishkek nursing home make with their own hands.



Third Gift Fair at AUCA: What's New?

On February 10, 2023, the Forum hosted the 3rd damarka - gift fair, exchange of things and bookmakas within the framework of the initiative "Buy nothing in Bishkek!". We are very pleased that damarkas are becoming more popular among the AUCA community. A lot of useful, beautiful and interesting things, books and decorative items, accessories, costume jewelry and jewelry, dishes are brought to the gift fair. AUCA staff, students and faculty actively exchange things with each other, as well as buy something for themselves and for their relatives.

For the first time, staff, faculty and students of **TSU** college joined our damarka. They brought a lot of things to AUCA, saw with their own eyes how the damarka was taking place, and took an active part in the exchange of things. Now they are planning to host similar social and environmental events.

Student volunteer Green Club AUCA held an eco-quizz with delicious prizes from "Kul'kovsky" TM among the participants of the damarka.



The **AUCA Applied Mathematics and Informatics Department** also took an active part in this charity event. They provided for the damarka a book developed by AUCA professors with the exercises for the republican Mathematical Olympiads of 2020-2022 for grades 6-11 with answers. The book is written in Russian and is intended for schoolchildren and teachers.

If you are interested in purchasing this book, you can do to the office CCE (room #236). The book costs **200 soms**. Please, refer to Margarita, the coordinator of the "Green AUCA" program. You can also reach out to her via email: lazutkina_m@auca.kg.

All the proceeds from the gift fair, including those from the book, will go to charity to the Bishkek city nursing home for the elderly. During the damarka, **3000 soms** were collected.



TEDx without Barriers

On December 17, 2022, AUCA hosted the event "TEDx without Barriers: 5 life stories and achievements from people with disabilities and their relatives." The main purpose of the event was to gather people with and without disabilities on one site and show that we are all different and similar at the same time, we have similar dreams and desires, goals and aspirations.

Among the speakers were **Gulnaz Zhuzbayeva**, founder of the "Kyrgyz Federation of the Blind" organization and a training course for the blind from the regions of the Kyrgyz Republic that is taking place at AUCA, and **Seinap Dyikanbayeva**, lawyer of the public association of parents of children with disabilities "ARDI." Both speakers are graduates of AUCA.

Some staff members of our university also shared their personal stories. Elmira Amandykova, a therapist at AUCA's medical office, told about her son Adil Alymbekov, who, due to a progressive illness, could not move in a wheelchair. The father of a special daughter Umair Altynbek Karamoldoev told about the life of his family, their joys and difficulties.



OSUN ELI Workshop #2

Within the framework of OSUN, CCE and Social Sciences Division of AUCA (Dr. Jarkyn Shadymanova & Dr. Gorkem Atsunur) organize the Experiential Learning Workshop Series for faculty and staff.

The mission of the ELI is to foster, promote, and explore the pedagogy of experiential learning by expanding course offering that connect student's classroom experiences with their local community to enhance learning and promote co-curricular engagement.

As a result of the workshops, the best 3 course proposals will be supported with the grant (\$1000 USD each).

Upcoming workshops:

- **Workshop III: March 31, 2023**
- **Final presentation: April 14, 2023**

CCE Presentation at BIS

On February 10, the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) conducted a presentation regarding its work, values, programs and upcoming events for the students of the Bishkek International School (BIS) per the invitation of Aigul Kubatbekova, community engagement and development leader at BIS. The students expressed their interest in volunteering and taking part in the center's activities.



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: April 3, 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 pursuing curricular and co-curricular interests...

opensocietyuniversity...

Important Deadlines for Spring 2023

3 April: OSUN CE Certificate Program

Support Us

