Eleven winners were awarded grants up to US$3,000 to implement innovative community development projects across Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan on January 15th and 17th 2018. UCA’s School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE) received over 800 applications from young men and women (18 to 31 years of age) in Kyrgyzstan, and over 440 from Kazakhstan, for its Change the World Around You! competition, funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation and the Coca-Cola Company. Read more about the contest in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

**Competition winners come from Petropablovsk, Atyrau, Almaty and Shymkent in Kazakhstan (top), and from Bishkek, Osh, Issyk-Kul, Talas and Batken in Kyrgyzstan (bottom).**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**Winners Announced for Social Entrepreneurship Competition in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan**

Dr Gulnara Dzhunushalieva, Director of UCA’s SPCE congratulates contest winners. Seated from L to R: Dr Bohdan Krawchenko, Dean of the Graduate School of Development at UCA, Aiperi Emilbekova, Coca-Cola representative, and Rishat Mukhamedjanov, COO of First MicroFinance Company.

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In early January, UCA’s School of Arts and Sciences held a Winter Upgrading Programme for 100 students from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. Students studied 32 hours of English and mathematics in an English-speaking environment, and participated in evening programmes. The programme was held at UCA’s Naryn Campus in Kyrgyzstan, as well as in Kulyab, Dushanbe and at the Khorog Campus in Tajikistan. They also participated in evening programmes led by UCA second year undergraduate students, including a campus scavenger hunt and trivia night.

Grade 11 Students Participate in Regional Programme to Boost English and Math Skills

On January 31st, Rabia Nasimi, a young Afghan woman who is studying for her PhD at Cambridge University, addressed UCA undergraduate students at the Naryn and Khorog campuses via online conferencing. The lecture was presented in a Q&A format, and facilitated by the Student Life team.

"Achieving your goals is never easy but it is essential to always keep your goal in mind every day. Through each step of my journey, I have focused my energy on the next objective while planning two or three steps ahead," said Rabia sharing advice with UCA students.

"The lecture was a great success. UCA students were pleased to learn from Rabia about her student experience and used the word ‘inspirational’ when describing the event," said Erik Krauss, Manager of Student Affairs at UCA remarking on the lecture.
03 | SPCE in Action

◄ Pre-intermediate level learners participate in an English speaking club led by Kalamkas Bitayeva and Anatoliy Gonta at UCA’s School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE) in Tekeli, Kazakhstan.

▲ Instructor Gulbuddin Nasrat led an English Club for pre-beginner learners at UCA’s SPCE Satellite Learning Centre in Ishkashim, Afghanistan.

▲ Twenty-five students participated in a debate competition at SPCE-Badakhshan University’s Continuing Education Unit in Faizabad, Afghanistan.

◄ Forty-five students from elementary to intermediate level attended an English Club led by Instructor Abdul Saboor Farid in Faizabad.

◄ UCA’s SPCE launched a mental math training for three instructors from Ishkashim, Darwaz and Shugnan districts in Afghanistan on January 29th. The initiative will enable them to deliver mental maths training to over 120 prospective math and science instructors, who are currently studying at teacher training colleges in Badakhshan, Afghanistan. It is funded by the International Development and Research Center in Canada and the Aga Khan Foundation Canada, and will be conducted until February 23rd.
The Mayor of Naryn town, Emilbek Alymkulov, conveyed his gratitude for the productive collaboration and support from the University of Central Asia during the past year. He also expressed his deep appreciation of UCA’s School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE) English language courses, and plans to encourage local municipality representatives to enroll in and promote various programmes offered by SPCE. Besides the Mayor of Naryn, Nurbek Nisharapov, Campus Head at UCA’s School of Professional and Continuing Education in Naryn also visited other local Naryn town officials to discuss SPCE’s past and future impact in the region. Among those he met were Kasen Asizov, Deputy Governor of the Naryn Oblast, and Jyrgalbek Botokano, Speaker of Naryn Town.

UCA Undergraduate Students Win Naryn Spelling Bee

At a Spelling Bee Contest on January 26th at the Naryn American Corner in Kyrgyzstan, Roza Amanova and Nurlan Nogoibaev, undergraduate students at the University of Central Asia, won first and second place. Congratulations! About 20 students participated from UCA and Naryn State University. As finalists, Roza and Nurlan will compete in the National Spelling Bee competition in February in Bishkek, funded by the U.S. Embassy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
IPPA Workshop

Economic Policy for Technological Development in Central Asia

UCA’s Institute of Public Policy and Administration (IPPA) conducted a workshop on Economic Policy for Technological Development in Central Asia in Bishkek, bringing together around 40 participants from government agencies, international organisations and associations, as well as academics and researchers. The workshop presented results from an analysis of macroeconomics, foreign trade and agricultural policies in the countries of Central Asia. It was held as part of the Strengthening Mathematics, Science and Economic Policy Capacity in Afghanistan and Central Asia project, funded by the International Development Research Center and the Aga Khan Foundation Canada.

NEW RESEARCH AT UCA

Dr Kemel Toktomushev, Research Fellow at UCA’s IPPA, contributed a chapter to George Washington University’s recent publication China’s Belt and Road Initiative and its Impact in Central Asia. The chapter, One Belt, One Road: A New Source of Rent for Ruling Elites in Central Asia?, addresses corruption and Dr Toktomushev has tried to assess the threats of rent-seeking behavior for the successful implementation of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative in Central Asia. See Chapter 8, p. 77.

Dr Lira Sagynbekova, Research Fellow at UCA’s Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI), published a paper on Environment, Rural Livelihoods, and Labour Migration: A Case Study in Central Kyrgyzstan in Mountain Research and Development (MRD), an international, peer-reviewed and open access journal. Read online.

IPPA’s Latest Research on the Tourism Sector in Kyrgyzstan

UCA’s IPPA has released its Working Paper #42 on the Tourism Sector in Kyrgyzstan: Trends and Challenges by Nazgul Jenish, Senior Research Fellow at IPPA. It is available for free by download from the UCA website in English and Russian.

MSRI Research on Vulnerability of Mountain Societies in Central Asia


In a recent article, GlacierHub also breaks down the ongoing discussion on mountain societies and their challenges. “The main challenges to development are remoteness, harsh terrain, high risk of mountain-specific natural disasters and scarce resources,” noted Dr Dietrich Schmidt-Vogt, former Head of UCA’s MSRI. Read more.
Applications are open for UCA's undergraduate programmes at the Naryn campus in the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as Khorog in Tajikistan. Interested students can apply today for the 2018-2019 academic year. UCA offers specialisations in Communications and Media and Computer Science (Naryn Campus); Earth and Environmental Sciences and Economics (Khorog Campus). Applications can be made online, by email, or in person, with all required documents. Learn more

Webinar on UCA's Undergraduate Programme

UCA's School of Arts and Sciences is holding an upcoming webinar on career paths with UCA programmes on February 22nd from 4:00-5:00pm. Click here to register