UCA News ▪ March 2018

In This Issue
01 | News
07 | Global Money Week
09 | Navroz
10 | Community Service
12 | Student Life
13 | Outreach Activities
14 | Announcements

Afghan Civil Servants Start Executive Masters Programme at UCA

UCA launched its Executive Masters in Economic Policy (EMEP) Programme, offered through the Graduate School of Development’s Institute of Public Policy and Administration (IPPA) on March 17th 2018. The Programme will be delivered in three terms in Bishkek and Naryn, and is offered primarily to Afghan civil servants through a partnership with Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Aga Khan Foundation Canada, and the Afghan Ministry of Finance. Citizens from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were also eligible to apply. Forty-three percent (10 of 23) of the participants from the Afghan Ministry of Finance are women.

EMEP is designed to equip civil servants with sound theoretical knowledge and the tools of economic management and policy-making required to tackle issues faced by developing economies. The programme is tailored to Afghanistan’s and Central Asian’s realities and needs, and is built around real-world examples and case studies.
UCA to Hold World Mountain Forum in Partnership with Kyrgyz Government

On March 13th, Marc Foggin, Acting Director of UCA’s Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI), announced UCA’s initiative to organise the World Mountain Forum (WMF) in October 2018. The announcement was made during a meeting with Sanjar Mukanbetov, Vice Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Development Partners Coordination Council at Government’s Office in Bishkek. At the meeting it was then decided to consolidate efforts and hold a joint event with UCA. The WMF matches with the initiative of Sapar Isakov, Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic to organise an international climate change conference in Fall 2018.

The WMF 2018 will be hosted in Kyrgyzstan, and aims to showcase achievements and inspiring scenarios in mountain societies. The overall goal of the WMF 2018 is to develop a scenario for a thriving mountain future - and sketch out possible pathways towards it. The Forum has been held in different mountain regions of the world (Europe, Latin America and Africa) for the last three years.

Realising Education’s Promise in Kyrgyzstan

The World Bank, and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic in collaboration with UCA and the American University of Central Asia, co-organised an event on March 16th to discuss the opportunities and challenges of education in the Kyrgyz Republic, based on key findings of the World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education’s Promise. During panel discussion, Dr Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of UCA (centre with microphone), highlighted some of the challenges of education reform while he was Pakistan’s Minister of Education and as Minister of Science and Technology during 2007-2008.
Over 340 Attend UCA's Health Fair in Naryn

UCA’s Naryn Campus Health Fair brought together over 340 people from the Naryn community to increase awareness about healthy lifestyles on March 31st in Kyrgyzstan. The Health Fair offered free blood pressure tests, sessions on how to maintain a healthy diet, and the importance of good nutrition. Master-classes on first aid and making artwork from eco-friendly materials were also popular, as was the outdoor healthy foods fair. Guests participated in Kyrgyz traditional sports games including tug-of-war, toguz korgool and top tash, and competed in a chess tournament.

The fair was organised by UCA in collaboration with UCA’s undergraduate students, the School of Continuing and Professional Education, and the Naryn Diagnostic Center with support from Aga Khan Health Services, Naryn Town Sports Committees, and other international and local community organisations.

Read more: [English](#), [Russian](#), [Kyrgyz](#)

UCA Conducts Undergraduate Admissions Exam in 8 Countries

UCA’s undergraduate admission exams were conducted on March 25th across 24 cities in 8 countries of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Russian, Kenya and Syria for the 2018-2019 academic year.

The outcome of the exams will be available to all applicants by mid-April. Shortlisted candidates will be provided instructions on the recommendation letter and financial aid application requirements and deadlines. Shortlisted students will also undergo an interview prior to the final selection of students for the incoming Class of 2023. Wishing all applicants the very best!
Over 50 students participated at the University of Central Asia’s first Model United Nations Conference on April 1st at the UCA Naryn Campus. The conference provided a platform for students to learn about the complexities of international relations through a United Nations simulation. The discussion topics included promoting women’s involvement in government, the social cultural adaptation of migrants in the European Union, and the threat of nuclear proliferation.

Students from Naryn State University, AUCA, Ala-Too International University, International University of Central Asia, Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, the Westminster International University in Tashkent, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Academy in Bishkek, Bishkek Turkish High School, AUCA Bilimkana School, Turkish High School in Naryn, and UCA in Naryn and Khorog, Tajikistan participated in the conference. One of the objectives of the UCAMUN conference was to educate young people in the art of debate, negotiation, and public speaking by providing a forum in which they could hone their skills.

Faculty Research Development Training

On March 26th to 30th, UCA’s MSRI organised a training workshop in Bishkek to develop the research capacity of professors from Badakhshan University, Bamyan University and Khorog State University. The workshop was organised as part of an IDRC project, aimed at enhancing the capacity of faculty of higher-education institutions in Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The participating faculty were also encouraged to share their knowledge with their colleagues, to help enhance the research capacity at their respective institutions.
Teacher Training at SPCE

UCA's School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE) in Khorog launched professional development sessions for SPCE English teachers on March 20th. Sessions will be conducted twice weekly and are led by Donista Soljionova, English Instructor at SPCE. In March, participants analysed existing teaching methods, were introduced to new teaching strategies and enhanced their knowledge of teaching English as a Secondary language. The sessions also provided a great opportunity for teacher collaboration.

Faculty Research Lecture Series

Nurbek Nisharapov, Campus Head of UCA's SPCE in Naryn was a guest speaker at a social entrepreneurship training on March 23rd. Nisharapov shared UCA's experience delivering it's social entrepreneurship programme in Kyrgyzstan. The training was organised by the Association of Social Entrepreneurship at the Kultur-Café in Naryn.

HAPPENINGS AT UCA

- Zalina Enikeeva, Junior Research Fellow at UCA’s Institute of Public Policy and Administration (IPPA), participated in a methodological workshop in the framework of the Agricultural Policy Indicators for Selected Countries of the Former Soviet Union project in Tbilisi, Georgia on March 5th and 6th. The workshop introduced the project’s background, objectives, methodology and the data requirements for the calculation of the agricultural policy indicators in participating countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova). It was organised by the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia in collaboration with the Trade and Market Division of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

- Dr Roman Mogilevskii, Associate Director and Senior Research Fellow of UCA’s IPPA delivered a presentation on Kyrgyzstan: Country Case Study at the Global Exemplars in Stunting Reduction workshop on March 9th. He participated remotely and shared the preliminary results of research on the reasons of stunting reduction among children of 0-5 years old in Kyrgyzstan. The workshop was organised by SickKids, the Centre for Global Child Health in Toronto, Canada.

- Sear Ahmad (right), UCA undergraduate student at the Naryn Campus, represented UCA at the Münster University International Model United Nations from March 24th to 28th in Münster, Germany. He was awarded one of five scholarships to attend this event. Well done!
Local Entrepreneurs Share Insights on How to Develop Successful Businesses

UCA’s SPCE in Khorog, in collaboration with the Regional Council’s National Task Force, organised meetings for 36 SPCE business planning students and 5 successful local entrepreneurs in March. The entrepreneurs shared how to start a business, the challenges they faced, and how they overcame them. The participants asked many questions, and also learnt about new business opportunities in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast.

Faculty Development Programme Conducted in Tajikistan

UCA’s Aga Khan Humanities Project (AKHP) conducted a faculty development programme workshop for 27 instructors from Dangara State University (DSU) and Kulob State University (KSU) from March 22nd to 26th at DSU in Dangara, Tajikistan. The workshop covered the themes “Introduction to Humanities” and “Individual and Society,” and was delivered by Dr Gulmira Bilialova, AKHP Regional trainer from Almaty, Kazakhstan and Mekhrinisso Umarova, National Trainer Assistant from KSU. Following the successful workshop, Professor Shohiyon Nurali Nabot, Rector of DSU expressed a wish to further develop effective cooperation between the two educational institutes.

SPCE Grad Prepares for World Nomad Games

Talant Niyazov is a graduate of UCA’s SPCE entrepreneurship programme in Naryn. With the World Nomad Games upcoming in September, he is using his new skills to prepare for tourism services in the region. As a result of what he learned at SPCE and the connections he made there, Talant sees more possibilities for services that improve people’s quality of life and enterprises that link them to the world.

PUBLIC LECTURES

In March, the Aga Khan Humanities Project (AKHP) delivered three public lectures in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Dushanbe and Khorog, Tajikistan.

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, March 24th: “Exiting the “East-West” Labyrinth through “Dakhlez” by Dr Nargis T. Nurulla-Khodjaeva, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Almaty, Kazakhstan, March 29th: “Obstacle Course”, Marjan Erbulatovna Elshibaeva, Executive Director, Kaspi Bank

Khorog, Tajikistan, March 31st: “Let not whoever has not been associated with culture, be proud of their happiness” by Amad Mamatsultanovich Mansurov, Artist, Member of the Union of Artists of the USSR, Distinguished Worker of Culture of Tajikistan, Creator and curator of the Museum of Pamir’s Nature under Yusufbekov Biological Institute, Khorog

AKHP PUBLICATION

In March, AKHP published a new book AKHP Public Lecture Series 2018 covering the Cross-Disciplinary Discourse in the Context of Interrelations between Humanities and Scientific Studies. It was published in cooperation with the «Irfon» book publishing house in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
UCA’s School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE) participated in Global Money Week from March 12th to 19th at its learning centres in Bishkek, Naryn (Kyrgyzstan), Dushanbe, Khorog (Tajikistan), Tekeli (Kazakhstan), and satellite learning centres across Afghanistan.

SPCE organised several events for Grade 7 to 11 students including lectures on Money Matters Matter, financial literacy, budgeting, money and finance and setting SMART goals. Students also visited the local banks and financial institutions to learn about how to open new bank accounts and banking services such as the ATM, online banking and safety deposit boxes. Various contests were conducted such as an essay writing competition, creating artwork without spending money, and a photography and videography contest. Student handicrafts and creations were displayed at an exhibition in some centres.
On March 14th Academic Achievement Programme learners in Bishkek played a financial game on “Knowledge of budget” led by Adilbek uulu Shumkarbek. Students learned how to develop a budget.

Multiple sessions on “Money Matters Matter” were organized for Grade 7 to 10 Academic Achievement Programme students at SPCE Dushanbe, SPCE Khorog, as well as in all schools located in Khorog town and Dushanbe city. The sessions were held in 3-5 schools in each of the six GBAO districts and involved over 1500 participants.

Forty-nine winners of an handicrafts and art competition related to Global Money Week were invited to an awards ceremony on March 17th in Khorog, Tajikistan at the Presidential School. The student artwork was displayed in the Global Money Week 2018 exhibition organized before the official awards ceremony.

SPCE Khorog together with other partners organised drawing, photography, best video footage, handicraft, essay writing competitions for children between Grade 5 to 11. Over 2000 of children were involved in these competitions from Khorog and other Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) regions.

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

UCA’s SPCE in partnership with Khorog state University, the Centre of Creativity for teenagers and youth, local TV and local entrepreneurs participated in a Talk Show. It involved experts and students of Economics in a debate of “Money Matters Matter”. The programme was broadcasted through local TV during GMW 2018.
UCA Celebrates Start of Spring

On March 21st, UCA’s SPCE participated in a book exhibition dedicated to the celebration of Navroz in the Aga Khan Park in Khorog Town. It showcased UCA publications and SPCE programme information. Shodikxon Jamshed (centre), Governor of Gorno Badakshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) visited UCA’s exhibition, among other prominent guests from Dushanbe, and residents of Khorog and GBAO.

Students in Naryn celebrated Navroz on campus on March 21st. They participated in a yurt building activity, played tug-of-war, enjoyed tasting and cooking national dishes of different countries and danced.

UCA students and staff celebrated Navroz in the Khorog town. Students also wore their national dress in celebration.
Students Volunteering

Teaching English and Math

UCA students in Khorog, Tajikistan volunteered at the Rushon orphanage on March 4th as part of an ongoing community service project. This was the second time they visited the school and taught English and math to Grade 8, 9, 10 and 11 students. UCA students also organised some games for the primary schoolchildren. They played energizing games, and UCA students also led activities to practice numbers and the Alphabet in English.

Skills Development Workshop

Undergraduate students at the UCA Naryn Campus organised a 3-hour skills development workshop on effective communication on March 10th. Students from different schools in Naryn and youth from the community participated. It was organised as part of the ‘Razakar’ student volunteering initiative. ‘Razakar’ provides UCA students a platform to apply their skills and serve the community around them in areas of academics, life skills (leadership skills, stress management) and environment.

Teen Book Club

On March 17th, UCA students in Khorog organised a Teen Book Club event for twenty-four students from five state schools in Khorog. In previous sessions, students read chapters of the chosen book, Breadwinner, and presented summaries. This closing event marked the completion of the book, where participants delivered presentations and skits. The Book Club was launched in November 2017 and held every Saturday.
Preparing Students for IELTS

Tojiniso Olimnazarova, English Faculty member at UCA, is conducting weekly International English Language Testing System (IELTS) reading sessions as part of her community service to students from SPCE Khorog and London-based Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS) joint project Postgraduate Preparatory Programme (PGPP). PGPP is an 11-month programme that aims at preparing students to continue their studies at IIS.

The objective of these sessions is to help the students develop their overall reading skills and introduce them to specific reading techniques used in the reading component of the IELTS test. This will increase their chances of being accepted to the IIS and other English-medium institutions abroad.

UCA Students Launch English Programme In Naryn

On March 31st, undergraduate students launched a weekly English Language Learning Programme (ELLP) as part of the ‘Razakar’ student volunteering imitative at the UCA Naryn Campus. Over 40 participants including students from Naryn State University, Naryn youth organisations, the Single Parent Association, journalists, and other adult professionals of Naryn community joined the programme.

ELLP is led by UCA students and will follow curriculum developed by Dr Roza Kazakbaeva, Associate Professor of English for Academic Purposes at UCA.
“Enactus” is a community of student, academic and business leaders who are committed to use the power of entrepreneurial action to transform lives and shape a better and sustainable world.

UCA’s “Enactus” club members and undergraduate students at the Naryn Campus attended a national “Youth Speak” pre-competition forum organised by Enactus Kyrgyzstan on March 11th. The pre-competition was a great opportunity for UCA students to build new connections with teams from other Kyrgyz universities and discuss different projects. This year, UCA was invited as a guest, but next year students plan to pitch their own projects at national competitions.

Khairullah (left) and Farhad (right) won a foosball tournament on campus in Khorog, Tajikistan. Well done!

Undergraduate students competed in a video game tournament on campus in Naryn during their spring break.

Khairullah (left) and Farhad (right) won a foosball tournament on campus in Khorog, Tajikistan. Well done!

Students in Khorog participated in an art night on campus where they painted t-shirts and plates.

UCA students in Naryn make art creations during spring break on campus.

UCA students in Khorog recently participated in the Pamir League football competition in Khorog. On March 11th the UCA team won a game 2-1 against Team Gulaken. Congratulations!

UCA students visited the Ishkashim region in GBAO on March 19th.

UCA students viewed the moon and star gazed in Khorog.
UCA Students Participate in Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Programme

On March 23rd to 25th, Jyldyz Sarahieva, Elgiz Dzholdoshov and Nozanin Sadullaeva, undergraduate students at UCA’s Naryn Campus participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) programme in Bishkek.

The programme was organised by the Rotary Club of Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan, and aimed to motivate youth through presentations by successful speakers, business community leaders and founders of various organisations and enterprises. Students also joined a community clean-up in Bishkek, networked with their peers, watched the first musical in Kyrgyzstan “Darak Yry”, and participated in various activities. The programme was held for 20 youths between the ages of 18 and 24, who have leadership potential and active social life experiences.

Throughout the programme, presentations were delivered by Aizhan Chynybaeva (Honorary Consul of Norway in Kyrgyzstan, Ex-President of Rotary Club Kyrgyzstan), Nikiya Ryjih (Founder of the “Narisan” Development group), Arslanbek Kenenbaev (Entrepreneur, Investor), Mariya Kolesnikova (President of “MoveGreen”), Viacheslav Salukov (CEO of “Forester”), Aman Tentiiev (Founder of Namba Group) and Denis Gaivoronsky (CEO of “Kulikovskyi”).

Youth from Naryn Region Visit UCA Campus

On March 27th, 72 students and teachers from 16 schools in Kochkor, At-Bashy, Ak-Taala, and Naryn regions visited the UCA Naryn Campus and toured its facilities. The visit was organised by Naryn State University (NSU) to experience the atmosphere of studying and learning at UCA, meet and talk with current undergraduate students and compare the facilities of UCA and NSU.

The educational tour was part of a contest where participants demonstrated their knowledge, attitudes, and skills through an English essay writing and speech contest, as well as a Math Olympiad and Contest to solve Math tasks.
UCA's SPCE is officially accredited by the Cambridge Assessment English exam board as a centre to offer English language examinations. SPCE offers general English language exams, courses for special purposes, for schoolchildren, as well as the methodology of teaching.

Exams are offered in paper format as well as computer-based. Candidates who successfully pass the exam will receive an international certificate, which will help them in their studies, employment and career, both in Central Asia and abroad. The Cambridge Exams are established and prestigious exams certified by the University of Cambridge and recognised around the world.

UCA's SPCE offers exams at its learning centres in Naryn, Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Khorog, Dushanbe (Tajikistan) and Tekeli (Kazakhstan). External sessions are also available at an additional cost by request, where UCA trained staff travel to other cities to offer the exams.

You can do the following at UCA's SPCE centres:

- Check your level of English proficiency;
- Confirm your level of English and get an international Cambridge English certificate;
- Visit free workshops and consulting seminars with the participation of Cambridge Assessment English specialists, English teachers, and SPCE testing specialists;
- Receive methodological support.

For more information please email at ucaskyrgyzstan@ucentralasia.org and follow updates on Facebook: www.facebook.com/cambridgespce.