

## CIS ACTIVITIES AT UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

### EARLY BEGINNINGS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN UVU AND CENTRAL ASIA

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**Kyrgyz students helped grow the first Ko'on melon in Utah from Kyrgyz seeds**

- **HISTORY:** Cooperation between the state of Utah and Kyrgyzstan started in 1999 when UVU and Utah hosted the Kyrgyz Ambassador to the U.S. Subsequent visits came from Kyrgyz ministers and other Ambassadors, including the Ambassador to the United Nations from Afghanistan and the Ambassadors of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to the United States. Each of these dignitaries met with the Governor of Utah as well as with business and corporate leaders, community leaders and others. As a result of developing these dignitary relationships, UVU was able to place student interns in several Central Asian embassies in Washington as well as in missions at the United Nations and provided scholarships to a number of students from Central Asia at UVU. Among these students is Aliya Sultanova, daughter of the Kyrgyz Speaker of Parliament who was matriculated as a freshman at UVU for the 2007-2008 academic year.

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**Dr Rusty Butler during the International Conference under UNESCO patronage  
«Eurasia in 21 century: dialogue of cultures or conflict of civilizations»  
Lake Issyk-Kul (June, 2004)**

- **STARTING IN KYRGYZSTAN:** In 2002 and 2003 significant progress was made in strengthening cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and Utah and the Rocky Mountain Region as a whole. that a new understanding about working those nations as a new resource base for development of bilateral cooperation was cultivated by a number of officials from both sides. It was at this time period that representatives of the Kyrgyz

Embassy in Washington, D.C. and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan together with Ambassador Lynn Pasco, of the U.S. State Department, cultivated a shared vision of the mutual benefits that could result from efforts to develop bilateral relations between the two regions.

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**Utah Governor Olene Walker with military personnel from Utah at military base Gansi (airport Manas) in Kyrgyzstan on August 23, 2003**

- **EXECUTIVE LEVEL EXCHANGES:** Utah Governor Olene Walker's 2003 visit to Kyrgyzstan was the first and only visit to date of an American governor to Kyrgyzstan. The subsequent visit of the President and First Lady of Kyrgyzstan to Salt Lake City in September 2004 demonstrated an increased level of cooperation between the two countries, in particular in areas of business, education and humanitarian endeavors. UVU awarded the First Lady an honorary doctorate degree for her humanitarian work.

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**Some book samples, published within the Eurasian series by UVSC and Global Scholarly Publications during 2003-2007**

- **PUBLICATION OF TEXTS:** One important project, which has deepened understanding and cooperation between Utah and the countries of Central Asia is the publication of the Eurasian book series which began in 2003. The series, published by UVU (then UVSC) and the Global Scholarly Publications of New York, gave greater access to a number of important historical and philosophical manuscripts of the countries of the Great Silk Road and were produced in two different languages. This project is currently acquiring even greater significance due to the growing sense of national identities and the strengthening of sovereignty and independence in Central Asian countries.

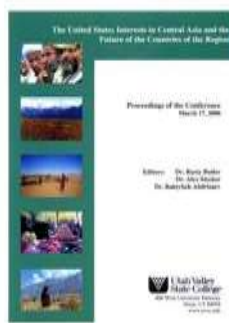
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**Dr Danielle Butler,  
The Honorary Consul General of the Kyrgyz Republic to Utah**

- **HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL:** As a result of strengthened ties between the regions, in 2003 Dr. Danielle Butler was appointed as the Honorary Consul General of the Kyrgyz Republic to the State of Utah, making Dr. Butler the first Honorary Consul General of a Central Asian country to one of the states of the Rocky Mountain Region. Dr. Butler's service over the years as a Honorary Consul General has proved both her own efficiency and shown the importance of Honorary Consulates in further developing relations between the United States and countries in transition, such as Kyrgyzstan. Despite numerous changes in the Kyrgyz government and the other governments of the region over the years Dr. Butler sustained existing relations and developed new areas of cooperation with a number of countries in Central Asia. Her husband, Dr. Ross "Rusty" Butler, is also the Honorary Consul General of Russia to Utah.

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**Proceedings of the Conference «Interests of the United States in Central Asia and The Future of the Countries of the Region»**

- **CENTRAL ASIA CONFERENCE;** In March 2006, UVU hosted a major national conference on its campus, "The United States' Interests in Central Asia and the Future of the Countries of the Region." Representatives of five Central Asian countries participated, along with two current ambassadors to the U.S., one former ambassador, numerous scholars from various universities, the U.S. State Department, the United Nations, and various NGOs.

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**Speaker of the Kyrgyz Parliament, H.E. Marat Sultanov  
with President of the Utah State Senate, John Valentine,**

**and Speaker of the State legislature of Utah, Greg Curtis  
(February, 5 2007)**

- **EXECUTIVE VISIT TO UTAH:** On February 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 a delegation from the Kyrgyz Parliament visited a number of states from the Rocky Mountain Region. The delegation, which was led by the Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Marat Sultanov, spent some time in Utah and at UVU in particular after accepting an invitation from President of the Utah State Senate, John Valentine. During the visit the two men agreed to pursue a number of events directed to the strengthening of relations between legislators of Kyrgyzstan and Utah.

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**Participants of the International Conference “Women of the Mountains” during the presentation of the Kyrgyz yurt at the UVU (March 7-10, 2007)**

- **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:** On March 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 UVU hosted the international Conference “Women of the Mountains” together with the Kyrgyz National Center for Development of Mountain Regions. This conference served as a new approach to strengthening cooperation between U.S. states of the Rocky Mountain Region and the mountainous nations of Central Asia

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**A delegation of Kyrgyz judges visiting Utah**

- **KYRGYZ JUDGES IN UTAH:** On September 7-15, 2007 UVU hosted a delegation of Kyrgyz judges under the umbrella of the Library of Congress Open World Program. The purpose of the program is to strengthen cooperation between the U.S. and CIS countries. The delegates represented a number of official institutions as well as NGOs from Kyrgyzstan. During their visit they were acquainted with the U.S. judicial branch of power and different aspects of life in the United States.

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**Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the U.S. and Canada,  
H.E. Zamira Sydykova with Dr. Rusty Butler,  
Associate Vice President of International Affairs at UVU**

- **AMBASSADOR OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC TO THE U.S. AND CANADA, H.E. ZAMIRA SYDYKOVA IN UTAH:** Ambassador Sydykova was invited by UVU and Honorary Consul of Kyrgyzstan to Utah, Dr. Danielle Butler to visit Utah in 2007. Her official visit took place September 15-18, 2007. During her visit she met with Utah government leaders and UVU administrators, and made a presentation to the students and faculty of UVU about the role of Kyrgyzstan in the Central Asian region.

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**Rocky Mountains delegation in Kyrgyzstan before  
signing a MOU with the Kyrgyz State University**

- **ROCKY MOUNTAIN DELEGATION VISIT TO KYRGYZSTAN:** A delegation of representatives from the U.S. states of the Rocky Mountain region visited Kyrgyzstan October 1-5, 2007 by the invitation of the Speaker of the Kyrgyz Parliament H.E. Marat Sultanov. The delegation was led by Utah State Senate President, John Valentine and included Montana Senate Majority Leader, Carol Williams, and Dr. Rusty Butler, Associated Vice President for International Affairs at UVU. The delegation met with Kyrgyz government officials, and representatives of several NGOs, amongst others. On behalf of UVU Dr. Butler signed MOUs with a number of local universities for greater cooperation and educational exchanges.

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**Ambassador of Tajikistan to the U.S. Abdujabbor Shirinov  
with Utah State legislator Chris Herrod during a  
reception in his honor at UVU**

- **VISIT OF THE AMBASSADOR OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED STATES, H.E. ABDUJABBOR SHIRINOV TO UTAH:** Ambassador Shirinov visited Utah by invitation of UVU October 24-26, 2007. During his visit he met with Utah State leadership and UVU administrators, and made a presentation to UVU students about the problems that Tajikistan faces with integration to the world community. His visit deepened ties between Republic of Tajikistan and State of Utah and with UVU, which already has several Tajik students.

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**Members of the Tajik Parliament at a meeting with  
U.S. Congressman, Chris Cannon, at his Utah  
home during the Thanksgiving holiday.**

- **OPEN WORLD TAJIK PARLIAMENTARIAN DELEGATION UTAH VIST:** A Tajik Parliamentarian Delegation visited Utah during December 6-14, 2007. They became the second Central Asian group to visit Utah through the U.S. Library of Congress Open World Program. Four members of the Tajik Parliament were acquainted with the structure and activities of the legislative branch of power of the State of Utah. During their visit they met with U.S. Congressman Chris Cannon, President of the Utah State Senate John Valentine, amongst others. The delegates also invited representatives of the Utah State Legislature to visit Tajikistan during the summer of 2008.

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**Folk Music group “Kut” from Kyrgyzstan at UVU during their tour of the Rocky Mountains states**

- **CONCERTS BY THE KYRGYZ FOLK MUSIC GROUP “KUT” IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS:** During January 24-26, 2008 UVU hosted a number of concerts and music classes by the Kyrgyz folk music group “Kut” for students, faculty and the local community in Utah County. The music group “Kut” successfully performed in a number of states of the Rocky Mountains during their visit.

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**Kyrgyz delegation representing the leading Kyrgyz Opposition party “Ata-Meken” during a meeting with Utah Senate President John Valentine.**

- **DELEGATION FROM KYRGYZSTAN LED BY CHAIRMAN OF “ATA-MEKEN” PARTY O.TEKEBAEV IN UTAH:** The delegation was invited to visit Utah by the President of Utah State Senate John Valentine during his visit to Kyrgyzstan on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Members of delegation exchanged ideas about strengthening bilateral ties aimed at deepening reforms in Kyrgyzstan, educational exchanges, and sustainable mountain development.

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**The Tajik delegates during their farewell reception at UVU**

- **2008 OPEN WORLD TAJIK DELEGATION IN UTAH:** A second Open World delegation from Tajikistan visited Utah March 8-15, 2008. Members of the delegation, representing high level water management in Tajikistan learned about the water practices in the Rocky Mountains and established contacts with colleagues in the state of Utah.

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**Members of the Kyrgyz delegation during a reception in Orem, Utah**

- **KYRGYZ DELEGATION UTAH VISIT SPONSORED BY THE PROGRAM OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES OF THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT:** This Kyrgyz delegation, which visited Utah in March 22, 2008, included representatives of different governmental agencies, including the Administration of the Kyrgyz President and local municipalities. Delegates met with partners in Utah during a three-week visit to a several states in the U.S. During their visit to Orem the Honorary Consul of the Kyrgyz Republic to Utah, Dr. Danielle Butler organized special reception in honor of the guests.





**Minister Osmonaliev with President John Valentine in Orem, Utah.**

- **KYRGYZ DELEGATION LED BY MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS KANYBEK OSMONALIEV VISIT TO UTAH:** The delegation visited Utah and UVU on May 27-29, 2008. They met with government official and leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) in Salt Lake City, as well as faculty and students of UVU. The main purpose of the visit for the Kyrgyz guests was to get acquainted with local culture, heritage and activities, and traditions of the LDS (Mormon) church.



**President John Valentine with Tajik Foreign Minister in Dushanbe, Tajikistan**

- **UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE DELEGATION VISIT TO TAJIKISTAN:** Led by Utah State Senate President, John Valentine, the delegation's visit took place in June 2008 as a result of the invitation of the Tajik Parliament after their visit to Utah in 2007. In addition to President John Valentine the delegation included several members of Utah State Senate and Dr. Rusty Butler of UVU. The delegates met with members of the Tajik Parliament, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan H.E. Hamrohon Zarip amongst others. During their visit, the Utah delegation announced the creation of two scholarships for students of Tajikistan.



**Members of the 2008 Tajik delegation with the Utah host families**

- **2008 OPEN WORLD TAJIK DELEGATION:** The third Tajik delegation to visit through the U.S. Library of Congress Open World Program visited Utah October 18-25, 2008. Members of the delegation, representing staff of the Parliament of Tajikistan met with members of the Utah State Legislature and other officials involved in law making, lobbying, etc.



**Students from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan with Dr. Rusty Butler during a celebration of the Russian (Orthodox) New Year at UVU on January 16, 2009**

- **NEW STUDENTS FROM CENTRAL ASIA AT UVU.** As of January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 UVU already had 6 students from Central Asia, including 3 from Kyrgyzstan, 2 from Tajikistan and 1 from Uzbekistan.



**Wisdom of Royal Glory (Kutadgu Bilig), published by the University of Chicago Press in 1983 and reprinted by Utah Valley University in 2009**

- **RULE OF LAW CONFERENCE:** The March 27, 2009 conference, titled "Traditions of Rule of Law, Good Governance and Consultative Government in the Turkic World," brought together faculty, students, scholars and officials to explore governance traditions and trends as they relate to Turkic regions and the western world. The event marked the first segment of a three-part symposium, which was started at UVU and then travelled to Washington, D.C., and Kyrgyzstan. In addition to world-class political discussion and presentations from the likes of Dr. Frederick F. Starr, chairman of the Institute of Central Asia and Caucasus at The John Hopkins University, and Senator John Valentine, President of the Utah State Senate, senior UVU political science students presented papers on governance issues pertaining to the conference subject matter. Students with the winning papers were awarded a trip to Central Asia (first place) and Washington, D.C. (second through fourth places) to take part in similar events and research on the topic. The event was made possible by a grant from the UVU Center for Engaged Learning.



- **UZBEK AMBASSADOR VISIT TO UTAH:** Murad Askarov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations, lectured at Utah Valley University on April 13, 2009 as the first representative from Uzbekistan to speak on campus.



**Library of Congress/ Russian delegation during reception**

- **2009 OPEN WORLD RUSSIAN DELEGATION:** UVU hosted five government leaders from various parts of the Russian Federation through the Open World Program May 8-16, 2009. The delegation came to Utah to examine issues of economic development in the United States. While in Utah, the delegates met with numerous state entities such as the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce, etc, toured local companies, met with the local government officials, and got

acquainted with some of the State's attractions. In addition, homestays with local residents allowed the delegates to experience Utah family life.



**Kyrgyz Librarians at Utah Valley University**

- **2009 OPEN WORLD KYRGYZ DELEGATION:** From June 12-20, 2009 five government leaders-librarians from Kyrgyzstan explored various aspects of Utah from June 12 through the 20, 2009 under the auspice of the Open World Program of the U.S. Library of Congress. The delegates had the opportunity to tour UVU's newly built library, examine the activities of social services organizations, discuss copyright laws with professionals, learn how to prevent juvenile crime, visit the legislature and participate in many other activities relevant to their occupational interests.



**Elmira Ibraimova with Lori and Allan Palmer, who were selected as Fulbright scholars to Kyrgyzstan**

- **PRIME MINISTER ELMIRA IBRAIMOVA VISIT TO UTAH:** As a part of ongoing exchanges between Kyrgyzstan and state of Utah, former vice-Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, Elmira Ibraimova visited Utah July 7-12, 2009 as a part of a trip to the United States. During her visit the Kyrgyz dignitary met with Utah government officials and the UVU faculty, administrators, and students.



**Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the U.N., Murad Askarov (first from left) and deputy chief of Afghanistan to the U.N. Ayoo Erfani (second from right) with President Valentine during the conference**

- **OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM ROUNDTABLE:** On December 7th, 2009 UVU hosted a Conference-Roundtable, titled: “8th Anniversary of ‘Operation Enduring Freedom’: Current Status and Prospects for the Future.” The conference discussed issues surrounding the 2001 Afghan invasion by the United States and the coalition forces. Now eight years since the invasion, many questions remain as to why Afghanistan has become a haven for resurgent Al-Qaeda and the Taliban instead of becoming a model for transition to democratic and prosperous state, thus threatening regional and global stability in the process. The main goal of the roundtable was to look at such questions through the eyes of two main groups of experts: Experts from government and academia, and local Utahns who have spent time in Afghanistan. The first panel of government and academic experts was composed of diplomatic envoys such as representatives of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, academics like Dr. Ariel Cohen, and politicians such as former member of the U.S. House of Representatives Chris Cannon ; The second panel was comprised primarily of representatives of the Utah National Guard Lt. Colonel Derek Tolman, Scott Carrier, Assistant Professor, Communication at UVU and Najib Niazi, Adjunct Instructor of International Studies, University of Utah.



**Alexey Semyonov, and his wife, Elizabeth at Park City, Utah**

- **ANDREI SAKHAROV FOUNDATION LECTURE:** Alexey Semyonov, vice president and director of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, and his wife Elizabeth lectured on the defense of human rights at Utah Valley University on Jan. 14-15, 2010 as part of the University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration event. The Sakharov Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and memory of Nobel Peace Prize-winner Andrei Sakharov, the promotion of his ideas and the defense of human rights. In addition to the lecture, Mr. Semyonov moderated a session with renowned human- and civil-rights activist Elena Bonner, chair of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation and widow of Andrei Sakharov; Carl Gershman, president of the National Endowment for Democracy; and Bob Arsenault, president of the International League for Human Rights.



**Library of Congress/UVU Turkmen Professional Delegation at UVU Capitol Reef Field Station**

- **OPEN WORLD TURKMENISTAN DELEGATION:** UVU hosted three eco-tourism professionals from Turkmenistan under the auspice of the Open World Program of the U.S. Library of Congress designed to build mutual understanding between the United States and Eurasia and to enable emerging political and civic leaders to work with their

U.S. counterparts and experience American-style democracy at a local level. From Feb. 26- March 6 the delegates examined Utah's eco-tourism industry. During their stay the delegates met with Sundance's Green Team, visited Arches National Park and UVU's Capitol Reef Field Station, and held a workshop at the State Tourism Office and University of Utah's Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Delegates also met with the local, state and federal government officials, including U.S. Senator Bennett and U.S. Congressman Jason Chaffetz.



**Library of Congress/UVU Ukraine  
Delegation with Utah Lt. Governor Bell**

- **OPEN WORLD UKRAINIAN DELEGATION:** Utah Valley University and the Open World Program hosted six professionals from Ukraine March 19- 27 who came to study accountable governance practices in Utah. While in Utah, delegates met with the local, state and federal government officials as well as UVU faculty to discuss budgeting and transparency of governmental spending; land-use planning, community and infrastructure development; political involvement; economic development; energy efficiency; citizens' involvement in decision-making process; cultural and historical preservation, and other issues related to the democratic process and local development.



**Mr. Sherniyazov (left) with Senator Valentine (right)**

- **KYRGYZ MINISTER UTAH VISIT:** Kyrgyz Minister of the Interior for the interim government of Bolotbek Sherniyazov lectured at UVU and met with UVU supporters and community members on May 12, 2010. In 2007 Sherniyazov was part of a high-level Kyrgyz delegation that came to UVU after their party was denied seats in the Parliament. Utah Senator John Valentine led a Utah and UVU delegation to Kyrgyzstan in 2007 and befriended this group. Kyrgyzstan is home to the U.S. Manas Airbase which is strategically critical to the war in Afghanistan.



**Library of Congress/UVU Kazakh Judges  
Delegation with Senators Valentine and Bramble**

- **OPEN WORLD KAZAKH DELEGATION:** UVU hosted a Kazakh judicial delegation through the Open World program Oct. 23-30. The delegation's visit was focused on examining the U.S. legal system. Two American judges, Judge Michael R. Murphy of the United State Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit Court, and Judge Judith S. H. Atherton of Utah's Third District Court in Salt Lake City, hosted the delegates. The Kazakh delegates had a chance to visit court hearings, witness jury trials, meet with Utah State Bar administrators, as well as learn about criminal law, appeals procedures, drug court, juvenile law and extrajudicial settlements. The delegates also got acquainted with UVU and had a chance to interact with a number of current UVU students, and took part in several cultural and community activities.
- **UVU-KUZBASS PEDAGOGICAL INSTITUTE:** On November 22, 2010, UVU hosted a videoconference with Kuzbass Pedagogical Institute in Russia thanks to the collaborative efforts of IT technicians at both universities and Lyubov Mikhaltsova, The Director of the Russian American Center at the Kuzbass Pedagogical Institute. This conference was the first of what is hoped to be many between students of the two institutions and was organized for the purposes of raising students' awareness of other cultures, and also for the improvement of curriculum in Russian and English language classes between the two universities. The videoconference serves as a cost effective venue for the transfer of vital information between students and faculties of both universities.



**Faculty and students during celebration of the International Mountain Day at UVU**



- **INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY 2011:** UVU celebrated International Mountain Day for the first time on December 11, 2010. The celebration of International Mountain Day, which was established by the United Nations, included greetings from Dr. Rusty Butler, UVU Associate Vice-President of International Affairs & Diplomacy and the focal person from UN-FAO Mountain Partnership at UVU, and Dr. David Connelly, Political Science Department Coordinator. The main theme of the International Mountain Day 2010 was dedicated to the destinies of indigenous people around the world. The gathering was accompanied by a cultural program with involvement of faculty and students at UVU.



**Participants of the second International Conference  
“Women of the Mountains” at UVU (March 7-9, 2011)**

- **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:** On March 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 UVU hosted the second international Conference “Women of the Mountains” together with the Kyrgyz National Center for Development of Mountain Regions. This conference built on the heritage of the first Women of the Mountains Conference by strengthening cooperation between the people of the Rocky Mountain and the mountainous nations in Central Asia and promoting the United Nations sustainable mountain development agenda.



**Library of Congress/UVU Kyrgyz women delegation at Park City in Utah**

- 2011 OPEN WORLD KYRGYZ DELEGATION: UVU hosted a Kyrgyz women delegation as part of the Open World program March 6-15, 2011 with the purpose of greater participation at the second international Women of the Mountains conference at UVU in Orem Utah. The delegation was also met with local NGOs dealing with women's issues, officials of the State of Utah and faculty and students at UVU.



**Ambassador O'Keefe, Director of the Open World Program of the Library of Congress with UVU students and faculty**

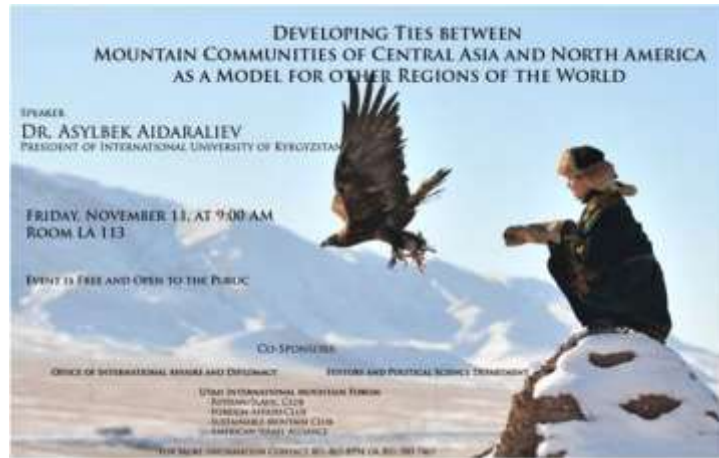
- OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER: Ambassador John O'Keefe, executive director of the Open World Leadership Center, spoke at Utah Valley University on Sept. 19, 2011 on the topic: "The Great Game after 9/11: Operation Enduring Freedom and the Making of the Coalition Base in Kyrgyzstan." O'Keefe negotiated the treaty that resulted in a primary forward-supply base for the coalition forces fighting in war in Afghanistan, housed at the Manas airbase in Kyrgyzstan. UVU students and faculty were able to engage with one of Washington's most brilliant strategic international thinkers and planners. As a result of UVU's international outreach, the Open World Leadership Center has sent numerous delegations from Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and other Eurasian countries to study civil societies, judicial processes, market-based economies and other topics in Utah.



**Library of Congress/ UVU Ukrainian delegation of educators at Utah State Senate**

- 2011 OPEN WORLD UKRAINIAN DELEGATION: UVU hosted a group of educators from Ukraine through the Open World program October 18-21, 2011 in efforts to study

the Utah education system. The delegation also was hosted with local educational leaders, officials of the State of Utah and faculty and students at UVU and the University of Utah.



**Poster about presentation of Dr. Aidaraliev, President of the International University of Kyrgyzstan at UVU on November 11, 2011.**

- **INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF KYRGYZSTAN AND UVU:** On November 11-12, 2011, Dr. Aidaraliev, President of the International University of Kyrgyzstan visited Utah Valley University. He spoke to students and faculty on the topic of cooperation between mountain communities of Central Asia and the Rocky Mountain Region of North America. During the visit this Kyrgyz dignitary discussed areas of potential cooperation and further development of ties established first in 1999 and placed particular focus on the promotion of sustainable mountain development between the two regions since 2006.



**During the video-conference**

- **FALL OF THE SOVIET UNION CONFERENCE:** The video-conference-round-table via Skype entitled “The 20th Anniversary since the Disintegration of the Soviet Union” took place on November 11, 2011 at UVU. The first panel entitled “A View from Russia,” hosted speakers such as the associate dean of the UVU College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Frederick White, Dr. Natalia Gronskeya from the Nizny Novgorod Higher School of Economics in Russia, and Alexey Semynov, President of the Andrei Sakharov International Foundation. The next panel entitled “A View from Washington” - hosted speakers such as former US Ambassador to the USSR Jack Matlock, former Ambassador to the Ukraine William Miller, and Dr. William Hill, a professor from the National War

College. The last panel was comprised of students from different NGO's that focused on the creation of dialogue between future leaders of both Russia and the US. These participants consisted of Lindsay Funk and Nikita Alentiev of the Stanford University US/Russia Forum, as well as Richard Portwood and Cooper Darling of the Center for American Russian Engagement of Emerging Leaders.



**Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the U.N., Murad Askarov  
and deputy chief of mission of Afghanistan to the U.N.  
Ahmad Zahir Faqirih with UVU students**

- **SECOND OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM CONFERENCE:** UVU hosted the International Conference “10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the Beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan” with the participation of Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the U.N., Murad Askarov, and deputy chief of mission of Afghanistan to the U.N., Ahmad Zahir Faqirih, on December 2, 2011. It was unique opportunity for students to improve their professional skills in logistics, diplomacy, protocol, etc. since the dignitaries were personal guests of the UVU students clubs. The four panels of the conference, which were comprised of the VIP guests, UVU faculty, and veterans of military campaign in Afghanistan, reflected on a variety of opinions about the origin of the conflict, current issues in Afghanistan and possible scenarios for the future development of the region.



*During the celebration of International Mountain Day 2011*

- **INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY 2011:** On December 9, 2011 UVU hosted the celebration of International Mountain Day (IMD) at the Orem Public Library. It was the second celebration of the IMD in the state of Utah. Faculty, students, and community members, came out to sit through a joint presentation of UVU faculty and students on past and future endeavors to promote sustainable mountain development. The Mayors of Orem City and Park City, and members of the Mountain Partnership sent greetings to the audience. At the end of the gathering the audience enjoyed the Kellers Country Music

Concert from Orem and a fashion show of UVU student models, representing different mountain nations.



**Copy of the report on sustainable mountain development on North America for the RIO+20 U.N. Conference on sustainable development in Brazil**

- UVU CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN REPORT ON SMD: A report on sustainable mountain development (SMD) in North America for the RIO+20 U.N. Conference on sustainable development in Brazil was published on January 9, 2012. It included research results of 19 UVU students on several mountain ranges from North America, as an appendix to the main document. Students were invited to contribute to the report as a result of their contributions to SMD in the Rocky Mountains and Central Asia. This report was successfully submitted, accepted, and published as an official document for consideration during the United Nations conference on sustainable development on June 20-22, 2012.



**Poster about presentation of Igor and Vesna Gruppman at UVU**

- IGOR GRUPPMAN CONCERT: On March 8, 2012 Igor Gruppman and his wife, Vesna Stefanovich-Gruppman, the founders of the Gruppman International Violin Institute, and members of the Mountain Partnership since 2010 presented the lecture “Music Touches Lives Across the World,” about teaching children violin through Skype at Utah Valley University. The couple spoke about their passion for educating talented violin players and the ability Skype has given them to teach children in remote areas of the world. The

Gruppmans are world-renowned musicians, and Igor Gruppman has been the principal conductor of the Orchestra at Temple Square, in Utah since 2003. In May 2009, Igor Gruppman was appointed music director of the newly formed Mariinsky Stradivary Orchestra in Russia. He currently also is the concertmaster of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. Vesna Stefanovich-Gruppman is a violin and viola professor at the Rotterdam Conservatory in the Netherlands. Gruppman and his wife won a Grammy Award in 1993 for the recording of Malcolm Arnold's Concerto for two violins. They are planning to create the International Music Academy in Osh, Kyrgyzstan



*Winners of the contest and organizers of the workshop*

- **SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT ESSAY CONTEST:** On March 30, 2012, The Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) held the Second Annual Utah High School Workshop and Essay Contest at the Orem Public Library. The workshop's focus was on the topic of "Sustainable Energy for Mountain Communities", in support of the United Nations initiative to declare 2012 as the "International Year of Sustainable Energy for All." The event continued a tradition, established one year previously when Utah Valley University hosted the first workshop and essays contest for Utah high school students to do research on gender issues. The success of the 2011 event stimulated UVU students to host the 2012 workshop as well in efforts to raise awareness of sustainable mountain development among a new generation of leaders in the state of Utah and strengthen the involvement of Utah communities in the activities of the global mountain communities as well.



*Poster about presentation of Dr. Aldashev at UVU and photo of UVU students with guest from Kyrgyzstan*

- **PROFESSOR ALMAZ ALDASHEV UTAH VISIT:** On May 25, 2012 Utah Valley University hosted Professor Almaz Aldashev, the Director of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Medicine. Professor Aldashev, who is an expert in the adaptation of humans at high-altitude and mountain medicine, visited Utah Valley University as a part of ongoing cooperation between Central Asia and the Rocky Mountains Region to promote sustainable mountain development. Dr. Aldashev is working on a project between the International University of Kyrgyzstan, the Sorenson Foundation, and UVU on genetic research of the origin of ethnicities in Central Asia. While at UVU Dr. Almaz Aldashev made a presentation on the "Genetic approach in the study of history of the Kyrgyz ethnogenesis." The major focus of the research is to trace a link between the peoples of modern Central Asia and Siberia to Native Americans. According to recent findings these groups had a common origin in the Altay Mountains of Siberia more than 14,000 years ago. Dr. Aldashev met also with Dr. Scott Woodward, from Ancestry.com and discussed with him and his colleagues the results of his research and future prospects for cooperation.



*UVU student Jason Bates (first from the left) in Bishkek with representatives of the Mountain Partnership hub in Central Asia and International University of Kyrgyzstan*

- **UVU STUDENT VISIT TO KYRGYZSTAN:** In May-June 2012 Utah Valley University student Jason Bates visited Kyrgyzstan to prepare for the international conference Mountains and Conflict, which UVU and the International University of Kyrgyzstan planned set to take place in the fall of 2012 in Kyrgyzstan. Jason also visited neighboring Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.



*UVU delegation in Brazil during the U.N. Conference on sustainable development*

- **UVU PRESENCE AT RIO+20:** A Utah Valley University delegation in partnership with the International University of Kyrgyzstan (IUK) participated and contributed to the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on June 18-21 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Two members of the delegation — Sara Ulloa, a UVU professor and John McClure, a UVU student, participated at the Third Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership on June 19<sup>th</sup> and hosted a presentation at a conference about UVU efforts to support SMD on June 18<sup>th</sup>. UVU’s efforts to advocate a regional approach to the promotion of SMD were also highlighted at the exhibition titled, “Contribution of the Mountain Partnership members from the Rocky Mountains in Promoting Gender and Sustainable Mountain Development Agendas in North America.” The exhibition was comprised of 12 displays, which illustrated the developments of cooperation between UVU and its partners.



*UVU students, members of Utah delegation during negotiations in Aspen*

- **UVU PARTICIPATION IN THE CREATION OF A MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP NORTH AMERICAN HUB:** During October 12-15, 2012, a UVU delegation visited Aspen, CO to discuss the future of the Mountain Partnership (MP), and to create a hub of the MP in North America. This has been a goal of UVU and IUK since 2006. At the meeting members of the Mountain Partnership adopted a declaration supporting a 2011 decision by the secretariat of the MP to create a regional hub in Colorado. Participants also determined the priorities and goals for the hub’s future SMD activities in the region and throughout the world.



*Right: Elisabeth Jessop-Help Address*

*Center: Conference Audience*

*Left: Reception Preceding Event*

- **INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY 2012:** A coalition of student clubs on the campus of Utah Valley University called the International Mountain Forum, (UIMF) sponsored the third annual International Mountain Day Celebration on December 7, 2012. The celebration recognized the contributions in promoting of the UIMF and other members of the Mountain Partnership in Utah to the sustainable mountain agenda of the United Nations throughout. Some of these contributions include raising funds to send a Utah delegation to Brazil for the United Nations RIO+20 conference, organizing the third international Women of the Mountains conference in Puno, Peru on June, 13-14, 2012,



contributing research to the North American Report on SMD for the RIO+20 summit, and other efforts to advocate the SMD-agenda both in the region and globally. The celebration was attended by nearly 100 people, including community members, a variety of local government leaders, and other MP members such as Gruppman International Music Institute, Hope International, Orem City, Provo City, Utah Valley University, and the Utah-Russia-Institute.



*UVU delegation during the international conference Mountains and Climate in Kyrgyzstan*

- **UVU PRESENCE AT THE MOUNTAINS AND CLIMATE CONFERENCE:** In honor of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Year of Mountains (IYM), an international “Mountains and Climate” conference was held on International Mountain Day, December 11, 2012 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The conference also was envisioned as a follow-up event to the 2012 U.N. conference on sustainable development (RIO+20). Initiated by the IUK, supported by the UNDP and the Kyrgyz government, and co-organized by a number of universities, including UVU, the conference brought together a number of governmental officials, representatives of IGOs and NGOs involved in mountain environment and climate issues in Central Asia, and members of the UN-FAO-related Mountain Partnership. Representing the Rocky Mountain Region a five-member delegation from UVU attended the conference. A letter from Utah Governor, Gary Herbert, was also read at the conference. This gathering was the culminating event of a series of seminars and workshops held during the fall of 2012 in Central Asia in commemoration of IYM 2002, including three international Conferences which UVU co-organized in Kyrgyzstan: (1) an international Conference on Youth and SMD with the Utah International Mountain Forum on December 8, 2012 in Bishkek; (2) an international conference on Conflict and Peace in the Mountains, held jointly with Osh Technological University on December 8, 2012 in Osh, Kyrgyzstan; and (3) a Round Table on Rocky Mountains-Central Asian mountain states cooperation to promote the SMD agenda on December 10, 2012 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.



*Deputy of the Kyrgyz Parliament Kurmanbek Dyikanbayev ( L )  
and the adviser to the city court of Bishkek Sultangazy Kasymov ( C ),  
with President of Utah Valley University Dr. Matthew Holland ( R )*

- **VISIT TO UVU OF THE KYRGYZ DELEGATION:** As part of the partnership in sustainable mountain development between the Rocky Mountains and Central Asia, Utah Valley University (UVU) hosted a Kyrgyz Parliamentarian, Kurmanbek Dyikanbayev and Bishkek city's court adviser, Sultangazy Kasymov during March 4-13, 2013. During the visit guests: met with the Utah State Legislature; discussed the Kyrgyz parliamentary model of governance at UVU Center for Constitutional Studies; agreed with the University of Utah to cooperate in genetic research, water management, utilization of uranium tailing wastes in addition to continuing legislative, educational and trade exchanges through UVU; studied tourism management at the Arches, Bryce Canyon and Zion national parks.



*H.E. Talaybek Kydyrov, the permanent representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations during the conference at UVU*

- **UVU HOSTED A NUMBER OF EVENTS ON SMD-PROMOTION:** UVU hosted on March 21-22, a conference, titled "Climate Change and Violence: How Heating the Planet Creates Conflict and Death," with participation of Tariq Banuri, a professor at the University of Utah and former director of the U.N. Division for Sustainable Development, Greg White, a professor at Smith College and director of the Global Studies Center, and Christian Parenti, an investigative journalist on climate change and faculty at the SIT Graduate Institute. The conference culminated on March 22 with guest speaker Talaibek Kydyrov, the permanent representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations, and a screening of the award-winning documentary film, "The Island

President.” Kydyrov made a presentation, entitled “Problems of Sustainable Development and Climate Change in Kyrgyzstan.” Conference was a part of the J. Bonner Ritchie Dialogue on Peace and Justice, which the Peace & Justice Studies program at UVU hosts every spring, by bringing together scholars and practitioners involved in the most pertinent issues of our time.



*H.E. Talaybek Kydyrov, the permanent representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations during the essays contest for Utah high school students on water issues*

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#### OW TURKMEN DELEGATION

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*Ambassador Mukhtar Djumaliev during lunch with Utah State Senator John Valentine*

- VISIT OF THE KYRGYZ AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES TO UVU: Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United States of America and Canada, H.E. Muktar Djumaliev, gave a lecture at UVU on Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup> on the topic of the political reforms in Kyrgyzstan since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. After his lecture Ambassador Djumaliev made a courtesy call on UVU Academic Vice President Ian Wilson.

The Kyrgyz VIP-guest made several other important visits in Utah to help strengthen Utah - Kyrgyzstan relations, including meetings at Brigham Young University about educational exchanges and with Orem City Manager, Bruce Chestnut to discuss the possibility of a sister city relationship between Orem and one of the cities in Kyrgyzstan. He had dinner with State Senator John Valentine and his wife in addition to making a presentation at the Utah Women in Business conference in Salt Lake City. He met with the Lt. Governor of the State of Utah Greg Bell, Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) and toured the LDS humanitarian center. During the lunch co-hosted by the World Trade Center Utah and the Governor's Office of Economic Development Ambassador Djumaliev spoke about business opportunities in the Kyrgyz Republic and why it is important for his country to have strong connections to the mountain states of the United States, like Utah.

At the end of his visit, Ambassador Djumaliev met with Dr. Fred Esplin, the University of Utah's Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

- UTAH-RUSSIA INSTITUTE: In 1993 the Utah-Russia Institute was created by Utah Governor Michael O. Leavitt (later the HHS Secretary in the Bush Administration), and Russian Prime Minister Yegor T. Gaidar at UVU. The institution is very active in international affairs in Russia and the CIS. UVU is home to three honorary consulates: Russia, Kyrgyzstan and Spain. The school has approximately 33,000 students and offers some 65 baccalaureate degrees and three Masters degrees.

It should be noted that the majority of funding for promoting cooperation between Utah and Central Asia (some \$200,000) has come from private sources.