The President and the First Lady of Kyrgyzstan visit UVSC

September 27, 2004 — UVSC was the first higher education institution in Utah to host a head of state. The visit was arranged through the Utah-Russia Institute by Rusty Butler and his wife Danielle Butler, who is the Honorary Consul General to Kyrgyzstan in Utah.

UVSC’s Ragan Theater doors were opened that Monday to welcome students, faculty, staff and community members for a commemorative ceremony. The First Lady of Kyrgyzstan, Mairam Akaeva, accepted an Honorary Doctorate degree of Humane Letters from UVSC for all of her humanitarian, scientific and educational efforts directed to the betterment of Kyrgyzstan as well as of the world in general.

President Akaev accompanied the First Lady; however, he insisted that all attention should be centered around her.

The doctorate ceremony was followed by an upscale reception where Mrs. Akaeva presented her new book *Hope Has No Night*. The memoir depicts Kyrgyzstan’s transition from a republic of the former Soviet Union to an independent state. UVSC assisted in publishing the book in English and those who are interested in reading a copy can always find it in the UVSC library.