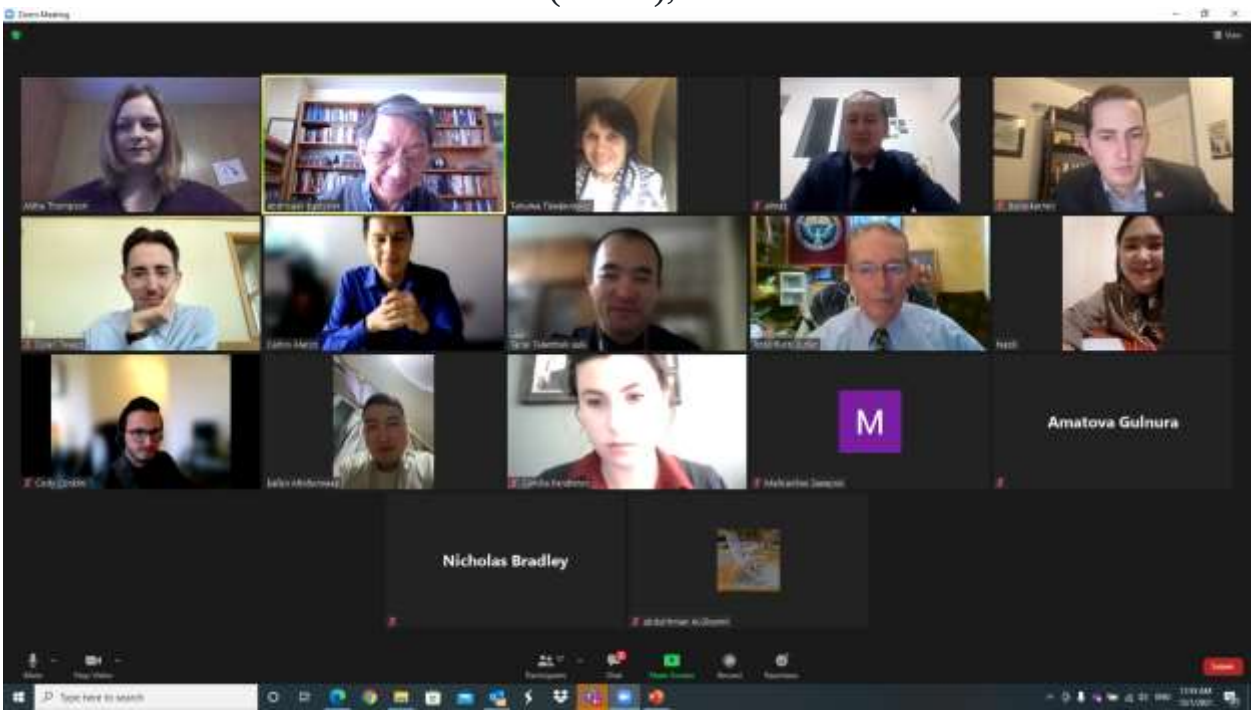
About my participation at celebration of the International Mountain Day 2021 at Utah Valley University, USA.

On December 1, 2021, Utah Valley University (UVU) hosted an online event to celebrate the "International Mountain Day" (IMD) organized by UVU students with the participation of representatives of the Osh Technological University (OshTU), as well as the state of Utah. Having prepared for several months, we were able to do this together thanks to the organizers of the event: members of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU.



Group photo of the participants of the International Mountain Day celebration on December 1, 2022

One of the leaders of the UIMF was Alitha Thompson, who also moderated the event. The core of the UIMF work is a problem-oriented method of teaching when students work together as a group to solve a practical problem. Their teacher can only give them general instructions for solving this problem, not the solution itself.

The members of the coalition approached the work in a very organized manner and were able to resolve all issues related to the event with their own efforts. This included the logistics of the agenda, the lists of speakers, as well as ensuring good online communication between the cities of Osh in Kyrgyzstan and Orem in Utah, USA.

In accordance with the decision by the UN representatives that the main theme of this year's IMD should be “Sustainable Mountain Tourism”, the participants of the event, hosted by UVU, discussed, along with tourism issues, also the protection of mountains, problems and solutions to solve them, in the state of Utah,USA , and in the Kyrgyz Republic, including in the city of Osh.

Tatiana Panfilenko, a teacher from OshTU, stated that tourism is important for the development of our country and is important to the economic development of Kyrgyzstan. She was a mentor for Bayel Abibillaev, a student at OshTU.

Tatiana Panfilenko, OshTU faculty during the event

Bayel spoke about the nature and mountains of Kyrgyzstan, as well as the main tourist places, mentioning such tourist attractions as Pobeda Peak, Issyk-Kul Lake, as well as Arslanbob, famous since ancient times, walnuts orchards, Sary-Chelek lake reserves and much more. He also talked about the impact of tourism on economy and the initiatives related to that, what the Kyrgyz Republic does for the

development of tourism, and what cases and projects are being carried out in the city of Osh and within our Osh Technological University.

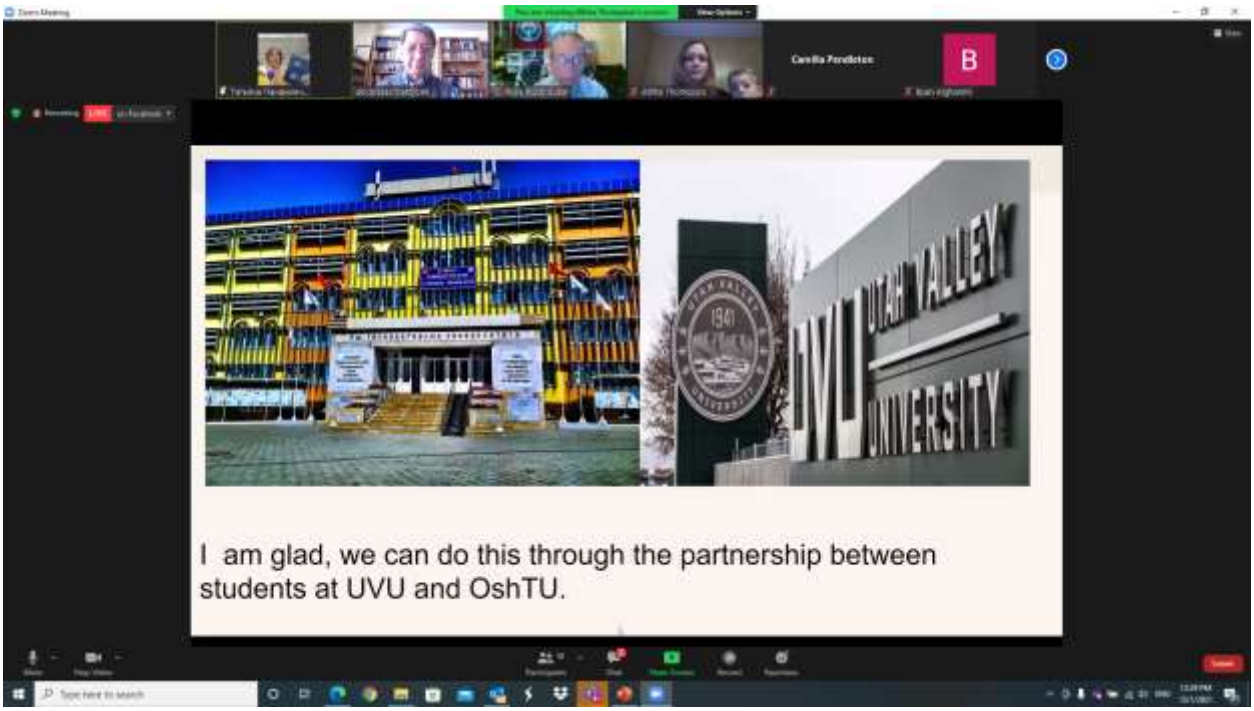
One of the main speakers was Dr. Ross (Rusty) Butler, who made a presentation about the sights, resorts, tourist areas and ski resorts in Utah, USA. It was a very interesting presentation and we learned a lot, including that the speaker also visited Kyrgyzstan with his family and was in awe of our nature.

Also, in addition to Alitha Thompson, representatives of the student club coalition such as Dallas Karren, Cody Conklin, Camilla Pendleton and others introduced us to their university, the rich nature of Utah and tourism.

Dr. Ross Butler speaks during the event

At the end of the event, the President of the coalition of student clubs at UVU, Dallas Karren, announced about sending certificates to students, teachers, residents of Kyrgyzstan and the state of Utah, who contributed to the celebration of International Mountain Day and the promotion of sustainable development for mountain communities and tourism in 2021.

It was a great honor for us, OshTU students and teachers, to participate in such a large-scale event with the friendly members of UIMF and gain a lot of experiences working together as a group based on a problem-based learning method.



Slide from the presentation of Baiel Abibillaev about the partnership between two universities

As a third-year student, I never thought that I would participate in such a program. Thanks to professional mentors and friendly colleagues, I can confidently say that this was an opportunity for me to have a great experience. I learned a lot of new knowledge and skills, was able to meet like-minded people, and spent time in communication to jointly solve many problems with them. In a short time, we managed to get closer and acquire a lot of new knowledge and skills. Teachers, acting as our mentors, encouraged us, prompted us to speak and express our opinions without hesitation. I want to express my gratitude to the organizers of this event, teachers, and colleagues for such hard and effective collective work, as a result of which I gained and a stronger sense of newness and self-confidence.

Amatova Gulnura Nurlanovna, student of Osh Technological University by the name of academician M.M. Adyshev, group Regional Studies-19