

Visit of the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to the US and Canada, H.E. Baktybek Amanbaev to Utah Valley University

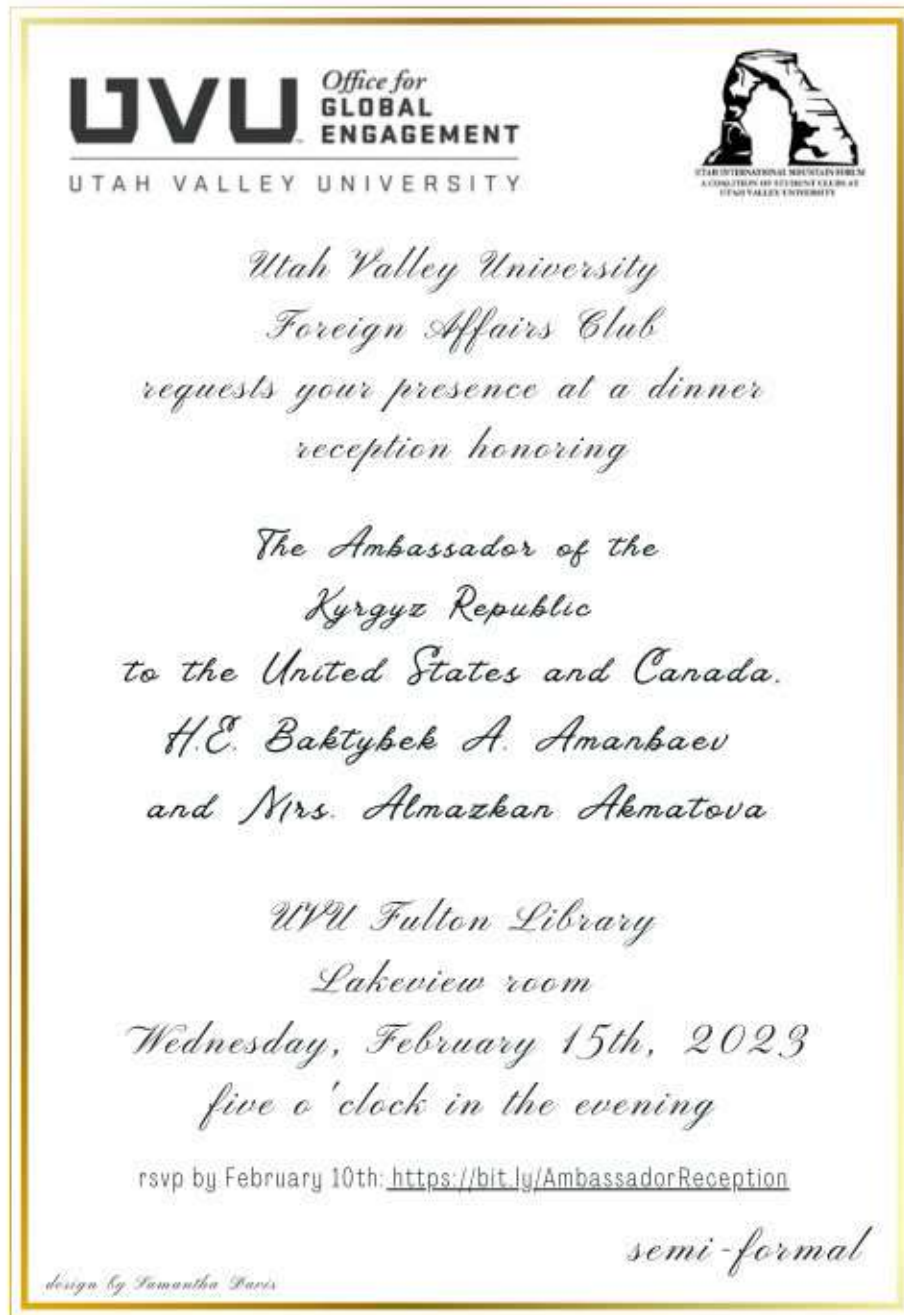


UVU students Natalie Jack and Samantha Davis with Mrs. Almazkan Akmatova and Ambassador Amanbaev

On February 15, 2023, the current Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to the United States and Canada, H.E. Baktybek Amanbaev, and his wife Mrs. Almazkan Akmatova visited Utah Valley University. Through the Student Engaged Learning Model (SEL) the ambassador was hosted by the UVU Foreign Affairs Club, with help from the leadership of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of clubs at UVU.

In preparation for this event, I designed an invitation to a reception with the ambassador and his wife. Working with feedback from members of the UIMF

for each draft, the invitation was designed with respect to the people and clubs involved, the ambassadors' position, and the formality of the reception. Collaborating with other students and being overseen by our professors allowed us to create an acceptable invitation for the event.



Invitation designed by Samantha Davis

I attended the reception of the ambassador and was able to be introduced with him and his wife. Upon arrival, I sat at the entry table and helped check-in guests as they came into the reception. I also handed out gifts to guests as they were leaving. When the reception was over I assisted with take down and clean up. At the reception I heard the ambassador speak on his work and discussions on mountain communities. He said he was excited for the partnership between Utah and the Kyrgyzstan Republic. Our UIMF leaders, Stephan Atkinson and Rachel Welker, on organizing the ambassador visit and planning the reception.

The program also included a welcome from UIMF current president, Alitha Thompson, Carlos Alarco - director for the Office of Global Engagement, and the Ambassador Amanbaev, introduced by McKay Brooks. The evening ended with UIMF gifting the Ambassador a pen - crafted by the UIMF president's father who lives in a small mountain town in Utah, a puzzle of Salt Lake City made by a local artist, and a book specially printed by the UVU press in partnership with the Kyrgyz State University "*Kutadgu Bilig the Wisdom of Royal Glory*" by Yusuf Khass Hajib.

Samantha Davis, UVU Rotaractor