

AMICAL 2017

AUCA faculty and staff participated at the AMICAL 2017 Annual Conference at the American College of Greece in Thessaloniki, May 17-20, 2017. This year's theme was "Centering on learning: Partnerships and professional development among librarians, faculty and technologists". The conference brought together over 120 participants from the AMICAL network institutions. AUCA was represented by the team of nine people from the library, CTLT and academic departments.



Presentations by AUCA Team at AMICAL 2017

- *Students' Academic Honesty and Research Skills Improvement through Faculty-Library Collaboration* - Liudmila Konstans (ECON).
- *A Collaboration With a Long-Lasting Impact: Introducing Information Literacy at the College Preparatory Level* - Kamilya Kadyrova (NGA), Jyldyz Bekbalaeva & Zhuzumkan Askhatbekova (LIBRARY).
- *AUCA Digital Collections: Collaborative Approach to Digital Humanities* - Zhanylai Keldibekova (LIBRARY).
- *How Student-Centered is Your Syllabus? Using MAXQDA to Assess the Writing of Learning Outcomes* - Anguelina Popova (CTLT).
- *Social Stratification and Inequalities: Blended Course for Marginalized Communities* - Reina Artur Kyzy (SOC).

Questions?

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ABOUT AMICAL

AMICAL is a consortium of American international liberal arts institutions, working together on common goals for libraries, technology and learning. AMICAL brings together 27 institutions of higher education located in 21 countries across Eastern, Central and Western Europe, West and North Africa, the Middle East, Central and Southern Asia, and Russia. Operating in diverse cultural contexts but committed to the American model of liberal education, AMICAL institutions have chosen to collaborate to support the advancement of learning and teaching.

www.amicalnet.org

AMICAL Conference

Annual conference on libraries, technology and learning, hosted by a different of member institution each year.

Small Grants Program

Grants to support professional development and collaborative projects related to digital scholarship, digital collections, digital pedagogy, and library innovation.

AMICAL CONNECT

Discussion & collaboration forum.

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Kamilya Kadyrova, Academic Director, New Generation Academy

“AMICAL 2017, held in Thessaloniki, Greece, was an amazingly well-organized conference full of diverse large and small group activities. The presentations successfully bridged academic research done by librarians, IT specialists, and faculty; they demonstrated how partnership in research can impact and enrich our academic life. Being a faculty member who had participated in AMICAL for the



first time, I did not feel excluded in this multi-national, diverse and friendly meeting of numerous library and IT staff. My colleagues from the AUCA library and I had a joint project in the past academic year and enjoyed the chance to present our pilot studies and research, and we were filled with pride to be part of such an outstanding event. I am glad that my *Community Idea Exchange* presentation on Introducing Information Literacy at the Pre-College

Stage received enlightening and insightful comments and suggestions from participants of the conference. This conference was a very valuable experience in that it provided us a chance to meet and learn from different professionals from various American Universities around the globe. Participation of the world-leading keynote speakers reporting their inspiring and recent groundbreaking work was an additional bonus to the whole conference. I would like to express my gratitude to the organizing committee of the conference and look forward to attending more international conferences hosted by AMICAL”.

Liudmila Konstants, Associate Professor, Department of Economics

“I participated at the AMICAL conference for the first time. The first thing that I was impressed with was a “*corporate spirit*”. When I met representatives of many American Universities across the world, I felt like all of us were members of the same family. That feeling was absolutely great! Second, the conference was not about only selected professional issues – all participants shared their experiences of teaching and collaborating with different departments – like libraries and IT, WARCs and others for the sake of getting a synergy effects in helping our students. Third, I liked the format of sharing the experience during *Community Idea Exchange Session*, where participants could choose among many presentations those that they are particularly interested in. This is more effective than listening to one presentation at a time delivered to the audience. Also, exhibits of academic publishers were very useful”.



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Zhuzumkan Askhatbekova, Reference Librarian

“It was my first time participating in the annual AMICAL conference. More than 100 participants from wide variety of institutions of higher education attended the three day conference. Several high profile keynote speakers set the tone for the conference. The conference also included talks on numerous topics and had several side events in smaller rooms. Most of them were practical workshops focused on a certain issue or project.



AUCA librarians, faculty and technologists were given the opportunity to share their professional experience. I was honored to represent AUCA and attend such an informative and eye-opening event”.



Zhanylai Keldibekova, User Services Librarian

“AMICAL 2017 was a great chance to meet and network with specialists from all over the world. Excellent conference in every sense. Sessions were interesting and well delivered. Venue and support were perfect. I want to thank AMICAL Consortium for supporting *AUCA Digital Collections* project through their Small Grants Program. This is a collaborative project between AUCA Library and Department of Anthropology. I had a chance

to present about project implementation and was impressed with the audience’s interest and feedback. The conference was enriching experience. Many congratulations to the organizers for arranging such a successful event!”

Anguelina Popova, CTLT Director

“AMICAL conference is a highlight event of the year for me. It’s the place to meet like-minded people with similar academic interests, and exchange on the projects and experiences we have had through the year. It is also an excellent event to start new projects. This year I took part in the *Community Exchange Ideas* with a presentation on evaluating the student - centeredness of syllabi using MAXQDA;



and in the panel session on the collaborations between the Centers for Teaching and Learning. There are very few such centers among the AMICAL institutions and we talked about ways to enhance what we are doing and support those universities which do not have such centers. Every year I try to make the most out of this event, and take something with me back home: whether through leading a webinar with the Digital Pedagogy committee, or through hosting visiting AMICAL scholars. This year I left with a few very concrete collaborative projects ideas, and hopefully I can support this kind of exchanges in the future.”

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Jyldyz Bekbalaeva, Library Director

“AMICAL is a great professional development and networking event highlighting the best of what the Consortium is doing to support its network institutions. I am very happy, that our efforts to promote AMICAL within AUCA community resulted in a strong presence at the conference. For the first time since joining AMICAL, AUCA was presented by such a big group of faculty and staff. The conference focus was collaboration among library, faculty and technologists to enhance teaching and learning at our institutions. In 2016 - 2017 academic year, AUCA received substantial AMICAL support through a number of small grants for projects and professional development. AMICAL helps bring library electronic resources and services; provides opportunities for professional training and webinars for librarians, faculty and technologists; and also maintains AMICAL Connect, a knowledge sharing platform. We would like to make the best use of resources and services that AMICAL provides to its members institutions.”



Reina Artur Kyzy, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology

“Participating at AMICAL 2017 was another wonderful and useful opportunity to reimagine and restate my teaching path at AUCA. It was the first ever time when I have met so many diverse professionals and experts united and striving for one idea - to make learning great again. It definitely inspires to open new edges of and approaches to academia

and research. I had a chance to share ideas of the blended course "Social Stratification and Inequalities: Course for Marginalized Communities" that I am developing right now. The course aims to unite AUCA sociology students and representatives of underprivileged communities of Bishkek to foster the learning and discussion of social inequalities in theory and practice in realities of Kyrgyzstan. I got a lot of very productive feedbacks as well as useful suggestions on new digital and technological tools that could help to open the course for outside communities. I would like to thank AMICAL consortium, CTLT and Library of AUCA, as well as Sociology Department for supporting my trip.”

Ekaterina Kombarova, CTLT Coordinator

“AMICAL 2017 conference was very fruitful, not only in the official discussions, but also in the exchange of experiences and building of new networks. AUCA team was actively involved in the work of the conference, including main program, organization and work of standing committees. I served as one of two lead volunteers contributing to the organization. My colleagues also participated in the work of the standing committees (Jyldyz Bekbalaeva - *OCLC Programs*, Anguelina Popova - *Digital Pedagogy*, and myself - *Institutional Research & Assessment* and *Professional Development*). At



the conference, we had a chance to discuss our ideas with other participants. For example, I discussed with colleague from AUP the idea of the faculty development tracks project with the goal of supporting faculty development in a systematic way. We agreed to work on this joint project and to present the results at the next conference.”