

NEW STAR



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Dean of Students Column



Spirit Week – is it fun?

Yes.

Spirit Week – is it stupid?

No.

Spirit Week is a small brick of the building of your inner freedom. In the building of one community that is together in happiness and sadness.

It will be a huge mistake, if someone thinks that it is simple fun.

Look in the schedule.

Every day the organizers find stuff that unifies all of us.

UNIFICATION – is the main goal of Spirit Week and many other events, participants of which we become.

I ask faculty and staff – can YOU “get down” to freshmen student level and wear with him retro

costume or pajama?

Maybe, the moment will come when we will build campus and leave this building. We will take desks, computers, books, and many other stuff.

But if we forget alumni stone, big bell, banner “You Are Not Alone”... if we lose due to move our unique spirit...

It will be another university then.

Save the university the way it was when you entered it for the first time. You wanted to be here, and you are here.

Now you are responsible for it. Like Small Prince, you are responsible for everyone, you have tamed.

Unique spirit – is not the spirit that is invisibly soaring near Marx’s moustaches

Unique Spirit is YOU!

STUDENTS, Faculty and Staff it is you chance to express AUCA Spirit! Take a chance , show your best!

Day 2 - Turkmen Day
Turkmen national style

Day 3 - Pajama Day
Спят усталые игрушки, книжки спячают!

Day 4 - Harry Potter Day
Imperio! Crucio! Avada Kedavra!!!

Day 5 - AUCA Day

SPIRIT WEEK

Freshmen - Green
Sophomore - Yellow
Junior - Blue
Senior - White



New clubs emerge in AUCA every year. Some of them happen to be very successful, some of them only spend money from Student Senate for pizza-parties and then, they disappear. This year, there are 24 registered clubs in AUCA. I hope that all of them will work productively and keep the spirit of AUCA. Good luck!

This week, we will try to explore the Spirit of AUCA one more time during the Spirit Week. I hope it will be an unforgettable event and I encourage everyone to participate!

Sincerely,

Student Coordinator
Dilnura Khalilova

Middle Age Crisis or Help Me I'm a Junior

is suffering because of the great financial crisis, AUCA juniors suffer from great mid-student-age crisis.

Dear juniors and seniors, let's be honest with ourselves: we just envy freshmen. Envy their good mood, their freshness and impressions. We became too indifferent

the problems of mid-student-age crisis? I have to admit that I don't know the answer. But I know for sure that there is nothing to do with this fear of feeling of loneliness in the crowded place.

This is what I wanted to say to juniors and seniors. Also I would like to tell freshmen

that it is no good to feel mature, while you still so green

and this is understandable. We don't want to go to AUCA parties because there will be nobody to flirt with. We don't have a reason to wear high heels and nobody to wait for in bravo, behind the stairs or across the corridors. And why is that? Because all of the older fellows had commenced and younger ones...we tend to dislike them.

Wondering how to solve

that they shouldn't listen to bad things that they might hear about themselves and be more understandable to us. Your one fresh year will pass by so fast, while you will be angry on us. And referring to sophomores, I would say that it is no good to feel mature, while you still so green.

Dina Karabekova

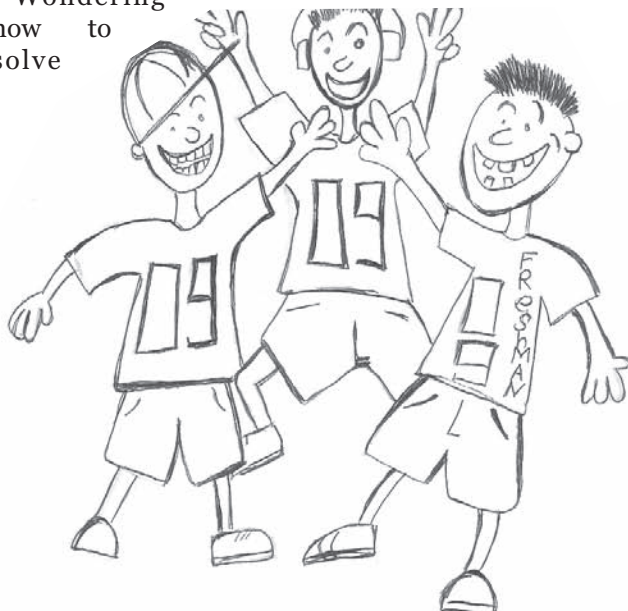
But you can surely make these remaining semesters more cheerful by:

- worsening your GPA and re-entering AUCA,
- finding the passion among the young generation and become the part of fresh-meat community,
- registering for Composition I and Intro to Computers courses,
- being kinder.



First time since I've been a student I've started to hate AUK. I heard these words from a girl, who has just become a senior. That's when I thought that she is not alone.

The most terrible thing is that at the same moment I caught myself thinking another way, but actually my thoughts were not positive either. 'I don't like to be one of the oldest.' There was always something to observe before. Observing the youth is less interesting. And this is not because of they are noisy or because they occupy whole bravo and kichinet. While the whole world



It's your opportunity

Essay Competition:

Youth Entrepreneurship in times of crisis

DEADLINE: September 22nd, 2009

Length:

Answer the question above in an essay of no more than 1500 words.

Prize:

1) Winner will receive a \$1,000 laptop sponsored by LAC Development Marketplace and the opportunity to be published in a World Bank working paper.

2) 2 runners-up will each receive a Y2Y bag and a copy of the film being showcased at the conference this year.

3) The best three submissions will be published on the World Bank Y2Y website.

Requirements:

- Open to participants globally aged 18- 30
- Essays must be submitted in English only
- Essays can be submitted as MS Word documents (.doc) or in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf)
- Only one entry is allowed per person
- All submissions must be the author's original work, and should not have been previously published anywhere
- Winners agree to have their essay published on the Y2Y website and/or Newsletter
- Winners will be announced on October 13, 2009 and will be encouraged to attend the conference
- Unfortunately, Y2Y cannot sponsor travel or accommodation of any winner who chooses to attend the conference

<http://www.youth.kg/>

Master grants for candidates from developing countries Ghent University

Who can apply?

The candidates must come from – and must also possess the nationality of – one of the countries on the OECD-DAC list part I (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development – Development Assistance Committee).

What does the funding cover?

This scholarship for postgraduate studies is always awarded for the full duration of the study programme

(with the restriction of failure in case of a two-year programme).

The scholarship covers the enrolment fee and includes a monthly allowance.

For information, please contact: <http://www.ugent.be/en>

BecasMae: How to get to SPAIN? Corrida – Vine – Flamenco – Passion – Art – so many things to see and discover. But how?

Easy. If you are one of the students who is taking Spanish at least at the intermediate level and are at least second or third year – you have a chance to win a scholarship for a summer school in Spain.

What should you do? Wait till December 8 of each year that is when the BecasMae program starts.

How? Simply, you have to submit an online application. Log in to www.becasmae.es and create an application, consisting of two recommendations from your professors, two essays, resume, and answer several questions. Everything is in Spanish, therefore submit your papers in Spanish as well.

Based on my experience, there is no selection criterion every time it is different. If you are lucky enough you will be picked.



Lida Chikalova in Lisbon

Personal experience

My experience was amazing. I got a chance to travel around Spain and Europe. I was based in Malaga on the Costa del Sur, full of magnificent beaches with amazing-body people. Malaga has also the cheapest summer school so if you don't want to spend a lot of money on school. Malaga basically is a tourist place where one can enjoy the whole Europe. People are nice and outgoing and love to drink a lot. So don't fall for that. Of course besides the wild life you should study – that you will do during the day starting from 9.00am – 12pm. Life is good, take as much as you can from it.

Facts to know

- Just before the program starts there will be a meeting with Spanish professors where everything will be explained. How to fill out application, what to do and what not to do.

- First you have to spend your money for the travelling and first ten-day living in Spain, later you will be given stipend, which is pretty good.

- School and apartment you will have to find yourself. Don't be scared – the Internet is very helpful.

Lida Chikalova

Bishkek Press Club

ВРС проводит конкурсный набор в «Школу печатной журналистики»

Бишкекский пресс-клуб (ВРС) при поддержке Представительства Internews Network в Кыргызской Республике объявляет конкурс для участия в «Школе печатной журналистики».

Для участников проекта будет организована специальная учебная программа, которая будет включать в себя тренинги и встречи с ведущими журналистами и медиаменеджерами Кыргызстана, а также пресс-туры в печатные СМИ.

Занятия начнутся с сентября 2009 г, и будут проходить в течение 5 месяцев. Обучение бесплатное. По окончании проекта активным участникам будут выданы сертификаты.

Отбор участников будет проводиться на конкурсной основе.

Последний срок подачи документов 10 сентября 2009 г. Кандидаты для участия в проекте будут приглашены на собеседование.

<http://www.bpc.kg>

GO GLOBAL!

Be a citizen of the World!

AIESEC is the world's largest student-run organization. In partnership with business and higher education, AIESEC has over 60 years of experience in developing high-potential students into globally minded responsible leaders.

There are four basic types of exchange you can go:

Development
Education
Management
Technical traineeship.

Program cost:

200 USD in total

10 USD for the selection process (At the moment of handing in the documents)

190 USD (Just after being accepted)

Please, visit the website of AIESEC: www.aiesec.org/

AIESEC-Kyrgyzstan: Vadim Mishin 0543162856
vadimishin@gmail.com Ilimbek Abdylbaev 0777846358
Ilimbeka6abd@yahoo.com

information collected by Alina Jetigenova

Success recipes

Being successful: that what every person dreams about. Although for different people it might mean different things, for some it's building a family, for others getting rich, but those who are still in status of being AUCA students it means: high GPA and as much fun as possible.

How to combine such two bipolar things during student life you'll find out from students with highest GPA and great social life.



Name: Maria Zvetkova
Status: BA junior
GPA: 3.9

Extracurricular life: boyfriend, boyfriend and boyfriend! Reading, handicraft, Internet, night clubs, parties, computer games.

Life motto: there will be no other chance, Set the goal see the goal and gain the goal.

1. Throw out the laziness
2. There is only one that matters, that's you; you need to do only what is important for you.
3. And enjoy the studying and the life
4. If you think studying is wasting a time, quit immediately
5. Do what you are best in.

In my case success is the stimuli. I am very conceited and want to become the best. The whole year I kept GPA 4.0 to prove myself. And I like when my mom is happy seeing my high grades. And I like to break stereotypes, partying whole night and then coming to university and earning an A :)

The secret is: Studying only while inspired, only when I want.



Name: Konstantin Tarasov
Status: Junior IBL
GPA: 3.7

Extracurricular life: theatre, learning languages, playing in a band, relationships without obligations, animals, (just bought a parrot) , cleaning, smoking, sleeping 21 hours is record!

Life motto: Try everything, and pick up the best!

Useless activities for your successful study are:

1. Eating
2. Sleeping

Only studying can get you there.

But in truth you need to combine all these activities to perceive success. The perfect way to be successful is combining studying and partying.

The secret is: participating in extracurricular life, because that what inspires you to do your best.



Name: Natalia Zakharchenko
Status: Junior ICP
GPA: 3.8

Extracurricular life: membership in NGO, art stuff, such as drawing and painting, volunteering for everything I can find :), shopping, ice-skating, hanging out with friends.

Life motto: Don't be sorry for what you have done; be sorry for what you didn't do.

1. Have a real desire for what you are doing.
2. Manage your time wisely
3. Be open minded for new ideas, new people, and new information

Secret is: Enjoy your studies. Use what you study in other fields, make it applicable.



Name: Kanykei Omuralieva
Status: BA sophomore
GPA: 3.8

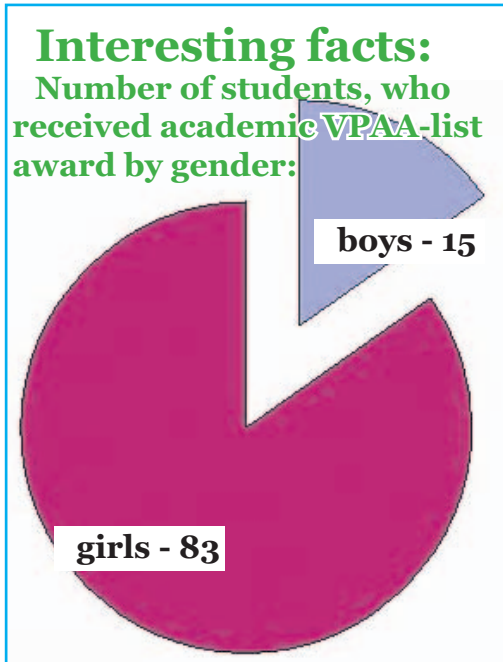
Extracurricular life: friends, KVN, and volunteering, and 104

Secret of success: none

Life motto: Impossible is nothing
I really don't have any recipe: I spent most of my free time hanging out with friends and almost everyday leave AUCA, when it closes. I almost never study at home, or neither in labs.

Do only big assignments, not the small home works. The only thing I do is: I never skip any classes and listen carefully, while lectures. What I learn on the lectures is enough for 4.0.

There is no secret: it's just happens



Alumni says Hi Aigul Kasymova

*Former senator of AUCA
One of the legends of AUCA, known as the party girl.
Just received Master's degree.
And flying out for independent research in LSE*

- Aigul, what was your GPA when you graduated from AUCA?
2.9 :)

- You known for partying a lot, how you managed to combine your studies and parties?

I never studied too hard, from the childhood my parents taught me, that grades do not matter, matter only things we know. And I believe so as well. Life is too short and too good, to live under stereotypes. There are so many great things to try in life that we don't need to spend time only on studying.

-So what's your secret of success?

The GPA really doesn't matter. All you need is to see clearly YOUR own goals and follow them, that's all you need to be successful :)



As you see the ways to succeed are different, but YOU the one who chooses what's best for you. So go on and be successful!

Nargiza Ryskulova

13 reasons to go to USA:

The survey is based on personal experiences of respondents



5. SHOPPING in Victoria's Secret!!!! Elvira



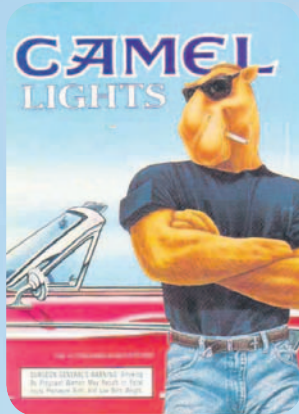
7. To spend 10 000\$



8. To touch Wall Street Bull's balls))) Adelmo



4. To make some money. Ermek



6. Being able to smoke anytime, and anywhere. Anonymous



9. Great shopping : great shoes :) Zarina



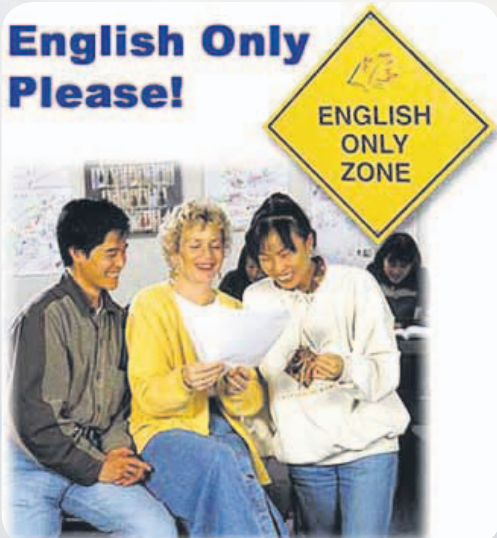
3. To taste American cheesecakes!!! Aisulu

11. To see The Statue of Liberty. Everyone, who had visited NY

2. To practice Spanish with Hot Latin Girls))) Adelmo



10. To make your girlfriend miss you. Nursultan



1. To increase English language skills. Adilet

12. Чтоб тупо отдохнуть от всех кто, пееес, достал тебя в Бише! Anonymous

13. To download new photos to Одноклассники.ru

Meerim Marat kyzy



1. DeBut (Drama Club)

If you are creative, artistic, outstanding, and feel like your place is out on the stage, join Drama Club. But join it also if you are the generator of ideas and want to become a movie producer someday.

2. World Club

Sheroz Negmatov,
negmatov_s@mail.auca.kg

Diversity! It's the one word for the AUCA community and World Club. Everything you can do by being different (preserving you identity), but united.



3. Golden Stool

Karlygach Nurmanbetova,
8kate@mail.ru

If you are creative, love to write and good at writing, then join Golden Stool! You might become a famous just like Dostoevskiy very soon.



4. New Star Newspaper

Lazarina Kuchmenova,
thestar@mail.auca.kg

If you have an opinion of your own, if you have what to say, if you are creative and mobile and love to communicate with people. Come and discover your new talents. And become a real STAR!

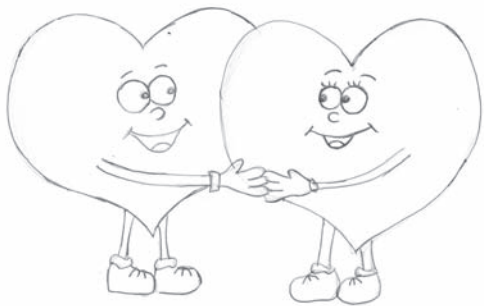


5. French Club

Diyora Rafieva,
rafieva_d@mail.auca.kg

Learn French and explore France! If you dream to visit Paris, that's your real chance to learn French!

AUCA Clubs



6. From Heart to Heart (Salvation Army)

Yana Faizulina,
Faizulina_y@mail.auca.kg
Give your heart to those who is in need! Charity! Volunteering! Help! Make a world a better place!



7. Invisible Hand
Atai Muratbekov,
muratbekov_a@mail.auca.kg
Charity concerts, Spanish contest, support talents, student ideas and cultural exchange: everything you find fun and useful! ! Come and join!



8. SIFE
Marat Mashanlo,
mashanlo_m@mail.auca.kg
Do you want to become a real businessman? Write business projects, implement them into life and earn money. Then join SIFE.

9. Kvartal 205 KVN team
Nursultan Ulukbekov,
ulukbekov_n@mail.auca.kg
Have fun! Play KVN! Be cool!

10. Debate Club
Kasym Rakhmankulov,
cosia@mail.ru
You can't imagine life without arguments? Then come and join Debate Club. Make your arguments constructive and participate in REAL debate contests.

11. Heritage Club
Akdodshoev Emadsho,
said-omad@mail.ru
Civil International Social Club's activities include realization of social projects and solving social problems in global range.



12. American Football Club
Voronkevich Vyacheslav, 555-414741
Self-explanatory? Brave enough? Then come!



13. Earth Club
Aikokul Arziyeva, 777-317394
Want to save the Earth, protect the environment! It's your chance!



14. Law Club LEX
Askar Sydykov,
askar.sydykov@gmail.com
Want to become a real lawyer? Don't wait till you graduate. Come and try what it is like in real life.

15. Speak Up
Akniet Rysbek kyzy,
akniet_14@yahoo.com
You need effective speaking skills, then join Speak Up, make every word you say Matter! Build your career yourself!



16. Kyrgyz Language Club
Maria Tsvetkova,
tsvetkova_m@mail.auca.kg
Are you patriot? Then Kyrgyz Language Club is For you! Kyrgyzstan is where future is!

17. Mobber Unit (Fleshmob Club)
You believe that you can make a difference? Then come and join flash mob club! Be different and make a change, because you care!
Nurgazy Barataliev,
pharrell.at@gmail.com

18. Paintball Club
Ilias Nurmambetov,
nurmambetov_i@mail.auca.kg
Love paintball? Come and join!
Play with discounts, have fun and be sporty!



19. Track Club
Myrzabek Emilbek uulu,
myrzabekg@gmail.com
Love to Run? Do it fun! Come and join Track Club!



20. Making Movies Club
Sharshenaliev Edil,
starcryer@mail.ru
Do you love movies? Want to shoot a movie? Want to become a Hollywood Star someday then, come and try yourself in movie making club.



21. Cheer Leaders Club.
Amalya90@mail.ru Amalya
Love to dance and have fun?
Support and cheer for American Football Team.

22. Ultimate Frisbee Club
Pavel Kononov,
kononov_p@mail.auca.kg
Running, exercising, being in shape and playing Frisbee. Frisbee forever!

- 28 clubs registered for the new academic year.
- 24 clubs participated in Club's Fair
- Average number of registered members in clubs 60.
- The Heritage Club recorded with 120 people registered.

The information is collected by Nargiza Ryskulova
Drawings by Meerim Marat kyzy

Poetry



А у любви ни губ ни тела,
ни головы, ни живота.
Она бестельна, и всецело
бесцельна, но не так проста,
Как мы вначале полагали,
Делимые на рай и ад,
Мы, с головою и ногами.
Столь сложные!
(На первый взгляд...)

Бенька

Send your poems to
thestar@mail.auca.kg

BOXES

Діла ты такая ничешка! С самого начала ориентейшен я только по тебе и прусь. Аноним.

Утеряна позиция в 2006 году, студенческого координатора. Кайрат Тынаев.

Махинур Асановна, почему вы больше не ведете Intro to Psy?! Хочу узнать о психологии только от вас! ITшник.

Дорогие Фрэшмены! В грядущие годы вашего академического развития не нужно замыкаться на пэйперах и homework! Есть же социальная жизнь университета, в которой вам необходимо принять активное участие, иначе! Вы станете книжным червем! Анонимous.

Утеряна сережка с розовыми сердечками и зелеными кружочками. В кружочках застывшая кровь. Если она у вас, оставьте ее у СБ. Несчастная : (

Как тихо стало в АУКе без туркменов :(

Малика! Когда будут скидки для постоянных клиентов Bravo? Рустам.

Никого не узнаю
в Bravo :(Alumник.

Мальчик с мячом из первого Стара, скинь свой номер в box :) Ты суууупер!

Two weeks out of civilization

Naryn oblast ... Kochkor valley... Kalmak-Tash

Each summer students of the anthropology department goes somewhere to have a fieldwork in archaeology. Usually participants of trips are sophomores; some of them are freshmen and of course, the head of Anthropology department - Aida Abdykanova.

Start:

We stopped to buy food in order not to become cannibals, when we got hungry, some soap stuff to prevent stinking, and plenty of dishes to cook at. All those things we bought in 2 days.

Anyway, on July 25 at 8.30 in the morning our group started the journey. However, for me it started much later and, unfortunately, I went alone. I reached Kochkor, by taxi, but then it was almost impossible to get to the mountains by car.

Being a lucky person, I found an

Being a lucky person, I found an unfamiliar "jigit" on a horse

unfamiliar "jigit" on a horse, so we galloped to my campus during 2 hours, viewing our beautiful and amazing mountains. It was somewhat weird and unusual, but at the same time, it was an interesting experience for me. Riding a horse, he sniffed me all the time, while sitting behind me; spoke to me only in Kyrgyz language, so it was like the Kyrgyz beginners 2, and finally we sang a song in Kyrgyz. It was hilarious, but the real fun was just starting, when I reached my campus, because my appearance on a horse shocked my group and they were laughing at me a lot.

From that day our archaeological adventure started.

We had a special schedule prepared for two weeks:
Excavation

Every day at seven o'clock, we got up from our sleeping bags to have breakfast. After a good meal, we gathered our heavy equipment

like spade, nivilir, three pails, tape measure, something to eat and with a "good mood" went to dig.

From the camp to the place of excavation, it was about one and half km, but at the end of the trip, we used to go there and it was very close to us. While coming to the place of excavation everybody take his or her position in a square and got ready to dig. Altogether, there are eight squares- 1m on 1m.

On the 5th of July, we went into deep on 1.5, 2 meters! Firstly, we cleaned up first layer from the grass and burs. Secondly, we tried to take away many stones, which were very heavy for girls, but helpfully we had Alexey Mun, freshman of anthropology department who took away all those heavy stones. To the end, we found around ten or twelve artifacts. All students were happy; because it was their first finding and we tried to be

careful with it.

The way we lived

The weather in Naryn is very changeable, and we experienced it in our own. In the morning, it can be terribly cold, in the afternoon sunny and in the night crazy downpour.

In spite of such terrible weather, we managed to survive without lights and any living conveniences. As professional tourists, we slept in tents. Two people in each tent. Everybody had its own sleeping bags and inside them was so warm that I did not want to come out. What was interesting and unusual for me, is that we had a cool "bathroom" with three pails inside it.

Our group had a definite process of having a bath. The first step was to fill the pails with water, then to put them on a cooking range and wait about 40 minutes. The third step is the most difficult was to deliver that water on a hill where that tent was situated. From that moment, you are ready to wash. Also in our campus we had little kitchen where we cooked and talked. The only opportunity for us to reach and bring drinkable water was a poor donkey. The way we washed our clothes was very simple. We did it in a river!

One day we decided to look through the area we live at. After some time we found stones with many petroglyphs on them.

I am very proud of my self that I got through all difficulties and got prepared to live without any convenient. In addition, during those two weeks, I began to cook, and every day we had an exclusive meal from those who was on duty. In the last days, our neighbor taught me and Yana (sophomore of Anthropology department) how to cook Kyrgyz national food "Kattama". Nevertheless, I found out that now, coming back to my lovely Bishkek, that I hate "Tushenka" which was the only "meat" we had, because we did not have any other choices. Although, thanks to the Anthropology department, which gives us a great chance to see Kyrgyzstan, too understand more deeply Kyrgyz nation, culture, traditions and feel by ourselves who are the real anthropologists and archaeologists!

Diana Takutdinova

The only opportunity for us to reach and bring drinkable water was a poor donkey.



Schedule:

Sunday, July 26 – Friday, August 7

07:00 Wake-up
07:15 – 07:45 Breakfast
08:00 – 10:00 Digging
10:00 – 10:30 Something like coffee-break
14:15 – 16:15 Digging
16:15 – 16:45 Something like coffee-break
16:45 – 18:45 Digging
19:00 Dinner

Privacy in inbox? Never!

Did you delete your last received message from your cell phone? These 15 students did not. Beware, read, and smile!!! :)



1. Lublu tebya, Brat!) Maksim, CS-109
2. *800# - ushuga ZvonOK. Zamenite standartnye gudki na krasivuyu melodiuyu ili shutku. Udivite svoih друзей! Info *800#8#. Aisulu MM-107
3. Dobroe utro. Zahvati pilo4ku pls. Meerim, BA-108
4. Privet, ty flag v Hyatt zakinul? Eldiyar, LAW-108
5. Vot ty svOI04! Pridew, pOdtyanew svOi dohliy 4ubakOvskiy organism, tam I pOpaw! Ilshat, LAW-206
6. Ty podstrigssya? Nursultan, ECO-308
7. Kto-to iz nas ne daet razvoda. Tol'ko ya ne znaiu kto:) kak dela? Kunduz, ECO-108
8. Dj flo tonight at the Muse. 5 bucks to get in, tight! Bright! and sexy! Chingiz, AS-206
9. **Я скучаю по тебе... Lera, BA-108
10. Y ate che budilnik? Haha nu lan razbuju. Tak uj I

11. Can you move your ass quicker? Aizada, SFW-108
12. Idem v kino! Segodnya! Na nashu s toboi ljubov! I serdce budet bitsya! Kak osvobodishsya pozvoni. Aidana, LAW-106
13. Bratan, ya peeees vlubilsya v tvoyu sestru!!! Mojesh daje skazat' ei! Azim, SFW-107
14. Brat, pomogi do subboty podnyat kapu! Posledniy raz proshu! Bol'we vybora net! Ne u kogo prosit' bol'we! Otvet' smojew ili net..... Timur, BA-109
15. E, vy cheeee tak mrachneete kada ee vidite? Mne ee peeeeeees jalko. Ne palite! Che tak palite! Kanykey, BA-108

Natali Anarbaeva

THE GRASS IS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE. BUT WHERE IS THE SOFTEST?

SVETLANA MAKEYEVA is an American Studies PhD student at the Dortmund University of Technology. She has been studying American studies in Kyrgyzstan, Germany and U.S.A. for six years already. Svetlana obtained her B.A. from the American University-Central Asia in 2006, and M.A. from the Heidelberg Center for American Studies at the Ruprecht-Karls-University in Heidelberg in 2007. In 2008, Svetlana submitted her thesis proposal titled "Coverage of the American Presidential Election 2008 in the Political Blogosphere: The Candidates' Racial and Gender Tickets to the White House (?)" to the Dortmund University of Technology, and joined the American Studies Department to work on her project. In 2009, Svetlana taught her course "Presidential Elections and American Culture: News Media, New Media and American Politics." Svetlana says that one of the most recent and inspiring experiences was her first trip to the U.S., where she witnessed how Democrat Barack Obama swept the United States presidential election of 2008. She has research passion for Internet, new media and American politics.

I still divide my life into two periods: 1. Svetlana's life before graduation from AU-CA; and 2. Svetlana's life after graduation from AU-CA. After my graduation in 2006, I "disappeared" from my university's academic and extra-curricular life. One of my AU-CA Gurus, Sir Nikolai Shulgina, encouraged me to write an article about my adventures. I accept this offer with pleasure and gratitude for this is a great chance to get "reconnected" with AU-CA students, staff, Alumni and, I hope, AU-CA's administration.

The grass is greener on the other side. True! In 2006, Germany – "the other side" – seemed to be greener to me. So, I submitted my applications and received an invitation letter from the Heidelberg Center for American Studies to join the intercultural M.A. team in one of the oldest universities of Europe. Splendid!

According to Heidelberg's ak sakals, the Ruprecht-Karls-University in Heidelberg was founded in 1386. At first, it opened the heavy wooden doors to the students of philosophy, theology, jurisprudence, and medicine. Heidelbergers are very proud of the fact that their university is one of the oldest. I

have an impression that dusty-rusty-ruinous objects make most of the Germans – and Europeans in general – tremble in joy and admiration. I think it will not be an exaggeration to say that Europeans have respect for their history and give away a lot of money on preservation of their heritage. Heidelbergers, the citizens of the "Mountain of Saints", adore their Altstadt. In Germany, self-identification with a city is very common and strongly pronounced.

Some stories from Heidelberg's history are less popular. I have never heard any Heidelberger mentioning a story about this town surrendering without a fight in March 30th, 1945, the day, when the first Allied troops entered Heidelberg. Some months later, the headquarters of the U.S. Seventh Army Group moved from Augsburg to Heidelberg. Since then, the U.S. military presence was always felt in that region. I do not remember any monuments or museums commemorating or condemning these all. Yet Heidelberg without Americans is not Heidelberg. Speaking frankly, the sight of the American military uniform was constantly reminding me of Bishkek. I got used to – yet never adopted it – the American accent in Bishkek. I got used to seeing American jeeps rushing somewhere time to time. I got used to the idea that Americans are always around. I have never ever had a chance to visit an American military base. Up until this day, the American bases in Kyrgyzstan and Germany are like ghosts to me: you never see them, yet you feel their presence.

As distinct from Bishkek, there is no Russian military base in the opposite direction from the American base in Baden-Württemberg, yet I could hear the Russian speech every day. I remember Heidelberg as small, beautiful and swarmed with American, German, Jewish, Russian, Turkish and Kazakh students on bikes! There are legends about the power of the city's beauty. Indeed, the view of Heidelberg with the Heidelberg Castle on a hill and the Old Bridge over the Neckar River is romantic. All in all, an appropriate place to write a

master thesis titled "Metaphors for the Society of the Early American Republic: Young Desirable White Female Middle Class Bodies Threatened by Seductive Mercantilists". Yet this beauty could not save me from bounds of melancholy. The first year away from home was one of the most difficult years of my life. Yet it was productive for me as a secretly self-proclaimed graphic artist. Thanks to the Intercultural art project "Art van Daemon" initiated by Christina Schrauwers, a talented German art student from Berlin, I had an opportunity to exhibit my short autobiographic tale: six illustrations of a daydream of an allergic girl suffering from hand eczema.

I was determined to continue my studies. The status of a PhD prospective student allowed me to stay in Heidelberg for one more year and start working on my PhD thesis proposal. Splendid!

And then I had luck from my destiny. Oh, well, in Germany, I am accused of fatalism time to time! Christiane Roesch, one of the founders of the Athena Wissenschaftsmarketing Agency, asked me to help with translating a couple of documents from English into Russian. This young energetic and innovative business lady strongly believes in the political power of the internet. Athena Wissenschaftsmarketing is still one of the fewest agencies specializing in educational internet marketing in Germany. Traumarbeit! In Athena's office, where I worked later as a regional specialist, I caught the virus of technophilia. I decided to change my field of research which was American literature and history. In 2008, I submitted my thesis proposal titled "Coverage of the American Presidential Election 2008 in the Political Blogosphere: The Candidates' Racial and Gender Tickets to the White House (?)" to the Dortmund University of Technology, and joined the American Studies Department to carry out my project under supervision of Prof. Walther Grünzweig.

Moving from the student town to industrial Dortmund was a radical change of the scene! Dortmund is the seventh largest city in Germany. I would describe it as a tough ambitious city made of steel, glass and concrete... with a wonderful rosarium in its heart! I think, stereotypical Dortmunders can be described as the men and women who try to appear rough, yet they are very easy-going and friendly. Echte Dortmunders are expected to be worshippers of the local black and yellow sport

club Borussia Dortmund. But do not be surprised to discover that your new acquaintances in Dortmund never heard of the fact that their rose garden is the third largest rosarium in the world! It took time for me to really appreciate the city's wild spirit and find rosarium. As a friend of mine put it, "Dortmund has everything what a big city must have, but you do not feel



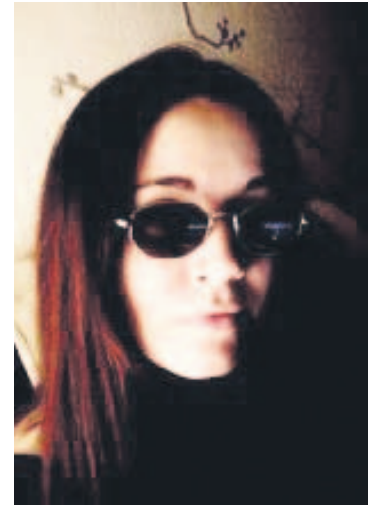
that you are in a big city."

The American Studies Department at TU provides me with a unique opportunity to grow as a person and a scholar. I was happy to find myself among the scholars who believe in the power of the internet and treat political blogs as a valuable source for studying American culture. Contrary to a quite popular opinion, Obama and his team were not the first who dared to launch a political campaign in the internet. What about Joe Trippi who served as a campaign manager for Howard Dean, the presidential candidate in 2004 and former governor of Vermont? This summer semester, I taught a seminar about the political potential of the internet. The achievements and mistakes of the fathers of the internet political campaigning were in the spotlight. This winter semester, I invite the students interested in new media and American politics and culture to get together and contribute to the contemporary discussions about controversies around the – frequently conflicting – relationships between the mainstream media and political blogs covering 2008 presidential elections in the U.S. This course will be closely related to my PhD dissertation.

I like to learn, travel, meet interesting people, study languages, try and cook new food, participate in events, organize people for action, do something I have never done before. The AU-CA inculcated in me a taste for challenges and competition. And there are very special persons who taught me to manage stress and preserve my inner self. I am very grateful

to The New Star student newspaper of the American University of Central Asia for this opportunity to thank the people who are special to me.

My Mother, Father and Sister, thank You. Along with my dearest parents, Prof. Aaron Brudny, Prof. Valeri Hardin and the Dean of Students Nikolay Shulgina – my Holy AU-CA Trinity – have always been



inspiring me to pursuit my happiness. Thank you. The HR activists Anna Kirey and Anna Dvopopol and the Amnesty International Club at AU-CA have always been inspiring me to care about the pursuit of happiness of others. Thank you.

I am grateful to my new friends, colleagues, students and supervisors for their support. Hearty thanks to the European media marketing shark, Walther Kraft! Thank you, friends from Baden-Württemberg! Jiawei Mao! Beata Trilesnik! Athena-Family! Professors from HCA! Hallo, Nordrhein-Westfalen! My warmest greetings to Prof. Walther Grünzweig and my academic family in Dortmund! Special greetings to my students! Many thanks to the Krüger clan for being always kind to me! Nadejda Ponomareva, how are you doing in Iowa? And my very special greetings to Gábor Szendrey-Simon and his mother Erzsébet!

The grass is greener on the other side. True! But the grass in Kyrgyzstan will always be the softest to me.

**Svetlana Makeyeva
AU-CA Alumni 2006**



«The Interrupted Dream». Exhibited in Heidelberg 2007.