

NEW STAR

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INITIATION 2008 – AUCA DAY

The first echo of this day starts growing long before the 12th of November. It starts with the sounds of an AUCA hymn in CHI and girls' discussions about what to wear at the after party. The tension around it grows with every day. And here it comes - the biggest event of the year: INITIATION.

Initiation is definitely the day when the "Spirit of AUCA" appears on the campus. The campus seems to be filled with the spirit; music playing in the Bravo cafeteria, the excited students rushing to get tickets to the concert. The spirit is illustrated through the AUCA hymns heard on different floors, discussions of the up-coming party, and mysterious drama preparations for the official party floating around campus. Maybe it is because of shortened schedules, but probably because of the true love to this event, the day passes even faster than usual.

Of course Initiation is a special day for freshmen. For them, it is an official ritual of becoming a true student: first the AUCA performance, followed by the "crazy" party. And the most important: the real feeling of being a part of AUCA. So what was initiation like in freshmen's eyes?

"I liked that initiation was organized on such professional level: both official and non-official parts. The event went not just to get through it, but organizers made sure to make it all really fun and interesting for students. The creativity, the dynamic of official part, movies, and



dances: the whole thing over was fascinating".

Initiation passed on a single breath just like everything else at AUCA: fast and effective. As said Abby Woods, part-time AUCA student, Initiation was entirely an AUCA event.

"At the official part I loved the sketches, a person can understand them only if he or she is a part of the AUCA community.

They were short, but each of them had so much meaning".

Not less important, the non-official part of Initiation. To win a tender for Initiation party, students came up with various show programs and tried their best to decorate the disco hall. This time the party was in the Pharaoh Night club.

"The discotheque became a real chance for me to meet new people. I met freshmen, whom I never had seen before due to different schedules. The party really unites people, and lets us to learn about each other in a more informal atmosphere", Israil Shamaralov, AUCA freshman, said.

However there are also very diverse opinions about the after party.

"The after party started really well, however it didn't justify hopes. There were too few games, so it looked just like regular discotheque", Ermek Mamaev said.

Despite diverse opinions, all interviewers agreed that Initiation is the most effective way to get to know each other and get a real sense of being an AUCA student.

Nargiza RYSKULOVA



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DEAN OF STUDENTS COLUMN

The shortest article from the Dean of Students



Dear Freshmen,
Brothers and sisters, we are the same blood. At Initiation time, you became the real students of American University of Central Asia.

I hope you will love your university, as university loves you.

I also congratulate the new members of the Student Senate with their new job, the job to care about their friends. You have a lot of trust placed upon you. I wish for you to meet and satisfy this trust.

Go with God,
Shulgin. N.G.

А ВЫ ЗНАЕТЕ?

Шестого ноября в Бишкеке проходил чемпионат Кыргызстана по спортивным бальным танцам. В нем принимали участие Валерия и Виктория Качалко, студентки второго курса АУЦА. Сестры Качалко заняли первое и второе место, по итогам конкурса.

Девушки с детства занимаются танцами, и уже не раз одерживали победу в различных соревнованиях. Их эффектная внешность, обаяние, а главное - великолепные грация и гибкость являются составляющими их успеха.

Следующим этапом для победи-

телей станет - поездка в город Тайпей, на острове Тайвань, где шестого декабря будет проходить чемпионат Азии.

На вопрос: «оплачивается ли поездка?» Лера с Викой ответили, что этот вопрос еще решается. То есть существует вероятность того, что чемпионки все оплатят сами (!)

В течение многих лет девушек тренировала заслуженный тренер Кыргызской Республики Доронина Валентина Васильевна, но сестры уже прошли через этап постоянных тренировок и теперь время от времени берут



уроки у чемпионов России и Кыргызстана, которые ставят им танцы для выступлений.

В числе их побед и первое место, занятое летом в Шанхае (Кубок Китая). Также в рамках Кубка Китая проходил международный фестиваль бальных танцев, где принимали участие чемпионы со всего мира. Наши танцовщицы заняли 12 место из 100, таким образом, войдя в полуфинал среди взрослых профессионалов!

Что ж, остается пожелать очаровательным сестрам дальнейших побед в будущем, ну, а на данный момент - победы в Тайпее!

Акжибек АЛМАЗБЕК кызы



Unanswered Questions Revealed New Facts

“WE HAVE THE FUNDS TO INITIATE THE BUILDING,” PRESIDENT HURWITZ SAID.

The article “Will AUCA ever have a dormitory?” published in the last issue of New Star left many questions unanswered. In this issue, the AUCA President Ellen Hurwitz revealed new facts.

It is the year 2008; almost four years have passed since AUCA publication materials brought up the idea of a dormitory. Although the time for building a dormitory has not been defined, AUCA students' hopes were raised too high. Since the expectations have not yet been fulfilled, students are disappointed.

“It is my fourth academic year at AUCA, and I have already lost my hope to have a dormitory. It seems that these are only promises that will never be achieved. Every time students discuss the issue of a dormitory, I have nothing to say. Even though this sounds ironic, there is still hope that someday my grandchildren will be able to fulfill the academic life

with good housing conditions.” Jeyran Babajanova, ICP-106.

President Hurwitz added that when she arrived at AUCA in 2005, there was an expectation that both the dorm and the accreditation were in the very near future; those expectations were misleading.

This is where things stand right now: according to the President Hurwitz, a dormitory for international students will take a minimum of two more years from now to be built.

The university is in an ongoing process of accreditation status in the USA. Many rumors have been spread about the future of AUCA's accreditation. One of the rumors is that the criteria for accreditation include having a dormitory, which means we miss out and do not meet the claimed conditions.

However, President Hurwitz stated, “Accreditation does not require a dormitory

unless we claim we are residential; since we claim that we plan to be residential, we must have plans in place to do so. The fact is that accreditation takes five years to accomplish, and that is after being accepted as a candidate. We are currently in the process of becoming a candidate and we have a grant from the US government to begin our accreditation planning...we are launched.”

Another rumor is that AUCA does not have sufficient resources to cover the cost of a new student dormitory.

“We have funds, some just received and set aside for the dorm, they are now invested wisely until we construct,” President Hurwitz emphasized.

AUCA has received the \$5 million they needed in order to build a dormitory, though some of it was delayed and arrived here only in August. The president is now in the process of working with the board of trustees and negotiating with the government about identifying an alternative site to the one first designated by the Kyrgyz government.

“We have had informal conversations with several architects but have not initiated a formal tender; this would necessarily involve our board of trustees. Due to the requirement to identify the land on which to build; this is under discussion with the

government in exchange for the land originally granted to us on Tynystanova Street.”

Initially, the dormitory was proposed to be built on Tynystanova Street, however later it was discovered that the site lies atop the communication system of Bishkek, therefore creating many problems.

According to President Hurwitz, the building of the residential hall is definitely a major priority of the plan for the coming years, since the number of international students and those who come to study to AUCA from different parts of Kyrgyzstan is increasing. But students say they need help immediately.

“Officially we have an International Office, but many students do not even apply there. There is no system to help Kyrgyz newcomers. And for students from other regions it is harder, firstly to pay for an apartment is very expensive, secondly to adapt quickly during their first year. AUCA should provide more assistance on this issue,” said Ibragim Merzakhmedov ICP-106.

To help with all these problems, President Hurwitz came up with a not-yet-implemented solution to involve Mr. Shulgin in finding apartments for international students, maybe even to work directly with several agencies.

Lida CHIKALOVA

COURSE EXTINCTION IN THE FOREIGN LANGUAGES PROGRAM

Want to take Italian or Turkish? Give up your crazy idea. It seems that AUCA cannot make your dreams come true anymore. An interview with Inna Vladimirovna Dyachenko sheds new light on the subject.

The Foreign Languages Program has had a long history at American University since its creation in 1997. Even in 2004, right after the authority of AUCA was changed, there were already three programs existing: the Austro-German Program, French Studies, and the Second Language Program. AUCA proudly stated, "...We now also offer Russian, Kyrgyz, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish and Chinese" (2004). In 2004, the time-tables offered many more courses than they do now, even with the fewer number of students at the university.

In the Austro-German Program there were 27 courses, now it is only nine. In the French Studies there were 13 courses, now it is 10. And in the Second Language Program, 24, which is now just 13. It is an immense difference in the quality of education; we payed less and got more. At that time, 10-12 students were not necessary to have a class, but groups were formed by any number of students who desired to learn the language. Instructors taught even three to five students in the class and paid great attention to each one. The university was student-oriented, not profit-oriented, as it seems now. In the last four years we completely lost three languages from the list. When there is less demand for a certain language, it vanishes away from our time-tables and instructors leave the university.

President Hurwitz, in a speech made last year, made a very interesting remark. "Please

also know that navigating across many languages is a precious and essential part of a liberal arts education. Although English will be our primary language, your native tongues and the many other languages you can study here are fundamental to your experience at AUCA" (The Star, April 23, 2008, pg.3). Is AUCA not proclaimed throughout the entire Central Asian region as a liberal arts institution? Then why are the language programs annually disappearing? According to the facts above, do the words of the president match her actions?

In order to find more information regarding the disappearance of these classes, the New Star sought out one of the representatives of the Foreign Language Program to comment upon the situation. Inna Vladimirovna Dyachenko, Instructor of French Language and Program Coordinator, shared her insights and thoughts about the subject.

New Star: Please describe the Foreign Languages Department as of now.

IVD: After foreign languages became a part of General Education (6 credits in fall 2007), almost nothing has changed except that freshman became the majority of the students taking foreign languages for credit. For now our program is growing more 'horizontally' rather than 'vertically'. I mean that we have more students at the Beginners level than at the higher ones. This is actually beneficial because several groups of beginners will for sure continue to grow into intermediate and, hopefully, advanced levels.

NS: What do you think are the current problems with the Foreign Language De-

partment?

IVD: Few students prefer Intermediate and Advanced levels because of the additional credits it takes, and also because of the extra hours of homework. I want to say that it does not take your additional credits. Each student has to cover 144 credits before graduating. Major programs take approximately 45-55 credits plus 42-51 of General Education credits, which means that students above all have to cover somehow 40-30 credits left and can take any elective courses that they want from any departments. This is a huge secret that students understand only at their third or even fourth year of study and come up to our program to learn a language. But what can we offer to those who are soon graduating? They have a great eagerness to study, but not enough time for completing our all 6 levels of learning a language. As we had to cover the requirements of administration, to have 10-15 students in the class and to reduce the number of classes from three to two per week, we faced with the decreasing of quality of knowledge; because 15 students for one instructor is too much and he doesn't have enough time to work with everyone individually.

NS: Why are there no AU (Audit) Credits for foreign languages now?

IVD: We decided to cancel the AU for several reasons. Most audit students do not take it seriously and do not regularly attend the whole semester, disregarding all the homework. Also, free attendance does not make sense especially for learning a language because it is a more



practical course. Students have to work hard to understand what is going on in the course, even if they are auditing it. Also, instructors are not interested in such students because they are not counted for opening a course. Still, we try to leave the final decision to the instructor to have an audit student in the class or not.

NS: What is the popularity of the Foreign Languages Department?

IVD: The most popular languages for now are German, Spanish, and Chinese because of the practical usage of them in the future, while the following languages lost their prestige among AUCA students: Korean, Turkish, and Italian, and won't be offered anymore starting in Spring 2009. Arabic and Japanese are the next languages to disappear from AUCA.

So, according to Inna, the language program is trying somehow to survive in this changing world of AUCA. AUCA's Mission, Values, and Goals statement says, "Our University is a small but powerful engine of intellectual freedom and critical thinking that fuels education in a caring, corruption-free, student-centered environment." The desire to reach out to students is there, and the students should step up to take the classes that they so desire to take.

Nataliya CHEMAYEVA

Domestic Problems at AUCA or investigation with the code name "Ladies" & "Gentlemen"



How often have you faced domestic problems at AUCA, such as the absence of soap or toilet paper in university restrooms, or the lack of places to sit during the lunch break? What about the shortage of sockets for laptops? Here is a new look behind the scenes of such domestic problems.

On average, 4,000 rolls of toilet papers are used in a month while 30 bars of soap are distributed in just one week at AUCA, according to Alexander Tsoi, the Physical Plant Department (PPD) office manager. The

shortage of these items, in his opinion, is due to the increasing number of toilet paper and soap thefts recently. In addition, Tsoi gave another cause of the shortage: using toilet paper out of its purpose, such as wrapping the toilet seats with toilet paper and wiping shoes.

However, it is interesting to note that a few years ago, the toilet paper and bars of soaps were distributed in nearly the same quantity. In the last few years at AUCA, the amount of students significantly increased but the distribution of necessities

stayed the same.

AUCA staff remains accusatory toward students who steal toilet papers and bars of soap immediately after cleaners replace them. And according to Galina Zalesskaya, a cleaner at the university, some students take the toilet paper and soaps from the cleaning supply closet, which is located on the first floor. Some thieves even put new lavatory paper and soaps on the windowsill and then take them from the outside through an open window.

"It is surprising that even in the men's restroom the toilet paper and soaps are stolen," Zalesskaya said.

Besides the lack of supplies, there is long list of problems allegedly caused by students. It is negligence on the part of students. Cleaners frequently complain that the gentlemen do not wash after themselves. And girls comb their hair over the sinks, which leaves an unpleasant restroom to clean. Frequently users, after washing their hands, do not turn off the faucet, letting the water flow.

Sergey Kurochkin, a sanitary technician, emphasizes the problem of

the obstruction of the sewerage system. The cause is that users throw away personal hygiene products in toilets.

In addition, toilet seats are broken because users put their feet on them.

"By replacing the broken seats with new ones, we do not resolve the problem. The new ones will break as well," Kurochkin sighed.

In other areas of the university, the problem still goes on with the lack of places to sit during the lunch break, and the dilemma is the size of the rooms, not simply the lack of tables. Every year the amount of students rises, but the number of places to eat remains the same.

According to Arstanbek Osmonov, director of PPD and associative vice president, it has been suggested to build a cafeteria in the yard of the second building, but this project was not supported. However, PPD is trying to solve this problem; for example, they put round tables near Bravo to aid with overflow.

As for the shortage of sockets in the labs, Aaly Tashovich, acting di-

rector of PPD, assured New Star that it is a solvable problem. They do not currently have information about the management's decision to solve this problem, but they will do everything possible to make additional sockets.

Gulzara Haytmuratova, a student of the Journalism department, laments that students leave their laptops plugged into sockets even when they are not using them.

"I carry a laptop which weighs about five kilograms and I get really disappointed because I brought it with me and there is never a socket available. And even if there is one, it most likely will not work," Haytmuratova said. "We are American University and the staff should care about our domestic issues."

Altynai MYRZABEKOVA



YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

It's been a long fourteen days of agitation, loud speeches, and heated discussions. Finally, the day X has come. Early in the morning, everything for elections was ready. Senators of 2007-08 were waiting for students of AUCA to start voting. On November 10, AUCA students made their choice and voted for new Student Senate.

Students Senate Elections: Statistics

This year students of AUCA were much more actively participating in elections than previous years. The total number of full-time students who voted is 547, which is 53.7%! Also, this year, elections had two novelties: first, part-time students had right to vote but unfortunately not all of them knew about this right. Only four people out of 66 part-time students came to vote (which is 6% out of all part-time students). Please, be more active next year!

The next novelty is that now the Preparatory Program will have a delegate in Student Senate, which makes it more representative. Delegate will attend the meetings of Senate, however he doesn't have a voice in decision-making process. This year 39 prep-students voted for their delegate, which means that 52% of them came to elections!

The most active department this year was Law (65 out of 110 students), with 59.1%. Sec-

ond place goes to Economics (86 out of 159) with 54.1%. 96 students from Business Administration out of 180 participated in elections, which put BA in third place (53.3%). The last place goes to Sociology (33.3%), only 25 students out of 75 voted.

Sophomores showed surprising participation – 63.4%! It is amazing because usually freshmen are more active. Probably, the high percentage of second-year students is because many candidates were sophomores. The most active seniors were from International and Comparative Politics (18 out of 38). It is much appreciated that those seniors do not forget about student life in AUCA.

So, the elections overcame the expectations, both of student body and the candidates. We hope that in the coming year, the participation will only increase and students will always remember their rights in the university. Your voice matters!

Dilnura KHALILOVA and Venera KIM

The activity of students by year of study:

Year of study	Total number of students	Total number of students voted	%
Freshman	370	192	51,9
Sophomore	287	182	63,4
Junior	249	113	45,4
Senior	192	60	31,3



The most active year of study within departments:

Nº	Name of department	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
1.	Law	26 votes (out of 37)	14 votes (out of 22)	15 votes (out of 30)	10 votes (out of 21)
2.	Economics	20 votes (out of 43)	26 votes (out of 36)	29 votes (out of 49)	11 votes (out of 31)
3.	Business Administration	29 votes (out of 54)	39 votes (out of 45)	19 votes (out of 39)	9 votes (out of 42)
4.	Anthropology	21 votes (out of 37)	12 votes (out of 18)	7 votes (out of 16)	2 votes (out of 8)
5.	International and Comparative Politics	23 votes (out of 39)	21 votes (out of 32)	18 votes (out of 36)	18 votes (out of 38)
6.	Journalism and Mass Communication	16 votes (out of 27)	12 votes (out of 22)	3 votes (out of 13)	3 votes (out of 11)
7.	Software Engineering	14 votes (out of 35)	13 votes (out of 21)	6 votes (out of 14)	3 votes (out of 8)
8.	American Studies	12 votes (out of 26)	16 votes (out of 23)	7 votes (out of 21)	1 vote (out of 12)
9.	European Studies	8 votes (out of 18)	7 votes (out of 17)	4 votes (out of 11)	-
10.	Psychology	14 votes (out of 27)	9 votes (out of 22)	3 votes (out of 9)	2 votes (out of 13)
11.	Sociology	9 votes (out of 27)	13 votes (out of 29)	2 votes (out of 11)	1 vote (out of 8)

The most active departments:

Nº	Name of department	Total number of students	Total number of students voted	%
1.	Law	110	65	59,1
2.	Economics	159	86	54,1
3.	Business Administration	180	96	53,3
4.	Anthropology	79	42	53,2
5.	International and Comparative Politics	145	80	51,9
6.	Journalism and Mass Communication	73	34	46,6
7.	Software Engineering	78	36	46,2
8.	American Studies	82	36	43,9
9.	European Studies	46	19	41,3
10.	Psychology	71	28	39,4
11.	Sociology	75	25	33,3

Student Senate Elections: Results



There were 17 candidates this year for Student Senate. All of them had more or less real programs and many promises to the students of AUCA. The rules of the elections can be very cruel: one voice makes a huge difference. Only the first nine with the majority of votes get into Senate.

These candidates were close to the victory, but as already stated, even one voice makes a difference:

- Cholpon Charygnova – 53
- Arthur Dzhumabaev – 51
- Atai Muratbekov – 48
- Faizi Jahantab – 43
- Erkin Elfira - 40
- Aizhan Koilubaeva - 36
- Tynys Myrsabekov - 29
- Sabina Kasymova – 25

Prep-students gave their preference to Alisher Begaliev, who will

represent their interests as the delegate in Students Senate. The other six candidates did not have enough voices.

1. Alisher Begaliev (Prep 6) – 12
2. Adilet Dyuisheyeva (Prep 1) – 10
3. Javad Sagar (Prep 2) – 10
4. Lyudmila Yamgurova (Prep 3) – 6
5. Agai kyzy Elnura (Prep 5) – 5
6. Gulnaza Janybekova (Prep 2) – 3
7. Nargiza Jamalbekova (Prep 4) – 2

Finally, students of AUCA made their choice and now, please, welcome, Student Senate 2008-2009!

1. Marat Mashanlo – 95
2. Ernur Kozhamberdiev – 91
3. Oktam Sapaev – 90
4. Munarbek Isaev – 87
5. Jamilya Nurkulova – 80
6. Esen Rysbekov – 78
7. Natali Anarbaeva – 66



8. Iskender Sarymsakov – 63
9. Israil Shamara – 55

It's been challenging to triumph over the opponents, because the majority of them were strong, successful and deserving to be a representative of the student body. So, new senators can be proud of themselves, they did it! We hope that the

Student Senate will never forget to make every effort to represent the interests of the student body, to exercise the highest ethic and preserve the senate charter of the student, and to take an active role in creating a community culture of responsibility.

Dilnura KHALILOVA

TRIP TO MANAS AIRBASE – WE ARE THE PART OF “LIBERANDOS”

The long way of driving brought us to gray, unfriendly looking buildings surrounded by gates and stones. The weather was cold and the sky looked heavy above us. People with guns checked our passports and let us in... The trip to Manas Airbase began. However, the first impression of visiting this military base was wrong. Spending six hours inside filled us with warmth, smiles and wonderful memories that will stay with us forever.

“Liberandos” is the name of 376th Air Expeditionary Wing that is currently located in Manas Airbase, Kyrgyz Republic. The story of this wing started in WWII when the first flight of B-24 Liberator. And today the home of “Liberandos” is here, not far from Bishkek, where our



group of students headed on November 5th. The trip to the U.S. Airbase was organized by Career Center for ICP students.

Everyone heard about the base, but not everyone has a chance to see it with their own eyes. Career center gave us this great opportunity to learn so much in a short time! At first, we were welcomed by the Colonel Benci, who told us about “Liberandos”, the important role of airbase in war on terrorism and that the second name of base is Ganci, in honor of Peter Ganci, the NYC Fire Department chief who died in the 9/11 attack.

After the introductory part, we proceeded to passenger terminal, where we could see soldiers playing American football, watching movies and just resting, as the base serves as gateway for those, fighting in Afghanistan. Then, we had a great chance to try on the real gears - the life jackets and helmets that soldiers wear for safety. Those things were heavy even for guys! But our girls are so strong that not only tried them on, but also managed to take lots of funny pictures!

Our trip did not end on this... We visited K9 Kennel, which most of us liked the most. Here the students had a chance to see real demonstration of what a trained dog can do – accu-



rate performance of commands, attacking the enemy, searching, and others.

Then, we saw the jewel of the airbase – KC-135 Stratotanker, which serves for aerial refueling. Our group asked many questions, especially concerning the ecology. Actually, there is an agreement with Kyrgyz government, which specifies the rules and norms that do not allow any harm to our environment.

The final part of our trip became dinner with the Colonel, staff and AUCA Alumni who

are currently employed in the airbase. Eating American food, talking with such friendly people made us being 1 hour late of the planned time to leave. Colonel Benci surprised us with presenting each participant of the trip with a special coin of “Liberandos”, and thus dedicating us as a part of his crew. Now, each of us is a “Liberando” and we are all thankful to the Airbase and Career Center staff that made it all possible.

Madina ALIEVA

ISN'T KVN THE SPIRIT OF AUCA?

The Spirit of AUCA. What is this? Is this only a beautiful combination of words or does it have something behind it? Is this real or a myth? How it can be shown?

The first time I heard these words it was the second day of the Orientation week. But I was very busy with the registration for the courses, as I am sure all students understand, and I forgot these words.

Later I entered the KVN club “Kvartal 205” and the old thoughts returned to me. I started to investigate, but I could not reach the satisfying answer. It was very hard for me, a freshman, to understand AUCA. Finally, when I was thinking that this is only simple words, a surprising event happened: the 14th season of the Kyrgyz KVN League.

Two teams from AUCA participated in these games: “Kvartal 205” and “Antiglamour.” Both of them prepared for it. And there, my confused mind began to realize the true meanings of these words, “spirit of AUCA.”

We had rehearsals everyday and we stayed at the university until 21.00 or 22.00 pm. We “stormed our brains”, learned many dance steps and made many jokes. Ulukbek Abazganov, Renat Tentimishov, Chyngyz Jumagazyev and Ermek Kerimbaev helped us very much. They stayed with us till the end, showing and teaching us the right ways of making jokes. They left their work and education to spend their time with us, although they were not obligated to do so. The first three of them are graduates, but what is forcing them to come back to the University and help us?

The first games were on 19 October. During the game I saw our fellow students in the Sport Palace, standing and screaming our team’s name. I was very proud; proud of me, of my command, of my AUCA. Fortunately, we passed to the final eight. Isn’t that the Spirit of AUCA?

The next games were scheduled for the November 7 and 8. We continued our work. Yes, “our work.” Maybe you will smile or even laugh, but creating jokes, really funny ones, is very hard. But the help of the graduates and the unceasing voices of our students in our souls encouraged us.

Finally, the day of the game came. Everybody was worried. What if we won’t pass? What if...? The narrator called us to the stage. Suddenly, we were overwhelmed by the explosive noises coming from the audience. “Kvartal 205” – that was their words. We felt all their hope and love, contained in these words. The new power activated us, we forgot everything. It was only us and them - our friends, relatives - the students of AUCA. It is the spirit of AUCA, isn’t it?

“Antiglamour,” another KVN team of AUCA played on November 8. But, to my embarrassment, when I saw them during our performance on November 7. They stayed with other AUCA students and cried “Kvartal 205” with them, or even louder than others. The team, whose members we didn’t know and didn’t try to know, were crying our “Kvartal” and encouraging us. Then, on 8th November, the members of “Antiglamour” were overwhelmed by the encouragement of the members of



“Kvartal 205”. Is it the spirit of AUCA, isn’t it?

At the end, let me tell a little about the games and our performances. The High League commands played on 7th November and the Premiere League on 8th and 9th. Men in red dresses (woman’s), men in cheerleaders forms, supermen. You could see everybody here. “The game was very dynamic, however we need more jokes” - said Roman Melnikov - one of the judges. Nevertheless, the command “312” said that “the game was dry, the commands played not efficiently.” “But, the passion it gives can’t be compared with anything else” added the members of “312”.

“Kvartal 205 danced the best” – said Zarifyan A.B. about us and he noted that the “Antiglamour’s vulkan-woman will save Kyrgyzstan”. Being concise, “Kvartal 205” lost some balls from the first game called “biathlon”. The hope for victory seems to be gone, but with the support of the audience the team showed itself in the second game, “greeting”. “Antiglamour, showed that it is the

command pretending for the Upper League. They took 3.8 balls from 4.00 in the “warm-up” game and make their final blow with the “greeting”. Anyway, the main thing of these two days, full of joy and fun is the passing of both commands to the ¼ of final and most delightful of all was the support of the audience. When we heard their cries and applauses, we began to feel ourselves as a part of something big. A big family, with the name- AUCA!

P.S. I must also speak of one person who is the real example of the

spirit of AUCA. Venera Kim, our student coordinator. She always encouraged us, helped us with all the possible and impossible methods. She left her work, her own problems and stresses, her own life and came to the game just to see and support us. She was with us on all our games, and every time she carried posters of our teams proudly and with happiness. And, special thanks to Dilnura Khalilova, who played the role of “Aygulya” in the last scene (without any rehearsal). Maybe, we could lose our place in the ¼ of the final, without her. And...enormous thanks to our audience, whose support helped our teams to pass. Let’s wish them good luck and good mood for making jokes. Dear friends come to the Sport Palace one more time on December 12th, 13th and support us as you did on 19th, 7th and 8th. Finally, I want to note, that after the hearing of the results the “Kvartal 205” started to sing one song, clearly and loudly, they sang it on the stage. Everybody near the stage could hear it. Which song? Of course this:

“I was born once in AUK,
I was made in AUCA!”

And... is it the Spirit of AUCA, isn’t it?

Atai MURATBEKOV

We congratulate our lovely KVN teams – “Kvartal – 205” (High league) and “Antiglamour” (Premier league) - with great performances!

Good luck in the next games!

We are proud of you!

P.S. “Antiglamour” team has got “Jury’s Sympathy” award!

PUZZLES AS THE WAY OF COMMUNICATION

A few weeks ago, in the hallway of the main building, a small table appeared with puzzles on it. It just laid there, owner-less, until someone sat down and started putting pieces together.

Students started coming up to table and joined the pioneer, and soon there were students crowded around the table discussing which piece goes next. Almost every student in the university put at least one piece of the puzzle in its place.

Puzzles appeared to be an effective way of communication and a

spontaneous idea soon turned into most AUCA students' favorite activity. However, how did the puzzles arrive on campus?

The secret was revealed by the Dean of Students Affairs, Nikolay Shulgin.

"The first puzzle box appeared in AUCA unexpectedly; it was a gift to the university from one of our alumnus. We didn't know what to do with it, and then we came up with the idea just to put it in Bravo Cafeteria," Mr. Shulgin said.

So the idea worked really well, students put together the jigsaw puzzle in three days. The jigsaw turned out wonderfully, now it decorates the wall of Mr. Shulgin's office.

AUCA students also said they think the puzzles are a very effective



way to spend free time during breaks or holes in their schedule.

"Puzzles are a productive and useful way to spend breaks, instead of just sitting around and chatting with friends. Overall it helps the development of logic," Marisa Turdieva, an AUCA sophomore said.

Moreover, students say that puzzles help to learn more not just about each other, but also about the university, in general.

"Once I did a puzzle with students from Kyrgyz National University, who came to AUCA for some presentation. They admired how spiritual and creative AUCA is; they said the KNU would never come up with such idea. I was just proud of our University when I heard it," Alisa Jumadilova, an AUCA sophomore said.

Ermek, an AUCA senior, thinks that doing puzzles is also a wonderful way to express the AUCA spirit.

"There were times when we, unfamiliar students, just sat silently and did the puzzle together. I hear many people saying, 'In AUCA students just study or hang out in Bravo,' however, when many students contribute something small and create one something bigger, it just fascinating," Ermek said.

Staff of the Student Affairs office would like to make doing puzzles a new AUCA tradition. They have already bought another puzzle box for students; which students completed in two days. Ready to be framed, it is sitting on the table; the initiators want to give it to the Ministry of Education from AUCA students. There is a saying, that the best gift is a handmade one, so the jigsaw puzzle is made by the hands of hundreds of AUCA students. And certainly, Student Affairs office promised, there are going to be new puzzles at AUCA.

Nargiza RYSKULOVA

"LET ALL BLOODS FLOW IN THE UNIFIED STREAM OF COMMON FUTURE"

DIVERSITY WEEK: DECEMBER 1-5

Every student who studies at the AUCA, knows what it means when the university promotes cultural diversity. AUCA is very proud to demonstrate such ability with the abundance of national flags, and the annual celebration of freshmen coming from different parts of the world. However, the strongest and most persuasive demonstration is an event called Diversity Week.

A tradition to hold the event dates back to 2002. Henceforth, the university has very much succeeded in raising the total number of participant teams to 11 in 2007.

Diversity Week is renowned for its humanistic and unifying goals. At first, the week aims to introduce rich diversity of AUCA cultural makeup. Last year managed to attract as many minor cultures as possible.

Second, the week lets students discover what lies behind national symbols, languages, and titles by directly exposing everyone willing to different dimensions of the cultural range. Cuisine is what makes Diversity Week. Everyone is able to partake in the coolness from the Caucasian mountains, the windiness and dryness of Central Asian deserts, the wilderness of Kazakh plains, the fertility of Russian soil, the hospitality of Kyrgyz lands, and the gentle breezes of the Korean peninsula. These and many other smells bewilder and entice spectators away to the land of bliss.

And last, but not least, the event is designed to accentuate an atmosphere of the diverse but united international community. Indeed, the university is our common alma



mater; "mater" that totally eliminates every speck of inequality between its progenies.

The week is comprised of four days culminating on the fifth in the final concert. On each of the four days, students enjoy observing dancing, fashion, cuisine and a range of other shows staged during lunch time. The

show list, made up by participating teams, is open to suggestions from all walks of academic life.

The event's motto can be best described as "let all bloods flow in the unified stream of common future."

Yevgeniy TRAPEZNIKOV

Poetry section



Butterfly

I wish to be a butterfly,
And fly and fly up on the sky
I wish to be a butterfly,
To see the beautiful blue sky

I won't be human anymore,
And act like human. No! No more!
I will be free up on the sky,
And never ever I will cry

And on the land, and on the sky
I'll never ever change my mind
I will be butter-butterfly'
And I'll fly and I'll fly, up on the sky,
up on the sky

Gulia KARIMOVA

Ругаемся, клянем и ненавидим

За что? Зачем? И почему?
За мелочи!
Не можем. Не хотим. Не понимаем.
К чему? К чему? Вообще зачем?
Пойми же, наконец
Ты день прожил,
А он ведь не вернется
Настанет день другой
Но не такой.
Другой
Пойми же, наконец
Ты встретил человека,
На улице, работе, дома
И может быть в последний раз
Дано тебе приветствовать его
Так пусть же будет,
Каждый день как праздник
Ведь он и есть
На самом деле дар.

Карлыгач

There was a war

There was a war,
And people cried
So many times,
So many times

There was a war,
When I was born,
And you were born
And she was born

There was a war,
And will be still
And you won't hear me no more,
Cause I'll die, and you will die, and
all we die of war.

Avoid a war! Elude a war!
And live in peace!
And cease it, please,
The war, the war, the war.

By Gulia KARIMOVA

PICK ME! CHOOSE ME! VOTE FOR ME!



Student Coordinator, Venera Kim, answered our questions and shared with us her view of this year's candidate campaigns for Student Senate elections.

New Star: What can you say about this year's Student Senate candidates' campaigns?

Venera Kim: Senators always promise something that is not done later on. This year, candidates were more serious about their programs. Each gave about six points, which can be done and their projects can actually be implemented.

NS: During every speech of the candidates you stood near the stage in Bravo hall and were controlling what they were saying and promising. Why last year there wasn't anything like that?

VK: Last year there was no system like that. Because there were 28 candidates they only could read their programs and give the stage to others. I could not comment on anything and students did not have the opportunity to ask any questions. Candidates could say practically whatever they wanted. Now this year, students came up to me and suggested to check the programs right there on the stage by asking questions and finding out if they really can do what they say they will.

NS: This means that this year they could still be caught on empty promises?

VK: One young man said that he wants to solve the problem of a dormitory in AUCA because it does not have its own, as we all know. We asked him how he was going to do that. He explained that he lives in one of the city dormitories and he talked to a head of that dormitory and he agreed to give 30 places to AUCA students. Of course there were some talks like, "We are here to fight for your rights and interest," but then they did not explain what they really meant, what interests they were talking about. But overall, this was a good idea to have candidate presentations like that.

NS: Do freshmen more often promise something that cannot be done? This question is based on the thought that they know less about administration and Student Senate functions and relations.

VK: No, I would not say that. It just appeared to be that freshmen candidates were

one of the most active.

NS: What do you think about these huge banners, colorful posters and other campaign tricks?

VK: I do not think it has that big of an effect on voters as it is expected this year, there are so many of them that they all mix up. They are expensive, too. In my opinion, someone who would have been more creative would stand out, but I guess candidates decided to do it in a standard way. Another thing was that some complained about big banners because they have to bend to go under them. In the beginning we thought that they created problems, but then decided that for few days they can hang there to remind others that elections are coming soon.

NS: There is a voting problem in AUCA. Every year only about 25-30% of students come to vote. All these banners and poster "scream" about candidates, everyone is trying to get as much attention as possible. However, the actual date of elections is seen nowhere; we know the candidates, but we do not know the day.

VK: Now I think we should have done that. We use the local mail, which was found to be ineffective. That is a good idea, we will try that next year.

election campaigns to the state when only those who can afford to have huge banners and printed posters will win them?

VK: Even Student Senate elections are about politics, which is so complicated, and everything done to win them has its own tricks and purposes. I cannot say that candidates socially differ from each other. They all spent some amount of money. Those who are really wealthy do not need all that; they do not try to get into the Senate, that does not interest them. I personally see all banners in the same way, here is one and here is the other, they get the same attention, because they are similar.

NS: So, what do you think will happen in the future?

VK: Candidates will have some other ways to show themselves off. As the advertising technologies evolve, students will find something else. This year was a banners world for them. Let them do it if they like.

NS: Probably, everyone saw an outside banner on the building of AUCA above the main entrance. Isn't it something disturbing or going too far?

VK: In AUCA anything that hangs on the walls is there with the permission of Physical Plant office. There is a mutual agreement



NS: It feels like only students who go through "Bravo" hall or eat there come to vote. What about those who use the second entrance or mostly go to the library and computer labs building?

VK: AUCA is not a big university. That is a question of student activity and involvement in university life. We cannot put voting stations in every place where students go. It is not about informing; it is about being interested in what is going on in university. But I do admit that we have to work on it too.

NS: Is there any difference in this year's campaigns compared to past years? It feels like it is getting bigger and bigger, both is the sense of space occupied and money spent. Will that bring the university

with the office that during elections candidates can use any space they want with the permission if it is not occupied. These guys came up to me and asked if they could hang the banner there, I sent them to the Physical Plant office and they gave their permission. I see nothing strange or disturbing in that. I thought they found an interesting place to put it. People who do not study or work here will see it and think, "Wow, so that is how they have elections here!" I think it is fine.

Thank you very much for your honest and open answers.

Meerim KUCHUKEVA

Farewell Kiss to Andrei Ligai



Andrei is not a prince on a white horse... he is a prince on a blue Volkswagen Golf III. But it is not only about his personality or looks, New Star chose him for being an active participant of AUCA life, volunteer and a member of a past Student Senate.

New Star: What made you want to be a part of a Student Senate a year ago when you started your campaign?

Andrei Ligai: When I first decided to apply to become a senator I just thought, "Why not?" But during the campaign week, when I had to make my program, I realized that I really can change student life here, do something new to make AUCA an even better place, create new traditions. Also, it was interesting for me to work in the team with people, who would also be elected. And during the third year of studying, here I understood what I could do, what my functions could be, what a senator can actually do.

NS: Did you learn anything for yourself or about yourself during the senator year?

AL: I gained many personal qualities, leadership skills, new knowledge, and I learned how to work in a team, organize events, plan my time, what and when to do.

NS: Is it easy or difficult to be a senator?



AL: It depends on the person, how he or she works, whether dedicated or not. If a senator is dedicated, then it can be difficult and time consuming.

NS: How about you?

AL: I really tried to be dedicated and help students, but my work, my personal life, Students in Free Enterprises (SIFE) club, laziness sometimes, and other things needed my time too. So, maybe I could have done better, it is my fault.

NS: Probably being a senator is one of the brightest and the most important periods in your university life. What else could you highlight?

AL: I would say that being a member of SIFE club was definitely memorable. You know, just being dedicated to something is really cool. If a student goes to Drama club and does stuff there and enjoys it that is awesome. Senior year is pretty busy, there is not much time left. You've got to participate in different activities, because later on you are not going to have that much time to participate in something like that. Also, I think as far as my studying experience, freshman year was all about doing homework; I practically lived in computer labs and on computers at home.

I also remember that during the first year we used to gather up with FLEX students, that was something like a small family – FLEX '05. All those brownie nights, going to mountains, charity concerts, visiting orphanages and many other things.

NS: Could you say that every year could be classified? First year was FLEX year; second year was about your group mates and so on...

AL: Yes, during my freshman year it felt good because this was an unfamiliar place but I had my FLEX friends, there were about 30 of us and I was not alone, I didn't feel like a stranger here, although FLEX are not loved here. Second year I started to know better my Software Engineering group, I spent more time with them, we spent almost all of our time in computer labs doing projects and other work. Third year was my senator year, I learned a lot, developed many skills, both personal and in studies. I found out so many new things, gained so much experience. My senior year, I will try to work and study, I am not going to try to be elected to the Student Senate, even though I really want to. And I'm not going to SIFE club, even though I really want to. I have to be more serious and oriented towards work.

AUCA is a place where social and extra-curricular life is amazing. I think in that sense, it is

the best place in Kyrgyzstan. Maybe the education field can be compared at only KRSU, and it is better than other universities in many other ways. But in my opinion, there are no doubts that the AUCA extra-curricular life is the most interesting, fun, and uniting. You meet so many people from different countries like Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and many others. Of course Turkmens are a whole new story! (laughs)

NS: Speaking of Kazakhstan, I know you met your girlfriend in AUCA and she is from that country.

AL: One of the most important things that ever happened to me was in AUCA. It helped me meet a girl, Irina Bogdanova, whom I love and care about. She always supports me, loves me and she means a lot to me... and she cooks for me! (laughs) I am thankful to this university that I met her and I want to say that I really love her! Life here is fun.

NS: We are having an interview during the Student Senate candidates' campaign week. As an experienced senator, what would you suggest to those students?

AL: I know that many people go to Student Senate just because it sounds cool and fun, for them it is something about popularity. However, the reality is that if students gave you their votes as a senator, you must fulfill your duties. All those surreal promises sound good, but they are not all possible to do. Elected senators will have to work; I know that because there will be a specific person who will make them work for sure. I would say for future candidates that they have to be more serious about becoming members of Student Senate; it is not just another fun thing to do, honestly.

NS: What can you suggest to AUCA students as a senior?

AL: Try to do something more than just studying. Participate in different clubs and activities. Go play soccer or basketball, become a member of a club that interests you, be more active during the events like Spirit week, Diversity week and all others that are organized in Bravo hall or somewhere else. Being a senior, I regret that I did not participate in many more activities than I did. I suggest all students to do that. Because if you do, you will have so many good memories and you will meet lots of people who can become your friends. That is a university life you will always remember.

I am glad I study in AUCA and I am graduating soon. I found many friends here and I wish all students to enjoy everything. We learn here to learn.

NS: There is a stereotype of Software Engineering students; they look a specific way. Why you don't comply with that? You wear suits and all that.



AL: That is a tough question. Maybe I'm a bad Software Engineering student? Or because all geniuses are a little strange and they don't really care about looks, they can be sitting in front of a computer the whole day and work on it. I don't know... maybe because I have to meet different people to have business with or else I need to look like that. By the way, I want to thank all people who helped me with my studies. I would not make it without my group mates' help.

NS: What are three things you would take to a deserted island?

AL: Can ten people be considered as one thing? (laughs) Actually, I think it would be so much fun to gather up ten or twenty friends and go to an island for a week or two, get some food not to starve and just relax there. That would be awesome!

NS: What was your most memorable event in university?

AL: Beginning from the sophomore year, all guys have to attend Military training courses. I had long hair at that time and I had to cut them off. I remember coming to university and for about a week no one recognized me, friends would pass by me without even saying hi.

Meerim KUCHUKEEVA

