



THE NEW STAR



independent student newspaper

ISSUE 4

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Happy New Year!



Pictures are taken from Pinterest

New Year in Kyrgyzstan

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Farewell Kiss to...

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New Year in Kyrgyzstan

New Year is one of the most anticipated holidays in the world. This day is full of miracles while people enter a new year by making many plans for life. Snow outside the window, hot chocolate, ginger cookies — all of these things contribute to the magical atmosphere associated with the celebration of the New Year. Not only does the holiday bring magic with it, but it also brings families together. Some believe that those with whom we “enter” the new year will be with us throughout the next one.



Kyrgyz people treat this holiday with trepidation because one of the main components of the Kyrgyz mentality is cohesion and family comfort. The holiday euphoria grips people as early as the beginning of December. Store shelves are filled with New Year’s assortments: Christmas toys, delicious delicacies, tangerines, and oranges. Many people try to wrap up their remaining unresolved chores to make room for new opportunities in the upcoming year.

People set the table with a lot of delicious food and decorate their houses by putting Christmas trees and ornaments in the yard. While someone in the kitchen is cooking all kinds of goodies, the atmosphere in the house is maintained by the sounds coming from the TV, which has on everyone’s favorite movies: “Home Alone,” “The Irony of Fate,” “Enjoy Your Bath!” and others. Usually, my family and our relatives try to spend this holiday together by gathering in Balykchy. The New Year’s atmosphere is full of magic and family comfort. It is the most magical, the most beautiful, the most mysterious, and the funniest holiday! I am sure that this year’s celebration will be even more exciting, and the coming year will only bring happiness and joy!

Amaliia Abubakirova
JMC-122

Time to have a Snowy Break!



Sometimes during our academic life, we need some free time to take care of our mental and physical health.

Since summer break is over, most students think about having an enjoyable and successful fall semester. But when it is the period for midterms and finals, we feel like we need another break. So it is time to make numerous plans for winter days off. Winter has always been my favorite season. Even if this vacation isn't as long as a summer one, it's still exciting. Thus, it helps students to get enough time for themselves after months of rigorous hard work.

Moreover, one of the most significant aspects of the winter holidays is the celebration of Christmas and New Year. Everyone has a fantastic chance to get together and have fun. These two festivals are the memorable days of our winter vacation. So, make some plans to get together with your friends and family for the New Year. It is fun and interesting, so do not waste your time sitting and watching the snow from the window of your room. Get out of your house and feel nature in winter.

Unfortunately, for some international students like myself, it might be a tough break. They might not be able to visit their families and feel the warmth of their parents' hugs. We can not have the peace of winter breaks while we are in our country. We would always

miss those late-night talks and games during the winter with our siblings. But there are always chances of making our families happy and proud by staying positive. We can share with them our winter plans or our progress. This way, we can be happy and transfer those positive vibes to our families.

Furthermore, for those who want to stay in Kyrgyzstan, it is known that all four seasons are beautiful for traveling here. Winter is a good time for everyone to discover the traditional culture, natural attractions, entertainment, and other activities by taking round excursions in the Kul area. Also, Kyrgyzstan skiing resorts are always perfect. You can visit the ski resorts of Kyrgyzstan at least once during our winter vacation. You will never regret it!!

Last but not least, do not spend all winter break entertaining yourselves. Let's prepare ourselves for the spring semester. We can spend the last week of winter vacation getting ready for the new academic term. It is always better to make plans and schedules ahead of time. So I will be able to do my best in the coming study months.

Sahiba Mehry
SFW-121



Plan ahead, spend quality time!

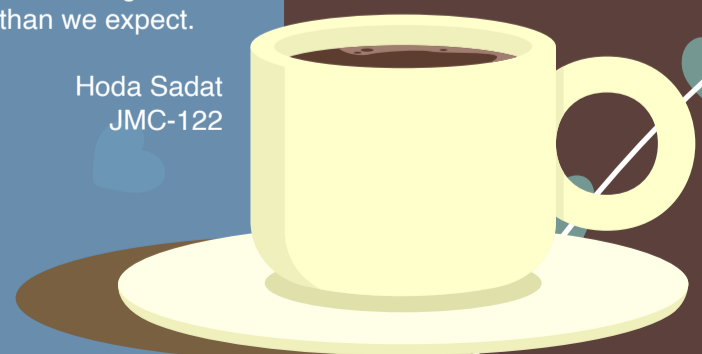
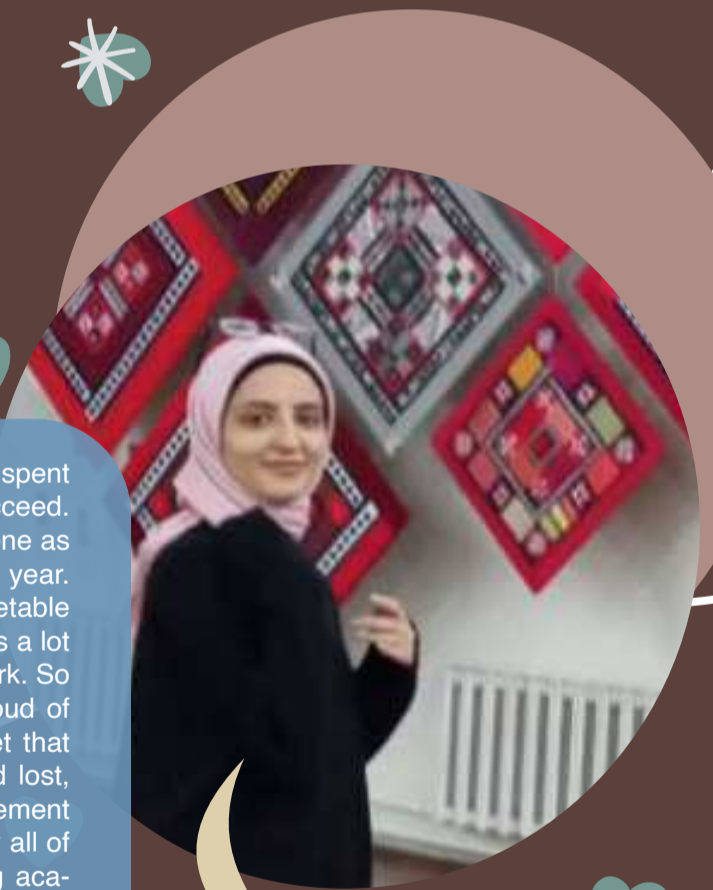
The emotional breakdown is real, and it happens to the majority of students. Some students experience mental health issues after receiving poor exam results since one bad grade after hard work can destroy their enthusiasm for learning. I do belong to the group of students who take their assignments seriously. Due to this, I complete all of my homework and classwork tasks as soon as I can, but the issue is that I have neglected to take care of myself. I don't feel like I have enough time to take it easy and enjoy the winter. To balance my studies and enjoyment throughout the winter, I started to make some plans. The best course of action is to take one day off to relax and then, spend the remainder of the week studying while taking some breaks.

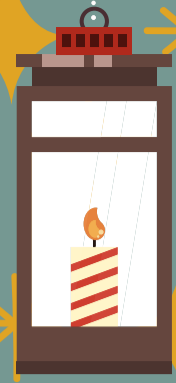
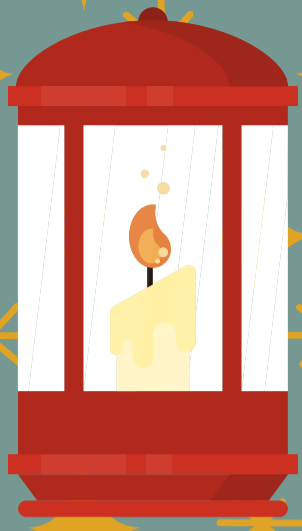
Students can boost their positive energy by using days from their vacation wisely. The best day is weekends. I will leave my home after refreshing and cleaning it to explore a new location in the city or nearby places. I'll keep a journal with me all day long and write down every event as a memory. I am a girl, and to ensure that I won't need anything during the week, I need to plan my wardrobe in advance. If I have the time, I'll go shopping once every two weeks. In addition, I will finish my day by going to bed early with a passion for the upcoming week. I believe that I should appreciate myself more for my hard work during the week.

The foundational years of student life are those spent in college. Thus, as long as we try, we will succeed. And as usual, I want to get as much studying done as I am able to before regretting it at the end of the year. I believe that studying is more like eating a vegetable you dislike. It may have an awful taste, but it has a lot of vitamins. Success follows a period of hard work. So let's make the most of these years and be proud of ourselves for the rest of our lives. Never forget that there will be times when you feel helpless and lost, but this does not mean that your path to achievement is over. Simply begin again. As for me, I'll follow all of these instructions to have a flawless upcoming academic year.

Overall, it doesn't matter how much effort we put forth to reach our targets. What counts is that we have the desire to do so, even if it means waking up early, drinking more water, or completing at least one assignment. We must act, the rest will be easier than we expect.

Hoda Sadat
JMC-122





A NEW EPOCH AND YEAR BOTH BEGIN IN 2023

In the New Year, a new era begins for people and countries of the world as a whole. The New Year is not only the end of the outgoing year and the beginning of a new one but also a time of new achievements and feats. It is the best time to start a new chapter in life for personal growth and development of people's lives. In addition, everyone has their own goals and attitudes for life, and the coming year is an opportunity for a person to realize new ideas and beginnings. Despite the magical atmosphere and mood of the holidays, joyful sad events have recently occurred in many countries, such as Covid 19, wars, crises, environmental disasters, instability, and many other events. That is, it seems that every year the situation will worsen and be complicated by various social and economic problems for humanity in the twenty-first century. Recent years have been a great challenge for people around the globe, but I believe that we will not give up and will build a better future for ourselves and the next generations. In addition, I want 2023 to be a decisive and crucial year for humanity in life for the better. I firmly believe and know that we will pass this test and get our lives back on track. I hope that the upcoming year will have less negativity and more positive news and events. For the coming year, I wish everyone the fulfillment of all goals and objectives, as well as good health, success, and luck in any of their endeavors.

Zhanybai Sarybaev
ANTH – 120

A winter evening

On a bleak day
On the bench of a sidewalk
Sat the crestfallen man.
The shaking cigarette between his fingers,
A suffocating silence in his worn eyes
Staring at the slippery pavement.
The man started singing under his breath,
"Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way..."
Where did his mind fly?
Nobody knows.
Perhaps the haunting memories arrived
And took him
To the idle hours of a winter evening,
Filled with the smell of dust and smoke.
Just like the smoke of a cigarette
How fast, how unexpectedly
Arrived adulthood,
Without a spontaneous willingness.
He lived the adventures,
Walked through the autumn leaves,
Smoked in pain,
Cried in the darkness,
Laughed fearlessly,
And lived the moments,
He really did.

Zainab Amirzai
ECO-120



VIRTUAL DEBATE TAUGHT ME A LOT

I am a sophomore in the software engineering department at AUCA and actively engaged in virtual events. Every semester, AUCA and AUN organize inter-university virtual meetings and discuss different motives. Last year the discussion was held on December 4th, where students engaged in the conversation on selected topics. On November 26th, 2022, I had an opportunity to participate in the 7th Inter-University Virtual Discussion between AUN and AUCA. Ms. Emilienne Akpan (AUN) and Ms. Ekaterina Galimova (AUCA) initiated this meeting within the Civic Engagement Project Crossing Borders Through Social Media and Dialogue. The topic for the debate was "The problem of female slavery in Central Asia and Nigeria."

We shared our ideas regarding this issue and discussed ways of eliminating female enslavement. Besides this, three break rooms were created with a separate topic for each. The first breakdown room debated if Women Should Be Paid Less than Men in Some Professions, the second room discussed if The Internet Should Be Shut Down During The Class Hours in all Universities and another room negotiated about Technology Facilitates Modern

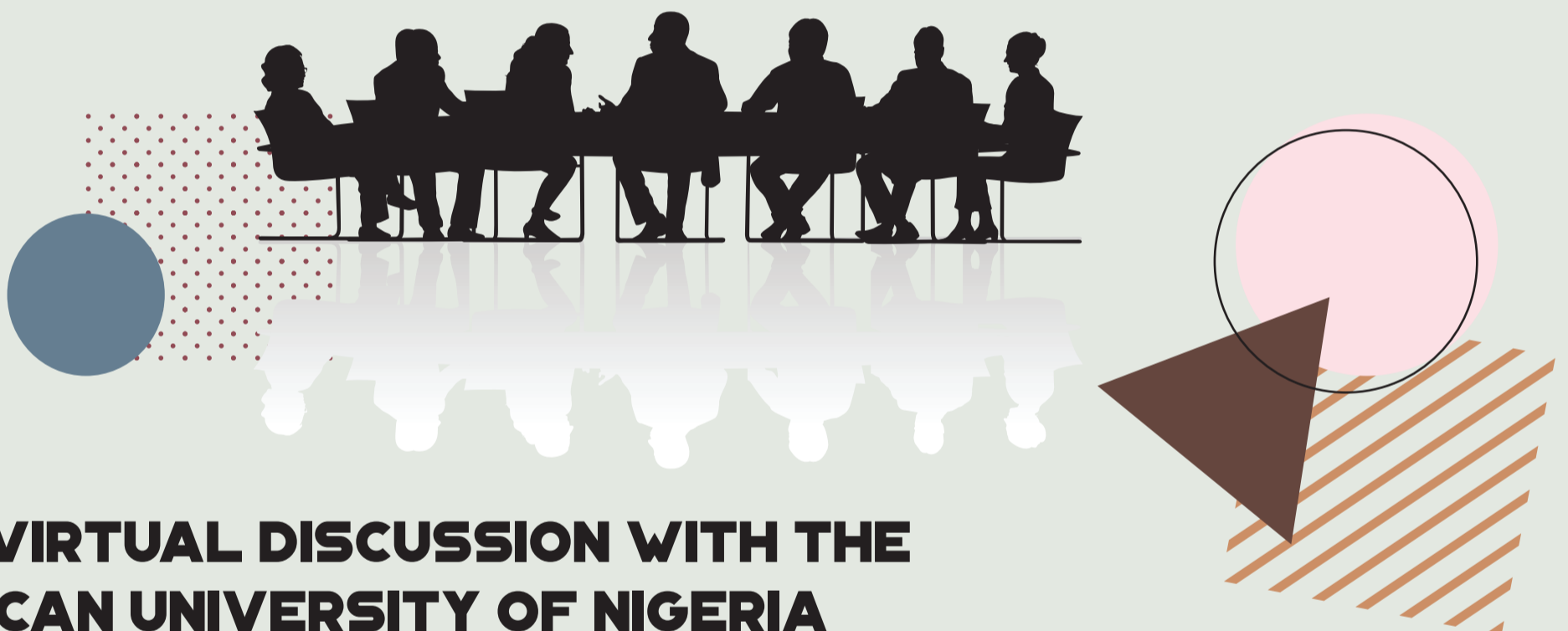
Slavery. I was part of the second breakdown room and defended the argument about shutting down the internet at universities during classes. Shervobshoh Tuighunov, a student from the American University of Nigeria, rebutted my argument and added that if we shut down the internet during class hours, students will not get access to google, which is the main source of receiving information for students. Contrary, I argued that if students are busy with the internet, it will create a sense of isolation, and each will learn in his/her manner.

I agree that students will learn faster and find a piece of valuable information in less time if they have access to the internet during class hours. However, it will distract them from the professor's lecture, and they will not interact with other students. Additionally, they would not build their critical thinking skill since they will use the internet to answer the professor's question before analyzing it themselves. I also added if students did not find any information, they could take notes and figure it out after the class by searching online. It will also help students in improving their conversational writing. In summary, I argued that only professors should have access to

the internet during class hours. If there is an excuse to use the internet, students can ask a professor for help.

In conclusion, I would like to say that we practiced our leadership, rhetoric, critical thinking, listening comprehension, and speaking skills in this virtual discussion. It was a valuable experience discussing different topics with students from diverse backgrounds.

Ahmad Ahmad Zai
SFW-120



JOINT VIRTUAL DISCUSSION WITH THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

Hearing the slave and slavery words takes us back to the late 18th century when Atlantic slavery trading reached its peak. While the world welcomed the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery on the 2nd of December, it is shocking to mention that slavery has not ended in the 21st century. Instead, it just has been transformed in a modern way, making it difficult to notice until we dig deeper. Unfortunately, women are the main victims of this new face of slavery in the present time. Getting influence from this, the 7th virtual meeting between the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) and the American University of Nigeria (AUN) took place on the 26th of November to mainly discuss the ways to eliminate female slavery in present times.

Students from both universities identified the modern ways of slavery in their countries, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, China, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. It was wondrous that all students came up with the same contemporary forms of modern female slavery, showing that despite the geographical places, cultural, language and religious differences, women experience the same kind of present-time slavery. Students described modern slavery in

many forms, such as child marriage, forced marriage, forced labor, sex trafficking, and domestic servitude, which is a type of forced labor where a person is available 24 hours for another person's service. It was very dreadful hearing about the debt bandage form of women's slavery, where women will be given to the lender if the borrower is not able to pay the debt principle, typically using women as personal assets.

Among the ways to be paved to eliminate female slavery in modern times, educating women and making them financially independent was the most repeated solution discussed. Furthermore, putting the government's role forward, the members of the meeting stated that government should create a law to eliminate women's slavery. Specifically, an anti-child marriage law, and anyone not obeying this law, should be punished. Also, the government should create more job opportunities for women with equal payment for their work. Another discussed solution was raising awareness about women's slavery in society by the government and other organizations, and encouraging the victims to speak up and launch the anti-slavery movements.

The most interesting solution which got my attention was involving private NGOs in the anti-slavery movement by creating references where the slavery victims could reach out for help and get empowered. Then these empowered victims can identify the reasons for slavery through their experiences and start anti-slavery movements strongly and efficiently.

As a host, it was a tragedy for me to hear some female students arguing against the equal pay law of females and males in the workplace, claiming that men are usually the bread owner of families. Thus, they should be paid more than females. But one should never blame women for undermining their own power and abilities and label them as anti-own gender. For centuries women have been treated as a second gender and they believe it till these days. Indeed, if the vision is a world free of women's slavery, education and empowering women should be the goal.

Zainab Hashemi
BA-121

VOX POP: *If you were Santa Claus, what presents would you give people for this New Year?*



Venyamyn Johnson, Las-118

If I were Santa Claus, I would give everyone a comfort pet. It could depend on the person. A puppy, a kitten, a bunny, or even a bird. Just a little companion for them to love and feel close to during those lonely moments at home when you are stressing about studies. So they will never feel lonely and always have a little friend for positivity <3

Maria Kurmanova, ANTH - 121

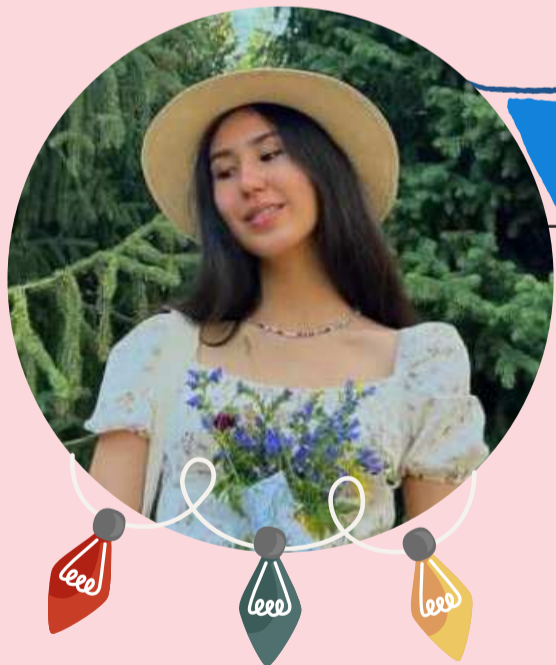
Santa's job is to make people happy :)

If I were Santa Claus, I would study throughout the year what people need for happiness, and for Christmas, I would give people this happiness 🌨️🎁😊☀️



Dzhaparova Maginur, Soc-121

If I were Santa Claus, I would give people strong health. I feel like people tend to underestimate the importance of it. After it, I'd make all of their other wishes and dreams come true!



Bermet, SFW - 121

Я бы подарила набор карточек с разными заданиями для друзей, или же набор с идеями для необычных свиданий для парочек. Также классным подарком является совместное путешествие в очень уютное, красивое место с готовой развлекательной программой, едой и жильём.

Другой подарок это общий курс, на который можно ходить вместе с друзьями и научиться чему-нибудь новому за зимние каникулы. Все идеи объединяются уютными и тёплыми моментами, которые создадут незабываемые воспоминания, украшают нашу жизнь и радуют каждый день).

Farewell Kiss to Aizada Sulaimankulova

“Sometimes people don’t have enough words to describe their feelings. It is exactly the case. I still remember when I first crossed the threshold of the campus... The atmosphere was saturated with freedom and courage. It was Open Doors Day, which impressed me and inspired me to apply to study at the AUCA. Time flew quickly. Despite online education, student life has never ceased to be boring. Even at home, the desire to do something for the

university community did not inspire me. Looking back on the past, I want to express my gratitude to the people I met at the AUCA. I have learned a lot from this experience both in terms of academic knowledge and life lessons”.

Aizada Sulaimankulova
ES-119

Even though Aizada is an extrovert who adopted me, ironically, I approached her first during our meeting right after French for beginners class. She was struggling to put shelves in her locker, and I got too curious and decided to talk to find out what the hell she was doing. I want to thank her for a good time during lunch and our talks in room 211. We’re graduating this year, and I wish both of us luck with our next chapter in the big world of adults.

P.S. Aizada from the future, if you’re reading this let me know who won our bet. The one about who would get married first from our friend group, cause I am pretty sure I’ll win.

Rakhilya Torogul kyzy
ES-119

I have known Aizada since our freshmen year. Even though we were not such close friends at that time, now, we have a group of three close friends - me, Aizada, and Yasmina. I am grateful for having such wonderful girls in my life! We always joke that Aizada is the busiest person in our group because she always has work to do. I have rarely seen a person who might have the same desire to participate in any event or extracurricular activity, especially the New Star. I even remember one of her first newspaper columns in which she wrote a new year’s tale about love. Aizada is a very tender and sensual girl, and this is how all her stories and poems turn out. I wish her only the most beautiful things in life, as well as perseverance and striving for her goals. I know that she

will succeed in everything in this life.

Aiana Sharsheeva
Eco-119

Я знаком с Айзадой еще со школы. Она всегда выделялась своей активностью, как во время школьных занятий, так и во время каких-то мероприятий. Мы с ней еще в старших классах вели конкурсы и школьные праздники. Поступив мы вместе в АУЦА на факультет European Studies, наша дружба стала только крепче. Наша традиция вести мероприятия продолжилась и в нашем университете. С ней всегда приятно работать, потому что мы идеально дополняли друг друга на сцене, прям как Инь и Ян. Она всегда была и будет максимально позитивным и жизнерадостным человеком, которая готова помочь и поддержать во время сложных периодов в жизни. Она всегда улыбается и смеется, даже над моими несмешными шутками. Айзада постоянно пробует что-то новое: в ее голове огромное количество идей, которые она хочет реализовать. Выражение “вижу цель, не вижу пре-

пятствий” — это прям про Айзаду. Я очень рад, что познакомился с ней, и что мы вместе прошли через школу и университет. Она тот самый настоящий друг, дружба и общение с которым продолжится и после нашего с ней выпуска.

Beloborodov Oleg
ES-2019



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