

# AUCA Magazine



*American University  
of Central Asia*

*Summer 2008*

**International Student Centered University**



**Vladimir Pozner Talks with AUCA Students**

**Commencement 2008**

**Bringing People Together through Football**

**Donor , Trustee and Faculty Profiles**

# AUCA Preparatory Program

AUCA Preparatory Program unites young scholars from Kyrgyzstan, China, Korea, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The Preparatory Program offers you tailored intensive courses in English, critical thinking, math, study skills, computer literacy and TOEFL.



There are daytime and evening courses designed especially for high schools students to help them acquire the life skills necessary to enter AUCA and fully benefit from university-level studies. You will also gain the confidence and motivation to function effectively in both academic and professional environments.

## Contact Information:

American University of Central Asia  
Office #323  
205 Abdymomunov Street, Bishkek  
720040 Kyrgyz Republic  
Phone: (+996-312) 66 33 09 Ext #249  
Fax: (+996-312) 66 32 01  
Email: [prep@mail.auca.kg](mailto:prep@mail.auca.kg)





Elated AUCA graduates - 2008

## Contents

02 Copy Editor's note

03 President's Column

04 AUCA Update

08 Vladimir Pozner Talks with  
AUCA Students

10 Gallery: Graduation &  
Commencement 2008

13 Students in Action:  
Debut Theater

14 Bringing People Together

16 Students in Action:  
"Playing for Real"

18 Trustee Profile:  
Stanislav Karpovich

20 Alumni Dossier

22 Interviews With Donors

26 AUCA.TV

28 Faculty Profile:  
Professor Zarylbek Kudabaev

31 AUCA Business Clinic



## *Is this work?*

A major advantage of working as an editor for a university such as AUCA, is the very interesting articles one gets to work with. For example, I learnt about ethnic migration from the Fergana valley, its effects on society and the environment in the south of Kyrgyzstan. I've had the chance to study archaeology and the burial rites of ancient Kyrgyz peoples in the Issyk Kul region. Did you know that they buried their loved ones with their heads pointing towards the south? How did they know which direction was south and why south? I've been enlightened on the Great Silk Road, trading traditions and the "Great Migrations" of Central Asian peoples 1,500 years ago. I've discovered that

some stone petroglyphs have been found with Arabic inscriptions. That's not all. I've edited work on International law, human rights, economics, statehood building in Kyrgyzstan, ethnology and cultural mentalities from a sociological perspective, the effects of globalization and cultural identity, pedagogical methodologies, new perspectives of anthropology in post soviet Central Asia and the role of statistics in institutional development.

Working for AUCA means I am informed about public seminars, conferences; meet and converse with many interesting people. Last month I interviewed AUCA's Economics Professor Zarylbek Kudabaev and AUCA Trustee and former student, Stanislav Karpovich for this publication, both with remarkable stories to tell.

This really is an international University with nearly forty foreign faculty members and six international research fellows, and this doesn't include the many international support staff such as I. The student community is represented by over fifteen different countries from far a field as Canada, Switzerland and China. The University carries out numerous research projects both internally and internationally for various organizations. Its commitment to academic research is also reflected in its Scientific journal published biannually, and details about this journal can be found here in AUCA Update.

What also continues to give me great pleasure is having access to the extensive comprehensive library here at AUCA, something I've sorely missed whilst living outside of the UK. I've recently embarked on a personal voyage of discovery into the realms of philosophy, to understand the terms metaphysics, existentialism, determinism, dialecticism and many others. How scientific discovery has answered many of the 'thought dilemmas'. How modern philosophy majors on semantics, the meaning of truth, logic and ethics (amongst other things without a doubt). I've learnt something of the great philosophers, old and recent: Plato, Socrates, Kant, Marx, Descartes, Voltaire, Sartre, Bertram Russell, etc. For me, the intellectual challenge is rationalising my scientific understanding with the world of thought, logic and meaning. I'm not sure I'll come to any definitive conclusions, but then a distinct advantage with philosophy is that you can be both right and wrong simultaneously.

In the past most of my writing and editing has been mainly of a technical nature or purely business. Now I have a superb opportunity to explore a more creative elegant style to my compositions, to expand my vocabulary (or is it lexicon?), to discover synonyms where no synonym has gone before!

The secret of course is life should be a never ending journey of learning and discovery. I've always been a keen advocate of continuing education, even if it's only to know how to operate the DVD player or the automatic washing machine. What will be the theme of my next personal voyage? Who can say? But I think it's time to finish this piece and wander down to the library.

*Nigel Browne*

## AUCA Magazine

American University of Central Asia, formed in 1997, is dedicated to improving the quality of education it offers by adding new curricula, new programs, and new services to equip its graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to this rapidly changing and developing region and the world beyond.

### Publication team

#### Editor-in-Chief

Alina Sottaeva

#### Editor / Designer

Nigel Browne

#### Editorial Board

Alina Sottaeva,  
Elizabeth Zalkind,  
Emil Lyu

#### Contributors

Alina Sottaeva,  
Elizabeth Zalkind,  
Nigel Browne,  
Emil Lyu

#### Pictures

Emil Lyu,  
Maxim Shubovich,  
alumni, archives

#### Photo Editor

Emil Lyu

---

AUCA Magazine is published  
twice per academic year by the  
American University of Central Asia

---

You may send your correspondence to:

AUCA Magazine  
American University of Central Asia  
205 Abdymomunov St.,  
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic 720040  
Tel./Fax: (996 312) 66 11 20  
E-mail: aucamagazine@mail.auca.kg  
www.auca.kg

On the cover: Vladimir Pozner  
and AUCA Students

## A Message and Update from the President

The current issue of our AUCA Magazine centers on the international liberal arts mission of our University. We are deeply proud of the way that our students are honing their skills and their knowledge as they prepare for learning and leadership throughout their lives. Our recent graduation ceremony celebrated the achievements of our graduating students in undergraduate research on subjects ranging from water resource management to eating habits, to the legal implications of contemporary social and political change. The range and the scope of student learning at AUCA, so evident at graduation, reflects our passion about preparing students to be creative entrepreneurs and responsible citizens across Central Asia and beyond.

The recent visit of journalist and media star Vladimir Pozner centered on our students' thirst for knowledge and its application to developing a brighter and safer world. Pozner expressed admiration for the engaged learning so evident on our campus and for the quality of the questions that our students posed to him about his experiences in Russia and the United States. Their ability to frame complex issues and to inquire about geopolitical challenges delighted our star guest, who deeply appreciated their passionate engagement in the quest for human freedom.

The dynamism of our University is reflected in the interviews with alumni and friends of the University who show increasing philanthropic commitment to enabling current and future students to explore learning at AUCA. I sincerely hope you will enjoy reading their stories and their testimony to the value of our mission. Their stories are indicative of the reactions of so many visitors to AUCA who just can't rave enough about student and faculty engagement in their studies.

The energy of our young University propels us forward now in our quest for accreditation in the United States. This is a time consuming and mind altering process that obliges us to explore how we plan, evaluate and improve our educational experience. Accreditation takes a minimum of five years, likely more, and once it is achieved it needs to be maintained! Our greatest challenge in this regard is finding a way to comply with state curricular standards while maintaining our creative edge as an innovative institution of learning. An equally demanding challenge is to identify the funding essential for scholarships for students, faculty research and development and the academic resources essential for a great University. Our dynamism and determination are formidable resources that we leverage daily to meet our challenges.

We are pleased that funding for our international residence hall is in place. Now we seek a nice piece of land on which to build our long awaited dorm. Our Board of Trustees has just appointed a Master Plan Committee that will carve out a design for University expansion to include our international residence hall and additional classroom and learning resource space. We are also pleased that sixty percent of our courses are now taught in English and anticipate that within two years close to eighty percent of all instruction will be in English. With English becoming the *lingua franca* and with the



expectation of building our new residence center it will be possible to enhance our international student body from the current twenty eight percent to about fifty percent.

The students of AUCA are already admitted to some of the world's best graduate schools. Accreditation will increase the credibility of our University among institutions of higher learning, donors, employers, and prospective international students, faculty and staff. Our journey to ward accreditation is one of our most important goals, and we will keep all of you posted on our accreditation journey. It will not be without difficulties, for sure, but along the way our already exciting University will be lifted to new levels of excellence.

The impact of an internationally accredited University on the city of Bishkek cannot be underestimated. AUCA treasures its location and reaches out daily to enhance the intellectual and social climate of the Kyrgyz Republic. From our business and law clinics to our Social Research and Career Center we provide continuous opportunities for students and faculty within our University and among the Universities of the region to engage in projects that nurture and develop the region.

Our challenge is, as always, to be respectful of our surroundings and to foster friendly collaboration. We are clearly distinctive, innovative, and a blend of Russian, Central Asian and Western learning traditions. Finding the synergies among these traditions is our best hope for fostering dialogue and mutual understanding. Vladimir Pozner's personal story of living and learning in American, European and Russian space is a lesson to us all in cultural synthesis that was not lost on our students.

Ellen S. Hurwitz, Ph.D.  
President

**AUCA Students Win 2nd Prize in the World Debate Championship**



In April, Rustam Turaev '09, International and Comparative Politics, and Shakhnoza Nazimova '07, American Studies, together won second prize in the English League of the World Debate Championship. The competition took place at the Kazakh National Technological University in Almaty. Almost 200 students took part from universities and colleges across Central Asia, Russia, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Norway, Turkey and India.

The World Debate Championship was organized by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Student Chapter within the framework of the 5th International

Oil & Gas Youth Forum. The event encourages the bringing together young people from all around the world from different cultures and backgrounds, to create a platform to discuss urgent contemporary issues.

Debate themes varied from the introduction of a global currency, to the necessity of cloning, to the recycling and reuse of oil waste. This year participants could choose one of three debating language leagues: English (20 teams), Russian (40 teams) and Kazakh (20 teams).

"We challenged the students' logic and ability to argue their positions on their chosen themes. We believe that students develop their critical thinking and analytical skills participating in such *brain battles*", remarked the Debate Championship organizers.

All student teams had to complete several rounds in this three-day competition.

"In Kyrgyzstan, it is sometimes difficult to find strong experienced debaters. In this tournament there was tough competition and very strict judging," remarked Rustam Turaev, a winner of the 2003 World Debate Championship in

Slovenia. "The tournament began with several quite easy debate themes to help us warm up. As the contest progressed we faced far more complex issues."



Shakhnoza Nazimova went on to explain, "For instance, we had to prove that the development of the oil industry in Kazakhstan is not reasonable. Imagine that? Although we had a very difficult subject, we defeated many Kazakh universities and came second."

The Kyrgyz debate movement currently unites more than 400 students from many universities across the country. AUCA students actively participate in almost every debate tournament, to proudly represent our University.

**AUCA Student to Represent Kyrgyzstan at an International Theatre Festival in France.**



Altynai Jumabaeva '08, a sociology senior, will represent Kyrgyzstan at an International Theatre Festival in France this summer. Altynai outshone tens of other young acting hopefuls at a recent drama competition for Francophone Week. The competition was organized by the French Embassy and the Consulates of Canada and Switzerland,

and students had to perform a small piece from any French play.

For her outstanding drama skills and excellent French, Altynai was awarded a three-week long internship in France. Altynai will be joined by other competition winners from around the world. They will attend master classes and drama training. During the final part of the internship she will have to put her new skills to the test by performing at a live show.

Altynai's winning piece came from the musical Notre Dam De Paris, which is based on the novel of the same name by Victor Hugo. She played the part of gypsy Esmeralda and acted out a dialogue between her and a priest, in jail. The *coup de grâce* was when she sang one of the moving songs from the play. Altynai won the hearts of the jury, who were diplomatic representatives and Kyrgyz theatre professionals. Not only did the Jury admire Altynai's acting ability but also her pronunciation of the French language.

"When my name was announced I was astonished. I never thought I'd win.

There were so many other talented students and good performances."

Altynai was nearly in shock after the competition results were announced; her friends had to push her onto the stage to receive her award.

"The preparation for the contest was quite surreal. During the weeks of rehearsals I had to change the 'Priest' three times and almost gave up." But Nikolay Shulgin, AUCA Dean of Students, urged her to carry on.

With the strong support of her friends, parents and mentors, Altynai overcame her anxieties and won through. She is preparing to conquer the French audiences in the summer.

Altynai acknowledges the invaluable assistance from her grandfather (a professional actor), Zhoomart Khudaibergenov '08 (the 'Priest'), Natalia Mamasheva (her French language teacher) and Galina Kharlamenko (AUCA's Art Manager).

## Alumni Reunion: Hundreds of AUCA Grads Reunited



In April, more than two hundred AUCA alumni from the first graduating class of 1997 to the most recent gathered to celebrate their annual reunion. This year's Alumni Reunion theme was "Retro" to mirror the sentiments of the event, to reflect upon their past times at AUCA, and to reminisce with "old" friends. Our Alumni looked so sharp in their retro styled gowns and suits. Many had traveled to Bishkek from afar: Almaty, Astana and many other places. Once again, if further proof were needed, AUCA life doesn't end after graduation. All were impressed how AUCA had grown and evolved.

"Oh my God! I haven't seen you for ages!" was a common refrain heard throughout the evening. After initial greetings of shrieks, hugs, kisses and happy tears, the alumni noticed the display stands covered in little paper "hearts" with their names on. Upon finding their particular "heart" they pinned them onto the jackets and blouses; this helped to create a relaxed atmosphere and really get the evening underway.

AUCA president Ellen Hurwitz took the stage to welcome all and encouraged them to uphold the values of AUCA. In addition, she expressed her enthusiasm for the future of AUCA.

"I love leading this extraordinary University. We must all work together to preserve the precious freedom we enjoy and continue to inspire our students to see their learning as critical for their successful and joyous living and for meeting their social responsibilities in Central Asia and beyond," remarked Ellen Hurwitz.

Following President Hurwitz's address, the alumni were entertained by their favorite instructors and friends; Natalia Slastnikov and Nikolay Shulgin performed a lovely song and recited humoristic verses. After the official part was over, a well-rehearsed two-hour song and dance and humor-packed cabaret began, which showcased the tremendous talents of dozens of AUCA students and Kyrgyz pop stars.

Later on, reunion organizers had two more surprises up their sleeves for our alumni: a documentary tracing the history of AUCA, and an auction of gifts kindly donated by the faculty. Gifts varied from pens, hats to autographed books. The auction helped raise some 29,000 soms towards the AUCA Annual Fund.

Even when the reunion program was over, nobody rushed for the doors. Most didn't want the evening to end, and couldn't stop chatting and sharing their news.

## AUCA Students Win "Best Speaker" Prize in Central Asian Humanitarian Law Competition



In May, AUCA law students won the "Best Speaker" prize in the Ninth Annual Central Asian Humanitarian Law Competition. The competition was organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross to encourage student interest in international humanitarian law, and to let Central Asian universities, in a practical way, assess the quality of their instruction in this field.

The jury unanimously proclaimed the AUCA team "Best Speaker" after they outshone 15 teams in the final moot court round. Law student teams traveled to Lake Issyk-Kul where the contest took place, from all over the region, from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and of course Kyrgyzstan. Aida Ulakova, Zalina Abdulhafizova, Bermet Kanimetova and Asel Soorbekova, all seniors in AUCA's Law Program, demonstrated their excellent knowledge of international humanitarian

law and excellent presentation skills throughout this week-long competition.

The jury included many prominent law experts such as Antoine Bouvier (Delegate to Academic Circles ICRC Geneva), Raoul Forster (Head of Department for Legal, Educational and Informational Programs of the ICRC Regional Delegation in Central Asia), Archil Kryukov (Legal Adviser of the Moscow Regional Delegation of the ICRC of the Russian Federation) to name but a few.

The competition exercises were role-playing simulations based on a fictitious, but realistic scenario of an armed conflict. Every day the participants were receiving "updates" on the developing situation. During the competition participants were instructed to change sides or roles in their legal support of "aggressors" to "victims". Roles included Minister of Defense, ICRC delegates, public members of the occupied country, government officials, terrorists and others. In this way the contestants had to consider the same situation from a variety of view points and proffer professional legal advice.

"It was interesting to play any of the roles in this simulation," shared Aida Ulakova. "However, it was more exciting to defend the position of let's say the antagonists of the conflict. You must employ all you skills and knowledge to justify the actions of the

'aggressors' ", continued Ulakova.

"We marshalled all our strength and energy to present our views and arguments on the key issues such as the status of prisoners of war, justification for the use of force and weaponry, and many others," remarked Zalina Abdulhafizova.

"I think I significantly improved my presentation skills and professional knowledge. The contest exposed a number of gaps in international law and such simulations may assist in finding possible solutions to some of these, through listening to the ideas of the students," remarked Bermet Kanimetova.

The Central Asian Humanitarian Law Competition is a successor to the Moot Court Competition named after F. Martens, first organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1997. Since 2000, the ICRC Regional Delegation has been holding a Central Asian edition of the Competition every year.

Last month AUCA law students have also participated in the world's largest and most prestigious law contest, the Jean-Pictet Competition on international humanitarian law in Geneva. Although AUCA students did not win the competition they brilliantly represented the University and received much praise from competing peers and their mentors.

**e-Course the Technological Future of Course Management at AUCA**



AUCA Information Resources and Technologies in collaboration with the Academic Development Center has launched a campus-wide modern computerized system for managing courses and facilitating future e-learning capabilities. This electronic course management system, or e-Course, will offer students unique study opportunities enabling them to access syllabi, course readers, tests, timetables, evaluation records and other essential information through individual on-line accounts.

“The electronic course management we’ve introduced will be the foundation for developing e-learning opportunities

and to offer courses for distance learning for students from all over the world,” remarked Sania Battalova, Director of Information Resources and Technologies.

“It’s the technological future for AUCA, it enables us to enhance cooperation and integrate AUCA into the global educational community,” continued Battalova.

“e-Course is an excellent resource base, and simultaneously a good way to save time,” remarked Elena Molchanova, Assistant Professor at the Department of Psychology. “Students can fulfill their assignments online, thus giving extra time for classroom discussion, debates and individual student consultations.”

James Wissel, Chair of the Business Administration, believes that e-Course enables the teachers to organize their courses better and for students to enhance their time management skills. He added that e-Course offers teachers a unique opportunity to establish worthwhile dialogues with ‘quiet’ students, those who are sometimes not very active participants in the classroom.

“It’s a sort of ‘off-line, face-to-face’ communication that enables students to build self-confidence, encourage

discussion and have ‘access’ to an instructor,” says Wissel.

Seamus O’Sullivan, American Studies Professor, thinks that e-Course serves as a good supplementary resource base and fosters independent student study and research, or, as Elena Molchanova states, it enforces discipline in the allocation of study time and how it’s split between the classroom and independent research.

“It’s a very convenient system as I can access course materials, readers and other resources from any place and at almost any time,” remarked Azat Kupsuldaev ’09, a Business Administration student. “After few failures to submit my course papers on time, I’ve learnt how to manage my time better.”

“You set the standard and expect the students to adhere to that standard. It gives you greater control over assignments and it makes students more disciplined and responsible,” remarks James Wissel.

Currently AUCA offers twelve courses online including American Jazz History and Culture, Business Ethics, Introduction to Psychology, Treasures of World Culture, Human Resource Management and others.

**AUCA SIFE Team Fosters the Business Skills of High School Children**



In March, six Bishkek High School teams competed in the final round of the Business Plan contest organized by the AUCA SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise). The competition was organized to encourage entrepreneurial skills in young people as part of the TIFE (Teenagers in Free Enterprise) project launched a few years ago by AUCA SIFE.

Last November, the AUCA SIFE team trained almost 300 Bishkek high school pupils in the principles

of drafting a business plan. The pupils were challenged to put their newly acquired skills to the test and develop their own business plans. After several weeks of intensive consultations and tests, six teams excelled and won through to qualify for the final round.

All the judges were alumni and former members of SIFE: Stanislav Karpovich, FNT Consultants and AUCA Trustee, Aijan Jumukova, Ernst & Young Auditors, Rakhat Toktonaliev, the representative of AECOM International Development in Kyrgyzstan, and Babur Tolbaev, General Director of “Mol Bulak” Micro Credit Company.

The teams were judged on their business ideas, business plans, leadership qualities and presentation skills. The contest organizers believe that the interaction between business professionals and pupils is a win-win situation. The professionals have an opportunity to review new business prospects and potential new talent, and the pupils have an

opportunity to consider business and entrepreneurship as possible careers.

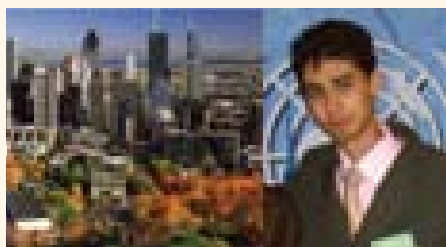
AUCA SIFE team believes that participation in this contest will help pupils to acquire entrepreneurial skills. Some economic theory is taught in the schools, but does not offer any opportunities for applying their knowledge in practice.

“School children are largely unfamiliar with business operations, don’t know how to register a company or develop a business plan,” remarks Asyl Jumasheva ’10, an Economics sophomore. “We teach them the basics of economics, business planning and strategic vision of social and economical problems of contemporary entrepreneurship. We try to open the horizons of opportunities and prospects.”

SIFE is a global youth organization, covering more than 1,500 universities in more than 40 countries worldwide.



## AUCA Student Joins the 4th World Youth Congress in Canada



Feruz Rakhmankulov, '09, an International and Comparative Politics junior will attend the 4th World Youth Congress along with more than 600 other students from over 120 countries worldwide. The congress, originally started back in 1999 in Hawaii, will take place in Quebec, Canada this summer. The theme will be "ReGeneration 2008" and will focus on promoting and celebrating youth-led community development. Feruz outperformed hundreds of other applicants in a competition for places at one of the largest and most prestigious student forums.

"These young delegates will gather in Quebec to share their expertise and

experience in the field of environmental and humanitarian sustainable development, and examine ways to improve access to education and fight against poverty," remarked Yannick Fortier, Communications coordinator of the World Youth Congress. "All this work is being done to edge closer to achieving the Millennium Development Goals as outlined by the United Nations."

"To earn the privilege of attending, applicants had to develop a project in social sphere ranging from ecology, community development to politics. I'd worked out a detailed ecology project, which included a problem statement, a budget and an action plan," remarked Feruz Rakhmankulov. "We will meet and share our experiences and skills with each other and with government representatives and development professionals. We will learn how they can contribute to community development."

During the congress participants will attend numerous thematic workshops and seminars on such issues as social entrepreneurship, water resource

management, environmental issues and others.

Towards the end of the congress student delegates will assemble for the 'Global Village' performance, where participating countries will share the spotlight and present the distinctiveness of their cultures.

This year's congress coincides with the 400th anniversary of the founding of the city of Quebec. The Government of Quebec and the Federal Government of Canada headed by her Excellency Michaëlle Jean, General Governor of Canada, will support the Congress.

The "ReGeneration 2008" is licensed and managed by Peace Child International as part of the World Youth Congress Series. They serve as the international secretariat for this Congress and have led the global movement to gain recognition for Youth-led Development as a powerful force for change in the world. The previous three World Youth Congresses took place in Hawaii (1999), Morocco (2003) and Scotland (2005).

## AUCA Academic Review – Attracts International Attention



AUCA issued the fifth edition of its biannual Academic Review, the nation's only scientific periodical that publishes research materials in three languages – Russian,

Kyrgyz and English. AUCA covered all the publication costs and introduced a strict procedure for the selection of scientific papers. All submitted papers are subjected to an external review and approval by an Editorial Board.

This edition is the first since its official registration with the Ministry of Justice and National Attestation Committee. The Editorial Board aims to attract international researchers and gain attention of the international scientific community. Recently two Russian scholars have presented their psychology research papers for inclusion in the next issue.

"AUCA Academic Review strives to maintain a high exemplary level. All articles are carefully reviewed and evaluated by experts

for their scientific merit and importance," remarked Natalia Zadorozhnaya, Editor-in-Chief of the AUCA Academic Review.

"Sometimes the evaluation experts will turn down a paper or suggest ways the author could improve the article," remarked Natalia Zadorozhnaya. "In other words, we encourage and only accept the highest of standards for scientific research and writing."

AUCA Academic Review selects research papers primarily in four categories – social sciences, humanities, natural sciences and information technology, but also accepts papers covering education and teaching methodologies.

The AUCA Academic Review is distributed to the Kyrgyz public and university libraries.



## Vladimir Pozner - “I enjoyed

For many Bishkek professional and student journalists it seemed an impossible dream to take a master class with the prominent TV journalist and anchor of the popular Russian analytical program “The Times”, Vladimir Pozner. But for AUCA Journalism, and International and Comparative Politics students this dream came true on May 27. Ellen Hurwitz, AUCA President, invited the legendary TV journalist, President of the Russian Television Academy, Dean of the Pozner School of TV Journalism, to visit AUCA to share his wisdom and world experience of two continents and political regimes, with students and faculty.

“I invited Vladimir Pozner because his life and work are about bridging cultures and speaking out constructively on the development of freedom with responsibility across the world. I knew it would be a memorable occasion, and that we would all benefit from his words and wisdom,” remarked Ellen Hurwitz, AUCA President.

The two-day visit by Mr. Pozner would be a ground breaking event for any university, so for Pozner to take time out of his busy schedule and choose to come to AUCA says much about AUCA’s reputation and educational integrity.

He had a conversation with the students of Journalism and International and Comparative Politics on various journalism and political issues as well as on careers and ethics. This informal dialogue offered a unique chance to see the world of international journalism through the experienced eyes of a master.

In particular, Pozner mentioned that journalism is not a profession but rather a lifestyle. The master believes that journalism is a good major for graduate studies. So, students after receiving bachelor’s degrees in history, philology or natural sciences and some life experience will be able to decide whether they and journalism are really a match for each other.

“You have to understand that life and journalism have their own rules, so the question is whether you as a journalist can preserve yourself where life is not so easy. If yes, become a journalist, if not – you’d better try another profession,” exhorted Pozner.

Although being candid and tough with students and warning them that their future journalism career is full of tribulations and moral wounds, Pozner encouraged students to try journalism as a profession, but also to search for their own path in life.

“I adored the master class and really appreciated to hear the opinion of a person who does not claim to affiliate himself to any political party, who does not propagate a particular policy. His opinion was objective and I enjoyed his genuine and straight forward views,” remarked Venera Kim, a journalism senior. “Pozner showed how future journalists should interpret and cover events, and how to comment on them. It was a really mature master class!”

According to Pozner, he enjoyed meeting AUCA’s student community and thinks that AUCA is a very interesting University that uses educational



## talking with AUCA Students”

methodologies to liberate minds in their quest for knowledge.

“I always like meeting and conversing with young people no matter what professional background they have – in journalism or history,” remarked Vladimir Pozner. “AUCA students asked interesting, pertinent questions and starting polemics, so our conversations were very lively and productive,” as Pozner summarized his impressions of AUCA students.

Mr. Pozner also found time to meet with our faculty members of the Journalism and International and Comparative Politics and discussed academic, political and media issues.

A key event of the occasion was Pozner’s participation in a round-table on the liberal arts and trends in the development of education in Central Asia. The round-table brought together educators, government officials and representatives of international organizations. It focused on the need for dialogue and cooperation to enhance understanding and convergence of Western and Russian styles of education.

“There are two educational models,” remarked Pozner. “First, to get into the student’s head as much knowledge as possible and secondly, to offer skills that would free their minds for independent intellectual inquiry. I think the best solution is to marry both traditions,” summed up Pozner.

Vladimir Pozner also met with media representatives from all over Central Asia and our students from The Star and AUCA.TV. In his interview with AUCA.TV Pozner summed up his mission to AUCA and encouraged the student community to search for the own paths in their lives.

“I wish all AUCA students to find their vocation in life and understand that it is yours alone. The most important thing in life is to understand this: what you should be, what you want to do, what you enjoy,” remarked Pozner. “There is nothing more tragic than to be stuck in a profession that is 100 percent not yours. So I heartedly wish you all find the right track for your life. I’m happy to have found my vocation after many trials and tribulations. I wish you all the very best of luck!” summed up Pozner.

Vladimir became famous on both sides of the Atlantic during the mid 80’s when he co-hosted with Phil Donahue the satellite hook-up shows between Moscow and the United States that heralded in glasnost under President Gorbachev. Mr. Pozner has experience as a professional journalist under state controlled media and with US network television during the 90’s, when he lived in New York City. He returned to Moscow in 1997 to host two Russian TV shows. Mr. Pozner has been involved with the mass media for over 46 years!

*Elizabeth Zalkind*

# Gallery: Graduation & Commencement 2008



AUCA graduates gather for Commencement



AUCA Trustee Ishenbai Abdurazakov congratulates graduates of 2008



President Dr. Hurwitz delivers congratulatory address



New alumni memorialize their graduation on the AUCA Alumni Stone



Graduation ceremonial procession



US Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch commends graduates



AUCA President and Professor Akiba award the best undergraduate research





The award for best teaching in English



Elated AUCA graduates – 2008



The diverse AUCA community



# Young Dramatic Artists



Every single performance starts with the lights, the stage set, make up, bustle, adrenalin... They are not professionals, but they are young artists who want to share their talent and bring joy to people. They learn, they practice, and they perform to make people happy. They love drama. They represent the student theater "Debut".

"Debut" is a student drama troupe of the American University of Central Asia (AUCA). It was formed in 2003, when Nikolai Shulgin, Dean of Students at AUCA, offered drama classes to students to create a real theater.

Nikolai said to his students, "In my drama class I have around 15 students registered, but I see 30 of you here. Why have you come?" The students answered, "We are team and we just love it!" Then he said, "Let's do something special, beyond the framework of the class. Let's create a theater, a real theater." The students loved the idea and the student theater "Debut" was born.

Right afterwards the students started to work really hard and dedicated, because they had fallen in love with the theater. Step by step the young artists developed their artistic skills making people happy with their performances. Not long after, they won a regional drama tournament held amongst professional theater groups in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

"Following this triumph our troupe organized the first open air concert for all Bishkek students on Ala-Too square, in the center of Bishkek. In the audience were representatives from the presidential White House who decided that our performance should be seen all over Kyrgyzstan. They

even provided us with a plane (smiling). So, we started our tour around Kyrgyzstan performing our concerts for all. The tour helped us to strengthen our team," says Maksim Poletaev '10, Journalism, AUCA, a member of "Debut".

Now they are young professional playwrights who create musicals and short plays. According to Nikolai Shulgin these musical playlets are very effective. It is not a major problem to set up a big concert with the several musical playlets on the program. It's very much like a jigsaw puzzle when you join together very interesting pieces to compose one beautiful picture.

Each year these young artists organize a New Year's Eve concert for disabled children of Bishkek. "We involve these kids in our concert programs. It is so amazing to see the happy faces and smiles of the kids performing on the stage, like real artists. It is the style and tradition of our University to do charity work. And we are on the right path here," says Nikolai.

"Debut" is not just a musical theater, but it is also a social association. The student theater is involved in various charity projects supported by different international organizations such as OSCE, UNDP and many others. They've earned and deserve respect for their activities and generosity throughout Kyrgyzstan.

*Emil Lyu*

*"A talent for drama is not a talent to write. It's an ability to articulate human relationships."*

*-Goze Vida*



# BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER



## AMERICAN FOOTBALL COMES TO CENTRAL ASIA

On a sunny day in May, one could imagine oneself amongst thousands of American football fans watching the Miami Dolphins playing a crucial home game in their famous Dolphin Stadium, in the sunshine state of Florida, USA. The screams were reaching fever pitch as fans saw their team's wide receiver catching the ball cleanly and it's an open field sprint for a touchdown. But on closer examination the snow leopard prints on the scarves and T-shirts and the common Kyrgyz chant of 'Alga' (Go-Go!) is clearly indicating that we're someplace else. It's Bishkek's "Spartak" stadium, all packed out with football enthusiasts and the curious who have come to gaze at this spectacle of strange foreign goings-on known as *American Football*.

On May 10-12, Bishkek's "Spartak" hosted the long awaited International American Football Tournament in Central Asia. Student football squads from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia and USA battled it out for the first ever Central Asia Football Cup organized by the Central Asian Association of American Football (CAAAP). CAAAP launched the championship to promote football and friendship as well as to build the bridges across western and Central Asian cultures. CAAAP used this opportunity to bring diverse people together from different

cultures and nationalities, and to unite them through sport and to promote tolerance and mutual understanding.

Bishkek fans, as they admitted after the tournament, had never witnessed such intense and emotion packed games with scores changing every minute and players marshalling all their strength and stamina to try for one more touchdown for their team! The matches, as some fans and spectators observed, were master classes delivered with forceful intent by Springfield's College Football Team from Missouri, USA.

The US team defeated Kyrgyz Snow Leopards and Kazakh Titans at almost one click – 41:0 (Springfield: Titans) and 48:0 (Springfield: Snow Leopards).

"We have never played against teams of such high calibre as Springfield," remarked Bakai Maldybaev, the Snow Leopards' trainer. "This team exemplifies professionalism, high achievement and commitment. We learnt a lot from them. They served as a role model for our young Bishkek squad. It will take us a few years to reach the same kind of level, but we go on, lick our wounds, study their tactics, and train hard."



After the triumphant exhibition matches of the US college team, Snow Leopards and Titans took to the field to redeem themselves. Both local teams, which are the only ones in Central Asia, have been playing each other for almost seven years. The Kyrgyz Snow Leopards have been constantly winning matches one after the other, when finally the Kazakh Titans proved themselves worthy opponents, demonstrated their improved playing skills and tactics and finally won.

During the key match for second place in the tournament, Snow Leopards were putting their maximum effort into the game, but even so, fate favored the Kazakh squad which pulled off a victory after a tremendously hard fought game, with a score of 22:14.

The audience enjoyed every pass and kick of the game as well as the well choreographed dancing and singing by the cheerleader groups from AUCA and the Kyrgyz Technological University. The organizers were delighted with the success of the tournament and the spectators really enjoyed a fantastic show.

"Kyrgyz and Kazakh teams played good football, this tournament was very interesting," remarked Chief Trainer of Springfield's Team, Charles Getty. "I'd like to express my respect and appreciation to the Snow Leopards trainer Bakai. I coach only five defense players while Bakai instructs the entire squad!"

Football, or as it's referred to in Bishkek, American Football, is a very new game to the Central Asian region where most sports fans love and know better what Americans would call soccer. It was a few years ago that the first American football was played by students from AUCA, which the University later offered it as an option for sports activities.



So, in the Central Asian region this sport is closely identified with AUCA. It took the sport a few more years to spread out and root in other universities in Kyrgyzstan. Interest developed from a sports elective at educational institutions to the formation of the independent Central Asian Association of American Football (CAAFF).

**"We have grown up. In Kyrgyzstan, we have what we call a senior team and a junior team as well as two cheerleader groups"**

"I think I wouldn't be paltering if I said that this tournament has really brought American Football to Central Asia and to the attraction of potentially hundreds of fans," remarked Nikolay Shulgin, AUCA Dean of students and President of CAAFF.

"We have grown up. In Kyrgyzstan, we have what we call a senior team and a junior team as well as two cheerleader groups," said Nikolay Shulgin. "This year we'll institute the Federation of American Football and start youth groups in several schools."

*Elizabeth Zalkind*



## *"Playing for Real"* Business Simulation for AUCA students



\$8 million profit and \$11 million loss were the results of business management game organized by representatives of the Arnhem Business School from the Netherlands and AUCA's International Affairs Office and Business Administration Program. This week more than thirty students from AUCA's Business Administration and Economics Programs, along with two students from the International University of Kyrgyzstan, participated in this business mock-up. The simulation business game, which has been conducted by the Arnhem Business School in Moscow, London, Sophia, and other cities, enables students to gain managerial skills and develop a broad-minded approach to tackling the diverse challenges of operating a business.

The business management game was sponsored by the KPMG Bishkek, member of one of the 'Big 4' companies, which encouraged the initiative that helped the students develop their marketing, management and creativity skills.

"AUCA graduates constitute almost 70 percent of the KPMG Bishkek staffing. All of them are an invaluable asset to the company and bring to it

their professionalism, excellent presentational and language skills. We are really proud of them and that why look forward to recruiting new colleagues from AUCA," remarked Madina Umarova, HR Manager of the KPMG Bishkek.

During the intensive four-day simulation, student participants had to manage real businesses through seven business cycle periods that would occur over a six-month span. Acting as members of a senior management board of a commercial firm, students had to develop and implement marketing and business development strategies to let their companies effectively function in their respective market places.

For this simulation, the market consisted of ten firms, each represented by a team of three to five students,

operating in the same industry, water boilers and other electrical device production. Every firm received a set of financial documents showing the health of the firm. All the firms were offered the same start-up positions and cash balances and then had to develop business strategies to improve their firm's performance.

*"This business game is stressful and fun at the same time. Business is all about competition, and everyone wants to succeed and be the best"*



factor of successful business is strong teamwork. You might miss something but your colleague will notice the gap and fix it. We really felt that working as a team can mean one-plus-one makes three," continued Chaikozova.

Like in a real market economy, the game revealed winners and losers. When evaluating the firm's performance, Kalkwijk and Post took into account the final score, which represents 60% of the total grade, and participants' marketing and creative

The jury consisted of Professors Roel Kalkwijk and Piet Post from the Arnhem Business School. They judged the quality of each firm's decisions by looking at the demand for their products.

"This business game is stressful and fun at the same time. Business is all about competition, and everyone wants to succeed and be the best. So, participants will learn all about real competition and the realities of the market which they will face in a couple of years," remarked Piet Post.

The organizers believe that it will help the students to understand that a firm's performance can depend and be influenced by the decisions made by other groups, market conditions, and the state of the economy. In addition, the game organizers believe this competition effectively integrates the concepts of accounting, marketing, finance, human resource management, manufacturing, resource planning, international activities as well as creative thinking in a simulated business environment.

"It was a very realistic game and we felt as if we were really running a firm," remarked Nargiza Chaikozova '11, Business Administration. "We understood that the major

skills, all together counting for 40%. Based on their overall performance the firm represented by Jyldyz Degenbaeva '09, Economics, Asel Kadyrbaeva '09, Economics, and Anara Jeenbekova '10, American Studies, took first place.

Three student groups that completed their game with the highest scores were awarded USB flash drives and KPMG T-shirts, while the most dedicated student received a complimentary voucher for High Tea for two at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

*Elizabeth Zalkind*



## SUCCESS AFTER AUCA

### Interview with AUCA Trustee Stanislav Karpovich

**AUCA Trustee Stanislav Karpovich, a former Business Administration graduate of AUCA, is a successful entrepreneur specializing in development projects in the Public and Private sector in Central Asia and other private specialist projects.**

I managed to track down Mr. Karpovich at FNT Consultants' office located in Bishkek's premier hotel, the Hyatt. Over a cup of green tea we talked about his experiences whilst studying at AUCA and the opportunity he has, as a Trustee, to give-something-back to the local community and his alma mater the American University of Central Asia.



Stanislav Karpovich is a product of both the American University of Central Asia and the Kyrgyz State National University, when in 1997 he graduated from AUCA as a specialist in Business Administration.

He attended a number of courses sponsored by USAID and the Asian Development Bank on Stock Exchange operations (Stocks and Bonds, Underwriting, shareholders' Rights and Brokerage). As an excellent scholar he had the chance to visit the USA in 1996 to participate in the workshop "Business Curriculum Development" at the Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. At almost the same time he won the "Best Rookie" award through an exchange program "Students in Free Enterprise" in Kansas City, Missouri, USA.

His early professional years revolved around the emerging Kyrgyz Stock Exchange as Vice President of NCP Securities Corporation. In 1999 he changed tack and moved into the international consultancy business being appointed Deputy Director and later Deputy Managing Director of MNT Consultancy (partly owned by an International Consultancy company based in Belgium). This company was a key player in Central Asia working on a wide variety of donor sponsored projects ranging from rural development to institutional strengthening to small and medium size business development.

More recently, our Trustee helped to form FNT Consultants which is actively working on projects in the Central Asian region for the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the European Union.

In November 2003, Mr. Karpovich was duly nominated and elected to the Board of Trustees of the American University of Central Asia.

**Nigel Browne: What would you tell young men and women in Kyrgyzstan about studying at AUCA?**

**Stanislav Karpovich:** AUCA is more than just a place where you study, it's a place where you share your experiences with your peers and enrich yourself. It's a way to live, move and work. I do believe that AUCA is the best educational center in Kyrgyzstan; so anyone who is really passionate about their future should apply to study at AUCA.

**NB: What were the key skills and ideas that you learned at AUCA?**

**SK:** Strictly speaking I graduated from the Kyrgyz American School of the Kyrgyz State National University. This School later became the American University in Kyrgyzstan and then the American University of Central Asia. As for the skills I acquired at the University, I would say the most valuable for me was the ability to critically think. I still remember our American professors who taught us the importance of critical thinking and analysis.

**NB: How do you apply these principles in practice?**

I don't accept all things at face value. Not to simply accept, take time to view things differently, not to see only one answer to a problem, look at all the angles. This approach to thinking has been extremely useful in my business life, and I'm sure this has contributed greatly to the success of our consultancy business.

**NB: You are a member of the Board of Trustees of AUCA. Can you tell us something about that?**

**SK:** I am really enjoying participating at freshman initiations and commencements at AUCA every year, which helps all of us to feel good and we get extra energy and drive. One of the most fascinating aspects of being a Trustee are the discussions and debates with other Board members. We hopefully make contributions to the University by assisting with its strategic development, self-sustainability, economic independence and making AUCA an attractive proposition to students both here and abroad, to make AUCA a truly international institution. We also care a great deal about standards and reputation, and help to promote the ideals of AUCA. Additionally, we act as a link between businesses, the local community, and AUCA. We bring with us different perspectives from our different backgrounds and work.

For me personally I am fortunate as a Trustee, to have the opportunity to meet and talk with renowned scholars and distinguished colleagues, such as, "Aksakal" Ishenbai Abdrazakov and Head of the Board of Trustees Professor William Newton-Smith.

**NB: In your opinion what makes AUCA unique amongst universities in Kyrgyzstan and in Central Asia as a whole?**

**SK:** I guess I could tell you a secret that AUCA is the only fully non-corrupted university in Kyrgyzstan, but importantly is the uniqueness of this University, the passionate willingness of its students to learn and attain new targets and to strive for their goals they set themselves. They know exactly that their studies are an investment in their future. It's interesting to note, that good AUCA graduates are sought after, regardless of their major whether it be Anthropology, Sociology or International Comparative Politics. Why? .... Because of their intellectual skill sets. The environment, the atmosphere is stimulating and motivates you. You are given a well rounded knowledge base, you are principled, you have drive and you can think outside of the box.

Employers don't seem to mind what your major is, what they care about is the fact you're a graduate from AUCA. It's virtually a green-light in the local job market.

**NB: What is the role of the AUCA Alumni Association for current students and for those who have already graduated?**

**SK:** The Alumni Association plays an important role in linking graduate students with their Alma Mater. Without any exaggeration, I can say that AUCA is the only educational institution in Kyrgyzstan that strives so hard to maintain close contact with its former students and encourages networking between them, and to help disseminate information about new opportunities in the local employment market. One of Alumni Association principles is: "Think global, Do local!"



**NB: Can you tell us something about FNT, your consultancy company?**

**SK:** We specialize in the International Consultancy business arena. Previously, we did a lot of projects in the public sector, working for and with some of the major donor organizations, such as the European Agency for Reconstruction, USAID, DFID (UK Government), World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Now we are shifting our emphasis to the private sector, working on projects with local private companies and international corporations looking at Central Asia for business prospects and investments. This latter aspect is becoming a strong focus for our business activities, especially as Central Asia opens up to the world, through technology and easier travel. The world is getting smaller and smaller.

**NB: How do you balance the demands of work with your personal life?**

It can be a problem. The thing is to prioritize and not to forget the importance of home life and relaxation. You've got to work out a balance and not let one aspect dominate over all other things.



**NB: What are your pastimes?**

**SK:** I try to keep fit. I do some swimming which I enjoy, but I can also be a bit of a couch-potato, and watch good films. And of course, I adore my little daughter; she's the most important thing in my life.

**NB: Thank you very much for your time.**

*Nigel Browne*

**SVETLANA ANCKER**

**General Information**

**Citizenship:** Kyrgyzstan  
**Date of Birth:** June 10, 1977

**Job information:**

**Employer 1:** European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, World Health Organization (London)

**Position:** Research assistant  
**Location:** London, UK  
**Period:** Nov 2007 to present

**Employer 2:** US Civilian Research & Development Foundation

**Position:** Program Manager  
**Location:** Arlington, VA, USA  
**Period:** Aug 2003 - Sept 2007

**Employer 3:** American International Health Alliance

**Position:** Program Analyst  
**Location:** Washington, DC, USA  
**Period:** Mar 2000 to Aug 2003

*When I graduated from the International Relations program (now known as International Comparative Politics) in 1999, I knew the knowledge and skills I gained at AUCA would serve as a great platform to launch my professional and academic career. AUCA empowers its students to go on, to be successful in whatever path they pursue. The University, where the professors are passionate about teaching, and staff are eager to help, creates an environment that stimulates students to raise thought-provoking ideas and stimulate multitude talents to prosper.*

*By setting high standards of academic excellence, AUCA prepares students to enter some of the most prestigious universities around the world and work successfully in the leading governmental, international development, business and educational agencies in Kyrgyzstan and abroad, thus contributing to the growth and development of Kyrgyzstan. But more importantly, I walked away with a sense of family that still embraces me wherever I am. I meet AUCA faculty and students in various parts of the world and the network of dedicated and motivated young professionals continues to expand. AUCA is part of who I am today and for that I will always be thankful.*



**AILAR SAPAROVA**

**General Information**

**Citizenship:** Kyrgyzstan  
**Date of Birth:** Nov 26, 1980

**Academic Information**

**Institution:** AUCA  
**Year of Graduation:** 2006  
**Program:** International and Comparative Politics

**Institution:** University of Notre Dame  
**Year of Graduation:** 2008  
**Program:** Peace Studies Degree: MA

*One of the greatest achievements in my life has been entering the academic world and beginning it with the AUCA. Excellent education, an international environment, wonderful friends and many joyful moments were some of the most precious gifts that my Alma Mater blessed me with. Studying at the AUCA and in the program of International and Comparative Politics (ICP) helped me to participate in a student exchange program in Latvia, a summer course in Germany and an international workshop on energy issues in Azerbaijan. Most importantly, studying at AUCA has helped me to move up the academic ladder and receive the Master of Arts in Peace Studies from the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, U.S.A.*

*Leaving the AUCA was hard, but I know that the friendships I made and the knowledge I gained will stay with me and open many more doors for me in the future.*



## DENIS DAVYDOV



## General Information

Citizenship: Kyrgyzstan

## Academic information:

Institution: AUCA

Year of graduation: 2007

Program: BA

Degree: BBA

Institution: University of Vaasa  
(Finland)  
www.uwasa.fi

Year of graduation: 2009

Program: Master's degree  
program  
in FinanceDegree: Master of Science  
in Economics  
and Business  
Administration

## Job information:

Employer 1: INEXIMBANK

Location: Bishkek

Position: Crediting  
departmentPeriod: August 2006 –  
February 2007Employer 2: Basis Management  
Company

Location: Bishkek

Position: Head of financial-  
economic  
departmentPeriod: March 2007 –  
August 2007

*I think that most of the AUCA graduates will agree with me if I would tell that AUCA was not only just a University. It was like a second home (sometimes even first) but all these that we call education gave me a great opportunity to obtain needed knowledge in my sphere and what is more important to develop as the individual. And probably this is the main advantage of the AUCA among other Kyrgyz Universities. It allows person to grow as the individual, adding such characteristics as creativity and critical thinking, open mindedness and non-standard way of thinking and at the very end opens the huge road for the further development.*

*AUCA was always a unique place and years spent in this institution will be inspiring me for many years more.*



## VADIM BIRYUKOV

## General Information

Citizenship: Kyrgyzstan

Date of Birth: January 5, 1987

## Academic information:

Institution: AUCA

Year of Graduation: 2007

Program: International and  
Comparative  
Politics

Degree: BA

Institution: Central European  
University

Year of Graduation: 2008

Program: Political Sciences

Degree: MA

*"It is a different experience, yet not a shocking one, thanks to AUCA. It is intensive but manageable; we do not feel here that we came out of nowhere. AUCA graduates are among those having the most ambitious expectations and goals. AUCA is a liberal arts institution that helped me to prepare myself for a graduate school".*





**Mr. ADEL BADREDDINE**  
**Kyrgyz Petroleum Company,**  
**General Manager.**

In April, I received an invitation from Mr. Adel Badreddine, the General Manager of the Kyrgyz Petroleum Company, to visit his company in Jalalabad. After an hour long flight I was given a tour of the company and met some wonderful people working there.

The subject of our meeting was to fulfill Mr. Badreddine's desire to launch a scholarship fund to support needy talented students, from all around the Kyrgyz Republic; to give them an opportunity of a good university education, which will be a major step up the career ladder.

Thanks to his generosity and kindness, the American University of Central Asia now has a Kyrgyz Petroleum Scholarship Fund to support seven students with full scholarships for the whole period of their studies. Additionally, Mr. Badreddine has asked us to help three of his workers to learn English at AUCA's Continuing Education Center.

Even before this initiative to launch the Kyrgyz Petroleum's Scholarship Fund, Mr. Badreddine's generosity has expressed itself way back to 2005, when he financed personally two students to study at the University.

I, of course, took the opportunity to interview Mr. Badreddine to learn more about this generous man, his hopes, plans and his life, and the motivation behind his support for students in their effort to get a better education.

**Mr. Adel, on behalf of the whole AUCA Community and particularly your sponsored students, I would like thank you for launching the Kyrgyz Petroleum Scholarship Fund which will allow students to get the best possible education in Central Asia. What motivated you to help so many needy students with full scholarships, some of whom will even be supported during their Preparatory year?**

**Adel Badreddine:** One of the main policy objectives of Petrofac and the Kyrgyz Petroleum Company (KPC) is to be an integral part of the community. We began our sponsorship projects when KPC was established in 1996. The first sponsorship was the purchase of medical equipment for one Jalalabad hospital to the tune of \$150,000. Later we started to help poor, old and other people that needed emergency operations. But you know, all these sponsored projects were done on request from the government of KR. Soon we realized that we were wasting time and money making investments on behalf of the government and we decided to launch some other programs that could really bring favorable results. Since my arrival to Kyrgyzstan in 1996 I was surrounded by young, ambitious and talented people willing and wanting to get better education, to be skilled and experienced, to achieve their goals in life. So we came to understand that it is more valuable to support education. And in 2008 we started to build on this idea. I took the initiative to look for students, to help them achieve their career ambitions.

**I know that Petrofac has a social responsibility policy to support education in developing parts of the world, by paying tuition fees or building schools. Can you please tell us a little about some of these projects?**

**Adel Badreddine:** As I have mentioned one of Petrofac's objectives is to be an integral part of the life of people and the community, so the Company has a clear responsibility to play its part in a positive way. Corporate social responsibility policy covers all the vital spheres of human life, that is, people, community, health, safety and security, environment, and so on. Educational programs as a part of Petrofac's corporate social responsibility are most important. By these programs Petrofac sponsors building, furnishing and equipping of schools in Egypt, Tunisia, and others. In 2007, in collaboration with Arvind Gandbhir Secondary School we announced the launch of the "Petrofac Scholarship for Studies in Engineering" in Northern Mumbai. In Sharjah, Petrofac provided financial support to a further eight students in the School of Engineering at the American University. KPC also sponsors the studies of its employees, for example, presently one of our employees studies at the Academy of Management under the President of Kyrgyz Republic, the second one studies at the Customs Academy in Moscow, Russia. We also sponsor education of some people abroad. The Company also provided financial support to the American University in Beirut, Lebanon. There are also other educational projects sponsored by Petrofac.



### Why did you decide to sponsor a scholarship fund with American University of Central Asia?

**Adel Badreddine:** I know people who have graduated from other universities. They have an honours degree but they do not have any knowledge or skills. I personally know young people who have graduated from the American University of Central Asia. Studying at this university greatly influenced their behavior, character and of course their knowledge and skills.

### What are your expectations of these grateful school-leavers? What should they do after they graduate from our University?

**Adel Badreddine:** I would just like them not to their waste time or chances during their studies at the University, to become good specialists, to get as much knowledge as it is possible, and to use this knowledge for the welfare of their people and their country.

### Mr. Adel, can you please tell about your life a little bit?

**Adel Badreddine:** I was born in Lebanon, and I studied at the Faculty of Business Administration in France. I have been involved in the oil industry since graduating, and plan to continue devoting myself fully to this industry. Being involved in the oil industry I have traveled from the Far East to the Middle East.

I have one daughter and her name is Hana. She graduated from the Faculty of Sociology and Philosophy, at the Canadian University. This year I am going to become grandfather, and I hope it'll be a granddaughter. This prospect makes me extremely happy.

### You've lived in Kyrgyzstan for twelve years already. What do you like most in this country and why?

**Adel Badreddine:** I like the intelligence of the people, their honesty, simplicity, eagerness to learn more, ambitiousness, hospitality and their attitudes toward each other. Here I feel at home.

### What are your plans for the next five to ten years?

**Adel Badreddine:** If I am in Kyrgyzstan, I will keep on sponsoring scholarships for young people, increasing the number of scholarship students by a further two or three in the future.

### What do you wish for your scholarship students, to achieve in life?

**Adel Badreddine:** I wish them health and every success. I would also advise them to help other people whenever they can, when they can afford to, financially, to do something for other people. It is the main responsibility for everyone.

*Alina Sottaeva*

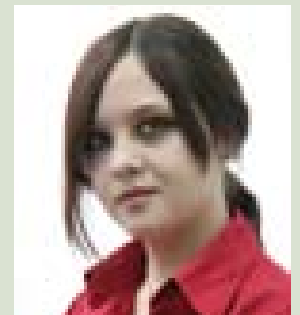
### Elnura Aitbekova '11, European Studies



*"Education means so much to me! I cannot find the words to properly express my feelings and gratitude, because it is so heart-felt! The Kyrgyz Petroleum Company scholarship will help me to continue my education at one of the best universities in the whole region. It will help me achieve my goal to make Kyrgyzstan a better place. My retired, health challenged parents and I are so thankful for the chance given to me by Mr. Adel Badreddine. He chose me from amongst so many other excellent students. I'm so thrilled. I will do my best to achieve excellence in my classes, extra-curricula activities and contribute to the community. And I assure you I will graduate as one of the best students of the whole University."*

*"I know that education is the one of the most important things in a young person's life today. AUCA helps us to gain the knowledge and skills to be successful. Because of this almost every young person who thinks about their future wants to study at AUCA. Unfortunately, not everyone can afford a good education, so I'm very thankful for the help from Kyrgyz Petroleum Company and particularly Mr. Badreddine. I now have an opportunity to make my dreams come true! I think this is the biggest and the best present ever. By giving me this chance I can now realize my future plans. I will do my best to be an excellent student and not to let people down who believe in me. After graduation I will be able to achieve my career goals! I'm the luckiest student in the whole world!"*

### Anna Feofilaktova '11, Journalism



### Murat Tuloberdiev '11, International and Comparative Politics



*"Frankly, I was not sure if I could afford the fees for the next years of my studies. It was so difficult for me to find the money before, but I risked it, passed the exams and worked hard to find the money. I so wanted a good education. Throughout last year tuition fees were such a big problem, but now I really feel I'm free and I can fully concentrate on my studies without all these worries. I feel that you can achieve your goals if you really put all your effort into working hard. The scholarship generously provided to me by the Kyrgyz Petroleum Company is saving me from the "rock and the hard place". I really hope that one day I will be a successful person, and in the future I want to be able to help young people as well. I am extremely grateful to Mr. Adel Badreddine."*



## PROFESSOR HERSH CHADHA

**Professor Chadha, first of all we would like to thank you for your kind generosity, because we know that you have given financial support to our students. So we would like to know, what made you take this decision?**

**Hersh Chadha:** The reason I did this is because I wanted to help Kyrgyz students who have the will, aptitude and need for a good education, but unfortunately lack funds for a university education. I felt that by making this donation I have given her a chance to get an education, and one day in the future, when she's grown up, she will be able to help another poor student, it's a sort of chain-reaction you know. You do it for one and then it goes on and on and on.



**We know that you have some plans, projects here in Kyrgyzstan. So, what can you tell us about that?**

**Hersh Chadha:** Well, first of all I like your country. I like the people. I like the outstanding nature of Kyrgyzstan. It's interesting how Kyrgyz people have found a balance between nature and people: its animal and bird life, plant life and human life. They've struck a harmony of co-existence, there's a respect linking the people with their land and its history.

Regarding projects, I'm actually looking around; I'm still in the development stage of what I can do. But I like this country and I like to spend time here. I'm trying to help and support things which are primarily related with the environment: the flora and fauna of this area.



But I will help AUCA students by conducting regular master-classes for photo-journalism students and I hope to open a real photo studio for them in the near future.

**What do you especially like here in AUCA?**

**Hersh Chadha:** I came to this University with the idea of sharing my knowledge as I am very well traveled, taking pictures all around the world and basically trying to open windows and doors in the students' minds, to get them to look at things differently especially when it comes to taking pictures. If they follow the right steps it could lead them to become professional photographers.

**Why do you do this charitable work?**

**Hersh Chadha:** Well, I've been quite successful in my life, and as I have a lot of time available, I felt that my life's course is to move more towards supporting and protecting the environment. I work closely with the World Wild Life Fund for Nature. I believe that giving one's time is more important than money, because many people can give money for a good cause, but very few people can give time, and with God's grace I can give both.

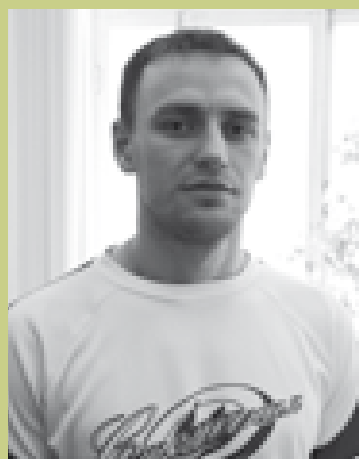
*Alexandra Revina '11*

**Tatiana Kravchenko,**  
The Star Newspaper  
Coordinator



*"The master class was for me very special, because every day of the master class I discovered something new. I got many useful tips and advice. It was really good to see ordinary things through a wide-angled lens."*

**Pavel Konovalov '10,**  
Journalism



*"I discovered new perspectives of photography and learned to look at the things from different angles. I saw new ways of looking at things, ways I'd never imagined before."*

**Lazarina Kuchmenova '09,**  
Psychology



*"It was so exiting to use a film camera and to find out some time later the results of my photography. Although the results weren't particularly good, as I had imagined them to be, it was very interesting to discuss them all the same. After this master class I would like to work with film to further improve my skills in this style of photography. THANKS TO PROF. CHADHA FOR LETTING US USE THE LATEST PHOTOGRAPHIC HIFI TECHNOLOGY."*



## NEWS REPORTING AND BEYOND



Although long looked for by many – some with anticipation, some with mild curiosity, and some with trepidation - it started amazing well. Suddenly the giant plasma screen in Bravo café went live, much to the bewilderment and surprise of many students sitting around, eating, drinking, reading and a young attractive news anchor announced the broadcast of the first AUCA.TV news program. Happy ‘fledgling’ journalists, AUCA.TV Coordinator Radik Zuhitdjinov, friends and supporters all gathered in the University lobby to watch the terrific launch of their ‘long awaited’ baby – AUCA.TV, born healthy and strong, and without complications, called ‘AUCA.TV News’.

From thereon, every week a group of AUCA.TV correspondents, who all successfully passed through casting and probation, have been producing their regular news programs featuring university life. Within a short period of time the news correspondents felt the

future realm of their profession careers and understood the real meaning of “sniffing-out” potential news stories.

“This experience has helped me become more determined and confident about what I am doing, and I plan to do my best to become a great journalist. Thanks to AUCA.TV, I believe it will happen,” remarked Alexandra Revina ‘11, anchor and reporter on AUCA.TV.

Every week they the AUCA.TV production team, gather for editorial meetings to plan programs and broadcast schedules, and shootings.

Within a very short period of time AUCA.TV developed from an innovative project to a strong communications tool for the university.

“AUCA.TV was created to provide the university community with detailed information about events, news and activities. It helps the university community and beyond to be better informed and aware of AUCA,” remarked AUCA.TV

**Within a short period of time AUCA.TV developed from an innovative project to a strong communications tool for the University.**

Coordinator Radik Zulhitdjnov. "In addition, we help our students to gain practical experience of filming, reporting, TV media writing and anchoring, so when they graduate they will be really sought after in the local media market and internationally."

Student involvement in a real broadcasting project, Zulhitdjnov believes, helps them to understand television journalism from A to Z. Students apply their skills and acquire considerable news production experience during these activities and to appreciate whether broadcasting is to be really their 100 per cent profession. As a result, journalism students will graduate with a solid grounding in theoretical knowledge and practical skills and be very attractive to potential employers.

"AUCA TV operates in a very similar vein to actual TV channels, and students get a

**AUCA.TV is open to students across all university majors who are interested in learning and expanding their skills in broadcast journalism.**

complete picture of how a TV service is shaped and functions from the inside. Regular tours to the top rated domestic channels and master classes with TV professionals ensures that students are properly prepared for the job after the graduation," remarked Pavel Konovalov '10. "These factors contribute greatly towards the chances of getting a desirable internship or job, because of the practical background and a solid portfolio of the student projects."

AUCA.TV is open to students across all university majors who are interested in learning and expanding their skills in broadcast journalism. They will have an opportunity to apply theoretical background gained in the classes and to learn the skills, which would normally be impossible to teach in the classroom.

*Elizabeth Zalkind*



## ***ECONOMICS WITHOUT BORDERS***

### **Interview with AUCA's Economics Professor Zarylbek Kudabaev**

**AUCA's Professor Kudabaev has traveled extensively in his role as an Economist, a Physicist and a Statistician visiting many countries, attending conferences and presenting papers.**

**He is the author of numerous scientific papers and books on economic development, population census, demographic data, statistics and institute building.**



Professor Kudabaev spent his childhood years in Kochkor and Chaek (Naryn Oblast) and Balykchy, Issyk Kul. In High School he discovered a talent for math and physics, and went on to study at the Kyrgyz National University. He was an intern at the prestigious Moscow State University and in 1983 was awarded a doctorate in Physics.

On returning to Bishkek he worked at the Polytechnic University as an Instructor, Professor, Vice Dean, Head of Department and finally, Deputy Rector.

To share his knowledge on solid state physics he was invited as a visiting professor to the US, to lecture at Kansas and Ames Universities. During this time our professor studied market economics and democracy. This experience gave him a vision of the future for higher education, and saw Kansas University as a model for reform in Kyrgyzstan.

In 1995, he was invited by the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan to establish "Free Economic Zones" (FEZ). Two years later he was appointed chairman of the National Statistics Committee of Kyrgyzstan and under his stewardship the country carried out its first national population, tourism and Agrarian censuses. In 2004, for his contribution and work on FEZ's, economic reform, poverty reduction and statistics, Professor Kudabaev was awarded a PhD, received commendations from the United Nations and awarded the "Dank" medal by the Kyrgyz President.

In 2006, the Professor was appointed to the Chair of Economics at AUCA.

Professor Kudabaev and I stepped outside the University into the early spring sunshine, and took some timeout for a brief chat. We strolled in the park near AUCA, a place he likes to frequent, where he sometimes rests and contemplates.

**Nigel Browne: Your visit to the US in 1994 was a very significant life changing event for you.**

**Professor Zarylbek Kudabaev:** Yes, although I didn't simply go to see life in the US, I wanted to contribute academically. I felt I could be useful as a professor of physics and as a representative of the newly independent state of Kyrgyzstan. I gave physics lectures at Kansas and Ames Universities. The Dean of International Studies of Kansas University took care of me during my stay and arranged for Professor John Garland to be my mentor in Economics.

Whereas I was very comfortable living in the US, it was a revelation, I was surprised by the differences in life styles (compared to Kyrgyzstan), the culture, the mass media and religions.

I had an opportunity to study market economics and the key points of western economies. I started a systematic study of economics and realized there were methodological, mathematical and theoretical similarities between it and physics. I knew then, emotionally and mentally, I wanted to become an economist when I returned. I was ready to change my thinking and career.

**NB: You mentioned some amusing incidents while you were in the US.**

**ZK:** My host in the town of Lawrence, Kansas was a Pastor of the local Lutheran Church. We would have long chats into the night discussing various things such as religion, traditions and other cultural differences. I'm sure afterwards we understood each other a lot better.

There was one amusing incident when I was waiting for a telephone call from my mentor, Professor John Garland. The telephone rang and I answered it thinking it was the



Professor. We had a long interesting and rather confusing conversation. After some time it became clear, this wasn't my mentor, but the former Governor of Kansas, John Carlin. Their names sounded so similar to me. He was very polite and wished for my stay to be both illuminating and rewarding.

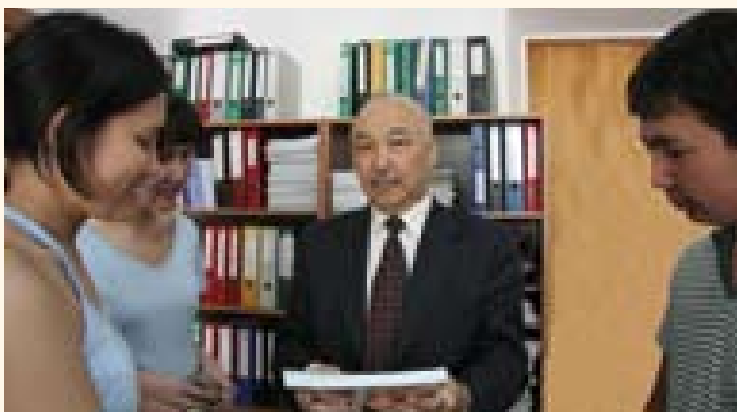
By the way, I really was invited to a reception arranged by the current State Governor of Kansas, a very tall lady I seem to remember, Joan Finney. She was very interested to hear about me, my visit, my first impressions of America, and my home Kyrgyzstan.

I was interviewed by one of the local newspapers. On the front page of the Lawrence Journal World newspaper, they reported how I thought the American Liberal Arts model of a university should be the basis of higher educational reform back home.

All the Americans I met were extremely welcoming, friendly and hospitable.

**NB: As Chairman of National the Statistics Committee of Kyrgyzstan, you were involved with the first population census of Kyrgyzstan. What was that like?**

**ZK:** The first national census was hugely challenging, especially so because of the lack of funds. We had to help raise funds ourselves; we were supported by the Swiss, UNFPA and the UN Statistical Division. Organization and logistics were enormous headaches. There were over 18,000 interviewers and a population of almost five million to collect data



on, and we managed it in just eight days! The survey was completed in March 1999 and the full report was published the following December. Having accurate population statistics of the country is very important in supporting and defining government strategy. We are still benefiting from this work today.

I was also heavily involved, as national coordinator, in Kyrgyzstan's subscription to both the General and Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF); a major achievement for a small country like Kyrgyzstan. At that time (2004) there were only 57 countries who could claim to have attained SDDS subscription.

**NB: What do you consider are the major economic challenges of a country in transition from a Central Command based economy to a Market Economy?**

**ZK:** Prior to the 1990's there was no private real estate, free business activity, or any really true economic freedoms. Today we have private property and private firms; we

have privatized the gas supply and farms. We have many small and large private businesses, but as a country we are still struggling financially. "Why?" I ask myself.

Formal Institutional reform we've achieved, we have new laws and regulations, and established new government departments to reflect these changes. But the biggest challenge is Informal Institutional reform, and what I mean by this is our cultural mentality, our behavior, our mind-set needs to change. We are still used to an outdated mode of education and behavior, a background which hasn't developed in-line with our new formal institutions. Development in this sphere, I believe, will take a long time. We haven't properly understood that acting illegally, such as tax evasion, is more costly for all in the long run. We need strong leadership to establish new models of behavior, to set the pattern for the future. People look up to their leaders for guidance. If our leaders continue to act in out-moded ways and thinking, then modernization and change for the better will stagnate.

**NB: How has university education and thinking changed from Soviet times?**

**ZK:** I think the main ideological difference is critical thinking and freedom of thought and expression. For us

scientists we were, for the most part, able to indulge in free discussions and investigations. Science was seen as a real benefit rather than a challenge to the state. History and other Social Sciences were under the strict control of the communist régime and monitored by security services. They could not stray; they had to conform to conventional Leninism

ideology. They were not free to think, research or to express themselves. Within the natural sciences we were free to exchange ideas, philosophies and concepts, albeit within the confines of our subject areas. We were not seen as a threat. Faculty members of the Humanities Department and other social scientists would come to our seminars simply because they enjoyed watching our lively debates.

There were many "closed science cities", but even so, in thoughts and ideas they were free. In some respects they were wonderful places to live and study. Interestingly enough, there was one field in natural science where scientists weren't so free to study and undertake research, and that was genetics. For some reason genetics was considered too "dangerous" to the state, the rationale behind this I've never clearly understood.

Teaching and instruction were generally very formal and strict. There were set patterns of behavior, with little flexibility and scope for creativity and the questioning of authority. Everything seemed a little too regimented and over administered.

On the other hand, scientists were very much more focused on their research in these “secret cities”. There weren’t any distractions; they could concentrate on their work. In this respect the system was very efficient.

**NB: Of all the countries you visited which country did you find the most fascinating, interesting?**

**ZK:** Obviously the US, because at the time it was my first visit abroad to a western country. It was a big culture shock! The buildings, the fashions and particularly Kansas University, seemed so different, to witness modern American pedagogy at first-hand. I had the chance to travel and visited New York City, Washington DC, Boston, Harvard University, the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas. I wished I had taken more photographs.

Australia felt young, fresh and vibrant. There was an energy of optimism.

A National Statistics conference trip to South Africa was very interesting. I visited Mandela’s home in Soweto, saw his room and the very desk he sat and wrote. But it was also upsetting to see so many impoverished people, and the high level of street crime. I was given a car and driver, and whenever we stopped I was cautioned to keep the doors and windows locked, and not to get out of the car! Just in case.

As a member of the PARIS21 (Partnership in Statistics Development for the 21st Century) consortium steering committee, I was able to visit Paris many times. The PARIS21 meetings were held at the Salon des Arts et Metiers, near the Arch de Triumphi in Paris. Here, inside this building, was a special exhibition about a platinum-iridium bar, the original defined the standard meter, the basic unit of length of the metric system.

I really enjoyed Paris; each time I went it was like meeting up with an old friend. Each visit I’d find something new. Paris for me is a city of endless discoveries.

**NB: You have two sons and a daughter. Do they will share your academic interests in economics?**

**ZK:** Both my two sons and daughter went to the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavonic University. Neither of my sons studied economics, they majored in International Development and Management respectively. But, I think there must be something in the family’s background because both are now working in finance or related disciplines. My eldest works in the Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank and my other son works in the finance section of the Prime Minister’s office. My daughter studied International and World Economics and now works at the BTA Commercial Bank. Obviously economics runs in the blood. At first I was a physicist and then became an economist. It

feels strange looking back; my father was involved in economics and finance at the rayon level, but neither he nor I encouraged our children to be economists. It has to be genetics!

**NB: Outside of the University, what other interests do you have?**

**ZK:** When I have free time! Well, when I do have some free time I study history, economics and ethnicity. During soviet times history was mainly focused on Russian history, and that this was always invariably the official version. It’s good to re-examine the history of the Kyrgyz people, our traditions and culture, this land of the ‘Heavenly Mountains’ the Tien Shan, and of course the great trading route, the Silk Road from China to the west.



I love to travel to different countries. It broadens your interests and you gain a ‘world view’. Beside this, I like watching football on TV and when I’m feeling particularly energetic, which isn’t quite so often these days, I actually play! My favorite national sides, apart from obviously Kyrgyzstan, are France and Brazil. When I was at a seminar in Salvador City (the former capital of Brazil), I had a chance to watch teenagers play football on the beach, these youngsters were so talented. I’d love to go there again with my family. It left lasting impressions.

**NB:** Thank you very much for your time and insights.

*Nigel Browne*



## *Top Kyrgyz Companies seek out the AUCA Business Clinic*



The AUCA Business Clinic, launched a year ago to develop research and consulting skills of our Business Administration students, has become a highly sought-after consulting agency. Top Kyrgyz companies including the International Business Council, TelNet, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and others see the AUCA Business Clinic as a valued business partner.

Business Clinic's 12-strong staff has successfully completed ten market research projects in various industries ranging from banking, cosmetics to software engineering. Guided by the Business Administration faculty, the Business Clinic's young specialists provide free marketing and consulting services to Kyrgyz businesses. The clients only pay a nominal internal filing fee and "out-of-pocket" expenses.

"The Business Clinic is where you can apply the knowledge you gained in class," remarked Azat Kupsuldaev '09, a Business Administration junior. "We offer companies expertise on marketing and management, and at the same time we enhance our skills and knowledge, and earn a little pocket money."

"The AUCA's Business Clinic looks for opportunities to correlate theory with practice and confront our students with real-life business situations. The students gain valuable skills and actual work experience in the course of this interaction between the Clinic and businesses. This is carried through into the classroom, lectures and projects," remarked Azamat Akelev, Chair of MBA Program and Director of the Business Clinic.

Building upon its excellent reputation for research, the Clinic expanded its mission to offer comprehensive marketing services to its clients. It has recently received requests from the "Babushka Adoption Foundation" (a very successful charitable NGO) and Unique Technologies (a web developer and software outsourcing company) to develop their marketing strategies and campaigns.

"The 'Babushka Adoption Foundation' provides financial support and social services to its beneficiaries. The Foundation is always working to improve its strategic plans, develop new programs and raise funds," remarked Aidai Mambetalieva, Director.



She continued, "In order to continue growing and to promote our activities we need to develop a marketing development plan that will identify new ideas, services and extend our reach regionally. We applied to the American University of Central Asia because of the availability of highly qualified graduates."

"My partners recommended to me the AUCA Business Clinic to assist us in developing our marketing plans. I initially had doubts, but now I am very satisfied with the quality of their work," remarked Azis Abakirov, Director of Unique Technologies.

Student involvement in real business projects, Akeleev believes, helps them to understand all the stages and challenges of a project, from research to planning, implementation to the evaluation of outcomes.

Students employ their skills and acquire considerable business experience during



these activities. As a result, AUCA's Business Administration students will graduate with a solid grounding in theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

"Our students can confidently approach real-life business challenges, because they already have the experience to successfully tackle them," remarked Akeleev.

"I think working for the Business Clinic will help me make valuable contacts within the Kyrgyz business community that may lead



to possible job prospects," remarks Azat Kupsuldaev.

Although the Business Clinic is primarily intended to help Business Administration students acquire practical skills, it is open to all AUCA students who have a strong desire to participate in business projects.

*Elizabeth Zalkind*

# SUPPORT AUCA



What does it cost to plant the seed of academic discovery? We can't know how far a student's interest will take him or her, so AUCA provides the rigorous liberal arts foundation that enables each student to become lifelong learners, expand the frontiers of knowledge and excel in every aspect of their lives.

The cost of educating each student is \$3000 per year, while the average student only pays \$1000? The difference comes from your generous donations to our Annual Giving Fund.

## Key ways that the annual fund helps:

- student scholarships;
- faculty salaries;
- academic resources;
- technology and library.

## Your contribution will take us one step closer to our goal!

Please keep in mind that 60% of our students require scholarship assistance, that student tuition covers only 40% of our annual operating expenses, and that the remainder must come from the financial support of donors.

You may send a **check** (tax-deductible in the U.S.A.) payable to:  
American University-Central Asia Foundation  
8430 Braeswood Estates Dr.  
O'Fallon, IL 62269

You may call +996(312) 66-11-20 or email to [develop@mail.auca.kg](mailto:develop@mail.auca.kg) and our volunteers will come to your office/home to pick up the gift

More than ever, contributions from friends, alumni and parents are essential to maintaining the quality of our academic programs, and they ensure that students are afforded the best experience at American University of Central Asia.

We are certain that all of us reflect upon our experiences at AUCA with pride and gratitude. The University has made great strides over the years, but there is still much to do to elevate AUCA to the next level. So please join us in making a gift to the AUCA Annual Fund today to ensure that current students will continue to enjoy the attentions of dedicated faculty and staff and that future challenges of the University can be met.

## Your gift can make a difference!

You may wire funds to:  
Demir Kyrgyz International  
Bank CJSC  
Account no:  
1181000500164692  
Bank Code: 118001  
SWIFT: DEMI KG 22  
Beneficiary: American  
University - Central Asia

Correspondent bank:  
American Express Bank  
Ltd.  
SWIFT BIC: AEIBUS33XXX  
Routing number: 124071889  
American Express Tower  
200 Vesey Str.  
New York, NY 10285 US

You may make a **credit card** gift (tax-deductible in the U.S.A.) on our web site at [www.auca.kg](http://www.auca.kg) or by contacting us at [develop@mail.auca.kg](mailto:develop@mail.auca.kg).

You may bring your gift to AUCA  
Office of Development  
205 Abymomunov St., Room 301  
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic 720040

If you are considering making a gift to the Annual Fund through the matching gift program, please verify whether your company has a matching gift policy.

American University of Central Asia

205 Abdymomunov st.,  
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic 720040

Tel.: (996 312) 663309

Fax.: (996 312) 663201

[aucamagazine@mail.auca.kg](mailto:aucamagazine@mail.auca.kg)

[www.auca.kg](http://www.auca.kg)