



The STAR

Internal Informational List

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MASTER CLASS WITH INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER



Prof. Hersh Chadha, a prominent entrepreneur, renowned photographer and prize winner of various international photo competitions, with numerous photography books and photo exhibitions to his credit, visited AUCA again. He offered students, faculty and staff a master class on photography. This free master class focused on his travel experiences and his latest photo shoot in South America. In addition, Professor Chadha has invited some students to join him for a series of 3-4 special sessions on the different aspects of photography.

(Read article about Prof. Chadha in the next issue)

“ 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.”

**Pavel Konovalov'10,
Journalism**



“ 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 all the same to discuss the pictures. 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 HI-FI TECHNOLOGY.”

**Lazarina Kuchmenova'09,
Psychology**



“ 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.”

**Tatiana Kravchenko
The Star Newspaper
Coordinator**



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DEAN OF STUDENTS



and the number of "leader-teachers" decreases.

You don't need to study abroad to throw a book on the table and say: "You have until morning to learn from here to here!" To be eligible to teach in this bossy manner, all you have to do is finish short-term teaching courses, which are offered on every corner.

Colleagues, let's think – at whose lectures are students mesmerized by their teacher, afraid to miss not just a word, but also a look, a smile, a gesture. I understand that it is difficult to be a class leader, not a boss. I understand that it is difficult to come to terms with a low, but fair grade. But I also understand that both students and teachers should strive towards it, otherwise we're only worth a penny.

Someone once asked a successful businessman:

- Why do your cars sell so well?

And he answered:

- Because the minute the car is off the conveyor it is old, and we already make new ones. We compete with ourselves.

I am not ready to answer the question whether we have become better or worse in these past 5-7 years. And I am also not ready to answer the question – do we think about it at all? Have our students and professors appointed themselves to be the best in Kyrgyzstan? Maybe those who know can give me an answer.

When it comes to politeness, mutual respect, love (please excuse this pathetic word) – that we are definitely losing, bit by bit, everyday.

It would be nice to turn into a factory which produces people with diplomas and good English skills. But that would not be the level at which I would be interested to work. Would you agree?

Shulgin N.G.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND ITS NUANCES

During the earlier years, trolley-buses and buses had big headings: "Driver and passengers – be mutually polite!"... Sometimes during examinations I often have the urge to write the same on every university wall: "Professors and students – be mutually polite!"

In this case of "politeness", I do not only mean the concept of a friendly smile, but also a genuine attempt to understand and accept each others problems.

In a pursuit of higher GPA, some students continuously antagonize professors and "squeeze out" the necessary grade with the skills of a juicer. Others overwhelm the heads of departments and student-affairs office with complaints, in hope that the professor will tremble...

In turn, some teachers with pleasure use examinations to "take revenge!" In my opinion, examinations and tests should not turn into a virtual battlefield. And to make sure this does not happen, both parties have to oblige by the "bus slogan".

To some extent, I am a representative of the team of teachers and I am quite worried on the account, that every year the number of "boss-teachers" increases

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS

AUCA will provide trainings and courses to those, who want to improve their skills, knowledge necessary for running a business. Both students and non-students of our university can participate.

There are three courses currently offered: Technologies of Company PR-Activity, Marketing Research, and Effective Presentation Skills of Public Speech".

The course Technologies of Company PR-Activity will open on May 10th and will be held on weekend days. The aim of the seminar is to provide knowledge in organization and realization of company's PR activity, internal and external communication, to teach how to build corporate image, to position company, to organize effective communication channels, to show successful models of running a PR campaign, and to give recommendations and consultations for participants of the training in their business activity.

The seminar will be conducted in an interactive "dialog" form, with the development of practical skills.

Marketing Research course will begin on May 17th. The course will provide

skills and knowledge necessary for organization marketing research, to give practical skills, important for creating a research program and plan, the evaluation of applying different methods and types of research.

Effective Presentation Skills of Public Speech course will begin on May 17th. The goal of the seminar is to provide skills for effective presentations and work with audiences, and the control of audience's attention. The course will be taught through exercises and practical tasks, team-work and work in small groups, discussions, brain-storms, and diagnostic tests.

All seminars will be conducted during the weekend days, eight hours each day.

The task of our university is to give opportunities; the task of students is to seize it.

Get a move on sign up for these programs!

Davlembaeva Dinara

Attention: The cost of each training program is 2000 soms. But for students there will be a 25 percent discount

GIVING UP SUMMER FOR BENEFIT AND JOY

"Studying with benefit and joy" says the slogan of Summer School of AUCA. What benefits and what joy do students get from giving up their summer? What benefits and what joy do teachers get from giving up their summer? What courses are offered and what are the most essential? About that and something else is our today's material.

What is the reason that pushes instructors to spend whole summer to teach? Is it financial need or desire to help students?

"Does it really matter?" said Mahinur Mamatova, the head of Summer School. Of course it doesn't. However, we interviewed some instructors who will work during summer.

"Last years' experience showed that students request credits in social sciences," said Kamila Mateeva, instructor of Law department. "This summer happened to be free for me, that's why I thought to help students and teach them Intro to Law course. Summer School is also another useful experience for me"

Most of the offered courses are social sciences with majority of General Education offers. However, it is a desire of a professor whether he/she wants or does not want to teach summer school. Every summer there are different offered

Last year AUCA summer school served 95 students courses. Last year 30% of courses were taught in Russian. This year 45% of all courses are taught in Russian.

Summer School 2008 offers 14 General Education courses, 8 electives, 3 required courses for Economics and BA students,

1 required for Psychology and Sociology students, 1 MBA course, and 2 classes for Prep-students.

"Teacher X'ed me last semester from his lesson, and since it's a required course, I have to take it during summer school," said freshmen student from BA department. "Actually, I hate spoiling half of my summer but in order to graduate in 4 years, I have to catch up with necessary credits." To this student, there is no joy at all. However she has a benefit – she'll graduate in four years!

Some students have to take courses. Is it their fault or desire to have more students on Summer School – only God knows. In any way, summer school is chance to catch up with credits. That is the main reason why AUCA students choose summer school and definitely, AUCA students are the vast majority of summer school participants.

"I take summer school because they say that teachers are more affable during summer," said sophomore student. "It is easier to get at least B+ in the course." It is an arguable point – during intensive studying of one or two courses, students usually try to fulfill all requirements. And they actually do it. As for regular semester, when students have 6 or 7 classes, it's much harder to overtake all course requirements. Teachers like when their class is respected and all demands are done properly. This is the reason why they seem to be friendlier with students, because students fulfill the requisites of course.

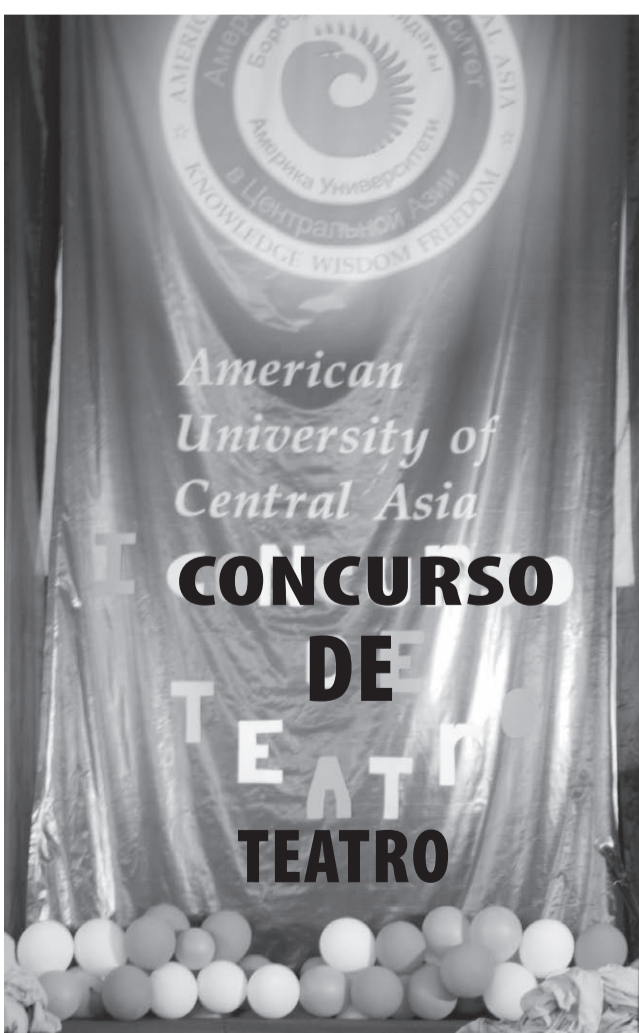
In conclusion, it's needed to admit that above all, Summer School is first aid to students who do not have time to finish all graduation requirements in four years.

University does not have any financial benefit from Summer School. Tuition covers teachers' salaries, books and technical equipment.

Alexandra Revina

Dilnura Khalilova

THEATRE AND SONG SPANISH LANGUAGE COMPETITION



**OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO WINNERS:
1ST PLACE - SLAVIC UNIVERSITY
AWARD FOR THE BEST ACTOR- AUCA
AWARD FOR THE BEST ACTRESS - AUCA**

BARCAMP CENTRAL ASIA IS TO BE HELD IN AUCA

For those who have missed the second presentation about "Barcamp" there will be another chance to come and listen to the presentation of BarCamp. The third mini-Bar, which was held in AUCA on April 25th, was given the information about the opportunities that user-generated gatherings of web-related people might give you.

BarCamp is a unique international unconference (don't get confused with un-prefix, this is not conference it is more than that) on new media, blogs, podcasts, social networking, citizen journalism, web 2.0, open source and everything else that is connected with it. Unconference includes open presentations, workshops and workgroups; everything is held by the participants themselves.

One of the greatest things that BarCamp creates is that you can come and present your projects, new ideas, despite what education you have, work experience. Even more reasons to come, you will be able to find partners for your web-related projects, you can become acquainted with famous new media specialists, or you can even find a sponsor for your project if they think it's good.

If you are in Kyrgyzstan through August 1-3, 2008 you are welcome to come to the first Central Asian Barcamp, which will take place in AUCA. The unconference is divided into three days:

- Day 1. Registration**
- Day 2. User-generated presentations**
- Day 3. Innovation Incubator (where people with ideas meet people with money)**

9 OF US ARE A GOOD TEAM, BUT TOGETHER WITH THE STUDENTS – A STRONG TEAM

(STUDENT SENATE 2007-2008)



Another academic year is almost over and here is a report on what Student Senators have done so far. What was promised when recruiting to this position candidates have promised to accomplish many things and most of them fortunately are realized.

To make this possible, senators have had meetings of discussion and problem solving twice a week. The conclusion we ended up with is that plans and goals are achieved in a more effective way together with the students of our university.

This academic year has been unique with new proposed and achieved ideas such as launching the drivers' courses on campus, having a price list in Bravo and kitchenette, Student Senate scholarship which was provided to 7 outstanding volunteers, sportsmen, and active students.

Most of the activities were organized and supported by senators starting from little activities such as Thanksgiving Day to organizing big events such as discos and juniors' Ball.

As it was mentioned above, 9 of us are the good team, but together with the students we are a strong team to be working on the problems together. Thanks to the freshmen themselves who have brought up the issue that will be described down below and thanks to our hard work one of the major problems have been solved. Recently freshmen were told to cover 72 credits of the courses in English and it turned out to be a problem for most of them. Student Senate has solved this problem already for the sake of their schedule's flexibility as well. Now they are required to cover only 30 credits of courses in English as they were told in the beginning!

Courses from the Arts and Sports are also necessary to cover, although the number of credits such as less or more than 3. This problem is also solved, because Student Senate was able to get permission on dropping the number of credits or making it higher.

Some student had problems on their grades, which on their opinion were marked unfairly. In a written form they asked the Student Senate to solve this problem. This was worked out in a short period of time with the interference of the Hearing Committee.

For charity purposes there was a possibility of finding sponsors and doing a fundraising by allocating boxes in different companies and here on campus. Fundraising/Charity was essential for our visit to Christian Orphanage in Kara-Balta city that was organized both for the sake of Kurman Ait and New Year. We chose this specific orphanage since attention to them from outsiders was paid rarely. The orphanage had a big amount of kids from 7 to 18 years old. They were happy to see our New Year performance, which was actually performed by FLEX alumni. We prepared packages that were full of gifts for every single kid. Also, there were games prepared to entertain them. Those 4 hours of our visit hopefully fulfilled children's life with good memories that

will stay in their hearts forever.

This finishing semester gave a chance for both our local and international students to attend driver's lessons and get the license here on campus. Due to Senator's hard work the lecturers from one of the local driver's schools have completed the courses for our students.

During the meeting Senators have conducted with students on February 28th, we found out that juniors and seniors from BA have a lack of books on certain courses. The problem with lack of books has already been raised to the administration of BA Department. Head of the Department promised to make books available online soon. According to him, students will have to now adapt to online books somehow, because BA Department cannot do more copies (readers) for the sake of NOT violating copyright law.

The meeting was conducted for the sake of staying accountable. But the major discussion that has taken place in this meeting was juniors' Ball. Senators needed to know juniors' opinion on which place it would be convenient enough for juniors to have this event at, because we had to vary different costs. Senators would not be able to make such decisions without this occasion's main participants. Senators have worked hard on making this event unforgettable for finishing juniors.

Students Senate eagerly thanks all the students, faculty and staff members who have donated their clothes, toys. It has helped many people who were homeless, because together with Red Cross members representative of Student Senate Asel Djaparova and Student Coordinator Venera Kim have visited the organization, which takes care of homeless people. This whole community of homeless people was pleased so much with our help that we rendered.

AUCA's Student Senate supported youth Committee of Bishkek Humanitarian University. This Youth Committee has organized a charity in order to support an orphanage that is situated in Orlovka village of Kemin. Senate has helped them to distribute tickets for concert and has delivered 510 soms from our students', faculty and staff members' donation.

There was also devoted some time to work on a current Charter. It needed many reforms and improvements in it.

A big work is ahead of us to achieve during the first half of next semester until the newcomers will take the 9 positions. We DO care about AUCA's present reputation and are doing our best to make it even a lot better. We eagerly encourage each and every student to be motivated and bring the issues up that are bothering our university's status. Senate is always there to help and solve it.

Asel Djaparova
and Ibragim Merzakhmedov
PR Committee
(Photo by Gella)



Recently, students have expressed their negative opinions on the changes in the last years credit system, extracurricular activities and reforms connected with the accreditation of the university in America. Students blame our administration in reforms that, in their opinion, will worsen the education quality of university and spheres of university life. To make clear whether these changes are only fits of panic or a real alarm-raising problem, we conducted an opinion-poll. The results showed that there are five common worries.

We know that in order to earn an American accreditation, our university is changing the Russian language program of education to English. Students are worried that the university will lose the qualified specialists of the subjects being taught.

"With the switch to English language education, those professionals from my department that teach in Russian will be obliged to leave the university," said Anara Momunaliyeva, junior Business Administration faculty.

But as Chynara Ryskulova, academic dean, explains that the mission of the university is to give students perfect knowledge in the English language, otherwise AUCA will be an ordinary university in the country.

"We prepared an entire project on improving the quality of the English language," she said. **"It's realization will take more than just a year. We will have to change everything – instructors, education material, syllabuses, and making sure everyone follows the new rules. But we also have an Exemption policy – it excludes some special courses from being taught in English."**

Many instructors are willing to learn English to keep their job in the future. Two mentors are tutoring them, one in the spoken language and the other in grammar.

The second change that worries students is making individual courses from the Art and Sport program paid. From the upcoming fall semester, each credit will cost \$170. Many are afraid that regular courses will become high in demand, which means many students will have to sign up for paid individual classes.

Again, Chynara Ryskulova explained that there is nothing new in transforming individual courses to paid ones. In the earlier years, there were individual courses, such as Russian and Kyrgyz languages for foreigners and each credit cost \$160.

"There are two reasons why individual classes in Art and Sport are going to be paid. Firstly, these courses are very expensive for the university, and secondly, this will solve the problem with auditorium use," said Mrs. Ryskulova.

The other problem that students mentioned

was the reduction of the number of elective courses in some programs. Rustam Gainazarov, third year Journalism student pointed out that in the fall 2008 time table, the list of electives was quite short. He said that the lack of option in courses points to a lack of democracy in the university, which once was a primary feature of AUCA.

However, Marina Sivasheva, head of Journalism department explained, that in order to keep a course open more than 12 students have to register. As she put it - there is no sense in offering a many electives if half them will close anyway, because of few subscribers.

"Even out of those three courses that were offered by our faculty during this spring registration, one will have to be closed because only six individuals were signed on," says Marina Sivasheva. **"As for the right of choice, students still have options because elective classes will be renewed."**

And what about the reduced duration of classes expected to begin next semester?

"The length of the class shortens and the knowledge we get shortens as well," said Sofya Abayhanova, sophomore from Law department.

Chynara Ryskulova explained that according to the credit system education, every hour of class work means two additional hours of self-dependent work. Thus, according to the norms of Kyrgyz Ministry of Education, our students are mentally overlaid. These are their requirements.

Lastly, students have remarked on the changes in the number of extracurricular clubs.

"SIFE "became silent", there is no Politic-On Club or and Amnesty International Club, the ones remaining are mostly entertaining activities, like KVN," they say.

Nikolay Shulgin, Dean of Students sees the problem not in university's administration, but in students themselves. He says that the student senate only supports the existence of clubs, but it does not create them.

"AUCA can have as many clubs as student want to open," he said. **"And SIFE is not "silent", they are actively preparing for the project on the garment factory for invalid people. The rescue of drowning people lies in the work of drowning people themselves"**.

Chynara Ryskulova advised not to spread a panic, because, as she says, everything the administration does is not an unconsidered decision.

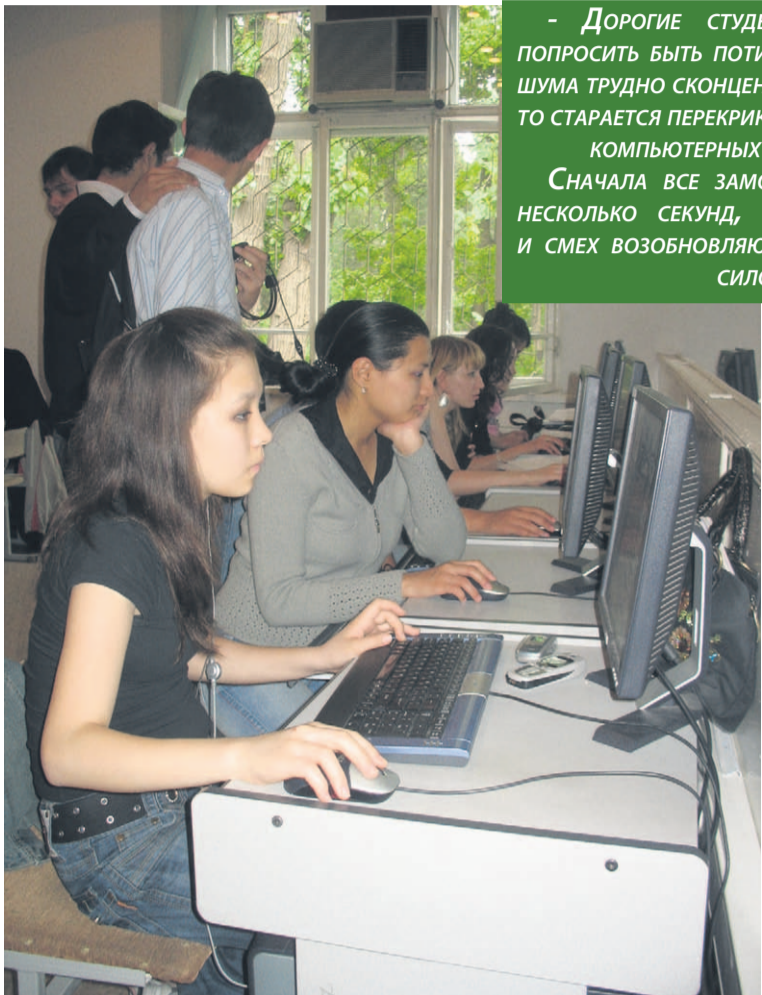
"Every change that happens in the education system is done for the students and for the improvement of knowledge they get," she said.

Only time will show how effective the new reforms are.

Dinara Davlembaeva

OPINION

ПОТОМУ ЧТО ТИШИНА ДОЛЖНА БЫТЬ В БИБЛИОТЕКЕ!



- ДОРОГИЕ СТУДЕНТЫ, МОЖНО ВАС ПОПРОСИТЬ БЫТЬ ПОТИШЕ, А ТО ОТ ВАШЕГО ШУМА ТРУДНО СКОНЦЕНТРИРОВАТЬСЯ! – КТО-ТО СТАРАЕТСЯ ПЕРЕКРИКНУТЬ ГАМ В ОДНОЙ ИЗ КОМПЬЮТЕРНЫХ ЛАБОРАТОРИЙ.

СНАЧАЛА ВСЕ ЗАМОЛКАЮТ, НО, СПУСТЯ НЕСКОЛЬКО СЕКУНД, ГРОМКИЕ РАЗГОВОРЫ И СМЕХ ВОЗБУЖДАЮТСЯ С ЕЩЕ БОЛЬШЕЙ СИЛОЙ.

Прохожу в другие лаборатории – та же картина: помимо занимающихся на компьютерах студентов, в аудитории находятся еще минимум 5-6 человек. Кто-то бурно обсуждает презентацию, другие делятся впечатлениями прошлого вечера, третьи разговаривают по мобильному. Возникает такое ощущение, будто я нахожусь на площади, где собралось много народа, а не в учебном помещении, где на стенах висят плакаты, призывающие соблюдать тишину. Компьютерные лаборатории предназначены в первую очередь для учебы, пользования Internet и электронными ресурсами АУЦА. Мы же превратили их в место встреч и общения, не обращая никакого внимания на то, что здесь присутствуют другие студенты, которым необходимо выполнить задания. А ведь для концентрации любому человеку необходима тишина. Вместо того чтобы спокойно заняться

учебой, многие раздраженно покидают «лэбы», поскольку они больше не в силах терпеть этот бесконечный гул, отвлекающий внимание каждую секунду.

Спускаюсь на первый этаж нашей библиотеки. Когда-то здесь сидели студенты с книжками, тетрадями, что-то выписывая из учебников или просто читая. Сегодня же технический прогресс студентов АУЦА налицо: вместо ручек и тетрадей – ноутбуки, все деловито шуршат клавишами и слушают музыку в наушниках. Все бы ничего, если бы не их друзья или посторонние студенты (!), присевшие рядом и ведущие себя точно так же, как и те, что в лэбах, громко разговаривающие и смеющиеся. Коридоры и залы библиотеки превратились в места «зависания» студентов, так сказать тусовки, где, опять же, крайне сложно сконцентрироваться на учебе.

Не знаю, что является причиной таким резких перемен в «лэбах» и «сайлент» залах нашей библиотеки, ведь каких-то пару лет назад студенты цивилизованно сидели, занимались своими делами, при этом не мешая другим делать то же самое. Бывало, библиотекари выходили пару раз в

день, чтобы попросить студентов вести себя тише (групповые проекты все же обсуждались), однако, в целом, здесь было достаточно тихо и спокойно. Что так резко поменялось в наших студентах? Сегодня в библиотеке попросить студентов сидеть тише все равно, что дать глухому послушать музыку – бесполезно. Библиотека, особенно с наступлением сессионного периода, ничем не уступает базару, а постоянное жужжание студентов, готовящихся к экзаменам, порой вызывает головную боль. Добавьте к этому еще и громкую музыку из мобильного. Хочется обратиться и к тем, кто добросовестно занимается в «лэбах»: друзья, если есть групповой проект, пожалуйста, обсудите его в более подходящем месте, нежели в «сайлент руме» и постарайтесь говорить в полтона, если уж это совсем неизбежно. А тем, кому хочется пообщаться, просьба идти в парк, там вам никто не мешает своими возгласами типа «Можно потише?!». Постарайтесь все же иметь в виду, что вы не единственные, кто находится в стенах университета, даже если это сильно бьет по вашему самолюбию.

Алия Суранова

ALUMNI REUNION

Второго мая в главном здании АУЦА прошла встреча выпускников Кыргызско-Американского Факультета, выпускников Американского Университета в Кыргызстане и, наконец, выпускников Американского Университета в Центральной Азии.

Кому-то из них уже тридцать, а кто-то – лишь прошлогодние студенты. Кто-то пришел с ребенком на руках, а кто-то даже не женат или еще не замужем!

Одним из «гвоздей» официальной части был просмотр фильма об университете с участием Камилы Шаршекеевы, Дэвида Хьювайлера и Джона Кларка. Во время просмотра, находясь в зале, можно было физически ощутить исходящее от студентов чувство гордости за то, что они являются студентами этого университета. Но разве они оканчивали ЭТОТ университет? Нынешний АУЦА? Нееет!! Их учебное заведение представляло собой нечто совсем иное, на руинах

которого обитают нынешние студенты. Мы закончим другой вуз, и сами мы другие, не те, что приходили к нам второго мая. Но давайте не будем говорить о том, какой АУК был лучше, старый или тот, в котором мы живем сейчас. Мы сами должны создавать обстановку, в которой находимся и не винить в этом администрацию или низкие проходные баллы по TOEFL и математике.

Давайте станем настоящими членами АУКовской семьи, о которой так часто любят говорить! Полюбим каждого брата и сестру по университету, по кафедре или по курсу Composition. Ведь никто не оценивает настоящих родителей отрицательно, если старший брат дал ему щелбан! И может быть, когда офис по связям с выпускниками будет устраивать Alumni Reunion для нас, мы прицепим себе на грудь имена самых любимых братьев и сестер, а не свои собственные.

Gella San



PERSONA

THE INTERNAL VIEW ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

Here at AUCA we talk a lot about the EU but sometimes we get just theoretical knowledge about it. This is why we would like to take the opportunity to ask a person about EU organization and efficiency who has worked there, former ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany and now professor of the European Studies Program, Franz Eichinger.



You worked in the EU, what are your impressions of this organization? Is it really effective?

As you know, the EU has now 27 Member States. It has existed for more than 50 years. During this time it has made great progress: from a purely economic community with a customs union and 6 Member States it has become a single market with the free flow of goods, services, capital and people between 27 Member States. On top of that, an important group of member states has established an economic and monetary union with a common currency which is used more and more as a reserve currency also by many states outside Europe. All in all, I think we can say that the EU has achieved its economic goals.

But the EU is not only an economic union. Right from the beginning it was also conceived as a political union. However, on the political side it did not make so much progress as on the economic side. The vast majority of political decisions are still taken by consensus. That means each member state can block any decision. There are conspicuous examples where the EU could not achieve a common position, like the Iraq war and the diplomatic recognition of Kosovo, but on most important political issues it has a common position, like the Middle East, Afghanistan and conflicts in Africa. Often long and difficult discussions are necessary but this is not surprising when you have to find consensus among 27 states with many different interests. I think that, under these circumstances, we have made great progress.

Do you feel the EU makes a real difference for life in Germany?

I think important changes in common policy are often not reflected in visible changes in daily life. The introduction of the Euro has made a big dif-

ference for the citizens. But ordinary citizens did not feel much of a difference two years before that, when a more important economic step was taken to fix the exchange rates between the member states. Another big change which the citizens strongly felt was the abolishment of border controls between most of the member states. But the more important elimination of trade barriers which had already taken place before went more or less unnoticed. Consumers benefited from increased competition but they took it for granted and did not associate it with the EU.

Do you think the EU was created in opposition to the USA which plays an important role in the world and has great influence in international affairs?

I don't think so. The US has right from the beginning supported the idea of a strong and united Europe. But this does not mean that this has to be like that forever. The relationship with the US is probably the most important external relationship which the EU has. The question of how the EU should define itself vis-à-vis the US will always be a crucial question for the EU and there will always be different views among the member states on this issue. Throughout their long history the member states have developed different relations with the US. Some of them feel traditionally closer to the US than others. In the case of the Iraq war they preferred military support for the US to a unified European position. But all member states

agree that the EU should have a close relationship with the US because of important common interests and values. In security issues the EU sometimes even does not have the capacity to act without US support, like in the military campaign against Serbia in 1999 and in Afghanistan where the US carried and still carries the biggest burden. On a smaller scale the EU has already taken responsibility for peacekeeping and crisis management operations in a number of places, e.g. in the Balkans and in Africa. Only recently a contingent of policemen and judges was sent to Kosovo to help establish law and order there. All member states agree that the EU capacities in this field need to be strengthened. The EU does not try

to match the military power of the US. But I also think even without that it has a good chance to play an ever more important political and economic role in the world.

Do you think there will be other cases of minority regions in the EU declaring their independence after Kosovo?

Well, this has been indeed a fear of some EU member states and also of other countries in the world. I don't think we need to be afraid of such a chain reaction. In my opinion, Yugoslavia is a special case. It started falling apart almost 20 years ago. The now independent states of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro were all part of Yugoslavia. I think the independence of Kosovo is the last leg in this process. This has been made clear by all member states which have recognized the independence of Kosovo.

Do you think the EU is an example of globalization?

I think the EU can be considered as a kind of example of regional globalization. The EU has established a single market which exposes companies to much stronger competition than this would have been the case if they had been competing only in their home markets in the respective member states. This also makes them stronger for global competition. At the same time, the EU as a uni-

fied trading block has more weight to pursue its trade interests on a global scale.

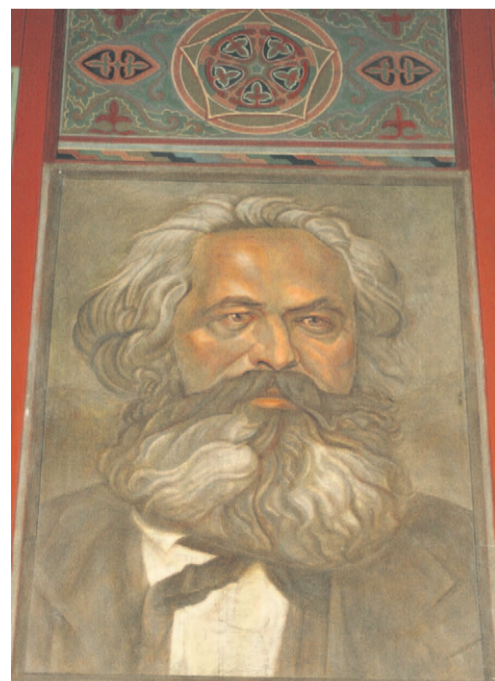
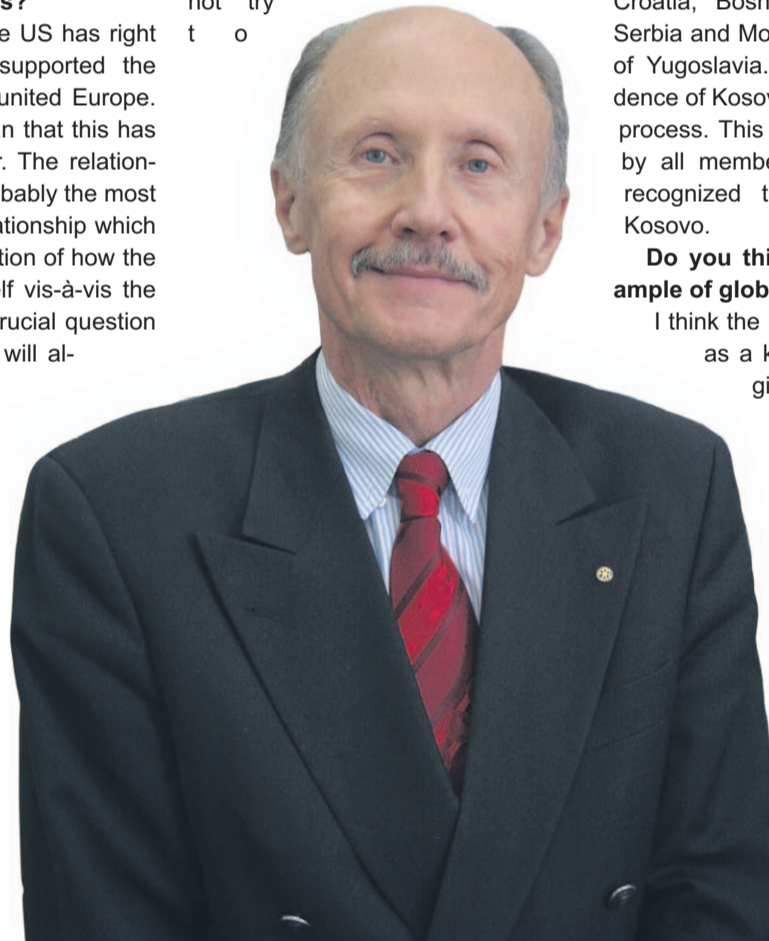
What chances do small member states have to influence decisions in the EU?

I think they have a good chance to assert themselves, not only when decisions are taken by consensus. Like any other member state they have to try to form coalitions if they want to pursue their interests effectively. This is a normal thing in a union of 27 members. But if these countries had not become members of the EU they would have no chance at all to influence its decision-making processes. And as neighbours of the EU they would not be free to do what they wanted; in many situations they would not have much of a choice other than to follow EU rules and policies.

You work in the European Studies Program. To which extent do you think studying European policies, customs and culture could be useful in this region?

There can be several reasons for studying Europe. Europe is important for Central Asia as a political, economic and cultural partner. Therefore, it is good to have people who know Europe well. Another aspect is whether the EU could be a model for other regions. I don't think that the European example of unification and integration can be copied by other regions, but other regions can learn a lot from the European experience and let themselves be inspired by it. I think nobody questions that regional cooperation and integration are a good way to bring economic and political stability to a region.

Veronika Sivasheva



SOVIET PAST AND AMERICAN PRESENT IN ONE BUILDING

"Whose portrait is that?" - asked my friend one day pointing at the picture of an old man on the third floor café, right near the President's office. Unanswered question stuck in my memory and I decided to find whose portrait it was and what are other pictures one can see on the walls of AUCA.

"Portraits of Marx and Lenin will not be erased (закрашены)"

Originally three portraits were painted on the walls of CH1: Marx, Lenin and Stalin. Former one was erased before

AUCA was founded. A blank white wall replaced its place. What is waiting for the portraits of the left two ones?

"Portraits in CH1 will not be erased (закрашены)", says Elizaveta Zalkind, AUCAPR manager. "The building is of a historical value, those people made a great impact on our past"

Little historical remark: In past, AUCA building used to be Presidium of Kyrgyz SSR, huge portraits of Marx and Lenin hang below the main entrance of the building, not only in the conference hall.

Whose portrait is on the third floor?

On the picture you can see an old

man. Who is he? Most of the students currently studying in AUCA probably don't know him. But those studying at the university earlier or alumni receiving his award would say you right away that its Mr. James Emmison's portrait.

James Emmison- member of the AUCA's Board of Trustees until 2005.

"He was an extraordinarily committed Trustee as well as a generous friend of AUCA, who was known for his vital personality, exceptional leadership, and sincere concern for each and every student", says the AUCA website.

The James Emison Alumni Leadership Award is given annually at Commencement on the alumnus or alumna

who, in the opinion of fellow alumni, best exemplifies Jim's leadership qualities in public service and individual integrity.

Students' portraits

Portraits I have talked about above are of important people in the history of the whole country or university. But in AUCA there are a lot of portraits devoted to students studying in the university and those taken by students themselves during "Photo journalism classes".

Therefore when you walk through corridors of AUCA, you feel yourself like at home.

Aliya Madylova

ADOPT A BABUSHKA



"God bless you! Thank you so much!" is what they all replied. Some even cried.

"At least someone from abroad is helping us and hasn't forgotten us," a granny said to no one in particular. Almost every elderly person here lives alone for one reason or another. Each has their own story to tell.

For 23 years Maria Mihailovna, 76, worked as a superintendent of a city area. Even after she retired she continued to work to make ends meet. Her pension is only 970 soms. But her health quickly deteriorated and she had to stop working. Two years ago she sold her house to buy a one-bedroom apartment where she now lives alone.

"I had a son, but he committed suicide. He hung himself in our home. I still have a daughter and sometimes she offers to help me, but how can I accept her money when her salary is only 3,000 soms and she has another baby on the way," says Maria Mihailovna. "My grandson visited me recently, he traveled from Russia, but he doesn't help me. I saved up some money to treat him a bit, bought him two shirts," she said. Her voice broke and tears rolled down the wrinkled face, but she tried hard to keep it together.

"When two girls came up to my door and said they were from Babushka Adoption, I didn't believe them at first. I told them to go away. But my neighbor called and said it was she who recommended me to this organization. So soon it will be two years since they have been helping me," she said.

The organization doesn't just pick any old grandma or grand-dad off the street. They are only considered if they are in a critical situation. If their pension is lower than 1,000 soms and they do not have any relatives or other sponsors who can take care of them, then they are ideal for sponsorship. Aid workers then compile a personal profile of a granny or grand-dad, take pictures and post everything on their website. If lucky, the granny will receive her donated money within two months, but usually it takes longer.

Thirty minutes after they arrived, the line had disappeared. Most of the elderly had gone, but some still sat on the bench and chatted away. Sasha, Ainyra and Saltanat packed up for their second stop.

"Everybody on the list came today, that's good," said Saltanat. "Last month many didn't show up so we had to do a lot of house-to-house visiting. I'll never forget that old lady with a crazy dog, remember Sasha? She didn't show up to receive the money, but we knew that her memory had been going a bit, so we checked in at her apartment. She came to the door and asked 'who's there?' I said it's us, Saltanat and Sasha from Babushka adoption. She said 'what are you talking about, I don't know anybody like that!' I said we brought you money babushka, open the door, and then she replied 'Oh! Well money is good!' and then finally let us in. Funny old lady," said Saltanat.

These funny moments are rare when working here. As Saltanat explained, most of the time it is simply depressing seeing how ill and poor they are.

"Worst of all is that there is no one around to help them not just financially, but simply just being there for them," said Saltanat. "So it makes me feel good knowing that I am helping them."



Lilia Stephens

Now that the snow has melted elderly people can go outside. Not that they go out for fresh air, these errands have become a burden. Most have limited places to go to – the clinic, the market, and, the post office to receive their monthly pension. Recently though a new "meeting spot" was added to the list.

Here in Kyrgyzstan few people have heard about The Babushka Adoption Organization (BAO) and it may seem quite funny – "How can you adopt a granny?" But it is all fairly simple. BAO seeks international donors who would like to financially support a vulnerable, elderly person in Kyrgyzstan. The system is similar to "sponsor an African child".

This project was launched in 1999 by Ambassador Mr. Markus Mueller, the Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. Today, BAO supports around 1000 elderly people in Bishkek and in Batken region with the help of 735 individual sponsors. The sponsors are generally from Denmark (35%) and Switzerland (39%), others are from The Netherlands, Germany and Kyrgyzstan.

Eight staff and three volunteers work in the Bishkek office. At the end of each month is hustle and bustle, a time when money and parcels are distributed. At nine o'clock in the morning the first crew is assigned to visit the northern micro-districts. Before one in the afternoon, they will have to attend four stations. After lunch they will ride out house-to-house to bring money to the handicapped.

Sasha, Ainyra and Saltanat reach the first station in the 7th micro-district by ten.

"It seems they've been waiting for a while now," said Sasha. "They usually line up long before we get here to get a seat. I hope there won't be a fight like last time." He laughed.

The line stretched from a small waiting room past the entrance door.

They passed and entered into a tiny room with only a table and three chairs against the wall. The line squeezed tighter together, some rushed to the door of the room. A quarrel broke out between two old ladies, both seemed determined to enter first.

"Quiet down there please!" said Sasha. They turned to a whisper but didn't give up the fight. "Two at a time as usual ladies, so stop arguing."

The line moved quickly. Two at a time they entered, collected 500 soms, signed next to their name and left. The amount isn't big but it certainly helps to get by.

STATISTICS: BUSINESS CLINIC

Business Clinic of AUCA was established in 2007 and in only one year the members of it have successfully run more than 10 projects. Today, we'll look at Business Clinic from different angle – we'll explore how many students, computers and business plans they have.

Mission of Business Clinic is advancing business company by means of creative and bright ideas of young specialists and big experience of the experts. There are 8 bright young specialists and permanent members in Business

Clinic. Four of them are Business Clinic initiators. Six out of eight are BA students, one – ICP, and one – ECO.

Recently, Business Clinic of AUCA held a recruiting campaign and hired 20 new members from several departments.

Business Clinic gives the students an opportunity to strengthen theoretical knowledge and

to gain practical experience in real business sector, to set up an environment for new ideas, solutions and initiatives and to give the students an opportunity to embody their ideas.

During more than one year BC members have implemented 10 marketing researches, wrote 3 business plans, a marketing plan, and a promotion plan.

Business Clinic has 3 computers, Wi-Fi internet, its own kettle and cups. Let it be a secret how many cups they have!

By Dilmura Khalilova

Business Clinic has implemented marketing researches for IBC, TelNet, AUCA, and Exclusive beauty salon, developed business plan for Bishkekvincom wine-producing company, and marketing plan for Babushka Adoption charity foundation.

AUCA FROM INSIDE: WHAT THE STUDENTS TALK ABOUT...

AUCA for the period of its existence it has been acknowledged as one of the best universities in Central Asia. Since AUCA opened its doors to first students, the university has changed a lot. It grew in many ways. Now AUCA is bigger in size. It is equipped better, the number of students have grown. On the other hand the tuition for education went up, the number of required classes increased. Only one question stays unclear, whether the quality of education went up or down. Administration of AUCA always claims that this AUCA is unique institution, because for its students in first, so it's probably fair to hear what students think about all the changes.

About academical changes:

I think AUCA is not the university it was, few years ago. If the graduates of the AUCA (the AUK before) were considered as bests in their fields on the labor market, now it's not the same. Of course, officially, we still one of the best universities in Kyrgyzstan, but our graduates less qualified than before. It happens because of the quality of education, that's now worse than it was. First of all it's due to changes of requirements. If before, to enter this university the students really needed to be top students, so now it's possible for anyone. The university became more profit-oriented, in order to gain more profit it accept students, who for example, are not qualified to study here. Before the 2005th if the entrance TOEFL score was 550 and to enter the university students had to receive 550. Nowadays the entrance score is 550, but even students with TOEFL score less than requirement can enter the AUCA. Before for the plagiarism at AUCA one could get suspended from university, now the regulations exist only on paper. And the requirements from teachers are much easier than they

were. Teachers don't challenge students anymore.

About the faculty:

The other issue is the faculty. Almost all the members of faculty have MA or PhD in own field, but most of them don't have any practical knowledge. Therefore, they can't provide knowledge that would be applicable in real life, but only theory, which often useless. Former administration was especially careful in selection of professors. Not every scientist, who holds PhD in some field, has teaching skills. So the main issue that needs to be considered in selection process is teaching skills. Also because of the new language policy, the university is losing many well-qualified professors.

About the "sprit of AUCA"

The worse change that happened in AUCA, that it's slowly losing its spirit. AUCA is not the house, where everyone shares common ideas and work to prosper the university. It became some kind of a place for hanging-out. The main purpose for coming to university before was learning, now we come here just to spend time. I don't know why it happened, probably because the increased number of students. And the second

factor that influenced these changes is that before AUCA administration really was looking for motivated young people, who were ready to work for their success. Now it's more concentrated on making money, so the university accepts all, those who can afford the education. Before AUCA was new on the market and to promote the university and make it one of the bests, it needed really extraordinary students. Nowadays AUCA has proved its capability on educational market, it is one of the best universities in region. So the same way as on the market, AUCA dictates own rules, and it doesn't value every student as it used to be before.

The main reason why I haven't pointed the names of sources is not their fear, but because these opinions were shared in informal discussion. All the students told what they think and what they feel. Many of these opinions shared by the rest of student body and talked over everyday. So it's your right to decide how much of said was true and false.

Nargiza Ryskulova

FACEBOOK VS. ODNOKLASSNIKI WHICH ONE IS MORE POPULAR?

Most of the students know what these two names – Facebook and Odnoklassniki.ru – mean. These are two web portals for the friends and acquaintances to get or stay in touch with each other. The main advantage of these sites is the opportunity to find your old friends with whom you have lost contact and load photos as well as to be able to view your friends' photo albums.

It is easy to notice that many AUCA student is registered either on Facebook or on Odnoklassniki.ru or even on both. We became interested in finding out, which one the students of our university prefer more and why?

For this matter we have surveyed 50 people – active users of either web-site and asked them two questions:

1. Which one of these web-sites do you spend your time on MORE?

2. What is the reason to visit it?

According to 38 students, which make 76% of the respondents, they favor Facebook more than the Odnoklassniki.ru, because "all of my English-speak-

INTERESTING FACTS:
There is a group named "American University – Central Asia" on Odnoklassniki.ru. It has about 730 members – either current students of AUCA or the alumni. There is also a similar group named slightly different – "American University in Central Asia" on Facebook, which has about 380 members. Plus, there is a separate group "AUCA Alumni Association."

ing friends are registered on Facebook" and "it is a nice web-site with lots of pictures, videos, fun applications, and many other useful things." They also find it great to be able to leave comments under their friends' photos, which is impossible on Odnokla-

ssniki.ru. These students spend from 20 minutes to two hours per day on Facebook, mainly in the AUCA computer labs.

The rest 12 students – 24% of the respondents – reported that they prefer Odnoklassniki.ru to Facebook. The main reason is the opposite to the reason of the active "facebookers" – most of their friends are Russian-speaking and there is also the low possibility of receiving "endless weird messages from Turkish men." The main advantage of Odnoklassniki.ru over Facebook is that most the students' former classmates ("Odnoklassniki" means classmates in Russian) are members of this site for the main reason – it's all in Russian and very convenient to use.

Aliya Suranova

NEW FLAG FOR AUCA: TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

A small box appeared in each of the "Bravo" and "Kitchenette" cafeteria several weeks ago. Unlike usual boxes for donations for orphanages and elderly houses, this one was for collecting money from the students for a new flag of Kyrgyzstan. We became interested in finding out, who initiated this idea and why should the STUDENTS be the ones to give money for buying a new flag for AUCA?

As everyone can see, there is already the Kyrgyz flag waving on the top of the main building. The Parliamentary building is situated right next to our university and also has a flag but with one difference: theirs is bigger and brighter. One AUCA sophomore from the Law department came up with an idea that we should also have a better flag, because the one that we have is worn out and looks very old. So he and several other students generated this idea, and with the support of the Student Senate, they placed a box for donations.

The first question that arises is: Why should the students give their own

money for replacing the old flag? Isn't this the task of the University Administration to care about the appearance of our university and to change this flag? Considering how much the university administration spends on other things (like various banquets and meetings, for example), one flag would mean a drop in the ocean – its price comes to be pretty insignificant.

According to Venera Kim, the Student Coordinator, the students have donated about 400 soms to the box in "Bravo", which is not enough. They haven't counted the money in the "Kitchenette" cafeteria, but our guess is that the amount

will be about the same, if not less. Probably, the idea of buying ourselves a new flag has failed because the academic year has come to its end and the money collected so far is too little for this matter. It might be spent on some charity projects, which are often conducted by the Student Coordinator and the Senate, or left until the next fall semester. Or it might also happen that the university administration will take this into consideration and make us happy with so desired bigger and brighter flag of Kyrgyzstan, which will welcome Freshmen, waving proudly on the top of our alma mater.

Aliya Suranova

ACTIVITIES OF LEGAL CLINIC IN NUMBERS

For the AUCA Legal Clinic it was the usual case considered under the civil law. But for the family of 83-year old woman, it was a real grief to stay without a house, she had been living for 25 years. This old woman was in the desperate, as she couldn't afford to apply to paid lawyer. Free consultation of University Legal Clinic appeared to be a relief for her. But gratuitous juridical service was the second reason to start the clinic, while the primary one was the practice for law juniors.

Above mentioned case and its circumstances are considered to be one of the most popular among all applications to clinic, because the purpose of it is to provide needy social class free legal service. Frequently, old people become vulnerable part of our population, in juridical situations particularly, because of their modest means. So, the Legal Clinic made it possible to offer future law professionals an opportunity to employ their theoretical knowledge in real legal situations for people in need.

The initiative to establish such a firm ground for the development of law student's skills and its application in practice came to the former

head of Law Department Gulnara Iskakova. Legal Clinic became the required course for all third year students, and is evaluated in 3 credits. Juniors supposed to take this course for two times. Today, 33 future law professionals are registered there.

Since the year of founding, 2002, the clinic gained the popularity even among instructors and students of AUCA. The majority of applications concern Family, Property, Contract, and Tort law. For the most part, students provide consultations for clients on Criminal cases, and plead cases under the civil law. A little percent of suits are carried in court sessions.

According to, Chingiz Aidarov, chief consul-

tants of legal Clinic, there are 44 applications, registered since January, 15, 2008, and 155 – for the whole 2007 year. And for the last four years, more than 1000 people have applied for the juridical assistance to clinic.

These numerous cases serve as a field for realization of theoretical base of students.

"The experience, Legal Clinic provides, changed the knowledge of law colossally", says Chingiz Aidarov, "it made possible to work as a full lawyer, and, in turn, ask for the help of our curators, Lenara Mambetaiva and Saltanat Usupbaeva, in order to restore gaps in our experience"

The result of the operation of clinic is expressed in numbers of winning cases. Yong

professionals involved in the work of clinic won over 90 percent of all lawsuits, they pleaded.

These numbers should make us ponder about the necessity of launching similar courses for the rest of departments.

"I think that all the faculties of our university need to have such clinics, as they perform a big benefit and advantage for students", - expresses his opinion Chingiz Aidarov.

Legal Clinic demonstrates for other departments the way to increase the potency and interest among students to be engaged in education. And this example is left to be the matter of thought.

Dinara Davlembaeva



SECURITY SECRETS

When we think about AUCA security service, first that comes to mind are men standing at the entrances checking for ID cards. But the security service, or the university police, does a lot more than that.

extreme situations inside the university, but if they occur, the guards immediately take measures. But usually, the cameras serve a different purpose.

"We have many cases when students come to us and ask to show a certain place at a certain time to find out who stole their forgotten belongings," says Ergenesh Akynbaev, the head of the University Police. "Although it is not our duty at all, we do it sometimes. We are not responsible for finding thieves."

There are some funny cases, the guards tell us, when students ask to see on the video records if they came to the university with or without a cap or a cell-phone, because they forgot where they left them. Once a student forgot his notebook in "Bravo" and came to search it only two days later

– he could not remember where he left it last time.

"We are lucky to have honest and conscientious students who always bring lost items to the watch post," says Mr. Akynbaev. "We receive many fancy cell-phones, wallets with big amounts of money, and sometimes even notebooks."

Established in 2006, the University Police was to protect the university from terrorist attacks and unexpected negative moments. But usually it doesn't get more serious than fist-fights or even cat-fights. There was a time when two girls had to be separated from pulling each others hair out. Apparently they couldn't share a guy between them and decided to resolve the love-triangle.

The main difficulty the security men face in their everyday day work is student's and staff's unwillingness to show their ID cards.

There are those who forget the IDs on a regular and basis and fall onto the "black list", which is directed to the dean of students Nikolay Shulgjin, who in his turn, takes measures towards the violators.

"We try our best to make this process as comfortable as possible and are not too strict about it," says the police head. "We understand that there are different circumstances under which some come with out an ID. But we would like them to understand us too – it is our job and the general university rule, which everyone must obey. So please, show your ID cards to our security with out any reminding."

In the future the security service want to develop an information system and implement biometric checking – this allows student and faculty to enter the university by "scanning" their thumb, much cooler that showing ID cards.

Aliya Suranova

AUCA IN NUMBERS: SECURITY SERVICE

Since the security service (also known as the University Police) of AUCA was established in August of 2006, it has gone through some changes and has accomplished a huge volume of work.

Let's refer to some interesting statistics: four new video cameras, one door intercommunication system, and two door rings have been installed. Overall about \$2,000 was spent for these purposes.

From September 2006 to October 2007, there have been 189 events in AUCA with the participation of 7698 people. 22, 579 visitors have entered our university. Thus, more than 30,000 people went through the security watch posts.

And, of course, the ID issues – 163 expired and 26 fake ID cards were confiscated.

The main thing the head of University Police Ergesh Akynbaev points out is that many security service employees have left their jobs because of the low salary and a physical and emotional burden.

There also many people among faculty and students, who do not close the windows, switch the lights, computers, projectors, and air conditioners off, and do not return the keys to the watch post in time, which complicates the work of the University Police many times.

Aliya Suranova

FAREWELL KISS: БАХТИЁР АСТОНАКУЛОВ

Сегодня мы говорим «До свидания» ещё одному замечательному выпускнику нашего университета Бахтиёру Астонакулову, ICP-104. Он - серьезный выдающийся молодой человек, активный студент АУЦА и талантливый актер студенческого театра «Дебют». А самое главное - Бахтиёр является настоящим патриотом не только своей страны, но и всей Центральной Азии, веря в ее светлое будущее!

Что послужило причиной твоего выбора АУЦА среди других университетов?

На самом деле, я начинал свою учебу в Славянском Университете в Таджикистане, где проучился один год. Я также побывал в Чехии,



обучаясь там в летней школе. Я - FLEX, и тот год, который я провел в штатах, стал причиной моего выбора АУЦА. Не пройди я эту программу, сейчас бы учился в другом вузе.

Ты был активным студентом с самого первого курса, правда?

Да, первый год я участвовал во всем, что было организовано в университете. В первый год все было для меня новым и очень интересным. Я участвовал в студенческом театральном кружке «Дебют», с которым мы много поездили по

Кыргызстану. Мы побывали на Ысык-Куле, в Нарыне, в Караколе и Таласе, принимали участие в различных мероприятиях: Initiation, 14 февраля и других концертах. Благодаря этому студенческому театру я приобрел много друзей и знакомых. Но за лето после первого курса я очень изменился, стал относиться к учебе более серьезно и смотреть на вещи по-другому, поэтому уже не был вовлечен в социальную жизнь так активно, как раньше.

Твое самое большое достижение в жизни?

Первое - в 2002 году я участвовал в Республиканском Чемпионате по боксу среди юниоров и занял первое место. Тогда я получил кандидата в мастера спорта.

Второе - программа FLEX, которая стала очень значительной в моей жизни.

Тебе удавалось работать во время учебы?

Я работал «внештатным сотрудником» во многих местах. Занимался переводами и т.д. Одно время я даже подрабатывал, продавая телефоны.

Что больше всего запомнилось за время учебы?

Наверное, мое поступление, да и вообще, моя студенческая жизнь, много всего было! Вообще, АУЦА

очень сильно изменил меня: я стал смотреть на жизнь серьезнее, я многое получил и познал.

У тебя есть смешная история?

Однажды после ночи бурного веселья с друзьями мы приехали к моей девушке. Посреди ночи, высунувшись из люка машины, я начал очень громко петь песни, посвящая их моей девушке, которая жила на 9 этаже. Но это продлилось недолго, так как соседям это очень сильно не понравилось...



Личный вопрос... не сложно было совмещать личную жизнь с учебой?

Первое время было сложно, но постепенно привык, а сейчас с этим уже нет проблем. В какой-то мере, Дия для меня является стимулом для лучшей учебы, к которой я на втором курсе стал достаточно халатно относиться. А с Дилей мы познакомились как раз на втором курсе.

По твоему мнению Таджикиские девушки отличаются от Кыргызских?

Естественно, отличаются. У каждой нации есть своя изюминка. Кыргызские девушки, несомненно, красивые. Но в целом, в Центрально-Азиатских девушках есть что-то схожее.

В преддверии окончания университета чувствуется, что студенческие годы были самыми веселыми?

Несомненно, студенческие годы были самыми веселыми. В АУКе я встретил свою любовь, получил замечательные знания, познал себя и свой потенциал. Я благодарен в этом университете за его дух, за его особенность. Я надеюсь, что университет продолжит свою старую традицию, и дух АУЦА сохранится еще на долгие годы.

Считанные деньки остались до того момента, как всем seniorам придется проститься с родными стенами университета. Грустно?

Я уже сейчас чувствую, что мне будет не хватать АУЦА, ведь такой атмосферы нет ни в одном другом университете Центральной Азии. Однако нужно двигаться вперед, познавать и достигать большего. АУЦА делает очень многое в подготовке студентов к взрослой и самостоятельной жизни!

Ты уже построил планы на ближайшее будущее после окончания университета?

В первые годы я хочу набраться опыта, поработать, потому что я сторонник того, что для человека

главное - опыт, это очень важно. Хотелось бы поработать по специальности, в сфере ICP, а в дальнейшем - война план покажет! Конечно, нужно закончить магистратуру, примерно через два года.

Твоя родина - Таджикистан, ты собираешься вернуться и работать в своей стране?

Первое время я поработаю здесь, а в дальнейшем хочу вернуться к себе. Я вообще хочу остаться в Центральной Азии. Я считаю, что в этом регионе есть будущее и оно настанет тогда, когда наше поколение начнет что-то предпринимать - я в это верю! Я - патриот Центральной Азии, ее культуры и законов!

В заключении твои пожелания

Хочу пожелать студентам главного - не переставать верить в себя, в то, что они могут изменить что-то в своих странах и стараться сохранить замечательный дух АУЦА!

Я хочу, чтобы преподаватели продолжали любить студентов, и пожелать им здоровья, чтобы они могли в дальнейшем продолжать обучать нас уму-разуму!

В добрый путь, Бахтиёр! Пусть на твоём жизненном пути встречаются добрые, замечательные люди и дарят тебе только радость и позитив! Пусть успехи, удача, огромная любовь и все самое наилучшее, что есть в этом мире, сопутствует тебе в жизни!

Regina Молчанова

ESEN SAGYNOV: AUCA TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE ALWAYS SUCCESSFUL

Recently, AUCA students have become users of the first electronic explanatory dictionary of Kyrgyz language - Tilchi 1.0. However, few of us know that its creator is among us. Esen is one of few senior students in Software Engineering Department, and what is more - deputy director of "Incorex". Being a successful entrepreneur Esen has become the only male of five recipients of president's list. In everyday I found him a genial and cheery person. And he kindly assented to share with us his own formula of success. Today we send a farewell kiss to one of the most successful and modest student of AUCA, Esen Sagynov, SFW 104!

How have you begun your studying?

My first acquaintance with AUCA was during the tour of Bishkek's universities when I was senior of Kyrgyz-Turkish boy's high school in Karakol. Then we tend to think that you have to be genius to enter this university, and I had weak hope to succeed. I had an opportunity to study at Tomsk University of Communication Development, and Kyrgyz-Turkish University "Ala-Too". But I did all my best and entered to AUCA. It must be admitted that my results of entrance was not among the best ones. And probably it whipped me up to study hard and to achieve everything that I have today.

What are you going to do after graduation?

I'm going to continue my studying because bachelor degree is not enough for me. I'm interesting in two branches - Masters in software engineering and business administration. I will make my MBA in Korea in CDI (career development institute). Also I have an opportunity to study at MSE in Sweden, but I would prefer to bind my future education with linguistics. That is why will try to find university with Master in Computational Linguistic.

The studying will take next 4 years of my life, and after graduation at my 25 I'm going to devote myself to my firm and career.

What will you remember about AUCA?

I will always remember three of my teachers. First of all it is my first year instructor of English language - Galina Tremasova. Unfortunately she left us (sad and sorrowful voice). She was master of teaching and I would say walking-library of English language. She gave me so much in English. It was unique material which I



would never able to know anywhere.

Secondly, I'm thankful to and Andrew Predoehl. They are American teachers of software engineering. These instructors gave me a lot of programming skills. And moreover, they change my attitude to the future profession. Unfortunately both of them left AUCA. I still correspond with Andrew Predoehl, but I know nothing about Nancy Leland now.

So, you have such a good professional experience...

Yea! I started to work at the end of the second year. Then I worked for BITS company (business information technology systems), which is very famous in the field of Software Engineering. And in a year, we with my good friend, Ruslan Kazakov, founded our own company Incorex.

How can you such skillfully combine studying and working?

It is difficult when you are working for someone. You have to run around the university and your job place. It usually takes

a lot of time. But if you are full of initiative you will cope with it. Everything is possible if you have a wish. It is easier when you are already an employer and work for yourself. Now I do not divide my working and private time. I work when I need and have time for it. Sometimes I sacrifice the whole night to the work.

Your advice for Freshmen?

Mmm...To follow the order of studying and not to run ahead! Do not try to take hard professional courses before general education ones. It is very important not to miss the fundamentals of your field and the whole studying. If you did you would never make up for it. And, of course, hard studying from the very beginning!

Is it possible to succeed in several areas of life at the same time?

I think, yes! Because I have high GPA, my career is growing and, moreover, my private life is ok. I want to say that, it is AUCA, what taught me how to be always successful. IN AUCA I had an opportunity to discover all of my talents and be free in my choice. I think, I would not have self-confidence and desire to grow, if I studied in another place. AUCA helps to improve.

Your farewell words to AUCA?

When I got enrolled at AUCA, it was the most a school graduate could wish for, and I had to do all my best to enter. Recently, I've learned that in order to get admitted all you have to have is just a good voice, only

have sung a song well. And the exams are simply a formality. It shows that the quality is going down. I wish AUCA would change only for the best and have the highest enrollment requirements. I still believe that our university is the best one in Kyrgyzstan!

When I am asked for advice, where to go, I say, forget about others universities, spend all of your effort on preparation and apply to AUCA.

Three words which would characterize you?

The first is, -my parents. The second is the verb "to love". This is my weakness. If I love, I give away all of myself. Concerning the third... Probably, it is persistence. Although, it can be regarded as both advantage and disadvantage.

Your life motto?

Be happy! I always wish only to be happy to my friends as well! Happiness means different things for different people but a person is happy only when he's got everything he needs-health, everything is fine with the family, study and job. Unfortunately, today people mostly want to have a good position and a lot of money. For me, though, it is not so important. To me, happiness is to live in serenity, be healthy and loved. There is no need to earn millions, the main thing is to stay yourself and be happy!

Alexandra Kopievskaya