

# THE NEW STAR

independent student newspaper

ISSUE 4

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# Happy Thanksgiving



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PARK  
HISTORY**



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# THE HISTORY OF THE CREATION OF A POCKET PARK.

*"A bench is better than a  
thousand words."*



Emil Nasritdinov, an Associate Professor at AUCA, has been teaching students in the Anthropology and Liberal Arts and Sciences departments since 2007. In addition to teaching, he is also involved in various projects to improve the city's infrastructure. The Pocket Park has become an example not only of a comfortable park but also of successful civic engagement.

Emil Nasritdinov and his students came up with the idea of creating a park after a trip to Europe, where they had studied urban planning. Instead of another written report, the team decided to create a real project. "We were inspired by what we saw and decided to do something more practical," said Emil.

Finances were needed to implement this project. Therefore, the first fundraiser was organized by a student-blogger, Altynai Yusupova, who collected 10,000 soms with her blog. "It all started with a small gathering, for which we took a topographical survey. Then the project began to grow thanks to the support of subscribers and volunteers," Emil noted.

To implement the project, Emil Nasritdinov had to go through a lot of difficulties and obstacles. At the very beginning, he worked completely alone. He even turned to his friends and colleagues for help. "I became skeptical about the concept of Facebook friendship because no one came. And even my colleagues, with whom we have worked for many years, did not come either," Emil recalled with a smile.

Over time, everything began to get better, and people began to come to the rescue. Volunteers joined him. Then there was also the MoveGreen organization, which helped raise funds for the project. However, the main difficulty turned out to be the involvement of local residents in this park. Many of them only watched the process with interest but preferred not to participate.

We have worked very hard to create this park. "Our volunteers have learned how to work with a concrete mixer, assemble formwork, and create mosaics. These were practical skills that the city kids had never had before," recalled Emil.

For Emil Nasritdinov, the Pocket Park has become not only an urban project but also a social experiment. His project showed how residents can become active participants in change. This story inspires young people and shows that even small initiatives can lead to significant changes. Emil Nasritdinov even said, "One bench is better than a thousand words."

Today, Emil and his team are working on projects in Bishkek, Osh, Kaji-Say, and other cities. "We have already started a new project on a vacant lot opposite the "Asia Mall" shopping center. This space has huge potential," he shared.



# WORDS FROM THE Student Senate

I am honored to serve as a senator in the AUCA Student Senate, and I am proud to be the only member from the previous cohort joining this year. In addition to my role as a senator, I represent the Senate in the Student International Leadership Council (SILC) and contribute to the Education Policy Committee. These positions give me the opportunity to directly impact decisions that affect our student body. One example of my commitment to strengthening communication between students and the administration is when, at the beginning of the year, I worked to change the policy regarding the Deans' and Presidential lists for students who withdraw from courses. As a senator, I am also focused on advocating for student well-being, addressing academic support, campus resources, and engagement. I look forward to working with my fellow senators and the AUCA community to create a positive impact and foster an inclusive environment for all students.

**Anushervon Nuramadov**

I am honored and truly proud to have been elected as a member of the AUCA Student Senate. This achievement is a reflection of the trust and support I've received from all of you, and I want to sincerely thank everyone who believed in me and voted for me. As a senator, I am committed to addressing key issues that matter to students. One of my main goals is to advocate for free printing of course materials and to increase free printing limits to support students in their academic success. Additionally, I plan to work on increasing the number of sports classes, as the current options are limited and not everyone has the opportunity to participate. The student Senate is here to listen, support, and work together to create positive changes that benefit everyone at AUCA. Let's build a better campus experience together!

**Yousuf Amani**

I consider it an honor and a great responsibility to have been elected as a senator. Knowing that I am trusted by those around me to speak for them and advance the welfare of our AUCA community gives me a sense of encouragement. I'm dedicated to creating a more welcoming and encouraging atmosphere for students in my role as a senator. I'll be concentrating on raising student concerns and collaborating with others to address them, whether they are related to extracurricular interests, mental health support, or learning challenges. I am excited to help and develop with my fellow students.

Thanks for working with us!

**Amaliia Abubakirova**

I'm a junior student from the Liberal Arts and Sciences department, concentrating in Social Entrepreneurship and Design Thinking. Being selected as a senator is both an honor and a responsibility that I take with utmost seriousness. Having spent nearly four years at AUCA, I've gained valuable insights into our university's inner workings and the challenges we face as a community. This position allows me to turn thoughtful ideas into tangible actions, and I'm excited to work collaboratively with students, faculty, and administration to make a meaningful impact. As a senator, I'm committed to fostering team building and cultural awareness through events like International Food Day and cross-cultural workshops. I will promote healthy lifestyles by organizing activities such as sports tournaments and marathons. Championing diversity and representation is a priority, ensuring that every student feels seen and valued. Additionally, I will advocate for improved advising and academic resources and work to create career development opportunities by connecting students with companies and alumni for internships and mentorships.

"Serving as a senator is not just about representing voices—it's about turning ideas into actions that inspire growth, unity, and positive change within our AUCA community."

**Eldar Aibekov**

Being selected as a senator at AUCA is a big honor and great responsibility. I am truly thankful for the belief and support of the student body and am committed to serving as their voice in our richly diverse community. My main priorities are to strengthen student participation, find effective solutions for the current pressing issues together, and nurture a culture of inclusivity and mutual respect. I look forward to working with my fellow senators and students to build a better campus life through meaningful events, demanding sustainability from the university, and increasing student-administration transparency. We can create an even better and more active community at AUCA for each and every one of us.

**Nahida Qasimi**

I am a junior student in the Sociology department. I feel honored and excited to have been selected as a senator in the AUCA Student Senate. This role is an incredible opportunity to represent and serve our diverse student community. I am eager to contribute to our university by actively advocating for policies that promote student well-being, inclusivity, and engagement.

My vision for the university is to create an inclusive environment where every student has the opportunity to grow, develop, and feel comfortable expressing themselves. I believe our university should be a space where inclusiveness thrives and where every concern and question raised by students is heard and addressed.

Let's build bridges, not walls, together for a united AUCA.

**Aidana Umetalieva**

I am a Junior, and I am doing triple majors such as LAS- Social Entrepreneurship and Design Thinking, LAS-Peace and Conflict Studies, and Anthropology, Technology, and International Development. Being elected senator is a great honor and responsibility for me. I am very excited to be a part of the student senate and hope to live up to expectations and improve the atmosphere at the university. My plans for the year include a focus on helping students with their checklists and course registration. A lot of students face this problem, and I would like to help students understand what and when it is best to close and how they can use their remaining credits in a more efficient manner. Also in my program, I wanted to introduce new sessions that focus on skills that can help in normal everyday life, such as first aid training. For me, AUCA is not just a university; it is a social space with great potential and I hope to contribute to the development of this space

**Artur Kim**



# The Buzz of Success: HIGHLIGHTS FROM NGA AND AUCA'S THRILLING START TO THE ACADEMIC YEAR

The halls of the campus are still alive with excitement after a series of remarkable events that marked the beginning of the academic year. From stellar performances to outstanding student achievements, November proved to be a month of inspiration, collaboration, and celebration for the New Generation Academy (NGA).

## A Journey Through Art: AUCA Theatre "Mirrors" Presents New Musical: La Petite Prince

Kicking off the festivities, the renowned AUCA Theatre "Mirrors" delivered a breathtaking performance of *La Petite Prince*. This adaptation of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's beloved story weaves a tapestry of creativity, talent, and emotion.

Adding a special touch to the event, NGA students and alumni joined the cast, showcasing their exceptional artistry and dedication. Hats off to the talented NGA performers: **Adel Isaeva, Albina Malabaeva, Aizirek Toktogazieva, Miraida Abdikalumova, Ryskeldi Starbekov, Sezim Akynbekova, Amira Soshanlo, Aizat Khyialbekova, Aizana Usupbaeva, Tamga Aibek Kyzy, and Elizaveta Poliak.**

## The Thrill of Leadership: NGA Student President Elections

November also brought the much-anticipated NGA Student President elections, a highlight for students eager to shape their community. Eight passionate candidates stepped forward, each presenting their visions for a better future for the NGA community.

In a nail-biting finish, **Aftandil Abdisamiev** clinched victory by a mere **one-point margin**. Aftandil's win marks a new chapter of leadership and advocacy as he takes on dual responsibilities: guiding NGA students and representing them in the prestigious **AUCA Student Senate**.

## NGA Representation in AUCA Senate: A Legacy of Excellence

The celebration doesn't end there! Two exceptional NGA graduates, **Feruz Mamysadykova** and **Eldar Aibekov**, have taken on pivotal roles as senators in the AUCA Student Senate. Their election is a testament to the caliber of NGA's program and the values it instills in its students.

These senators are poised to amplify the voices of their peers, advocate for meaningful change, and continue the legacy of leadership that NGA is proud to uphold.

As NGA celebrates these milestones, the community is filled with anticipation for what lies ahead. With talented students, dedicated leaders, and a strong network of alumni, the future is bright for NGA and AUCA.

This academic year promises to be one of academic excellence, artistic achievements, and meaningful collaborations. Here's to continuing this incredible journey together!



## A Farewell to an Inspiring Leader: Adilet Zhanikulov

As we welcome new leaders, we also bid a heartfelt farewell to **Adilet Zhanikulov**, who served as NGA President and AUCA Senator during the 2023-2024 academic year. Adilet's dedication, vision, and hard work have left a lasting impact on the NGA community.

His tenure was marked by achievements that elevated the NGA experience for all students. We extend our deepest gratitude to Adilet for his unwavering commitment and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

## NGA Food Drive 2024: A Record- Breaking Success!

The NGA Food Drive 2024 was nothing short of amazing! Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our students, this year's event raised an incredible 40,363 KGS, surpassing last year's record of 36,500 KGS. Every single contribution made during the event will go toward charity, helping those in need and making a real difference in their lives.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated, supported, and believed in the power of giving. Together, we proved once again that kindness and teamwork can achieve great things.



# HOW I SPENT MY *Fall Break*

Fall break is a perfect time to clear your mind and take a break from studying. As I thought about my break, I realized I might not need it because I'm only a freshman and don't feel that tired—but I was wrong.

I'm from a small village near Tokmok, so I spent my whole break there with my family. I'm usually there every weekend, which means I'm used to seeing my family only two days a week. I never really thought that it would be so unusual for me to be at home for such a long time, especially with online classes and the extra days off. I'm used to studying every day, but during that time, I didn't have any assignments, which felt very strange.

There wasn't a day when I wasn't doing something—I spent time with my family, did some cooking, and tried to relax. When I say 'relax', I mean that I tried to read as much as I could, since reading is what helps me unwind. During these two weeks of fall break, I read two books, which was a great experience for me because I had never read books in this genre before (modern foreign literature).

Of course, there were a few days when I studied. During fall break, I took a small trip to the Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts, named after Gapar Aitiev, with my psychology classmates. It was my first time there. I'm not a huge fan of art, so seeing all the paintings was really interesting. I had never seen them before, or at least, I had never paid much attention to these paintings. It is really interesting to see how Kyrgyz art has changed over the centuries and how it reflects the different times. It's fascinating to learn about what was once forbidden in art and how artists managed to show the lives of people from those periods, capturing their everyday experiences, struggles, and dreams. If you have the opportunity to visit this wonderful place, you should take the time to explore it thoroughly, paying attention to every detail of the paintings and trying to uncover the meaning behind the artist's work.

A break is not just a perfect time to relax and recharge but also an opportunity to enjoy your favorite hobbies, explore new and exciting places, and discover things that you've never had the chance to learn before. It's a time to broaden your horizons, reawaken your passions, and immerse yourself in new experiences that not only bring joy but also enrich and transform your life.

**Lulakova Liliia**  
**ECO-124**



## *The Light In Each*

It was a cold evening, the kind where the chill cut through layers of clothing and made the city feel even more distant and unwelcoming. The loudness of the surroundings has found itself reduced to echoes and buzzing noises.

Everyone was wearing the same black puffer jacket and winter cap.

"We are doomed."

A young woman, tucked into the very same black coat, was walking down her usual route, exiting the subway and heading home through the park. The work was done. Autumn was long gone; winter had begun to make its presence known this week.

For the first time in a while, the park seemed kind of lively. It was one of those parks full of trees, each leaf now carefully coated with a light layer of snow, delicately outlined in precise forms. The woman walked determinedly through the small crowd, her head down. With each snowflake that fell on her black scarf, she started examining the intricate patterns.

"Oh, this one's kind of funny. That one is pretty. Why does this one have such smooth borders? Wow, nature really is fantastic. How does it not run out of patterns? Each to their own. Funny thing."

For a few moments, her mind emptied of its usual buzzing thoughts, and the surrounding sounds grew muffled.

"They're all white, though—the same color. Yet they each have their own form. People are so different, yet so alike."

Her mind drifted, rejoicing in this small, poetic observation. She really was such a dreamer.

Just then, the bright lights and gathering of people in the distance caught her attention, making her lift her head. The neon signs lit up a pop-up stall filled with all kinds of goods. The incredible smells of baked goods, pottery, and handmade crafts were in the air, mixed with the sight of books, accessories, and vintage items. The vibrant scene lifted her tired spirits. Without thinking much, she walked up to a stall displaying handmade lanterns crafted from colourful glass. Each one was unique, with tiny cracks and patterns that caught the light in mesmerizing ways, creating a rainbow effect. She picked a red lantern up, awed at how the "flaws" in the glass refracted the colours, turning it into something beautiful. She wondered, if it had been made from perfectly cut pieces, would it look the same? Would it feel the same?

"Just like life," she murmured under her breath, finding a way to connect it to the snowflakes she had just admired before. "The cracks make it more interesting."

She quickly bought the lantern, imagining it glowing warmly in her living room, a cozy contrast to the snowy weather outside. It would do its job this winter, warming up the room—and maybe her soul.

As she walked home later, the lantern nestled under her arm, she felt lighter.

All dried-up leaves have fallen into place, and so will everything else.

**Sadyrbekova Tomiris**  
**IBL-124**

# "WHEN DOES THE CAMPUS OPEN?"

I have recently been toying with the idea of putting together an AUCA handbook. In student groups, I frequently—and regularly—see students asking questions like, “When does the campus open and close today?”. That is a genuinely great question—to which, for some reason, no one knows the answer! My immediate hypothesis had been that the overarching problem lies not in students not knowing that the campus is usually open by 6:30 AM (despite officially opening at 8:00 AM!) from experience: it’s that students and personnel have little knowledge of the services (administrative / dining/ student support, etc.) AUCA provides on campus. To verify my hypothesis and the need for an AUCA handbook, I have put together a [timetable](#) of AUCA on-campus services and set out to interview my friends and professors.

My findings are amusing: among the dozen interviews I have conducted, not once has anyone given a single correct answer. While it could be argued that “knowing when the kitchenette opens” is not exactly useful (it opens at 7:00 AM, by the way), the point I am trying to make is that being cognizant of one’s options is, at times, advantageous.

Why exactly do students and personnel know so little about the university’s life? Simple: the university’s services’ documentation is given little to no attention. If you go to the “University Life” tab on AUCA’s website, you will find several broken links and inconsistent depictions of the services our university provides. Additionally, there is no all-encompassing (or even basic, at that) guide to the university and all of its nuanced systems—and this is something I find genuinely perplexing, as I believe that presenting a rigorous depiction of the university’s services would, if anything, attract more students to the university.

What can we do about it? As always, we need to continue to advocate for change and improvement—however minor—within the university. As for myself, I am going to continue designing and putting together [resources for students](#)—even more so now that I know that there is a need for an AUCA handbook.

**Luna Maltseva**  
**SFW-123**



# MAKEATHON 2024

## Innovation for an Inclusive Future Kicks Off in Bishkek

On November 1, the AUCA Makerspace hosted the grand opening of the fourth Makeathon **TOM: KYRGYZSTAN 2024**, under the motto *"From Idea to Action: Building a Barrier-Free World Together."* The event brought together 60 participants, including 7 teams, who dedicated three days to developing technological solutions to improve the lives of children and young people with disabilities.

### Inspiring Opening Ceremony

Key partners of the event delivered welcoming speeches: Ulan Ismailbekov, Deputy Director of the State Agency for Intellectual Property and Innovation under the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan; Kaliya Kubatbekova, a representative of AUCA Makerspace; and Muratbek Ismailov, Executive Director of the FSDS Foundation.

A highlight of the ceremony was the TEDx-style panel discussion *"Innovation for an Inclusive Society."* Inspiring speakers Aiperi Aralbaeva, Mirbek Asangariyev, and Aziza Murzashova shared their stories and ideas about making the world more inclusive and accessible.

### Innovation in Action

Over three days, teams worked tirelessly to create prototypes aimed at improving the quality of life for children with disabilities. On November 3, they presented their projects, and the jury awarded the top three innovations.

### Makeathon TOM: KYRGYZSTAN 2024 Winners

#### 🥉 3rd Place

**Team InnoMotion (Karakol)** - Prize: \$400

**Project:** An electric exercise bike for physical therapy, designed to support the rehabilitation of individuals with musculoskeletal disorders.

#### 🥈 2nd Place

**Team Thumb Trio (Bishkek)** - Prize: \$600

**Project:** A glove-keyboard enabling computer use while aiding hand rehabilitation. A technology that opens up new opportunities.

#### 🥇 1st Place

**Team GFive (Bishkek)** - Prize: \$1000

**Project:** An electric mobility platform for people with disabilities, offering enhanced freedom of movement.

Makeathon 2024 showcased the power of innovation, collaboration, and commitment to creating an inclusive society. Congratulations to the winners and all participants for their dedication to making a difference!



Позиция авторов статей не всегда совпадает с позицией ред. коллегии в целом.

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