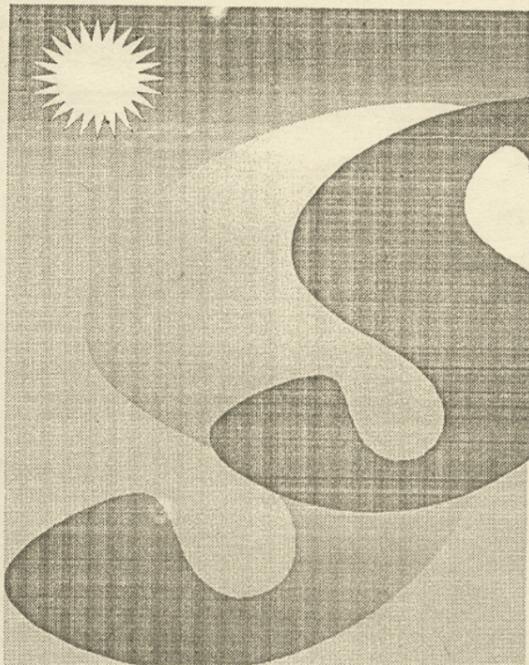


New Star ¹⁰

November 18, 2009
Issue 6

Years

Happy Birthday dear Stars! Happy Birthday the Star!



THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN

THE Star

This November the Star turns ten years old! Ten years ago, on November 24, 1999, the first issue of the Star came out. Lazarina, the Star's current editor, kindly asked me to write an article for this historical anniversary. It is an honor for me to do so, but I am not sure if I can restate my experience in a way to do justice to the Star. I am too biased and too subjective when it comes to the Star. If I had to say it in one sentence it would perhaps be something in the lines of "the Star was my life".

When I signed up for the 68-point (that was before we adopted the credit hour system) course of "Student Newspaper", I never thought it would take more time and energy than any other class I would ever take. I also did not know I would never love a class more than the Star! And that soon it would become the reason for me to get up every morning and look forward to my day. The Star was not a class or a student group for me. It was a social experience. It was a distinctive chance in making history and doing something that mattered. A unique phenomenon that cannot be recreated ever again. An Iranian refugee with a wild solitary soul, a romantic heart, and an never-ending ambition, found in the Star a new home, a safe happy place where she did not have to learn to be somebody else. The star people, as I call them, my best friends, they accepted me. Six Russian fellows with big hearts and amazing sense of humor, two Americans with sense of purpose and a passion for perfectionism, and a computer with a magic program called Adobe PageMaker, they became my safe haven on earth! I spent the best time of my life in room 105 (used to be the Star office) in front of that computer with the Star people. Amazing grace for me! I was home among the Star people. I was home at the Star.

And it was not just me. We all shared a passion for writing, for analyzing, for criticizing, for breaking the unbreakable, for pushing the envelope, and for finding ways to experience our newly found liberty and democracy, which was confined the walls of our castle – the American University in Kyrgyzstan (now the American University of Central Asia). We wrote for the Star because we could not live otherwise. We wrote for the Star because it helped us survive. We wrote for the Star because it took our breath away every time we broke new grounds, every time we exposed a wrongdoing, every time we begged for justice, for change, for respect, for tolerance, for rage, for tears, for love, for revolution, or for a wake-up call. We wrote for the Star because we had to – there were issues that needed to be said and we had a duty to say the words, to write the words, to express what everybody knew but nobody wanted to say, or to bring up what nobody knew but everybody needed to learn.

It was easy at times to give up. It was easy not to publish every month. It was easy to let exams get in the way. It was easy to let life get in the way. But soon we realized that the Star was an inseparable part of our lives. So when the publishing house was closed, we found another one. When we ran out of paper, we ran to offices and asked for contributions. When we ran out of time, we stayed overnight. When we ran out of money, we found advertisers or donors. And when nobody agreed to place the Star issues on the AUK website, we created our own website... Nine years later, I am dreaming over the Star and the way my life was when I worked at AUK with the Star people. I think each of them carry a part of my life in the same way that each of the Star issues that we produced, carries pieces of our collective lives. I wish my dear Star friends all the best: Almas Rysaliev. Anna Kirey. Anton Kluchkin. John Atwood. Konstantin Sudakov. Sasha Shpakova. Scott France. Sergey Bogdanov. Tatiana Pesina. Yulia Balybina. Zima Fillippov.

By Anisa Afshar,
ICP 2001

P.S. I need to qualify my piece by stating that the people I named above are just one generation of the Star (2000). There are many more generations and they continue to be part of the Star while their memory and their writings are alive. Keep the Star website alive! Keep the Star old issues on the website!



**It is your opportunity:
Psychology** p. 3

**All about Evaluations
of academic courses and
academic advising**
p. 4,5

**Pandemic Influenza
A(H1N1)** p. 6

**Yesterday. Today.
Tomorrow.** p. 7

**Diversity week
is coming soon.** p. 7

Dean of Students Column



We never say – “no”

The diversity is coming...

It started from the thought: “Nothing unites us more than our differences”.

We all are waiting for this week with impatience and excitement...

We are waiting for the opportunity to feel once more that incredible feeling of brotherhood, which we have experienced on the November 11, on Initiation....

By the way ... One viewer during the concert asked me: “Why there are so many performers, did you pay to all of them?” ...

And really, why? ...

The question didn't come immediately. But then arrived.

“Because we do not say “no” to anybody.

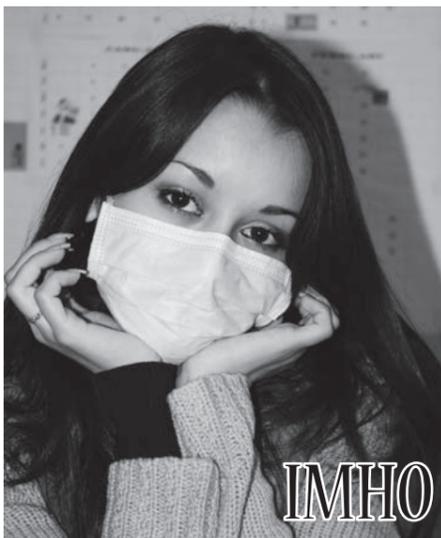
Those, who came and suffered through all the rehearsals have become heroes of the day... or of the year? ...

Next week, when all the nations that “inhabit AUCA” will be sharing their cultures with each other, will gift us new heroes...

And the most important it will prove one more time, that there is a place, where people say each other “yes” than “not”...

Shulgin N.G.

KISS THE FLU



I don't have a lot to write this time, because it's been a week of my absence in the university. I don't know the news and fresh gossips. And after being overboard for a week, I thought that when I come to AUCA, I'll see everybody wearing masks. However, to my huge surprise - it didn't happen. I saw students hanging around as usual and greeting each other with a usual hello-kiss.

The sweetest habit of our girls and boys is to greet each other with a kiss. This goddamn habit already led me (and not only me) to illnesses like flu and worrying about becoming sick, but for no reason we still kiss-greet each other and still transfer bacilli from one to another.

For the past few months the whole world has been overwhelmed with the swine flu (AH1N1) and just seasonal flu and it is not a new thing for us to know. We all live in the university that coughs and sneezes, but mostly we don't wear masks and somehow care about our health. And in the small space, where it is already so easy to get infected, because we are all placed so closely to each other in classes, we still contaminate each other with the kisses.

For especially nice and sweet girls: PLEASE attend medical service and get the information about “How virus infections are spread” and stop kissing others.

It is not really polite from my side to tell others: “Don't kiss me” for like no reason, but from the other side it is less polite to kiss the person and then immediately cough to the side.

Another thing is the mask wearing. Who shall wear the mask? The one, which is sick or the one, who is healthy? The answer is: both. But this is ideally. In reality no one wants to wear it, because it is just uncomfortable. And I am not an exception. It is clear, that mask regime is not applicable for our university, but PLEASE keep at least elementary hygiene rules then!

Current mood: lazy

Current time: 11:57 a.m.

Current track: DJ Sahara - Ella Elle La

Dina Karabekova

Dear AUCA community

Firstly, I want to thank all of you who came for elections on November 10 and voted! Thanks to you, this year was the most active participation. 56,5% out of all students voted. In the table you can see the statistics of the elections turn-out. I congratulate those, who were elected and wish them good luck!

Esen Rysbekov	98
Uluk Kadyraliev	89
Atai Muratbekov	84
Sagynbek Dzhumashov	74
Hotak Yama	52
Akylbek Baltabaev	51
Israil Shamaryl	50
Tengelbes Musaev	45
Oybek Aitbaev	45

Nursultan Ulukbekov	44
Mohammad Alim	44
Azim Isakov	43
Aizat Jakybalieva	41
Aseyin Kozhahmetov	38
Myrzabek Emilbek uulu	37
Renat Galinurov	37
Emadsho Akdodshoev	36
Nadirhan Nadirov	36
Sanzhar Esenaliev	35
Meerim Marat kyzy	29
Marat Mashanlo	27
Askar Sydykov	26
Azat Asambaev	26
Aizhan Kadyrova	20
Nazgul Koilubaeva	15
Abdurahman Aripov	12
Jamshid Azizov	12

Second. Initiation 2009 was the best out of all initiations I have ever seen! Without any hesitation, all participants were great, were awesome and unbelievably wonderful on the stage. Two months of preparation were worth this kind of show. Vivat, AUCA spirit!

Third. Soon, AUCA will have one of the brightest events of the year - Diversity Week. We are all of different ethnicities, religions, cultures and backgrounds but we are all equal and respect each other. Tolerance is the main idea of Diversity week and not competition. I hope for your active participation. Vivat, AUCA spirit!

Sincerely,
Dilnura Khalilova
Student Coordinator



Total number of students voted:

Total number of Students	Total number of students voted	%
1075	608	56,5

The most active departments:

Nº	Name of department	Total number of students	Total number of students voted	%
1.	Law	105	63	60
2.	Economics	138	88	63,8
3.	Business Administration	175	95	54,2
4.	Anthropology	81	47	58
5.	International and Comparative Politics	127	80	63
6.	Journalism and Mass Communication	58	33	60
7.	Software Engineering	76	38	50
8.	American Studies	51	30	58,8
9.	European Studies	60	36	60
10.	Psychology	60	28	46,6
11.	Sociology	64	32	50
12.	Preparatory	81	38	47

It's your opportunity

Student Intellectual Life Committee Presents: STUDENT TRAVEL FUND

Purpose of the Student Travel Fund

The Student Travel Fund has been established for AUCA students in 2002/2003 to promote travel that is intellectually rewarding to the students and beneficial to the entire University community. Grant recipients will be selected based on the relative merits of the purpose of travel, the appropriateness of the time of the conference (i.e. will attendance mean missed classes?), student's current academic standing, and other criteria as appropriate.

Grants will contribute a maximum of US \$300 towards the entire cost of travel.

Eligibility and Application Procedure

Those eligible to receive funding are full-time students who have earned at least 18 credit hours at AUCA and who are not in their final semester of study.

Team/group applications will be considered on the merits of the entire application, rather than as individuals. Group applications will only be accepted for events that require the presence of the entire team/group. Applicants who receive a first grant of more than \$100 may not be considered for a second grant in the same academic year.

All applicants should submit Application Package to the Student Intellectual Life Committee. Application will include:

1. Travel Fund Application form
2. All official invitations
3. Letter of Recommendation from a faculty member/Department Head

All applications must be submitted electronically to the Student Intellectual Life Committee (kim_el@mail.auca.kg). Applicants must be aware that the process of reviewing applications and making decisions is made within two weeks. Applicants are notified about the results immediately after the decisions have been made.

Reporting

Additionally, all beneficiaries of the travel fund grant are expected to:

1. Provide the Committee with an narrative report on the trip
2. Provide comprehensive financial report to AUCA Financial Office
3. Return all unspent portions of the travel fund to the Financial Office.
4. Be ready to share their experiences at the request of the SILC.

Graduate Opportunities

Career center offered AUCA students several Master Programs. Guest Speakers, representatives of scholarship programs in Kyrgyzstan informed students about all deadline and test procedures.

Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program

Muskie provides opportunities for Master's level study in the United States to citizens of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Participants are selected through an open, merit-based competition.

Eligible Program Fields for citizens of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan: Business Administration, Economics, Education, Environmental Management, International Affairs, Journalism and Mass Communications, Law, Library and Information Science, Public Administration, Public Health, Public Policy. The information about requirements, deadlines and essential documents you can get at the website: www.muskie@irex.kg or just www.irex.kg

Soros Scholarship Programs

Soros offers a plenty of Master's and PHD programs in Europe and US.

There are two types of programs that you can find at the website www.soros.kg.

1. OSI/FCO Chevening Program, which includes Universities of Oxford (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/>), Edinburgh (<http://www.ed.ac.uk/>), York (<http://www.york.ac.uk/>) and Leeds University (<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/>).

2. OSI/DAAD Program - Master Degree. Scholarships and Universities for these particular programs you can find at www.soros.kg with a key word "Стипендиальные Программы".

3. L'Ambassade de France au Kirgizstan La Fondation "Institut pour une Société ouverte" (OSI), et le Centre National des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CNOUS)

It is your opportunity: Psychology

Seniors of Psychology Department, Lena Coy and Alena Guseva shared their experiences of implementing their knowledge into life, practical use of theory learned in AUCA

About internships:

Lena Coy: We went through internships in Social Relation Plan, Psychology Department, Columbia University in New York. The Head of Psychology department came to our country, talked with president of our university. Our department chose us and let us having practice in one of the best universities in USA. We worked in psychological laboratories with different psychological researches, tested, participated in research experiments. The internship lasted almost 5 weeks.

About impressions:

It was a great experience in my life. I understood and analyzed many things. And I think such knowledge will help in my future career. Also I had an opportunity to learn another country, another tradition and people. That was great!

How to find internships:

You should look for it, just Google the Internet. There are such opportunities. Especially now, when Psychology is in high demand in Europe and USA. Also, you should choose specialization, because it is not possible to search like: "Internship of Psychology". It is broad. As for me I make PHD of Psychology, and I searched for taking practice in clinic specialization. You should find the list of appropriate universities from Internet, connect with them, learn how much does it cost, is it suitable for you, will they accept you, is there any chance that you will be funded. If you have a desire, internship is not a problem. It is possible to find financial aid, for example, "Soros" usually pays such programs. Also you could win the competition grant.

About graduate schools:

It is a good question. Our alumni go to different places; half of them go to Germany. I want to go to London, someone wants to go to USA. But mostly orientation is to West, because there are very strong psychological schools, and if you will get a master there, you will have a really good perspectives in a career. But again you should not seat and wait that you will be invited somewhere. You should search for it. It is hard work. And it required a lot of patience, persistence, time, but then it will be recouped.

About participation in conferences:

There are many psychological seminars, conference. You can take part in it, but firstly you should hold some research, make a report, and send it to the head of this seminar. If your report is suitable to the program of the meeting, than you can go there as a participant. In this case the conference will invite you and pay for tickets and another expenses.

Also it is possible to work in conferences that are held in Russia. In Saint Petersburg there is very strong school of Psychology, and they always hold some seminars. Such meetings are also held by our university. For example, recently Department of Psychology in AUCA in conjunction with the Academic Fellowship Program (AFP) arranged round table on the topic of Ethic code. It was very interesting. The main guest of this conference was professor from university of Memphis, USA, Dr. Sharon Home. All comers could take part in this meeting. In our Department there are very strong professors, they provide us a stable support, and if we need some help, we always turn to them.

Some advices:

In order to achieve something, you should work hard. And as our profession is not developed in Central Asia, there is a big responsibility on psychologists, because we should develop this science. And actually future for the psychologists.

Prepared by: Janelle Kudaibergen

Master Classes with Professor Hersh Chadha

1 of December

«Our Earth» at Prof. Martin Class at 3:30
(Department of Environment)

3 of December

«World Economy and Desalination of
the Gulf Region». Room 310, 3:35pm
(Economics Department)

3 of December

Master Class in the Department of
Journalism. Room 403 at 6:00pm



All about Evaluations of academic courses



About courses evaluation:

Ideally students provide continuous informal feedback to faculty on the quality of learning that takes place in their classroom. In addition, twice a year students are asked to fill in evaluation forms with the opportunity to indicate the value of the classroom experience and to provide specific anonymous feedback on their learning experience.

The goal of this formal evaluation is the improvement of the learning environment at AUCA. Students have the opportunity to speak their minds and faculty to learn what the students

are thinking and to consider adjustments in their approaches so as to enhance student learning. In my own experience teaching at the University level for over twenty years, my ability to teach well to my students was a direct result of constructive feedback about teaching style, reading materials, feedback on written work and the overall tone of the classroom.

In an interactive and in disciplinary environment that is student-centered and fosters a critical and creative approach to the pursuit of knowledge and ideas, the response of students to the teaching and learning environment is essential for the development of a healthy learning environment. These evaluations are essential «formative»--they help to develop a continuously improving learning environment.

Ellen Hurwitz
AUCA President



Любит – не любит (Или несколько слов в поддержку необходимости оценивания курсов и преподавателей студентами...)

Подчас студенты (те кто верит в действенность системы оценивания) рассматривают это оценивание всего лишь, как возможность повлиять на то – будет преподавать профессор дальше или нет... Получит он продвижение или нет...

Наверное, каким-то образом оценивание и влияет на перечисленные вещи, но не это главное.

Есть старая игра. Берёт девушка ромашку и отрывает лепесточки:

«Любит – не любит – любит – не любит...»
Это гадание.

Нам, преподавателям, тоже интересно «любит или не любит», но мы не хотим гадать. Мы хотим провести мониторинг, который даст нам понять объективную картину не только популярности преподавателя (это вещь важная, но не единственная), но и необходимости курса.

Наметить пути его улучшения и так далее и тому подобное...

Неучастие или формальное участие в оценивании даёт искажённую картину действительности и, как следствие, неправильные действия в дальнейшем, как преподавателя, так и администрации.

Не ленитесь, господа – это важно!

Мы должны понять – кто мы, где мы, куда нам идти.... Не лишайте, пожалуйста, себя и нас, возможности развиваться...

Используйте возможность принять участие в улучшении университета...

Я верю - предела совершенству нет.... А вы?..

Н.Г.Шульгин,
декан по делам студентов



So why students active expressing their dissatisfaction and so passive encouraging good professors?

The point is that while criticizing teachers students expect positive changes to occur. And if a professor is “good” and students like him, they do not say good words, they think “I will praise him, but he will already is aware of his capabilities, and other students also know that he is professional. Indeed students do not understand that for professors positive feedback from students much more important than a praise from administration, because professors work for their students.

Therefore, since the majority of students do not realize such need to express encouragement, but they have natural desire

to make faculty work better. Unfortunately it is prevailing phenomenon, and I also have faced this. And it is attributed with current pragmatic life, and people expecting their results.

Don't you pay attention that our relatives also reprove us and sometimes it is hard to hear good words from them? Do they? Of course when people love each other, they say pleasant things. But again they could say much more warm words. This is a paradox of current time. We want to make positive changes everywhere. There is nothing wrong. But there is an opinion from Soviet times that without critics there will not be a progress. But it is not true. The psychologist Scinner said, that if we paid more attention to reinforcement than to punishment, the result would be better. Indeed, praise is octant than reclamation.

Aron Abramovich Brudnyi

About evaluation of advising:

Dear AUCA students,

It is my special honor and delight to draw your attention to the importance of the electronic evaluation process; your participation and involvement, and the results of your evaluation, in particular. In this short address of mine, I would like to provide you with important information on the academic advising procedure and evaluation.

At present, the university is experiencing extremely important period of new establishment and continuous innovation. It is imperative for you and consequently for us to improve the existing situation and provide you with high quality advising services. In order to do so, we really need to know your concerns and complaints, as well as your positive feedback.

Therefore, the point here is that while filling out the questionnaires you bare in mind it is not just your advisor alone, who is being evaluated, but actually, it is the academic advising support in complex, that is being evaluated. There are different faculty and staff members who contribute to the academic advising support process. To see it more clearly, you can and definitely should familiarize yourself with the newly adopted AUCA Academic Advising document. It is available for all students at resources:

H:\AUCA Polices & Regulations\AUCA Policies\AUCA Academic Advising

It is stated out in this document what are the rights and responsibilities of all the parties involved in the academic advising process including:

- Academic advisor

- Academic department
- Advising and Career Services office
- Advisee (i.e. you as a student).

That is how we will be expecting you to evaluate these as given in the Academic Advising evaluation form.

We are aware of some of the problems you are having in the context of advising and with your advisors as well. But most of your concerns and complaints reach us on nonofficial basis; hence there is not much we can do to help you. However, we are willing to be of assistance for you not only in terms of providing you with knowledge, but also helping you form and define your educational and career goals. To succeed in this we do need your honest and non biased opinion on the academic advising services.

Therefore, I strongly recommend you to participate in electronic evaluation. Do not ignore the questionnaire that keeps popping out once you log on, even if you find it annoying. Try to acknowledge that on one side of that survey, it is just about 5 minutes of your precious time, and on the other side it is extremely valuable information for us to know what you would like to see improved, changed, and developed!

Do not stay away from your personal development and build your future!

Good luck and best regards!
Yours sincerely,

Lira Djuraeva
Director of Advising and Career Services.



Course evaluation: An opportunity for students to make AUCA a student-centered place

to grant us five minutes and fill the forms.

From the very beginning, we must have utmost clarity on the purpose of the course evaluation. While for some this may be largely self-evident, I would stress several interrelated points, while the overarching message is that active participation of students in course evaluation is in the best interests of students, faculty and the university.

First of all, the course evaluation is one of best opportunities for students to give a genuine feedback to a professor on a course taught. The learning process does not have rigid fixed rules, and its improvement is very often dependent on the type of feedback provided by involved parties. Following our mission, we are determined to develop and sustain liberal academic environment at AUCA. This presupposes an active and responsible participation of students in shaping the essential contours of the learning

process. Sharing the thoughts, impressions and suggestions on specific courses is one of the primary opportunities for students for such participation. Students' feedback may focus on various areas, including the content of the course, the quality of syllabus, the class environment, the teaching style and so on, and this is what makes the learning process at AUCA a student-centered.

Filling the questionnaire would be a futile experience unless it resulted in tangible changes and improvements. The first and primary consumer of students' feedback are our faculty members, and we believe the results of the course evaluation serve as one of best guidelines for faculty to improve the content and conduct of courses and make them better serve the interests of students. Certainly, the student evaluation may often result in very diverse and, sometimes, mutually contradicting, comments. However, we are

confident that our faculty members are able to discern the most important and relevant messages and make their courses and teaching more student-centered.

Finally, I would once again stress that the course evaluation is indeed a contribution of students to making this university a better place to live and study. Our university has been a special school in this region, and we are determined to maintain and further develop the best academic traditions that distinguish AUCA. The very process of student participation in improving the courses, teaching and curriculum is a great asset of the university, and it is our obligation to attract more students in the evaluation process.

Shairbek Juraev, Dean of Academic Affairs

courses and academic advising



About the survey:

Survey is an important element of the system for quality assessment of the courses, and instructors appreciate the constructive feedback offered by students at the end of their courses.

The programmers of the Department for Software Engineering and Database Management have been working hard to create a simple and user-friendly questionnaire interface, which allows the students to complete the course evaluation as quickly and effectively as possible.

For the convenience of students, the computer timer in the labs will be turned off, so that the time spent on questionnaire is not counted towards the student's daily time limit. If students prefer to complete the evaluation outside the university, for example, from their private computer connected to the Internet, there is an on-line version accessible at <http://ev.auca.kg>.

Anonymity and confidentiality are important parts of the course evaluation, and the survey program is developed in a manner to ensure both of these conditions. In order to ensure that students receive only questionnaires for the classes that they are enrolled in, a list is generated from the Registrar office database automatically. The program recognizes and operates the following identifications: student ID, course title and faculty name.

The program also recognizes what the status

of the questionnaire is. If the student has not yet filled out the questionnaire or did not finish answering all of the questions, he or she will still be able to access it. A relevant reminder about uncompleted questionnaires pops up every time when a student logs in to the system. The system closes down when all the questionnaires are completed by the student.

The survey results are automatically recorded in a separate results table, in which all the identification data of the student is blocked off. This ensures 100% confidentiality of each respondent.

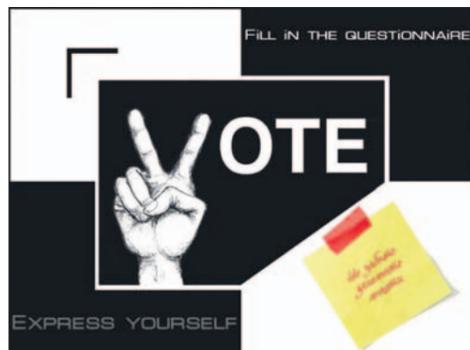
The table of survey results only contains the following information:

- Course – the course that was evaluated
- Instructor – instructor who teaches the course evaluated
- Question number - The question number in the questionnaire
- Answer to the question - Chosen answer to the question.
- Comments – Students' comments added at the end of the survey

Finally, to ensure that information about the instructor is also kept confidential, access to the table of survey results is strictly limited.

As the survey results are aggregated, each faculty member receives the results of evaluation for each course he/she has taught this semester. The table indicates the percentage of students in the class who took part in evaluation, aggregate scores on several criteria and written comments provided by students. There is no way for an instructor to identify the respondents. Below you can see the sample of the form that each faculty member receives for each class.

Sania Batalova, Director of Information Resources and Technologies.



Course Evaluation by Students SPR 2009

Note: The highest rate for all sections and grades is 5.

Instructor: *****

Course: History of Kyrgyzstan (eng)

Percent of student participation in evaluation: 28,30%

- Course satisfaction 4,73
- Teaching methodology 4,87
- Class atmosphere 4,82
- Class management 4,87
- Overall course score: 4,85

For courses taught in English:

The course is conducted entirely in English 1

Course materials (syllabus, handouts, lectures, exams, etc.) are provided in English 0,87

Students comments:

****is very professional instructor. The way she presents the course fully satisfies me. She gives everything that is necessary. I really like this course and will recommend it to others)))) She is very professional and very intelligent. I like the way she teaches. just the right amount of work and assignments. well prepares for State Exam

Students and evaluation of courses

	<i>Sheroz Negmatov ECO106</i>	<i>Hakim Davurov Eco107</i>	<i>Anonymous</i>	<i>Boldyrev Aleksei SFW 107</i>	<i>Anonymous</i>
1. Do you fill up the Evaluation of faculty?	Yes, I always fill up the evaluation form.	Yes	No! basing on principles.	Yep	It is Boring and Useless!
2. If yes/no why?	Because, i hope that how i evaluate the course or the professor will help in future to improve that course, however it usually does not happen	Because if I do not fill up this, I will see everyday the window with "заполни"	I don t find it affective and working	Because it helps the instructors to improve their teaching methods, I think. Besides, as far as I know, instructors' salary depends on our evaluation (but maybe I am wrong), so it is very important for them.	It does not work at all! I am not satisfied; it does not make any changes.
3. Why, when something does not go well, we express our displeasure and write it down, but if the professor and class are ok, we do not say anything?	Because we take it as granted, and people often seek something negative in everything, however i cannot fully agree with this statement, because there are cases when courses are really interesting and when students express their appreciation.	Because a good professor does not need advertising.	When you like how professors teach, you think that everything is ok, it goes thorough, this our normal perception of the world, but when something goes wrong we feel it and express through the speech or like in our example through this evaluation.	It is human nature, I think. However, when something is perfect some people express their satisfaction also.	Some professors are jealous to students, because they have such brilliant ideas that professors would never achieve and that is why they critique them too much and evaluate severely.
4. Do you have some comments or suggestions about the evaluation of faculty? How can we improve it?	Maybe to pay attention to what students write in their evaluation, because there were cases when i took several courses from one professor, and every time had to write the same comments, because there were no changes.	We need to make hard copes of our forms, because there is a myth that it is possible to see who and what he or she wrote about the professor. In my opinion it is more useful and better to print your paper and gather all forms in a box, it will be more safety.	It is enraging me! Especially the answers "strongly agree" and "agree" I do not see any differences in it, it is very stupid and the process took a lot of time! Even though it is anonymous, each professor can identify which evaluation belongs to whom; and in my opinion, the comfortable time for that is after the fall break.	No. I think everything is OK	I suggest that every year conduct tests on the mental and psychological health to identify whether instructor valid or not. AUCA Survey should include one additional question whether professor need to pass psychological test or not.

prepared by Diana Takutdinova

Discussing Important Issues

On November 2, AUCA Journalism students participated in the meeting with Vice President of Academic Affairs, Bermet Tursunkulova.

Journalism students asked administration to conduct this meeting in order to get more information concerning the Bard College Accreditation. It's known that Bard College doesn't have departments such as Journalism, Business Administration and Law.

Shaarbek Juraev, one of representatives of AUCA administration at the meeting, declared that in order to get the Bard College Diploma, AUCA Journalism Department must be renamed into "Creative Writing Department".

This declaration of Juraev caused a plenty of questions and indignation in face of students.

But Tursunkulova explained that at the present moment administration is trying to solve this problem and none of documents, except memorandum were signed yet.

Students also raised questions concerning the annual tuition growth. Tursunkulova explained that the full tuition of a student in the amount of 93,900 soms is not enough to cover even

a small part of all the bills and salaries of international professors.

The major question raised at the meeting was devoted to the lack of equipment at Journalism department. Tursunkulova offered students to write a request to AUCA administration.

At the end of the meeting both administration and department came up to the solution to discuss the same issues with President Helen Hurwitz.

On November 12, Helen Hurwitz agreed to answer to all questions, raised by Journalism students. Concerning new equipment, Hurwitz explained that new equipment was already ordered by AUCA administration, but unfortunately they couldn't receive it right now.

In addition Hurwitz said that new digital cameras would be ordered in close future in US, and perhaps in the middle of December students would receive them.

Also President Hurwitz offered journalists to choose an initiative student, who would participate in all the meetings and would be a representative of Journalism Department.

Ryskulova Nargiza

"Diesel" is occupied by Mass Media

On August 21, 2009 the most popular Internet forum Diesel.elcat.kg added section about media life. Forum touches on topical issues and popular problems concerning mass media. The benefit of Diesel's new section is an allocation the information about coming contests among journalists and news rooms, TV channels and radio stations. At present time discussing the perspectives of Kyrgyz television and Media Law changes are going on.

Source: www.kabar.kg



Ulugbek Babakulov shared his opinion about young journalists and newspaper business. According to Babakulov, readers are not interested in reading lofty matters, that's why journalists should have to look for something that will interest either a taxi driver and a housewife or a member of parliament. "At the same time try to keep the bar and not sink into the crosswords and gossips", Ulugbek Babakulov told in an interview with the Bishkek Press Club. According to him, creative part of the media is important, too.

"Newspaper – is a business, and therefore journalists should always look for unusual angles", Babakulov said. He also mentioned that students-journalists give out a high-quality product, if the requirements are high. "The main thing is that perspective staff have to learn something new every day «- Babakulov said in an interview. «Responsibility for the published information- is the main thing to remember, if you work in the media», - Ulugbek Babakulov concluded. Source: www.bpc.kg

Pandemic Influenza A(H1N1)

Influenza A (H1N1) is a new type of mutated virus that is causing respiratory sickness of people worldwide. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that this virus is capable of human to human transmission. This new type of influenza can be transmitted from an infected person who is coughing or sneezing to a healthy one.

At the first time, this influenza was called as swine flu. But it cannot be taken by eating pork or pork products, since these viruses are not transmitted by food. Besides, influenza A (H1N1) viruses are destroyed by heating at over 70*.

According to the US CDC antiviral medications Tamiflu and Relenza are known as medicines that can be effective in treating the influenza A (H1N1).

Symptoms of influenza A (H1N1) are not much different from that of usual seasonal influenza.

Those are fever, headache, runny nose, sore throat, cough, muscle and joint pain and etc. Some ill people mentioned nausea, fatigue, lack of appetite, diarrhea and vomiting.

This influenza is supposed to be infectious for up to a week after beginning of symptoms. The infectious period can be longer in children.

You can protect from A (H1N1) infection by covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, cleaning your hands thoroughly after throwing the used tissue away, washing your

hands often and keep your hands away from your eyes, nose and mouth, trying to avoid contact with people who appear to have fever or respiratory symptoms.

According to Reuters, Gregory Harti, WHO spokesman told that the influenza A (H1N1) is not causing more serious illness comparing to earlier time.

"We are continuing to see increased number of deaths because we are seeing many, many more cases," he added.

According to WHO, amount of cases has been reported over 254,206 and deaths – at least 2,837. Among them 116,046 cases and 2,234 deaths are in America. News agency 24.kg reported that 2 cases were registered in Kyrgyzstan.

"I am afraid of the new influenza. There are 4 deaths and more than 2000 infected people in Korea," Minjoo Kim, a student, said.

"It is too expensive to check if I am infected with virus or not. There must be more reliable counter plans," Sunmi son, a housewife, said.

Youngbeen HA
Statistics were taken from WHO.com



Poetry



Send your poems to thestar@mail.auca.kg

Скольжение, шепот, пустота,
Огонь стремительно сжигает.
Забрав тебя на небеса
Судьба мне счеты предъявляет...
За то что счастлива была?
Быть может сильно я любила?
Не знаю в чем наша вина,
А смерть лишь сердце истребило...
Но путь мой следом за тобой,
С тобой везде и навсегда...
Пишу дрожащею рукой
P.S.Я люблю тебя...

Zarina Alieva

Вы помните едва ли
Как я была сверчком,
А вы в меня стреляли
Осиновым сучком

И мой шесток пилили
Скрипучею пилой
И мне в запечье лили
Кипучею смолой.

Как было мне тревожно!
Как страшно было мне,
Когда вы осторожно
Готовились к войне:

В суровой треуголке
С кокардой во лбу
Вы брали с верхней полки
Двустволку и трубу

И гнали, гнали, гнали
Из дома напоказ.
Как будто забывали,
Что я пою для Вас.

Бенька

Yesterday. Today. Tomorrow.

Lives of the internal migrants are indeed very difficult. If you have come to Bishkek from region you are confronted with many obstacles before you get hired. These are well-known registrations, propiska's and list follows. If you are a migrant and if you walked along the streets of Bishkek there is fair probability that you will be sopped by militia officers. Often times those militia officers are not eager to help you out by recommending to get registration, instead they can't wait for the moment when migrants offer them bribe.

This example of consequence of not having appropriate registration documents is just a simple case, where migrants can just pay small amount of money and get away. But have anyone ever imagined what actually happens when say pregnant women who is an internal migrant without registration, having strikes, called hospital. As actual cases show such cases result in denial of treatment. And this is all just because one did not have propiska.

Many saw the minibus covered with a traditional Kyrgyz material in the back yard of AUCA. It was very neatly decorated with a specially chosen material. On that cover there were drawn militia officers, signs like "no good jobs", children playing and etc. Flashy cover for the minibus was prepared by fifteen migrant-women. They were trained with skills of suing, basic video camera skills. That was a part of the project called "One day of migrant's live" which was launched by Red Crescent Society in Kyrgyzstan. And this minibus project is called "Yesterday Today Tomorrow". Minibus represents the idea of journey to hope to find better

life, but often results in negative consequences. Decorated cover minibus was enhanced with projector inside where they were showing a short movie about the lives of migrants. Movie was about seven minutes long and heroes of the movie were migrants themselves. Minibus will travel from the office of the Red Crescent to the places where migrants live which is in the outskirts of town. During this journey people will be able to see the problems of migrants in the minibus cover.

There was also photo exhibition in the Bravo which was also part of this project. Very interesting fact about all this is that it was done by the migrants themselves, by the ordinary citizens that lived in outskirts of Bishkek that came from different regions of Kyrgyzstan to discover better life, which obviously is not happening for most of them. Most of the migrants that participated in making this project have not hold the camera at all in their lives. They were given free will to capture what they wanted.

Migrants are one of the vulnerable part of our society. Absence of registration is really big problem for them in terms of getting jobs, getting basic social service and health care. This may emphasize the growth of diseases like AIDS, tuberculosis in the society. There are many cases when women gave births at home. Many of them do not know their rights. All these problems were raised by the migrants themselves.

The purpose of this project is to make government see all these problems, so in the future hopefully they will be resolved.

Akylbek Baltabaev



Diversity week is coming soon

What is it? It is a week when all students unite by nations and present their traditions, customs, culture. It is a week when students get a chance to know each other better, because they prepare to this week together. The first Diversity Week was found seven years ago by World Club. Then it becomes annual tradition of AUCA life. Each day of this week is given to show different aspects of nations: for example, at first day students should represent their national clothes, second day – scenes, like fairy tail in different nations, the third day – national food, and then finally there is conducted a great concert. This event clearly shows that although we have so many different national treasures, anyway we are one big bright family. I am sure that coming Diversity week will be as amazing as last year. Just lets wish good luck to all participants and look forward Diversity Week!

Janelle Kudaibergen



Если долго мучиться, что-нибудь получится: **Initiation 2009**

For one month every student could hear how somebody was shouting different cues; how different kind of music was spreading throughout AUCA and how the unceasing voice of N.G Shulgin was heard in the hall of the second floor. It was preparation for the Initiation show of the year of 2009.

Confidently, I can say that it was a hard work – all the rehearsals took a lot of time. The most difficult part was to gather all the people, who were interested in this show, and get from them some new and creative ideas. Sacrificing personal time and the time on studying, participants of Initiation just about lived in CH-1 from 15:35 until 21:00 rehearsing new dances or new sketches. Fortunately, all the students were strong enough to go through this complicated and tough task.

The theme of Initiation was musical “Happiness”, where Theater “Debut” gathered different styles of dances and songs, plays and sketches. As usual, the head and producer of this important show was N.G Shulgin, who did everything to implement his ideas and thoughts in reality. Thanks to him, many students understood how it is hard but interesting to be and play on the stage in different roles. He showed and explained how to behave on the stage, when it is time to leave it, and other important details, which helped to perform confidently and bravely.

Diana Takutdinova



-My first impression was that the concert was very well-organized. Starting with the speech of Ellen Hurwitz and ending with an impressionable concert, there was no time to be bored. The Initiation concert held all my attention till the end. I could not imagine that we have so many creative students – the dancing, singing and acting performers were amazing. I am very thankful, to all the creators of this show, for presenting us (freshmen) such a memorable gift on our Initiation of 2009!!! **Yulia Tsoi ES-109.**



photos by Maksim Shubovich



Initiation: A Real AUCA Happiness: freshman's perspective

The most amazing and amusing event of all student life: Initiation! Now, we are real AUCA students, dear freshmen! (prolonged applause and congratulations) Happiness and different variations on this topic became a theme of Initiation 2009, with which so much expectations were connected. “Yellow-blue bus... Yellow-blue bus...” a huge Philharmonia’s concert hall whispered, holding a hope that some miracle would happen. And miracle took its place: everyone was granted with his or her own piece of happiness during the concert. Why was it possible to occur? Because we were (and are, of course are) all TOGETHER!!! Initiation makes everyone to be a part of wholeness and feel happiness of its simple understanding.

Long and sometimes even boring everyday rehearsals are left behind...and also waiting for something imposing and colossal with them...feeling of belonging to this “imposing,” feeling of “being together” and united.

Today while I am writing these lines and thinking about the previous evening I am realizing that something has changed inside my soul: emptiness instead of great expectations, satisfaction instead of emotion, and the most important thing – shortage of all the preparatory actions and attendant feelings. What does it mean: My feet do not go home after classes, my mind don’t want to think about assignments, remembering yesterday’s concert? What is happening? Post-Initiation syndrome?! Everything was held on the best level, and why am I so sad? Maybe, happiness really occurs while you are pending for it?

By Svetlana Verchenko