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IS IT POSSIBLE TO COMBINE UNIVERSITY WITH WORK?

The reasons are plenty as to why students try to work during their time in the university. For job experience, extra cash, new friends. In a very short time, these ordinary students turn into young professionals, who are hired for the job like "hot cakes".

Certainly, students from different universities have different opinions concerning this topic. A small study showed that the more difficulties one faces, the greater the desire to get sufficient knowledge in order to overcome.

"While working as a web-designer last year, I really had to do my best, because that job required lots of time and knowledge," Vladimir Semchishin, an AUCA student from Software Engineering Department said.

"I don't regret of working there. I didn't only receive knowledge, but I also made friends with useful people," he added.

The first work experience will not only give students professional knowledge, but also useful connections, which in turn means not just a superfluous rec-

ommendation for a future job.

As studies show, the less time you have, the more things appear that you'd like to complete.

"It's hard to imagine my life without working," Nargiza Ryskulova, AUCA Journalism student emphasized.

According to Nargiza, sometimes it's a lot harder than just studying, but she understands that her work helps her to be always fulfilled, and it also fosters a responsibility for what she is doing.

When a student has a hectic working day, he always tries to be on time everywhere, and this pressure of work cultivates punctuality. As a rule, these students

are able to manage their time wisely.

However, having a strong desire to gain experience in future profession, students become thoroughly engrossed in the working process, leaving behind their main duty. There are students who saw a decrease in their GPA,

and the only reason was work. The lack of time makes them choose between work and study, and most of the time the choice is not in favor of study.

"My teacher always told me that right now I only have time for studying, that's why I need to use it to the full measure," Svetlana Suhoparova, an AUCA Journalism student said.

As a rule, full-time work requires a lot of time, and that appears to be a problem for many students, because instead of sitting in the library or cramming at home, they just stay in the office until midnight and thus forget about everything.

"I think that now we need to study and get as much information as possible now in order to do our best during the full-time job in the future," Svetlana added.

However, according to a Journalism student Altynai Myrzabekova, "combining work with study does not only give you a line in your resume, but also an unforgettable experience, to which you will be grateful for the rest of your life."

It seems as though the question of working during the study process or not still remains debatable. It is left up to each student to decide for him or herself if it is possible to work hard, and maintain a reasonable GPA all the same.

Aleksandra REVINA



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DEAN OF STUDENTS COLUMN

Don't Be Afraid, My Friend Aijana



Several days ago, a student named Aijana came to my office after the AUCA Open House Day. She said, "Our University has a problem with the behavior of the incoming freshman." I asked her why and she responded, "I know a lot of high school students from Bishkek that are applying for AUCA next year." She continued, "I think that they are spoiled, self-centered children." "I think that there will be a drastic change in our unique AUCA spirit. It will be a completely new atmosphere. They will change corridor life."

After she left, I thought a lot about this. I tried to assuage her, and now I am dedicating this article to those who, like Aijana, are afraid of the aura change at AUCA. To those

who are afraid of a change in image, the special spirit, and many different aspects of the university that separates us from the rest of the city. Surrounding us are people who want to influence us, but we will stand firm. Over ten years ago, we decided to be different; to not lie, to not cheat, to be friendly with one another always, to see no difference in students, and to give every student the same right and responsibility as the rest.

I believe, in fact I am sure, that all the students, every person who enters AUCA, will accept our values. If not, he or she cannot remain studying here. We, our student body, our professors and staff body, can accommodate different people. All people. And we can make them be like us.

Don't be afraid, my dear friend Aijana. Our small island named AUCA cannot be moved. I hope all our current and future students will support this idea. We can change the world outside of AUCA, but never let it change us.

We were unique, we are unique, and we will be unique. My congratulations, Aijana. You made a good choice by choosing AUCA.

Sincerely,
Nickolay Shulgin

АНТИФАКТЫ

И что только моим детям нужно будет сделать такого, чтобы я сказала: «Я такого в молодости не делала!»?

КВН

Как-то, сидя в одном городском кафе, встретила девушку из АУЦА. Вошла она, а следом за ней на вид обеспеченный сорокалетний мужчина с животом шестимесячной беременности. У меня тут же сработала подлая привычка навешивать ярлыки и я, не задумываясь, окрестила ее «девушкой со спонсором». И не было бы мне до этой парочки больше дела, если бы в следующую минуту они не разошлись по разным столикам, дав возможность моей совести задушить меня до полусмерти. Ладно, с этой ошибочка вышла. А с другими?

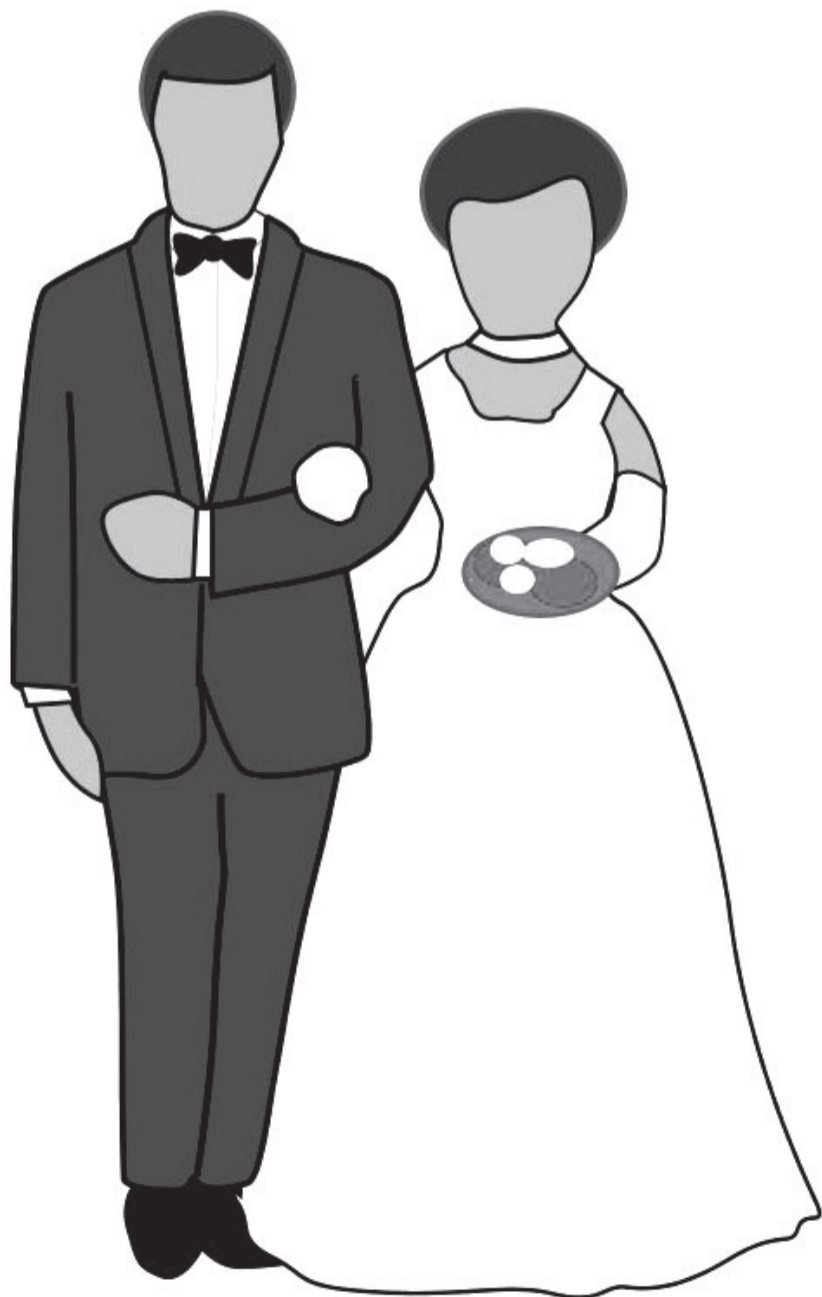
С одной стороны, кто дал мне и вам право влезать в ее личную жизнь и карман? А с другой стороны, знаете ли, не очень приятно выслушивать мнение о девушках своего учебного (!) заведения от посторонних людей. Думаю я не открою Америку, сказав, что некоторые девушки нашего города славятся своей красотой и дороговизной. Однако ранее они все как-то в соседних университетах обитали, а в последнее время ходят разговоры, что и у нас. Откуда, товарищи? Личная жизнь



каждого – это личная жизнь каждого. У нас тут больше, слава Богу, не советский союз. Однако же, моральный облик каждого из нас складывается моральный облик университета в целом. Давайте вместе развенчивать слухи за стенами университета, если в этом вообще есть смысл, конечно.

Зарина ИСАМБАЕВА
Русскоязычный редактор New Star

Mercenary Marriages for Women of 21st Century



"With a loved one, the life in a shelter is like heaven", says a Russian proverb. Most women of the 21st century do not agree with this statement.

In Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, women are tending to choose a better way of life, to give their children a good future, and the best way to do this is through prudent marriages.

In today's world there always will be two opposing views of this topic, those who believe in love and those who think it is just a futile reaction

In order for the family tree to grow, love is necessary grow, love is necessary. There are not many couples that are so in love that they gave up everything for one another. This may be because of the repercussions like poverty and the simple loss of interest in each other.

Young girls have been taught to hunt for a rich man to support her and her family in the future. This became an ideal and an unreachable goal for many.

"If I were to choose love or a life of luxury, I would definitely choose marriage based on material values. I do not believe in love, because many of us are in search of a beautiful life, and only a materially rich person can provide it long term," junior student at AUCA Jeyran Babadjanova said.

Luxury and money cover most problems in life, and most couples fight due to the absence of money. The only question is: will there be enough love for both of you?

"If the marriage is based on true love, then all other human needs like money will vanish," Myahri Annayeva said.

The difference between young people and the elderly is that the elderly can tell from the start what marriage is better. We all live with one belief inside of us; the belief to love and be loved someday.

"A person without material value can make your beautiful life last only for a short period of time," Jeyran said.

Many can blame the world for being so cruel and life so hard that they are losing the ability to love, turning themselves into robots. However, there are still those who believe that the miracle of love will someday come down on them.

"I would rather choose marriage with love, because that is the feeling that people search for all their lives. In order for the family tree to

grow, love is necessary. No amount of money and no luxury can replace it," Myahri Annayeva said.

Poverty has brought the society to arranged marriages, interest in money brought us to find them near rich people, and life without needs became our primary goal.

"There is a confidence in tomorrow and the end of your life. Some might say that love is important, but scientists have stated that the love hormone lasts only several years, and feelings cannot guarantee you a perfect life," Nargiza Metyakubova said.

Hormones of love, they live in us and dictate how long we love. Our brain tells who to love. Our consciousness tells us why we love.

The reaction of one student towards the Russian proverb is that no matter what qualities the person is looking for in other person, one of them will always be money.

"Well, if the shelter will be like a five-star hotel, I will love him always," Nargiza Metyakubova said.

Lida CHIKALOVA



The author of the article, "The Student Senate or the Disco Department?", Yevgeniy Trapeznikov was not satisfied with the editing in the last edition of Star. The author requested a full re-published version of the article. So, here it is.

Editorial Board

Apathy: I wonder how, I wonder why

a spectacular way: voters' attention is riveted, imagination starts to draw a fairy picture of perfect AUCA future. Suppose, similar lures have worked; now, it is time to realize them.

Do you think the university had by its haphazard funny opinion decided to make some courses offered through Arts and Sports Program chargeable? Students used to hear that the AUCA lacks money. Evidence stems from annual tuition fee increase, for example. To reverse the plight, which is promised to be done by candidates, would require AUCA strain its financial sinews to dangerous limits. Opening student room and extra feeding centre with a bunch of like ideas confronts obvious problem of finding space at the AUCA. By the way, one may find it ironical, Student Senate could be held responsible for closing that very controversial Studroom. According to Star dated back to November 8, 2007, under the words "did it [Senate] make any essential decisions this year?" one may find among different things the following: "Because of a Student Senate decision last November, the Students' Room (Studroom) was given up for an MBA clinic, which is surely good for the BA and Economics departments." One accomplishment for two departments and a bitter disappointment for the rest of the university – indeed, super-controversial decision! If Senate had occurred more prudent, he would think twice before promoting the idea.

The above were a few ideas, but very powerful ones, that rare candidate does not pursue to incorporate them in the pre-election list of promises. Realization or non-realization of proposals coupled with stirred imagination is likely to mould solid predisposition about a particular senator, making voters reluctant and skeptical to cast their votes, or to exercise suffrage whatsoever. Some of the ideas are deprived of knowledge that must be present from the beginning. For example, easing housing problems is one of them. In different variations many candidates came up with this problem. First, its implementation would require sociological research with subsequent results as to how many foreign students would apply for agencies – why not friends or newspapers, for example? Secondly, who is going to allocate money for conducting the sociological work? Many foreign students leave AUCA after spring finals, some stay, some have relatives and so on.

Well, let's leave the question since it is not paramount to discuss among, say, notorious dormitory and student room ones. I suggest addressing the issue of how electorate responds to candidates' profuse promises to fathom, if not solid, but distinctly growing apathy.

"Because it's nonsense," said Maijanova Selbi, an ICP freshman, when asked about why she had not voted. "The promises are impossible to realize," Selbi commented confidently. She does

not believe in the possibility of free violin courses to come true. Maksad, a sophomore girl from Sociology department, who had been voting for two years, said that "neither studroom nor paper account promises have practically realized."

From year to year pre-election campaigns trend clearly to turn into full-scale PR enterprise. To the question posed by Star reporter Meerim Kuchukeeva about what will happen to the campaigns in the future, Student Coordinator Venera Kim said that with evolving technologies students are likely to explore different ways to advertise their ideas. However, some voters noted that placards appeared pointless. A journalist freshman Batma Kanybek kyzy noticed an advertising poster which contained among other agenda items words like "many things." "I could not understand what it meant to be," Batma confessed. According to Batma, she was confused for what kinds of "many things" she had to vote.

Posters usually portraying candidates along with their program tasks are considered paramount during election campaign. "They do not have clear and distinct agenda. Candidates cannot be commissioned to implement some provisions [of their agenda]," Nazik Mamedova, a journalism junior, said.

Tatiana Geldymamedova, an American Studies junior said she read all agendas and could not find anything feasible. Tatiana said that most of the issues candidates touched upon "bear predominantly administrative nature" – thus, cannot be arranged. "It's not decided on the Senate's level," Tatiana added.

Natalia Grachyova, a BA junior, had noted "no real changes in senatorial activity." According to Natalia, Senate is better known for "organizing disco parties." The same opinion is shared by Rustam Gainazarov, a journalism senior, who labeled Senate "Disco Department."

According to Dilnura Khalilova, an ICP senior, a former senator, there is a huge "invisible work" Senate performs, "about which students do not read and do not know." The survey ascertained that students are eager to know and understand what a certain candidate is going to implement. The only information they can base their opinion on comes from agenda lists, interviews by reporters, and pamphlets, which sometimes get complicated or uncertain. In this respect it is amusing to recall Dilnura's own portions of interview printed by Star in November 13, 2006: "We don't have the campaign's agenda... Our friends are going to vote for us." That is quite an intrinsic part of elections: a rare student has been able to make out differences lurked inside garish posters.

Apathy is getting even more conspicuous in respect of rationale used by students to cast a vote. About 75% surveyed who have still voted did this motivated by friendship feelings or a country of common origin. The result, so far, cannot be characterized by clear interest in elections – voting was largely happen-

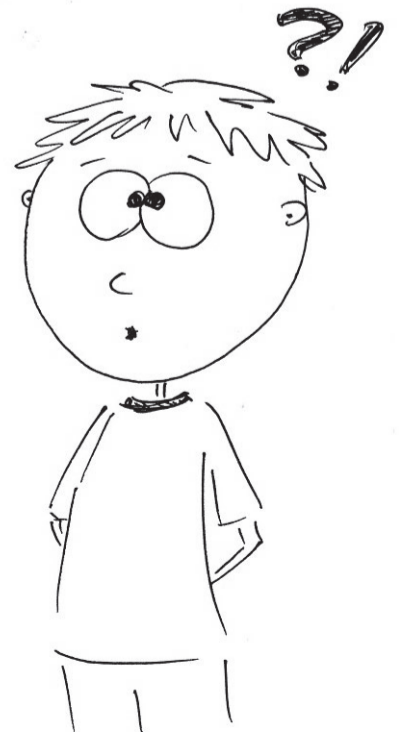
ing due to collateral motivation. Approximately 70% of those, who have voted, were asked to by agitators beforehand. The fact cannot evidence any practice of rational approach to suffrage; electorate is not involved in critical thinking process. The balance of 30% voted for reasons going also far away from academic perspective. Some say they liked exterior of posters; others were shooting "bad shots"; the thirds have seen familiar names.

The last thing, I would like to mention, that added to apathetic trend in a minor way was holding of voting itself. Batma Kanybek kyzy is said to complain about other people able to see her choices – what about direct, SECRET voting? Forgotten. Some voters felt lack of ballot boxes. Although, according to election rules, any electioneering must be ceased, I have personally plucked one poster at the lab building days after actual voting had taken place.

Considering survey results we may not wonder how and why apathy towards Senate and elections in particular is shaped. Nevertheless, recent AUCA polling showed record turn-out in history. Moreover, there is a shift in the group activity; usually the biggest turn-out traditionally belonged to freshmen as apparently the most easily impressed category, for whom the AUCA political life seems to be novelty. However, last time the biggest turn-out was that of sophomore's.

AUCA senatorial custom is a good and useful simulation of what may be going outside academic boundaries; but pursuit of similitude must be as close as possible: capacities should be equally gauged, rules must be appropriately enforced, and campaign must be organized in proper way. For example, candidates can be taught basics of politics science and public relations to be eligible nominees. First and foremost, they have to hold highest standards of responsibility before people whose interests they are representing.

Yevgeniy TRAPEZNIKOV



Although Senate topic is exuberant in the newspaper, one has to have his voice not only "counted" but also written. A huge debate over advisability of Student Senate hardly leaves

Survey, however superficial, conducted within AUCA community has ascertained that students mainly feel apathetic towards elections. Moreover, the apathy was fixed among the largest group of voters for this year – sophomores, although other categories distinguished themselves in only slightly a better way. The reason for that may be fewer students believe in senatorial decision-making capacity: none of the 25 interviewed expressed confidence about senatorial significance in influencing academic policy and representing student interests. However, I have found out people (totaling five) who refused flat out to be interviewed when told about the topic. It turns out that some of AUCA citizens are afraid of talking publicly about Senate.

"You may ask me whatever you want – dormitory, disco, registration period, economics – but I am not gonna answer questions about Senate," – an AUCA girl, who preferred to be incognito, said. At the question whether she felt frightened about her opinion published she replied "yes." Several others also refused to comment on Senate and elections, having extended grave concern about "possible consequences."

The matter is that the student representative body deems to be the only organization verging on "real" university power. According to the rooted tradition stemming apparently from Soviet time, we try to abstain from situations involving even hazy conflict with official authorities.

For the very aforesaid reason underlining connection between Senate and academic authorities, it would be better to have more credible air on the part of students toward the representative body they choose annually.

Selecting is the process involving predispositions, which, in turn, are based on preceding deeds. What kind of deeds do AUCA dwellers have in mind about Senate to come from? Here we have a formula: pre-election promises plus after-election results. Promises are plentiful and easily discernible: to do this and this, improve that and that, provide such and such. Who does not want free Arts courses with American professionals? Do not international students want dormitory? Who does not want student room and extra feeding centre? One must have remembered present and past-year promises made in the same manner?

Seemingly sincere pledges work in

Beauty Contest Finds Its Victims – Freshmen Girls

Student Senate came up with a new way to involve AUCA students to participate in social life at the university

AUCA will host a beauty contest on February 13, 2009, where ten freshmen girls will present themselves from different artistic angles, representing different countries, and will try to take first place and earn the chance to compete among other Bishkek universities.

However, the interest to take part in this contest was dropping at a staggering rate. Since 2008, participation has decreased from 30 students to 10.

"There is not much to see or be impressed by," a freshman boy said.

Those who do participate are going to face several challenges where they will represent the cultures of different countries in very unique dresses, do the catwalk in different styles, and show their skills in speech.

One of the participants, a freshman Nar-giza, shared her goals of the contest:

"The reason why I am taking part in it is to increase my self-esteem, to be more recognizable in the university and to get first place so I can participate in the beauty contest among other universities."

Yet, there still are people who are not aware of the fact that a beauty contest is taking place so soon.

"I did not know anything about it. I guess not enough advertising is being put

up, that's why not a lot of people come to participate," Sveta Kobaliya said.

The point is true, as the representatives of the contest had only posted a few fliers around AUCA, but those ten freshmen found their way. However, a majority of students are concerned with only their studies. The semester has begun and students are busy with the beginning of new classes.

"I have many things to do and to spare

my time on some contest is nonsense," Sveta Kobaliya said.

A diverse atmosphere allows students at the university to choose different goals and activities for themselves, and it appears that fewer people seek to gain general acceptance among their peers.

"I decided with my friends to sign up and I was the tenth girl," said Diana Takutdinova.

As another contestant in the Miss AUCA

contest, Takutdinova's goals are slightly different than what most other girls are looking for in the contest.

"The goal of the contest is to move people closer to aesthetics and beauty. The hardest thing is to present public speaking skills. I am also going to wear a dress, which I rarely do," Takutdinova said.

For the only people interested in the beauty contest, freshmen, there have been a lot of new appearances in their first year. For some, this could be a big deal.

The recognition, new friends, even the attention, is what many freshmen need in their first year at university.

"I think that the older students do not have anything left to seek out or open for themselves, unlike us who want to discover ourselves," Takutdinova said.

Contrasting the freshmen, the majority of juniors are stepping outside of AUCA to find social life. Apparently they had enough performances in the two previous years.

"It is a good thing that AUCA has such contests, let the kids have fun. Personally I would like to participate, but I would rather spend my time on something important," said Myahri Annayeva.

Lida CHIKALOVA



An Evening by the Candle Lights



A classical concert named "The Evening by the Lights of Candles" was held on January 26 in memory of Viktoriya Lavrova, a former AUCA student and later instructor. She passed away three years ago. In memorial, her parents, students, fellow instructors and friends came to pay tribute.

Lavrova graduated from AUCA in 2001 with a B.A. in International and Comparative Politics. She worked as a student coordinator in the Student Affairs office. Afterwards, she entered the Ball State University in

Muncie, Indiana, U.S.A., where she earned a Master's degree in Political Science. Later, she returned to AUCA and worked as an instructor of ICP department. Unfortunately, three years ago her life and career came abruptly to an end in a car accident.

The memorial evening began with lighting candles on the stage. The twilight promoted people to think about eternity. According to Nikolay Shulgin, the Dean of Students, candles were chosen because they best fit the character of people's lives. He added that, like candles, people are on fire, from the beginning they burn

brightly, then calmer and calmer, and some of them are blown by the wind, unexpectedly.

Shulgin delivered the opening speech, whereupon musical items followed. Classical music executed by pianists and violonists pleased the ears all those in attendance, sounding very heartfelt. Moreover, participants of "Debut" read poetry about life and humanness. Overall, there prevailed a peculiar atmosphere which made everyone engrossed in thought.

"Thanks to Nikolay Grigorievich and other people, we did not allow this evening to become just another commemoration," Lazarina Kuchmenova said.

The evening was saturated with philosophical questions which made people stop and think about the value of life and relationships.

Lavrova was very popular while she was studying and teaching. She helped and loved students, she treated them like her own children.

"For all my years of studying here, Viktoriya was the youngest and the most beautiful instructor," Dilnura Khalilova, ICP senior said. "She was not only a teacher but an advisor as well. Listening to her calm and confident voice certainly arose the feeling that everything will be alright."

Remembering Lavrova, Khalilova emphasized that it was "an irreplaceable loss."

"I will remember Viktoriya always because one can not forget such a pure soul," Khalilova said. "It is really bitter loss for all of us but she will always live in our hearts, so she will live eternally."

Altynai MYRZABEKOVA



Through the lens

One student's observation of the internship hosted by Professor Hersh Chadha in Dubai, UAE

From Jan 2 to Jan 20, I participated in an internship conducted by Professor Hersh Chadha, dedicated to photojournalism, in Dubai, UAE.

I had several goals before going to this internship. The first was to improve my photography skills, the second was to understand the concept of photojournalism, and the third was to develop my writing.

For twenty days, my ability to photograph developed immensely. My

tasks were to work with people, animals, birds, architecture, and flowers. I worked with different equipment, from typical Samsung NV11 camera to a professional Nikon D3 in order to feel the difference of innovations. Using different lenses, wide and zoom, I was able to understand how many objects should be in focus. The work with zoom lens was very challenging as the camera has around 51 different focuses and to catch the right image, I had to develop good speed.

Writing was another aspect covered during the internship. When applying for a job as a photojournalist, both you and the company will benefit if you are able to photograph and write. Usually two people do this work, but if one wants to earn more, it is better to learn how to do it.

An interesting assignment that I did was creating a story through photographs of the Dubai



Mall, advertising the mall to airplane passengers that are flying to the UAE. Afterwards I had to present the covering story for it. It was a real advertising campaign.

As I am also interested in glamour photography, I was introduced to one of the top five models in Dubai, Jenet. She talked about her career and we were to pose for Tanya Kravchenko, a photographer. Posing as a model helped me to set a timer for myself how to, and where to, take pictures correctly.

Photography in the beginning is hard thing, but the passion to capture the moment drives you towards learning more. Later when you discover your own techniques and learn from professional photographers, the things such as right angle, correctly placed shadow, good position of the photographer, the lightning, and

many more, these are the things you learn to keep in mind while photo-shooting.

In order for the beginner of photography to get good pictures, you need two things. First a teacher with sense of critique, second the desire to photograph whenever, wherever, and however. In order to find your style or 'fingerprint' you need to take at least 10,000 pictures.

Professor Chadha has a very unusual approach of teaching. He spends several minutes and tells you all the rules, dos and don'ts, and then you have to work on your own. In just a matter of weeks, I discovered photo-techniques that I was not aware of, learned skills in movie making, and simply understood the writing style for advertising campaigns.

Lida CHIKALOVA



Open House Day at AUCA



On January 31, American University of Central Asia conducted the Open House Day for the 2009-10 applicants and their parents.

Guests received complete information about academic programs, scholarships, and financial aid. Moreover, AUCA representatives arranged campus tours around the university where entrants could

become closely acquainted with the alma mater.

In this event, presentations of every department were arranged where visitors were free to ask questions. Afterwards, a special meeting for parents was organized with the representatives of the university. According to the PR Office, Open House Day saw more than 700 applicants not

only from Bishkek but from other regions as well.

On the whole, Open House Day was organized well, but there were negative moments also. Firstly, guests were coming in one-by-one before the prearranged time. It would be better if organizers assembled visitors outside and then let them enter together. Secondly, there was a lack of seriousness, which would have made the event more effective. Finally, per

diem was too much information for applicants.

However, entrants had an opportunity to learn more about social life of the university. Some of the visitors were impressed by the freedom of style and behavior of AUCA students. Hopefully those who visited on Open House Day will come to Orientation Week more prepared in terms of social behavior at AUCA.

Altynai MYRZABEKOVA



WORK AND TRAVEL И ФИНАНСОВЫЙ КРИЗИС...СОВМЕСТИМЫ ЛИ..?

Многие студенты задаются вопросом: Стоит ли ехать в Америку по Work and Travel? Будет ли там достаточно работы? Оправдаю ли я свои затраты и заработаю ли еще сверхприбыль?

Финансовый кризис очень сильно повлиял на финансовый сектор Америки. Многие американцы остались без работы, но большинство из них являются квалифицированными работниками, которые не создают конкуренции для сезонных работников, таких как участники W&T. Бывалые участники знают, что основную конкуренцию создают такие же участники из других стран. Учитывая нынешнее финансовое положение в Америке и в мире в целом, а также учитывая нерешительность многих студентов ехать в Америку, можно сказать, что в этом году конкуренция между участниками будет намного слабее, чем в прошлом году. В Америке летний период – это время повышенной занятости (busy period). Люди берут отпуска, открывается множество ресторанов и парков развлечений, во многих курортах начинается сезон. Поэтому, какое бы положение не было в этой стране, там всегда будет потребность в сезонных рабочих.

Америка это страна равных возможностей, и страна где люди уважают и боятся закона. Многие студенты переживают, что работодатель может уволить или мало давать возможности заработать. На самом-то деле, работодатель не вправе увольнять работника без веской на то причины, потому что существует контракт и работодатель несет определенную ответственность за участника программы Work and Travel. Таким образом,

компанией и спонсорской организацией уделяется особое внимание к подбору вакансий. Работодатели обязаны выполнять данные обязательства перед организациями – спонсорами, а также перед участниками. Иначе говоря, стабильная работа в Америке будет обеспечена и соответствовать она будет всем пунктам в рабочем контракте (Job Offer). Однако, если возникнет какое-то недопонимание между участником и работодателем, то в этом случае лучше обратиться к спонсорской организации и компании – представителю, то есть к нам. Спонсор и компания-представитель, в свою очередь, обязуются решать любые возникающие вопросы и проблемы.

В настоящее время у многих создается впечатление, что программа Work and Travel – это только способ заработать деньги. Но не стоит забывать, что, во-первых, это уникальная программа, которая дает возможность совсем недорого съездить в США, расширить свое мировоззрение, познакомиться с самой популярной страной в мире, попутешествовать и извлечь много полезного для себя за такой короткий промежуток времени как лето. Ведь, окончив университет, практически уже будет мало шансов посетить эту великолепную страну, в силу новых жизненных обстоятельств, визовых критерий в посольстве США, а также финансовых возможностей, так как выехать в Америку будет уже намного дороже и сложнее. Поэтому дерзай, пока еще студент!

Не стоит забывать, что кризис это время больших возможностей. Многие из преуспевающих бизнесменов зарабатывали свой капитал именно во время кризиса.

Если правильно и обдуманно использовать ситуацию, то можно получить множество плюсов из сложившейся ситуации.

Мы считаем, что время кризисов – это в первую очередь, время перемен. А какую пользу вы извлечете с этих перемен, решать только Вам.

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WORLD CRISIS AND OTHER NUANCES OF WORK AND TRAVEL PROGRAM

When the participant of the Work and Travel program, Zhyldyz Kudaibergenova, went to South Carolina for work, her expectations were not met. She had to wait for an open position at a hotel for two weeks. Then, one week after the working process began, the employers discharged all staff, referring to the lack of clients. Afterwards, Zhyldyz went to Iowa to work in a Meat Packing Plant where, in spite of the competition she could get, was fixed up to a job. But despite this she was not compensated for all the costs of the program.

Upon her arrival to the US, Zhyldyz became a witness to a number of hotels shutting down as well as plants and restaurants in connection with the economic crisis. According to Zhyldyz, it was the reason why many foreign students were left without work.

Besides this, employers of functioning enterprises reduced working hours of employees, although in the contract minimum hours were agreed.

"Shortened hours influenced our salary," Kudaibergenova said. US employers just let people go home.

Unfortunately, Kudaibergenova is not the only case. Most of the students, who go to America to gain experience and earn money, did not receive the latter because of the latest financial markets' situation.

However, according to Tilek Shamurzaev, coordinator of "AmerEx" company, the crisis largely affected big companies such as car factories and financial companies. Employers who hire AUCA students mostly represent average business. This part of business is less immune to the crisis than big businesses.

"Students from Kyrgyzstan who work for average business will not feel the crisis," Shamurzaev said.

The Work and Travel program is good not only for students but for American employers as well. In the summer, America needs working-hands. Some Kyrgyz companies collaborate with employers who work for the consumer services, where maintenance staff is needed. Owing to this program, American employers fill up the lack of working hands by recruiting foreign students, paying not as much money.

More than ten "Work and Travel" companies operate in the Kyrgyz market. "But unfortunately not all of them

perform their work properly," the coordinator of "AmerEx" company said.

According to Shamurzaev, because of the lack of vacancies, some companies begin offering fictitious work-stations. Consequently, after arrival to America students remain without work.

"It is a direct violation of the law, and an unfair attitude towards the students," Shamurzaev said. "It would be better if students chose the companies where such experi-

ence," Chaikozova said. "If there are no jobs for Americans, what about foreign students?"

Aitahunova Cholpon, another AUCA student, has a different point of view concerning this subject. Her position is that the financial crisis will not have an impact on the Work and Travel participants, because in America they perform unskilled labor.

"I agree, big companies are being discharged but I do not think that representatives of prestigious jobs will switch to lower paid jobs, creating competition to foreign students," Aitahunova said.

According to Merzahmedov Ibragim, the crisis will affect this year as it did in 2008 when he was a witness to many American citizens left without a job. For example, McDonald's dismissed numerous workers, including foreign students, because of a decrease in the clients and revenue. Moreover, he counseled the future Work and Travel participants to arrange work hours (min. 40 hours a week) before sending the documents.

Another piece of advice how to not lose earned money was given by Alexandra Revina, AUCA student. Her advice is to forward salaries to Kyrgyz banks, as all American banks are non-stable nowadays.

The entire world economic crisis and the earnings of Work and Travel participants bring to mind one line where one thing depends on another. Big companies are being discharged, more citizens become unemployed, consequently they spend less money on entertaining, which affects the average business where less maintenance staff needed and, as a result, it influences the employment and shortens the working hours of the students.

This summer, Zhyldyz is going to do a practical work in the US Embassy in Bishkek. She does not have any desire to go to America by this program anymore.

"We pay our money, we go to America, and we work only in order to reimburse our costs," Zhyldyz said.

Aitynai MYRZABEKOVA



ences are nonexistent."

Going back to the subject of an economic crisis, AUCA students were quick to share their opinions.

According to Chaikozova Nargiza, AUCA student, the world crisis will terrifically affect employment and cause competition among employees.

"In December alone millions of Americans lost their jobs, consequently this year possibly you will find a job



SOS & Ends

So long you go, because you must
So hard you try to get the trust
So big is there a spacious lust
So blessed you are, the rest is dust

But be aware of what you got
And challenge one before you nod
So that there won't be any doubt
And doubted if, just take it out

And mourn some time, but not a lot
And raise your head for other plot
And plot you chose shall be the dust
Since first you had was of a dust

By Turaev Rustam

Flower

Oh flowers with human beauty
Oh the eyes full of soft light
And lips that intoxicate
Oh the lips that madden
Oh God! You gave beauty
The light and song of your being
And gave my beloved in place of laughter
A garden of white and red flowers
You gave love the strength of the ocean
And the heart of king
Why did you give music the sound, the color?
And the shooting softness of prayer?
And you gave me a world of sorrow
and longings
And filled my heart with tenderness
Happiness and wonder
And then gave her dreamy eyes
Full of beauty and comfort
Sometimes flooded with moonlight
Sometimes shaded with the evening dusk
Sometimes brimming with hopes and dreams
Compassionate and loving, kind and proud
Oh God of hell and judgment and pain
Oh God of curling locks and pure pearls
and pure song
Oh God of love and beauty and youth
and madness
Oh God of the love of butterfly and the
dreams of the flower
Oh Maker of the Narcissus, the poppy
and the rose
Oh Maker of Yama, and kisses and music
Why did you make from beauty?
The city of dust
And why did you give the beloved
The light and song of your being?

By Hotak Yama

Impossible Love

The way you sigh when you look me in the eye,
Just makes my heart jump and I get lifted
up high.
Without you my life is almost living hell,
The reasons for why that is, I cannot tell.
But there is one thing that I knew from the start,
We won't end up together, you'll break my heart.
It's hard to let you go, but I'll have to try,
And in the darkness I whisper a soft "Goodbye."

Anonymous

Poetry section

UGRAD: U Get Right Academic Decision

The beginning of the spring semester is most likely to denote waking early in the morning on weekdays, attending classes, and getting prepared with home assignments. Such nuisances befall students worldwide. Numerous articles are read in student newspapers teeming with this pervasive theme.

It is no wonder that the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) moods are similar to every other academic institution. However, beyond homespun reluctance to go to a university, a portion of students feels anxious about, at least, one more question. At the beginning of the semester, the first question I got from a friend, "What is going on with UGRAD?"

It is bizarre that simultaneously students are somewhat displeased to resume studying, and concerned about an undergraduate program abroad, which would require them to actually study. Or is studying not the thing they have in mind when thinking of UGRAD?

UGRAD is the IREX-supported American government-sponsored program aimed at bringing educational opportunities to the broad spectrum of undergraduate students throughout Eurasia and Central Asia. It offers scholarships to students outside the US to enable their one-year study in American university to be free of any charge.

Babajanov Dovlet, a junior law student at AUCA, said "a freebie – the fact you do not pay for traveling to States" is what makes applicants apply in increasing numbers each year.

Orazov Maksad, a law sophomore, AUCA, said he would like to meet his friend that had promised to take him to California.

Students seem to care less for academic purposes than meeting personal expectations to explore a new country, make friends, and simply have fun without paying any fee. However, goals get apparently switched to

other priorities when finalists find themselves placed at the actual American university. That is a time to realize how powerful opportunities of the program can be.

So, what makes the program gain such popularity among foreign students – "freebie" one-year tourism?

Despite certain disappointment with being settled in small towns, Victoria Frolova, an American Studies senior, AUCA, remarked a great chance to face different cultures. According to Frolova, who spent her year in Eastern Connecticut State University, it occurred to her that even universities located in small American cities had extremely intermingled, ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds.

"I did have to wait for a friend with a car to go outside that far-away place (town in Connecticut)," Frolova reminisces. "But my university was still very good to realize human diversity." As a senior of American Studies department she was concerned about expanding her knowledge in understanding cultural diversity in US.

Her vis-à-vis, Marina Ibragimova, currently an AUCA junior, American Studies department, managed to assist her professor on American History at the University of Wisconsin-Richmond.

"You can get an associates degree that boosts your chances to get a job after the second year," Ibragimova said. According to the junior, in case of missing this opportunity students have a pretty good chance for internship in US. "In spite of my unpaid assistance, I managed to transfer it counted towards official internship in Bishkek," Ibragimova added.

Nazar Atajanov, who applied for UGRAD two times, said he was surprised at American teenagers' lifestyle. According to an AUCA Software department senior's confession, understanding American students was a

difficult task when one operates in specific stereotypes about culture.

"[Americans] had been obsessed with their own interests and emotions. I thought it was due to a lack of culture, first," considered the Bakersfield University student. "My roommate took liberties in doing whatever he wanted. His part of the room sometimes looked like a garbage can."

Despite the drawbacks, all UGRAD alumni interviewed were glad to deal with the practical issues of their field of study.

"More practice, and less theory," Atajanov said tersely. The AUCA senior said students themselves sought the notion. According to Atajanov, students of the California State University of Bakersfield were said to seek a practical application of their knowledge for years, though the institution had had "brilliant professorship." Compromise eventually found its path.

"I grew stronger about career prospects," Frolova said. "Getting experience under the UGRAD instilled confidence in me about what I precisely wish to achieve. I would like to study at one of the best universities of the world – Oxford."

Being abroad, Ibragimova met a negative example of racial discrimination toward African-American students and experienced "accent discrimination" against herself. According to a 2008 UGRAD alumna, that was all necessary experience, which might be helpful for American Studies students.

"[UGRAD] is one of the best chances to get a one-year full scholarship studying abroad," Orazov Maksad, who applied for the program in 2009, said. "Although I feel some hesitation to leave my home country and, maybe, face problems there in the US, I venture to get skills and knowledge which might be necessary for my Masters Degree in Europe or the States."

Yevgeniy TRAPEZNIKOV

Another Lost Game for AUCA Mini-Soccer Team

Last month, at the DSK sports hall, the boy's AUCA mini-soccer team was defeated while Bishkek Mini-Soccer First League continues on.

At a Bishkek Mini-Soccer First League tournament, AUCA's mini-soccer team was playing at home against "RanBroker-Kana", a bookmaker company team from Bishkek. In the ninth week of the regular season, the student team lost their game with the final score 4-10. On the home team, Berdiyev and Umarahunov each twice scored.

AUCA started the match with the following squad: goalkeeper- Musayev, defenders- Kasymbekov and Nursultanov, libero- Umarahunov, and a single forward- Berdiyev. Substitutions were Muradov, Saparov, and Ruslanov. Erkesariyev, a defender, and Koshayev, a playmaker, missed the match because of the two yellow cards they received at a previous match.

Both teams started the match with small warnings, both losing the ball in simple situations. Unfortunately, one of those losses resulted in the first goal scored by the visitor team. Nursultanov started dribbling near his goal and lost the ball. The opposing team could not miss that chance. Their forward had a rendezvous with the goalkeeper and sent the ball and the goalkeeper in different directions. After that, the student team lost confidence, and as a result, goals went in one after another, making the first-half score 0-4.

It seems like AUCA captain Umarahunov had a very serious talk with his teammates at halftime, because they scored two quick goals at the very beginning of the second half, recreating the intrigue of the match.

However, the guests were not so generous to let the students equal the score. Two minutes later, after the Berdiyev's second goal, "RanBroker-Kana" scored five consecutive goals. Later, the AUCA captain said that it was turning point of the match.

"We had a chance to make the score equal, but those five consequent goals broke us completely," he said.

Five minutes before the final whistle, Berdiyev and Umarahunov each scored one goal making the 'bitter' score more 'sweet'.

But the final goal was by the guests. Again, after the defender's mistake, the opposing team's player caught the ball at the center and started towards the home team's goal. The goalkeeper ran toward him, but he was unable to do anything. The forward dribbled past him and kicked the ball into an empty goal, thus making the final score 4-10.

Surely, that was not the score that AUCA was expecting against the "RanBroker-Kana".

Arslan Berdiyev, who scored twice, was disappointed, saying, "We played well, but of course it is difficult to function properly when one piece is out of the whole mechanism."

According to AUCA players, Tenggelbes Musayev was unanimously voted as the man of the match.

Despite the setback, AUCA players remain ambitious.

"Surely, we are not broken. We lost everything, even a chance to qualify to the next round, but we did not lose our pride and we are going to fight till the last minute of the last match," a disappointed Umarahunov said.

AUCA mini-soccer team is in Group "A". After the nine played games they are in tenth place with five points, behind them only "Intermedia" and "Birlik".

Next week they are facing against the outsider "Birlik", according to which goalkeeper Musayev expects only victory.

"This week, during the trainings, we will focus on teamwork. We think that it will help us to overcome against 'Birlik'."

Ovez KOSHAYEV



Farewell Kiss to Dilnura Khalilova

Дильнур Халилова – студенческий координатор, студентка четвертого курса на департаменте ИСР, «драмщица», FLEX, волонтер в UNESCO... Кто же она? Идеальный человек? Как она все успевает? Как она этого добилась? В чем ее секрет?

- Почему АУЦА? Что побудило тебя поступить именно сюда?

- Как я уже сказала, я – FLEX. А большинство «флексов» поступают в АУЦА и именно на ИСР. Ой, на самом деле, я очень хотела учиться в АУЦА и выбрала ИСР, потому что хотела что-нибудь международное. Ранее я хотела стать дизайнером, но, к сожалению, АУЦА не предоставляет пока такой возможности. А также у меня была идея поступить на факультет Права или Журналистики. Но все же выбрала ИСР, а журналистику сделала «майнером».

- Ты здесь многого

добилась. В чем твой секрет?

- АУЦА – это уникальное заведение, может быть еще не аккредитованное и т.д., но у нас очень много сильных преподавателей, которые дают знания на всю жизнь, которые пригодятся в жизни, а не просто ради галочки. Еще, спасибо огромное Н.Г. Шульгину. Я с первого курса записана в «Драме», и всегда была близка к Офису по делам студентов. Я была волонтером на огромном количестве мероприятий. И именно этот офис помог мне и дал необходимый опыт.

- Ты сейчас учишься и в то же время работаешь как студенческий координатор. Твоя жизнь, наверное, безумна и беспокойна. Как ты с этим справляешься?

- На самом деле, работа мне только в радость. Когда Венера мне предложила работать, я была просто в восторге, хоть мне и было немного страшно. Я не говорю что это все очень легко. Иногда бывало сложно, особенно, когда была сессия, но, к счастью, я справилась. Меня поддерживали друзья. А наш офис с пониманием относится к тому, что я все еще учусь. Поэтому я не могу сказать, что у меня есть какой-то особый секрет. Мне просто нравится то, чем я занимаюсь.

- Поскольку ты человек, у тебя, наверное, как у других, бывают всякие «кризисные моменты». Что или кто поддерживает тебя в эти времена?

- Конечно, чаще всего это мама. Ну и сестра, вернее у меня их две. Одна – родная, вторая – сноха. Для меня, семья это главный источник поддержки. А когда я ото всего устаю, просто беру выходной, провожу его дома, в тишине, с книжкой, или просто смотрю по телевизору какие-нибудь

абсолютно глупые передачи, или занимаюсь «ничегонеделанием».

- К чему ты больше всего прислушиваешься, к своим знаниям или к своей интуиции?

- Я – консервативный человек, и чаще всего бываю рациональна. Но иногда бывают такие порывы, когда я что-нибудь делаю, опираясь на интуицию; иногда помогало, а иногда нет.

- Что для тебя значит жизнь?

- Жизнь это – путешествие. Ты его начинаешь с третьего роддома, и не знаешь

где ты, когда это путешествие закончится, куда

оно тебя забросит. Путешествие, которое мы можем сами планировать. Мы можем сами решать, хотим мы, чтобы этот пункт назначения был в нашей жизни или нет.

- А как ты представляешь себе настоящую дружбу?

- Говорят, что «друзья познаются в беде», я же думаю, что друзья также познаются и в счастье. Бывают случаи, когда тебе хорошо, но друзья от тебя отворачиваются. И это очень больно. Для меня настоящая дружба это, когда человек может искренне за тебя радоваться, а не только сопереживать.

- Что ты больше всего ценишь в людях?

- В людях я ценю искренность, уважение и ум. Но думаю, каждый

человек привлекает нас чем-то своим. У многих людей бывает какое-то непонятное обаяние. Ты не знаешь что именно, но понимаешь, что что-то

есть. И еще, в какой-то мере, амбициозность. Не ждуть, пока жизнь будет преподносить тебе подарки, а как бы стремиться ко всему. Самому двигаться, работать, что-то делать.

- Что для тебя значит счастье? В какие моменты ты чувствуешь себя счастливой?

- Счастье – когда твои близкие здоровы, когда у них все хорошо, когда есть интересная, любимая работа, когда есть рядом любимый человек, который тебя понимают и поддерживают. Счастье – когда ты можешь обеспечить своих родителей, помогать не просто советом, а полностью помогать и поддерживать их. Счастье – когда у тебя есть друзья. Все что окружает нас – это счастье. И самой счастливой я себя ощущала, когда я родилась. Думала, наконец-то я родилась. Но, в принципе, каждый день для меня счастливый. Иногда чувствую себя весь день счастливой, иногда два часа, а иногда полчаса, когда сессии.

- У тебя есть мечта? Расскажи о ней.

- Обязательно. Говорят, что нельзя рассказывать о своей мечте. Но для АУЦА я сделаю исключение. Моя

мечта – найти любимую работу. Я не всю жизнь буду работать студенческим координатором и...

- А жаль

- Да. А дальше, как любая нормальная центрально-азиатская консервативная девушка, я хочу создать семью с достойным человеком. А что насчет учебы, еще не задумывалась, хочу ли я получать «магистра» или нет.

- Ты проговорила, что когда у тебя отдых, ты любишь читать книги. Твое любимое произведение, любимый автор?

- Как бы ужасно это ни звучало, но я фанатею от Гарри Поттера. По-моему, в седьмом классе прочитала первую книжку, и с тех пор я просто обожаю его. Я обожаю все произведения Чингиза Айтматова, которые прочитала. А недавно на каникулах начала читать «Граф Монтекристо».

- А музыка? Какой жанр музыки ты предпочитаешь?

- Я меломанка. И «I will always love you» Уитни Хьюстон, это «forever ever». Обожаю уйгурскую музыку, как эстрадную, так и национальную. Особенно национальную,

традиционную, музыкальных инструментов и т.д. А из **действительно хотим, всегда можно кыргызски и можешь что-то назвать?**

- Мне нравится песня «Ооруба ата, ооруба». И есть еще одна песня про маму, кажется Мирбека Атабекова.

- Алтын энем?

- Да, вот. Так значит это – Мирбек Атабеков? Слава богу, я поняла кто это.

- Твоя любимая кухня?

- Уйгурская и мексиканская. Мы в штатах часто ходили в мексиканские рестораны, поэтому я люблю эту кухню. Из уйгурских всегда будет любимым – гюро лагман.

- Ты веришь в астрологию? Кто ты по гороскопу?

- Я – козерог. Ну, а гороскоп... если это что-нибудь хорошее, то я верю, а если что-нибудь плохое, то я не верю.

- Ты когда-нибудь замечала за собой какие-то характеристики, свойственные козерогам?

- Да. Говорят, что козероги упрямые и пессимисты. Я может быть и не пессимист, но у меня бывают какие-то периоды, когда мне все кажется в черном цвете, хотя я этого не показываю. Но потом раз, и все проясняется, солнце опять выходит.

- Если бы ты оказалась в прошлом, и если бы у тебя была возможность изменить что-то, что бы ты сделала?

- Единственное что я бы действительно изменила, возможно, вела бы себя по-другому, не упрячилась бы. Особенно, когда дело касается недопонимания с семьей, этого, конечно, было мало, но



все-таки мы люди, все бывает.

- Есть ли в АУЦА что-то или кто-то что удерживает тебя здесь остаться?

- Студенты! Мне очень приятно, когда они обращаются ко мне за помощью.

- Какие у тебя планы на будущее и как ты видишь себя через пять лет?

- Как говорят на ИСР, долгосрочный и краткосрочный планы. Так вот, в краткосрочных планах: еще год поработать в АУЦА, а потом поступить на магистратуру. А в долгосрочных – быть очень, очень счастливой!!!

- И напоследок наш традиционный вопрос: что ты пожелаешь нашим читателям и студентам?

- Я пожелаю в первую очередь терпения. Не надо сдаваться, если первый семестр GPA 2.5. Но не надо все время только учиться! Также занимайтесь вне-учебной деятельностью. Участвуйте в «Драме», в КВНе, записывайтесь в любые клубы. Жизнь не должна сводиться к банальным парам и дискотекам по праздникам. Это не все! АУЦА дает очень много возможностей. Так как оплата не маленькая, нужно брать все возможное. Я всем пожелаю терпения, упорства, трудолюбия, а главное – не надо грузиться по поводу GPA. Все равно, оно не показывает ваших умственных способностей. Всем удачи и хороших дней в новом году!

Атай МУРАТБЕКОВ

