

THE NEW STAR

independent student newspaper

ISSUE 1

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DEAR STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF,

I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations as we commence a new academic year at one of the leading universities in Central Asia. This is a moment that marks a renewed opportunity for us to delve into uncharted territories, fostering new accomplishments and discoveries that accompany each new academic year at the university.

I highlight that our continued commitment to the Student Journey project remains a key focus, and it underscores our belief that AUCA serves not only as an institution for acquiring knowledge but also as a nurturing environment for talent development and personal growth. Therefore, one of the most important tasks of students on this journey is to make the most of all the opportunities that the University provides to students. Meanwhile, the AUCA faculty and staff continue to embody the institution's commitment to continuous improvement and innovation in student services. The role of my colleagues in implementing the Student Journey project remains crucial for ensuring its effectiveness and success. I express my sincere gratitude to you—AUCA faculty and staff—for your exceptional professionalism, dedication, and invaluable support that you provide to AUCA students on their academic journey. I hope the new academic year will bring you much joy and pride from the results of your work.

As we embrace our collaborative spirit, essential to distinguished educational institutions worldwide, let us remain committed to mutual assistance and interact at the horizontal level. Mutual support, help, and concern for the well-being of each member of the AUCA community will help to successfully overcome any challenges. I am confident that together we will bolster AUCA's reputation as a beacon in the academic community throughout the region.

Wishing you all a successful and fulfilling academic year ahead!



Dr. Timothy Edward O'Connor
President of AUCA

DEAR STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF OF AUCA, NGA, TSI, AND MAKERSPACE,

As we embark upon a new academic year, it is with great excitement and anticipation that I extend my warmest welcome to each and every one of you. This is a time of fresh beginnings, renewed energy, and boundless opportunities for learning and growth.

Our university has a rich history of student success, marked by countless achievements and innovations that have shaped the future in remarkable ways. This legacy of excellence is built upon not only the talents and hard work of our students but also the unwavering dedication of our faculty and the support of our staff. It is a testament to what we can accomplish together, and it is a foundation upon which we will continue to build in the coming year.

At AUCA, TSI, and Makerspace, we are proud to offer state-of-the-art facilities designed to foster knowledge, creativity, and collaboration. These spaces are more than just physical environments; they are the heart of our academic community, where ideas are exchanged, projects are developed, and futures are shaped. I encourage you all to make the most of these resources, engage actively in your studies, and take full advantage of the opportunities for research, innovation, and personal growth that they provide.

As we strive for success in our academic and professional pursuits, let us also commit to maintaining our study spaces with the utmost respect. It is essential that we care for our facilities and ensure they remain in excellent condition for the benefit of all. Your cooperation in keeping these spaces undamaged and treating them with the respect they deserve is greatly appreciated.

This year, I also encourage you to explore the exchange opportunities available to you. Engaging with diverse perspectives and experiences through these programs can enrich your academic journey and expand your horizons in invaluable ways.

I wish each of you a successful, productive, and fulfilling year ahead. May you enjoy good health, find joy in your studies, and achieve your goals with determination and enthusiasm. Together, let us continue to uphold the high standards of excellence that define our university community.

Welcome back, and here's to a fantastic new academic year!



Dr. Chingiz Shamshiev
Vice President of AUCA

Chynarkul Ryskulova, Ph.D.
**Vice President for
Academic Affairs**



It is a pleasure for me to welcome you to the new academic year at AUCA! I hope our returning students have enjoyed their summer and started a new semester with enthusiasm to achieve their academic goals. I believe our new students have made the right choice to pursue their degrees at AUCA.

You are privileged to study at this unique institution with an international body of students, faculty and staff, with multidisciplinary curricula based on best practices of American liberal arts traditions and Kyrgyz state academic standards. Our curricula meet both Bard College and Ministry of Education requirements. We value academic freedom, academic honesty, and critical thinking. Our university offers academic support through the Writing and Academic Resources Center, Academic Advising Office, and there are other resources you need for your academic success and personal growth such as Library, Computer labs, Civic Engagement Center, Career Center, International Students Office, and Dean of Student Affairs Office.

I encourage you to participate in Student Mobility Programs at Open Society University Network (OSUN), and OSUN Certificate Programs, take courses not only from AUCA but also from other OSUN member institutions (OSUN Online Courses and Network Collaborative Courses), extend your learning opportunities, and deepen your knowledge about the world. AUCA is also privileged to have such dedicated and ambitious students. The AUCA committed Faculty, scholars, and academic staff members are here to help you succeed academically and personally during your study at the university. I know each of you has the potential to be successful student, and make your professors and parents proud of you, but most importantly, I hope you are proud of yourself.

Remember, you can construct knowledge and develop your intellectual abilities, such as reasoning, problem solving, analytical, and critical thinking only through active engagement in the learning process, both in and outside of the classroom, and a positive attitude toward learning.

Quality education is a long journey that requires hard work and perseverance. It is not easy to keep yourself motivated, but the suggestion is very simple:—just keep working and studying hard.

Push yourself out of your comfort zone and stay open to learning new things every day in order to succeed, be open to new opportunities, and explore them. Let us continue to cultivate quality together at AUCA, and create a learning environment where each student is responsible for his or her own quality education.

I hope you will enjoy your university study and contribute to our community for years. Keep your positive attitude to learning, keep dreaming, and stay motivated! I wish you the best academic year!

NEW GENERATION ACADEMY: PREPARING FUTURE LEADERS FOR SUCCESS

The New Generation Academy (NGA) is a unique preparatory program at AUCA that offers students an exceptional opportunity to not only prepare for university admission but also to adapt to a liberal arts education. With a strong focus on academic skills such as critical thinking, academic writing, and close reading, NGA equips students with the tools needed for success in higher education. NGA students benefit from a smooth transition to university life and have a wider range of opportunities to enter various departments at AUCA, coming from a broad range of high schools across the Asian region. Each year, NGA provides 25 fully-funded scholarship places to students from across Kyrgyzstan, offering them free education at AUCA. This year, the scholarship recipients represent all 7 regions of the country, showcasing the program's dedication to diversity and equal opportunity. Beyond academics, NGA offers a wide variety of extracurricular and volunteer activities, fostering personal growth and a well-rounded student experience.

NGA students have consistently demonstrated their competitiveness in both academic and professional spheres. For example, this year, three NGA scholarship alumni—Atai Sultanbekov (SFW), Medina Konurbaeva (BA), and Nursultan Dzholdoshov (BA)—were awarded the prestigious full US-CAEF Scholarship, covering the entirety of their undergraduate studies. Aykokul Tashpulatova, NGA'21, received the Best Undergraduate Thesis Award among all AUCA Bachelor graduates in 2024. Aizana Arslanbekova, NGA'21, won the prestigious Capstone Internship by US-CAEF. Chingiz Iliasov, NGA'22, was the only AUCA student to secure the UGRAD Exchange Program in 2024. Nazmi Askerbekova, NGA'22, was selected for an internship at Camp Ramapo in New York, making her the only AUCA student to achieve this in 2024.

NGA continues to grow and expand its influence by attracting talented students from regions beyond Bishkek, striving for greater diversity in the AUCA community. The NGA faculty are continually enhancing their pedagogical skills through professional development, and the program remains the only one in Kyrgyzstan to collaborate with Princeton-in-Asia (PiA). Additionally, NGA enforces its own early alert advising system to support student retention and success. The achievements of NGA students and alumni speak for themselves, and the program continues its mission of academic excellence and holistic development.



Ruslan Musalimov
**Outreach and Student
Coordinator of NGA**

THE AUCA STUDENT SENATE WELCOMES THE STUDENTS TO THE 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR!

Dear AUCA Students,

On behalf of the Student Senate, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the start of an exciting new academic year at AUCA. Whether you are a returning student or a freshman just beginning your university journey, we are thrilled to embark on this adventure with you.

For our freshman class, you are stepping into a new world filled with opportunities for learning, personal growth, and self-discovery. This is the start of a transformative journey that will shape not only your academic success but also your character and aspirations. We encourage you to embrace every challenge with confidence and curiosity, knowing that you have a supportive community behind you.

To all students, as we begin the 2024-2025 academic year, let us commit ourselves to both personal and academic growth. May this year be filled with meaningful experiences, inspiring moments, and new connections that will drive us toward success. We hope you seize every opportunity to expand your horizons, deepen your knowledge, and nurture your passions.

The Student Senate is the main representative body of student self-governance at AUCA, elected by all undergraduate students. Our mission is simple: we work to protect your rights, improve student life, and ensure your voice is heard in university decisions—whether in academics, administration, or extracurricular activities.

If you ever need help, have ideas to improve student life, or want to share your suggestions, don't hesitate to let us know! You can submit your thoughts through a [Google form](#) or reach out to us directly. We are here to support you and make your experience at AUCA the best it can be.

We wish you a successful and fulfilling year ahead!





WELCOME TO AUCA, FRESHMEN!

Welcome to the American University of Central Asia! As the Student Life Officer, I am thrilled to extend my warmest greetings to each of you as you embark on this exciting new chapter of your academic journey.

Starting university is a significant milestone, and I want to assure you that AUCA is a place where you will find not only exceptional academic opportunities but also a vibrant community ready to support you every step of the way. From our diverse range of student organizations and clubs to the various events and activities planned throughout the year, there are countless ways for you to get involved, make new friends, and enrich your university experience.

Remember, your time at AUCA will be filled with opportunities for growth, both personally and academically. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need assistance; my door is always open. I encourage you to take full advantage of the resources available to you and, most importantly, to embrace this time with enthusiasm and an open mind.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead, full of discovery, learning, and memorable experiences. Welcome to the AUCA family—you are not alone!



Shakhruddin Iminov
Student Life Officer



DEAR STUDENTS,

Welcome to the new academic year and the AUCA community!

I hope this year brings you both success and enjoyment. University life is about more than just academics—it's a journey of personal growth, exploration, and discovery. One of the many opportunities available to you is participating in extracurricular activities. Engaging in these activities can help you find your passions, learn new skills, and make the most of your time on campus.

One exciting opportunity is joining the New Star newspaper. It's a fantastic platform where you can hone your writing skills, experiment with different styles, and see your work published. Through New Star, you have the chance to share your thoughts, experiences, and ideas, and contribute to discussions about campus life and beyond.

Remember, you don't need to be a professional writer to get involved. The goal is to learn, grow, and challenge yourself. If you're interested in contributing or have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at newstar@auca.kg at any time.

Wishing you a fantastic year ahead!



Niloufar Rafat
Editor-in-Chief of the
New Star Newspaper



TIME TO SHINE & GET INVOLVED!

Ready to make this year unforgettable? Explore new interests, meet friends, and build your skills by joining a club or writing for our newspaper! There's something for everyone at AUCA—be creative, be active, and connect with the community.

CLUBS YOU CAN JOIN:

Debate Club: Master public speaking!
kanatbekova_ka@auca.kg

Basketball Club: Join tournaments!
toloshov_a@auca.kg

SEA Programming Club: Improve coding skills.
malikov_a@auca.kg

Volleyball Club: Play friendly matches.
oskoeva_z@auca.kg

eSport Club: Create teams and play together.
urustemov_se@auca.kg

Creative Thinkers Club: Help to develop sustainable plans.
js12264@auca.kg

Green Club: Promote eco-awareness and sustainability.
dzhusupbekova_a@auca.kg

EduCompass Club: Explore double majors/minors.
kim_ar@auca.kg

Literature Club: Weekly discussions on books.
alidada_s@auca.kg

AUCA Feminism: Empower women.
bn12455@auca.kg

Knitting Club: Learn knitting and relax with friends.
ba12263@auca.kg

Barys Football Club: Play American football.
nabieva_v@auca.kg



Live. Love. Learn: Peer support for balancing life and studies.
mazurova_a@auca.kg

Boxing Club: Learn boxing techniques.
naghzibekov_n@auca.kg

Charity Club: Fundraise for various charitable causes.
ashimov_b@auca.kg

Board Games Club: Play board games and relax.
imanbekov_a@auca.kg

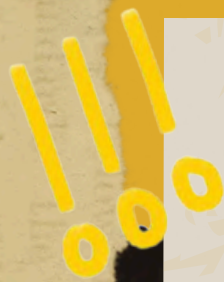
Hobby Club: Connect over hobbies and crafts.
iusupova_ai@auca.kg

Japanese Club: Learn about Japan and its culture.
ik11817@auca.kg

Finance Club: Explore personal finance and investments.
ta13207@auca.kg

AUCA Girls Community: Supportive space for female students.
ut12970@auca.kg

Table Tennis Club: Learn to play table tennis with guidance.
mametova_r@auca.kg



FLEX Volunteering Club: Create volunteer projects.
ka13018@auca.kg

Women's History Club: Learn about Central Asian women leaders.
mirakova_s@auca.kg

Meme Club: Create and share memes for fun.
anarbekova_a@auca.kg

NewStar Club: Creative writing.
newstar@auca.kg

Bezdelniki FC: Play football and enjoy team spirit.
mamataliev_b@auca.kg

Handmade Club: Get creative with crafts.
ts12473@auca.kg

Outdoor Club: Organize trips and outdoor activities.
ya12479@auca.kg

Tea Tasting Club: Explore tea cultures around the world.
tc13033@auca.kg

Active Mind Club: Train your brain and practice mindfulness.
sm12253@auca.kg

AWAKE Club: Discuss social issues with a sociological lens.
umetalieva_aid@auca.kg
talantbek_b@auca.kg

Driving Club: Share driving tips and experiences.
yousufzai_k@auca.kg

Robotics Club: Build robots and learn programming.
ra12372@auca.kg

Sustainable Fashion Club: Promote eco-fashion.
rajabi_za@auca.kg

Handcrafting Club: Create and share handmade projects.
ts12478@auca.kg

Scholarship Success Network: Help students secure scholarships.
sh13206@auca.kg

The Agora: Discuss life's big questions.
sa13205@auca.kg

Impact Hub: Learn social entrepreneurship.
aibekov_e@auca.kg

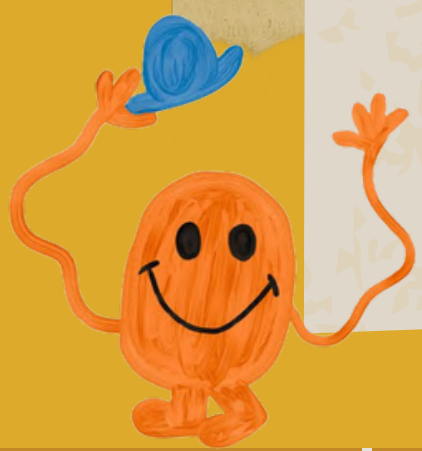
Youth Rise Club: Empower youth through leadership.
sa12294@auca.kg
kaparova_a@auca.kg

AIESEC Club: Plan events and network globally.
bb11003@auca.kg

Entertainment Club: Practice hobbies and build community.
ma12402@auca.kg

Erudition and Logic Questions Club: Enjoy problem-solving games.
muravev_v@auca.kg

Afghan Girls Club: A safe space for Afghan girls to grow.
fayaz_s@auca.kg



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