

THE NEW STAR

independent student newspaper

ISSUE 6

APRIL 15, 2022



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THE EXPERIENCE OF THE TAJIK DELEGATION AT THE DIVERSITY WEEK

Diversity week is an awesome time at AUCA when students share a piece of the warmth of their culture through food, dancing and songs, storytelling, and other events. This is a wonderful opportunity for students of various cultures to plunge into the diverse cultures of their peers so deep that a piece of it penetrates into your heart.

This year Diversity Week was especially bright as students were able to express all their accumulated emotions and energy after a long online study. My Tajik delegation was sure that that was the best event that united students of different origins: "After a long break from social life, Diversity week made me fully feel the spirit of the university, the atmosphere of friendship between people and nations, and all the fun from student life. I met so many amazing people who were around me and, at the same time, such different people who share common goals. This day will forever remain in my memory as one of the brightest memories about AUCA." said Farakhnoz Mirzoeva, ECO-121.

The Gala Concert was another unforgettable experience for every delegation; I am sure it would be one of the brightest events in their student life. However, many students noted that behind the "beautiful picture" is hidden hard work and sleepless nights before the exams.

"The performance of our dance itself lasted only seven minutes; however, the preparation for it took two weeks. At the same time, the days of preparation and rehearsal were very cheerful and memorable," said Aliakbar Azzizoda, ECO-121. Even though it was hard, all the participants from various delegations did manage to overcome stress and organize their time properly. "I do not regret that I have taken part in it; however, it was very time-consuming, and it didn't pay off. I will definitely participate in the Diversity Week next year too, but maybe in a different delegation," said Aziza Dustmamadova, ECO-121. It is necessary to mention that the fatigue of students was not only because of the rehearsals but also because of midterm exams. This was the only thing that prevented them from fully enjoying the event. Maybe the following year, it would be taken into account and scheduled after the midterm week. Aziza Dustmamadova, ECO-121, offered to encourage students with certificates: "I recommend motivating students with certificates because no one receives the certificate for the time they spend during the diversity week." That was a great idea because it does take a lot of effort, patience, and time to participate in such a serious event.

All in all, via national dances, songs, and food, the Tajik delegation tried to share not only a piece of their culture but to express all their love and unity with other students.

Manizha Shogaribov
LAS-121



Diversity Week is one of the brightest and favorite events among AUCA students! This international festival was celebrated very richly and vividly, and even after the quarantine, the break, the students did not lose their grip. This year, this event has had an unusual format, Diversity Day and Nooruz were celebrated on the same day. But it only helped me to love this holiday more. The participants rehearsed their performances days and nights as this year, they had relatively less time to prepare. Despite the lack of time, the final performance of all the delegations was enchanting! Bright colors and emotions expressed in each show forced the audience to applaud non-stop. However... What do guys like most about this day?

Firstly, these are emotions and fun from group work. During the rehearsals conducted at the forum, CH, or rooms in the basement, one could always hear laughs and the noise of the dancing and singing members of the delegations. The participants used to leave the campus almost at 9 p.m., but they were in a good mood and satisfied with the work done with smiles. After all, this type of communication allows students to unite and develop a spirit of unity.

Secondly, the opportunity to show ourselves and our talents to the whole university. As you know, the preparation for the performance is very active. The guys rehearsed for several hours to perform in front of the AUCA community.

This requires endurance, desire, and discipline. However, based on the number of people who performed at the last Diversity day, we can say that almost every student at our university has these qualities! There were cases when the guys were preparing just a couple of weeks before the performance, but their final performance was amazing!

Thirdly, it is the show itself. When we demonstrated the 'fruits' of our aching muscles and sleepless nights. The excitement of waiting and the desire to shine on stage are mixed in the chest of the performers. Everyone copes with it in the best way: some keep on rehearsing, others turn on headphones and concentrate on the music, and some just relax on the sofas. However, when they come out into the light, they all begin to get great satisfaction from the scene. It gives them reciprocal emotions, and feelings, the return from the audience is frenzied, especially at the end of each performance when the forum was bursting with applause.

Thus, this event has proved that it still can provide students with bright colors and unforgettable moments.

Aizada Sulaimankulova
ES-119



-Elm Grove Tree Planting-

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Elm Grove was a famous park with 215,69 hectares in the Soviet Union times located in the city area of Bishkek. However, after Kyrgyzstan got its Independence, the green area of the park has dramatically decreased to 43% in 26 years. Nowadays, the size of the park comprises 123 hectares due to illegal construction of homes and deforestation. Fortunately, the "EcoPark" project, which is a joint initiative of AUCA and French-Kyrgyz Association of Ecotourism, was initiated by students of the Agrarian institute to bring back the ecology of the location to life. Here, I had the great pleasure of being a part of AUCA's civic engagement programs for tree planting. During these events, all the volunteers were able to contribute to planting around 300 different plants.

The events have significantly impacted students to get motivated to secure the vital green ecology of the area and even inspire a broader audience. I believe such events can still have an influence on the mindset and behaviors of young individuals to pay more attention to pressing environmental issues. The traditional way of the long lecture is an ineffective way to advance the interest of the young generation in civil activities, however, the AUCA has successfully been able to come up with a tree-planting project. The idea enables students to enjoy the fascinating atmosphere of the park and plant various species of trees in the protected area. As a result, they will develop a stronger sense of connection to the environment and have an enjoyable time.

Overall, my main mission in writing this article was to bring larger attention to the park and encourage more people to take part in the ongoing tree planting of Elm Grove. I can confidently say that my time and effort spent in the park have been worth every penny.

Alisina Rahmatullah
BA-121

My favorite Professor

"Be the most uncomfortable in the room," my favorite professor likes to repeat. Please, meet Asankojo Isaev! He is the most outstanding, the edutest, the best professor that I was lucky to have, I know students have their favorite professors, but there is the category of "Super-professors" who are absolutely on another level, the way Mr. Isaev conducts the lesson is incredible, his intellectual arsenal is enormous. For sure, he is one of the best professors at our university, but you might ask, "Hey, we understand you are impressed with him, so what, why are you sharing your subjective view with us? What can convince us?" And it would be the correct question to ask, so, I would start with the notion that the professor has had a huge impact on dozens of students and me. Thanks to him my writing, thinking, and expressing my thoughts on paper improved tremendously. In his classes, I have to leave my intellectual comfort zone and delve into discussions of theories and logical and endless questions. Do you know who Michel Foucault, Pierre Bourdieu, or Louis Althusser are? Probably no, I also do not know anything about them. You might point out that these are sociologist scholars, and scholars in this field of study are supposed to know them. However, they are famous, and not only sociologists are familiar with them. I wonder what stimulates such lazy students like me to remember the names of some theoreticians, their main theoretical concepts and principles, and implement them in real life? The answer is simple: it is connected with our main character. So, what makes Asankojo Isaev so decent in his profession? Firstly, it is his enthusiasm and his intelligence. Many students are bored or find it challenging to clarify the strenuous concepts that can be found in academic discourse. Sometimes the amount of information prevails, and we - students - either comprehend it or not. Here, Mr. Isaev's approach to conducting the classes is distinctive from the majority of the professors. All his seminars are interactive, and the floor there belongs to students; they reflect upon theories and concepts, and in the process of it, they have questions and doubts about the material. That is how the professor stimulates students to apply their critical thinking. Not once does he remind us that to think critically, we need to doubt, reflect, and analyze the material because numerous questions and doubts make students overcome the hardships they face when learning new concepts.

Secondly, I would particularly highlight the passion that he contributes to his classes is immense.

He is lighthearted and cheerful. He is meticulous in his work; in this sense, he is a real professional in his profession. It is impossible to engage all students without their dedication and contribution. Asankojo Isaev is well aware of it. He always encourages us to apply a theory or concept to real-life cases; it becomes much easier to comprehend the target theory or concept.

The main reason I am writing about Mr. Isaev is my gratitude to him. His classes for me are pure joy, a satisfaction of my academic needs, and full of intellectual discussions that I believe many students need. Online classes were the new reality that we had to accept and adapt to. It was challenging for many students and myself to be highly motivated, concentrated, and dedicated. It is worth mentioning that I was in a deep depression at that time, and I could not imagine the way I could overcome those challenges. My mind was eager to have face-to-face intellectual discussions like the ones we had before the pandemic. I was discovering a new world for myself, and frankly, I was lost there.

The new semester began, and I saw the professor whose eyes were full of fire to lead us, to be dedicated, and to have our own fire inside us. His classes made me start to smile again and see the light at the end of the tunnel. Over time, I noticed that I started smiling more often and fulfilling my mind with the knowledge gained at his lectures. Due to circumstances, we were deprived of our campus and resources. Therefore, I did not see many reasons to be happy with online classes. However, I was still glad to join the zoom classes because of Asankojo's invaluable contribution to making my peers and me happy and enjoying life in all respects. Although I am not fond of writing, I believe I can write a book about how brilliant professor Asankojo Isaev is. Thank you for your invaluable contribution and dedication, professor!

Azizjon Homidov
SOC-119



Value of the Music

On March 11th, 2022, students of the Kyrgyz Language class, together with professor Uulkan Dzholdosbekovna Kambaralieva, visited the Kyrgyz National Conservatory. The purpose of the visit was to listen to the concert organized for AUCA students so that they could listen to national instruments, as well as famous world compositions.

The concert began with a breathtaking melody on the musical instrument "Jetigen". Jetigen is a seven-stringed instrument resembling a horizontal harp. The opportunity to listen to the melodies of Jetigen in Kyrgyzstan appeared thanks to Zhusup Osmonovich Aisaev, who is an assistant professor at the Department of Kyrgyz Traditional Music and Folk Instruments at the Kyrgyz National Conservatory. He revived Jetigen in Kyrgyzstan and began to teach young musicians how to play this ancient and very harmonious musical instrument. In addition, Zhusup Osmonovich made a huge contribution to the development of Kyrgyz National music. In secret, perhaps in the near future, AUCA students will be able to learn to play the jetigen!

In addition to the Kyrgyz national instruments, students also listened to the violin, pot, piano, and flute. Each composition captured the students' attention who seemed to be immersed in a state of complete peace. Music has a positive effect on the psychological and physical state, it relieves negative emotions, increases the level of happiness, and improves the brain's intellectual abilities. Our students were convinced of this when they listened to the concert and absorbed the sound of each musical note.

At the end of the concert, AUCA students presented symbolic gifts to the musicians and had the opportunity to get to know them personally. Our students expressed their great gratitude for giving them a chance to get closer to the unknown and fantastic art of music. In response, the musicians thanked our students for their interest in the world of music. I believe that this dialogue has become an excellent communication bridge between students of the two higher education institutions. That is how music can unite young people, our country, and the entire world.

The students of the Kyrgyz Language class express their deep gratitude to Uulkan Dzholdosbekovna Kambaralieva, Doctor of Philology, Professor of the Department of General Education at the American University of Central Asia for the opportunity to attend this cultural event, gain new knowledge, and strive together for personal development!

Salima Almazbekova,
JMC-121

The DANCER

Like an autumn leaf
In the hands of wind
I dance haggardly
Depicting the splotches of mud
On my painted costume
Whirling so eerie and tough
I descend gracefully
On a crowded thoroughfare.
The parade of a thousand footsteps
Involves me in it
So inevitably,

I glide calmly
Surrounded by absurdity
The wind takes away the dust.
It patterns
The naked body of the pavement
The walking corpses glare
harshly
Their bodies, inert and still
The appalling, hellish air,
The inexorably slow storm
Arrives right on time.
I swirl
And abolish it in a glance...

Zainab Amirzai
ECO-120

Top three things why everyone needs to do an exchange semester

While most sophomores are getting ready to do their exchanges next academic year, some seniors have already experienced the hardest time doing their exchange semesters during the rise of the pandemic. However, it did not stop me from taking this exceptional opportunity provided by AUCA, therefore, I went to the Poznań University of Economics and Business within the framework of the Erasmus+ program in the Spring 2021 semester.

1. New and fun experiences

I happened to be the main character in the promotion movie of the university for international students, showing the university and student life from the eyes of actual students. It took about four days to shoot the film where I had a chance to visit all departments of the university scattered around the town starting with the new innovative campus and finishing with the tennis courts.

The movie included the director, stylist, assistants, huge cameras, and drones; in short, everything was just like in professional movie production. It was a marvelous opportunity for me to learn more about the university and its history, meet new people from staff members and make new friends. I have never expected something like that would happen to me. Nevertheless, I am so glad that a tiny part of my life has been documented and will always be available for me.

2. A chance to understand your goals better

I had a chance to take several Master's Degree classes in International Management, where the topics were more complex and specific. This decision challenged me to keep up with more experienced classmates who came from different backgrounds and have a thorough knowledge of Business, Finance, and Management. That boosted my confidence in the knowledge that I have already obtained at AUCA and gave me a better understanding of whether I would like to continue my studies after graduating or not. Overall, the exchange semester was a perfect and safe environment to discover new things about myself, which in my case, helped me to set clear future goals.

3. An opportunity to travel

Erasmus+ does not only organize exchange semesters but also conducts different conferences, youth projects. So, I was selected to participate in the Training Program by Erasmus+ in Smolyan, Bulgaria. Representatives of several European countries gathered to learn more about Entrepreneurship and how the local Smolyan NGO is improving the city with their social projects. Throughout the whole week of the program, we have visited different local businesses and talked with the City Mayor. But most importantly, I have met awesome people with whom I still keep in touch, learned about various cultures, and seen the beauty of southern Bulgaria.

By the way, with the Schengen visa, I could travel to even more countries beyond Bulgaria.

Rysbekova, Aiana
BA-118



-Мольба-

Я - человек

Хожу под Богом,

Молюсь за каждую семью.

Ну разве людям надо много?

Не видеть смерти и войну.

Под ясным небом чтобы дети

Гуляли, боя не боясь.

За жизни их МЫ все в ответе.

Давайте же "не падать в грязь".

Не ведает младенец власти,

Не знает санкций и долгов.

И мирно спит, не ждя напасти.

Ему бы рядом только маму с

папой,

Родной, уютный, милый дом.

Не слышать звуки автомата,

А только пенье птиц крутом.

Народ простой упал молиться:

"Спокойно встретить бы весну",

"Дай Бог, всем сил вразумить-
ся"

Остановить эту ВОЙНУ!

Аяна Маматкулова
JMC-121

The academic year 2020-2021 was challenging not only because of the covid-19, which forced classes to be held online but also because of border disputes between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan

The academic year 2020-2021 was challenging not only because of Covid-19, which forced classes to be held online but also because of border disputes between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Unfortunately, most Tajik students were unable to attend AUCA offline until the second semester due to border disputes. They were unable to get to Bishkek due to closed borders. But, luckily, they are here today, and, despite the problems they had on the way to Bishkek, they informed us how they got here and dealt with the hardships of the lengthy journey. At the end of the article, you can enjoy beautiful pictures of Osh taken by an AUCA student Khiradmand Sheraliev.

Ramina Ergeshova
BA-120

First and foremost, I am grateful to my wonderful university, AUCA, for safely organizing our transportation. I am very proud of being a member of AUCA. I was anxious about traveling to Bishkek at the end of the Fall semester of 2021 because of the situation. However, when I found out that AUCA would handle the transportation, I was overjoyed and made plans to arrive as soon as possible, deciding to arrive on January 14th. For me, this was the most appropriate date. Of course, getting to any place in winter is difficult for a number of reasons: the first one is cold, and the second is that the roads are treacherous, and everything was covered with snow. We were unable to get through Batken, I believe, due to the border circumstances. As a result, we headed to Bishkek through Jurgatol.

It was a pleasant excursion, but the only difficulty I encountered was becoming chilly at the Tajik-Kyrgyz border. When we stayed, the soldiers at the Kyrgyz border searched us and our belongings. I understand that it is the regulation at every country's border, but in this chilly weather, that was too much. We arrived at a hotel in Osh late due to the snowy road, but it was great. We rested there for 2 or 3 hours before continuing our journey. I'm not sure who specifically from the AUCA personnel organized our transportation; nevertheless, I'm grateful to the employees who provided us with this chance. Also, thanks to Kaliia and Asel from AUCA international office.

Muborakkhotun Atobekova
ECO-119

I spent two days on the road, which was quite exhausting. It's cold and hot, and it's not very pleasant. We waited for 3 hours or more at the Kyrgyz border only to have our luggage checked. It was freezing and dark. The journey itself took about 30 hours or more. We packed our belongings and went for a hike in the mountains. There were no automobiles, only us and our belongings. Kaliia and Asel were the ones who gave us all the information, group leaders who were also AUCA students, assisted us with our luggage, and the drivers were quite courteous.

Evelina Gizatulina
PSY-121

The international office of AUCA prepared buses to bring us to Bishkek. AUCA had to negotiate with the Ministry of Education and the embassy so that we would be allowed to cross the border. We were not permitted to travel to KG due to the border war. The hardest part of the tour was traversing unsafe highways. Because of the snow, driving was difficult, and the journey took us more than two days. Furthermore, it was terribly cold, and the majority of us were freezing.

Nilufar Homidova
ICP-119

Most of my Tajik friends came to Bishkek by land on AUCA buses, while I flew to Bishkek with a Russian passport. Due to the fact that the Kyrgyz government has allowed students from Tajikistan to enter Kyrgyzstan, I was eager to come to Bishkek. For those with Tajik citizenship, there was only one way to enter Kyrgyzstan, through certain border points by land. Many of my friends from Tajikistan did so with the help of bus trips organized by the AUCA administration. I came by a slightly different route. Since I had Russian citizenship I was able to fly to Bishkek by air. So I bought tickets, transiting through Tashkent, with the help of my USCAEF grant. There were no difficulties on entry, and though coronavirus requirements, due to omicron, was the only thing that could cause some problems.

Nekruz Mirzoev
BA-120

Books, my savior!

As a kid, I was below average. That's why I was chewed up, spat out, and stumbled upon left and right. People around me named and shamed me for not being equally good as others. I was drowning deep, up to my eyelids in a pool of my own guilt for not living up to people's expectations. Somehow, those people stripped me of my own narrative. I was living as the toxic and pessimistic idea of others rather than as a person. I was an angry kid all the time, with my fists clenched and my veins pumped up, subconsciously looking around for a safe haven where no one would bother me anymore. With a stroke of random luck, I was exposed to books. That exposure saved me, and to this day books are my safe haven.

Now, looking back at things, after a decade I know I would not have had such a hard time if only someone had told me I could be as good as others if I read books. The root of my problem was a lack of awareness. Even in the present day, I see around the necks of thousands of people the noose of that same guilt. They can save themselves, but they don't want to, because the solution seems to be too good to be true.

I live by a code: the most complicated problem has the easiest solution, no need to sweat it. Reading a book is the simplest solution to ninety percent of our major problems.

There is a quote from a wise man: "it does not matter if you are the best of the best or the worst of the worst. Maybe you are hanging around somewhere in the middle. There is always room for improvement."

A book is a gemstone that few appreciate when most should. By reading we gear ourselves up with the skills required to live a quality life. Life is nothing but a sequence of challenges that we go through; how we choose to overcome those challenges is how we will live for the rest of our lives. Only the wisdom of the book can assist us in making the best choice available.

Shah Mohammad Alidad
NGA-122



2022 started very well for me and the holidays were precious, which caused a surge of new strength and energy. My plans for this semester are very favorable and promise a successful conclusion.

As we know, in addition to high-quality education and a guarantee for a bright future, AUCA also provides talented and brilliant students with good scholarships and conditions. It also offers students freedom of choice, a broad range of expertise, and mature directions for students. One of these students is me. In 2020, I entered the AUCA. Fortunately, my hard work and knowledge have been taken into account, and I have got a scholarship, which allows me to study at one of the best Universities in Central Asia. When I received such support and motivation to go forward, I thought about how I could help other people in turn. I wanted to return kindness for kindness and began to do charity work. So, I became a volunteer of the Sogd Art organization, where my friends from Tajikistan and I staged a fashion and jewelry show. It is worth mentioning that the items for the show were created by people with disabilities. Our goal was also to prove that disability is notability. Since I gained experience in this field, I decided to organize another project this spring as well. I will conduct a free conference for school leavers of our area and tell them about my experience and what they can do for the community and themselves, and how their life can be changed for the better.



Manizhakhon Mirpochoeva
TCMA-120



Success stories of AUCA students



The person who we shall talk about is Sheraz Mirpochoev. He is a graduate of AUCA from the department of European Studies (2021). Sheraz was very purposeful, mature, and had great potential. He actively participated in university events and olympiads; he won only the first prizes. In addition, he has always been active in extracurricular activities and participated in various programs outside the school. He was always ambitious and looked for opportunities to develop and travel. That is why he looked for universities that offer their students such chances. So, he found all these opportunities at AUCA, which opened many doors to Sheraz. When he came to the university, he was already fluent in Russian, English, and Turkish. Being motivated and highly interested in studying languages, he chose French and Kyrgyz as additional languages to master. The French captivated Sheraz. After a while, he reached the B2-C1 level. Because of his perseverance, hard work, and love for the language, he traveled to France two times: during his first visit, he underwent the internship and represented his homeland Tajikistan in Paris within the framework of the "Amisif" Program and visited Orleans. Then he applied for the "Erasmus" Exchange Program and was lucky to win it as well. Luckily, the stipend covered everything: his transportation expenses, provided him with a scholarship, visa, etc. Sheraz traveled to France and Spain. He managed to celebrate the New Year in Madrid! He could not help visiting the Netherlands and Belgium too. These trips gave him precious experience, unforgettable memories, valuable lessons, and new acquaintances. Currently, Sheraz is traveling in Turkey and planning to enter the MA program in Europe. "I am grateful to AUCA for these unforgettable years, for the experience that I have gained, for the knowledge, and for meeting talented people, professors, and students from different countries, finally, for the opportunity to feel and start an independent and conscious life!" says Sheraz Mirpochoev to his university.

Parinoz Khojiboeva
SOC-121

Issue prepared by:

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

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