

# THE NEW STAR

independent student newspaper

ISSUE 1

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## NEW ACADEMIC YEAR LIFE CHAPTER

Design taken from Pinterest

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# AUCA President's Greetings

Dear AUCA Students:

On behalf of the American University of Central Asia, I extend a warm welcome to each of you. It is a great honor and privilege to have you join our esteemed institution. This year is particularly special because it marks the 30th anniversary of our University! I am excited to share this journey with you.

Studying in university is an exciting chapter in your lives. It forms the beginning of a journey filled with knowledge, growth, new experiences, and allows us to celebrate the unique perspectives our students bring to campus. Each of you will play an essential role in contributing to our student-centered, holistic learning environment. You are a part of a vibrant community that values the Liberal Arts and Sciences, civic engagement, and academic excellence.

Our faculty members are dedicated to providing you with a world-class education. They are experts in their fields and passionate about sharing their knowledge with you. I encourage you to interface with faculty and the mentorship they offer. Take advantage of their expertise, ask questions, and engage in meaningful discussions. Remember that learning is not confined to the classroom. Learning happens everywhere, at the library, in the student lounge, and within the greater Kyrgyz community. We are here to help nurture your aspirations and inspire your passion. Together with faculty and fellow classmates, your dreams can be put into action.

I hope that you will prioritize taking care of yourselves and making intentional, reasonable choices for your health and wellbeing. Finding balance in your personal, student, and professional lives is the ultimate key to happiness and success. University life is not only about academics; it is also about personal development and self-discovery. Your social interactions, relationships, and community activities may be just as important as your studies. These social networks promote collaboration, critical thinking, and belonging for all. Use your imagination and creativity freely! Join clubs and organizations that align with your interests, participate in community service projects,

and attend cultural events. These activities will broaden your horizons, foster lifelong friendships, and help you develop essential skills beyond the curriculum.

At the AUCA we value your voice and participation. By bringing your whole self to university life, a learning environment inclusive to belonging, mutual respect, open communication, and empathy is fully realized. The principles of the Liberal Arts and Sciences and our interdisciplinary approach to learning will equip you with flexible skills that are adaptable to a rapidly changing job market. You are destined to be our next great leaders. Whether it is by assisting in efforts to combat

As you engage in university life, please remember that success is not solely defined by grades or achievements. It is about finding your passion, pursuing it with determination, and making a positive impact on the world around you. Embrace challenges, learn from failures, and celebrate your successes along the way. I encourage you to make the most of your time here at AUCA. Step out of your comfort zone, seize every opportunity, and brave the unknown. This is your chance to grow as individuals, explore new interests, and shape your future. I am confident that you will become advocates of life-long learning for the betterment of your communities and personal agency.



The AUCA is an institution where numerous languages are spoken, where differences are celebrated, and where freedom of choice is exercised. Our graduates excel at leading with compassion, empathy, and a deep resolve to change the world for the better. We believe that each member of our community has an essential role to play in the continued advancement of the Kyrgyz Republic. Once again, welcome to our University, and I am eager to join you in this adventure. We are

thrilled to have you here, and I look forward to witnessing your growth and accomplishments over the coming years!

climate change, working towards sustainability goals, or strengthening the sovereignty of the Kyrgyz Republic, the future is in your hands. We want you to become leaders who succeed by examining facts, who understand complexity, and who work to bridge differences. You make this country, this city, and this campus so fantastic!

My administration, and our staff and faculty, are here to support you in all of your endeavors. We want to help make these years among the best of your lives! It is my hope that, like many AUCA graduates over the past 30 years, you, too, will incorporate the principles of the Liberal Arts and Sciences as core values in your future careers. This 30th anniversary year is momentous for our learning community! Embrace the thrill and joy of making a difference both locally and globally, and in the process you and your classmates will have an indelible impact on our University.

*Your sincerely,*  
**Timothy O'Connor**  
 President, AUCA



# AUCA VPAA's Words

Dear AUCA Students:

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 international body of students, faculty and staff, with multidisciplinary curriculum 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, and 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 of 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), extend your learning opportunities and deepen your knowledge about the world.

This institution 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 a successful student, and make your professors and parents proud of you, but most importantly I hope you are proud of yourself and all your efforts.

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

solving, analytical and critical thinking. Quality education is a long journey that requires hard work and perseverance. 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.

Keep your positive attitude to learning, keep dreaming, and stay motivated!

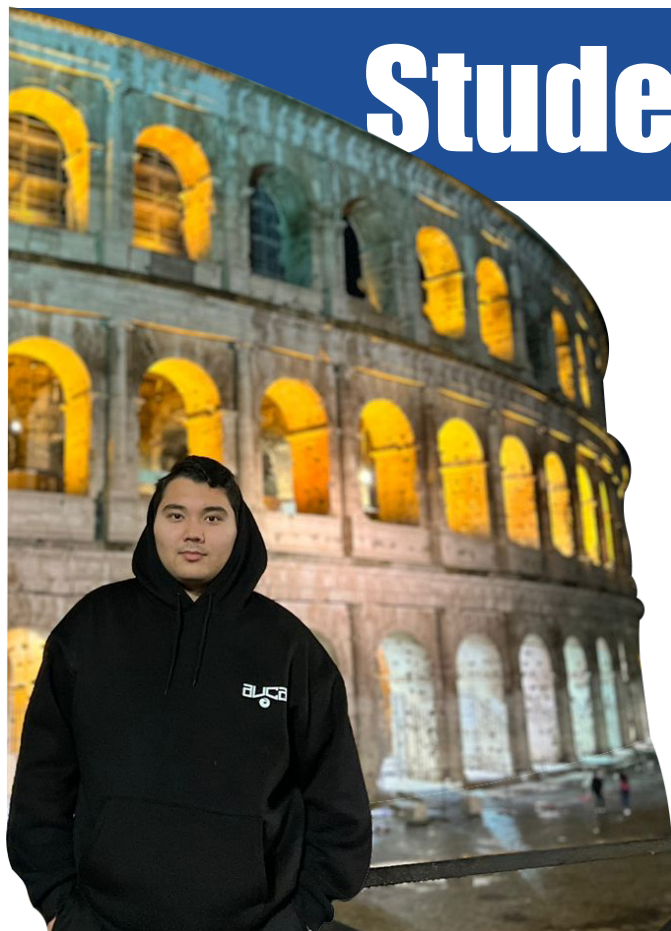
I wish you the best academic year!

Sincerely,  
Chynarkul Ryskulova,  
Ph.D.





# Student life officer's message



**Shah,  
Student Life Officer**

*H*ello, dear AUCA community!

I am Shahrudin Iminov, but you may call me Shah! First of all, welcome back sophomores, juniors, and seniors. And, of course, welcome on board our dear freshmen! Huge congratulations on a new important chapter of your lives!

I can state with confidence that AUCA will be your second home. Every day and every moment will stay in your hearts for a long time! Hopefully, none of us has to go through quarantine times anymore, and we will be a part of all AUCA life moments!

You have the perfect opportunity to change this world and make it shine with the background and every skill you will gain at the AUCA during your studies.

Do not forget about all of the opportunities our university offers to students. There is a chance to par-

ticipate in exchange programs, many diverse conferences and workshops around the globe, various scholarship programs, and many more, so don't imitate me, and try to use all these opportunities.

Aside from that, I am always available to you for any questions you may have, as I am a new Student Life Officer of the AUCA. I am widely open to you whether you need me or not. You can find me at G23!

Finally, I want to give important advice to you: University life matters in your future. Every decision you make and every person you meet will change your life gradually. So guys, make the right decisions and be the hero of your life!

Have a stroke of good luck with your studies, and be a part of the AUCA student-like family!



## Editor's message

*D*ear students,

Welcome to the new academic year and the AUCA community!

I wish you all success and an enjoyable year ahead. Remember that university life is not limited to studies, and there are extracurricular activities to do. It helps you to find yourself, learn, and enjoy your life on campus. The Newstar newspaper is one of those activities you may choose. It lets you practice your writing skills, learn writing styles and publish your work. Moreover, it allows you to share

your thoughts, experiences, ideas, problems on campus, and ways to improve the world.

You are not required to be a professional writer since you are here to learn and challenge yourself. To share your ideas or ask your questions, please contact [newstar@auca.kg](mailto:newstar@auca.kg) at any time.



**Niloufar Rafat,  
Editor-in-chief of the  
Newstar newspaper**



# Вся наша жизнь – Театр!

**П**очему я так назвал эту небольшую публикацию?.. Сложно ответить однозначно. Наверное потому, что мы всю жизнь кого-то или что-то играем в зависимости от складывающихся обстоятельств, и это, к сожалению, или к счастью, объективно. Мы адаптируемся, меняемся одновременно с окружающим нас миром стараясь не «выпасть из тренда». (Почему-то сейчас это очень важно). Играем то одного, то другого персонажа всё реже играя самого себя. В какой-то степени, каждый из нас актер. Это надо признать и относиться к этому, как к «осознанной необходимости».

АУЦА – 30 лет!.. Нежный возраст для университета, я понимаю. Наверное, ещё не протоптаны все дорожки, которые потом кто-то заасфальтирует, как памятник нашим путям к недостижимому совершенству... А кто-то напишет об этом замысловатый трактат...

Театру «Миррорс» (раз уж я начал с театра) – 20.

В Миррорсе тоже есть протоптанные дорожки, которые, наверное, надо заасфальтировать, раз по ним ходят люди... Или забыть и подарить вездесущему бурьяну, которым зарастает всё, о чем мы забываем заботиться и чего забываем ценить...

Возможно, когда-то настанет время, когда Театр в АУЦА станет частью академического процесса. Будут придуманы новые формы сосуществования классов и коридоров, дополняющие, а не соперничающие друг с другом. Но социальная сущность театра,

как явления, чувство духовного единства, не денется, я уверен, никуда. Театр, как молоток, которым можно сколотить красивую табуретку или сломать уже существующую. Театр это – инструмент, которому мы до конца так и не придумали применение, и он существует сам по себе.

Мне кажется, пришло время серьезно подумать о том, чтобы расширить функциональные рамки театра с музыкального до, хотя бы, драматургического в рамках вновь созданных академических департаментов. Например, создать разные группы по языковому признаку?.. Я не знаю и поэтому прошу идейной помощи у вас... Я понимаю, что это дело не одного дня, но с учетом двадцати предыдущих лет у меня есть твердое мнение, что испытательный срок Миррорс уже прошёл во всех смыслах.

Скорее всего, эта заметка не очень организованный набор мыслей о будущем Музыкального театра АУЦА Миррорс. Некоторое беспокойство о будущем. Может быть, оснований для беспокойства и нет вовсе. Но... как правило идеи начинают умирать, когда нет четкого понимания к чему следует стремиться и нет плана, и нет стратегии...

## Постскриптум

Возможно студенческая газета, это не та площадка, на которой следует обсуждать академические темы? Возможно... Но, однако, мне кажется, АУЦА, как сообщество людей, объединенных одной целью, не должно дискриминировать в дискуссиях какую-то (а может главную) его часть.



Артдиректор АУЦА,  
Руководитель театра  
“Миррорс” Н. Шульгин

## New Standards in my life

“University will be nothing like school!” is a phrase I’ve often heard from all my teachers last year. I was told that my responsibilities will increase tenfold because all initiatives will be put into my hands, but I never fully considered the changes that would bring about.

Local schools often act as obsessive parents, controlling every decision their students make: do this, learn that, wear this, say that. For every situation there is a given set formula: learn it, use it, and excel. So I was quite surprised when I was asked to produce focused freewriting. “So what are the criteria?” I asked. “There are none; just your thoughts on the topic,” my professor answered. I kept asking myself, “But what are my thoughts?”

While discussing the texts we read in our

seminar classes, our professor asks difficult questions that can’t be answered easily by blindly following a set of instructions. Instead of repeating someone’s words, we are told to come up with those words ourselves. “Learn to ask the right questions, and you will come to the right answers,” which is so different from my school’s approach.

Additionally, in local schools, it is assumed that students will never struggle with anything. So if the student finds themselves in a pickle, all they can turn to for help are themselves, their surroundings, or paid extracurricular courses. Finding a senior peer that would agree to help you is nearly impossible, and teachers only provide additional assistance either to exceptionally gifted students, or those whose misunderstanding is brief. Professors being

open to schedule office hours and WARC providing peer tutors was a surprising revelation to me, and definitely something that eased the struggle of learning.

For the first time I find myself forward to the rest of the semester. Whether it is the freedom, the community, or being treated like an adult that appeals so much to me, not once have I looked back at my school in reminiscence.

Luna Maltseva  
SFW-123





## Life in the AUCA Dormitory: Exploring the Upsides and Downsides

The main reason why I chose AUCA is that its renowned Journalism department allows diving into the world of media fully and putting the gained knowledge into practice. When I got admitted to AUCA, I was supposed to live in a dormitory according to my scholarship contract. On my way to the dormitory from Manas Airport, I had several questions crossing my mind. The first important factor for me was whether the dorm was close to the university or not. Secondly, I was wondering what kind of roommates I would live with and how I can accommodate myself and them at the same time.

I was fascinated by the fact that people in the dorm were extremely friendly and welcoming from the very beginning. The resident advisors helped to carry my bags and assisted with the documentation process later on. I was greeted by two girls from Naryn who were doing their NGA, and I couldn't have asked for better roommates. I broadened my knowledge about Kyrgyz culture and people because of them, and we still keep in touch.

The main advantage is an opportunity to expand the network, especially during a freshman year. While I was in the dorm, I made friends with people from different departments and programs. I felt more comfortable coming to the university and meeting a wide range of people who I could already call "my fellas".

When it comes to disadvantages, keeping public areas clean was a big minus that I noticed after one month of living in the dormitory. Whenever I went to the kitchen, I could not prepare my food because the stove was all covered with oil, and the sink was filled with dishes all the time. I gave up on cooking on my own and spent most of my finances on food delivery. I request our students to keep their second home (dorm) as clean as possible!

As a person who lived in the dormitory for one year, I would say it was worth it! I experienced what it's like to live with roommates, follow dormitory rules, and be a part of a big community. However, I hope that in the upcoming years, the

administration will consider students' feedback and improve the conditions to create the best experience ever!

After living in the dormitory for one year, I moved out because I wanted to experience what it's like to live in an apartment. It was tremendously difficult to find roommates and an apartment at a reasonable price and near AUCA. It's quite common to see humiliating titles that say "**NOT RENTING TO STUDENTS**" on apartment renting websites in Bishkek. So far, I have not regretted it since I share my apartment with 4 girls, and every day, we have so much fun. Better location has been the most important factor for this year since some of my classes start early in the morning.

**Interviewee: Shakhzoda Mirakova**  
**Prepared by Darika Bolot, JMC-121**

## We Want Education

Would you please not close the door of your heart on my face?  
Well, it is quite strange for me. I am wondering, how could you so easily forget about your mother's unconditional and immensely in-depth love?  
And, I am wondering how easily you forget about the sparkly eyes of your sister's smile.

While staring at my eyes, does it not make you feel blamed?  
Those eyes are in tremendous need and thirst for getting an education since it assists me in feeling independent, proud, and a worthwhile asset to society. My being has to have a meaning to the world. I am putting effort into being an agent for positive change in this world. Doesn't matter how small or huge it would be.

I'm wondering how the aches of my heart aren't injuring you. The way you have been constantly hurting it intentionally...

Would you please not close down the door of your heart on my face?  
I swear I have been experiencing death a thousand times over and

over again while witnessing my dreams and life's meaning fading away little by little. After all, they were my legends and they still are...  
But, notice how I am dreaming, despite your torture to my mind.  
Sometimes, I imagine bounding my heart to the warm flame of success. See what a beautiful sacrifice it is for my heart to be wounded and cracked merely to fill my whole mind with the bright light of knowledge.

In the hope that my knowledge would find a way to lighten up my old soul.  
In the hope of overcoming my fears and frustrations and putting my parts back together in their suited places like a puzzle board.  
And in the hope of staying soft yet strong, fearless yet cautious.

So, please do not close the door of your heart on me.

**Nahida Qasimi**  
**PSY-123**

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