



# The Star

INTERNAL SPECIAL EDITION STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY - CENTRAL ASIA

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## INITIATION

Something special about Initiation 2006



Air balloons... 15 minutes countdown... Lungs getting tired ... Nikolay Grigoryevich keeps us running with no chance to relax. 15 more minutes to go. Finally, all things are pumped up, air balloons along with our ambitions. And we start. Official part, against our expectations, was not "supported" by somebody's snoring, and overall it happened to be quite interesting. Alumni Office gave away their stipends and the Board of Trustees its speech. Then, the turn went to the komuz players' band, and Mrs. Telegenova's performance added some folklore colors to the show. Newly elected senators were invited to the stage, where they gave an AUCA senators' pledge. A moment later, all freshmen students have read the AUCA student's pledge. And it began! The unofficial part of Initiation ceremony "breathed" with an outgoing freshmen spirit and fun. Everybody enjoyed a lot of singing, dancing, humor, and... and air balloons at the end. Smiles on happy faces and sometimes-even tears. We all know that Initiation happens only once in a lifetime.



Maxim Poletaev

*The Initiation of this year, in my opinion, was one of the greatest examples of how different performances combined together may attract wide attention of audience.*

J. Monolbaev, ICP-105

*Drama has so more new ideas. There were not so many people on the stage and the performance was not that good.*

Y. Om

*The Initiation ceremony was great, hilarious! I could not believe how dynamic it was. So many different stories appearing one after another. It was really fun. You can see the students are upbeat here.*

D. Levy, Sociology Department

photos by Alexander Fedorov



### Our voice does matter!

**Some might disagree, some might not care, but Teachers Evaluation is very important and it does work. Sergey Nikolaevich Sklyar, who is responsible for conducting it, explained the components, meaning and aims of students' evaluation of teachers.**

see page 2

### Senate elections 2006 in details

see page 4

### Persona: David Levy

**Everything you wanted to know about him, but were afraid to ask**

see page 5

## Editor

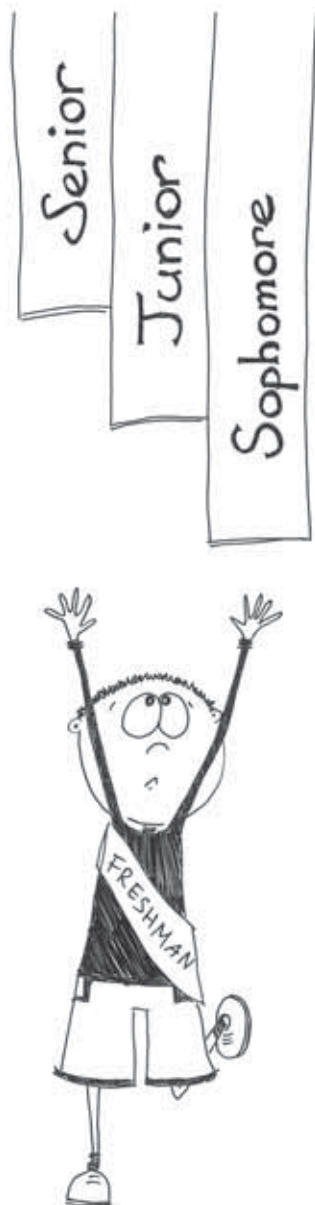
### Freshmen against others. Who wins?

I have noticed one strange tradition in the AUCA- to ignore freshmen. Fortunately, not all students follow this tradition. However, why did it appear? What have happened with the democratic and friendly community of the AUCA?

The other strange thing is the ignorance to freshmen from the sophomore students. They changed their position in the AUCA only few months ago, but they also start ignoring freshmen and using such words as "children" to new freshmen in the AUCA. Come on, guys! Don't be snobs! Does it really matter? Some this year freshmen are more opened, creative and interesting people than other elder students.

I want to thank all sophomore, junior, and senior students who were open and kind to us, to people who helped a lot to adopt in the AUCA. I want to support all freshmen. Guys, it is the deal of the first year. Everything will be changed. I understood that freshmen experience the same problems, when I have seen the issue on Diesel forum about the reaction of the sophomores, seniors, and juniors on freshmen. People have discussed this issue on 11 pages. This mean that this issue matter a lot. Maybe we should eliminate it?

Veronika Sivasheva



## OUR VOICE DOES MATTER!

DATA INFORMATION -  
SKLYAR S.N.

AUCA students seem skeptical about the implementation of the results of the evaluation tests done each semester by committee for evaluation.

Results are not as straightforward as one might think. It is complex step-by-step evaluation the goal of which is to improve the overall quality of education in AUCA, to develop new methods of teaching, to improve the professor qualifications, to offer recommendations on what tactics to use in order to achieve the main goal.

The whole evaluation process has 3 components within itself. First – the evaluation by students through electronic questionnaire surveys. Second – self-evaluation of professors, the structure of which includes the schoolwork, scientific research, community and public service, qualification increase, reflection. Third – evaluation of professors by the head of the departments that considers professional characteristics of the professor, teaching methodic and scientific research activities, public service, personal characteristics, comments and recommendations.

All parts of rating are done anonymously. After all the data

is gathered, each department is categorized and total average grade for each course and professor is calculated, then this results of evaluation is issued to the chair of each faculty for distribution to evaluated professors. Each teacher gets the average grade for each question concerning his or her course and the comments, if available.

Department head adds self-evaluation and chair evaluation of professors and issues the results to the administration. Administration analyzes the potential misperceptions and mistakes to utilize the tactics to improve the existing situation.

According to the complete evaluation depends the salary of the professor. The salary is based on mathematical model that has two parts: status of professor, his or her qualifications and rating of professional activities. The former is constant and the latter was developed last year, which is intended to assist faculty to develop both professionally and personally by ensuring high quality education in the university. The two-semester evaluation determines whether the merit-based salary, qualification status of the faculty will change or remain constant and whether the contract with the professor is going to be lengthened.

Further, concerning the improvements, the Center for Academic Development in AUCA gives recommendations to professors on methods of teaching; provide English language courses and assistance with information technologies, depending on the area that needs advancement.

Changes does not mean to fire or demote the faculty, the problem is learned and analyzed deeper, if the adjustments cannot be made, then only the professor does not get to continue his or her contract with the university. It is similar to when student gets an F, where failing the class does not mean being ousted from the university right away, rather there are options available to communicate the problem, and if the student cannot handle the course three times, then there is always alternative to change the department.

To the question whether the student's voice makes the difference in improving the quality of education, the answer is totally positive. The enhancements are being done continuously with the help of the Committee for evaluation and the merit-based salary is changing depending on the overall yearly evaluation.

Nazira Jorayeva

## Dean of students column

### Thanks For Being Together

Thanks to all students, who did not have weekends and had daily rehearsals for Initiation concert. Thanks to all audience who gave a big support to those who did not come and gave free places for those who came without tickets.

Thanks to Student Affairs Office who becomes more and more professional in organizing big events. Thanks to all who helped in preparation and conducting of this event: Security, Public Relations Office ... Thanks to theater workers... Thanks to fifty year old man when I was among the audience moved and told "Sit down grandpa!" ... Thanks to me that I did not cancel some items and made the concert a little bit longer and a little bit boring, but have chance for students students to perform on the stage where great Minjilkyev sang and greta Beishenalieva danced. Thanks to Igor who sold us defective lighting effect and no one among the audience notices it. Thanks to Kairat Tynaev who puffed smoke and did not see the concert because of smoke. (by the way, Kairat, how did you puff it? Special thank to Galina Harlamenko, who was responsible for more than 50% of organizing the concert and official part. ... Thanks to faculty and representatives of administration at the head of the President of AUCA effervescent Caucasian dance! ... (forgive me if I forgot someone)

Thanks one more time to those who stayed in a hall and did not leave till the words of the last song... Those words showed the main idea of the event that we have every second Wednesday of each November annually: «We are together!»... Thanks to all who came and believe "We are together" and all others who is somehow related to AUCA ...

Thank you! You are the best!

Shulgin N.



## Folks!

Who can answer my question  
"Why can I buy a roll, a bun  
(cake or pie) at 2 soms 50 at  
the canteen of the Ministry of  
Finances (next to the University)  
and I cannot buy such "exotic"  
things at our University canteen?"  
I am looking forward to the  
answer.

L. Basova

# LOVE stories

Любовь - морковь  
Существует ли любовь в Американском Университете в Центральной Азии?

Любовь во все времена - прекрасное чувство, которое дает людям позитивные эмоции и хорошее настроение!

Вы спросите, любовь есть в АУЦА? Это все фигня, студентам даже некогда пообедать, не говоря уже про любовь и отношения. Но я говорю вам: Она, Любовь, есть! Что, не верите?! Так давайте узнаем!

Love story №1  
Алия Аскар

Эта парочка, наверное, никогда не расстанется, повсюду вместе: Аскар без Али и Алия без Аскара - уже что-то странное, чего-то не хватает. Потому что АлияАскар - это единое целое. Так с чего же все началось? А началась вся эта прекрасная любовь-морковь во время вступительных экзаменов - 2003. Любовь вспыхнула, как огонь, сразу и не спрашивая. Их отношения длятся уже четыре года. Как говорит Аскар, наша любовь неопишима, я люблю Алию за все ее минусы и плюсы. «У нас каждый день буря эмоций» - говорят влюбленные.

Пожелание от Али и Аскара: «Ищите и находите свою любовь здесь, в АУЦА!»

Love story №2  
Айдай Эрик

Эту парочку очень часто вы можете встретить в библиотеке. Плечом к плечу всегда вместе что-то читают, пишут. Они прекрасно подходят друг другу. А ведь все начиналось не так уж и романтично. Первая встреча произошла на SIFE meeting в прошлом году. Сначала о какой-либо симпатии не могло быть и речи, но потом все закрутилось и завертелось.

- Поначалу не было цели заводить отношений, а потом, в один прекрасный день, у меня появились чувства, говорит Эрик. Какое-то время Айдай и Эрик очень тесно общались,

около двух недель, т.е. с утра до вечера они были вместе, и, конечно, было время узнать друг друга очень хорошо.

- Это стало толчком того, что я открыла нового человека для себя, говорит Айдай. Они встречаются уже с августа 2006 года.

Эрик: моя любовь очень искренняя, чистосердечна, мои чувства, как раскаленная сталь!

Айдай: я его очень сильно уважаю, ценю, мне Эрик очень дорог!

Love story №3  
Диля Бахтиер

Очень романтичная парочка, они друг друга удачно дополняют. Вместе уже 7 месяцев. 7 месяцев прекрасной любви и взаимопонимания.

Мы брали вместе один предмет - сравнительную политику, но я не там обратил на Дилю внимание, говорит Бахтиер, началось все в нашей любимой

их песню и начал петь (Диля живет на девятом этаже). Вот это, действительно, был приятный сюрприз!

- А вот Диля устраивает сюрпризы мне каждый день, говорит Бахтиер. А вот ревности в их отношениях нет места, просто Диля и Бахтиер очень доверяют друг другу.

Бахтиер: «Я хочу пожелать всем студентам, чтоб они не думали, что если любить в АУЦА, то это не престижно, просто для понтов.»

Диля: «Любовь есть везде, ты не знаешь, где ты встретишь свою любовь, потому что любовь приходит внезапно.»

Love story №4  
Гунча Давлет

К р а с и в а я сказка любви из Туркменистана. Они неразлучны, просто они любят друг друга и все. А началась эта сказка еще в школе,



Гунча + Давлет

библиотеке, я первый подошел и спросил, как дела, а Диля со своей подружкой рассматривали в телефоне какие-то фотографии.

- Я ответила, что хорошо, но давай сначала познакомимся - рассказывает Диля. С этого момента дела у них всегда идут хорошо.

- Нашу любовь не описать, она просто есть, мы друг друга понимаем, ни разу не ссорились. Мы очень благодарны нашему университету. Любовь в АУЦА существует - Это точно! - говорят влюбленные. А однажды, когда Диля болела и сидела дома, ей было очень скучно и одиноко. Приехал Бахти, поставил

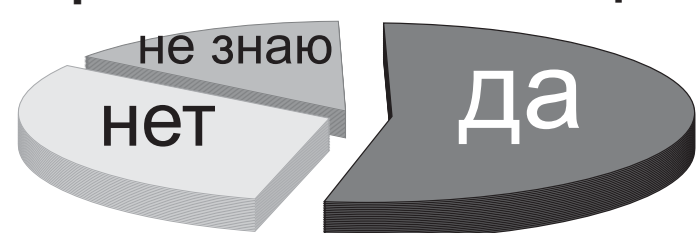
в Туркменабаде, они даже и не предполагали, что такое возможно. Сначала была даже неприязнь, потом были просто друзьями, но в старших классах они просто присмотрелись друг к другу и вместе уже 2,5 года.

- Наша любовь очень искренняя, романтичная. Я люблю Гунчу за то, что она есть, за лучшие ее черты характера, она очень умная и смелая, и очень красивая, признается Давлет.

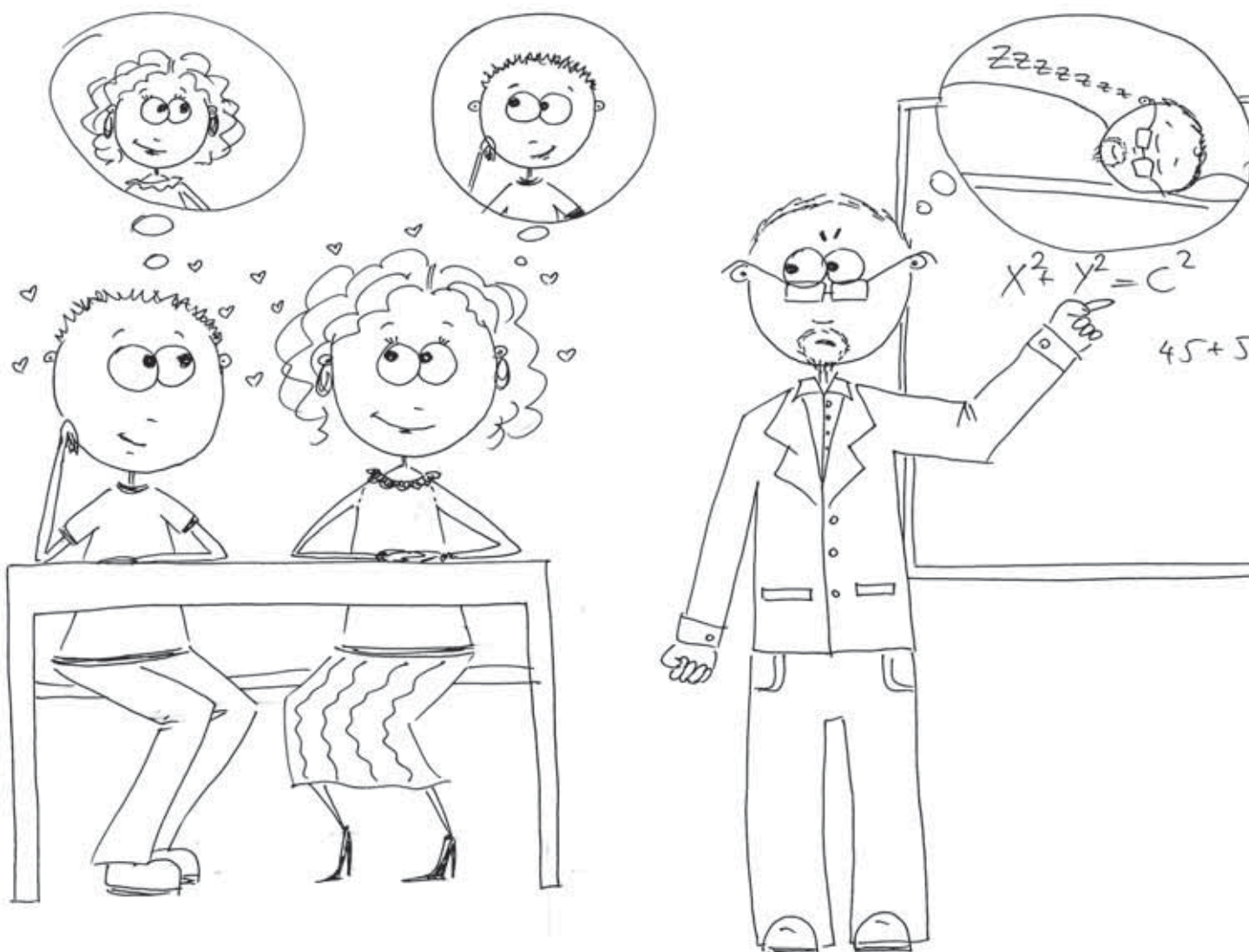


Диля + Бахтиер

## опрос: Верите ли вы в любовь в АУЦА?



Ирина Пак



# Senat Elections 2006-2007

Выборы в студенческий сенат, это всегда очень важное событие в политической жизни АУЦА, и ежегодно, количество кандидатов баллотирующихся на этот пост составляет около 20 человек. Вместе с тем, сама предвыборная гонка становится более динамичной, а агитационная кампания кандидатов более агрессивной, с применением различных PR приёмов.

В нынешнем году предвыборная агитация стала носить поистине вездесущий характер; плакатами кандидатов были увешаны все стены университета, более того, их можно было видеть даже в туалетах.

Однако, кто они, нынешние кандидаты в Сенат, которым так отчаянно нужны наши голоса, и с какими идеями они туда идут? Среди всего количества кандидатов, баллотирующихся на пост сенатора (20 человек), лишь единицы смогли представить для ознакомления свою предвыборную программу, и сформулировать планы, которые они собираются осуществить, заняв этот почетный пост. В подавляющем большинстве, плакаты, призывавшие нас проголосовать за того или иного кандидата, не удосуживались даже в общих чертах объяснить избирателям, почему наш выбор должен остановиться на изображенном на постере человеке.

Любопытная стратегия была избрана кандидатами от прекрасного пола; на фоне полного отсутствия предвыборной программы, с плакатов на нас смотрели милостивые девушки, призывавшие за них голосовать. В интервью с Дилнурой Халиловой (кандидат на пост сенатора) она прокомментировала это так: «У нас нет предвыборной программы.... За нас будут голосовать наши друзья и знакомые». Хотя, другие кандидаты женского пола все же попытались сформулировать цель, с

которой они идут в сенат; Айсаяева Дилнур (кандидат на пост сенатора), став сенатором, обещала сделать жизнь всех студентов АУЦА «гламурнее». Хочется признать, что привлекательная внешность для кандидата на такой пост, далеко не лишняя, однако, выборы в сенат, это все же не конкурс красоты, и избиратели, прежде всего, ждут эффективной работы сената, а не гламурности. Кандидаты, опубликовавшие

случае, если мои избиратели не будут удовлетворены моей работой в течение первых трех месяцев, то я сам уйду в отставку, в том числе и в случае не выполнения моих обещаний».

Тема снижения цен в сфере университетской системы общепита, весьма актуальна для большинства студентов, но осуществимо ли это обещание господина Ажибаева? Чтобы проанализировать возможность такого решения, я обратился с интервью к господину

АУЦА также, требует от сенаторов много сил и времени на реализацию проектов сената. От этой готовности, зачастую зависит эффективность работы сената, и очень важно, чтоб каждый кандидат, баллотирующийся на этот пост, четко это осознавал.

В интервью с господином Шульгиным, я попросил его оценить эффективность работы нынешнего сената по десятибалльной шкале, на что он ответил: «где-то баллов пять». Реально, в этом сенате работало четыре, пять человек, остальные разъехались, самоустранились и так далее. Это одна из причин такой оценки. Пять человек не могут потянуть того, что должен тянуть сенат. А то, что они практически распались к концу года... я не знаю, например, ты идешь в сенат, и знаешь, что в то же время подал какой то пропозал куда-то еще. Были такие, которые избирались в сенат, и через две недели уехали. Я не скажу, что это был худший сенат, но я подхожу к сенату с очень строгой оценкой, и пока, на моей памяти, такого сената, работой которого я был бы полностью удовлетворен, я еще не встречал».

На вопрос: «как избежать такого положения вещей в новом сенате, и во всех последующих», однозначный ответ найти трудно. Единственным способом может быть, наверное, только более критичный и взвешенный подход к кандидатам и их программам при голосовании. В обмен на наши голоса, мы хотим получить эффективно работающий сенат, а не смс с фотографией на мобильный или гламур. Всем же, вновь избранным сенаторам, хочется пожелать удачи и успехов в реализации всех их проектов, а нам удовлетворения от сделанного выбора.

Павел Коновалов

**«У нас нет предвыборной программы.... За нас будут голосовать наши друзья и знакомые»**



photo by Alexander Fedorov

свою предвыборную программу, зачастую были осторожны в своих обещаниях, однако нашлось место и для громких заявлений.

В ходе предвыборной гонки, Ажибаев Эльгиз (кандидат на пост сенатора) пообещал избирателям, что, заняв пост сенатора, сможет добиться «снижения стоимости основных блюд в «Китчинете и «Браво», путем субсидирования университетом этих затрат». Более того, господин Ажибаев пообещал «в

Шульгину (Декану по работе со студентами АУЦА), он этот вопрос прокомментировал так: «Это мало реально, это скорее

популистическая штука, но кто может запретить ему это написать, он может за это бороться. Субсидии повлекут увеличение платы за обучение, а мы это уже проходили, мы от этого отказались не для того, чтобы к этому возвращаться».

Должность сенатора наряду с почетной миссией представлять интересы студентов

**«выборы в сенат, это все же не конкурс красоты»**

## Student Senate through the Eyes of Student Senators: the 2005-2006 academic year

**Я люблю все сенаты, которые были и буду любить все, которые будут...**

**В Сенате всегда сидят необыкновенные люди, потому что, выдвигают себя сами. Я благодарен старому Сенату хотя бы за то, что он старый, как я...**

**А если серьезно – этот Сенат оставил после себя Donkey Bridge, дай Бог следующему оставить традицию такого же уровня. Спасибо, ребята!**

Shulgin, N.G., Dean of Students

When we came into office the high prices in AUCA cafeteria were among the burning issues within the student body of AUCA. Since in a market economy no one can dictate prices, even the Student Senate, we targeted the most vulnerable group: students with lowest incomes. Student Senate Scholarship was announced with more than 30 students applying and five people supported. In this way, an efficient, small-scale solution was implemented to the problem and a new roots of a new tradition for the Student Senate were created.



There was no other way for us to finance the project than to make a fundraising. That is why a Christmas Charity Concert was organized with many representatives of the Bishkek hip-hop and pop community present from Aya Sadyrova and Maksat Begaliev to Kiggaz and Asian Bloodz and auction with "products" from AUCA teachers. This fundraising "fun" was a blast.

St. Valentine's Day remains in our memories as a unique event with an abundance of prizes for AUCA students from serious sponsors. This time, a show was put up analogous with the MTV's "Dismissed".

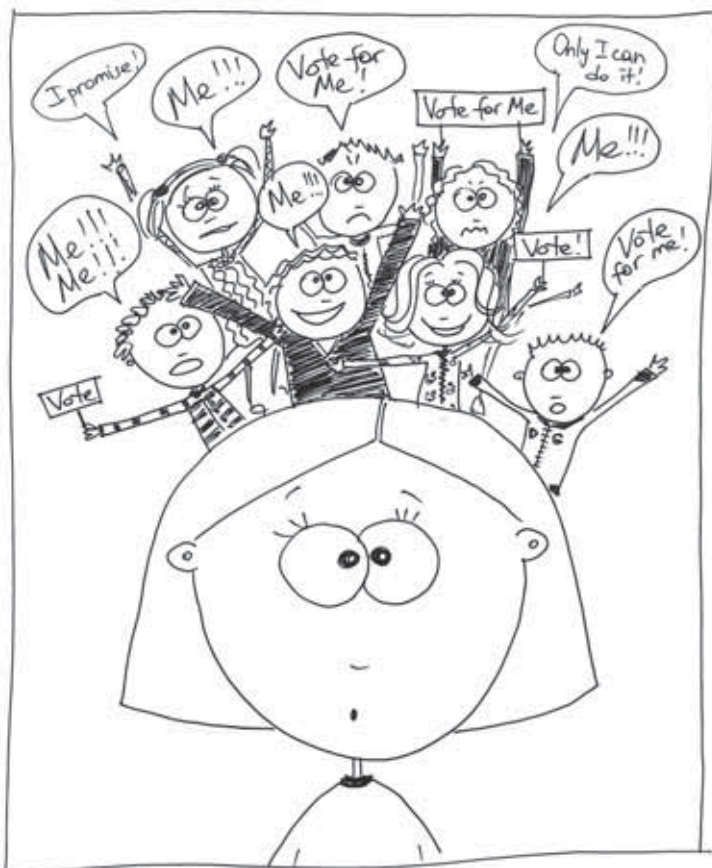
**Лучший день в моей жизни! Commencement бы тоже прошел на таком высоком уровне...**

N. Martirosyan, Economics senior

Juniors' Ball (Donkey Bridge) was THE event of the year. ALL the juniors, live music, good food, interaction and dancing all night...Everything ended with magnificent fireworks, watched by three hundred people from the roof of the "Uchqun" building...Unforgettable experience, ask any present senior. Student Senate initiated, sponsored and conducted the event for the first time in the AUCA history.

**Студенческое правительство поддержало нас больше, чем правительство национальное...**

A. Jumukova, Z. Haitmatova, SIFE AUCA  
N. Martirosyan, Economics senior



SIFE AUCA won the national championship in 2006 and was invited to participate in SIFE World Cup in Paris. Student Senate supported this talented team and did not err: SIFE AUCA finished third in their league. Congratulations, sifers!

#### Two of the most useful pieces of equipment in this room

K. Tynaev, Student Coordinator

A combo printer-scanner-copy machine was purchased for the Student Affairs Office and all the clubs this summer to facilitate documentation work. One extra computer was put up in 104 for clubs and the Senate to avoid "crowding out" problems in 104.

#### Не каждый день выигрываешь в карты у своего любимого преподавателя!

An ICP Senior

Two of the popular ICP instructors were leaving AUCA last summer: Emil Juraev and Tima Moldogaziev. Student Senate organized a trip to the mountains with every willing student present at the event. This was a glamorous day for many.

A trip to Issyk-Kul was organized right at start of Septem-

ber. We decided to make it "all-embracing", and thus subsidized the prices. Most of the "trippers" were the international students that saw Issyk-Kul for the first time. Yes, for us those are among the dearest days.

Besides these "visible" projects we spent most of the year dealing with "invisible" routine issues of the AUCA students, being at the Academic Senate, in its subcommittees, making trips to DOR-DOL in hot summer days, meeting with different foreign delegations, "spending nights" in room 104 (our propiska during our senatorial term), supporting our clubs and different welfare projects of our students, thinking about new sofas, о жидком мыле, talking to our administration and finding understanding. There are still some projects to be done that, as we hope, with the help of new senators once accomplished will add to the rich "achievements box" of the AUCA community. By the way, to senators: be wise and patient! We will be happy to share our experience with you!

Coming to the Senate one gets "new senatorial eyes". Through these eyes one perceives the AUCA world a bit differently. Thus, most of the issues that we saw as non-senators appeared to be different in our "senatorial eyes".

Thank you guys for choosing us! Believe us, we put much effort and part of ourselves into every project we did and every day we lived as senators of our beloved university!

Anvar Rahmetov

# PERSONA: DAVID LEVY



#### - Briefly tell about yourself.

- Well, I was born in Philadelphia. When I was 11 years old we moved down to Georgia, to a very small town, where I didn't really get a long with local people that well. I had more enemies than friends. I went to high school there and then to University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, which is a very nice university. I got my degree there in Sociology linguistics and minor in Russian, which I didn't... Я вообще не получил русский в Америке, только после того, как я приехал сюда я начал говорить русский язык. Then I moved to Budapest and got my MA degree in Central European University and then came here.

#### - Have you been to other countries?

- I have been to around 30-35 countries. I don't know how many. I've been mostly every-

where in Europe, but only for very short stays. For instance, I've been to Germany, but I've only been to South Bavaria and I cannot say I know Germany. Also I've been to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski, I was a camp manager and a cook on a microbiological expedition.

#### - So you cook well?

- Well, yeah. I cook well and I've worked for 4 years in the restaurants as a cook.

#### - What did you expect from Kyrgyzstan before coming here?

- I tried to do some research on a country. Neither in normal media nor even in scholarships, I didn't find anything. I didn't know what to expect. But I've been to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski, I've been to Ukraine, so I knew very much what a Soviet Union city would look like. And it was very similar. Of course, I've never

been to Central Asia; it was my first time region. And I didn't know what to expect from people pretty much. But the thing is I've never felt culture shock. I love traveling. I feel comfortable wherever I end up.

#### - What is the most memorable situation, event, or else in Kyrgyzstan?

- Probably, the most memorable, on Nooruz, last year, I was just sitting and working at park, which I often do when it is warm outside. People

are interested generally in me as in foreigner. So, one man reached me and asked if I wanted to drink beer with him and a couple of girls. I

said, "Yeah! Why not?" So I set with him and two girls, who were friends of his, eventually,

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after we went to a café. He took me out to the village Orto-Say, I didn't know why. He said, "you are my guest for the night." Also we were talking only in Russian and my Russian was even more weak back than, so I didn't really understand what was going on. He took me to his house, took me inside. They woke up all

guys that were sleeping on the floor. I was really getting kind of nervous what's about to happen. He took me up to stair case, took me to the dark room, turned on the



lights and there I was surrounded by entire room full of beautiful art, jewelry, and metal war gear from Mongolia, China, 16th century carved wooden throne from China. And that was a house of Uson Kudaibergenov, who was assassinated, he was a каскадёр. These were the people whom he gathered and trained to be каскадёры, stuntmen. They played in many movies; they had photographs of his entire filmatic career. They were like his children. It was

**- Were you surprised that we here were talking in Russian or not?**

- I knew that was a part of Soviet Union and I knew that especially in the city people spoke it. I was more surprised how many people in the countryside are not learning Russian. I know there is national sentiment involved, this is Kyrgyzstan and we should speak in Kyrgyz. The more languages you know the more you know the world. I don't understand why so



very sad because they lost their father. He was assassinated after Bakiev came to power. They were telling me stories all night long. I just met them that night, but we drunk vodka, ate tuna fish, brad and pickles. They were so happy to tell me stories about Uson, his career and what a good man he was. They showed me all the stunts he has done; he was a great horse rider. Also they took me to watch Ulak-Tartysh. What really interested me in Ulak-Tartysh and was very funny that one minute the goat is alive, and then it is dead. As they played with it the goat's tail was bouncing around, when these men were fighting over the goat, it's little tail was flopping back and forth.

**- About your Russian. You actually began to learn it in States and where did you learn it then?**

- I actually started using it when I came here. One year ago.

**- What about Ukraine and others?**

- Of course, I traveled to Ukraine quite a bit, but I've only been there at the times together for about a couple of weeks. I used it and when I first came to Kyrgyzstan it was also incredibly weak, so I had to develop it over time.

## I cook well and I've worked for 4 years in the restaurants as a cook

many people are willing to abandon Russian. I should say that, of course, I understand the feeling involved; they feel they were colonized by Russia. It's an ambiguous situation. Many

people talk about how much they miss the Soviet Union and Russia helping develop, other people being resentful of Russia. In fact, even when I'm talking to the same person. In one conversation one man

was saying, "Oh, my grandfather was very rich, he owned many horses and then Soviet Union came and took all his wealth, I hate Russia. But then in the same conversation he was talking about that before the transition from Soviet Union everybody had a job. If you didn't work they would come and make you work. These days you go and search for a job and there is, you know, no job. Very mixed feelings.

**- What do you think of before entering the classroom?**

- Before entering the classroom I think of the students themselves. Every class has a different feeling to it, different dynamics, different students, and different personalities. Over the time, I know what the classroom feel itself, even if I have known the students before. Each class is a little bit different. I actually think on where



we left off last time. I try to walk in there and try to feel, not think, what will immediately grab the attention and keep with me for at least the first 10 minutes of class and then I've got to think of what can grab them for the next 10 minutes. I have been a student also; I know it is very hard to keep the focus on what the teacher is saying.

**- What do you enjoy the most in teaching?**

- I actually have to escape the office because students have so many question, they can re-

ally take all of your time if you let them. But I love interacting with students, when they are themselves interested in learning. I love talking with students individually outside of the class about the material. And I'm also advising for some students' Bachelor thesis. I really enjoy having conversations with them. For the most part, designing a course, teaching a course, it's kind of a similar process with writing about academics, getting the meaning, you have to synthesize your own material. You can read so much, have so many different directions, but if



you do not synthesize you don't really have an understanding of it. But teaching forces me to go from so many ideas, from so many directions and form my own material and synthesize coherent theory for the students. So, in many ways I rediscover my own past of being a student.

**- What do you dislike in teaching?**

- The only thin that I dislike in teaching is having to discipline students. I'm not very good at it. I try to be stricter about things like cell phones in the classroom and showing up late. I don't like disciplining people in general. I also really do not like giving low grades, at all. I wish I could give good grades all the time. I really do. I want to be friends with all my students. But out of respect for those who study really well, I have to give grades to only who deserve it. I do feel when I give student "C" or "D" I shed a tear for them.

**- Finish the sentence: Sociology for me...**

- The best approach to discovering the world, discovering history. I think good sociologist must be a historian. Of course, there are many different interpretations of history, but

Sociology is the way that appeals me the most in understanding history and history fascinates me. Sociology is the best way to understand the world. I cannot say that on a daily basis I see every single thing sociologically. Of course, not. Sociology is a way to appreciate the world and everything in it.

**- What do you dream about in the meaning of future?**

- You know, it is something that does not really concern me actually. I have goals. I want to become a Professor. I don't know where I want to be, but I don't want to be America. I very much do not want to live in America, at all.

**- Why?**

- Because the most significant thing that I've learned how liberating it is, where you don't speak the language, you don't have to understand everyone's conversations. In America, I understand what people are saying around me, when I'm trying to sit and read, just how vain all the conversations around me, how completely pointless most of what people talk about is. They talk even when they have no reason to be talking, be completely quite. But here, I can imagine everybody having very enlightened

conversations around me, all the conversations mean something and there is a reason, because I don't understand. I know, of course, there are worthless conversations too, but I don't have to hear it.

**- What are you scared of?**

- Well, I guess, basically like everybody I'm scared of ending up completely alone. I don't think it'll happen; I always manage to make friends wherever I go. I wouldn't like to be alone. Aside from that, there is not much I'm scared because I'm too young. When you're very young you're scared of everything, when you're young adult you're scared of nothing. And then, when you grow up, you have responsibilities, when you have a family and you have to protect your own children. Then, I think, you really learn what fear is. But now, I'm too young to be really scared of much.

**- You wear that necklace all the time. Does it mean anything?**

- This, I actually bought when I went to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski. There were scientists from Moscow. These are Native American talismans. I bought a whole bunch of them to give to scientists. In the end I had two left, so I put

them on and I'm wearing them ever since, for 4 years. I wear them all the time and never take them off.

**- Do you consider them as talismans too?**

- I don't consider them talisman. I'm lucky enough; I don't need any extra luck. I don't feel I need any Gods protecting me. This owl was actually a symbol between my parents when they were dating. Then it became a family symbol. There are owls everywhere in the house. They love owls; it is a symbol of wisdom. There are owls that live in our backyard, trees. My parents always used it as a symbol. It was appropriate, I guess. A tooth is from bison, American bison.

**Read the continuation of this interview in the next edition of «The STAR» newspaper.**

Meerim Kuchukeeva  
Photos: David Levy  
(personal archives)



## Poetry section

Hi everybody! Our Star poetry section is working still and I'm still waiting for your poem to my e-mail

YOU...

No words I write can ever say  
How much I miss you every day  
As time goes by the loneliness grows,  
How I miss you nobody knows  
I think of you in silence  
I often speak your name.  
But all I have are memories  
And a picture in a frame  
No one knows my sorrow  
No one sees me weep  
But the love I have for you  
Is in my heart, and mine to keep.  
I never stopped loving you  
I don't think I ever will.  
Deep inside my heart  
You are with me still.  
Heartaches in this world are many  
But mine is worse than any.  
My heart still aches, as I whisper low:  
I need you and I miss you so  
I also know that you are not mine  
So my love to you don't worth a dime  
I'm saying this because I care:  
Love hurts a lot, so, please, beware  
Don't let her hurt the way I do  
The reason for my pain is you  
My heart is broken, all apart, again  
But I'll get over you, and will treat you like a friend.  
I'm strong, we both know it, right?  
Sometime in this life I'll find my light.  
I'll forget all good that we had  
I'll only remember the things that were bad.  
You shouldn't have probably read this, you know.  
It's just that right now I am feeling THAT low.  
But, please, don't let it bother you in any way -  
Look into her eyes, and take her blues away.  
By doing that you'll make my day.  
Love her the way you loved me, even more.  
I'm giving you back the piece of your heart that I tore.  
But from tears because of you my eyes are sore.

I'm thanking you for being honest, though.  
And all the dreams & memories are ours now to throw.  
But I just wanted you to know  
That now I HAVE TO let you go.

*gellas@bk.ru*

Золотая тишина,  
Голубая пустота,  
Говорливая нема  
От того, что влюблена.

От того, что солнце село,  
Опустилась темнота,  
На столе горит свеча  
Источает небеса.

За окном горит луна,  
Говорливая грустна,  
От того, что сердце твердо  
Обветшалая душа

Gella

A.I

## Boxes

**I Love:**

Я люблю парня- имени не знаю, он туркмен по национальности. Внешность: кудрявые волосы, один раз видела в красном галстуке, носит шапки и жёлтые шнурки. Я люблю тебя, туркмен. Обращаться mailto:cristiano\_ba@mail.ru (Я девушка)

Я люблю футболиста. Я не знаю как его зовут, но я знаю он-туркмен. Носит очки, волосы вьются, ходит с коричневой, кожаной сумкой. Смуглый. Стиль классический. Носит часто рубашки поверх свитера. ЕСО 106 Меня можешь узнать по пристальному, нежному взгляду в твою сторону.

Я люблю ЕСТЬ!!!! Очень много-много ЕДЫ!!!!

Я люблю РОО!!! (читается пу)

Я люблю "Южные глаза"

Никого не люблю! Помогите, два года не могу влюбиться! Хотя кто-нибудь есть здесь, кто разбудит холодное сердце?!

Я люблю водку ВА 106

Люблю самого громкого, самого обаятельного, самого весёлого, самого красивого, самого умного парня в АУЦА. Найдись, моя любовь!!! Мою анкету найдёшь в редакции Стара.

Люблю ковыряться в носу

И делаю это в лесу.

Люблю смотреть на осу

Даже с пальцем в носу.

Люблю лежать на полу

А тебя всё равно не люблю. (Не влюблённая)

**Announcements:**

Нодик. С Днём Вылупления тебя!!! Счастья, здоровья и всего тебе!!! Твои друзья

Все девчонки сохнут по туркменам. Бедные Киргузские девчонки. Долой туркменов! ЗАПРЕТ на ВЪЕЗД!

Почему некоторые туркмены такие лапочки? Были бы они менее хорошенькие, девчонкам KG\_AUCA жилось бы легче. (Да и пацанам KG\_AUCA тоже). Что делать нам?

Hi! I'd love to have a pen friend. Please send your messages to my e-mail: I\_WONDER@yahoo.com

Утром не завтракаю, думаю о тебе  
Днём не обедаю, думаю о тебе  
Вечером не ужинаю, думаю о тебе  
Ночью не сплю, БЛИН, кушать хочу.  
Где ты, отзовись, ведь я жду тебя в этом мраке...

**Looking for:**

Looking for a любовник. Обращаться cristiano\_ba@mail.ru

Народ, меня интересует лишь один вопрос: где Чильш и Snake?

Потеряла мозги в аудитории. Наверное, уже никогда не найду.....А если кто-то нашёл, то, пожалуйста, аккуратнее с ними.



### Есть проблема!

**Проблема 1.** Милый дворик! Так не хочется тебя терять! Сколько сказано на твоей траве! Сколько хороших, правда, иногда и не очень слов выразили студенты, овиаемые твоим воздухом. Сколько ног направляющихся в Китчинет топтали тебя, экономя силы! Сколько сигарет выкурили! Сколько сэндвичей скушали! Сколько эссе написали! Не забыть нам этого! А может и не надо? Не надо забывать, не надо ломать, не надо кафе... А покушать можно и в Китчиннете.

**Проблема 2.** Так жить нельзя! Что же это, господа хорошие, получается? Воровство. Как грубо звучит, правда? Непривычно как-то для студента АУЦА слышать это слово. Но тем не менее. Случаи были. К сожалению, есть. Но хочется верить, что не будет! Боже мой, флеш карты, диктофоны, с недавнего времени, сотовые телефоны, а, сколько мелких вещей пропадает порой при загадочных обстоятельствах. Страшно подумать, что где-то в аудитории рядом с тобой сидит кто-то способный на кражу. O tempora, o mores!

Максим Полетаев



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## Sport

# Football MATCH



Still United: Students, Teachers, Alumnus.

Shopping unites girls - football united guys. Football match which was held on October 29th was organized by AUCA sport club proved that one more time. It was a special match. Read why in our article.

Football match started at 9.30 in Sport Palace. Nine competing teams spent five hours to figure who was the

best. During those five hours AUCA guys showed all the strength they had while running, jumping, yelling at the judge and opponents, falling down and beating up the floor. Observation showed that the last action happened more frequently, which, by the way didn't affect our champions' attendance in classes on Monday! Caution for ordinary AUCA students: DO NOT play football five hours in a row if you are going to have classes next day and if sport is something you are reminded of only once a week while trying to catch up with marshrutka you have just missed!

Even though, "freshness" of football players in classes after the game was surprising, there were other things that made the football game so special. First time ever AUCA Teachers' team decided to give a master class for students on the football grounds!!! Even though they didn't play in the final game - they made a good start

and are not planning to quit. "We will not stop, that is for sure," Mamutov Tilek, member of the Teachers' team, told. We hope that next year they will be teaching students not only in AUCA walls but also on the football fields!

Teachers' team didn't win, which cannot be referred to Inter, AUCA United and ECO-1. These teams took third, second and first places accordingly.

AUCA United consisted of AUCA alumni, which is the second fact that made this game special. The "oldest" member, Botbaev Kanat, had finished AUCA in 1997! Friends call him "a Legend". Albanov Bakai, 2003 alumni, said that they have been meeting for two years just to play football. They have played with ECO-1, but lost with 2:1 score. "We are not disappointed though. It was a good game and we have had good opponents," said Bakai A.

ECO-1 - first place AUCA winners, Alumni United - second place, AUCA alumnus, Inter - third place AUCA winners...

AUCA - we are still united: teachers, students and alumnus.

Madylova Aliya  
(photos by author)

