

NEW STAR



Dean of Students Column



300 Romeos and Juliets

Probably, it is really nice, that each time academic year starts with Orientation week for freshmen.

New person comes and make changes in the whole old community. No, I am not joking. It is all very serious.

We do expect a lot from freshmen; not only academic excellence and proper behavior. We expect from you, that you also will teach us something new and outstanding. I am sure that there are tons of things you can teach us.

And we hope that our expectations will match.

Our experimental Orientation week actually turned out well. Especially we achieved a lot in sense of language. English

sounded throughout three days in row. It okay, that's not always perfect.

But we all, including freshmen, getting morally ready to accept that English language is a crucial part of AUCA and will play more important role. It is about both academic and non academic spheres.

Perhaps, not everything that we planned worked out 100 % in Orientation week. But we have an year ahead to prepare for the next one...

The most important - that is what we have lost, I hope, we will not lose any uniqueness of our academic institution, which we have gained for the last ten years.

Shulgin N.G.

Антифакты

Каждый год старшекурсники произносят одну и ту же, уже оскомину набившую, фразу: «АУК портится. АУЦА уже не тот, что был раньше». Я не особо обращала внимание на это до нынешнего года. Сегодня несколько перемен изменили университет, хоть и не радикально, но достаточно ощутимо: нет туркменов, ориентационная неделя уже не та, что была раньше, «мертвый» внутренний дворик. Одно положительное изменение – преобразование «лэбов».

Еще до этого года меня раздражала напыщенность старшекурсников, фыркающих на фрешменов. В этом меня раздражают фрешмены. Первокурсники, не обижайтесь, но уж больно шумные вы, с горящими от восторга глазами носитесь по коридорам, переполняете столовые, занимаете много места... В общем, в следующем году, когда придет новый поток, вы поймете о чем я. И все равно, добро пожаловать в семью.

Всех остальных с началом учебного года.

Зарина Исамбаева



Happened to be a tale-teller

Nikolai Shulgin, dean of students of AUCA, took third place in literature fairy-tale contest, which was held on Russian web site called Gold-Child. Its main theme is charity - to help children with disabilities. This site became the winner of Russian internet-pedsovet in 2006, and held a lot of contests dedicated to children.

Shulgin's story "В жизни есть счастье," which you can find in his book "Дежурная корова," appeared in the contest by chance.

"I found Gold-Child web site, and decided to put my story in it. Six months later I read a message from this site, and it was written that I got third place from 2000 contestants. They sent me a certificate," Shulgin said.

The main thing about this contest is that Gold-Child is going to be updated and will have a literature theme. Also this site will have its own publishing house in the nearest future.

"They offered me to work as an author, and to publish my stories. I think it is a great idea, so, now we agree about copyright, and soon my novels and short stories in hard

copies will appear in Moscow," Shulgin added.

In conclusion, here is a passage from "В жизни есть счастье."

Она перешагнула лужу, открыла дверь в метель, согнулась, как бабушка, и вышла.

«Почудилось» - подумал я и посмотрел на оставленную ею лужу...

Лужа из озера превратилась в речку и потекла прямо ко мне. Я «отъехал» на своем кресле, чтобы не мешать «речке» течь, но она повернула за мной. Я снова, она опять... «Речка» догнала меня в углу комнаты и коснулась моей правой тапочки...

If you want to know what happened next, you can find a story on Gold-child web site. Follow this link. http://gold-child.ru/children/konkurs/story/v_tales4.php?phrase_id=18291

Nataly Anarbaeva



Dear seniors! In this new academic year I wish you to successfully complete all credit requirements. Have fun during your last student year and good luck on state exams and thesis defense.

Dear juniors! This year you will have the most fascinating event - Junior's Ball! Get ready for that and don't forget to study well, so that you don't stay junior next year too!

Dear sophomores! The most challenging year is behind, now you know how to fill-in study cards and add/drop forms! Study hard and don't forget to take active role in extracurricular activities.

Dear freshmen! Guys, you were awesome during Orientation Week! I wish that you will be as awesome during studies, and hope that you will only strengthen our AUCA spirit. It will be a challenging and interesting year for you - new school, new friends, new teachers, new emotions, and new experiences. But I am sure that you will go through challenges easily!

I want every student in AUCA to remember that in room 104 you will always find help.

Good luck!

Sincerely,
Dilnura Khalilova
Student Coordinator

Dear AUCA students!

There will be New Star boxes in Bravo Cafeteria where you can leave your announcements, messages and confessions in love which will be published in New Star newspaper.

Please be active!

New Star Editorial Board

**Dear
AUCA Students!**

New Star Student newspaper invites you to try yourself as a journalist and win real money for the best article of this year! The articles can be about any issues that will be interesting for The New Star readers. The articles should be submitted and published this academic year.

\$ 150 - for first place

\$ 100 – for second

\$ 50 – for third

The winner will be selected by an independent committee, consisting of professional journalists in May 2010.





September 1,
2009

Dear students of AUCA!

Each fall I look forward to the first issue of our student newspaper and, with it, to the opportunity to share with you some thoughts about our very special University and your role in its development. I believe this is an especially good occasion on which to reflect on the wonderful opportunity that we have, in *The New Star* and overall, to express ourselves freely and openly based on well-founded information and well-developed ideas.

The privilege of learning at our great University is especially meaningful this fall as we welcome those students from Turkmenistan who have been able to join us and remain very concerned about those who are still waiting to see whether they will be allowed to join us at all.

With the privilege of study at an institution of higher learning dedicated to the liberal arts and to the pursuit of enlightened analysis and decision-making comes the responsibility to act nobly, to inquire politely and to explore deeply the questions that we raise. As future scholars, public leaders and entrepreneurs it is your privilege and your responsibility to exercise freedom of expression with wisdom and care. The freedom to inquire is both a right and a responsibility in a democratic society and an open university. Framing good questions is a skill that liberal arts universities model and teach every day. Researching and answering well-framed questions is the best approach to the development of knowledge and of plans for ethical action. No matter what your course of study at AUCA, the inquiry and the resolution of the inquiry are essential for your future.

I believe that each and every student at our great University should explore freedom of expression honestly, authentically and nobly. It is through this noble exploration that we continue to grow as an institution and that each of you grows individually on the great stage of AUCA. I wish all of you to develop the self-respect and the self-confidence to be responsible academic citizens. Please stay away from claiming someone else's ideas as your own. Instead give someone else the credit, whether an expert whose ideas you have read or a friend or colleague with whom you work. Don't plagiarize; instead, share the source. Please, too, avoid attributing to someone words they never uttered, always verifying the truth or the misunderstanding behind a rumor before you inadvertently or, worse, intentionally spread it. Responsible citizenship in our academic community depends upon all of us affirming honesty, disavowing dishonesty and celebrating the search and the discovery of new ideas and new ways of working together.

Your freedom as a member of our community depends upon the responsible adherence to the principles and values of our University. Help us, dear students, to remain free from corruption, calumny, cheating and arrogating to oneself the ideas of others. As you delve into your studies please remember our mission and our values and ask yourselves whether you, and we, are doing all that we can to meet them.

In closing I site our mission and values statements developed in 2006-2007 by members of the faculty, staff, and students and endorsed by the Board of Trustees and ask you to ponder their meaning. I wish you all a marvelous academic year and to *The Star* as lustrous a time as Shakespeare's Romeo had when he discovered Juliet his very special "bright star".

The Mission and Values of AUCA

American University of Central Asia is an international, multi-disciplinary learning community in the American liberal arts tradition that develops enlightened and impassioned leaders for the democratic transformation of Central Asia.

American University of Central Asia values responsible freedom in the search for truth and justice. We are honest, self-critical, and respectful. We cherish critical inquiry and investigative learning both for their own sake and for the development of an open, diverse and just society that suits the region in which we learn and serve.

**Thank you. Ellen S. Hurwitz,
Ph.D. and President**

Dear AUCA students,

Congratulations on the beginning of new academic year! Welcome back to the most wonderful world of knowledge, academic excellence, professional challenges, and student time fun!

Dear Freshmen, all the best to you at the starting point of your studies at the best university in Central Asia! You are just in the beginning of all the difficulties and fun of student life and you sure will enjoy them during your AUCA experience!

In this short address I would like to cover our plans and deliberate actions for the academic year of 2009-2010.

So, during the Fall semester Advising and Career Services will provide students and alumni with all the available data on graduate school opportunities and scholarship programs to be available within the next 3 months. Those scholarship programs are provided and coordinated by the International Financial Institutions and International NGOs. Usually the scholarships include tuition and living expenses, sometimes they also cover round trip tickets from the home country and visa expenses.

Besides the scholarship programs, we will make presentations on how to apply to the Western universities and look for financial support individually. Moreover, you will be provided with the training workshops on how to write a statement of purpose for graduate school, how and where you can train yourself to take tests, and what kind of grants are available to cover the costs on tests preparation and fees, visa and application fees, transportation costs, books and settling in allowance.



Also during this semester a number of company visits will be arranged for you to make you aware of potential employers in the industrial and business sector. Those trips promise to be really exciting and useful for our students in terms of finding out what are the career opportunities available out there!

During the Spring semester, most of our activities will be dedicated to professional and career choices. Those activities will include career exploration days and training workshops on self-marketing tools such as:

- *Resume writing;*
- *Cover letter writing;*
- *Interview preparation;*
- *Asking for recommendation letter;*
- *Being successful at Career Fair, and others.*

Please note that all of you are welcome at the Advising and Career Services Office and keep checking our website www.career.auca.kg which is constantly updated and gives you information on the upcoming events organized by the Advising and Career Services for you!

**Good luck and best regards,
Yours sincerely,
Lira Djuraeva, Director of
Advising and Career Services.**



Company visit to Manas Airbase organized by Career Services

Traveler's Notes

Dubai - place which makes you fall in love with ancient culture integrated with the most modern architecture and enriched with smell of tasty shisha from manmade palm islands to hot desert. Not everyone can deal with hot climate and value exotic style of life. For those who cannot, architectural designers made a heaven based area for hi-tech styles, which blows you away and creates 2050 year mood. Although modern and stylish, Dubai has areas where one can easily see the line between poverty and lucrative business. However, as it seems as heaven-to-be place, from some people it is place-to-be. The AUCA team had a chance to visit such place and do activities to perform from discovering sandy barchans to exotic places around seven emirates of UAE. That they could not do without a support from internationally recognized photographer, businessman and a professor Hersh Chadha.

One of the things that I liked about Dubai and that is only having traveled there for the second time is the line between work and vacation. People devote to themselves so much time that they totally forget about their work for one day and relax as they wish. What I and my colleagues did was simply swimming in Dubai Marina beach and spending hours chatting in the "City Port" café sipping juices, smoking shisha, enjoying the view and the moment. Other very important thing that should be brought up is Gigantic Dancing Fountain – which blows out your mind with notes of best musicians and singers. The massive power throws water into dozens of meters up in the sky and light emphasizes the capacity making your skin cover in goose bumps.

Lida Chikalova



Dubai Marina Beach

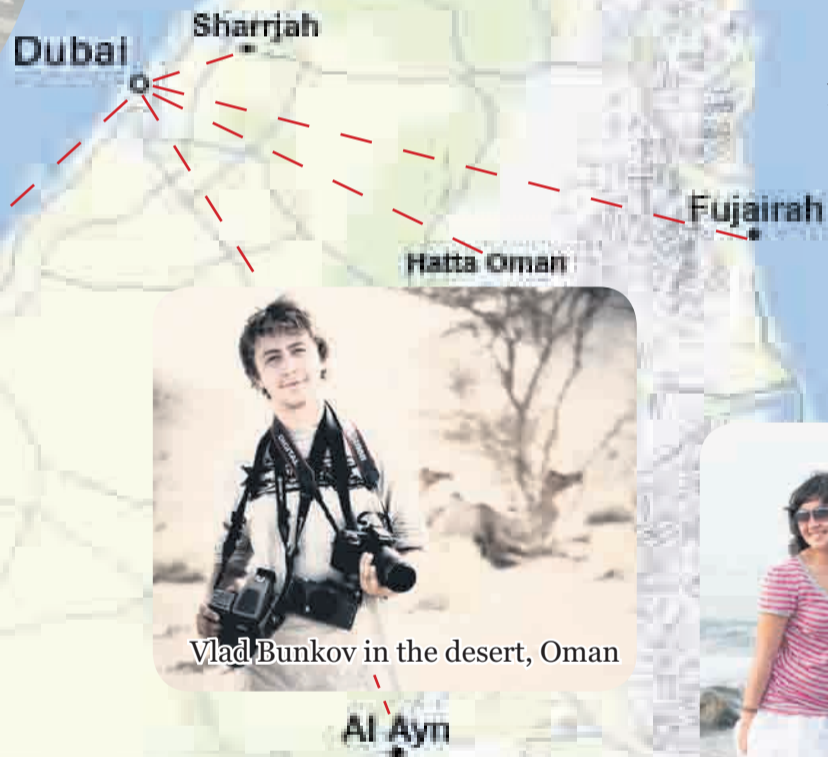


Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi. Photo by Vlad Bunkov

First of all I want to thank Professor Chadha to give me and other AUCA students to become participants of internship which was full of new and useful information. Besides using different type of modern photo technology we also have a chance to take photos in different climate conditions. From cool photo shoot studio to the hot desert temperature. The most memorable photo shooting conditions and the most memorable "model" was the Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi. As we were located in Dubai we have to go to Abu Dhabi at 4am to shoot Mosque in the sun rise.

1 billion dollars was spent for building this Mosque which Sheikh-son built for His father Sheik Zayed. But this money concerning information is nothing in comparison to that feeling of calmness and closeness to God while being inside the mosque. It is impossible to describe the beauty and modesty (despite the cost mosque seems to be modest) of this building, so I advice you to go to Abu Dhabi and see it personally.

Lazarina Kuchmenova



Vlad Bunkov in the desert, Oman

It was one of those unforgettable days after which you have only one desire left to fall in your bed never to get up again.

During our internship in Dubai with Professor Chadha, we were studying theoretical principles of photography and traveling all-around the UAE, taking photographs of nature, beautiful Arabian architecture, and models, using highly-sophisticated professional photo equipment. Whole fourth week of our internship we spent traveling around the country, testing new cameras and techniques of photographing, using all obtained knowledge in practice.

One of those days we went to desert in Oman, full of knowledge and new ideas, and heavy-armed with all sort of cameras - that more looked like automatic rifles. There were two things in that trip that really amazed all of us: surprising politeness and kindness of Oman frontier guards – good example for our authorities -, and unbearable heat. It was good experience for us of working in severe conditions. Each twenty minutes of photo shoots were like hours, but at the end, we got some really good shots and tired, but happy we all fell asleep at the backseat of the car.

Vladislav Bunkov

Another day in our visiting schedule was spent in Fujairah, one of the Emirates of UAE. As soon as one enters its area he/she would recognize that unlike other Emirates, Fujairah is different in many ways including the terrain.

Fujairah is the only Emirate with no desert terrain, instead almost all its territory being covered with mountains, which often get tight to the shore line.

This Emirate is the only one on the Gulf of Oman of the Indian Ocean, while six others are on the Persian Gulf.

This is primarily agricultural and at less extend a tourism state, which features the number of the tropic fruits plantations and absolutely beautiful send beaches, majority of which according to the signs are 'for families only.' By the way concentration of the salt in the water extremely high, so you will notice it if water will get into your nose or throat while taking a swim. Apart from that Fujairah is the perfect place for scuba diving; I've met a group of tourists on the coast who have shown their underwater video footage – really nice stuff.

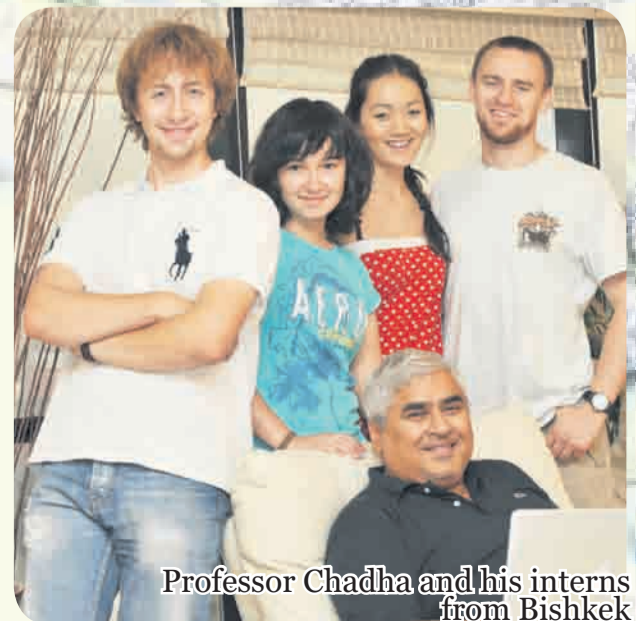
So if you are into shopping and fast city rhythm this is probably not one of your top places to visit, but its perfect for hiking trips and camping.

Pavel Konovalov



Indian Ocean, Fujairah

Oman



Professor Chadha and his interns from Bishkek

Persona: Allen W. Palmer

This year our university's Department of Journalism is enriched with new American professor – Dr. Allen W. Palmer.

Dr. Palmer came from Brigham Young University. His research and teaching areas embrace international communication, communication theory, and cultural history of communication. Throughout his professional lifetime he has been in several countries, teaching and participating in different fellowships and programs. He has written dozens of articles and chapters published in peer-reviewed academic journals and professional anthologies. He holds and experience of teaching university journalism and mass communication for 26 years. Here in AUCA, Dr. Palmer is teaching Mass Communication Research Methods for juniors, Mass Communication Research for Sophomores, Mass Communication Theory and Senior Thesis for Seniors.

What brought you to Kyrgyzstan?

- I have a Kyrgyz friend, his name is Baktybek. He worked as an ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to the United States during the old government. When revolution in 2005 took place in Kyrgyzstan he left to the United States. He now works as a professor in Utah State University. So Baktybek came to me one day last year and said: "You should go to Kyrgyzstan." He said it would be interesting for me there. So I said: "Ok, it would be interesting."

Since many foreigners that come to Kyrgyzstan, particularly Americans say that they have never heard about Kyrgyzstan, I have to ask this question. Did you know about Kyrgyzstan before?

A lot of people in America actually do not know about such small countries around the world. In my case it is not like that, because I have done researches on such countries like Kyrgyzstan and I know little bit about them.

This is the traditional question that we address to foreigners. How does Kyrgyzstan's landscape differ from the place you are from?

Actually Utah is pretty much like Kyrgyzstan. There are a lot of mountains. There is a view of mountains right from my house.

When I went to the store here in Bishkek, customer saw the picture of mountains on my credit card and said that it was Kyrgyzstan. I said it was Utah and she would not believe. (laughing). Other than that we have deserts and hot springs and it is just like here.

So have you gone out to local restaurants yet? How do like food in here?

I am still getting used to it here. I went to the restaurant called Time Out. Last week we went to restaurant called Twelve Chimneys Cabin.

Have you gone anywhere else outside the Bishkek?

Yes. We went to one farm and had kumyz there. People there also treated us with the tail of lamb, which I think was supposed to be the sign of respect. Well, we are not really used to a lot of fat, so it was something new for me. But I liked fruits. They gave us peaches and they were just wonderful. Hmm, delicious! Then we had melon, which I have never tried before. It is not watermelon, it is yellow. It was just delicious. We have melons but they are not like the ones I tried here. We liked them and had them for five and six days after that. I also liked yogurts here, yogurts are good here.

So what other countries have you been to?

Well, I did Fulbright five years ago in Africa, in Namibia. I went back there several times. And actually three weeks ago I was in Namibia. I taught one year at the University of Mauritius. It is an island off the coast of Madagaskar. That is where dodo bird is from. It is extinct though. It is famous bird in United States for environmentalists. I have also taught in Philippines, in Eastern Europe.

What was the most amazing thing and new for you when you first arrived to Kyrgyzstan?

I have been here only for one week, and there is not much things that I



Hiking in Greece

have seen yet (laughing). I think very unique thing for me is Manas epic. I am really interested in that. I have seen a movie about Manas and it was really interesting. I think secondary interesting things for me are monuments that are left from oviet times and buildings that remind me of Soviet Union. And those monuments and pillars are huge. I think they are mostly soviet. I think people who build them must be big thinkers. Streets and boulevards are wide, blocks are long. And it is beautiful.

What do you think of students here in AUCA?

I was impressed. So far all of the students that I have talked to are really nice and pleasant. They are not really different from American students. And I have to say that cars that people drive here are really expensive. People drive Mercedes here, in America not many people could afford that. But people here do.

Do you plan to do anything else except teaching here in AUCA?

Yes, I actually do teach at Kyrgyz Slavonic University. But we are still working on that now. I saw the book that Sam Tranum published. I was reading part of it yesterday I really

liked it. Maybe I could do some more. I was talking to president Hurwitz yesterday. She said that she also liked it. I looked at a syllabus of that course and it is pretty simple. It requires some work at the end, little bit of money but it is possible to do something like that. We were brainstorming with president Hurwitz, trying to come up with an idea of project. When I came, administration just assigned me to teach classes. Maybe by the end of the semester I will have more choices and maybe we will do a project. I have to tell you something. I am really interested in Manas epic. I am really interested in how the people who recite Manas get certified. And I was thinking, it might be possible to publish something about the influence of Manas epic to people here.

What is your lifetime motto?

I don't have certain motto, but it is probably just the simple words that I say to myself: "Life is good." I am pretty optimistic. Life is being good to me. I have wonderful family, six children. My kids are all graduated from universities. Two of them have master degrees and rest have bachelors. They have finished the school with no loans. If many people in US direct their money to the retirement we directed it to education. Our children are all married. We have many grand children. I think all the good things that happened to me are because of education. We have many blessings and we try to share and help people. I got married when I was 22 years old. So we are big family.

What would you recommend to freshmen students and not only freshmen but all students in order to be successful in their studies?

I would recommend to students not to be discouraged and go forward. And I would like to say to them that the best thing that is going to happen in their life is education.

Akylbek Baltabaev

Photos from personal archive



Allen Palmer and his Family

What was the most remarkable for you this summer?

My first experience of fishing, I sucked at) Didin't catch anything, but I still enjoyed it. Erniss.

I jumped into swimming pool and fell down my face down and my nose was swallowed for two days. Ulukbek

Met somebody who I will never forget. Kanykey

I went to the designers contest in Moscow, it was GREAT!!! Konstatin.

Being to the USA, Long Island and my trip to Pensilvania. Maksim

The archeological findings) Narisa

I saw to see premier of the Harry potter movie in Tashkent, where I had to wait for three hours to get a ticket. Dulfusa

I went to India and had to experience how monkeys attack on streets wizards running around the hotel, and constant smell of Karry) Djanai

I worked the whole summer, on three different jobs, then spent all my money on shopping) Dilhura

The whole summer I missed my girlfriends Mesha and Natali. Aibek

Orientation weekend and freshmen party, I loved how these events were done and AUCA community amazed me. Aibek

It definitely was my unforgettable birthday) Mesha

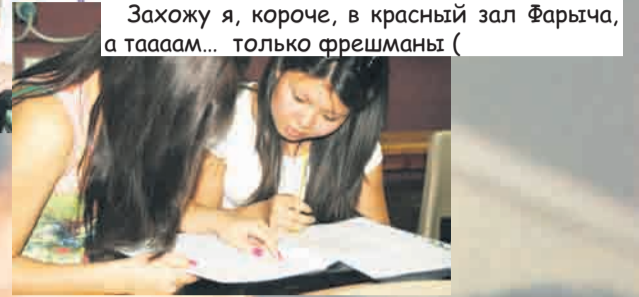




Что делают Alumni среди freshmen???



И при чем тут Ромео и Джульетта?



Захожу я, короче, в красный зал Фарыча, а таааам... только фрешмань (



Просто NG)



Диля: ну, когда я уже уйду с этой сцены.. пятый год уже!



Let's get it started!



у-а-а-у-а-а-у
P.S. макаки наступают!



If you wanna ride, you ride a volunteer...

WEEK



АУЦА - наша крепость, основанная на нас самих!



Дааа, зря ...!



Пролетарии всех стран, обливайтесь!



Все девушки одинаковые: сначала мило улыбаются, а потом садятся на шею!



Зря взяла шланг...



Студент, спортсмен, комсомолец и просто красавчик!!!
P.S. тот, что с мячом...)

