



American
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Center for Student Success NEWSLETTER

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First Graduating Bachelor's: helpful hints

Undergraduate students from the Class of 2017, you are preparing to complete your final semester of studies at AUA. With the final semester ahead, this is an exciting and opportune time to plan and prepare for what comes next. But what, exactly, comes next: graduate school, internship or a job? This semester, as graduating seniors, you will need to not only manage your studies and senior projects, but also set aside time to develop a plan for your next steps after AUA. As students approach this juncture, you have access to many resources and individuals available across campus ready to assist in guiding students.

First, you should seek the advice of your Program Chairs. This faculty member likely knows you well by now including your interests, strengths and goals. They also are knowledgeable about your professional field and may be able to advise you to pursue different paths. For example, if you are not sure what job is right for you then you may want to pursue an internship opportunity. Here you can explore whether this the right profession for you and gain valuable experience working with professionals in the field.

The next source you should seek out is the Alumni Career Development Office. The ACDO staff is available to help you explore career opportunities. They have resources and services to help you develop your resume, access job and internship announcements in the latest databases and networking opportunities with alumni currently in the field. Located on the fourth floor of the Main Building, you'll be able to discuss your interests one-on-one with the ACDO staff who are available to help you.

The Center for Student Success is also another resource on which you can rely. CSS workshops offer students training on a wide range of topics, including public speaking, email etiquette, goal setting and many others. These workshops can develop your personal and professional skills in areas that may help you approach job interviews or job applications. Also, your involvement in student organizations and the peer mentoring program can help boost confidence and leadership skills that are essential. Finally, the CSS Counselor can assist you in overcoming your personal challenges as well as how

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COUNSELING SERVICES: BECOMING RESILIENT

The start of a new semester is the beginning of new challenges. To be successful, we need to develop resilience to address those challenges effectively. We must remember that victims recite problems, leaders present solutions. Leadership and success are your birthright and you can experience your best during the new semester, by devoting yourself to the authentic reasons why you are here and the positive changes you will experience as you make education your primary commitment. Being resilient means challenging your beliefs and behavior and becoming

adaptable to new demands and changes in your everyday life.

Thus, if you know why, you can bear with anyhow. Counseling Services at AUA support the students become more resilient and get a better sense of the reality we are striving to create. Welcome back! Be ready to take responsibility for your education and remember, if a problem arises, there is someone to assist you. You can learn more about Counseling Services by visiting <http://studentsuccess.aua.am/>



STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



As a first year student, Christina Soloyan remembers attending the undergraduate student club fair where she met Hovsep Markarian, a representative of The Bridge Newspaper. She signed up to join this student organization, as she wanted to ensure her AUA education was not limited to her classroom experiences only. The Bridge Newspaper has 26 active members, 137 published articles, 159 followers on Twitter, and 2098 likes on Facebook. Christina shared that a new section was added to the newspaper titled, “Turnitout” open for AUA students to share their successful works such as essays, films or other projects from their courses. During the initial phase of establishing the club, Christina recalls the discussions and debates about the naming of the newspaper, its design, the schedule of activities, and other issues. “It’s hard to believe we are in our third year now.” Her passion for writing began at the age of 15 when Christina participated in the [Kids Crossroad](#), a project which aimed to help students to learn about media and journalism. This was Christina’s first opportunity to interview people and write news

stories. Recently, members of The Bridge were invited to the Dilijan Community Center, a project initiated by the IDEA Foundation, where they helped high school students develop their newspaper. Christina is very proud of The Bridge’s accomplishments and describes how the members have become her friends today. For more information, please be sure to visit the Center for Student Success website to learn more about these student organizations: <http://studentsuccess.aua.am/aua->

RETURNING FROM THE MILITARY

Arman Vardanyan, a first year English & Communications undergraduate, returned to AUA in Fall 2016 after serving as a tankist in Stepanakert. Arman learned that after his military experience, there is no situation that he cannot overcome. He experienced his first six months of training in Hokdemberyan and was later placed in Stepanakert. In April 2016, the Nagorno-Karabakh war escalated, which coincided with Arman’s last 100 days of service. He recounted when the army officials exclaimed that none of the soldiers would be returning home anytime soon. He was not prepared to let his dreams of studying at AUA vanish that easily. After the cease-fire was reinstated, Arman remained behind for five more days until he was allowed to return home. In September 2016, Arman rejoined AUA and completed his first semester of studies. Another important lesson he learned while serving was that, “I can overcome any situation when I rely on myself. I have learned how to manage my own problems and I try to find solutions on my own.” Upon graduating AUA, Arman plans to pursue a path in diplomacy and to continue to serve his country. “I love my country, and I plan to stay here. I am interested in establishing a connection between the youth of Armenia and the government to make life





STUDENT SUCCESS

Nareg Soussani is a second year computer science undergraduate student. Born in Aleppo, Syria, Nareg relocated to Armenia in 2012. Within two, Nareg has been involved in AUA student life both in and out of the classroom. He currently serves on the Undergraduate Student Council, Volunteers League, and is a founding member of the Chaplin Comedy Club. "Being an AUA student has a lot of advantages. What I really like about AUA is its friendly and open minded community, where students get to be themselves and have their own unique input in the AUA community." In his first year, Nareg decided to join clubs to meet new people and participate in clubs that meet his interests. Nareg firmly believes that all students should join at least one student organization and spend time with new people away from classes and exams. "After all, being a university student is not all about graduating with A's. The Center for Student Success is my favorite place around campus to hang out, study, sleep. It really feels like home!" At first, Nareg attended workshops because of class requirements, but "eventually these workshops started to interest me, as I realized most of them are based on topics we use in our everyday life, and can be helpful in the future." Recently, he completed his responsibilities as a peer mentor and says, "it was a great opportunity for me to meet new people, gain leadership experience, as well as share my



MATH & WRITING CENTER

Student support that goes beyond one-time help
The holidays are over, and the buzz in the hallways of AUA is back at fever pitch. It's time to get productive, to study, and to seek support as you are assigned the next essay or project. The Math and Writing Center welcomes you with a team of professional writing consultants who are trained to assist you not only with a particular assignment, but

also help you improve your writing skills in the long run. All graduate and undergraduate students can schedule two appointments per week and have one-on-one sessions to hone their skills in different aspects: how to organize a piece of writing, develop arguments and support them, revise for a flawless piece, cite sources, and much more. This is a marvelous opportunity to not only prevent failure but also work to your true potential. We invite you to the Math and Writing Center to learn more about our services and schedule an appointment by visiting our website at <http://studentsuccess.aua.am/math-and-writing-center/>

PEER MENTORING



Call to action! We are looking for enthusiastic, knowledgeable and friendly students to help greet and mentor our incoming undergraduate class of 2021! Team leaders will meet and welcome our freshmen at the New Student Orientation on Wednesday, August 23, 2017. First year students will register for a team where their team leader will serve as the Peer Mentor throughout the Fall 2017 semester. The Peer Mentoring program will require 20 working hours, including the training scheduled during the summer. If you are interested in being a team leader, please visit <http://studentsuccess.aua.am/peer-mentoring/> for more information. Deadline to apply is Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

Calendar of Upcoming Workshops

#17	How to write an effective thesis statement	Friday, January 20th, 4:00-5:30pm	Center for Student Success Lounge, Presented by Anna Aghlamazyan
#18	Time management	Monday, January 23rd, 2:00-3:30pm	Center for Student Success Lounge, Presented by Karen Sarkavagyan
#19	Counseling Services: Effective Goal Setting	Friday, January 27th, 3:30-5:00pm	Center for Student Success Lounge, Presented by Yelena Sardaryan
#20	Counseling Services Discussion Group: Managing Academic Stress	Monday, February 6th, 3:30-4:30pm	Counseling Office, room 414M
#21	How to identify and apply research in an academic paper	Thursday, February 9th, 2:00-3:00pm	Center for Student Success Lounge, Presented by Sos Avetisyan
#22	Citing Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism	Thursday, February 15th, 4:00-5:30pm	Center for Student Success Lounge, Presented by Sona Khachatryan
#23	Counseling Services: Imposture Syndrome	Tuesday, February 28th, 3:30-5:00pm	Center for Student Success Lounge, Presented by Yelena Sardaryan

Mission Statement

The Center for Student Success is a learning environment that extends outside of the classroom and aims to promote student achievement of academic goals while enrolled at AUA. Through a holistic approach to education, the Center provides a unique range of support programs including math and writing consultations, academic support services, disabilities services and workshops to enhance overall personal and academic development in a welcoming space. The Center encourages AUA students to challenge and support one another, to accept responsibility and to collaborate in serving the best interests of all students.

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