



HOMEWORK HABITS

Homework. It takes up too much time. It involves critical thinking and energy. And most importantly, it needs to get done. There are ways to help make the dreaded process a bit easier, enjoyable and effective. While it may seem like a chore, homework is meant to reinforce concepts and skills taught in the classroom. The extra time spent outside of the classroom requires a student to read, review concepts or practice problem solving which enables each learner to conceptualize how much they have understood and what they still need to grasp. At that stage, students could raise these questions or concerns during the next class. Aside from class time, students can visit their instructors during office hours where one-on-one assistance is available or attend the tutorial sessions available by the teaching assistants such as problem solving sessions. Students may also seek out the Center for Student Success where a number of resources might be available to assist; a student can make an appointment with a math consultant or writing consultant. If planned in advance, the experience could be rewarding and enjoyable!

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In this issue:

Page 2 Counseling Services

Page 2 Student Activities

Page 2 Returning to AUA

Page 3 Student Success Story

Page 3 Writing Blog

Page 3 Being a mom

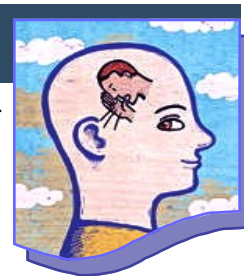
Page 4 Calendar of Workshops

PEER MENTORING: CALLING ALL LEADERS

The Center for Student Success is looking for enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and friendly students to help greet and mentor our incoming undergraduate class of 2020! Team Leaders will meet and welcome our freshmen at the New Student Orientation on Wednesday, August 24, 2016. First year students will sign up for a team where their team leader will serve as the Peer Mentor throughout the Fall 2016 semester. The Peer Mentor 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.



## COUNSELING: UNCOVER YOUR POTENTIAL



Since our birth, we are introduced to concepts of how the world works and the ways we should fit to our environment. Though these concepts may be helpful, they can also inhibit us from uncovering our potential. As a child, we are not able to choose the useful concepts and ignore the unnecessary ones – we literally absorb whatever we are given. For instance, a female child may be taught to be obedient and never speak her mind. This may be helpful when adjusting to family or community rules. However, the same pattern, if not reassessed

can be transferred to different settings, such as workplace. As an employee, she should speak her mind in order to successfully complete her tasks. Naturally, her preliminary belief of obeying authorities will prevent her from adjusting. Questioning is the first step for uncovering our potential for new ways of being. You can learn more about the Counseling Services at AUA by visiting <http://studentsuccess.aua.am/counseling-services/>.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

“Becoming a movie director is my dream.” At the age of 12, Shant Yezekyan remembers taking a career-related exam where he first realized his passion for movie directing. Over time, Shant began writing scripts for movies he wanted to direct. In fall 2015, Shant and a few of his peers decided to form a film club where members exchanged experiences and helped each other learn about how to produce movies. They called this club, “Film, Shoot, Edit, Repeat.” Shant says, “In the beginning it was difficult



for our club to organize ourselves. I noticed some people were bored so I started to think of ways to engage the members in our activities.” He took a democratic approach and invited all club members to propose their ideas and scripts for movies to produce. The club worked on each idea over time and simultaneously helped members who don’t know how to film or edit, to learn. The first film the club produced is the Center for Student Success’s promotional video. Their club’s next project is to produce a sci-fi, comedy movie. During the shooting, Shant says “the challenge is for the club members to stay on task—everyone is having fun and joking around so it takes longer to produce the clips.” For further information, on this and other clubs, visit: <http://studentsuccess.aua.am/undergraduate-student->

## RETURNING FROM THE MILITARY: BACK AGAIN

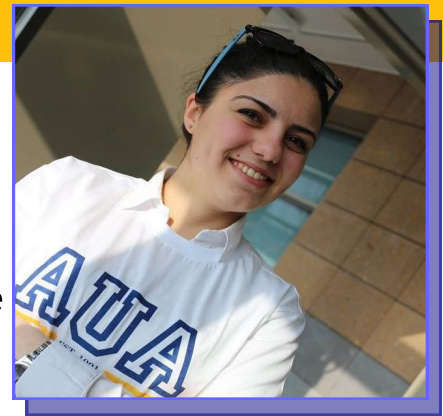
Artyom Matevosyan is a first year English and Communications student who began his studies at AUA in September 2013. Like all of his peers, Artyom was excited to be a part of the first group of admitted undergraduate students. By the end of the fall 2013 semester, Artyom was summoned to conduct his civic duty and serve the Republic of Armenia Armed Forces. Artyom was proud to serve his country and was stationed in Nagorno-Karabakh. During his service, Artyom says “This experience made me more mature, learned to be more responsible and improved my communication skills.” Two years later, Artyom returned to AUA. As of January 2016, Artyom rejoined his peers and re-entered the halls of AUA where the campus has changed a lot! “When I left AUA, there was 300 students, now the campus is crowded!” After AUA, Artyom is thinking about working at a major international company in the public relations industry or considering graduate studies at AUA. With a great smile, Artyom said, “I’m open to different opportunities!”





## STUDENT SUCCESS

Learning to communicate helped Karine Dilanyan integrate into the AUA campus community. Karine, a first year English & Communications student, made it her goal to become a part of the AUA community by approaching her classmates and peers. She said, "I need to study here for four years...I cannot be isolated." Within her first semester at AUA, Karine joined AUA Volunteers League, an undergraduate student club and became an AUA student ambassador through the Admissions program. There were times where she also needed some help along the way. Karine says she has attended several workshops at the Center for Student Success. "I attended the workshop about plagiarism...before AUA, I did not realize the negative effects of plagiarism so this helped me a lot." She also visits the Math & Writing Center frequently. "At first, I came because I was assigned to come...and I find it very useful. Anna, a writing consultant, is very helpful—she really helped me answer my questions. Regardless of my grades, the MWC has helped me develop my ideas to be clearly visible." Currently she is exploring her interests in political science but her true passion is in hospitality/business as she aspires to start her own tour company.



## WRITING CONSULTANT'S BLOG

### *Struggles of Writing the First Draft*

Writing the first draft can be a tough thing to do. Even typing out those first words can be exhausting. However, these struggles and worries are just a waste of time. When you sit down to write you probably only have a vague idea of what you are going to write. Instead of sitting and staring at a blank page, find a starting point and use your outline as a map. Your first draft can be terrible even if you are a

good writer. Don't let it discourage you, because you are not creating the final paper. Keep moving forward; revise at the end. Writing a rough draft is not as stressful an experience as you think. Remember that you will go back and make your paper better in revision. Just get started and it will go with the flow.

## BEING A MOM AND UNIVERSITY STUDENT

Roubina Seropian is proud to be a part of AUA's first undergraduate class of 2017. At the time, Roubina says, "it [start of undergraduate program] was perfect timing!" At the time, her youngest child was nearly 3 years old and Roubina felt it was time for her to return to her education plans. "I think its very funny when people hear that I am a mom; they think that I am extraordinary...I feel like I am just like every other person though." In the beginning, Roubina remembered feeling selfish and panicked that she would be a full-time undergraduate student and not available to her family. Although the first two semesters was challenging, Roubina and her family adjusted to the mom/student lifestyle.



"My husband's support allowed me to do this." Her children started to look up to her as a role model. The kids were proud of their mom and often gave her space to study. "To me, my undergraduate studies is a must. It's not just a piece of paper for me, its my own growth, new ideas, new things...this was meant for me to fulfill myself as a person." Directed to her female peers, she said "to women who get married early, don't give up on your dreams...it doesn't mean your life stops."

## Calendar of Upcoming Workshops

#39*	YOU 2.0: Upgrade Your Operating System	Tuesday, April 5th, 4:00-5:30pm, Center for Student Success Lounge
#42	Note-taking skills	Wednesday, April 13th, 2:30-3:30pm, Center for Student Success Lounge
#43	Counseling Services: Active Listening	Friday, April 15th, 4:30-6:00pm, Center for Student Success Lounge
#44	Counseling Services: HIV AIDS awareness, NYHAAD	Friday, April 22nd, 4:30-6:00pm, Center for Student Success Lounge
#44	How to succeed in job interviews	Monday, April 25th, 2:00-3:30pm, Center for Student Success Lounge
#45	Roundtable Discussion: End of the academic year	Wednesday, April 27th, 3:00-4:00pm, Center for Student Success Lounge
#46	Study Tips & Tricks	Tuesday, May 3rd, 2:30-3:30pm, Center for Student Success Lounge



2016 proudly marks the 25th Anniversary of AUA. To celebrate this milestone, join our dedicated series of programs, events, activities, academic events, lectures, conferences, and exhibitions. Stay tuned to the Anniversary events by checking here: <http://25th.aua.am>

### 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

## Center for Student Success

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