Dear readers!

We are excited to present the first ADA News issue! It seems like yesterday that we came up with the idea to start off this University Newspaper. Time flies – midterms are done and the finals are coming for us. I am sure you are all very busy reading, writing, researching, wondering when all the work will finally be done. With all that is going on don’t forget to take a moment every now and then and enjoy everything that is going on around at uni.

In this issue we have some tips on how to study best, what it’s like to be on exchange and of course life at ADA.

We hope this newspaper will give you something to smile about, some inspiration and knowledge.

Cheers!

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HOME
By: Suzyika Nyimbili

Promises of love and laughter
Faces of only love and peace
Promises of love and laughter
Faces of only love and peace

Smiles and laughter genuinely expressed
Counting down to unwanted departures
Here

Sweet songs remind us we are home
We dine with dances at heart
If love be defined?
It be this.
If it be found?
It be here.
But we all know that finals are right around the corner. For some time now, I’ve been having difficulties studying. I realized it wasn’t because the material was hard to comprehend or because I had too much to study; It was merely because I didn’t really know HOW to study. So if you’re like me, to get prepared for the inevitable (Finals), here are a few tips to hopefully help you to satisfactory study productivity.

In 2009, the American ‘National Survey of Student Engagement’ found that 33% of the students surveyed felt they didn’t know how study. I can relate to that plight and I’m sure if you thought about it you could to. Studying is taking information and filtering it so that it’s comprehensive and useful to you later on, whether it’s in an exam or within your specialized profession.

In order to customize a studying system that’ll be efficient and effective for you, we must first identify and understand what kind of learner you are. First there’s the ‘Visual learner’ who learns best through reading or by watching a presentation. Then there’s the ‘Auditory learner’ who retains well through listening to information and speaking. Lastly there is the ‘Kinesthetic Learners’ also referred to as the ‘hands-on learner’ who processes information better by actually doing activities.

Once you’ve discovered your learning style you should then try to create a study technique tailored to fit your academic needs. For example, since the visual learner is responsive to seeing and reading, Writing flash cards and turning notes into pictures may present useful. However, because you’re more visually enticed you may want to avoid studying near windows and where there is a lot of traffic (i.e. Coffee shops). If you have more Auditory learner attributes, you could recite your notes out loud. For the kinesthetic learner, you want to channel your hands-on studying skills by staying active while reviewing.

Even chewing gum can prove effective in regards to memorizing studying material. Yes chewing gum. This may sound far-fetched but according to a study conducted at St. Lawrence University by researcher Serge Onyper it actually isn’t. Out of the three groups he used in the experiment, the group that chewed gum before and during the test received higher grades opposed to the other group that only chewed gum five minutes before the test and the group that didn’t chew any gum at all.

After you’ve designed your efficient technique, you just have to make sure you use it effectively. I know I can’t be the only person that gets bored, sleepy or simply distracted when studying. I’m also not afraid to admit that I’m the ‘Princess of Procrastination’ as I call myself. So, I had to find different ways to stay alert. I was recently introduced by a friend to an App that is becoming increasingly popular for studying. It’s called the ‘Pomodoro Timer’. Pomodoro is a time-management app that is designed to help prevent procrastination and increase your productivity.

So there you have it fellow scholars; identify your learning style, create a technique that fits you best, try to minimize distractions by finding a method that suits you best and you’re on your way to productive revising. I hope this was helpful and Happy Studying!
Zuka Hamdhy is a second year student at ADAU. She’s also the leader of the Horizons club. I sat down with Hamdhy to get the scoop on what she has planned for Horizons this year.

What is the mission of Horizons? What are the goals of the club for this year?

Horizons is an ADA student documentary club. Through screening thought-provoking documentary movies followed by discussions, its aim is to present topics that do not get the attention they deserve. These cover global issues ranging from ecology, globalization and development to minority rights, poverty and migration, among others. Horizons gives an opportunity to students to learn about new topics, understand global issues, find inspiration for their studies, and network with people from international organizations, NGOs and other institutions. Let’s broaden our horizons through documentary movies!

How did you get involved with Horizons?

In 2014 the founder of the club was looking for volunteers for various tasks of the club, and so she sent mail to all students requesting to volunteer. I went to the volunteer meeting hoping to be a photographer, and I was taking pictures in the following screening. When she graduated from ADA it was up to the volunteers to carry out the activities, and we screened the first documentary without her in 2014.

Is it difficult to balance your responsibilities as club leader with your academic work?

It is not difficult, because we try to have screenings twice a semester and it does not take a lot of time to prepare for it. Horizons is clearly a very popular group at ADAU as over 800 people have connected with the club’s Facebook page.

Can you share any secrets behind the club’s success?

There are a lot of clubs in ADAU, and I think the main reason is that it is different from other clubs, like Horizons is the only club screening documentaries. Secondly sustainability is important. Horizons have being active for the past 3 years.

What’s your favorite documentary?

Wasteland, because it really touched me. It showed how people in Rio, Brazil go through the trash to find things to sell. [Interviewer’s note: Wasteland is a 2010 documentary directed by Lucy Walker featuring artist Vik Muniz. The documentary follows Muniz as he works to make art with residents of the world’s largest landfill in Rio de Janeiro.]

Got another question for Zuka, or a documentary you’d like to see screened? You can get in touch with Horizons by going to the facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/adahorizons.
“Are we in Europe or Asia?” is a question discussed in the book written by Kurban Said about a love story between two individuals from different cultural backgrounds, an Azerbaijani boy Ali and a Georgian girl Nino. A diplomatic answer would probably be “both and neither” or simply “it depends”. Similar question is very relevant for ADA University but Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy needs less diplomatic answer.

ADA is referred to as an island of western-style education adapted to the local needs provided in an international environment. However, neither the world nor ADA is perfect and so this well-phrased description has some shortcomings in relation to the international environment. Without doubt, ADA’s international environment together with its multicultural community have grown significantly since the opening of ADA. Fortunately or not, in multicultural society different cultures do not necessarily interact with each other and similarly to the book, where Ali and Nino were exceptions to this rule, ADA is lacking such interaction.

Indeed, there are two main camps at ADA, the locals and the internationals. For members of both camps, it is often a matter of shyness, for others it seems like they are lacking some vision device to recognise or even notice the members of the other camp. While the former case is fully understandable the latter case implies ignorance combined with lack of appreciation for cultural differences and the opportunities to learn from them. Fortunately for ADA, some have overcome these issues, yet the question is: why some have and others have not?

In Azerbaijan, ADA has a reputation of a university that opens many doors to potentially lucrative jobs for its students within the country or abroad while these would often imply working in an international environment. Few such pragmatically thinking students might think of potential benefit of encountering international students and their cultures for professional purposes. One should not, of course, forget about those good souls who have warm interest in other people and other cultures but fail to find the right way to get inside the local circle.

Ignorance is certainly not an option for the very essence of every place are the people and these are social beings by nature. Therefore, what makes ADA good or bad are not the “fancy” buildings or Apple computers but its students, professors and staff. Every young community, society, state or even individual needs time to develop own personality or characteristics but it does not come by miracle. The extracurricular clubs are a good start but their activities should not be limited to the gates of the ADA fortress. There are certainly many students willing to interact but they can only bridge to the other side with the help of their friends who managed to cross the river by themselves or the bridge has to be facilitated by the responsible ones at ADA.

By: Jakub Csabay

ADA Intercultural Bridge still under Construction
“Be a student as long as you still have something to learn, and this will mean all your life.”
Henry L. Doherty

Just now, I am studying in Hungary at the Corvinus University of Budapest for 5 months. I will share some parts of my study experience and student life in Budapest.

The main benefit of education in abroad is that this way you get the chance to see a different part of the world and experience totally new cultures. If you are studying in abroad, especially in Europe, you will not want to come back before you have travelled to at least 2-3 neighbouring countries. So far, I got the chance to visit Vienna together with my Turkish roommates. I recommend a visit to Schönbrunn Palace, Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna (The Museum of Art History), Museum of Natural History, Hofburg, Austrian Parliament Building, Stadtpark, St. Stephen's Cathedral, and Opera House, in Vienna.

I have made great new friendships with both local and other international students. What can be better than knowing that now you have at least one or two friends from pretty much all European countries and more?! We had an amazing time together with my Portuguese, Turkish, Slovak, Polish, Hungarian, German, Georgian, and of course Azerbaijani friends.

Is Exchange program only for getting new knowledge or travelling abroad? Of course, no! This is your chance to represent your country, your culture and traditions in each country you visit. In the coming weeks there will be Corvinus Cooking Competition in our University which will bring together all of the international students to represent their national meals. My Azerbaijani friend and I will cook our national meals for this festival. If you get a chance to study abroad, use this chance wisely.

Try to make time for joining different clubs in the University. Here there are several: the Corvinus Debate Society, International Diplomatic Student Association and other intellectual clubs that you can spend your free time. Whenever I have time, I join to the discussions of Debate Society and In-

Up and Away
By: Ilaha Zeynalli

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international Diplomatic Student Association and discuss topical issues of the day.

Everything is looking good?! Do not be sure! Now let me talk about the tough sides of being an international student. Even if you are confident in speaking English, language barriers exist in every country. It’s always helpful and interesting to mingle with locals. Here, I’m lucky to have had a Hungarian friend from my master at ADA University who helped me from my very first day in Budapest! Alright, I did my best to sum up some information and encourage you to apply for an exchange program yourself to make your own student life unforgettable!

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