

US AMBASSADOR TO AZERBAIJAN SPEAKS AT KHAZAR UNIVERSITY

On December 18, students and instructors of Khazar University met with the Ambassador of the United States to Azerbaijan, Richard Morningstar. The meeting was held in Marble Hall of Khazar University. Several journalists from different TV channels were in that meeting too.

The founder of Khazar University and chairman of its Board of Directors and Trustees, Professor Hamlet Isaxanli, welcomed the guest and introduced him to the students and university staff. After that Professor Isaxanli gave a brief description about the life and career of the ambassador. The audience learned that he was formerly Special Envoy of the United States Secretary of State for Eurasian Energy.

After that Ambassador Morningstar made a brief speech, talking about the Azerbaijani-American relations (not only political but economic too) and their future plans of cooperation. Students listened to the Ambassador with interest. Then Ambassador Morningstar said that he was open to students' questions and would try to answer all of them. Students had prepared a lot of questions and the most active among them were students of Political Science and International Relations Department.



Dr. Richard Rousseau (on right), Ambassador of the United States to Azerbaijan Richard Morningstar and Nigar Shukurova

Questions touched on not only Azerbaijan-American relations, but also other international relations and issues and U.S. reaction to those problems. In short, students asked questions on all aspects of

their interest of U.S. policy around the world and particularly in the Middle East. The Ambassador answered all questions and gave his opinion (or prediction) on all issues too.

At the end of the meeting, Ambassador Morningstar thanked all students and the participants of the meeting. He also admitted that students asked very interesting questions, some of which he even found difficult to answer.

The meeting was closed by Professor Isaxanli, who thanked the guest and said confidently that cooperation between Khazar University and the U.S. Embassy in Azerbaijan would become stronger. In the end of the meeting Ambassador Morningstar was photographed for memory with students and instructors of Khazar University.

By Nigar SHUKUROVA,
Student of Dr. Richard Rousseau
(Chair Department of Political Science and International Relations)



END OF THE SEMESTER and NEW YEARS

Knowing that final exams would be coming up soon, students of Teacher Khanim Ahmadova's class donned New Year's hats, blew up colorful balloons, put on Shakta Baba hats, decorated a New Year's evergreen tree and sang New Year's songs in English on the last day of the semester.



Teacher Jala Huseyova's students celebrated the end of the semester and New Years by wearing Snow Maiden crowns, Grandfather Frost hats and brightly colored garlands. Balloons, food and drinks added to the party atmosphere. This activity gave the students a chance to relax and enjoy each other's company before final exams.

What is FFDP?

Khalida Gasimova, vice-chair of the Department of English Language and Literature, has been chosen to the Fulbright Faculty Development Program, one of the prestigious programs in the world. Here is an interview with her about the admission process and her future plans.

What is FFDP?

–This is a non-degree program for faculty members that provides promising junior university faculty with the opportunity to develop new courses and implement curriculum reform at their home institutions, develop teaching skills based on personal observation of U.S. universities, have a chance to contact members from U.S. institutions. The whole program, including transportation, medical insurance, professional development fund, is free of charge.

Who is eligible to apply?

–An applicant must have a university degree, be currently teaching at a higher education institution, have at least two years of working experience at a higher education institution and demonstrate proficiency in oral and written English.

What does FFDP offer?

–The program offers two academic year non-degree program at a U.S. institution. It offers scholarships in any academic field.

What documents are required?

–An application form which should be completed on the website, project and personal statement, three letters of recommendation, CV, copies of diplomas, certificates.

What stages did you pass? How did you feel when you knew you passed?

–There were three stages: documentation, interview and TOEFL exam. It was highly competitive. 52 people applied and only 6 of them



were chosen, including me. The second stage-interview was very exciting. Thanks to Leyla Niyazova, who prepared me for the stage, I was able to pass it successfully. I could not believe it. I was extremely happy.

Now, when you are accepted, how are you planning to benefit from FFDP?

– I have always tried to do my best in order to develop as a professional instructor in the field of methodology. I believe this Fulbright Faculty Development Program will allow me to develop my educational philosophy through the access to academic libraries and contact with other profes-

sionals of this field. Through observing the courses I will have a chance to compare higher educational systems and academic policies of Azerbaijan and the U.S., calculate the possibilities of adapting new systems and techniques according to our classroom realities, thus promoting my own teaching methods, as well as my colleagues'. By attending conferences I will have a great chance to establish contacts with my colleagues in the U.S. and continue collaboration after I come back to my country. The access to the academic libraries in the U.S. will give me the opportunity to investigate and collect modern resource materials of my research interest.

Why did you choose to teach at university and how can FFDP help you to improve?

–This makes me happy to realize that I can teach something to almost adult students. At the same time I develop personally and intellectually. My desire to work within higher education is growing steadily every day. Every time I take on something new, I know that I want to learn more about it. The more I learn, the more I realize how much I don't know about my field of study. I've had various interactions with the student-side of education, but will now like to learn how a learning organization manages itself in our society. I truly believe that participating in the Fulbright Faculty Development Program will help me a lot in my educational and professional development and in the realization of my future career plans.

Thank you very much for the interview.

–My pleasure, thank you!

Interviewed by
Javahirkhanim Malikova,

THE STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

The Student Council helps students to share ideas, interests, and concerns with teachers and each other. They also help raise funds for school-wide activities, including social events, community projects and school reform. At Khazar University the president of the Student Council is Aysel Tagiyeva. Here is my interview with her about the Student Council.

When were you chosen to this position?

– I have been president of the Student Council since April 2011. It was my wish, but my family did not allow me to work; however, I am still doing my job because I like it. I love to work with students.

Do you have some tours for students?

–Yes, in our student union we have some departments, for example, foreign students department, law department. These departments try to entertain our students, especially foreign students, because they can feel homesick. We go to regions with them, we have some tours and show our historical places and we celebrate their national holidays and their birthdays. We do not let them miss their family and friends.

Is your job difficult?

–Sometimes yes, however I guess I can cope with the difficulties I encounter. It is an interesting job. I always try to help students. If they

have problems with teachers or if they need something else I try to solve them.

Can you tell me about your activities?

–Of course, our students participated in "Univision Song Contest," which took place in May. Pinar Alakberzade represented our university in this contest. Khazar University took 5th place among 21 universities. Six students represented our university in the sports contest and took 2nd place. Five students participated in Archeological Camp in June. Students took part in a TV program, "Mən Azərbaycanlıyam," and a 3rd year student won a computer, and the Minister of Education gave him a diploma. And at last we also had a celebration for International Students Day.

Do you have problems with teachers? Is it difficult to be a student and a president of the Council at the same time?

–Of course, it is difficult to do two jobs at the same time. Sometimes I have problems with teachers, as I have to miss some classes because of the events we organize. However, I am trying to overcome all of them.

By **Nargiz Yarmammadova,**
Student of School of Humanities and Social Studies

INTERVIEW**GERMAN STUDENT CHOSE KHAZAR UNIVERSITY**

I had a chance to get an interview from a very pleasant, sweet girl, a foreign student of our university, Judith Riepe. She studies International Relations at one of the universities in her home country of Germany. Currently, she is studying at Khazar University, faculty of Humanities and Social Studies, for a semester and taking classes such as Globalism, Nationalism and Research Methods in Political Sciences.

Her favorite class is Carpet, as she wants to take the carpet which she designed herself to Germany as a memory from Azerbaijan. Before coming to our country she studied in Thailand. However, her memories about Thailand are not very good. Here is the interview.

Hello. Please, introduce yourself?

– Hello. I am Judith Riepe. I'm 22 years old.

Why did you choose to study in Baku?

–The department from my university in Germany has focused on Central Asia, Caucasus and South Asia. Already in my first semester I heard a lot about Azerbaijan. And I read several books and was fascinated about history and the culture. So I decided to live here for a while.

Are you satisfied with the level of education?

– Yes, it is good. It is the first semester I am studying English. That's a good experience for me.

What are the differences in Azeri culture and yours?



–There are a lot of differences. I don't know where to start. I have different feelings. And may be the family structure. I mean, family is stronger here than in my country. In Germany usually at the age of 18 or between 18 and 25 people move out of their family houses. They live their own life. Here I feel that family bonding is stronger. Or maybe Germans like to work. Even the boss of the factory who does not have to work works hard, because a lot of Ger-

mans live for their work. I don't know, maybe it's good. Sometimes it is too much I think.

Have you encountered a culture shock?

– Not really. May be, because I had a really warm welcome. I am living with a host family, and they show and explain everything. I did not go to the country alone. Because there always was somebody, who helped me and explained things to me. So I haven't actually had a culture shock. No.

Is it interesting to live in Azerbaijan family?

– Yeah, it is interesting.

Do you like Azerbaijan cuisine? What especially do you like?

– Yes... I love plov, dolma, kebab, a lot of things.

Have you found any friends in Baku?

– Yeah, a lot of friends.

What are the good traits of Azerbaijan people?

– I think the hospitality.

What do you miss about your country?

–My family and my fiancée in America. I am going to see them in January.

Thanks you, Judith, for your interesting interview. It was nice to meet you!!!

–Thank you. My pleasure!

*Interviewed by Malak ZEYNALOVA,
Student of School of Humanities and
Social Studies*

Our Valuable University Library

There are two floors in our university library in the new building. The library is equipped with about 50,000 books. On the first floor books are about artistic literature, encyclopedias, dictionaries, foreign literature and so on. Encyclopedias are of the following types: Religion, Art and General. There is also a periodical room on the first floor of the old building.



necology, Internal diseases, Oil Gas Engineering, Electronics, and Mathematical Physics.

There is a computer room on the second floor for students. Students can use the opportunity to read books in electronic version in this room.

Sometimes there are presentations about the use of the library and new services for students. These events are announced before hand.

I hope the number of students who use the library in their free time instead of sitting in the canteen will rise after they read this article. They will go to the Library and witness the above mentioned facts and become more interested in reading books, thus use their spare time efficiently.

P.S. Great thanks to the library staff for the information.

*Nargiz Yarmammadova,
School of Humanities and Social Studies*

Books for the major of Humanities and Social Studies are: Journalism, Psychology, Religion, various dictionaries, Art, Geography, Law, and Politics.

Books in the library are in various languages as Azeri, Russian and English.

Also some books are available in such other languages as Arabic, Persian, Italian, Turkish, Japanese, French, German, Spanish and Korean languages.

There are 14 people in the library staff. Their duties are to catalogue and shelf the books, serve the students to find necessary books and ensure the peace in the reading-hall.

Students are allowed to enter the reading-hall with their student cards. It is forbidden to enter the reading-hall with a bag or a coat.

You can also borrow a book from the library. However, you must return it at the end of the current semester. If you are late, you must pay 10 copecks per day.

On the second floor of the library the books are about Economy, Medicine, Petroleum Engineering, Chemistry, and Mathematics. There are 4,432 books on this floor. There are books of the following spheres: Management, Marketing, Money and credit, Accounting, Banking, Organization Behavior, The international Economy, Pediatrics, Surgery, Ge-



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hello, 'Khazar Courier'

I was very surprised and happy getting the first issue of the newspaper. My thoughts went to the past, 20 years ago. At that time, when *Xəzər Xəbər* was published for the first time, it was one of the best achievements of Khazar University. Then there were hundreds of publications, both books and magazines. But *Xəzər Xəbər* was the first. And now, it happened again. "Khazar Courier" is our first English newspaper completely belonging to students.

Now, I list the headlines: "Opening of Korean Center," "American Adventures of Leyla Niyazova," "Some Views of Russian Life" and many others. To my great surprise, almost at every page I could see the smiling faces of my former students. Here is Leyla! She was one of my best students. I knew all her wishes and now they all came true! I can see Alina! She was goal-oriented, and now she is improving day by day together with her lovely teacher Gulnaz, one of the perfect teachers in the English Department. For both of them, Khazar has become like their second home. The editor is our respectful Peace Corps Volunteer Joel Robbins. Editorial assistant Jabir attended my English classes and was very capable. I feel proud for all of you. I would like to thank the staff and students for their assistance in issuing the newspaper.

While reading "Khazar Courier," the students will be able to prepare not only for reading papers, but also for their future as students in an English speaking environment. They will get to know many English speaking countries, as well as native speakers.

Students may say that they can use the internet for getting all possible information. Everybody knows definitely that we are becoming increasingly dependent on computers. They are used in business, hospitals, crime detection and even to fly planes. But what things will they be used for in the future? Is this dependence on computers a good thing or should we be more suspicious of their benefits?

But I think to hold every fresh issue of "Khazar Courier" in your hands, to flip every page with your fingers, to put it into your bag and read it at every chance, everywhere, and to see the smiling faces of your friends and teachers is more beneficial than a cold internet screen.

Good luck to you, "Khazar Courier," a students' lovely newspaper!

Firangiz NASIROVA,
Professor of English Language

TRAVELLING TO TURKEY

Sometimes people's approach to travel is biased. Do you think it is true? I think you should have different ideas about it.

To my mind traveling is very useful for improving a person. The reasons for traveling change depending on the people's wills and purposes. Some of them travel for resting, shopping, business, education or increasing their outlook.

Each traveling has its own memorable moments. I also traveled a lot and have unforgettable memories. My first visit abroad started with Georgia that made me love traveling. Although I stayed there for a week, I didn't feel myself as a stranger in this country. I suppose, it is because of similarities between our countries. The most unforgettable impression I had was a strange lake. The lake itself was very attractive. When you look from above the lake it looks like a turtle. That is why it is called Lake Turtle.

The second country I visited was Turkey. I think most of you have already been there and it seemed usual to you. But do believe me, there are such places that you simply forget everything when you are watching. One of these places is "Pamuk Kalee". As you see it you feel like you are in Siberia. This place is situated in Denizli.

It is very brief information about my traveling. I think when you travel to Georgia or Turkey you will visit these places and see everything with your own eyes.

By **Gunel Aliyeva,**
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Last week I got an interview in our university from 50 boys and 50 girls about how they spend their free time.

The results are interesting. I found that the girls like to surf the internet more than the boys do. They mostly use "Facebook", "Twitter", and "Google". In addition, the boys and the girls use "Skype", "What's up", "Instagram" and so on. But the results of watching TV are almost the same for both of them. That's a pity that, except a few girls, nobody likes to go to the cinema. For

this purpose they use the internet. Also they like different kinds of movies, most of all sentimental movies.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT LEISURE TIME

I found that the boys of our university are more interested in sports than girls. Most of them do boxing, mix frightening and bodybuild-

ing. And reading books...It is interesting that the boy readers outnumber the girl readers. The majority of boys like to read famous detective writer Chingiz Abdullayev. Some of them are joking that they like to read all the "thick books", just for fun.



By **Fidan Jafarzadah,**
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

HOW AND WHY I CHOSE MY FUTURE PROFESSION?

What should I choose as my future profession? This is a question that every young person asks himself entering the adult world. Of course, it is not an easy thing to choose a profession out of more than 2,000 existing in the world. However, it did not take me long to think about it.

I wished to be a teacher in my childhood, and my wish became true. I tried hard to achieve my goal. I studied well at school and entered Khazar University. Now I am a 3rd year student of English Teacher faculty. I try to do my best and learn as much as I can.

I think that teaching is the job which is respected by everybody. A teacher is a person who makes a personality from an individual. No matter how famous a person becomes, he will never ignore his teacher. I will never forget my teachers who made great effort and influence on me as a personality. Moreover, I have chosen teaching, because I love children and communication. I think, teaching children is the most valuable thing a person can do.

Some day in the future I would like to have a class full of motivated learn-



ers who I can give knowledge and in this way play a role in their lives and change them for better. I would be very happy to see them grow in front of my eyes and contribute to society by doing this.

Finally, I have chosen teaching, because being a teacher I will have a stable life, realize my childhood dream, and do the most honorable job in the world. I believe, I will be a good teacher in the future.

By **Narmina Rzayeva,**
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

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