

## ASU: Learning with Pleasure By: Merey Khakimova

**I**nternational students at ASU will encounter a pleasant cultural shock in the laboratories. My name is Merey, and I am starting my second year at ASU Lake Havasu. Many things are unintelligible and strange to me as an international student. However, I managed to get a really entertaining and enjoyable culture shock during the chemistry lab. I studied chemistry in high school in my own country, but we never performed experiments. Thus chemistry was not exciting to me; it was monotonous. However, when I arrived at ASU, I fell in love with the subject and learned a lot in one semester.

The lab work, which was informative and fun, was my favorite part. For example, the flame

test, in which we mixed several substances and lit them on fire, was the most memorable experiment for me. Dr. Nangreave observes the entire process and explains what is happening with chemicals. Still, she allows us to operate freely so that we may learn how to perform experiments. When we set fire to a solution of lithium and ethanol, the flames began to turn pink. I was astonished and became even more interested in the study of chemistry.

I am grateful that our professors allow us to study everything ourselves and are also our friends. I enjoy being on our campus and would suggest it to anybody searching for a place where they can be part of a small yet close-knit community.

