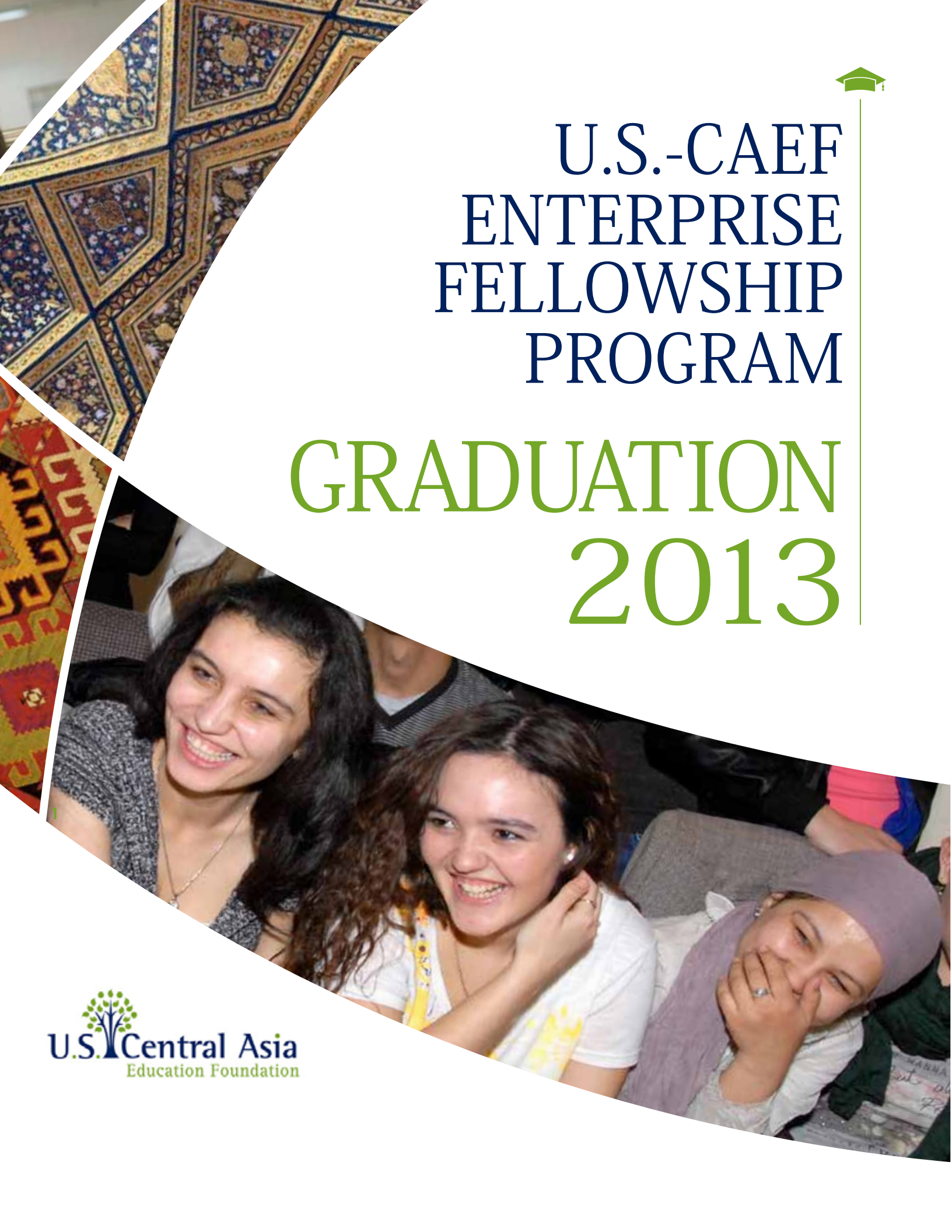
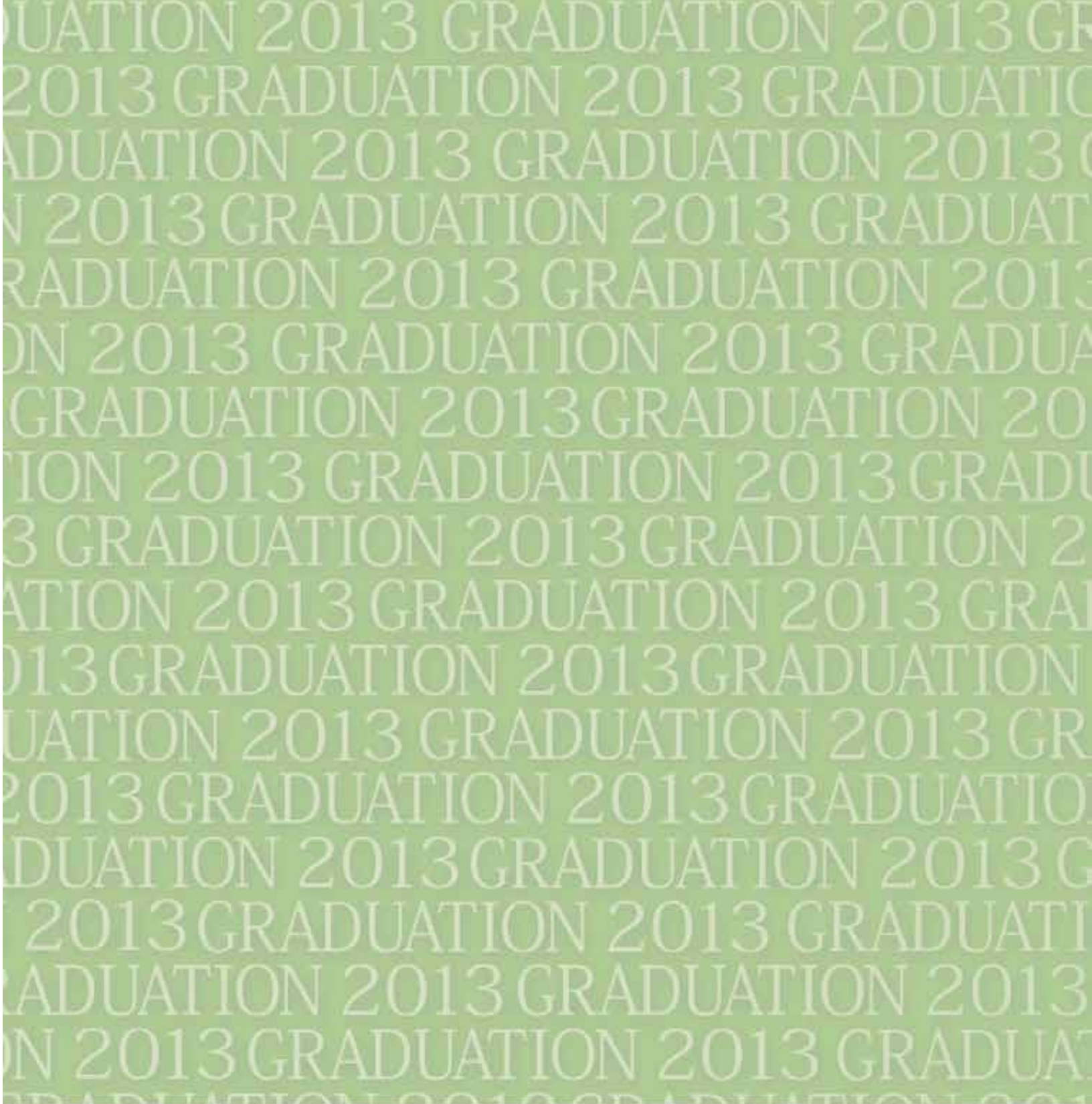




# U.S.-CAEF ENTERPRISE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

# GRADUATION 2013





#### ON THE COVER:

1. (from left to right) **Nilufar Matyakubova, Aylar Berdiyeva and Bostan Seyipova**, at Joint AUCA and KIMEP Conference, March 5, 2013.
2. **Dinara Alantayeva** (Kazakhstan)
3. **Bermet Nurbekova** (Kyrgyz Republic)
4. **Davlatmoh Bakhromova** (Tajikistan)
5. **Amangeldi Dzhumabaev and Elnura Agai kyzy** (the Kyrgyz Republic) lead an ice-breaker for U.S.-CAEF Fellows
6. **Artur Semeyutin, Kristina Fateyeva** (left) and **Yulia Baliyeva** (Turkmenistan) engaged in a group project





**YULIA BALIYEVA (TURKMENISTAN)**  
GRADUATING FELLOW





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**AIGERIM TOKTAGULOVA (KAZAKHSTAN)**  
GRADUATING FELLOW

## GRADUATION BOOK 2013

Graduation 2013 celebrates the third class of Student Fellows to receive a university education through the U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation (“the Foundation”) Enterprise Fellowship Program. Twelve Student Fellows graduated on May 18, 2013 from the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (“KIMEP”) in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Ten Student Fellows graduated on June 1, 2013 from the American University of Central Asia (“AUCA”) in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

Student Fellows are academically gifted citizen residents of one of the Central Asia countries of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan who, without financial aid, would otherwise not be able to pursue a university education at one of the Foundation’s partner universities. They have been awarded full undergraduate scholarships for study in the fields of business and, in some cases, economics. Student Fellows must meet the rigorous admission standards of their university, and are selected by the Foundation’s Board at the end of a further selection process developed by the Foundation and American Councils for International Education (“American Councils”), which administers the Foundation’s fellowship programs. Each student selected for the program commits to meet the on-going requirements of the scholarship, including maintaining a 3.0 grade point average and participating in the educational, vocational and social events of the Student Fellowship Program.

Graduation 2013 is the result of years of hard work by each Fellow and represents a major milestone in the lives of the graduating Student Fellows and their families. We recognize, and celebrate, the accomplishments of these future Central Asian leaders.






## FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

### History

The Foundation, a congressionally approved “legacy foundation” to the former U.S. Government sponsored Central Asian-American Enterprise Fund (“Fund” or “CAAEF”), was funded by a \$15.7 million grant from CAAEF and commenced operation in May, 2007. CAAEF was one of the “U.S. Enterprise Funds” authorized and funded by the U.S. Government after the dissolution of the former Soviet Union. It was incorporated in 1994 as a not-for-profit corporation to encourage the creation and expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Central Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and operated in Central Asia for 8 years until 2004. Like all Enterprise Funds, CAAEF was managed by a private board of directors and was required to liquidate its investments by a specified “sunset” date and either return the proceeds to the U.S. Treasury or develop a “legacy proposal” for an alternative use of these proceeds, consistent with the Fund’s mission. Certain further Congressional approvals were required for a legacy proposal, as well as for the amount of Fund proceeds that could be utilized to support such a proposal.

During its operation CAAEF had provided extensive training and education to the Central Asian young men and women who comprised its staff and worked in its small and medium lending and investing programs. The CAAEF  Board had been told by its staff that this “business education” had proved invaluable. In conducting research for its legacy proposal, the CAAEF Board found that there was a strong demand by private sector businesses in Central Asia for employees with a Western business education – while few opportunities existed for academically qualified, but financially needy students to obtain an undergraduate business degree in Central Asia. The CAAEF Board determined that (i) a financial need-based merit undergraduate scholarship program (ii) in business at universities committed to adoption of a Western-style business curriculum (iii) open to citizen residents of the five countries in which it operated would be the cornerstone of its legacy proposal. To that it added two complementary programs, a faculty development program and an internship program. After more than three years of efforts by its Board, the Fund received the necessary U.S. governmental approvals in May 2007 to create and fund the Foundation and commence the Enterprise Student Fellowship program.

### Mission

The Foundation’s Mission is to encourage and assist development and growth of a vibrant open-market private business sector in Central Asia by: supporting the quality of - and affordable access to - Western business know-how and practices at selected institutions of higher learning in the region that have adopted Western curricula and teaching methods; providing opportunities for educational, vocational, and cultural experience in countries that serve as positive examples of an open market economy operating within a democratic environment; and, promoting other activities that will generate a favorable environment in Central Asia for private business to succeed and entrepreneurial spirit to thrive.

#### notes



During its active operating years, CAAEF entered into 27 joint ventures with equity (or equity plus debt) financing totaling \$61.5 million, granted 352 loans to establish or expand small and medium-size enterprises (“SMEs”), and funded more than 3,000 micro-credit loans totaling \$10.4 million.

**The Fund’s direct investments, SME and micro-loan programs, & technical assistance activities were directly responsible for:**

- *Creating a diverse array of private business enterprises that continue to operate successfully and provide several thousand private sector employment opportunities;*
- *Developing the western business practice skills of its local staff, joint venture partners and managers, small business loan customers, and employees of the local partner banks that participated in The Fund’s SME loan program; and,*
- *Achieving a positive demonstration effect, by providing the close support and experience that now finds several of the Fund’s SME loan program Partner Banks offering small business term-loans directly to their customers, and other banks adopting similar lending activities that mirror the policies and procedures of CAAEF’s highly successful small business loan program.*

# FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

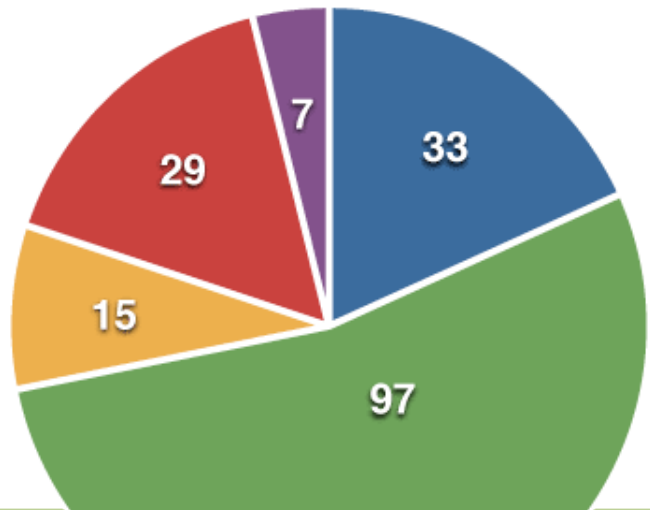


Table 2: Student Fellows by Citizenship

- KAZAKHSTAN
- TAJIKISTAN
- UZBEKISTAN
- KYRGYZSTAN
- TURKMENISTAN

## Programs

### THE FOUNDATION EXECUTES ITS MISSION THROUGH THREE PROGRAMS:

#### ENTERPRISE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

A financial need-based undergraduate business education scholarship program for academically gifted students who, due to financial hardship, would otherwise not be able to pursue a university education. Scholarships are provided at selected Central Asian universities to citizen residents of the Central Asia countries of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. For the recent 2012-2013 academic year, the Foundation awarded a total of 108 Student Fellowships for 52 Student Fellows to attend AUCA and 56 to attend KIMEP.

While the Foundation is committed to achieving geographic and regional diversity, its efforts have been challenged at different times by the inability to conduct active outreach in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Despite these challenges, it is notable that among the Student Fellows are citizens from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as well from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan. It is the intent of the Foundation to actively and continuously recruit in all these countries.

#### ENTERPRISE FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

A program for business faculty at selected universities in Central Asia designed to further develop teaching skills, knowledge, and course curriculum, thereby benefiting the current and future students who will be the region's business leaders.

#### ENTERPRISE INTERN FELLOWSHIPS

A program for select Enterprise Student Fellows to gain practical work experience within Central Asia after their second year, as well as a post-graduate educational, vocational and cultural experience in the United States or other countries that serve as positive examples of democratic open-market economies.

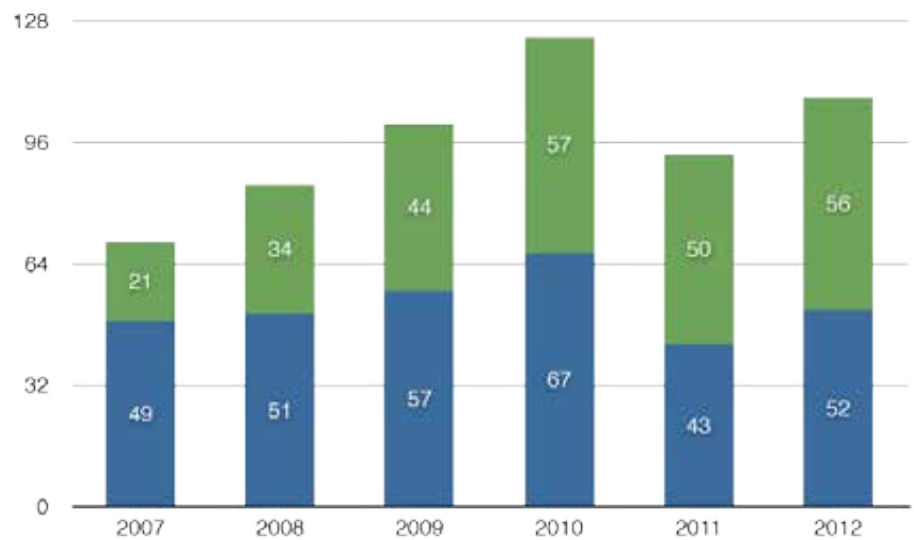


Table 1: Student Fellows by Institution

- AUCA
- KIMEP

# FOUNDATION OVERVIEW



## Partner Universities

Our partner universities, AUCA and KIMEP, were selected based on a number of criteria including their use of English, the international language of business, as the primary language for instruction, adoption of a Western-style curriculum and teaching methodology and a willingness to support the goals of the Foundation and its Student Fellows. The Foundation is most grateful for the support it has received from AUCA and KIMEP and their commitment to the highest quality education.



## Program administrator: American Councils for International Education

American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS, is an international not-for-profit organization which believes that the fundamental role of education is to foster positive change for individuals, institutions and societies. Founded in 1974 as an association for area and language studies professionals, American Councils, with a team of over 370 dedicated professionals, designs, implements, and supports innovative programs in education, professional development, and scholarly research. Building on over three decades of regional expertise in Central Asia and other republics of the former Soviet Union, American Councils advances education and research worldwide through substantive cross-cultural programs that provide a global perspective essential for academic and professional excellence. American Councils was retained to facilitate the design of and to administer the Foundation's programs.



NILUFAR MATYAKUBOVA (TURKMENISTAN)



## CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR STUDENT FELLOWS

Over their four years of undergraduate study, the 2013 class of Student Fellows has shown themselves to be true leaders, innovators, and role models at their universities. They have mentored incoming Fellows, helped create and strengthen the U.S.-CAEF Association, taken campus-wide roles in student government and university clubs, managed entrepreneurial businesses, won opportunities to study overseas, and volunteered their time and skills, including their language skills, to the community. Most of our Student Fellows are fluent in at least three languages: the language of their home Central Asian country, English and Russian. To that, some have added proficiency in another language.

In the pages that follow, we offer profiles of these outstanding young men and women. We thought it best to allow the Student Fellows to share their own stories, thus the first-person narratives were provided by the graduating Student Fellows.

GPA information is based on data from the final grades for Spring 2013. The maximum possible GPA at KIMEP is 4.33 and at AUCA it is 4.0. At KIMEP, each semester students with a GPA of 4.0 or higher for the semester are placed on the President's List, whereas those with a semester GPA between 3.75 and 3.99 are placed on the Dean's List. At AUCA, honors for academic excellence are awarded annually and based on cumulative grades. Fourth year students with a cumulative GPA of 3.8 or higher are placed on the President's List. Students in their second, third or fourth years of study with a cumulative GPA between 3.67 and 3.77 are placed on the Dean's List.



U.S. Central Asia  
Education Foundation

KIMEP GRADUATING CLASS 2013

# KIMIER



# DINARA ATANTAYEVA

## HOMETOWN

SEMEI, KAZAKHSTAN

## MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

## CUMULATIVE GPA

4.18

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

## AWARDS

### • PRESIDENT'S LIST

FALL 2009, SPRING 2010, FALL 2010,  
SPRING 2011, FALL 2011, FALL 2012  
SPRING 2013

### • DEAN'S LIST

SPRING 2012



## profile

*"My mother always says to me; you are not special, but you can make yourself special by working very hard. I gained knowledge in the field of finance in an extremely supportive environment created by the U.S.-CAEF program and American Councils staff. Now I am ready to work and do my best."*

I am extremely happy and proud to be a U.S. CAEF fellow. I graduated from school-gymnasium #6 in my home town of Semei, East Kazakhstan, in 2009. I received an academic honor for excellent study at a school called Altyn Belgi. I dreamed of studying at KIMEP University since the age of 12, and I received the US-CAEF Enterprise Fellowship in 2009. This program provided the chance to become a candidate for a degree in business administration from KIMEP University. I am majoring in accounting and finance and consider my studies at KIMEP to be very interesting and challenging. The knowledge I have obtained in the spheres of accounting and corporate finance has helped me to successfully complete the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program

administered by American Councils in 2011. I interned at ADM Capital Almaty Company and obtained valuable experience and skills for my future career. I also received the CFA Institute Student Scholarship and am currently enrolled in the CFA level I exam. I hope to become a CFA charter holder and make a positive contribution to the development of the business environment in Kazakhstan and the rest of Central Asia.

As for extracurricular activities, I write articles for the U.S.-CAEF Newsletter and find it to be very interesting. I also participated in the organization of the Astana-Almaty 7th Asian Winter Games 2011 as a volunteer. I worked as an assistant to the president of the National Olympic Committee of the Philippines.

My student life at KIMEP University is full of bright and happy moments that will always be precious for me. These have been the happiest four years of my life. I gained knowledge in the field of finance in an extremely supportive environment created by the U.S.-CAEF program and American Councils staff. I want to thank them all for providing me with the opportunity to attend KIMEP where I can earn a degree, be involved with student life, and make new friends. I thank you for allowing my parents to not worry about finding money for my education, for providing me with tuition, fees, books, housing, useful workshops and seminars. Thank you for all the support I have received from you.

• DINARA HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF POST-GRADUATE INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN FALL 2013.





# YULIYA BALIYEVA

KIMEP

**HOMETOWN**  
ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN

**MAJOR**  
ECONOMICS

**CUMULATIVE GPA**  
3.99

**AWARDS**  
• PRESIDENT'S LIST  
SPRING 2011, SPRING 2012  
SPRING 2013

 profile

” KIMEP and U.S.-CAEF gave me the opportunity to see the world ”

My name is Baliyeva Yuliya, I am a student from Turkmenistan. I study Business Economics at KIMEP. My particular field of interest in Economics is Microeconomics. I hope to develop the business sector in Turkmenistan, particularly SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises). I believe that the development of this sector is the key factor to the prosperity of the country.

My student life was very exciting. I started my education at AUCA (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan), studying at the preparatory program and at the secondary school simultaneously. After graduating from the preparatory program, I began as an Economics major and studied there one more year. Later, I was transferred to KIMEP to continue my education. After my second year of studies at KIMEP, I received a scholarship to study in an exchange program in the University of Applied Sciences in Krems, Austria. There I studied tourism, marketing and exports, which is completely

different from my major. Moreover, I started learning German and Spanish there. During my time studying in Austria, I traveled a great deal. I visited Rome, Venice, Vienna, Prague, Budapest, Bratislava and more. My exchange semester was one of the best semesters in my student life. KIMEP and U.S.-CAEF gave me the opportunity to see the world.

During my studies at KIMEP I had an active social life. In my first year, I was working in the international affairs office dealing mostly with exchange students. I was responsible for their arrivals and their whole life in Kazakhstan. Being friends with people from different countries taught me many fun things. I learned their mentality, culture, way of life, languages and about their home countries. In addition to this, I was a member of a student organization called “Entrepreneurship Club” in which we start up student-owned businesses. In my second year, I held the position of VP Finance

in the CAEF Association. I was also teaching English in an orphanage house and organized many other interesting events. One of the most memorable moments was my participation in the Preparing Global Leaders Summit (PGLS) in Moscow in August 2012. I received a grant to participate in the conference for free, even though there were a limited number of spots available. I met many bright students from Pakistan, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Macedonia, Nigeria, Armenia and other countries. I studied leadership skills, public speaking skills, business psychology, and other topics. We also played global business games closely connected to modern global problems. My ten days in Moscow were unforgettable.

There is a saying: “Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open mind.” I would like to express my gratitude to U.S.-CAEF for giving me this opportunity to replace my empty mind with one that is open, intelligent and well educated.

# AYLAR BERDIEVA

## HOMETOWN

TEJEN, TURKMENISTAN

## MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

## CUMULATIVE GPA

3.66

## AWARDS

• PRESIDENT'S LIST

FALL 2012, SPRING 2013



## profile

"I believe that the knowledge and experience I have gained will help me to achieve great things."

I am a US-CAEF fellow from Turkmenistan. Before coming to the Kazakhstan Institute of Management Economics and Strategic Research (KIMEP), I studied at the Turkmen-Turkish High school for Girls (TTHG). In addition to the excellent education provided by this school, it also played a very important role in my development as an individual.

During my last year of study at TTHG, I participated in the Future Leaders Exchange program (FLEX). This program gave me the opportunity to study at Freedom High School in Wisconsin, United States. After getting my high school diploma in 2009, I received a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study at KIMEP.

Here I am, at my last semester of study. My major is Marketing and my minor is

Tourism and Hospitality. I enjoy my field of study and hope to become one of the leading professionals in Turkmenistan. KIMEP is a great place. Both local and international staff members develop and support students both academically and in our student lives. During my studies at KIMEP I participated in many student activities and organized various events. I am the co-founder of our amazing KIMEP U.S.-CAEF Association, established in 2009. In 2010, I was elected an International Deputy in the Student Government (KSA) of KIMEP. Even though I have faced some difficulties while holding this position, it was a tremendous experience for me. One of the most important lessons I have learned from this experience is that things are not always the way they

seem to be. In other words, "politics is about the survival of the wildest".

In the summer of 2012 I had a two month internship in the Marketing and Sales Department of Stalker Flooring Inc. in Wisconsin, U.S. It was a great opportunity for me to experience an authentic business atmosphere and apply my theoretical knowledge in practice. My duties involved talking to suppliers and customers, attending trade shows and organizing customer satisfaction events.

I believe that the knowledge and experience I have gained will help me to achieve great things. My long-term goal is to contribute to the well-being of my country and successfully run my own business in the field of marketing.



# BATYR CHARIYEV

KIMEP

**HOMETOWN**  
SHATLYK, TURKMENISTAN

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**CUMULATIVE GPA**  
3.94

**AWARDS**  
• PRESIDENT'S LIST  
*SPRING 2010, SPRING 2012*

• DEAN'S LIST  
*FALL 2011, SPRING 2013*

 profile

“I have the will and dedication to strive to be successful and that is what counts the most.”

I have always wondered what career would suit me the most. By the time I graduated from boarding school, I knew that I either wanted to study finance or civil engineering.

I went to a boarding school that specialized in math and physics. During this time I participated in the Olympiads in English and won several awards in regional and state competitions. While still in boarding school, I applied to the FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange) Program and was accepted. I spent one year in South Carolina as an exchange student. This was a different experience for me and it helped me greatly to mature as a person. After successfully completing the program and returning back to Turkmenistan, I started thinking about my future university education and career path.

In 2009, I was accepted to KIMEP and became one of the few students to win the U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study at KIMEP. U.S.-CAEF has given me an opportunity to pursue my dreams, with KIMEP being the first major step towards them. After finishing my freshmen year, I spent one academic year at the Northcentral Technical College in the state of Wisconsin in the United States as a scholar of the Global UGRAD Program. During the program I had a part-time internship at one of the local investment firms where I learned a great deal about the financial environment in the U.S. Moreover, I volunteered at the local branch office of the Red Cross, which gave me priceless experience in the operations of a non-profit organization. After the program, I continued my education at KIMEP and ma-

jored in finance as I had intended, while minoring in accounting, since it is important to know accounting even if you are a financier. In addition to the academic part of my life, I am very interested in soccer, American football, tennis and basketball. I also like reading books when I have time; “A Civil Action” by Jonathan Harr is one of my favorite books. One of my other interests is the Spanish language and culture. I have always wanted to learn the Spanish language, therefore I enrolled in the Spanish classes in the U.S. and at KIMEP.

In the future, I plan to get a master's degree in finance and economics in order to further improve my academic knowledge. In my career path, I hope to work in any financial institution, but I prefer the banking sector.

• BATYR HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF POST-GRADUATE INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN FALL 2013.

# KRISTINA FATEYEVA

**HOMETOWN**

ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN

**MAJOR**

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**CUMULATIVE GPA**

3.01



## profile

“I am very thankful to U.S.-CAEF and KIMEP for giving me this unique opportunity to live these amazing four years in Almaty, and studying at the best University of Central Asia!”

I am from Turkmenistan and I study at KIMEP University, where I am double majoring in marketing and management. In particular, I am interested in the field of management.

During my freshmen year I won a scholarship for Summer II in South Korea in Chuncheon at Hallym International School. I am very grateful to KIMEP for this opportunity. I had a chance to become acquainted not only with their education system, but also with the culture, beautiful nature, and cuisine of South Korea. Moreover, I studied the Korean language for one month. I had a chance to learn the basics of the most used letters as well as to be able to say the basics in Korean.

In addition to my studies, I was actively involved in extracurricular activities at KIMEP. Since my first year, I entered the international student organization AIESEC, which provides a platform for young people to develop their leadership abilities. I was involved in various projects and also took on leadership positions there. These projects brought together up to 2,000 students from different educational institutions and 300 companies in Almaty.

At the same time, I was involved in the newly created U.S.-CAEF Student Association at KIMEP, I was a Vice President of Internal Affairs and later on became a president of the Association. This was one of the greatest projects I took part in. I got

to meet all of the U.S.-CAEF Fellows at my university. We were organizing one of the most well-known and successful projects at KIMEP, “Chaikhana”. Through this experience I had the opportunity to work with all incoming international exchange students at KIMEP, including the U.S.-CAEF Fellows.

During my senior year of university I had an opportunity to complete a four-credit internship at the U.S. Consulate General. I have gained a great deal of skills and experience necessary for adult life.

I am very thankful to U.S.-CAEF and KIMEP for giving me this unique opportunity to live these amazing four years in Almaty, and studying at the best university of Central Asia!



# NILUFAR MATYAKUBOVA

KIMEP

#### HOMETOWN

DASHOGUZ, TURKMENISTAN

#### MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

#### CUMULATIVE GPA

4.06

#### AWARDS

• PRESIDENT'S LIST  
*SPRING 2010, FALL 2010*

• DEAN'S LIST  
*FALL 2012, SPRING 2013*

 profile

“I feel that being a U.S.-CAEF fellow at KIMEP University provided me with the chance to explore and develop my potential and prepare myself for a very competitive business environment.”

I am from a northern city of Turkmenistan - Dashoguz. During my school years I was an excellent student and participated in intellectual games and Olympiads. I was first in Physics in my city and second in the region. I became one of the winners of Tech Age Girls (TAG) Turkmenistan. The goal of the contest was to identify female leaders of Turkmenistan who are also skilled in computer science. As a finalist, I participated in a camp organized in Ashgabat where we met various female leaders from Turkmenistan and learned more about the business. This helped me to prepare for my future business studies.

At KIMEP I participated in Entrepreneurs' Club, where we were implementing a project called "Proud of KIMEP" by designing and selling apparel with the KIMEP logo. My role focused mainly on operations. Also, Entrepreneurs' Club was involved in organizing trainings with KIMEP professors for future entrepreneurs in which they were

sharing their experience with start-ups and giving advice. Moreover, as another part of Entrepreneurs' Club we were teaching English for orphans under the "Open Hearts" project.

Later, I was selected to be a finalist in the Global Undergraduate Exchange (UGRAD) program and spent a year in Appleton, Wisconsin, U.S. studying at Fox Valley Technical College. The program gave me a chance to explore the American perspective on teaching methodology. Moreover, I completed an internship in the Community First Credit Union and learned more about the work ethic in the U.S. and practiced my knowledge of accounting and finance. I had a fast-track learning experience of the overall operations of credit unions and all the procedures that a credit union worker needs to understand in order to be experienced in the field.

After coming back, I participated in the intellectual competition "Smartest Guy in

The Room" organized by the KIMEP Accounting and Finance Club in which they chose the brightest students of the university to participate. In addition, I also took part in B2B meetings that were being organized by the KIMEP Entrepreneurship center. For two years, I had participated in Spanish-Kazakh multilateral partnership meetings as a translator-interpreter from Russian to English and vice versa organized by the Economic and Commercial office of the Spanish Embassy in Kazakhstan. Being a KIMEP student, I had a great opportunity to meet the most important people of Kazakhstan both in business and government, which gave me confidence in my future plans and ambitions in the Central Asian region. I feel that being a U.S.-CAEF fellow at KIMEP University provided me with the chance to explore and develop my potential and prepare myself for a very competitive business environment.

# NURSULTAN MUKHAMEDKARIMOV



#### HOMETOWN

SEMEI, KAZAKHSTAN

#### MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

#### CUMULATIVE GPA

3.14

## profile

“Now, looking back, I can say that it was four years of amazing experience that changed me so much. Someone once said that confidence depends on how many difficulties one has overcome, and I can say surely that I am not afraid of challenges and confident about my future.”

I was born in Semei, the eastern part of Kazakhstan and the homeland of Abay and Shakarim. I love this place although it is cold during the winter-- sometimes even forty degrees below zero Celsius-- compared to Almaty where my alma mater is located.

It has been almost four years since I had the good fortune of receiving a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study at KIMEP. Now, looking back, I can say that it was four years of amazing experience that changed me so much. From the beginning, I was completely absorbed in this totally new world. The first thing I found to be amazing is that here at KIMEP there are a lot of talented, ambitious, and highly motivated students from all over Kazakhstan and abroad. I learned a lot

from them. I tested myself in different organizations. I played a tiny role as a policeman in a suspenseful thriller made by KELT, a student theatre. I helped to organize the Miss KIMEP contest. I completed an internship with the ADM Capital, which is the managing company of ADM Kazakhstan Restructuring Fund. I learned how to value companies in practice, how private equity funds work, and about the industry in general. I helped P&G find ways to motivate pharmacists to sell more by conducting market research. I conducted research on transparency in Kazakhstan's governmental budget for which I was awarded a prize from the Soros Open Society organization. During my last semester of study, I participated in the KPMG case competi-

tion and after that was offered a job by KPMG Audit, skipping all of the selection stages. For this, I have to pay tribute to KIMEP for teaching me teamwork, critical thinking, and the ability to compete at high levels.

I am grateful to U.S.-CAEF for giving me this chance. The knowledge and experience I gained here have opened up many possibilities for me and will be a solid background in my life and career. Someone once said that confidence depends on how many difficulties one has overcome, and I can say surely that I am not afraid of challenges and confident about my future. I give my congratulations to graduating fellows; it was a pleasure to study with you!

# ARTUR SEMEYUTIN



**HOMETOWN**  
TURKMENBASHI, TURKMENISTAN

**MAJOR**  
ECONOMICS

**CUMULATIVE GPA**  
4.13  
CUM LAUDE

**AWARDS**  
• PRESIDENT'S LIST  
*SPRING 2011, FALL 2011,  
SPRING 2012, FALL 2012  
SPRING 2013*

• DEAN'S LIST  
*FALL 2010*

## profile

“I appreciate this educational experience the most. It provided me with the opportunity to get acquainted with KIMEP’s famous professors, who fostered my investigation skills with econometric tools & developed analytical & numerical ways of thinking, thus encouraging my participation in research projects on real economic issues facing Kazakhstan & Central Asian countries today.”

I was born in 1990 in Turkmenbashi, a small Turkmen industrial city located on the coast of the Caspian Sea. I grew up in a young independent country and graduated from a typical secondary school. My international educational experience started when I was selected to be a TEAM Preparatory Program student and arrived in Bishkek in 2006, when I was sixteen. Two years of close cooperation with AUCA as a TEAM (Turkmen Education Assessment Management) Program student strengthened my growing interest in studying economics and confirmed my wish to enter AUCA, famous for its high quality education and internationally recognized academic degrees.

I applied to the economics department and was simultaneously offered a four-

year full TASP (Turkmenistan AUCA Scholarship Program) and a U.S.-CAEF scholarship. I chose U.S.-CAEF as it is more closely related to business development in Central Asia and due to its remarkable perspectives in gaining valuable practical knowledge and skills during an internship, which is included in the program for the best students.

It so happened that my university study at AUCA was suddenly interrupted. While staying at home during the year of 2009-2010, I was employed as an accountant assistant for Van Oord Dredging Company, Netherlands, which was definitely valuable in testing my problem solving and decision making skills and gaining priceless work experience in an environ-

ment with internationals. I resumed my university study at KIMEP in summer 2010. I appreciate this educational experience the most. It provided me with the opportunity to get acquainted with KIMEP’s famous teachers and professors, who fostered my investigation skills with econometric tools and developed analytical and numerical ways of thinking, thus encouraging my participation in research projects on real economic issues facing Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries today.

I feel proud of being a U.S.-CAEF graduating student and am grateful to the selection committee for providing me with such a unique opportunity to obtain a brilliant economic education within the framework of the program.

• ARTUR HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF POST-GRADUATE INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN FALL 2013.

# MEREY SERDANOVA

## HOMETOWN

SHYMKENT, KAZAKHSTAN

## MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

## CUMULATIVE GPA

3.82

## AWARDS

- PRESIDENT'S LIST  
*FALL 2010, SPRING 2011*
- DEAN'S LIST  
*FALL 2011, SPRING 2012*



## profile

*"I like marketing because it helps utilize my creativity, communication and leadership skills, and inspire and influence people."*

I am from Shymkent, which is situated in the southern part of Kazakhstan. When I graduated from school in my hometown, I decided to enroll at KIMEP. This university has been interesting for me with its high educational standards and its use of an international language, English, for instruction. My dream came true when I became a winner of the U.S.-CAEF scholarship program and enrolled at KIMEP in 2009. Now, I am a fourth year student in my university.

My majors are Accounting and Marketing. When I entered KIMEP, I intended to major in Accounting. I found the major to be reliable and useful. As accountants say, "Accounting is the heart of any company."

In addition, I participated in an internship at SB JSC "Sberbank" in the summer of 2011. I worked in the accounting and finance departments. This also strengthened my belief that accounting is one of the most useful aspects of business. At the same time I learned that my university gives me twice as many options by offering double majors. The second major that I really enjoy has become marketing. This is an interesting major that better utilizes my talents in creativity and improvisation. In general, my academic performance has been excellent!

In addition to studying, the student organization "CAEF" (Central Asian Educational Foundation) is a large part of my university life. I have been part of this organization

from the moment I entered KIMEP. Over the past four years, I have been involved in different events within "CAEF." The most interesting event that I enjoyed was Talent Show 2012, where I played a Kazakh instrument called the dombyra. In particular, "CAEF" is interesting to me because of its diverse culture and friendly people. I feel very comfortable in this organization.

Since the Spring Semester of 2011, I have been a member of the "Amanat" orchestra in KIMEP, where I play the dombyra. Music is an amazing thing; this is especially true when you play it yourself!

These four years have been an incredibly interesting experience both academically and socially.



# BOSTAN SEYIPOVA

KIMEP



#### HOMETOWN

TURKMENABAT, TURKMENISTAN

#### MAJOR

ECONOMICS

#### CUMULATIVE GPA

3.85

#### AWARDS

• DEAN'S LIST

FALL 2012, SPRING 2013

## profile

“I can say with confidence that KIMEP was the right place for me to obtain my higher education. My sincere appreciation and gratitude goes to the U.S.-CAEF scholarship for the opportunities given to study here and to gain experiences and skills during my studies.”

I was born and raised in Turkmenistan and finished my secondary education within only nine years, at times when it was the only choice. My hard work and responsibility helped me to be one of ten finalists for the two-year TEAM (Turkmen Education Assessment Management) Program to obtain a full secondary education in ISITE College and study at the Preparatory Program in American University of Central Asia (AUCA) in Bishkek. Afterwards, I entered the Economics Department at AUCA and was awarded a highly competitive U.S.-CAEF scholarship covering my entire undergraduate study. In 2010, I transferred to the Economics Department of KIMEP University, which trains highly educated and talented specialists with qualified staff in the Economics department. Studying at KIMEP was the most valuable and unforgettable experience of my life. It gave me the opportunity to meet interesting, inquisitive people and gain essential and extensive knowledge in my major, Business Economics, and minor, Finance. In the Fall of 2011, I was awarded a scholarship for an academic semester at

the Stockholm School of Economics (SSE) in Riga. This exchange semester at one of the best economics universities of Europe made me realize that there is no limit for perfection. SSE in Riga is known for outstanding and primarily self-directed education. Therefore, its graduates are well prepared for a challenging and independent job in the future. Studying in SSE in Riga motivated me to know more and pursue my academic and professional aims.

As a person I am active, goal oriented, social, and responsible. I very much enjoy organizing and participating in charity projects that are devoted to orphans, the disabled, and the elderly. I am a manager and organizer of the “Open Hearts” charity project, which has taught English in Orphanages in Almaty for almost three years. I gathered KIMEP students who were willing to make a contribution to developing the community, found sponsors for books and educational supplies, and managed the administrative aspect. Also, I was an operation manager of the “Proud of KIMEP” organization, which is a not-for-profit organization run completely by students with

a Board of Directors. During the winter holiday of 2011, I went to Turkey with the project “Break up the Barriers”, a project organized by AIESEC, an international student organization. I was an intern at rehabilitation centers in Kocaeli and worked there with mentally and physically disabled children. Organizing and participating in these kinds of activities make me feel helpful to people.

As for professional and practical experiences, I've gained them in my current intern position at Rakurs, a private macroeconomic analysis center. I am responsible for computing, making tables, and analyzing the exports and imports of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Also, after my sophomore year, I had a regional internship through the U.S.-CAEF program in Sberbank of Russia in Almaty. I was involved in making inventories and auditing reports, which gave me knowledge of international and Kazakhstani law in the field of banking. Furthermore, I was an intern in the International Office at KIMEP University to recruit international students and do different activities for exchange students.

# ARSLAN TAJIYEV

## HOMETOWN

ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN

## MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

## CUMULATIVE GPA

3.73

## AWARDS

• PRESIDENT'S LIST  
FALL 2012



## profile

“My intention is to become one of the pioneers who will open the gates of the market of Turkmenistan to the world and help optimize the huge potential and resources of my country.”

I was born and raised in sunny Turkmenistan and spent most of my life there. After graduating from the Turkmen-Turkish school, I won the U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study Business Administration at AUCA. This was the first big achievement in my life. In 2010, I transferred from AUCA and began studying in one of the best universities of Central Asia, KIMEP University.

During my studies at KIMEP I was an active participant in the social life of the university and also managed to maintain strong academic performance. My university life was interesting and designed to bring the best out of us. For instance, I was actively involved in several student organizations, including KIMEP Friends, Brand and LUCA Accounting. Membership in those clubs made me a

more socially active student and developed my leadership, management and planning skills. In addition to this, I was named to the President's List for my high GPA. During the four years of my studies I gained significant experience and work skills. Professors here offer everything they know and try to help as much as possible. The large diversity of classes offered by the university helped me to feed my hunger for learning. Moreover, the diversity of the staff and students made my years at KIMEP unforgettable.

This summer I will complete an internship in a leading local company, which will grant me valuable experience in my major. In my opinion, an internship in one of the leading companies is an extremely important step to undertake now in order to become a highly professional and skilled

specialist in my home country later on.

It is difficult to believe, but the four wonderful years are almost over and I am going to receive my Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a major in Accounting and a minor in Marketing. I am confident that with this educational background I will make a significant, positive contribution to the development of my country in my chosen profession. It is my dream to be an important part of the future of my country and to be part of a successful, leading generation. I am very grateful to U.S.-CAEF for giving me this opportunity to be a part of a big diverse family and for helping me to realize my potential and take my first steps for my bright future. With the education I've gained at KIMEP, I want to continue my education, to acquire a master's degree and gain experience in my field.

# AIGERIM TOKTAGULOVA

KIMEP



**HOMETOWN**  
KORDAI, KAZAKHSTAN

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**CUMULATIVE GPA**  
3.91

**AWARDS**  
• PRESIDENT'S LIST  
*SPRING 2010, SPRING 2011  
SPRING 2013*

• DEAN'S LIST  
*FALL 2010, FALL 2011*

 profile

“Indeed, I am happy to be a U.S.-CAEF Fellow. I received high-quality knowledge in the business field, worked with different people, and had an opportunity to utilize my talents.”

I am graduating from KIMEP University with a double major in Finance and Accounting. I come from Korday, a small town in the southern part of Kazakhstan that borders Kyrgyzstan. I am the second child of a large international family consisting of six people. After successfully graduating from Konaev Secondary School #1 in Korday, I was awarded the U.S.-CAEF Scholarship and enrolled in KIMEP University in 2009.

While I was studying at KIMEP, I displayed a strong interest in all of the courses that I took, especially in Finance and Cost Accounting. Thanks to KIMEP and the experienced professors, I now possess strong knowledge in the business field. It has inspired me to continue my professional growth in these fields of study.

As I participated in chess competitions

at school and graduated from Tolebayev Musical School with Honors, I was eager to continue my educational development at university. Therefore, I was an organizer of intellectual games, specifically chess and checkers for KIMEP students as well as for kids from orphanages in an organization called Brain Art. In addition to this, I was a co-founder of the Amanat Orchestra at KIMEP. As a first-class dombra player I helped students to play in unison.

In 2011 I undertook an eight-week regional internship in Sberbank that was provided by U.S.-CAEF. Working as an Accountant Assistant in the Payroll Department, I strengthened my knowledge in accounting, Kazakhstani Law and International Law.

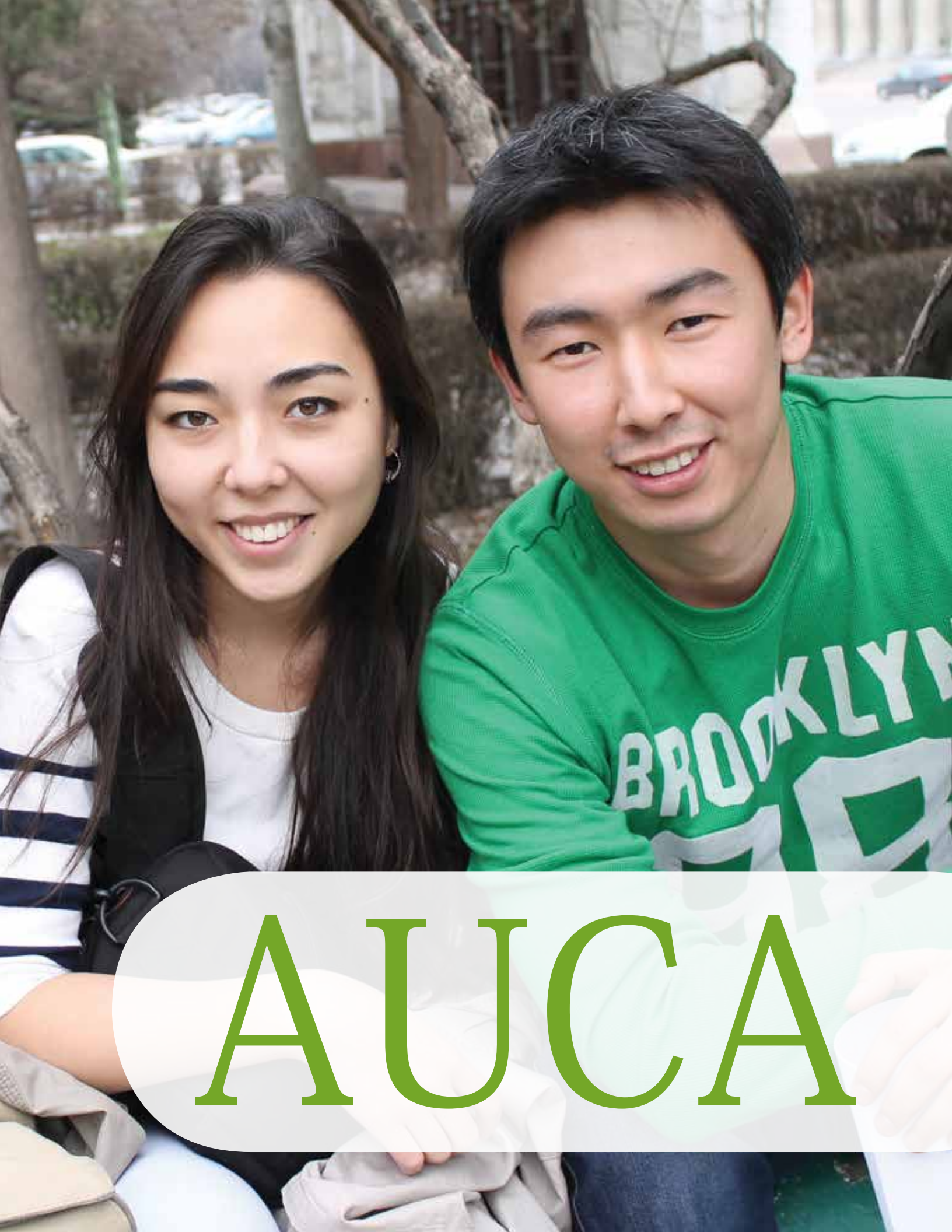
During my studies, I was so fortunate that my professors offered me an oppor-

tunity to participate in different research projects and business games. As I became more confident and responsible, I started a paid job and worked as a coordinator of two big projects, of which I am very proud.

Indeed, I am happy to be a U.S.-CAEF Fellow. It gave me a chance to learn about myself in one of the most prestigious universities in Central Asia. KIMEP provided me with a broad range of experiences. I received high-quality knowledge in the business field, worked with different people, and had an opportunity to utilize my talents. From the first day at the university, I made strong friendships not only among students but also among instructors who supported me and my creative ideas throughout all four years.



Fellows (from left to right) **Davlatmakh Bakhromova** (Tajikistan), **Khurshedmo Jonmamadova** (Tajikistan), **Azhar Akimbaeva** (Kyrgyz Republic) and **Izat Osmonov** (Kyrgyz Republic),



AUCA

# ELNURA AGAI KYZY

**HOMETOWN**  
BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**CUMULATIVE GPA**  
3.39



## profile

“I start every day hoping to learn, to grasp new things deeply, to communicate, to share, to express my opinion, and to grow with my friends and professors.”

I think that people should live a dynamic life, which is why I try to have time for everything. For more than four years, I've been involved in social projects such as “Stimulating Youth Entrepreneurship”, “Villagement”, and “Labor Market and Employment Policy in the Kyrgyz Republic,” in which I have faced challenges and tasks of different complexities. Recently, I have been selected to participate in a three-month training for young social entrepreneurs organized by the Association of Social Entrepreneurs of Kyrgyzstan (ASE). I have also completed three cycles of trainings on social entrepreneurship, which included courses such as Social Entrepreneurship, Social Projects Design, Marketing, Budgeting, Financial and Investment Planning and Analysis, and Effective Leadership and Management.

I have also participated in meetings with successful business people and social entrepreneurs who shared their success stories and provided motivational speeches for young social entrepreneurs. Moreover, I am a member of the Young Social Entrepreneurs Club under the ASE, which provides a platform for discussions/feedback on business ideas with social impacts, monthly meetings with business people, site visits to local companies, training sessions, etc.

My project on recycling municipal waste is designed in the framework of the Youth Social Entrepreneurship program and aims to preserve the ecology of Kyrgyzstan and bring social benefits to its residents. This project is helpful because there is not a waste processing plant in Bishkek, and, as a result, the waste is dumped near the city, which

adversely affects residents' health. Since there is no waste processing plant, there is a huge amount of waste accumulating in most regions of Kyrgyzstan, resulting in damage to human health and the environment. Now I am working to make my project stable and implement innovative mechanisms, including expanding geographical coverage and offering special terms for target groups.

These four years have passed quickly, but they were full of experiences. Many thanks to the U.S.-CAEF Board, American Councils team and Fellows for giving me an opportunity to study and develop my potential. I feel a responsibility to make a positive contribution and further the development of the U.S.-CAEF mission by promoting activities that will help create favorable conditions for a socially-oriented business sector in the Kyrgyz Republic.

# AZHAR AKIMBAEVA

**HOMETOWN**  
BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**CUMULATIVE GPA**  
3.53

**AWARDS**  
• DEAN'S LIST  
FALL 2010

## profile

“I’ve seen that there are people in this world who are ready to help others without receiving anything in return. This will motivate me to do the same in the future.”

I was born in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, in 1992. However, I was raised in a small, beautiful city called Osh, Kyrgyzstan. My parents taught me to achieve my goals while respecting everyone equally and helping people when they need it. My family is my greatest support and my motivation to always move forward.

In 2009, I was accepted to one of the best universities in Central Asia - American University of Central Asia. Thanks to U.S.-CAEF, I am able to study there. My major is Business Administration, and I am focusing my studies on marketing. The reason that I chose this major is that I am planning to open my own business that will contribute to the economic and social development of not only Kyrgyzstan but also the whole Central Asia region.

U.S.-CAEF gave me the opportunity to implement theoretical knowledge in practical situations through the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program. I was an intern for the “Sky Mobile” telecommunication firm, where I improved my communication skills, worked with a team of professionals, improved my time management skills, and experienced the reality of business on the ground.

Additionally, I volunteered for “Akme”, a company that provides people with training in personal development. I helped them organize events, communicate with partners, write commercial offers and more. Now I am volunteering for an international youth organization called AIESEC, which is a non-governmental, non-commercial, independent organization that provides

social and professional internships for students and recent graduates and strives to assist in the professional development of young people. I am the local committee vice president of incoming exchange students. I am responsible for communicating with partners, offering and presenting our services, and attracting foreign interns to Kyrgyzstan. By being a member of this organization, I had an opportunity to participate in different kinds of conferences and projects, through which I have received exceptional practical knowledge.

I want to thank U.S.-CAEF for giving me an opportunity to receive an excellent education, to accomplish my professional goals, and to contribute to the improvement of my country, region and world.

• AZHAR HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF POST-GRADUATE INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN FALL 2013.

# DAVLATMOKH BAKHROMOVA

**HOMETOWN**  
ROSHTKALA, TAJIKISTAN

**MAJOR**  
ECONOMICS

**CUMULATIVE GPA**  
3.4



## profile

“The economic situation and poverty in Tajikistan shaped my views on the role I should take in the development of my country. My studies have provided me with good knowledge of a free-market economy and have enhanced my interest in pursuing a career in this field.”

I was born on August 28, 1990 in the mountainous region of Badakhshan, Tajikistan. Since childhood, I've had an interest in the field of economics and business. After ninth grade, I went to a school focused on economics called Hilolin in Dushanbe, Tajikistan where I got my high school diploma. At school, I was the minister of foreign affairs and got several awards for excellent performance. When I was in tenth grade, I got a scholarship from the U.S. Embassy to study with the Aga Khan Humanities Project for two years. During my school years, I also took part in community activities in the Ismaili community and organized different seminars and group discussions about women's rights and gender equality.

Studying at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) has always been

my wish. With this passion, I applied to AUCA in the field of economics and am currently in my final year of study. During these four years of study, I have gained a great deal of knowledge and experience. Every year I actively participated in AUCA diversity week, and, for the first two years, I was a member of the Heritage Club which promotes protection of cultural heritage. In addition to university life, I have enjoyed participating in different international conferences, meeting new people, sharing ideas and making new friends. In March 2011, I participated in a conference administered by the International Youth Council in Istanbul, Turkey. In November of the same year, I participated in the first International Youth Movement in Konya, Turkey. My most recent international experience was

participating in the International Youth Forum, Seliger, in Tver, Russia.

During the summers of 2010 and 2011, I worked as a research assistant at the public organization, PRIZMA, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. There, I contributed to their collaborative research by conducting interviews and observations. In summer 2011, I also interned at a micro-lending organization called HUMO in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. I worked in the finance department there and helped with the financial analyses of the organization. After graduating, I plan to work for about one year in order to get more practical experience. Then I will apply to a master's program. After receiving a master's degree in economics or business, I plan to go back to Tajikistan and use my knowledge to contribute to the development of my country.





# AINUR DERKEMBAEVA

AUCA

#### HOMETOWN

NOVOPAVLOVKA, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

#### MAJOR

ECONOMICS

#### CUMULATIVE GPA

3.25

#### AWARDS

• DEAN'S LIST

FALL 2010

## profile

**"I am full of enthusiasm to work hard because now I feel that I am ready to use my education to get professional experience."**

I was born in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and I moved to Bishkek in 2003. In 2007, I was chosen as a FLEX finalist. I spent a year as a high school exchange student at Capital High School in Helena City, Montana. In 2009, I became a student at AUCA in the economics department through the U.S.-CAEF scholarship.

During my undergraduate studies, I was honored to be included on the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievements in 2010. I was also actively involved in several extracurricular activities. In summer 2011, I received a German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) scholarship and attended a German language summer school at Freie University in Berlin, Germany. I also worked as an intern at Kyrgyz Concept Ltd. in the human resources management and marketing departments through the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program. I volunteered in the inter-

national student organization AIESEC, and I was Vice-President of the AIESEC Outgoing Exchanges Program from September 2011 until May 2012. In December 2011, I worked as an English-Russian interpreter for students from the United States. In February of 2012, I was selected to participate in the FLEX Exchanges to Internships Program for FLEX alumni, and I worked as an intern in the foreign investment department of the Ministry of Economy for the Kyrgyz Republic. The duration of my internship was six months.

In June 2012, I won the Public Affairs Section (PAS) U.S. Embassy grant and launched "Step Up to Success," a grant-funded project for workers of the Ministry of Economy. Step Up to Success was a one-month project that included a set of trainings such as "How to Effectively Hold Negotiations", "How to be Creative at Work", "Time Management", and "How

to Make Successful Presentations". The aim of the project was to give employees of the Ministry of Economy an opportunity to improve their personal and professional skills in their everyday work.

After the conclusion of this project, I participated in the American Institute on Political and Economic Studies (AIPES) at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. In December 2012, I worked as a research assistant for Ph.D. students at Stanford University.

I enjoy reading books, listening to music, and playing basketball. Right now, I am in the AUCA basketball league. I want to dedicate my life to Economics. Precisely, I plan to work at the Investment Department at the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic. I am very interested in the field of investments and I hope to be able to work in this capacity in the future.

# KHURSHEDMO JONMAMADOVA

**HOMETOWN**  
KHOROG, TAJIKISTAN

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**CUMULATIVE GPA**  
3.06



## profile

“My goal is to become a leading professional in the marketing sector of my home country, Tajikistan.”

I was born and raised in Khorog, Tajikistan in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous zone. I graduated from the Aga-Khan Lyceum, and, in 2009, I was accepted to study at one of the most prestigious universities in Central Asia - the American University of Central Asia. I'm majoring in business administration and focusing my studies on marketing. During summer 2012, I had an internship in my hometown for the Pamir Energy Company, in the marketing and sales department. During my internship at Pamir Energy, I was responsible for the design of the company's website. Applying my knowledge in marketing to the IT sphere was something new for me, and I appreciated this challenge very much. After my internship, I started to learn how to cre-

ate websites, and I am currently in the process of developing my own website.

In addition to my studies, I participate in volunteer work as well. I thoroughly enjoy volunteering and have been volunteering at the Continuing Education Center in AUCA. I'm also involved in different extracurricular activities such as volunteering at Family Day and Diversity Week at AUCA. Outside of AUCA, I volunteer at the Embassy of Tajikistan in Bishkek and the Aga-Khan Foundation in Bishkek. Currently, I'm a member of the AIESEC international organization, which is an independent, non-governmental organization that provides international internships for students and recent graduates. Moreover, I devote part of my life to sports and arts. Sports fuel my energy

and help me relieve stress. I love swimming and playing volleyball. I also play piano, which helps develop my abilities in other aspects of my life as well.

After graduation, I plan to go back to Tajikistan and help develop my home country with my knowledge of the business sphere. For the first two years, I plan to work in the field of marketing and management and hope to develop my own business to expand production in my home country. In addition to these professional goals, I plan to work towards my master's degree in marketing/management and to continue developing my country and all of Central Asia by building bridges of friendship with neighboring countries.

# BERMET NURBEKOVA



**HOMETOWN**  
BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**CUMULATIVE GPA**  
3.86  
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

**AWARDS**  
• PRESIDENT'S LIST  
FALL 2012

• DEAN'S LIST  
FALL 2010, FALL 2011



“I feel responsible for my family and our future; I want to help my mother; I want to contribute to the development of our domestic market. I am ready to learn new things and work hard.”

I was born in the capital of my country, Bishkek, in 1993. I have a big family, which always supports me in my decisions and which is the greatest gift I have in my life. My grandparents and my mother were so proud of me when they found out that I was enrolled in a Business Administration program and again a couple of months later when the U.S.-CAEF program chose me as one of the fellows.

During my four years at AUCA I studied hard and twice was placed on the AUCA Deans' List for outstanding academic achievement. During my last year of study I was placed on the President's List for outstanding academic achievement along with only eight other students out of the entire senior class.

I was trying not only to concentrate on studying but also to gain work experience. My first experience working came when I participated in the Work and Travel pro-

gram in the U.S., where I worked as a cashier. That gave me an understanding of how the payment system in the U.S. differs from what we have here. Because of these three months that I spent in U.S., I became more flexible, adaptable and self-reliant.

I completed my first internship in a major electricity generation company that produces 98% of all electric power in Kyrgyzstan. I completed another internship in this company in order to collect more data, and I am now writing my senior thesis on the topic of pricing in electric energy. During the summer after my junior year, I also had an opportunity to intern with the Association on Micro Finance Institutions.

U.S.-CAEF gave me the opportunity to study at the best university in Kyrgyzstan and to gain valuable knowledge there. I hope to earn a master's degree in Inter-

national Management or Strategic Management abroad; however I am sure that I will come back and work here because Kyrgyzstan is the place where I want to live my entire life.

I met many wonderful people during four years of study, including AUCA professors with their knowledge, AUCA students with their enthusiasm, various guests who come from time-to-time to lecture or to conduct a workshop, and speakers from the real business world with practical advice. AUCA students are different from students at other universities with their passion about what they are doing, their strong belief in their bright future, and their incredible desire to become smarter and better. I am happy to be acquainted with a number of them, and they inspire me and make me believe that this generation will bring change and that our country will prosper.

• **BERMET HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF POST-GRADUATE INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN FALL 2013.**

# IZAT OSMONOV

## HOMETOWN

KANT, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

## CUMULATIVE GPA

3.41



## profile

“I hope to have more rich opportunities like these to develop the mature leadership skills and fresh ideas needed to help Kyrgyzstan continue its march forward.”

I am a senior in the business administration department at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA). As a graduate of a Kyrgyz-Turkish high school and a Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) alumnus, I have a keen interest in international affairs, global trade, business and personal development. I always look for opportunities to expand my experience in different fields and challenge myself to broaden my horizons and keep up with current trends. Also, I play soccer for a local team, participate in comedy league performances and love to study new languages.

In summer 2011, I interned in Washington, D.C. at the International Institute of the Graduate School USA. My two-month assignment focused primarily on devel-

oping a young professionals' network – participants and alumni of a wide array of international exchange programs who work in both the public and private sectors in their home countries. I contacted individuals from many countries, used my personal contacts from Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX), AIESEC, an international student organization, and another development internship I did in Moldova during the summer of 2010.

During my junior year at AUCA, I interned for six months in the department of planning and analysis for a micro-finance company called Financial Group Kompanion. I gained valuable experience working for this local financial company and applied my theoretical knowledge in a practical setting. Having handled assignments

in the private and social sectors – both locally and internationally – I completed a four-month internship through the “FLEX exchanges to internships” program at the Department of Economy & Investment (within the Kyrgyzstan Prime Minister's Office). Here, I had a chance to work in a new, fast-paced environment at the highest level of the government.

Most of my academic classes, as well as internships and work experiences, have been truly interesting and engaging for me, and I developed invaluable workplace skills while enhancing and practicing academic ones. I hope to have more rich opportunities like these to develop the mature leadership skills and fresh ideas needed to help Kyrgyzstan continue its march forward.

• IZAT HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF POST-GRADUATE INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN FALL 2013.



# REGINA STEPANOVA

AUCA

**HOMETOWN**  
KANT, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**MAJOR**  
ECONOMICS

**CUMULATIVE GPA**  
3.45

 profile

**“In my career I would like to advance enough to make a contribution to the development of the Human Resources Club of Kyrgyzstan. I believe that such institutions, uniting various Kyrgyz companies, are able to make a positive change.”**

I was born in Kant, a small town near Bishkek. While pursuing my secondary education, I actively attended English language tutoring and participated in activities through the American Corners of Kant. Due to my English abilities, I was sent to the Olympiads region during ninth and tenth grades. In 2008, I became a finalist in the FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange) program. Thanks to this program, I spent a wonderful year in the United States in the mountainous town of Boone, North Carolina. During this amazing year, I met a lot of new friends from America as well as from other countries. During my FLEX experience, I became a finalist in a civic education essay contest. The reward was a week-long workshop in Washington, D.C., which gathered 100 FLEX students from countries from the former Soviet Union. The workshop contained interactive sessions and meetings with US government officials. I personally

had the chance to talk to Virginia Fox, a representative from the state of North Carolina.

In 2009, I was accepted to the American University of Central Asia and received the U.S.-CAEF scholarship. During my AUCA studies, I participated in internships, academic contests, and additional professional trainings. I also acquired some work experience in a sphere outside of business administration. My first place of employment was an English-based newspaper called “The Times of Central Asia.” I received this internship because I wrote an article about the petroleum deficit in Kyrgyzstan that was published.

In summer 2012, I had an internship at the international tobacco company, Remtsma-Kyrgyzstan, in the human resources department. Also, during that summer, I later had a second internship at a local agricultural holding company. These two experiences were very useful and beneficial for me, and I developed insight into the Kyrgyz

business sector. Due to my affiliation with American Councils, I was invited to participate in the organization and preparation of the ACCESS Micro-Scholarship Graduation Camp for high school students in the summer of 2012.

During my junior year (2012), I participated in “Business Game,” an academic competition organized by the Arnhem Business School (Netherlands). Academic knowledge, creativity, and a thirst for victory led my team and me to first place. In spring 2013, I will graduate from AUCA. My short-term objective after graduation is to master academic and practical knowledge in the business sphere through interesting and thought-provoking work experience. After establishing a clear, practical vision of the Kyrgyz business sector, I plan to amplify my bachelor’s education with an MBA to make my contribution to the development of the Kyrgyz business sector more effective and successful.

• REGINA HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF POST-GRADUATE INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN FALL 2013.

# ALINA ZHETIGENOVA

**HOMETOWN**  
KARAKUL, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**CUMULATIVE GPA**  
2.76



## profile

**"We live in an amazing time, and we must apply our internal talents to make it even better."**

In 2007, I entered the AUCA and was provided a full scholarship by U.S.-CAEF. In my first years, I was extremely active in the university's extracurricular activities. I was a member of University's Frisbee team, SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise), Rotaract Bishkek club, PR-manager at international students' "World Club" and still managed to have good academic performance.

These things helped me to be chosen as an exchange student from AUCA to Kyung Hee, Seoul in South Korea. It was an amazing semester at one of Korea's best business schools. In Seoul, I was a member of the international students' club and was responsible for promoting events. I also fell in love with film and photography while practicing it in the Art Photography club.

ing it in the Art Photography club.

In 2008, I received an internship opportunity. I worked at the International Business Council interacting with local and foreign businessmen from more than 120 companies. I was passionate about my job and attended many local business conferences and participated in many projects. My work in public relations was the most interesting to me. I was an active blogger and had many followers and readers, and I've decided to become a PR specialist one day.

In May 2009, I got a job at a popular web resource "Namba Media." The job was extremely interesting and demanded discipline and knowledge of PR and IT theory. I have worked very hard to improve my skills and

am proud of what I have achieved there.

After an amazing few months on a program in Poland over the summer, I entered my senior year. My senior year was devoted to the writing of my thesis work, which was a business plan for a start-up in Bishkek.

The main thing I've learned is that education matters not only in terms of lectures and formulas but as an analytical skill, and sometimes the best way to learn is through failure. We live in an amazing time, and we must apply our internal talents to make it even better. I want to thank U.S.-CAEF for giving me the opportunities that have made my worldviews richer and deeper. Thank you for directing, encouraging, and supporting me!

• COHORT 2007

# NARGIZA ENKELESHOVA



**HOMETOWN**  
BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**CUMULATIVE GPA**  
2.65

 profile

“Studying at AUCA has given me a lot, both in terms of personal growth and relating to a future career.”

I graduated from high school 67 in Bishkek. After high school, I entered the American University of Central Asia and am studying in the department of business administration. Studying at AUCA has given me a lot, both in terms of personal growth and relating to a future career. AUCA provides excellent conditions for getting a good education through wonderful professors who are willing to fully commit themselves to helping students.

And of course, all this would not be possible without the assistance provided by the U.S.-CAEF program. The U.S.-CAEF program enables me to study in

the business department at AUCA, which is the place I've always dreamt of studying. Though I should have graduated already, I took an opportunity to immerse myself in the sphere of business and became a practitioner during my studies. I left my senior thesis for two years and was engaged in practical work, and I don't regret it in the least. I was able to apply all of the knowledge I have received from my studies and learn even more about the field of business.

The first thing I learned at AUCA is to be independent. At AUCA, we make our own schedules and choose our own pro-

fessors. We also have many opportunities to choose to travel. I think these are the first steps toward independence. And of course we build our knowledge significantly, without which today we would not be able to go anywhere.

Many thanks to the U.S.-CAEF program, which has given me financial aid for four years. With the help of this program, the dreams of many students come true, and they can study in the most prestigious department of one of the best universities in the region.

# THE FOUNDATION'S FACULTY & INTERN FELLOWSHIPS

## Enterprise Faculty Fellowships

The Foundation has sponsored and delivered several faculty training development programs since its inception in 2007. In 2010 the Foundation launched a focused 2-year faculty training program developed and delivered by Fairfield University (Fairfield, CT. USA) which consisted of three separate intensive in-person sessions within the region and ongoing remote training and communication between the Fairfield University team and faculty participants. Fairfield faculty members continue to work with colleagues at AUCA and KIMEP on materials and activities that will build upon the work accomplished during the workshops, and have scheduled a summer 2013 workshop to develop case studies using Central Asian situations.

## Enterprise Intern Fellowships

Through our Enterprise Intern Fellowships, the Foundation seeks to afford its Student Fellows the opportunity to gain (1) practical work experience within Central Asia early in their university careers through our Regional Summer Internship Program and (2) a post-graduate educational, vocational and cultural experience in the United States or other countries that serve as positive examples of democratic open-market economies through our International Internship Program.







SENATOR **RICHARD LUGAR** WITH U.S.-CAEF POST-GRADUATE INTERNS/  
U.S.-CAEF CAPITOL HILL RECEPTION, WASHINGTON, D.C. 2012

## Regional Summer Internship Program

Since 2008, the Foundation has operated a Regional Summer Internship Program, which is made available on a competitive basis to a limited number of Student Fellows completing their second year of university study. Both AUCA and KIMEP require their business and economics students to undertake a formal internship towards the end of their third year as a degree requirement. The Foundation's second summer internship program, which includes orientation and support to the interns, is intended as an opportunity to become familiar with the business environment, enhance skills and lead to more informed choices in selecting the degree-required internship. Nine Student Fellows from the graduating 2013 class, Azhar Akimbaeva, Elnura Agai kyzy and Ainur Derkembayeva from AUCA, and Dinara Atantayeva, Artur Semeyutin, Yulia Baliyeva, Bostan Seyipova, Merey Serdanova, and Aigerim Toktagulova from KIMEP, participated in the summer 2011 Regional Internship Program. All of the fellows rated the experience highly and commented on the success of the learning outcomes of the internship.

The Foundation is grateful to the companies in Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic that have hosted Enterprise Summer Interns, which include ADM Capital Restructuring Fund, Beeline, Asia Universal Bank, Alpha Telecom, Ardamina Textile Company, CAI Consulting, Central Asian International Consulting, Flamingo Park, HSBC Bank Kazakhstan, International Business Council, Karakol Coffee Shop, KazInvest, Kyrgyz Concept, Kyrgyz Credit Bank, MegaCom, National Leasing Company, Polygon International Ltd, Project Hope, RCG Investment Bank, Sberbank of Russia and Talas Cooper Gold LLC and 7 TV Channel.

## Post-Graduate International Internship Program

The Post-Graduate International Internship Program, launched in 2011, is a four month work-study program in the U.S. designed to complement four years of university study. Student Fellows who successfully complete their studies and graduate from AUCA or KIMEP are eligible to apply for an International Internship. Eight outstanding Student Fellows from the 2013 graduating class have been selected to take part in the International Internships in fall 2013: Dinara Atantayeva, Batyr Chariyev, Artur Semeyutin and Bostan Seyipova from KIMEP, and Azhar Akimbaeva, Bermet Nurbekova, Izat Osmonov and Regina Stepanova from AUCA.

The Foundation's International Interns will take part in an established and success-proven program operated by The Washington Center ([www.twc.edu](http://www.twc.edu)), Washington, D.C. In addition to the vocational and educational components of the internship, Enterprise International Interns will live and participate with interns from the U.S. and other countries that have recently completed their undergraduate studies; and will benefit from events provided by The Washington Center where they will have the opportunity to build their international and professional contact network and interact with experts and leaders from public, private and non-profit sectors; and participate in other activities arranged by American Councils.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The first election of officers to the U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association took place on August 16, 2012.

Seven outstanding alumni representing both partner universities and three of the five Central Asian Republics were elected for leadership positions.

### THE ASSOCIATION HOPES THAT THE GRADUATING CLASS 2013

will join in their efforts to establish an important platform for communication & cooperation between all program alumni, current fellows and local business communities to complement the Foundation's goals in fostering the U.S.-CAEF mission, promoting professional development & contributing to an entrepreneurial spirit and the economic prosperity of Central Asia.



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U.S.-CAEF Board (from left to right): Steven F. Shea, Margaret M. Grieve, Mary S. Ginsberg and Stephen D. Weinroth

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