



GRADUATION 2018

U.S.-CAEF ENTERPRISE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM






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“I come from a big family with many children. The U.S.-CAEF scholarship lifted a heavy financial weight from my parents, gave me hope for a better future and offered many opportunities to develop culturally and professionally.”

-Zulfiya Urunova





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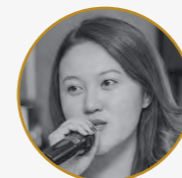
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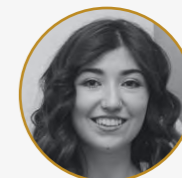
MALIKA KANATBEK KYZY



BATIMA MYRZABEKOVA



ABYLAIKHAN ISPAYEV



ZULFIYA URUNOVA



“I WAS A GIRL WHO DREAMED OF RECEIVING A QUALITY EDUCATION BECAUSE I WANTED TO LIFT MY COUNTRY TO A NEW LEVEL. IT WAS A DREAM UNTIL I BECAME ONE OF THE FELLOWS OF THIS AMAZING PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM HELPS MANY STUDENTS REACH THEIR GOALS AND AIMS. I WANTED TO THANK THE U.S.-CAEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS WHO HAVE CHANGED MY LIFE AND INSPIRED ME TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE.”

-Guliza Almazbek kyzy



GRADUATION BOOK 2018



Graduation 2018 celebrates the eighth class of Student Fellows to receive a university education through the U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation (the Foundation) Enterprise Fellowship Program. A total of twenty-nine fellows, 15 from KIMEP University and 14 from American University of Central Asia (AUCA), will celebrate their graduation on May 19 in Almaty, Kazakhstan and June 2 in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic, respectively.

29 FELLOWS



U.S. - CAEF Student Fellows are academically gifted citizen residents of one of the Central Asian 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 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 meeting 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 2018 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 and members of the U.S. - CAEF family.

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 eight 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.

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 proven invaluable. In conducting research for its legacy proposal, the CAAEF Board found that there was strong demand from 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, created the Foundation and launched the Enterprise Student Fellowship Program.

MISSION

The Foundation’s mission is to encourage and assist the 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.



SINCE MAY 2007

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.

PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

Our partner universities, AUCA and KIMEP University, 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 AUCA and KIMEP University’s dedication to providing their students with the technical skills, knowledge, and habits of critical thinking required for the business world, where our students will spend their professional lives, and their continued commitment to the highest quality education.



AUCA



KIMEP University

KIMEP University further supports the U.S.-CAEF mission by providing partial, matching scholarship support to many U.S.-CAEF Enterprise Fellows. We are most gratified by KIMEP’s recognition of the value of the U.S. - CAEF program and its generous support for U.S.-CAEF Fellows.



PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR: AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

American Councils for International Education is a premier, international nonprofit creating educational opportunities that prepare individuals and institutions to succeed in an increasingly interconnected and rapidly changing world. Through academic exchanges, overseas language immersion, data-driven research, and educational development programs, American Councils designs and administers innovative programs and language assessments that broaden individual perspectives, increase knowledge, and deepen understanding.

Throughout its 40-year journey, American Councils has worked in more than 85 countries and built a community of more than 75,000 alumni—from high school and college students to ambassadors, diplomats, journalists, artists, educators, and other professionals.

THE FOUNDATION EXECUTES ITS MISSION THROUGH TWO PROGRAMS

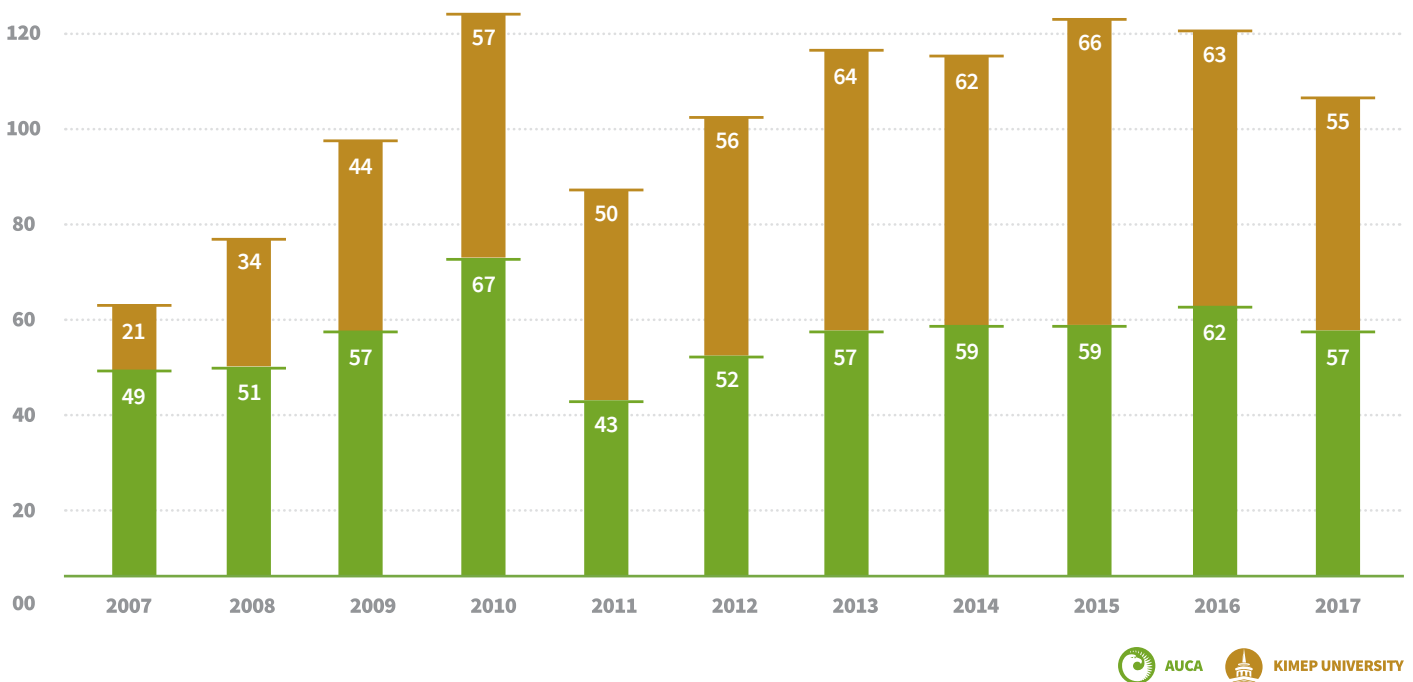
ENTERPRISE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

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.

ENTERPRISE INTERN FELLOWSHIPS

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

STUDENT FELLOWS BY INSTITUTION



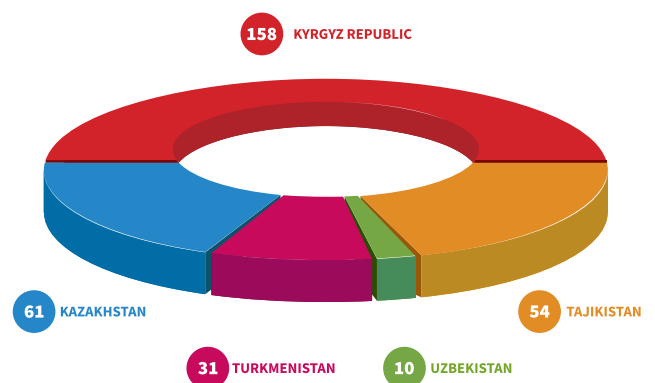
ENTERPRISE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

For the recent 2017-2018 academic year, the Foundation awarded a total of 112 scholarships for 57 Student Fellows to attend AUCA and 55 to attend KIMEP University.



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 as from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan. It is the intent of the Foundation to actively and continuously recruit in all of these countries.

STUDENT FELLOWS BY CITIZENSHIP





“U.S.-CAEF INVESTED IN MY FUTURE, AND THIS IS NOT ONLY FINANCIAL HELP- FOR ME IT IS ALSO A MOTIVATION TO BECOME A BETTER PERSON”
-Zhibek Kamalbek kyzy

GRADUATION 2018

Celebrating the Accomplishments of our Student Fellows

“U.S.-CAEF HAS CHANGED MY LIFE! THANKS TO THIS PROGRAM I WILL BE LAUNCHING MY OWN BUSINESS IN 2018. I FEEL THAT I CAN DO ANYTHING AND MAKE THINGS BETTER!”

-Guljermal Hojalyyeva

Throughout their four years of study, this year’s graduating Student Fellows have shown themselves to be true leaders and role models at their respective universities, and we are proud that they are part of the U.S. - CAEF family. They have continued the traditions started by earlier Enterprise Student Fellows. They are a credit to their parents, their families, their professors, their universities and their U.S. - CAEF family. They have mentored incoming Fellows, helped create and strengthen the U.S. - CAEF Student 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 their communities. Most of our Student Fellows are fluent in at least three languages: the language of their home Central Asian country, English and Russian. Many have gained proficiency in additional languages.

At **AUCA**, 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 **GPA of 3.67 or higher are placed on the “Dean’s List.”**

At **KIMEP University**, full time students with a semester **GPA of 4.0 or higher are placed on the “President’s List,”** while those with a semester GPA of **3.75 to 3.99 are placed on the “Dean’s List.”**

The academic performance of this year’s graduating class has been exemplary. Of thirty Student Fellows, 23 have been recognized on the President’s or Dean’s Lists.



Nursultan Aytbayev and Zhaksat Bassen

GRADUATING SENIORS RECOGNIZED ON THE PRESIDENT’S & DEAN’S LISTS

Dastan Akhtayev
Asel Amatova
Yuliana Bakulina
Zhaksat Bassen
Kamila Bekbaganbetova
Karimkhon Bukhadurov
Elvira Chuibekova
Zuhro Ganjibekova
Guljermal Hojalyyeva
Azatbek Ismailov
Shahlo Jonmamadova
Zhibek Kamalbek kyzy
Meryem Karakhasanova
Galiya Kemelbaieva
Altynai Melisova
Osiya Olimnazar
Kanat Osmonov
Jahongir Rahimov
Aidai Topchubaeva
Zuhro Qonunova
Zulfiya Urunova
Takhmina Zakirova



Karimkhon Bukhadurov



Galiya Kemelbaieva

Karimkhon Bukhadurov and **Galiya Kemelbaieva** took an accelerated track and graduated from KIMEP University in January 2018. In recognition of his outstanding academic achievements, Karimkhon graduated with the cum laude distinction.

Fifteen more Student Fellows are on track to graduate with honors: **Asel Amatova, Zuhro Ganjibekova, Azatbek Ismailov, Zhibek Kamalbek kyzy, Adylbek Kenzhebek, Altynai Melisova, Osiya Olimnazar, Kanat Osmonov,** and **Chyngyz Begimkulov** at AUCA, and **Dastan Akhtayev, Zhaksat Bassen, Kamila Bekbaganbetova, Shahlo Jonmamadova, Jahongir Rahimov,** and **Zulfiya Urunova** at KIMEP University.

Our seniors have also taken advantage of highly competitive, enriching study abroad programs in Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, South Korea, Singapore, Sweden, Turkey and the USA.

In the pages that follow, we offer profiles of these outstanding young men and women, written by the graduating fellows themselves.



AUCA GRADUATE PROFILES

Guliza Almazbek Kyzy

As an ordinary schoolgirl, I could not imagine that one day I would study at one of the top universities in Central Asia; however, I have always yearned to expand my knowledge and complete my higher education. The place where I could achieve these goals was at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA). Thanks to the U.S.-CAEF program, I was awarded a scholarship to continue my education and became a student at AUCA.

These four years at AUCA were the best of my life, during which I could realize my plans and achieve my short-term goals. AUCA is a unique place, where one may grow both personally and professionally. AUCA's courses forced me to grow as a student and person in open-mindedness and critical thinking. Moreover, participation in various collaborative projects; volunteering at International Business conferences; and the organization and realization of my own projects contributed to my professional growth.

AIESEC, an international non-profit organization promoting leadership development and cross-cultural youth exchange, organized the "Top Talents" project in 2015. My participation in this project allowed me to apply the theoretical knowledge I had obtained at AUCA to solve local companies' cases. The project strengthened my sense of responsibility and interpersonal skills.

I found the most excitement in volunteering at the Global Business Forum in 2016, where I met Robert Kiyosaki, who is the author of my favorite book, Rich Dad and Poor Dad.

At one of his lectures, I heard him say, "Everything starts with a dream; thus, do not stop doing it." I absolutely agree with him.



Hometown: Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
Major: Business Administration
Minor: International & Comparative Politics

“ U.S.-CAEF program gave me an incredible chance to change my life.”

Due to my desire to gain experience not only in business, but also in politics, I became a Research Assistant in 2016. The professor whom I assisted is an alumna of the Fulbright Scholar Program, and her research allowed me to explore the effects of migration on the Kyrgyz economy. I learned the logistics of academic research, which I used to write my thesis, and I enhanced communication skills that will assist me in my future career.

I have found happiness in the helpful and supportive second family U.S.-CAEF has given me. Thanks to this amazing program, I have friends who are not only my comrades, but who will become my future colleagues in business. I can say with confidence that U.S.-CAEF gave me a chance to change my life, and I am on the right path to future success!

Asel Amatova

I want to thank the U.S.-CAEF Board for funding and sponsoring this program at AUCA and KIMEP. As a recipient of the 2014 scholarship, I would like to express my gratitude for the generous opportunity and guidance that business students in financial need, such as myself, are given. I know that my selection to the U.S.-CAEF scholarship program and the chance to study at a top Central Asian university has allowed me to achieve my education and career goals, and has only increased my chances of success. This award has reduced the financial burdens of pursuing a degree in Business Administration, and will continue to be extremely valuable for me. I hope to contribute to the business community of Kyrgyzstan after graduation, and pursue a career not only in Kyrgyzstan, but throughout Central Asia.

During my studies, I have learned to balance my student and personal life. As my father advised, "In order to become a great person, you need to sacrifice something that brings you pleasure and head to achieving the main goals in your life." I am succeeding, according to the words of my father.

I am currently applying internationally to internship programs in order to gain a broader perspective and skillset in my field. As a sophomore at AUCA, I completed an internship at Ideagrad, which allowed me to gain skills in various software, financial analysis, and accounting reports. Through this experience I was able to identify Business Analytics as the area in which my skills and interests most prominently intersect. I finished my internship at Ideagrad with a new respect for my coworkers and myself, and I will do my best to apply the knowledge I have gained through my internship and at AUCA to contribute to the development of Central Asia. Moreover, I realized my passion for the restaurant industry when I worked in the United States at a restaurant in Navy Beach through the Work & Travel program, and I now hope to pursue a business career in this sphere.



Hometown: Osh, Kyrgyz Republic
Major: Business Administration
Awards: Dean's List- Fall 2014

“ I hope to make those who created the U.S.-CAEF program proud. ”

International organizations promoting leadership and global exchange like AIESEC, Enactus, and the AUCA Case Club have helped me learn how to work in teams on real business cases; development of creative solutions to problems in business; and leadership skills. I have attended many conferences, and met partners, friends, and teachers.

I hope to make those who created the U.S.-CAEF program proud, epitomizing all of the values the program stands for and contributing to its highly regarded reputation.

Chyngyz Begimkulov



Hometown: Osh, Kyrgyz Republic
Major: Business Administration
Second Major: International & Business Law

There is no denying that education and success are connected. A person's academic life may pave the way to a successful career. After studying in the Business Administration department at AUCA, I can undoubtedly say that I received the necessary education to build my future career. This is, of course, thanks to the opportunity from U.S.-CAEF.

When I was a small boy, I was full of enthusiasm and patriotism for my country. These were key factors in my decision to become a professional in the Business Administration field, and seek a second major in Business Law because successful business requires knowledge of the legal system. I want to use my abilities for the good of Kyrgyzstan, a relatively new and still developing country.

“ I want to use my abilities for the good of Kyrgyzstan. ”

Throughout my studies, I was privileged to meet and receive education from real professionals working at AUCA. Although theoretical knowledge is important, practical experience provides different lessons. I received my fair share of practical knowledge thanks to the numerous programs and clubs available at AUCA. I am one of the co-founders of the AUCA Case Club, a student initiative that carries out business consultations for real companies. I also took part in the Changellenge Business

Case Competition, as well as the Bolashak Business Case Cup in Kazakhstan. Besides the numerous business case competitions, I also had the chance to improve my public speaking skills through the AUCA's debate club. I developed entrepreneurship skills at Enactus, a global student community with an aim to bring together young business leaders around the world. In addition, I interned at AmanBank, a large Kyrgyz company where I was able to apply my finance and accounting skills.

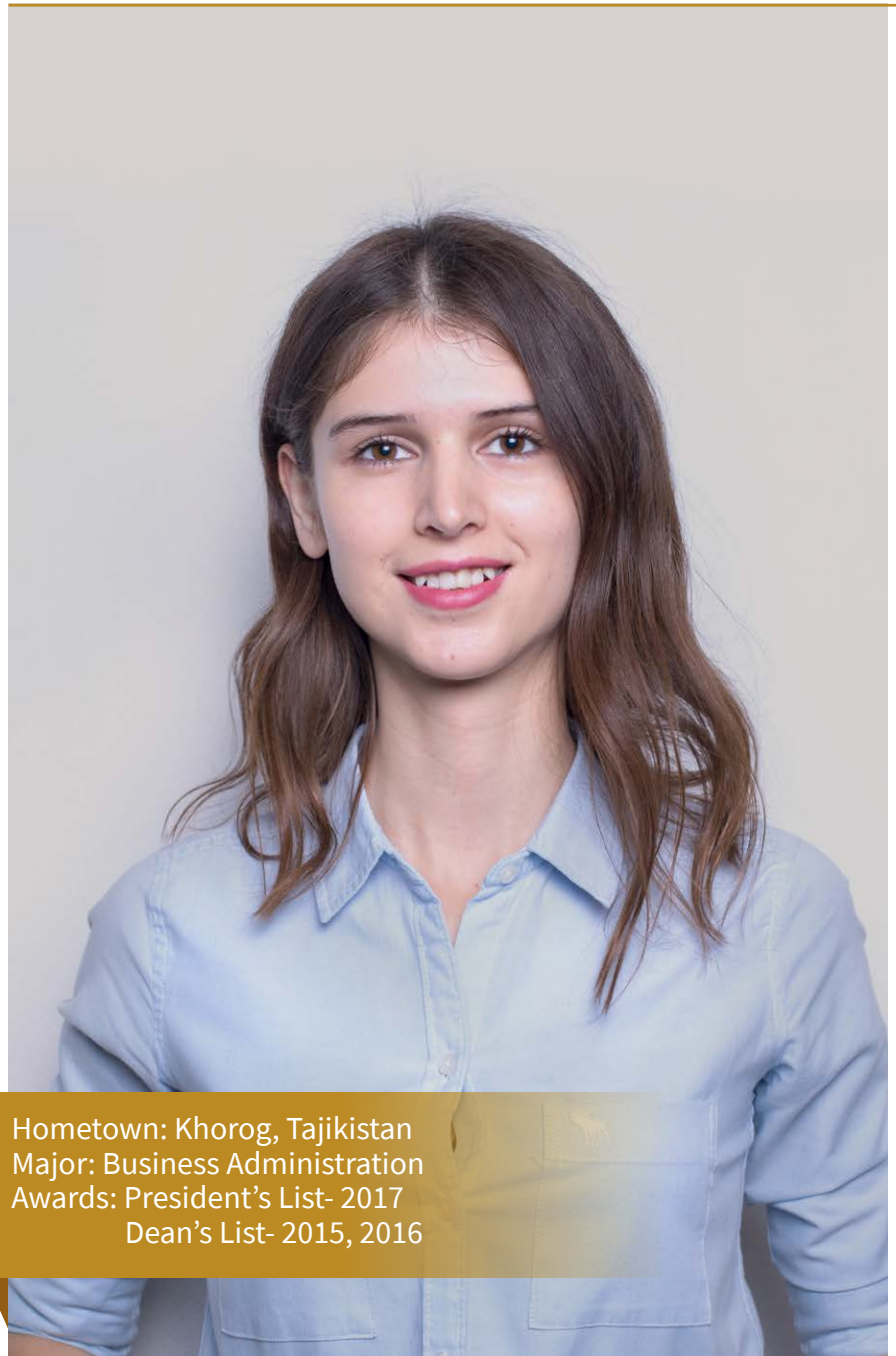
In the future, I would like to use the knowledge acquired at AUCA to take Kyrgyz business to new heights and revitalize modern business practices and techniques. In short, I want to prepare our businesses and our country to face the challenges of a competitive global economy. None of the above would have been possible without U.S.-CAEF and its leadership board, who chose to invest in me and my abilities.

Zuhro Ganjibekova

I am convinced that education is the key to success. Thus, a high-quality education has always been a top priority for me. The U.S.-CAEF Fellowship granted me a life-changing opportunity to receive an excellent education at AUCA, one of the most prestigious and reputable universities in Central Asia. I am now equipped with the required knowledge, skills, and abilities to contribute to the developmental processes of my home country and the region, and to make positive differences.

As a person with an internal impetus to constantly learn new things and continuously develop both personally and professionally, I have been taking advantage of every opportunity provided by the university. I was nominated to spend the Fall 2016 semester at one of the top universities of the Netherlands, the HAN University of Applied Sciences. This experience was an excellent chance to refine my knowledge of business and related fields, strengthen my cross-cultural competence, and diversify my thoughts and values. Furthermore, I was selected during the Spring 2017 semester to represent AUCA at a Global Business Simulation, Virtual Collaboration in International Business, which was organized by University of Turku in Finland. Participation in the simulation has deepened my knowledge of “real life” business, developed my strategic planning skills, and enhanced my understanding of efficient teamwork.

“I will always be honoured to call myself a U.S.-CAEF Fellow.”



Hometown: Khorog, Tajikistan
Major: Business Administration
Awards: President's List- 2017
Dean's List- 2015, 2016

Besides investing in my education, U.S.-CAEF laid the foundation for my professional experience. During the summer of 2016, via the Regional Internship Program, I interned as a Financial Specialist Assistant at FINCA, an international non-profit microfinance organization, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. This experience turned out to be instructive and efficient: I learned how to prepare various financial reports and official documents; enhanced my knowledge of finance and banking; refined my knowledge of Microsoft Excel and accounting software; and developed my teamwork

and analytical skills. Additionally, during the summer of 2017, I interned as a Business Analyst at East Star Capital, an international investment bank, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, where I enhanced my research skills, analytical skills, and business communication skills.

I express my deepest gratitude to the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship program for its continued support and assistance, and the Board's eternal faith in us. I will always be honoured to call myself a U.S.-CAEF Fellow.

Ferede Iansupova

I had always admired the American University of Central Asia, but I had never thought I would be able to be among its students. Now, I am going to graduate after four years at the university. The U.S.-CAEF Fellowship granted me such a unique opportunity. With the help of U.S.-CAEF, I had the privilege to study among some of the best students in the world.

I have tried to develop my skills in various spheres and sectors of business. U.S.-CAEF provided me the opportunity to study at an academic institution strong in many different disciplines. I chose to concentrate on Finance and Accounting within my Business Administration major, but also studied Psychology as a minor, and enjoyed courses specific to Management and Marketing.

In an effort to explore a career in Marketing, I completed an internship with a polygraph company. This experience allowed me to gain knowledge about how the working staff and corporate culture inside the company operates. I created new marketing strategies, organized meetings with potential clients, and led several projects.

In addition, I gained some experience in non-governmental organizations, such as SOS Village's Children. Here I was introduced to different people with completely different backgrounds from my own, and I was taught how to reach out to people with whom I may have previously thought I shared nothing in common. This gave me an understanding of the importance of building professional networks and actively contacting new people.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the U.S.-CAEF family. I will always remember and miss the wonderful moments at the university and in my community.



Hometown: Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
Major: Business Administration
Minor: Psychology

“With the help of U.S.-CAEF, I had the privilege to study among some of the best students in the world.”

Azatbek Ismailov

★ SELECTED FOR 2018 CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC

My parents always told me that the path to success is built upon good education. Thanks to this principle, I devoted my childhood to foreign language acquisition and sciences. The reward of my efforts to study English became clear when I was accepted as a FLEX finalist for 2013-2014. I spent one academic year at Ellsworth High School in Ellsworth, Wisconsin. The program helped me grow in personal development and knowledge.

In 2014, I was chosen as a U.S.-CAEF Fellow to study at AUCA. To this day, my acceptance remains one of my proudest accomplishments. Four years at one of the best universities in Central Asia equipped me with valuable business knowledge and gifted me amazing friends. I am thankful to have realized a deep passion for Finance, which became the concentration of my studies.

U.S.-CAEF also assisted me in career development. I interned at Beeline Telecommunication Company through the Regional Internship Program. This experience helped me apply theoretical knowledge, which I had gained from courses at AUCA. In three months, I learned the corporate culture of the company and deepened my knowledge in finance and the telecommunication industry.



Hometown: Osh, Kyrgyz Republic
Major: Business Administration
Awards: Dean's List- Fall 2015, 2016, 2017

“ I highly value the principles and goals of the U.S.-CAEF program. It is, indeed, one of the most unique programs in our region. ”

My junior year turned out to be one of my most productive years. I learned about business cases and I joined the AUCA Case Club. Eventually, I became the club's president and, together with other U.S.-CAEF Fellows, organized the first case competition among universities in Bishkek. Furthermore, in the spring of 2017, I interned for three months at the Kyrgyz Antimonopoly Agency, where I learned the specifics of civil servant jobs and improved my expertise in regulations of monopoly enterprises.

The exchange semester abroad also changed my life. During the Fall 2017

semester, I studied at IESEG University in France. The opportunity to attend courses at this French university diversified my knowledge and perspective. This experience helped me become more open towards others and learn how to contribute as a strong team player.

I highly value the principles and goals of the U.S.-CAEF program. It is, indeed, one of the most unique programs in our region. Due to the program's support, I realized my passions and potential. I am happy to be part of the U.S.-CAEF family, and look forward to staying connected in the future.

Zhibek Kamalbek Kyzy

★ SELECTED FOR 2018 CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC



HOMETOWN: KERBEN, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
 MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
 MINOR: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LAW
 AWARDS: PRESIDENT'S LIST- FALL 2017
 DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2015, 2016

During my FLEX experience at the Central Community High School in Elkader, Iowa, I found an enormous desire to contribute to the development of my country. Interested in business, I applied for the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship program and was accepted as a Fellow in 2014. Soon, I will graduate from AUCA and become an alumnus of this incredible program.

U.S.-CAEF is a program that has changed my life. I am thankful for the financial and professional support provided by U.S.-CAEF, through which I have discovered myself and grown as a leader.

As a Fellow of U.S.-CAEF, I was able to expand my studies beyond the classrooms at AUCA. During the Spring 2017 semester, I studied at the SolBridge International School of Business in South Korea. The environment was highly competitive and helped me gain deeper financial knowledge. I am currently using my knowledge from the university to participate in the Certified Financial Analyst's Global Student Competition.

As part of the Regional Internship program in 2016, I gained professional experience in the Human Resources Department of the United States Embassy in Bishkek. This internship helped me choose my career path, and granted me a new understanding of American work culture and networking practices. I am currently working in the Compliance Division of Sky Mobile LLC., a large telecommunications company. This experience has been challenging, and has demanded both financial and legal expertise.

I volunteered in many community projects during my time as a U.S.-CAEF Fellow, and organized three social projects sponsored by FLEX Alumni grants. My favorite project was 'TechMothers', wherein we educated thirty-five women from Naryn and Jalalabad in computer literacy. The Enactus entrepreneurship club, Youth Social Entrepreneurship Projects, and Model United Nations

conferences helped me develop leadership and public speaking skills.

I am President of the U.S.-CAEF Student Association at AUCA, and one day, I want to become the president of a well-known company. Thanks to U.S.-CAEF, I transitioned from being an unexperienced teen into a confident, goal-oriented young professional.

“Thanks to U.S.-CAEF, I transitioned...into a confident, goal-oriented young professional.”

Meryem Karakhasanova

My story as a U.S.-CAEF fellow began in 2014. I was a FLEX alumna who had to pause my education for a year due to unfortunate family circumstances. I was doubtful about my future, which seemed blurry after a difficult life experience. At one point, I almost completely lost hope. But I decided to fight one last time, and applied for a scholarship program at AUCA, which I never knew would change my life so dramatically.

At that time, winning a U.S.-CAEF “golden ticket” became a life goal. When it finally came true, I felt blessed like never before. From the very first day of orientation week at AUCA, I was stunned by the contagious energy of the students. Waking up in the morning meant being ready for new adventures, discoveries, and achievements. Upon meeting my fellow students, I realized that being a student of AUCA and a U.S.-CAEF Fellow meant being a unique and outstanding individual. Professional development became easy and inspiring because the opportunities with which U.S.-CAEF provided us were priceless.

One of the opportunities for which I am especially thankful is the Regional Internship program, which triggered many changes in my career aspirations. I completed my first internship in the Finance and Economics Department at Manas International Airport in Bishkek. Working with qualified professionals taught me many important lessons I could not learn in a classroom. After this experience, I was eager to move on and keep developing professionally. I also interned at Optima Bank as an assistant in the Credit Department at the end of my junior year.

Besides professional development, I am constantly engaged in AUCA extracurricular activities, such as case competitions, theatre performances, and various trainings.

I am most grateful for the person U.S.-CAEF helped me become. Now I see myself as a smart, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic young individual, who is ready to make positive changes in the world.



HOMETOWN: TALAS, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
AWARDS: DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2015, 2016

“ I am most grateful for the person U.S.-CAEF helped me become. ”

Adylbek Kenzhebek

It was June 10, 2014. I was standing beside my father in a bazaar. We were selling clothes, as usual. I remember that someone was calling me while I was speaking with another person on the phone, which is why I did not have the chance to answer. When I finished my conversation, I turned to my father and saw that he was speaking with someone. That person was Rabiya, who informed us that I was selected as a finalist for the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship. That was the turning point in my life.

Throughout these four years at AUCA, I was able to experience student life in the fullest sense. These years have been full of vivid and memorable moments in my academic and personal life. I remember asking myself before the beginning of my studies, “What is it like to be a student of AUCA and a U.S.-CAEF Fellow?” Now I know.

During my studies at AUCA, I decided to study Marketing and Management. In order to gain practical experience in the field, I completed an internship at the American Embassy in Bishkek (through the Regional Internship Program), where my colleagues and I prepared reports for the governmental tax units, and analyzed other departments’ financial transactions and budgets. The experience taught me the importance of teamwork and interpersonal communication skills.

I completed a semester studying abroad at the Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences in Valmiera, Latvia. This semester abroad taught me how to deal with a demanding international workload and how to participate in competitive team settings.

HOMETOWN: TALAS, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

I have shown leadership and problem-solving skills through events related to business cases: organizing the first Bishkek case competition, and coaching less experienced members of the AUCA Case Club. I participated as a finalist to represent AUCA and Kyrgyzstan in international case competitions like the KIMEP Case Cup by Changallenge and the Bolashak Case Competition in Almaty, Kazakhstan. As a member of the international youth organization AIESEC,

Youth Social Entrepreneurship Project, and AUCA’s debate club, I have improved my communication, organizational, and critical-thinking skills; learned to assert my point of view; speak in public; and organize local and national conferences.

Being a U.S.-CAEF Fellow means being a person who will change the region and have a positive impact on society. I am very thankful for U.S.-CAEF.

“Being a U.S.-CAEF Fellow means being a person who will change the region and have a positive impact on society.”



Chamshed Khodzhiev

During my primary and secondary school years, I had a great desire to study at AUCA to receive a high-quality education and improve my skills. Now I can proudly say, thanks to U.S.-CAEF, I have achieved one of my main desires.

I learned about U.S.-CAEF while studying at the New Generation Academy in 2013. I worked and studied hard, so as not to miss the great opportunity to become a part of U.S.-CAEF. In 2014, I was among the luckiest people to be selected as a U.S.-CAEF Fellow and enter one of the best universities in Kyrgyzstan.

In four years of studies at AUCA, I had the great opportunity to receive high quality knowledge, new skills and experiences, and grow both personally and professionally. I have been a member of various clubs and organizations, including Green Campus, AUCA's debate club, Future Leaders of the World Club, and Chess Club. I had a wonderful time participating in these clubs.

In the summer of 2016, I worked in my hometown of Andarak as a coordinator in the Youth Center, which was established with financial support from UNICEF. I was responsible for supervising and leading activities and trainings for youth. Through this experience, I improved my facilitation skills and contributed to the development of youth in my hometown.



HOMETOWN: ANDARAK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

“ I know the knowledge and skills I have gained will serve as a great foundation in pursuing my future goals and making a positive impact on society. ”

My most recent professional experience was in SortD, an on-demand startup company based in Dublin, Ireland. Working as a Marketing Analytics Intern for three months, I received valuable knowledge about the on-demand economic model, and developed my analytical and social skills. My responsibilities included analysis

of the on-demand market, collection and analysis of customer databases, and the creation of a pricing model. I became so interested in the on-demand economy that I hope to build a future business on the same model in Central Asia.

I am very grateful to U.S.-CAEF for providing great support to me to grow personally and professionally. There will always remain a special place for U.S.-CAEF in my heart. I know the knowledge and skills I have gained will serve as a great foundation in pursuing my future goals and making a positive impact on society.

★ SELECTED FOR 2018 CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC

Altynai Melisova

It seems as if yesterday I was anxiously writing my Statement of Purpose for the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship application. I was granted not only tuition, but also amazing friends and challenges that inspired me with a boundless aspiration to pursue entrepreneurship.

CHALLENGES: Einstein says that in the middle of every difficulty lies an opportunity. This is so true. In 2016, I was working as an interviewer at a World Bank research project in the Osh region. I interviewed sixty people in one week. Then, accidentally, I lost all sixty questionnaires. There was no way to restore them since we used a primitive method – pencil and paper. I took a deep breath and found a solution. Normally, we surveyed about ten people per day. Due to my mistake, I had to double that number. This challenge was an opportunity to enhance my persistence and earn respect from my team members and supervisor, who had assumed I would quit the project.

“ U.S.-CAEF:
a Unique Source
of Challenges,
Aspiration,
Entrepreneurship,
and Friendship.”

HOMETOWN: BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE
AWARDS: DEAN’S LIST- FALL 2015, 2017

ASPIRATION: Persistence contributed to one of my aspirations – an exchange semester in South Korea. My candidacy was rejected at first, but I was determined to keep applying until I exhausted all of my chances. At the second attempt, I was happy to find out that I was selected by Kyung Hee University in Suwon. The exchange was both challenging and fun. I made amazing friends from South Korea, Poland, France, Kazakhstan and China. In addition, I am thankful for Kyung Hee professors who increased my motivation to pursue a Master’s degree in the United States.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP: To finance my exchange, I founded Hi Five: a professional orientation and leadership academy in Bishkek. I used monthly U.S.-CAEF stipends as capital to buy a notebook and rent an office. After four months of operation, we gained a net profit. Moreover, the academy produced fifty Hi Five graduates and each of them received excellent tools to find their own life path through critical thinking and willpower. Now, I am aiming to establish an educational center that could teach not only critical thinking, but data collection and statistical analysis in an interactive way.

FRIENDSHIP: I would not have been able to achieve anything without my loyal friends! I want to use this opportunity and express my gratitude to people who made my student life even brighter: Chyngyz Begimkulov, Zhibek Kamalbek kyzy, Guliza Almazbek kyzy, Asel Amatova, Tahmina Zakirova, Adylbek Dzapashov, Kanat Osmonov, and Azatbek Ismailov.

I am so proud to be a member of the U.S.-CAEF family.

Osiya Olimnazar

Ever since I can remember, education has been one of the most important aspects of my life. I realize that education is the path to a better future for every individual. I was actively involved in the Science Academy of Tajikistan and learning English during my school years. Thanks to the Future Leadership Exchange Program, I received the chance to live in the state of Washington, where I spent my senior year at R.A. Long High School and graduated with honors.

My high school senior year was stressful in the sense that I did not know what would happen next. I was eager to explore higher educational opportunities beyond Tajikistan. Thanks to U.S.-CAEF, I was lucky to receive the chance to study Business Administration at AUCA.

These four years at AUCA passed very quickly, and it is unbelievable that the new chapter of my life will begin in just a few months. Now that I have received a quality education from AUCA, I am eager to face the world and produce positive change. I owe my confidence partially to the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program I completed during the summer of 2016 at Deloitte & Touche, LLC in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. During the following summer in 2017, the U.S.-CAEF staff helped me secure another internship at Crowe Horwath ACG, another auditing company in Dushanbe. These experiences were invaluable to me. They helped me clarify my career goals upon graduation and what to expect in a professional position.

I am interested in becoming an entrepreneur, but while I save the funds and acquire the necessary capital to realize that dream, I hope to work in the auditing sphere after graduation.



HOMETOWN: KHOROG, TAJIKISTAN
MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE
AWARDS: PRESIDENT'S LIST- FALL 2017
DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2015, 2016

U.S.-CAEF gave me the confidence to dream big. I do not place boundaries on my goals or potential. U.S.-CAEF gave me the best gift that a person can dream of – access to education, and access to the world. Thank you for this!

“U.S.-CAEF gave me the best gift that a person can dream of – access to education, and access to the world.”

Kanat Osmonov

My gate to an international education opened in 2013 when I began my journey as a FLEX program participant. My exchange year at Wethersfield High School in Connecticut flew by while I mastered English, learned to be active in my school and community, and learned about the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship opportunity.

The U.S.-CAEF program uncovered otherwise unreachable and unimaginable pathways. At AUCA, I majored in Business Administration, chose a concentration in Finance, and completed several law courses.

During my studies at AUCA, I completed two internships. The U.S.-CAEF Fellowship assisted in finding an internship at Sky Mobile, LLC, one of the biggest private companies in Kyrgyzstan. The company hosted me as an intern in their Finance department, where I learned about the organizational structure, office communication, and logistics related to internal policies. Fortunately, I was able to use my experience in the FLEX program and finance knowledge gained at AUCA during my internship with the Finance Ministry of the Kyrgyz Republic.



HOMETOWN: BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
AWARDS: PRESIDENT'S LIST- FALL 2017
DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2015, 2016

“ I am immensely grateful to this program and appreciate its contributions towards the development of Central Asia.”

While working for the Government Debt Department, I learned how the public and private sectors differ, how government securities are issued, and how the gap between government income and expenditures is closed.

In addition, I actively participated in extracurricular life at AUCA. I maintained

membership in the debate club, the Youth Social Entrepreneurship Program, Enactus, Business Clinic, and Case Club. However, I never forgot about my community. I organized three environmental projects, and educated children in orphanages. Above all, I found invaluable connections with professors, experts in diverse fields, managers of companies, and true friends.

I cannot imagine how else I would be able to accomplish all of these things without the U.S.-CAEF. I am immensely grateful to this program and appreciate its contributions towards the development of Central Asia. I do not know where exactly my future career path will take me, but I am certain that I will do my best to care about my community, my country, and the whole world.

Takhmina Zakirova

As an eight-year-old girl I fell in love with Walt Disney's creations. They taught me to be extremely curious, brave, dream big, and take action toward my goals. He said, "We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things because we're curious. And curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." Following Disney's wisdom, I was able to fulfill one of my biggest dreams to pursue education: I became an alumna of the Future Leaders Exchange program in 2013. I was lucky to explore the American education system at CIVA Charter High School in the beautiful mountainous city of Colorado Springs.

After an exchange year of never-ending curiosity and inspiration, I decided that I wanted to pursue a higher education. In 2014, the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship program kindly presented me the precious gift and opportunity to study at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA). AUCA is one of the best universities because its community values diversity, freedom, responsibility, and service. I chose to major in Economics and minor in Business Administration, since all of the required courses are important and applicable to almost everything we experience in everyday life.

I was presented with opportunities to succeed academically, professionally, and personally. Various volunteering opportunities within and outside of AUCA demonstrated the importance of service and networking. The 19th Worldwide Festival of Youth and Students held in Sochi, Russia, and several Model United Nations conferences, both local and international, introduced me to the creation of peaceful and sustainable resolutions to global issues. Enactus, a worldwide student organization, enriched my creativity and communication skills, and in the spring of 2016, I mastered my skills further in the marketing department of a startup incubator called Ideagrad. During the spring of 2017, I completed an internship within the Ministry of Finance, which exposed me to the public sector and financial processes of the Kyrgyz government.



HOMETOWN: KARAKOL, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
 MAJOR: ECONOMICS
 MINOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
 AWARDS: DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2015

“ I am thankful to the U.S.-CAEF family, and I look forward to building a peaceful present and sustainable future together. ”

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship program for the opportunity to satisfy my curiosity, build a strong base for further development, and a community of support, motivation, and discipline. I promise that my

future career and activities will make a positive contribution to a stable economy and harmonious region in Central Asia. I am thankful to the U.S.-CAEF family, and I look forward to building a peaceful present and sustainable future together.

“... I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO THE U.S.-CAEF FOUNDERS, DIRECTORS, AND OFFICERS. I HAVE SPENT THE BEST FOUR YEARS OF MY LIFE STUDYING AT KIMEP. I CAN SAY WITH CERTAINTY THAT U.S.-CAEF HAS REACHED ITS MISSION AND GOALS AND HAS CHANGED MANY PEOPLE’S LIVES. THIS PROGRAM HAS FULFILLED MY DREAMS AND CONTRIBUTED TO MY AND MANY OTHER STUDENTS’ BRIGHTER FUTURE. WE, U.S.-CAEF FELLOWS, ARE THE LUCKIEST STUDENTS NOT ONLY BECAUSE WE RECEIVED THIS GENEROUS SCHOLARSHIP, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE ACQUIRED A FAMILY FAR FROM OUR HOMES. WE HAVE EXPERIENCED AND LEARNED SO MUCH TOGETHER. THESE YEARS FULL OF JOY WILL STAY IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER.”

-Nozigul Afzunova

“MY DREAMS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT U.S.-CAEF. THIS PROGRAM OPENED DOORS TO GREAT OPPORTUNITIES. U.S.-CAEF HAS BEEN ASSISTING AND INSPIRING ME TO GET DEEP KNOWLEDGE, DEVELOP MY PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND BROADEN MY THINKING. I FEEL LIKE THE LUCKIEST PERSON TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE U.S.-CAEF FAMILY. I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THIS LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE.”

-Chamshed Khodzhev





KIMEP UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE PROFILES

Nozigul Afzunova

Learning is light and ignorance is darkness. I started my journey of learning at Aga Khan Lyceum. In my sophomore year there, I became a FLEX finalist. My FLEX exchange year (2012-2013) took place in Albany, Texas. I attended Albany Junior-Senior High School in an honors class. FLEX gave me an amazing life experience and made me responsible, mature and confident.

Another happy time in my life was when I graduated from high school in my hometown. I was chosen as a finalist for the U.S.-CAEF scholarship program. This program has given me support both financial and moral, and has given me new friends from different countries. Most importantly, it has given me a happy family of U.S.-CAEF fellows. Studying at KIMEP University with this scholarship was a great honor and achievement. After taking different courses at KIMEP University, I realized that in the future I want to work in the finance industry. Therefore, I chose Finance as my major and Corporate Finance as my specialization.

In addition to studying, I had the opportunity to enhance my practical knowledge by taking part in internships. I interned at CJSC, The First Micro-Finance Bank of Khorog, Tajikistan.

HOMETOWN: KHOROG, TAJIKISTAN
MAJOR: FINANCE

This experience encouraged me to take another internship with a nonprofit organization, Aga Khan Health Service. I gained a lot of knowledge and experience in the finance area while working as a finance intern. These activities gave me deeper insights about the world of finance and business in general. Additionally, during my study I worked as an office assistant and as a teacher assistant at Bang College of Business, which helped me develop my communication, leadership, and time management skills. Besides academics, I was involved in volunteering and participating in different events representing my country.

I can definitely say that these 4 years would not have been so amazing, productive and joyful without U.S.-CAEF. I never could have wished for something better than this; therefore, I am very thankful to this program and its founders for opening gates to a bright future, for helping me to become who I am today, and for everything I have learned and achieved during the 4 years of my university life. As it is said, "dream big and your dreams will come true." Mine came true by being a part of this program.

“U.S.-CAEF opens gates to a bright future and leads us on the right path to success and prosperity.”



Dastan Akhtayev

Four years of commitment to excellence has paid off. Some of the most memorable experiences for me are the case competitions and international conferences, because they were an investment into my future. Apart from my strong academic performance (4.29 GPA out of 4.33), I believe that my biggest achievement was being able to maintain a good balance between academics and student life.

I remember my Orientation week like it was yesterday. I did not know what to do with my student life, and could not even imagine being the head of one of the first organizations created by U.S.-CAEF alumni. After receiving advice from program alumni, I decided to join KISA (KIMEP International Students Association), and Art Revolution. These organizations helped me find a path in my journey of self-development. I always wanted to be able to balance academic excellence with an active student life. Therefore, this small achievement means a lot for me.

After my exchange year with the FLEX program (Meridian, Idaho, 2013-2014), U.S.-CAEF gave me the opportunity to make a difference and pursue my passions. It has been a year since I started my internship program at GSK (GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals) in Kazakhstan. GSK is a leading pharmaceutical company which originated in the United Kingdom and has been operating in Kazakhstan for almost 25 years. It provides medicine to communities to give people better and healthier lives. This was a challenge full of ups and downs, because I had never worked in the pharmaceutical industry before. Also, the task of being a full-time student and having a full-time job was challenging. However, I enhanced my ability to overcome challenges and excellently performed my duties at work. I proved to myself that everything could be achieved with dedication and a positive attitude.



HOMETOWN: ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN
MAJOR: MARKETING
AWARDS: PRESIDENT'S LIST 2014-2017

“I would like to express my gratitude to U.S.-CAEF for allowing me to accomplish something that I will be proud of for the rest of my life.”

As part of a community, we should give back to society, because even a small contribution can have a big impact. Helping at Training Caf é , which supports disabled people and gives them equal opportunity in society, and participating in ecological trips around Almaty touched my soul from deep inside.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to U.S.-CAEF for allowing me to accomplish something that I will be proud of for the rest of my life.

Nursultan Aytbaev

I was born and raised in the small town of Chirchik, Uzbekistan. Since my childhood, I started working hard to achieve my dreams and goals. Naturally, I grew up to become a motivated and hardworking person. I always dreamed of getting a high-quality education, because as Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." I believe dreams can come true. In 2014, I was awarded a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to support my studies at KIMEP University. During the four years at KIMEP University, I have received a top-quality education, and it has opened gateways to my future.

Receiving a U.S.-CAEF scholarship was one of the best things that has happened in my life. During these exciting years at KIMEP University, I found my passion and learned the knowledge and skills I need to pursue it. Now, I am a senior majoring in Finance.



HOMETOWN: CHIRCHIK, UZBEKISTAN
MAJOR: FINANCE

“ The U.S.-CAEF Program not only provided me with the opportunity to get a high-quality education at KIMEP University, but also opened many new horizons and doors to a bright future. ”

My student life at KIMEP University has been very interesting. Throughout these years, I tried to take full advantage of the opportunities offered to me. As a freshman, I participated in events such as Masquerade Ball and Mister KIMEP, and did volunteer work both in and out of KIMEP University. In 2015, I was elected as the International Student Deputy for the KIMEP student association (KSA), where I organized a number of multicultural events on campus.

In the last two years, I participated in different challenge cups and case competitions. In the fall of 2016, I was selected as an intern with the Accounting Department at JSC Altyn Bank. During the short but meaningful two months of the internship, I developed time management and networking skills with great co-workers.

All of the things I have achieved would not have been possible without the support of the U.S.-CAEF program. I am very thankful to U.S.-CAEF for what it has allowed me to learn and accomplish. The program not only provided me with the opportunity to get a high-quality education at KIMEP University, but also opened many new horizons and doors to a bright future.

Yuliana Bakulina

Ever since my childhood, there has always been a person who inspired me and cheered me up. His message was short and clear: "Everything you want to achieve in life is possible. Just do not give up, and keep moving forward." The person I am talking about is my brother who is a U.S.-CAEF alumnus. I am very thankful to him, as I would not have been able to achieve everything I have without his good advice and constant support.

One of the most difficult times in my life was when I failed to pass the FLEX program in secondary school. Although it was disappointing not to be able to go to the U.S., I continued to work hard and managed to receive two scholarships for my undergraduate education. I chose the U.S.-CAEF scholarship, and have never regretted this decision. Now I understand that it was not only financial support that U.S.-CAEF provided, but also the opportunity to become an expert in the business sphere and expand my personal and professional network.

While at KIMEP, I took part in several exchange programs. The first program was SUSI in Seattle, USA, an intensive academic program where I learned how to hold professional negotiations, debate about essential topics and assert my point of view. All the experiences and skills I acquired became vital to my participation in discussions, projects and presentations at KIMEP. The second program was with Global UGRAD, and I spent a semester in Memphis, Tennessee in the USA. Global UGRAD gave me the opportunity to receive a quality U.S. education, a valuable cross-cultural experience and familiarity with American culture.



HOMETOWN: ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN
 MAJOR: FINANCE
 AWARDS: DEAN'S LIST- SPRING 2015; FALL 2015, 2016

Now I am a senior, and this is my last year at KIMEP. I am currently interning in the finance department at Air Astana, and it has inspired me to continue working in finance after graduation.

Looking back at the past four years, I recall the countless tough lectures and sleepless nights at KIMEP. At the same time, I recall Nauryz celebrations,

movie nights and fun times during group projects with friends. I went from being an unexperienced teenager with little life experience to a young professional, who is ready to implement the knowledge she has gained, share life experiences, and face any local or global challenges. I know that I could not get all this without you, U.S.-CAEF. Thank you!

“ I feel that I went from being an unexperienced teenager with little life experience to a young professional who is ready to implement the knowledge she has gained, share life experiences, and face any local or global challenges. ”

Zhaksat Bassen

My journey of understanding the world and pursuing my ambitions started a long time ago, when I, a 10-year-old boy from a small village, decided to move to the city to get a better education. Because I was miles away from my family and friends, it was one of the most challenging times of my life. However, those years taught me to be stronger and to strive for excellence and success, along with many other lessons.

I was honored to be awarded the U.S.-CAEF Scholarship to study at KIMEP University in 2014. There have been a lot of lessons and challenges during my studies. I managed to perform well in my studies, despite having to balance them with my jobs. In order to expand my knowledge of Accounting, I took part in Olympiads, internship programs and case competitions. My part-time job at KIMEP and internship experience at PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP exceeded my expectations and taught me important leadership, communication and teamwork skills.



HOMETOWN: AYTEKE BI, KAZAKHSTAN
MAJOR: ACCOUNTING & AUDIT
AWARDS: PRESIDENT'S LIST- SPRING 2015, 2016, 2017; FALL 2015, 2017

★ SELECTED FOR 2018 CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC

“The insights I have gained throughout my time at KIMEP are the driving force and motivation for me to achieve my goals and have a clear vision for my future.”

Moreover, I was actively involved in extracurricular activities. I was part of student organizations where I learned to listen to other students, voice my opinions about new ideas and implement them. My participation in the Summer Entrepreneurial Leadership Program in Seattle and Chicago in the summer of 2016, and an exchange semester during the fall of 2016 in Czech Republic through the Erasmus+ program played a big role in helping me to understand other cultures and treat them with respect. I also learned many virtues

from the village where I grew up, such as kindness and responsibility. Consequently, I contributed to big charity events as well.

I am an active member of the volunteer organization “Zhas Yeren” (“Young Hero”). The main objectives of this organization include helping people in need and preserving the cultural and traditional values of Kazakhstan. Through Zhas Yeren, I have worked on initiatives such as providing support to orphans and distributing food to people with financial

difficulties. Such activities helped me become a part of the community, and motivated me to change society for the better.

The U.S.-CAEF Scholarship gave me many opportunities to grow both personally and professionally. The insights I have gained throughout my time at KIMEP are the driving force and motivation for me to achieve my goals and have a clear vision for my future. I am eager to use my ideas to contribute to the development of society.

Kamila Bekbaganbetova



HOMETOWN: AKTOBE, KAZAKHSTAN
 MAJOR: ACCOUNTING & AUDIT
 MINOR: FINANCE
 AWARDS: PRESIDENT'S LIST- FALL 2014,
 2015, 2016; SPRING 2015, 2016, 2017

My life at KIMEP University can only be described as an epic journey full of knowledge, professional and life experience, and amazing people and opportunities. Thanks to U.S.-CAEF, I had the opportunity to study accounting and finance, intern at multiple organizations, participate in student clubs, and study abroad.

In high school, I was chosen to participate in the FLEX program and studied at Marshall High School in San Antonio, Texas for the 2012-2013 academic year. That year, I learned to use every opportunity to learn and grow, which is why at KIMEP I strived to get the most out of classes, additional trainings, and extracurricular activities. In order to boost my theoretical knowledge, I completed a Bloomberg course and the KPMG Foundation online school. Over the years, I also took advantage of different trainings organized by MARS, PWC, Changellenge and the McKinsey Company. I participated in multiple case competitions, and in my third year, my team won the CIMA 2017 Business Challenge. My participation in case competitions allowed me to use all of my theoretical knowledge and improve my analytical and teamwork skills.

During my life as a student I gained a lot of practical experience through multiple internships. In my first year at KIMEP, I worked at the Dining Smart Company. I organized multiple events and forums, managed their website and social media, and wrote and translated articles for the company's website. In my second year, I got to work as part of the Finance team for the 3rd national conference for a partner of the Project Management Institute. The following year, I worked at Autodom Group, where I initiated and completed my own project, which increased work efficiency in the Audit department. My third internship was at Fashion Retail Kazakhstan, where I got to perform basic accounting functions and improve my communication skills. All of these internships were very valuable experiences during my student career, and will benefit my future career aspirations.

During my senior year, I studied at Singapore Management University. Although it was challenging to study in a different country, I did well, because KIMEP prepared me for the rigorous academics in Singapore. I am grateful to U.S.-CAEF for this journey and I feel prepared for the new chapter of my professional life.

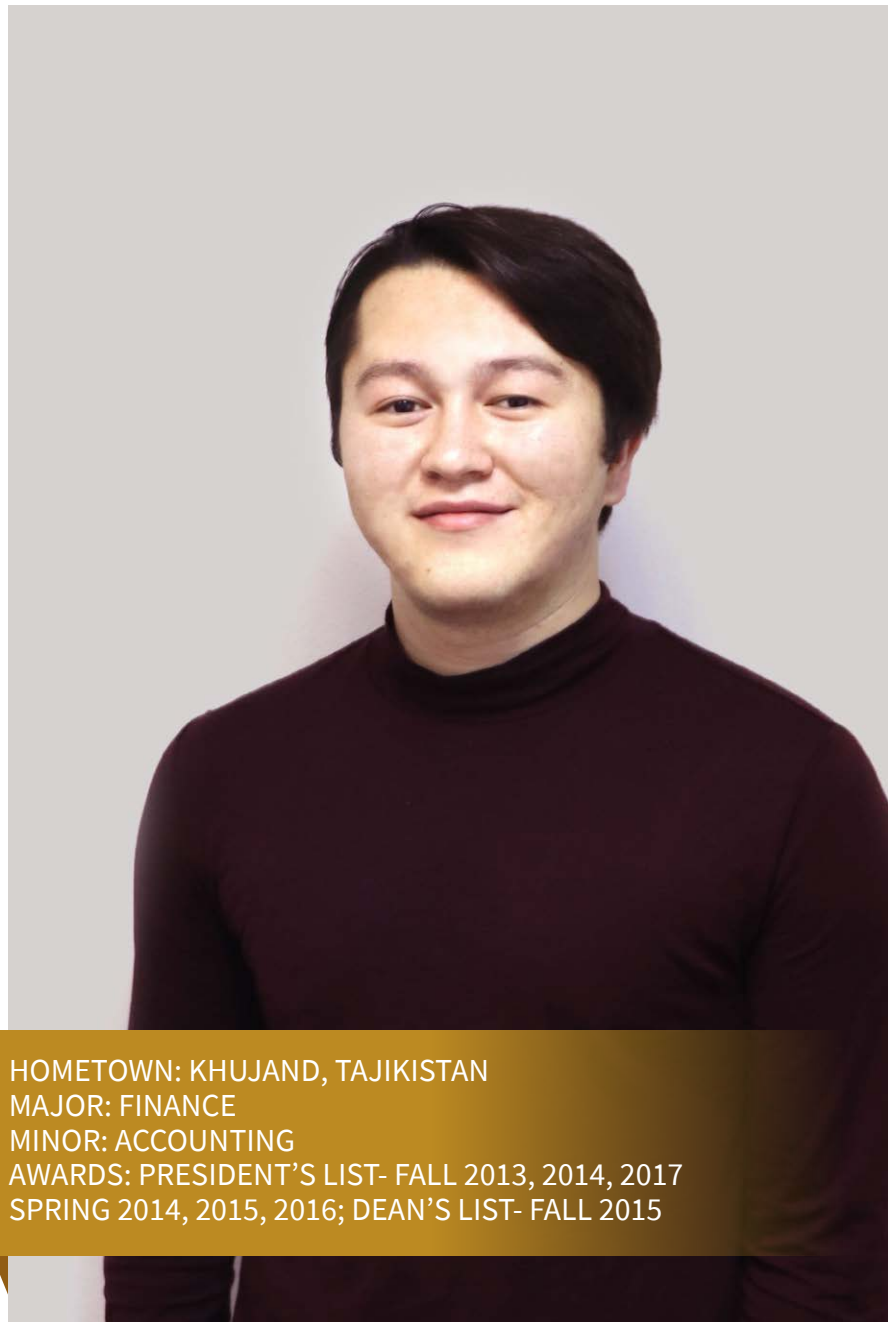
“ I am grateful for this journey and I feel prepared for the new chapter of my professional life. ”

Karimkhon Bukhadurov

I consider myself very fortunate to have received the U.S.-CAEF scholarship, as it has provided a strong foundation for my personal and professional growth. After completing an exchange year in California, United States through the FLEX program, I was looking to pursue a western-style education close to home. Thus, I chose KIMEP University.

From my freshman year, I was actively involved in student organizations such as the KIMEP Times, the KIMEP Accounting and Finance Club, and “The Smartest Guy in the Room” competition, which I helped organize. As a member of the Intellectual Debate Club, I participated in numerous debate tournaments. These experiences enabled me to improve my communication and my writing and organizational skills. I have also taken part in intellectual competitions and events. I was a finalist in the Deloitte Global Tax & Legal and KPMG case competitions, and I received the High-Quality Award from Changellenge.

Growing professionally has been my focus during my years at KIMEP. I have worked as a Marketing Intern at Samsung Electronics, Kazakhstan and Central Asia, a Finance Intern at KIMEP University, and a Due Diligence intern at KPMG, Tax and Advisory. These internships provided a platform to implement my theoretical knowledge and choose the right career path. The highlight of my professional development was my one-year traineeship as a Financial Analyst at Apex Facility Resources in Seattle, United States as part of an Internship Program with E2 Educational Services. During my traineeship, I took part in projects for my company’s clients, including Facebook and Amazon, where I went on-site to these tech companies and advised them on optimization of their operations.



HOMETOWN: KHUJAND, TAJIKISTAN

MAJOR: FINANCE

MINOR: ACCOUNTING

AWARDS: PRESIDENT’S LIST- FALL 2013, 2014, 2017

SPRING 2014, 2015, 2016; DEAN’S LIST- FALL 2015

In addition, I have participated in several international conferences, including the 1st Kazan Youth Entrepreneurship Forum, where I presented my project about opening a Youth Entrepreneurship Club in my hometown to tackle unemployment issues. During my senior year, I was chosen to represent KIMEP University at the 43rd Business Today International Conference organized by Princeton

University in New York, United States. These conferences allowed me to expand my horizons, meet like-minded youth from around the globe, discuss issues the business world is currently facing, and understand how youth can take part in solving those issues. Overall, my experience at KIMEP as a U.S.-CAEF fellow has been a journey of incredible experiences that have made me who I am today.

“Overall, my experience at KIMEP as a U.S.-CAEF fellow has been a journey of incredible experiences that have made me who I am today.”

Elvira Chuibekova

Although growing up in a small provincial city presented me with some financial and academic challenges, it also gave me motivation to achieve something extraordinary. My high school years were full of self-development and unique experiences. In the year of 2013, I was honored to become a FLEX finalist, which allowed me to spend one of the most amazing years of my life studying at Morris Area High School in Morris, Minnesota, USA. My beautiful host family, amazing teachers, and overall high school experience gave me a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and ambition.

I still remember the tears of joy in my mother's eyes when I received a life-changing opportunity the following year. U.S.-CAEF granted me the opportunity to study at KIMEP University. During my first year, I studied hard and was also very active in student life. My friend and I formed a student organization that held an independent TEDx event at KIMEP in December 2014. A bit later, I was selected as one of the student speakers for the KIMEP Talks event, where I shared my life experience. In addition, as a part of the KIMEP Debate team, I attended the United Nations Debate, where we discussed many global issues with other leading universities. A year later, I was awarded with an Erasmus+ scholarship, which brought me to University of Lodz in Poland. I spent four amazing months in Europe, during which I broadened my professional knowledge in marketing, met interesting people of different backgrounds, and gained a great traveling experience.

I can sincerely say that I would not have had such a fulfilling student life without the U.S.-CAEF scholarship, which was an important part of my growth and becoming a mature individual with clear aims and objectives. I am honored to be one of the most ambitious and brightest minds of Central Asia.



HOMETOWN: TARAZ, KAZAKHSTAN
MAJOR: MARKETING
AWARDS: PRESIDENT'S LIST
SPRING 2015; FALL 2017

“ I can sincerely say that I would not have had such a fulfilling student life without the U.S.-CAEF scholarship, which was an important part of my growth and becoming a mature individual with clear aims and objectives. ”

Guljemal Hojalyyeva

“To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only dream, but also believe. “This quote by Anatole France has inspired me since my childhood. I am the kind of person who sets a goal and does her best to achieve it. I have always participated in educational and cultural programs to increase my knowledge and show my worth. In 2011, I was selected as a finalist of the FLEX program and studied at Kingsburg High School in California, which was an amazing opportunity to expand my outlook and meet new people. In addition to traveling, I love volunteering. In 2011 and 2012, I completed more than 200 hours of volunteering and was nominated for the USA Presidential and Department Award. Additionally, I’m an alumna of “APYLP” and EUROBAK “Marketing & PR University of Practical knowledge.”

In 2014, I was awarded a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study at KIMEP University. I majored in Marketing because I love creating new things, exchanging ideas and interacting with people. Minor in Management helped me to increase my knowledge about workplace environment.

The U.S.-CAEF scholarship is incredible; no words can explain how great this opportunity is. It provides you a chance to be a part of the business world while receiving useful theoretical and practical knowledge at university. Because of U.S.-CAEF, I had opportunities to participate in entrepreneurship conferences for networking and learning new skills.

HOMETOWN: MARY, TURKMENISTAN
MAJOR: MARKETING
MINOR: MANAGEMENT
AWARDS: DEAN’S LIST – FALL 2016

In 2016, I interned with Keremet Holding through the U.S.-CAEF Summer Regional Internship Program, which gave me a chance to use my theoretical knowledge in a real work environment. During my internship, I improved my technical skills and developed my analytical thinking.

Throughout my time at KIMEP, I continued volunteering because I believe that

helping vulnerable people of our society is very important. I have conducted several projects at orphanages, food drives for needy people, and fundraising initiatives.

In 2017, I started working on a real business plan. I believe starting your own business is one of the most powerful ways to take control of your life and to make lives better for the people around you.

“ U.S.-CAEF provided me with the opportunity to study at the best university in Central Asia. With the help of U.S.-CAEF, I found my path in life. Now I know that by working hard I can achieve success. ”

Shahlo Jonmamadova



HOMETOWN: KHOROG, TAJIKISTAN
 MAJOR: ACCOUNTING & AUDIT
 AWARDS: PRESIDENT'S LIST- FALL 2016
 SPRING 2015, 2016
 DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2014, 2015, 2017

“ I would like to thank the U.S.-CAEF program for not only helping me to achieve my goals, but also for giving me a family in Kazakhstan. ”

I would like to start with a confession. Four years ago, when I graduated from high school, I felt like a lost boat out at sea. I lived in a society where many people believe that it is impossible to get scholarships. When I became a U.S. - CAEF finalist, I told myself that I would work hard to the best of my ability and serve my community.

After completing the Future Leaders Exchange Program at Janesville High School in Cedar Falls, Iowa, I started my studies at KIMEP University. I tried to take advantage of every opportunity that was given to me. In 2014, I was selected as the Vice President of Internal Affairs for the U.S. - CAEF Student Association. The work as a VP enabled me to improve my communication skills and learn how to interact with different people. In 2016, I represented Central Asia at the 42nd International Business Today Conference in New York City, and attended seminars with CEOs and managers of global companies. Furthermore, I became a finalist for the Erasmus program and spent a semester at Uppsala University in Sweden. In June 2017, I participated in the Central Asian Youth Network seminar in Astana and was selected to represent Tajikistan at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in the Europe study tour in Vienna, Austria. In addition, I received the High-Quality Award in the Changellenge Case competition and participated in the Transformation Leadership Program in Almaty. Currently, I am attending the Ernst and Young Business School and European Business Association seminars. Participating in different seminars has improved my teamwork and leadership skills.

Finding a balance between theory and practice is important to me. Through the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program, I interned at Crowe Horwath ACG, Dushanbe. This internship was a worthwhile experience that helped me get acquainted with the Tajikistan market and expand my professional network. Additionally, I had an internship with the KIMEP accounting department and worked as a Teaching/Distant Learning Assistant at KIMEP.

I would like to thank the U.S.-CAEF program not only for helping me achieve my goals, but also for giving me a family in Kazakhstan. Thank you for believing in me 4 years ago. I promise you will never regret it.

Galiya Kemelbaieva



HOMETOWN: KOSTANAI, KAZAKHSTAN
MAJOR: FINANCE
AWARDS: DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2014
SPRING 2015

“ I am grateful to U.S.-CAEF not only for opening a world of opportunities for me, but also for teaching me kindness and generosity. ”

I received a “golden ticket” twice in my life. The first was given to me when I was a high school student and received an opportunity to study at Dinuba High School in California through the FLEX program. FLEX was a great life-changing experience that opened new doors for me. Becoming a U.S.-CAEF Fellow and being admitted to KIMEP University was my second “golden ticket.”

Becoming a part of the U.S.-CAEF program and the KIMEP community was not only about opening my eyes to new perspectives, but also about creating the person I am today.

The student life at KIMEP University was so exciting and motivating that after my freshman year, my friends and I decided to open the organization ‘KIMEP Blogs,’ in which we would film events around KIMEP and show them to prospective students. During my sophomore year, our organization was awarded the “Breakthrough of the Year” prize. In the same year, I was presented with the opportunity to study at Middle East Technical University through the Erasmus program. As part of the program, I participated in a government-supported startup. During my junior year I participated in KPMG Audit week, and later, received a job offer from KPMG. Currently, I am working as First Year Assistant at KPMG. All the skills and knowledge that I am applying at work I learned at KIMEP University.

University has taught me that there is an entire world beyond the small town where I grew up. I’ve learned new back roads and memorized new paths. I have come across new faces that have changed my life.

My family and I will never stop being thankful to U.S.-CAEF program for giving their hand when we needed it. I am grateful to U.S.-CAEF not only for opening a world of opportunities for me, but also for teaching me kindness and generosity. I can surely say that I will pay it forward.

Zuhro Qonunova

After graduating from one of the best high schools in Tajikistan, Aga-Khan Lycee, I continued to use every opportunity to develop myself as a professional. In 2012, I was selected to be a FLEX finalist and had the amazing opportunity to be an exchange student at Hanford West High School in California, USA. This program helped me become more independent and develop myself as a leader.

In 2014, I was selected as a finalist for the U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study at KIMEP University. After completing some introductory courses in business, I found Audit and Accounting very interesting, and felt it was something I wanted to do for my whole life. I also chose Human Resource Management as a minor, since I believe that my country lacks specialists in that sphere.

During my four years of college, I constantly tried to develop my skills in auditing and accounting. My first internship was with Aga-Khan Health Service (AKHS) in Khorog, Tajikistan. I joined this organization because of its mission to improve peoples' lives in Tajikistan. Although I was not directly involved in finance or accounting, I learned many valuable skills through assisting with the firm's summer events. I provided general administrative support, and translated and entered information from non-English speaking patients into the data base.

After completing my sophomore year, I was chosen as a finalist of the U.S. - CAEF Regional Internship program that gave me the opportunity to intern at RSM Tajikistan, an audit company. I was involved in actual client cases of the company, which gave me an idea of what to expect when I will be working as an auditor. I was able to gain experience in both auditing and consulting. I also had the chance to work in a professional atmosphere, get suggestions from seniors in the company and see the structure and style of working in Tajikistan.



HOMETOWN: KHOROG, TAJIKISTAN
MAJOR: ACCOUNTING & AUDIT
MINOR: HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
AWARDS: PRESIDENT'S LIST- SPRING 2015
DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2016

“ I am grateful to U.S.-CAEF for these amazing four years. This is definitely the start of a great future career path. ”

While participating in the summer Work and Travel Program, I had the chance to learn about the American culture and essential values. Particularly, I was impressed with volunteering in the U.S.. When I came back, I joined the CCI Greenheart organization, through which I usually volunteer by teaching English at an

orphanage. I also took part in the KIMEP Tree Huggers club. I feel like every person should make an effort to save the Earth.

I am looking forward to graduating from KIMEP University. I feel prepared and motivated to improve the business sphere and the quality of people's life of Tajikistan.

Jahongir Rahimov

I have been blessed to be surrounded by people who understand and encourage me. When I was younger, my parents always pushed me to go further. Because of their support, I was able to become a Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) finalist. I studied on the other side of the world at Woodrow Wilson high school in Portland, Oregon when I was only 16. An academic year away from home made me more independent, and encouraged me to pursue my dreams. I am grateful to the U.S.-CAEF program for changing me from a teenager with a limited view of the world to a mature and confident young professional.

Upon starting my freshman year, with the encouragement of my friends, I was elected Vice President of Finance of the U.S.-CAEF Student Association. This position helped me gain confidence in my abilities. The experience allowed me to be successful in many internship interviews. I successfully completed several internships- at Create 3D, a 3D printing company; Magnet Oil & Gas, a natural gas exporting firm; and IMON International, a leading microfinance organization in Tajikistan; In addition, I worked as Project Manager at Changellenge >> Kazakhstan, a leading company in CIS specializing in practice-oriented education through business case championships.

“ I am grateful to the U.S.-CAEF program for changing me from a teenager with a limited view of the world to a mature and confident young professional. ”



HOMETOWN: BUSTON, TAJIKISTAN
MAJOR: FINANCE
AWARDS: PRESIDENT'S LIST- FALL 2014, 2015
SPRING 2015, 2016, 2017

★ SELECTED FOR 2018 CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC

Prior to this experience, my team had won the CIMA and P&G CEO Challenge business case competitions. I achieved these feats while maintaining a high GPA above 4.0.

At KIMEP, I dived into dynamic student life by being an active member of the KIMEP Case Club and the KIMEP Tree Huggers club. With Tree Huggers, we conducted events focused on environmental protection, and in Case Club, we organized multiple professional development events with guest lecturers. In my

junior year, I obtained a competitive Ernst Mach grant to study at the University of Applied Sciences in Austria for one academic semester. I improved my German language skills to the A2 level and can now include it in my CV as one of the five languages I speak.

Throughout my student life, I have had various experiences that shaped me into who I am today. I now believe that I'm finally ready to go out and find my place in this big world.

Aidai Topchubaeva

“I have grown from an excited and scared freshman to a confident graduate student, and I am ready to step out and bring value to this world.”

During my sophomore year, I worked as Office Assistant in the Office of the President at KIMEP. During the same year, in spring 2016, I took part in an exchange program Varna University of Management, Varna, Bulgaria through the Erasmus program, which opened my mind to new things and provided me with great memories. Upon my return from Bulgaria, I was also accepted to the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program and interned at Capital Bank Kazakhstan in the summer. There, I learned financial reporting techniques and put my accounting knowledge into practice.

In my junior year, I strived to gain a deeper knowledge of my professional interests. That is how I got an internship at Mars CEAB, a regional unit of the global confectionery and pet food manufacturer. As a finance trainee, I developed a new process of governance over trade investments within the company and received superior experience in business communication. I also learned specifics of the FMCG industry and put my auditing knowledge into practice.

I believe in lifelong learning and continuous improvement. In addition to the rich knowledge I received at KIMEP University, I gained diverse extracurricular and professional experiences. I am grateful for the mentorship and support from older U.S.-CAEF peers. All these experiences helped me grow from an excited and scared freshman to a confident graduate student, and I am ready to step out and bring value to this world.



HOMETOWN: BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
MAJOR: ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT
AWARDS: PRESIDENT'S LIST – SPRING 2017
DEAN'S LIST – FALL 2014, 2015

The best thing about life is that it is constantly in a state of design. You always have a choice. It is a matter of having courage to pursue your own dreams. I am extremely thankful to U.S.-CAEF for providing me the freedom to make choices and the opportunity to follow my aspirations. Looking back at my four years at KIMEP, I realize that every day at university played a part in shaping me into the person I am now.

Though I majored in business, I had many opportunities for my growth. At KIMEP University, you are encouraged to pursue

your passions. Surrounded by talented students and highly qualified professors, I was inspired to make the most of every day at the university.

In my first year at KIMEP, I took active roles in Intellectual Debates Club and (KELT) Kazakhstan English Language Theater. Later, I became involved in activities with the KIMEP Case Club and Entrepreneurship Club. Debate tournaments, case competitions, public acting and social projects gave me the opportunity to challenge myself and experience life side by side with inspiring people.

Zulfiya Urunova

★ SELECTED FOR 2018 CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”- Nelson Mandela. I was 13 when I first heard these words, and they became my life motto. Because of my commitment to education, in 2012, I became a FLEX finalist and spent one year at Golden West High School in Visalia, California, USA. In 2014, I received a full scholarship from U.S.-CAEF to study at KIMEP University. I worked hard to take advantage of this opportunity to study at one of the best universities in Central Asia, and I believe I accomplished a lot in my four years.

Throughout my four years, I have been a member of several student organizations such as Intellectual Debate Club and KIMEP Case Club. In the Debate club, I developed effective communication skills and won Best Speaker awards. Case Club gave me the opportunity to participate in trainings from Mars, PwC, McKinsey and others. The Case Club ignited my passion for business cases. During my junior year, I won the Top Talents and CIMA case competitions. My involvement in student life helped me earn the Erasmus+ scholarship to study at Varna University of Management in Bulgaria in summer 2016.

Additionally, I had the great opportunity to participate in multiple internships. My first internship was at one of the biggest insurance companies in Kazakhstan, JSC Eurasia Insurance Company. There, I assisted with the organization of the International Risk Management Conference. My other internship was back in my hometown with JSC Kazkommertsbank Tajikistan last summer. It was a very valuable experience for me- I learned about how Tajik businesses and banks operate from the inside. My most recent internship was with a local consulting company, Innovative Investment Solutions, where I was involved in a wide variety of tasks that helped me experience different aspects of business at once.



HOMETOWN: KHUJAND, TAJIKISTAN

MAJOR: ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT

AWARDS: PRESIDENT'S LIST- FALL 2015, 2016

SPRING 2015, 2016, 2017

“ U.S.-CAEF has really changed my life in the best way possible. It has made me a better person, and it has opened up a whole world of opportunities for me.”

During my studies, I also did a lot of volunteering inside and outside of the university. My volunteer experiences included representing Tajikistani culture during Family Day and Nauryz at KIMEP University, and helping with Tree Hug-

gers, an organization that educates people on environmental issues. U.S.-CAEF has really changed my life in the best way possible. It has made me a better person, and it has opened up a whole world of opportunities for me.

“BEING A 90’S KID AND GOING THROUGH ALL THE HARDSHIPS OF THAT PERIOD, I COULD ONLY DREAM ABOUT STUDYING AT AN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY. HOWEVER, MY DREAM CAME TRUE WHEN I BECAME A U.S.-CAEF FINALIST. U.S.-CAEF PROVIDES NOT ONLY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE; IT IS MUCH MORE THAN THAT. IT IS ABOUT BECOMING PART OF ONE BIG FAMILY AND FEELING AT HOME EVEN IF YOU ARE FAR AWAY, AND A CHANCE TO DEVELOP YOURSELF. WORDS WOULD NEVER BE ENOUGH TO EXPRESS HOW THANKFUL I AM TO THE U.S.-CAEF SPONSORS AND STAFF, WHO CONTINUOUSLY TAKE CARE OF US AND INSPIRE US TO FOLLOW OUR DREAMS.”

-Zuhro Qonunova





Capstone Interns

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.

A total of **twelve** Student Fellows from the graduating 2018 class took part in the summer 2016 U.S. - CAEF Regional Internship Program in Almaty, Bishkek and Dushanbe:

- Azatbek Ismailov
- Zhibek Kamalbek kyzy
- Meryem Karakhasanova
- Adylbek Kenzhebek
- Altynai Melisova
- Kanat Osmonov
- Guljema Hojalyyeva
- Aidai Topchubaeva
- Zuhro Ganjibekova
- Shahlo Jonmamadova
- Osiya Olimnazar
- Zuhro Qonunova



Adylbek Kenzhebek



Guljema Hojalyyeva (1st right)



Zhibek Kamalbek kyzy with US Ambassador Sheila Gwaltney

The Foundation is grateful to the companies in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan that hosted the Enterprise Interns in the summer of 2016:

ALMATY

- DiningSmart
- Capital Bank Kazakhstan

BISHKEK

- Beeline
- U.S. Embassy
- Manas International Airport
- Foreign Investors Association
- Save the Children

DUSHANBE

- Crowe Horwath ACG LLC
- Deloitte & Touché Tajikistan
- FINCA Tajikistan
- RSM Tajikistan, LLC

REGIONAL SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Since 2009, 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 University require their business and economics students to undertake a formal internship towards the end of their third year of study. The Foundation's summer internship program, which includes orientation and support for the interns, is intended as an opportunity for participants to become familiar with the business environment, to enhance their skills and to gain practical experience that will help them make informed choices about their degree-required internships in the following year.

POST-GRADUATE INTERNATIONAL CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Post-Graduate International Capstone 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 University are eligible to apply for the competitive International Internship. **Six** outstanding Student Fellows from the graduating class have been selected to take part in the International Capstone Internship Program in fall 2018:

Azatbek Ismailov, Zhibek Kamalbek kyzy and Altynai Melisova from AUCA, and **Zhaksat Bassen, Jahongir Rahimov and Zulfiya Urunova** from KIMEP University.

The Foundation's International Capstone Interns take part in an established and success-proven program operated by The Washington Center (www.twc.edu), Washington, DC. In addition to the vocational and educational components of the internship, Enterprise International Interns benefit from joining a diverse group of their peers from the U.S. and other countries in a program organized by The Washington Center to provide valuable networking opportunities and extensive interactions with experts and leaders from public, private and non-profit sectors as well as a wide range of activities arranged by American Councils.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The U.S. - CAEF Alumni Association (the Association) fosters and enhances the involvement of Enterprise Fellowship program alumni in supporting and complementing the mission and goals of the Foundation through communication, service and leadership.

U.S. - CAEF alumni work in large international corporations, leading domestic enterprises, and small- or medium-sized businesses throughout Central Asia. Several have demonstrated out-standing entrepreneurial skills and started their own businesses in often challenging economic environments, while others have decided to further their education and are pursuing their MBAs.

This year, 29 new graduates join the U.S. - CAEF Alumni Association, bringing the total number of program alumni to 228. The alumni leadership team represents both AUCA and KIMEP University and four countries of Central Asia—Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.



Anisa Atalova
PRESIDENT
 Founder and CEO, Let's Make Up
 OSH, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



Adel Sultanbekova
TREASURER
 Corporate Affairs Manager
 Head of Business Development, Highland Capital
 BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



Aizharkyn Burkanova
VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
 Senior Project Manager, Beeline
 BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



Chyngyz Zhanybekov
VICE PRESIDENT FOR OUTREACH
 Program Manager, Orion Construction
 BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



Batima Myrzabekova
VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
 Program Assistant, American Councils
 ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN



Sitora Shagambayeva
VICE PRESIDENT FOR OUTREACH
 Junior Brand Manager, PepsiCo
 ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN



Aziza Akilova
VICE PRESIDENT FOR REGIONAL NETWORKS
 Internal Auditor, Empire Furniture
 DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN



Yuliya Davydenko
VICE PRESIDENT FOR REGIONAL NETWORKS
 Assistant to Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Turkmenistan
 ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN



Irina Abasova
PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT
 Founder and CEO, Creat3D Kazakhstan
 ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN



The Association hopes that the graduating class of 2018 will join in their efforts to establish an important platform for communication and 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 and contributing to an entrepreneurial spirit and the economic prosperity of Central Asia.

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THE FOUNDATION IS GRATEFUL FOR SUPPORT FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, ITS CITIZENS AND THE CENTRAL ASIAN-AMERICAN ENTERPRISE FUND, WHICH HAVE MADE ITS OPERATION POSSIBLE.





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