



U.S.-CAEF  
ENTERPRISE  
FELLOWSHIP  
PROGRAM

GRADUATION  
2014







**COVER CAPTIONS:**

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2. AUCA Fellows
3. Aigerim Nurgalieva
4. Dilobar Tuychieva & Sakina Yasakieva
5. Gumyr Dauletbak & Khedzhera Suleyeva
6. Malika Pulotova









U.S.-CAEF ENTERPRISE  
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM  
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AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

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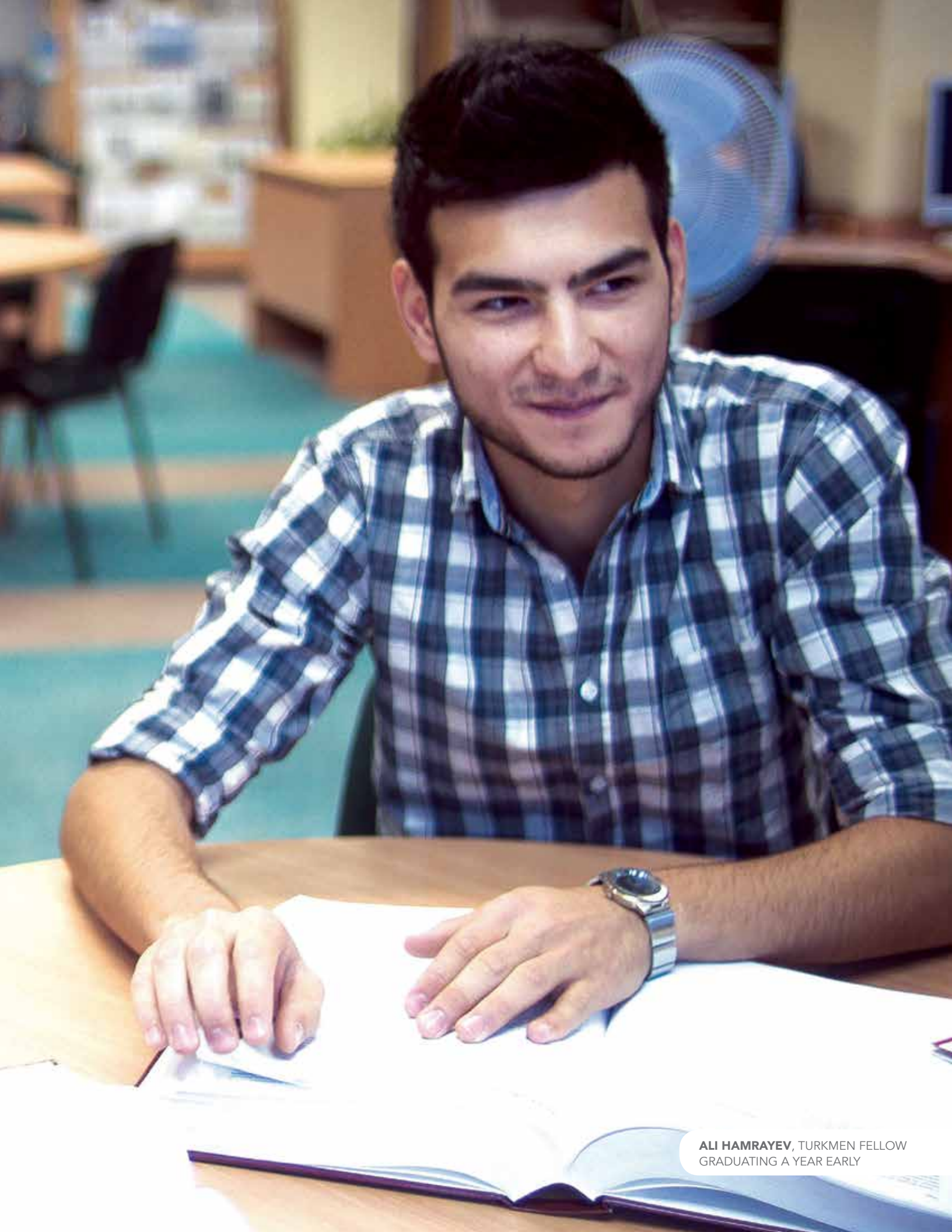
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**ALI HAMRAYEV**, TURKMEN FELLOW  
GRADUATING A YEAR EARLY

## GRADUATION BOOK 2014

Graduation 2014 celebrates the fourth class of Student Fellows to receive a university education through the U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation (“the Foundation”) Enterprise Fellowship Program. Thirteen Student Fellows will celebrate their graduation on May 24, 2013 from KIMEP University. Two of these Fellows, Bahtiyar Jalilov of Turkmenistan and Aigerim Nurgalieva of Kazakhstan, completed their degrees one semester early in December 2013 and another, Ali Hamrayev of Turkmenistan, followed an accelerated track and will be graduating one year early. Twelve Student Fellows will graduate on May 31, 2014 from the American University of Central Asia (“AUCA”) in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

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

Graduation 2014 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 8 years until 2004. Like all Enterprise Funds, CAAEF was managed by a private board of directors and was required to liquidate its investments by a specified “sunset” date and either return the proceeds to the U.S. Treasury or develop a “legacy proposal” for an alternative use of these proceeds, consistent with the Fund’s mission.

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

### notes

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

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

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

# FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

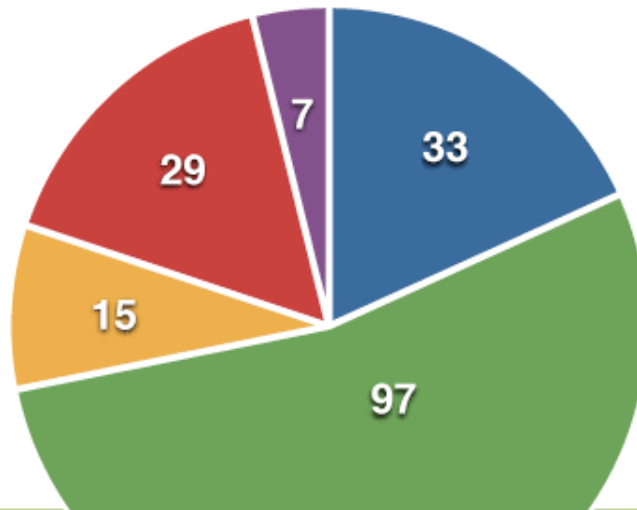


TABLE 2: STUDENT FELLOWS BY CITIZENSHIP

- KAZAKHSTAN
- TAJIKISTAN
- UZBEKISTAN
- KYRGYZSTAN
- TURKMENISTAN

## Programs

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

#### ENTERPRISE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

A financial need-based undergraduate business education scholarship program for academically gifted students who, due to financial hardship, would otherwise not be able to pursue a university education. Scholarships are provided at selected Central Asian universities to citizen residents of the Central Asia countries of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

For the recent 2013-2014 academic year, the Foundation awarded a total of 121 scholarships for 57 Student Fellows to attend AUCA and 64 to attend KIMEP University.

While the Foundation is committed to achieving geographic and regional diversity, 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 these countries.

#### ENTERPRISE FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

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

#### ENTERPRISE INTERN FELLOWSHIPS

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

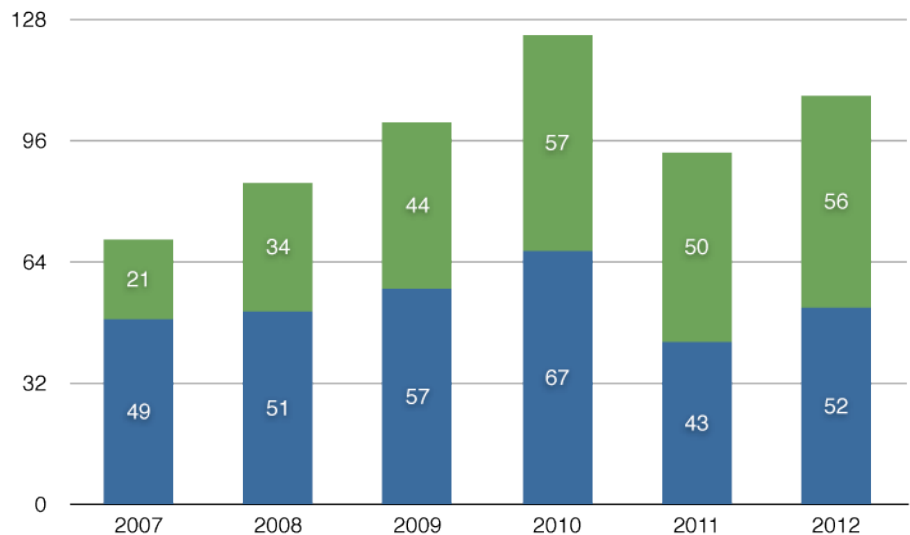


TABLE 1: STUDENT FELLOWS BY INSTITUTION

- AUCA
- KIMEP



# FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

## Partner Universities

Our partner universities, AUCA and KIMEP 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's 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.

In July 2013, KIMEP University extended its support to our Enterprise Student Fellowship Program and entered into a cost-sharing agreement with the Foundation to provide non-Kazakhstani Enterprise Student Fellows a full tuition waiver effective retroactively to students commencing their study at KIMEP University in 2012. The number of scholarships, as well as the mix of nationalities of students, will vary from year to year depending upon factors such as restrictions on visas and travel or recruitment that may be imposed by the respective Central Asian governments. We are most gratified by KIMEP University's recognition of the value of the U.S.-CAEF program, and grateful for the opportunity it presents to our Enterprise Student Fellows.



KIMEP UNIVERSITY



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA (AUCA)

## Program administrator: American Councils for International Education

American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS is a premier, international nonprofit creating educational opportunities that prepare individuals and institutions to succeed in this interconnected world. Founded in 1974 as an association for area and language studies, American Councils, with a team of over 450 dedicated professionals in more than 60 countries, designs, implements, and administers academic exchanges, overseas language immersion, and educational development programs that broaden individual perspectives, increase knowledge, and deepen understanding. Building on over three decades of regional expertise in Central Asia and other republics of the former Soviet Union, American Councils advances education and research worldwide through substantive cross-cultural programs that provide a global perspective essential for academic and professional excellence. American Councils was retained to facilitate the design of and to administer the Foundation's programs.

# GRADUATION 2014: CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR STUDENT FELLOWS

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 elder “brother and sister” 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 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.

The academic performance of the graduating class has been exemplary. Of twenty five seniors, 16 have been recognized on the President’s or Dean’s Lists (**Table 1**):

| AUCA                  |
|-----------------------|
| Aizharkyn Burkanova   |
| Ignatii Kim           |
| Karina Kussainova     |
| Nazokat Omuralieva    |
| Yelena Vorobey        |
| Kalys Zhumakadyr uulu |
| KIMEP UNIVERSITY      |
| Gufronjon Ayubjonov   |
| Ali Hamrayev          |
| Bakhtiyar Jalilov     |
| Aigerim Nurgalieva    |
| Malika Pulotova       |
| Yerzhan Smagulov      |
| Khedzhera Suleyeva    |
| Dilobar Tuychieva     |
| Sakina Yasakieva      |
| Dastan Zhumagulov     |

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 “Vice-President’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 3.9 are placed on the “Dean’s List.”

Nine of these Student Fellows are on track to graduate with honors:

| AUCA                  | KIMEP University    |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Aizharkyn Burkanova   | Gufronjon Ayubjonov |
| Karina Kussainova     | Ali Hamrayev        |
| Nazokat Omuralieva    | Malika Pulotova     |
| Yelena Vorobey        | Sakina Yasakieva    |
| Kalys Zhumakadyr uulu |                     |

Table 1

Our seniors have taken advantage of highly competitive study abroad programs in Bulgaria, Germany, Lithuania, Norway, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, and Turkey. In the pages that follow, we offer profiles of these outstanding young men and women. We thought it best to allow the Student Fellows to share their own stories. The following first-person narratives have been prepared by the graduating Student Fellows themselves.





**U.S. Central Asia**  
Education Foundation

**GUFRONJON AYUBJONOV,**  
PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.-CAEF  
STUDENT ASSOCIATION



AUCA





# RUSTAM BAKIBAYEV

HOMETOWN  
TARAZ, KAZAKHSTAN

MAJOR  
ECONOMICS



## profile

*"I enjoy the country's current environment, and I feel that I can bring a significant positive change to society.... Even as a student I try to give to my community as much as I can."*

Since I first came to Kyrgyzstan, I knew that it was a country where I could discover my full potential. I enjoy the country's current environment, and I feel that I can bring a significant positive change to society. This became the goal of my life and was the main reason why I chose to study at AUCA. Now I can say that I have already taken the first important steps towards my goal.

I used the scholarship opportunity to study economics at AUCA. The U.S.-CAEF scholarship gave me an excellent opportunity to develop personally and professionally, and it opened numerous opportunities for future career development. Throughout my studies, I have managed to maintain an above average GPA and gain a solid academic background.

I try to combine academic and practical knowledge. So far, I have worked or interned at Delta Bank, Central Asian Free Market Institution, LLP, Intersystem and NetCity Internet Cafe. The variety of positions and institutions is quite diverse because I try to use every opportunity to learn and explore new areas. These experiences not only helped me develop my analytical, critical thinking, and research skills, but also expanded my knowledge of local businesses and the advantages and disadvantages of being an entrepreneur.

Even as a student I try to give to my local community as much as I can. Currently, I coordinate the Bishkek chapter at Student Ambassadors for Peace. In this international organization we create community service projects aimed

at helping the disabled, orphans, and people in need. As a volunteer coordinator in the IREX Muskie Alumnus Small Grant Program, I conducted a series of educational training sessions for adults. I am a member of the Student Intellectual Life Committee at AUCA, which promotes student intellectual and research development. Through these activities, I learned the value of team work and considerably improved my social skills, which I will definitely need for successful integration in society.

# AIZHARKYN BURKANOVA

**HOMETOWN**  
BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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



## profile

*"Some of my U.S.-CAEF fellows are my closest friends, some are my reliable colleagues, and all of them are my strongest competitors, who positively impact my growth because all of them are so unique and so talented."*

The moment I became a U.S.-CAEF Fellow was a tipping point in my life. Since then, my life has been like a dynamic stream filled with exciting events and great people who changed my attitude toward life. Soon I will graduate, so it is time to summarize all the brightest moments of my student life. This is a story of a person who was lucky to be part of the U.S.-CAEF family. These four years gave me everything that I have been dreaming about.

My first two years at AUCA were years of socializing and volunteering that helped me overcome my shyness and gain confidence. All the people I met at AUCA encouraged me to be active, so I volunteered at the Red Cross; the Unity Fund, a charity club; and SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise). Participa-

tion in these activities taught me that I can change things around me for the better.

My volunteer experience encourages me to explore professional opportunities and identify my career path. I interned at the Bishkek Business Club and later was able to secure a part-time job as a research assistant in the Tian-Shian Research Center. Thanks to these job experiences, my studies, and the help of the AUCA Career Service Center, I expanded my professional knowledge and improved my business communication skills. To challenge my newly gained skills further, I decided to take part in a competitive exchange program at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences in Ås, Norway. Further, I won one of five full scholarships among the students of Central Asian countries to participate

in an international summer program at KIMEP University in Almaty, Kazakhstan, where I studied advertising strategies in Central Asia. These experiences deepened and solidified my interest in marketing and consumer behavior, and led me to another job opportunity with Creative Marketing Group, where I have been researching consumer insights for a year, dealing with copyright issues, and providing consulting services.

I am thankful to the U.S.-CAEF family for supporting me in all my endeavors, shaping my core values, and helping me to be successful. Some of my U.S.-CAEF Fellows are my closest friends, some are my reliable colleagues, and all of them are my strongest competitors, who positively impact my growth because all of them are so unique and so talented.



# MADINA DAMIR KYZY

HOMETOWN  
BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



## profile

“U.S.-CAEF has not only provided us with high-quality education, but has had a huge positive impact on our perception of the world and self-development, pushing us to think more globally.”

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” This quote by Arthur Ashe, a famous American tennis player, perfectly fits this stage of my life. I try to get the most out of my life. I learned to be persistent from my Mom, who is a constant inspiration for me. All of the exciting and valuable experiences I have had, including my participation in the U.S.-CAEF program, became possible thanks to my Mom’s support.

Currently I am a senior majoring in Business Administration and minoring in Psychology. I believe that in addition to good academic knowledge, gaining work experience is very important. I can proudly say that I volunteered as a student assistant during the early stages of the construction of the new AUCA campus. Currently, I am working at the local branch of KS Solutions, a Slovak

consulting company, as a project assistant for a water utilities improvement project that was initiated by the World Bank and EBRD to improve the water service quality in rural areas of the Kyrgyz Republic. In addition, I actively participate in charitable activities for cancer patients and orphans through the student-run Unity Fund and the FLEX Alumni Association; I also volunteer at the career service center at AUCA.

My profile won’t be complete if I do not mention my other passions. One of my biggest dreams I would like to achieve is to open my own bank, which will operate with consideration not only of commercial but also people’s interests like the one founded by Muhammad Yunus, the Bangladeshi entrepreneur and civil society leader who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The Grameen Bank established by Mr. Yunus gives loans

to entrepreneurs too poor to qualify for traditional bank loans. As a leader I also would like to implement positive changes in the Kyrgyz Republic as well as in the Central Asian region and beyond. I am very optimistic and have positive views about my future.

Finally, I would like to thank U.S.-CAEF for giving this enormous opportunity to us, students, to learn and develop ourselves. U.S.-CAEF has not only provided us with high-quality education, but has had a huge positive impact on our perception of the world and self-development, pushing us to think more globally. I know well that U.S.-CAEF has not only affected our lives and our families but affected the perceptions of our current friends and employers. I am grateful to the U.S.-CAEF Board for believing in me, and I will try my best to justify this trust.

• MADINA HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF POST-GRADUATE INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN FALL 2014

# AMANGELDI DZHUMABAEV

HOMETOWN  
JALAL-ABAD, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MINOR  
ANTHROPOLOGY



 profile

*“Although I am graduating soon, learning doesn’t stop for me here. I believe that it is a lifelong experience. I admire all my Fellows for their thirst for knowledge and drive in life. I wish success to all...”*

I grew up in Jalal-Abad, a small town in southwestern Kyrgyzstan. In 2008, I participated in the Future Leaders Exchange Program and spent an academic year in Douglas High School in Rapid City, South Dakota. This experience was very important for me because it taught me discipline and honesty.

In 2010, I received an award from U.S.-CAEF to study at AUCA. AUCA hosts the most diverse student community in the country. As soon as you cross the threshold, you become a citizen of greater Central Asia. Four years at AUCA have given me a lot for my academic and professional growth. I learned to study and work hard, to set priorities, and to value friendships.

At AUCA, I am majoring in Business Administration and minoring in Anthropology, a good counterpoint to

my business courses. Participation in the Anthropology Club where I met with leading academicians, researchers, and artists has complemented my business studies. This knowledge came in handy when I traveled to Batken, Osh, and Jalal-Abad to assist in the production of documentaries about the human rights situation in these politically and economically unstable regions of Kyrgyzstan. I was very impressed by the motivation showed by local youth to develop our regions. Inspired by this trip, I started working on my own videos. My recent documentary is about the plight of people selling junk at Orto-Sai flea market.

At first, some courses at AUCA might seem redundant but over time you understand that it is important to consolidate your knowledge before

applying it in the real world. Especially, I realized this when I interned at the National Institute for Strategic Studies during my senior year. I have also realized how important it is to have an international experience, and in 2013 I spent a summer semester at University of Tübingen in Germany. Participation in a study abroad program is the best way to learn about your own country. Many things are hidden from us while we are inside the country, but once you are out, you find out how much more needs to be improved.

Although I am graduating soon, learning doesn’t stop for me here. I believe that it is a lifelong experience. I admire all my Fellows for their thirst for knowledge and drive in life. I wish success to all-- especially my friends from my soccer team, winners of the AUCA Cup.

# SAPAR IBRAEV

HOMETOWN  
BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



## profile

” I hope that all of us will realize all the potential we have and contribute to the development of the Central Asian region ”

I was born in Bishkek, but until the age of seven, I grew up in Kara-Koo village and the city of Balykchy in the Issyk-Kul region. Then I moved to Bishkek and went to school #13, one of the best schools of the country, known for its good English program.

I decided that I would study at AUCA long before graduating from school. When the time to enter the university came, I had big problems with financing my education, but fortunately I learned about the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship Program, which provides full scholarships for Business Administration students, and I applied. The day when I was notified that I was awarded a scholarship was one of the happiest moments in my life.

At AUCA, I realized that I love marketing. So I took all available courses that could help me build a career in the

field of marketing: Strategic Marketing, International Marketing, Corporate Communications, and International Business. During my classes, I was involved in practical tasks that will be very helpful in real life-- I developed a marketing plan for a company, wrote a business plan for a non-profit organization, wrote a strategic plan for a global company, and developed another strategic plan for the internationalization of a local business.

Another important event that helped me decide about my career was the regional internship provided by the U.S.-CAEF program. I interned at the Public Affairs Department at LLC Talas Copper Gold, a subsidiary of Gold Fields Ltd, the world's 4th biggest gold mining company. It was an amazing experience. I observed how a real company works, what challenges busi-

nesses face, what it means actually to work there. I had a great time there. As a subsidiary of such a big company, they implemented international standards of working and corporate social responsibility values. I hope that the local companies will improve their activities according to these global best practices, and I am sure that U.S.-CAEF Fellows will contribute to this process.

I highly appreciate the support provided by the program and its coordinators. These years were full of not only learning things, but also a lot of fun during the gatherings and team building events. I made many friends with different backgrounds, interests, goals and views. I hope that all of us will realize all the potential we have and contribute to the development of the Central Asian region.



# IGNATI KIM

HOMETOWN  
OSH, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS  
DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2011



## profile

**“At AUCA, I decided to focus on banking, financial investment, and marketing and tried to enrich my knowledge through educational exchange programs and internships.”**

I was born in Osh, the second largest city in Kyrgyzstan, often referred to as the “southern capital”. While in high school, I was selected to participate in the Future Leaders Exchange Program and spent my senior year in Newport, Oregon. The program inspired me to contribute to the development of my home country. To achieve this goal, I needed a good education, which became possible thanks to the scholarship award from U.S.-CAEF to study at AUCA. I would like to thank the U.S.-CAEF Board for this great opportunity.

At AUCA, I decided to focus on banking, financial investment, and marketing and tried to enrich my knowledge through educational exchange programs and internships. I spent my

fall 2012 semester in Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey. In 2013, I took part in the Global Collaborative Summer Program at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, South Korea, where I studied social economics and international business with select students from over 20 different countries. Upon my return to Bishkek, I interned at the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism and received an award from the U.S. Ambassador, Pamela L. Spratlen.

I also believe that volunteering and community work have contributed a lot to my development, and I am actively involved in various extracurricular events and projects. One of the achievements I am especially proud of is the creation of the Unity Fund

Club, which I co-founded together with my peers as a response to the tragic events in Osh in 2010. The club was involved in fund raising activities to help the victims of this inter-ethnic clash. The activities of the club have expanded to other regions of the country, and students now also reach out to orphans and children from low-income families. The Unity Fund was successful in receiving several grants for implementation of its community projects and was named Best Club 2010 by AUCA and Best Project 2010 by the FLEX Alumni Association. In addition to volunteering, I also have other interests. I like reading and sports (running and swimming), and I play guitar.

# KARINA KUSSAINOVA

**HOMETOWN**  
ATYRAU, KAZAKHSTAN

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**MINOR**  
PSYCHOLOGY

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



## profile

*"I know that when I have sufficient financial means, I will help my community. I remember how my mother helped people, and I want to be like her."*

I was raised by a single mother in the small town of Atyrau in western Kazakhstan. She always inspired me to live to the full potential, taught me to be strong and to be thirsty for knowledge. However, when I turned 19, she passed away.... Now, with everything I do, I do it to prove that I follow her advice. Every time I achieve something, I imagine how proud she would have been of me, especially now, when I am graduating from AUCA.

I am so glad that one day I typed in Google "scholarships for Kazakh students" because it changed my life. Without the U.S.-CAEF's support I wouldn't be where I am now.

I am a senior majoring in Business Administration and minoring in Psychology. I believe that these two areas complement each other-- business psychology helps improve business

performance and productivity. I am certain that with this education and my previous work experience, I won't have difficulty in finding employment. I have been working since the age of 16. I tried out different jobs—wrote articles, drafted ads and did photo shoots for the Caspian Region and Promo Shift magazines, and worked as a front desk agent at Marriott Executive Apartments. I think it is wise to start working early, because each time better opportunities open to you. Thanks to my previous jobs, after my sophomore year, I was hired as an assistant to the operations director of the ISKER Group during my summer break. This Kazakh based conglomerate provides a wide range of services to its clients in the oil and gas sector. Recently the company offered me a permanent position. Although this is a high paying job that promises good

career growth, I feel that it is not what I am interested in. I see myself as an HR manager. I love working with people. That is why my senior thesis is about motivation for achievement in different organizational cultures. But my career aspirations are not limited to this. I have some ideas for developing my own business in the future.

I know that when I have sufficient financial means, I will help my community. I remember how my mother helped people, and I want to be like her. I'm always trying to help people in need-- I gave free English classes in Kazakhstan, and in Bishkek I dedicated a lot of time to serve homeless people. Now I spend most of my free time with children from orphanages and poor families. Helping orphans to create brighter futures is one of the most important goals in my life.

# NAZOKAT OMURALIEVA

HOMETOWN  
OSH, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS  
PRESIDENT'S LIST- SPRING 2013  
DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2011, SPRING 2012



## profile

**"I am one of the few girls from my community to have a chance to study at AUCA.... In future, I want to give back by being a role model for other girls.... I would like to open... a consulting company which will help small and medium-sized businesses to grow and avoid bankruptcy."**

I am one of the few girls from my community to have a chance to study at AUCA. I had a dream of studying at AUCA, as it was and is the most prestigious university in Kyrgyzstan, but I knew that my family could not afford the western education offered there. When I found out about the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship, I realized that my dream could come true. The happiest day of my life was when I became a finalist of the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship Program.

The business administration program at AUCA provided me with a good theoretical foundation in key business concepts that I was able to expand through two internships. During the first internship sponsored by the U.S.-CAEF program, I worked at Talas Copper Gold Company and learned about problems investors face in Kyrgyzstan. This knowledge became useful when I studied investment treaties, standards

of investment protection, and arbitration cases in my business legislation class. I was able to come up with constructive ideas on improving current investment policies and creating a safe environment and contracts beneficial both for investors and my country. My second internship, at the Demir Kyrgyz International Bank, helped me better understand credit policies and lending. Although I haven't graduated yet, I have received a job offer from this bank.

In addition, my participation in an exchange semester in Bulgaria, professional and team-building events organized by U.S.-CAEF, various projects of the international student organization, AIESEC, and Better Society Club, AUCA's Diversity Week, and many other student activities have contributed positively to my social and professional life.

In future, I want to give back by being a role model for other girls from my community. I would like to open my own business, specifically a consulting company which will help small and medium-sized businesses to grow and avoid bankruptcy. For that, I think I need to get experience in different areas of business and work in different companies. I am applying for an internship at the Ministry of Finance in order to better understand the financial system of the Kyrgyz Republic and have a chance to participate in discussions of important issues that the Ministry is currently working on.

I know I have ambitious plans for the future, but I know that I am special and a future business leader of Kyrgyzstan because I am a U.S.-CAEF Fellow.



# ALIYA SULTANOVA

HOMETOWN  
KARAKOL, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR  
ECONOMICS



## profile

“I am extremely grateful to U.S.-CAEF for who I am now.... With everything I have gained at AUCA, I feel confident about my future, and I am sure I will have a successful career.”

I was born in a small town called Karakol, the administrative center of Issyk Kul Province. Eventually, my family moved to the capital city, Bishkek. My mom and grandma invested a lot of time and effort in my early education, and in 2010, I graduated from the Kyrgyz-Turkish Girls High School, where I had received a solid foundation for my further education. The same year, U.S.-CAEF made it possible for me to study at the best university in the Kyrgyz Republic. Now, I am a senior majoring in Economics at AUCA.

During my student time in the amazing environment of AUCA, I learned a lot from my professors and classmates. I made many friends through extracurricular events organized by the AUCA administration and students, such as “Diversity Week” and “Charity Ball”. I also had the pleasure of working as

a news team member with our U.S.-CAEF Fellows and participated in a variety of events outside campus as well. Now looking back, I can say that participation in the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program is one of the brightest experiences I have had and helped me confirm my career choice.

In June, 2012, Kyrgyz Concept invited me to take part in their summer internship program. With more than 150 employees and several hundred thousand dollars in revenue, Kyrgyz Concept is one of Kyrgyzstan’s largest tourist companies. This was my first internship experience, and although my supervisor was fantastic and helped me a lot, the internship was quite challenging-- but also interesting and substantive. I had many important duties: posting creative advertisements on social networks, drafting letters for

the executive and general directors of prominent companies in Bishkek, creating special brochures and fliers with company information, organizing conferences, and other administrative tasks. This job required me to be punctual. I learned to multitask and meet deadlines. Certainly, this first internship was a great experience and a chance to discover my potential and prepared me for other professional experiences that followed.

I am extremely grateful to U.S.-CAEF for who I am now. Being a senior, I can say that four years at AUCA changed me so much. I have a lot of ideas and big plans. With everything I have gained at AUCA, I feel confident about my future, and I am sure I will have a successful career.

# YELENA VOROBAY

**HOMETOWN**  
SHYMKENT, KAZAKHSTAN

**MAJOR**  
ECONOMICS

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



## profile

**"I am proud that while studying at AUCA I was also able to contribute to the success of some student groups and international organizations taking important leadership roles and managing meaningful projects."**

I was born and raised in Kazakhstan, but I graduated from Foothill High School in Bakersfield, California, thanks to the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX). This experience in the United States taught me to be flexible, open-minded, and persistent. I knew that I had to find a way to fund my further education after graduating high school, because my family was not able to support me. And this is exactly when the U.S.-CAEF program came into my life and helped me realize my potential.

I am a senior majoring in Economics at AUCA. Over these years at the university, I have taken a strong interest in economic research which helped me develop an ability to integrate economic concepts, research, and policy issues. Currently, I am working on my second research paper, "Can There

Be Global Cooperation Over Environmental Issues?" through the Bard Center for Civic Engagement Network (the Bard Network). My previous work, published earlier, "A Tale about Humanity and Freedom," won Bard College's 2013 essay contest. I am planning to continue my education in this sphere before I feel confident enough to start my own consulting business.

I am proud that while studying at AUCA I was also able to contribute to the success of some student groups and international organizations taking important leadership roles and managing meaningful projects. I organized a number of community events as a FLEX Alumni event coordinator, led student units at the International Association of Students in Economic and Commercial Sciences (AIESEC), coached debate teams for annual state

competitions, provided consulting at the university's Continuing Education Center (CEC), won a prestigious award for volunteering at the Rome Model United Nations, implemented various training and educational projects designed to expand economic opportunities for the community through Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), and was in charge of important social projects-- "World Without Limits" aimed at helping disabled children in Bishkek, and the Malovodnoe Project, which promotes child development conditions in Malovodnoe village.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the support from U.S.-CAEF. I want to express my gratitude to this organization. In return, I will do my best to make my contribution to the development of my country, region, and the world.

# CHYNGYZ ZHANYBEKOV

## HOMETOWN

JALAL-ABAD, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

## AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2011



## profile

**"I am endlessly grateful to U.S.-CAEF for this opportunity to grow both as a determined business professional and a person who recognizes the importance of giving back to society."**

I am a senior majoring in Business Administration at AUCA. My interest in business began when I was in the U.S. as a FLEX exchange student. One of my classes in Golden West High School in California was Virtual Enterprise, where students actually ran a business that aimed at conducting events. My role in the enterprise was to talk to people and try to find new customers. That was the moment when I found my passion in marketing and entrepreneurship.

Coming back to Jalal-Abad, my home city in the south of Kyrgyzstan, I was determined to further my education in the field of business administration at AUCA. To my great fortune, there was a presentation about the U.S.-CAEF program conducted by Tahmina Maralbaeva, a former U.S.-CAEF coordina-

tor, in Jalal-Abad in 2010. Without that presentation I would not have known about the U.S.-CAEF family-- now I call it a "family" because honestly, this is how I feel being a U.S.-CAEF Fellow. It is hard to overestimate all the support that I have received from the program. While in AUCA, I had a very interesting journey full of challenges and successes. Attending interesting classes, being involved in many extracurricular activities, clubs, and events, I realized what it is to be a student. AUCA taught me self-discipline, determination and-- what I consider the most important-- the ability to open my eyes and see the world full of opportunities. Thanks to this university, I was able to build strong networks with many local and international leaders. With the help of our outstanding professors, I

gained theoretical background in business and marketing that helped during my internship at the Retail Marketing Department of Demir Kyrgyz International Bank.

In addition to the academic and professional experiences in Bishkek, I received a scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and had a unique opportunity to be a summer exchange student in Munich, Germany.

My student life-- one of the most important parts of life-- would not have been as awesome as it was without the U.S.-CAEF program. I am endlessly grateful to U.S.-CAEF for this opportunity to grow both as a determined business professional and a person who recognizes the importance of giving back to society.



# KALYS ZHUMAKADYR UULU

**HOMETOWN**  
BULAN SOGOTTU, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**AWARDS**  
DEAN'S LIST  
FALL 2011, SPRING 2012, SPRING 2013

## profile

*“Living in a small village, I thought that it is impossible to explore the world. However, when you want something, the entire universe conspires to make your dreams come true.”*

Goal setting and determination brought me to where I am now. It all started when I was a student in high school. Living in a small village, I thought that it is impossible to explore the world. However, when you want something, the entire universe conspires to make your dreams come true.

First, I was selected as a finalist of the Future Leaders Exchange Program to study in the USA. Living in the country of freedom, I not only explored this amazing culture, but I also discovered my intrinsic passion to contribute to my country's wellbeing and decided to study business. Then, on returning home, I learned that I was awarded a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study at AUCA. Let me share with you how I grew as a U.S.-CAEF Fellow.

Since my freshman year, I have been preparing myself for a successful pro-

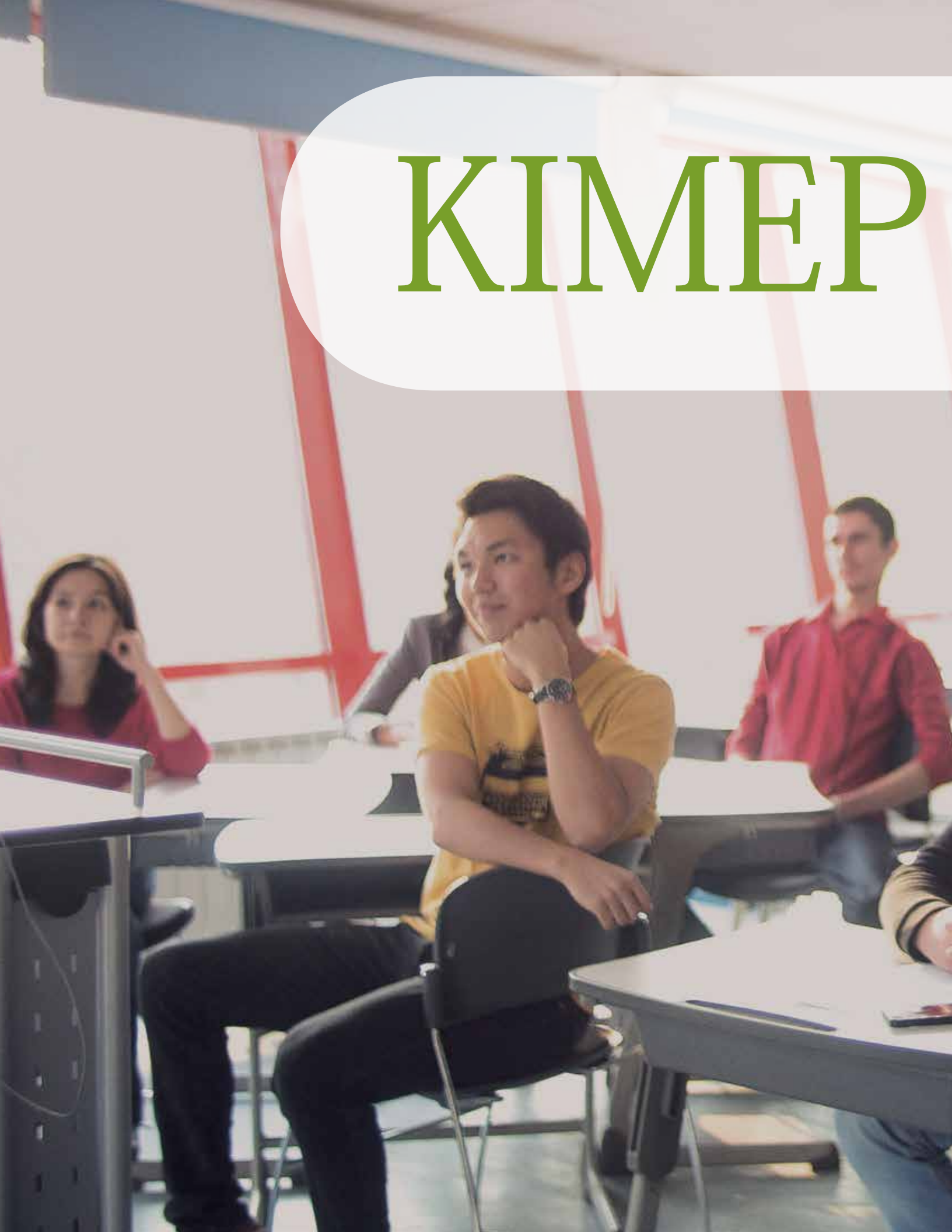
fessional life. I started by running the Business Clinic at AUCA. Through management and implementation of community projects and surveys, and interaction with various companies, I learned about local businesses, developed marketing and research skills, and learned about the benefits of working in a good team. After my second year of studies, I decided to test my business knowledge in the real world by interning at Karakol Coffee in Issyk-Kul. This experience was an excellent opportunity to see what challenges startups face and how things are different and much more complicated in real life than in books. I am glad to have had this useful learning experience.

Now I am a senior and dedicate most of my time to my senior thesis and my internship at the Foundation for

International Community Assistance (FINCA), a microfinance organization. I think this internship will help me make a smoother transition from college life to the professional field.

Although I study hard, I always leave some time for fun. I enjoy socializing with my friends and like to play team sports like soccer, basketball, and paintball. Moreover, I like meeting people from other cultures, and I visited Tajikistan during one of my summer breaks when I was involved in a research study on nomads. I also participated in a student exchange program in Istanbul in spring, 2013. Sometimes I envy my own life, as I feel very happy having such wonderful experiences as a U.S.-CAEF Fellow.

# KIMIEP



# University





# GUFRONJON AYUBJONOV

**HOMETOWN**  
ISTARAVSHAN, TAJIKISTAN

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**AWARDS**  
PRESIDENT'S LIST  
FALL 2011, Spring 2012  
DEAN'S LIST  
Fall 2013



## profile

*"The U.S.-CAEF scholarship turned my dream into reality.... I must express my deep gratitude and thanks to the U.S.-CAEF administration, American Councils and KIMEP University professors and staff for their support and coordination."*

Dreaming is a generator. When I was a kid, I dreamed a lot. One of my dreams was to study in the USA, but not everybody can afford that. But my dream came true. I didn't go to study in the USA, but I received my undergraduate degree in an American-style university in Kazakhstan - KIMEP University. The U.S.-CAEF scholarship turned my dream into reality.

Originally, I am from one of the most ancient cities of Tajikistan - Istaravshan, which has a history of more than 2,500 years. I was very active during my high school time, and was even the president of my school. I came third in the state English language contest and was allowed to enter any Tajik university of my choice without entrance exams, but I chose to study at KIMEP University.

KIMEP changed my life. I found the USA in KIMEP. I was very active in uni-

versity life. Once I was a member of 7 different student organizations. I know it sounds crazy, but I was really hyper-active during my first year. I was proud to be President of Top Talents (an AIESEC project) when I, a freshman, arranged business contests for senior students from different Kazakhstani universities. During the second year, I became less active in social life and concentrated more on my studies. But still I participated in some extracurricular activities. I served as the Vice-President of Finance in the U.S.-CAEF Association and founded a new student organization, the Central Asian Student Association (CASA). CASA helps international students transition to their new life in Kazakhstan.

Another achievement I am proud of is my participation in an exchange program sponsored by the Erasmus Mun-

dus Program. I spent my junior year in Lithuania. Studying in Europe helped me broaden my world vision and enrich my knowledge.

This year was also full of great adventures. I was named a finalist in the Kazakhstan championship on business cases sponsored by Mars Company, and I became the president of the U.S.-CAEF Association. Together with my team we have already organized four fun projects and events for our Fellows.

This is my last semester at KIMEP University. It is sad because KIMEP is already like my home. I must express my deep gratitude and thanks to the U.S.-CAEF administration, American Councils and KIMEP University professors and staff for their support and coordination. Thank you very much!



# SAIDKABIR AZIZOV

HOMETOWN  
DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN

MAJOR  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

## profile

“Indeed, during four years of my undergraduate studies, I learned a lot and made some important commitments-- one of them is to be always open to new ideas: no matter where they take you, the important thing is to learn something new.”

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever”- Mahatma Gandhi. For me education is like breathing; without it, you cannot live. Getting an education is one of the most indispensable goals of my life. I have always looked for the opportunity to learn as much as I can. Indeed, during four years of my undergraduate studies, I learned a lot and made some important commitments-- one of them is to be always open to new ideas: no matter where they take you, the important thing is to learn something new.

I come from a sunny land with an ancient history-- Tajikistan. I graduated from the Tajik-Turkish Economics High School in Dushanbe. The school provided a strong background for my further education.

I started my undergraduate business degree at KIMEP University in 2010. KIMEP has changed my thinking, vision of life, and my plans for the future. The past four years for me were very active. From the first year in KIMEP University, I started joining different student organizations that matched my interests. Mostly I was involved in volunteer activities. I gained a lot of experience in leadership and organization.

In summer 2012, I had one of the biggest days of my life. My friends and I organized the TEDx Dushanbe conference under the theme “Aspire Today to Inspire Tomorrow.” We wanted to bring new creative ideas to Tajikistan and to inspire our young generation for the bright goals. We wanted to push our society from being thinkers to being doers. Later, I was accepted

for an exchange program for one academic year in Fatih University, Istanbul. My life in Istanbul was very active and productive in my development and setting future plans.

And here I am now, my last year in KIMEP University. It is a very touching moment when you know you are graduating, but I also know that now I have friends who became part of my family during this period. I want to express my sincere and very deep gratitude to the U.S.-CAEF administration, my coordinators, and American Councils for believing in me. U.S.-CAEF opened the doors of life to me and the key to it was education. I also want to thank my family for their warm support; it is very important for me. And now it is time to move on!

# GUMYR DAULETBAK

HOMETOWN  
TALDYKORGAN, KAZAKHSTAN

MAJOR  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



## profile

“It is sad that I am graduating from the university, because most of the interesting and exciting things happened during these four unforgettable years. KIMEP University gave me a lot of new friends, new opportunities, and new views on life.”

I grew up in Karaganda, the fourth largest city in Kazakhstan and not far from the capital, Astana. After I finished high school, my parents moved to Taldykorgan, a smaller town located in the southeastern part of the country. I graduated from the Kazakh-Turkish High School in Karaganda. While in high school, I decided to be a financier. I wanted to find a university with the best business program, and I needed a scholarship because my family couldn't afford my education. The U.S.-CAEF Fellowship Program made my dreams come true by giving me an opportunity to study in one of the best universities in Central Asia--KIMEP University. I want to express my sincere gratitude to U.S.-CAEF for giving me this great chance.

Now I am in my final year at KIMEP University, majoring in finance and minoring in leadership. Participation in the Leadership Development Program will definitely increase my chances for better employment and help me become a business leader. What really sets the program apart is the opportunity to meet some top business leaders and solve business cases working closely with my peers as well as senior executives from leading organizations in a real-world business context. The program puts a lot of emphasis on personal leadership awareness and skills development.

I was able to successfully test my leadership skills outside the classroom by participating in different student organizations and clubs. Currently, I am the

President of the Future Businessmen Group (FBG). The club is mostly engaged in organizing charity events for orphans, fund-raising activities, and various fun events for KIMEP students, such as paintball, a sweets fair, etc. I am also the Vice-President of KIMEP Entrepreneurs Club which is the first official non-profit student organization in Almaty. The goal of this club is advancement of business ideas of young entrepreneurs as well as increasing the financial literacy among the students of KIMEP University. It is sad that I am graduating from the university, because most of the interesting and exciting things happened during these four unforgettable years. KIMEP University gave me a lot of new friends, new opportunities, and new views on life.



# ALI HAMRAYEV

HOMETOWN  
TURKMENABAT, TURKMENISTAN

MAJOR  
FINANCE & MARKETING

AWARDS  
PRESIDENT'S LIST- FALL 2011, 2013



## profile

“...my passion and interest in math, leadership, and international relations pointed to one field-- business....  
Now I'm one of the few Turkmen students graduating this year, and I'm proud to say that  
I reached this point thanks to the generous support of the U.S.-CAEF program.”

Being attracted by various career options when I was in high school, at first I couldn't decide what path to choose, but my passion and interest in math, leadership, and international relations pointed to one field-- business.

While still in high school, I was selected for the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program and spent one year in the U.S. experiencing American life. That year served as an inspiration for all of the achievements I have gained until now.

The scholarship award letter from U.S.-CAEF was a grand present for my graduation from high school. I was very excited to study business at KIMEP University as it has one of the best business schools in the world. Now I'm one of the few Turkmen students graduating this year, and I'm proud to say that I

reached this point thanks to the generous support of the U.S.-CAEF program. I'm double-majoring in two different spheres: finance and marketing.

The university opened multiple opportunities for my personal development. I took advantage of two study abroad programs. First, I spent my spring 2012 semester at Fatih University in Istanbul. Following the semester in Turkey, I won the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship and had an opportunity to spend my junior year at the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain. There I had a chance to get familiar with the European education system, life, and culture and meet more friends from all over the universe. I can definitely say that these are the best and unforgettable years of my student life. The year spent in Spain gave me not only valuable knowledge

related to my majors but also was a great chance for me to improve my Spanish and motivated me to organize a Spanish club at KIMEP University.

Besides my studies and extra-curricular activities, I'm also interning at the U.S. Commercial Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce. During my studies at KIMEP, I had a great opportunity to work as an assistant to the dean of the College of Business, the President's Office at KIMEP University, and to one of the founders of the university, Hartmut Fischer, Ph.D., a visiting professor from the University of San Francisco.

My next step is to continue my studies in business at the graduate level to better prepare myself for a successful career path.

# BAHTIYAR JALILOV

**HOMETOWN**  
TURKMENABAT, TURKMENISTAN

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**AWARDS**  
PRESIDENT'S LIST  
FALL 2011, FALL 2013  
DEAN'S LIST  
SPRING 2013



## profile

“For me, U.S.-CAEF is not only a scholarship that covers my tuition, but also it is a micro-environment that gives me an opportunity to become part of the business elite.”

I was born in Turkmenabat, the second largest city in Turkmenistan, in the east of the country. I graduated from the Turkmen-Turkish high school in my home town. In 2008, to get familiar with the international education experience, I enrolled in a preparatory program in AUCA. This one-year program helped me explore student life and expand my views not only in education, but also in cross-cultural and social areas. Later, I entered the Economics Department and was awarded a U.S.-CAEF full scholarship to study in AUCA.

In 2010, I transferred from AUCA to the Department of Economics of KIMEP University, Almaty, Kazakhstan. During my studies, I was actively involved in different extracurricular student activities. I participated in different social

and cultural events that helped me demonstrate and develop my full potential. In my second year, I received a grant to participate in the Preparing Global Leadership Summit (PGLS). This is a seven-day program for select students and young professionals around the world. The summit was held in Moscow within the framework of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA) and with the support of some of the best faculty members from Georgetown University (USA).

As for my professional development, in summer 2013, I had an internship at the World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan. The internship was a great experience in terms of learning about the international development

aid system, and, in particular, the work of the World Bank Group. The internship gave me a wonderful opportunity to try my analytical and social skills. This internship helped me grow professionally, and confirmed my career choice to work in the public sector. I had a feeling that I was making an important contribution to the development of my home country.

For me, U.S.-CAEF is not only a scholarship that covers my tuition, but also it is a micro-environment that gives me an opportunity to become part of the business elite. I am proud to be a U.S.-CAEF Fellow, and I am extremely grateful to U.S.-CAEF for providing me with this opportunity.

# AIGERIM NURGALIEVA

HOMETOWN  
KARAGANDA, KAZAKHSTAN

MAJOR  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS  
DEAN'S LIST- SPRING 2011, Spring 2013



## profile

“Studying at KIMEP University was not just a page in my life. I can say that it changed my life because now I can be a good citizen of my country, contributing to its development. Thank you, U.S.-CAEF!”

My name is Aigerim Nurgaliyeva. I am from Karaganda, Kazakhstan. From my early childhood, my Mom has been encouraging me to be active and explore new things. I loved to dance; therefore I attended national dance classes when I was in elementary school. Next were chess classes, swimming, acrobatics, and theater. While taking part in these activities, I realized that whatever you do you should do it with your whole heart and patience.

Another important thing that I've learned through my experiences is that one should never stop dreaming. I have wanted to study at KIMEP University since I was 15, and I tried my best to get into this university. Fortunately, U.S.-CAEF helped me make it real. I'm grateful to the U.S.-CAEF program for this great opportunity to receive an ex-

cellent business education and to be part of interesting university life.

During my college years I participated in the activities of such organizations on campus as KIMEP Legal Clinic, Intellectual Debate Club (IDC), and the KIMEP International Students Association (KISA), where I had an opportunity to develop skills in marketing, finance, leadership, and accounting. Participation in leadership seminars helped me understand and shape my future goals. In IDC I learned about the force of persuasion and how to become an effective communicator, while participation in KISA helped me improve my organizational skills. I organized two major university events—a masquerade ball and Nauryz. I was also involved in an

important orphanage program and was fully in charge of the logistical aspects of the events that we organized for children. I had to take into account every detail from arranging the entertainment program to serving food to orphans. My experience at the Legal Clinic was especially gratifying. I provided free consultations on legal issues to people who could not afford to hire lawyers.

Studying at KIMEP University was not just a page in my life. I can say that it changed my life because now I can be a good citizen of my country, contributing to its development. Thank you, U.S.-CAEF!



# MALIKA PULOTOVA

HOMETOWN  
AKSAI, KAZAKHSTAN

MAJOR  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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



## profile

"I am happy that my student life has been full of opportunities that I could use to my advantage. U.S.-CAEF gave me a unique chance to experience real business education and helped me realize my potential."

I am very grateful to the U.S.-CAEF Board for giving me the opportunity to study in KIMEP University. The experience was really life-changing. In addition to invaluable academic knowledge, I had many opportunities to develop myself. My student life will remain the most unforgettable time for me because during these years I acquired the knowledge and skills necessary for my future career, and had a chance to participate in interesting activities. During my first year in the university, I joined AIESEC, the biggest international student organization, where I organized two big events: the Planning Conference and the Leadership Development Seminar for new members of the organization. The experience helped me develop my leadership, management, and communication skills. I also joined the Kazakhstan English Language Theater (KELT) as

well, where I learned to perform in front of a large audience. Thanks to U.S.-CAEF's regional internship program, I had a chance to work in the marketing department of a local TV company, Channel 7, after my second year of study. The experience confirmed my choice of majoring in marketing.

KIMEP University always supports a student's interest in professional development, and I had a chance to gain experience in the human resource management field. As HR is my second major, I was very happy to be selected as a finalist in the Government Internship Program. I spent one month in the HR department at the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The experience was truly unique. I learned about the structure of the governmental system

and was honored to be part of this system that manages the whole state.

Currently, I am interning at the marketing department of Coca-Cola Company. I am glad that I was chosen to participate in this competitive and unique internship during my senior year. The most important thing that I have learned is that every opportunity is a chance to succeed or to gain valuable experience. I am happy that my student life has been full of opportunities that I could use to my advantage. U.S.-CAEF gave me a unique chance to experience real business education and helped me realize my potential. U.S.-CAEF is a big family that unites students from Central Asian countries, people who can contribute to the development of their home countries. I am very grateful and happy to be part of it.

• MALIKA BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF POST-GRADUATE INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN FALL 2014

# ASKAR SAPARBEBKOV

HOMETOWN  
SEMEY, KAZAKHSTAN

MAJOR  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS  
DEAN'S LIST  
FALL 2010



## profile

“Looking back, I can say that I have learned a lot... I appreciate and will remember everything that this fellowship has done for me. Now I am ready for the next stage of my life.”

I was born in a small village, Makanchi, in East Kazakhstan. I always liked creating and implementing things, that is why I wanted to study business at KIMEP University. And my dream was realized thanks to the U.S.-CAEF scholarship. I am very happy and proud that U.S.-CAEF gave me such an opportunity.

The four years at KIMEP University have passed very quickly. Looking back, I can say that I have learned a lot. KIMEP University provides great opportunities for educational and professional development, including study abroad programs that help students expand their knowledge and find new career paths. Participation in a summer 2013 program in Xiamen University, China helped me increase my interest in taxation, and I decided

to choose this field as my minor. I am planning to explore this area even further after graduation.

Another great experience at KIMEP University is connected with the KIMEP Entrepreneurs' Club, the first official KIMEP student-run organization that I co-founded. The mission of the club is to serve as an effective platform for the KIMEP student community to network; learn and share ideas with distinguished Kazakhstani entrepreneurs through workshops, professional training, and conferences; and apply business knowledge and skills in practice through business plan contests and social enterprise projects. As the President of the club, I implemented many business and charity projects. Involvement in these activities gave me a chance to develop my creativity,

leadership, and organizational skills. This was the most amazing time spent together with my team of Fellows.

In addition, I try to devote some time to sports as well. Sports have also contributed a lot to my personal development. Currently, I am President of the KIMEP Taekwondo Organization.

KIMEP University has totally changed my world view. I became more active. I have acquired many useful skills which will help me succeed in life. Thank you, U.S.-CAEF, for giving me this opportunity to realize myself! I appreciate and will remember everything that this fellowship has done for me. Now I am ready for the next stage of my life. I know that many exciting achievements are awaiting me in the future, and that should never stop!

# YERZHAN SMAGULOV

**HOMETOWN**  
TALDYKORGAN, KAZAKHSTAN

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**AWARDS**  
DEAN'S LIST  
FALL 2010, SPRING 2011



## profile

“I truly believe that all these successes are the result of the right decisions ....  
It is important to choose an active position in life!”

During my first years at KIMEP University, I decided to be active in social events and became a member of different academic, sports, and student clubs. My decision gave good results, and I can surely say that my student life was successful and productive for me.

During the first two years I was a member of different student organizations. Participation in these activities was enriching and fun, but I wanted to explore other opportunities and apply my leadership skills. So in my junior year I decided to try myself in student government-- the KIMEP Student Association (KSA). I ran for Vice-President of Finance (VPF) and won the election. This year I ran for the same position again and was reelected. As a future financier, the position of VPF gives me excellent experience in working as a

chair of a budget committee, making key decisions, and budget planning.

During my senior year I was selected to represent KIMEP University and the city of Almaty at different conferences and seminars. Although all of these events were of great value, two of them became most memorable. The first is a youth political camp, Youth to Motherland, which was organized by Zhas Otan, the youth wing of the leading party of Kazakhstan Nur Otan. The second is the XV Congress of Nur Otan, which was held in Astana under the chairmanship of its leader, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev. The Congress was attended by 1,200 delegates from all regional branches of the party and more than a thousand invited guests, among whom were heads of

state agencies, national holdings, and members of Parliament. I was honored to be one of the seven students representing the city of Almaty.

Recently, because of my active leadership role and positive contribution to university life, I was named the Person of The Year during KIMEP Awards, an event organized by KIMEP PIE, a university club that publishes a student magazine. I am proud of this title and grateful to my Fellow students for this honor. I truly believe that all these successes are the result of the right decisions, which helped me become what I am now: the FLEX Exchange Program, the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship, KIMEP University, the KIMEP Student Association, sports, and my active student life. It is important to choose an active position in life!



# KHEDZHERA SULEYEVA

HOMETOWN  
DRUZHBA, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS  
Dean's List  
Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Fall 2013



## profile

"I am very thankful to U.S.-CAEF for providing a very supportive environment for my development. Now I am sure that with this educational background I can courageously step toward the future and be useful for my country."

I grew up in the small mountainous country of Kyrgyzstan. After graduating from the Kyrgyz-Turkish Girls High School, I decided to apply to KIMEP University, because it is one of the leading western-style universities in Central Asia. Winning a U.S.-CAEF scholarship made it possible for me to study at this renowned institution. I would like to highlight some of my student experiences.

Definitely, the university provides knowledge relevant to the Central Asian region. I've enjoyed almost all subjects at KIMEP University, but Business Law became my favorite course. It is a branch of law that examines topics that impact business operations. At the end of this course, we had a moot court litigation process, where we applied the rights of physical entities and businesses engaged in commerce.

In addition to academics, I had an opportunity to work at the university. I was an office assistant at the KIMEP Tax Center, where I conducted a Central Asian tax research project. Also, I assisted a professor who taught Operations Management and Information Systems. I had an opportunity to use my knowledge outside the campus as well. After my second year of studies, as part of the U.S.-CAEF Internship Program, I interned at Rosenthal Collins Group Investment Fund. During my internship, I conducted extensive research and analysis of different commodity markets, created financial models for selected assets, and analyzed mining projects. This first professional experience was very important for me.

At KIMEP University, I had an opportunity not only to build my career path, but also I have had an extremely en-

joyable student life. I took part in the talent shows and Chaikhana (a cultural team building event) organized by the U.S.-CAEF Student Association, gained confidence in my leadership potential through AIESEC activities (an international student organization), and competed in challenging business games sponsored by Procter & Gamble. Recently, together with another fellow, Gufronjon Ayubjonov, I participated in a business contest sponsored by Mars Company, and we were named finalists.

I am so happy to be one of the Fellows and very thankful to U.S.-CAEF for providing a very supportive environment for my development. Now I am sure that with this educational background I can courageously step toward the future and be useful for my country.

# DILOBAR TUYCHIEVA

**HOMETOWN**  
TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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



## profile

“...part of me will always stay with the U.S.-CAEF program, with KIMEP University, and with all the people whom I have met and respect very much.”

I am a U.S.-CAEF Fellow from Uzbekistan. I was born and raised in Tashkent. I graduated from the English Linguistic School in 2007 and continued my study in the Turkish academic lyceum, part of the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies. During my years in high school, I participated in many prestigious academic contests and won numerous awards. Just to name a few, I won a poetry contest in 2007; came second in a challenging city math competition; became one of the winners of Brilliant Mind, a contest that required good knowledge in mathematics, history, literature and physics; and in spring 2010, I won a contest devoted to the 2200th anniversary of Tashkent, which was organized by the Ministry of Education of Uzbekistan and embassies of eight foreign countries.

Thanks to my high school achievements and the support from U.S.-CAEF, I became a student of KIMEP University in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Studying at KIMEP provided me with a wonderful and very valuable four years of great experiences and opportunities, helped me understand myself better, and defined the professional path I want to take in my life. I selected finance as my major and marketing as my minor.

During these years at the university, I met highly skilled professors and received a good education. In addition, I was able to work as a full-time research assistant for a marketing professor for two semesters. I assisted the professor in both research and writing a book length manuscript. This work experience helped me improve my time

management, analytical thinking, and research skills.

Moreover, I met wonderful people from different countries and was able to share cultural experiences with them. These people became part of my life. I have unforgettable memories about my student life which will stay with me forever.

After graduation, I want to continue my education and pursue a master's degree in business administration. Then I am planning to return to Uzbekistan and implement all gained knowledge and experience in my home country. However, part of me will always stay with the U.S.-CAEF program, with KIMEP University, and with all the people whom I have met and respect very much.

# SAKINA YASAKIEVA

HOMETOWN  
KHOROG, TAJIKISTAN

MAJOR  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS  
PRESIDENT'S LIST  
*SPRING 2011, FALL 2012, 2013*  
DEAN'S LIST  
*FALL 2010, SPRING 2011, 2012, 2013*



## profile

*"I believe the knowledge and experience that I have acquired in KIMEP University are very valuable and will be appreciated by any organization."*

I was born in the small town of Khorog in Pamir, the eastern part of Tajikistan. Prior to KIMEP University, I had studied in the Lyceum Aga-Khan for eleven years. This school is one of the top schools in Tajikistan; it provided me with excellent education and also helped me find my path in life.

While in high school, I was selected to participate in the Future Leaders Exchange program (FLEX) in 2008. This program gave me an opportunity to live and study in the United States. I attended the Owego Free Academy in Owego, NY, and became part of an amazing host family. When I returned to my hometown, I finished my senior year and after receiving my high school diploma in 2010, I applied and was accepted to KIMEP University and received a U.S.-CAEF scholarship.

It is a great pleasure for me to study at KIMEP University and be part of the amazing U.S.-CAEF family. I am majoring in Finance and minoring in Marketing. I love both fields of study, but I think that Finance is what I was born for. I hope that my willingness to become the best specialist in this sphere will help me pursue my dreams.

Besides my studies at the university, I've been actively involved in different extracurricular activities. Notably, I was one of the co-founders of the KIMEP Entrepreneurs' Club in 2010, the first student-run business on campus. This was an amazing experience because we were the first students to start the project, 'Proud of KIMEP,' which enhances the image of our university through selling T-shirts, hoodies, and other items with the KIMEP logo. We

had to come up with different marketing and advertising strategies to attract buyers.

I am also a member of Open Hearts, a small organization created by our U.S.-CAEF Fellows, where I teach English to children in two orphanages in Almaty.

All these amazing experiences were possible thanks to the support from U.S.-CAEF. I am so grateful to the Foundation for providing this great opportunity. I believe the knowledge and experience that I have acquired in KIMEP University are very valuable and will be appreciated by any organization. My long-term goals are to continue my education and acquire a master's degree in finance and become a leading professional in an international organization in my home country.



# DASTAN ZHUMAGULOV

HOMETOWN  
KOSTANAY, KAZAKHSTAN

MAJOR  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS  
PRESIDENT'S LIST-FALL 2011, FALL 2013  
DEAN'S LIST-SPRING 2011,  
SPRING 2012, SPRING 2013



## profile

"I am endlessly grateful to all-- the staff and the management of the U.S.-CAEF program-- for providing us with such great opportunities for growth. I appreciate the trust you have put in us and look forward to using the knowledge in the real world for the benefit of Central Asia."

While in high school, I received numerous awards at English Olympiads. However, I knew that English is only a means of achieving my goals, but not the area of my future career. Long before joining the program, I had decided to study economics and finance.

Luckily enough, U.S.-CAEF appeared on the horizon, which was a chance I knew I had to grab, because studying at KIMEP University was something I desired very much but could not afford. I even decided to skip my high school graduation event because shortly before my commencement I learned that I had to take an entrance exam to KIMEP University. I packed quickly and went to Almaty. There is more to it yet: I had to rush at the exam too since I had to get on the train back on the same day. Later, I was surprised to learn that I was among those who scored the highest that year.

My major is finance. I am happy with my choice, because it has been a very unique and rewarding experience to study at KIMEP University. I was lucky to be taught by really passionate professors who were able to foster my interest in the subjects they taught, namely Donald Hoskins, Michael Conrad, Zhuldyzbek Abylkhozhin, Aigerim Kalybai, Irina Pya, Olga Pak, and Aiman Issayeva. I feel grateful for the knowledge and inspiration they have given me.

In addition to my studies, I took advantage of internship opportunities. After my second year, as part of U.S.-CAEF, I interned at ADM Capital Investment Fund. It was a great first professional experience. However, I was still quite unfamiliar with more specific knowledge, so I couldn't work on important tasks. But the in-

ternship helped me confirm my major and realize what to focus on. After taking major finance courses next year, my second internship at Kazyna Capital Management, a private equity fund, became more substantial. I was proud to be able to handle sophisticated tasks, and happy to make my contribution to the company.

I am also very proud to be part of U.S.-CAEF and to be among these bright and talented people. I am endlessly grateful to all-- the staff and the management of the U.S.-CAEF program-- for providing us with such great opportunities for growth. I appreciate the trust you have put in us and look forward to using the knowledge in the real world for the benefit of Central Asia.

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association (the Association) develops 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 shown their entrepreneurial skills and started their own businesses, while others have decided to further their education and are pursuing their MBAs.

This year, twenty five new graduates join the U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association, bringing the total number of program alumni to 112.

The Association hopes that the graduating class of 2014 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.



The Associations' leadership team represents both AUCA and KIMEP University and three of the five Central Asian Republics:

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BEIERSDORF

# THE FOUNDATION'S FACULTY & INTERN FELLOWSHIPS

## Enterprise Faculty Fellowships

The Foundation has sponsored and delivered several faculty training development programs since its inception in 2007. In 2010 the Foundation launched a focused 2-year faculty training program, developed and delivered by Fairfield University (Fairfield, CT, USA), which consisted of three separate intensive in-person sessions within the region and ongoing remote training and communication between the Fairfield University team and faculty participants. The program was extended and in May, 2014, these efforts culminated in the publication of "Business Education in Central Asia: Best Practices in Integrative Study and Teaching". A landmark accomplishment in the field of pedagogical scholarship in Central Asia, Business Education is a compilation of articles by AUCA and KIMEP faculty who participated in development workshops and report on their experiences in creatively adapting and applying the principles of integrative study and teaching within the contexts of their universities. Fairfield faculty members continue to work with colleagues at AUCA and KIMEP University on materials and activities that will further build upon the work accomplished during the development program.

## 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.





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## Regional Summer Internship Program

Since 2008, the Foundation has operated a Regional Summer Internship Program, which is made available on a competitive basis to a limited number of student fellows completing their second year of university study. Both AUCA and KIMEP University require their business and economics students to undertake a formal internship towards the end of their third year as a degree requirement. The Foundation's summer internship program, which includes orientation and support for the interns, is intended as an opportunity to become familiar with the business environment, enhance skills and lead to more informed choices in selecting the degree-required internship. Seven Student Fellows from the graduating 2014 class, **Sapar Ibraev, Kalys Zhumakadyr uulu, Aliia Sultanova** and **Nazokat Omuralieva** from AUCA, and **Malika Pulotova, Dastan Zhumagulov** and **Khedzhera Suleyeva** from KIMEP University, participated in the summer 2012 Regional Internship Program. All of the Fellows rated the experience highly and commented on the valuable learning outcomes of the internship.

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## Post-Graduate International 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. Seven outstanding Student Fellows from the 2014 graduating class have been selected to take part in the International Capstone Internship Program in fall, 2014: **Madina Damir kyzy, Ignatii Kim** and **Yelena Vorobey** from AUCA, and **Ali Hamrayev, Malika Pulotova, Khedzhera Suleyeva** and **Sakina Yasakieva** from KIMEP University.

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

*The Foundation is grateful to the companies in Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic that have hosted Enterprise Summer Interns, which include:*

ADM Capital  
Alpha Telecom  
Ardamina Textile Company  
Asia Universal Bank  
Bai Tushum & Partners  
Microfinance Bank  
Beeline  
CAI Consulting  
Center for Educational  
Assessment &  
Teaching Methods  
Channel 7  
Demir Kyrgyz International Bank  
FINCA  
Flamingo Park  
HSBC Bank  
International Business Council  
Karakol Coffee Shop  
KazInvest  
KazNetEvents  
Kyrgyz Concept  
Kyrgyz Kredit Bank  
MegaCom  
National Leasing Company  
Polygon International, Ltd  
Project Hope  
Promotank  
RCG Investment Fund  
Sberbank of Russia  
Talas Copper Gold, LLC  
The Farm  
The United Nations  
The U.S. Embassy in Bishkek,  
Kyrgyz Republic

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