



U.S.-CAEF ENTERPRISE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

GRADUATION 2016





COVER FRONT IMAGE: KIMEP CLASS OF 2016

COVER BACK IMAGES: 1. AUCA CLASS OF 2016, 2. AIIDA BAGYTZHANOVA & UMEDJON KURBONALI,
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CHYNARA ERKULOVA



U.S.-CAEF ENTERPRISE
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
GRADUATION
2016



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AUCA CLASS OF 2016



GRADUATION BOOK 2016

Graduation 2016 celebrates the sixth class of Student Fellows to receive a university education through the U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation (the Foundation) Enterprise Fellowship Program. Seventeen Student Fellows will celebrate their graduation on May 21, 2016 from KIMEP University. One of them, Malika Orazymbetova of Kazakhstan, followed an accelerated track and will be graduating with honors one year early. Thirteen Student Fellows will graduate on June 4, 2016 from the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) in Bishkek, the 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 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 2016 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.

FOUNDATION OVERVIEW



History

The Foundation, a congressionally approved “legacy foundation” to the former U.S. Government sponsored Central Asian-American Enterprise Fund (Fund or CAAEF), was funded by a \$15.7 million grant from CAAEF and commenced operation in May, 2007. CAAEF was one of the “U.S. Enterprise Funds” authorized and funded by the U.S. Government after the dissolution of the former Soviet Union. It was incorporated in 1994 as a not-for-profit corporation to encourage the creation and expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Central Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union (Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and operated in Central Asia for ten 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 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

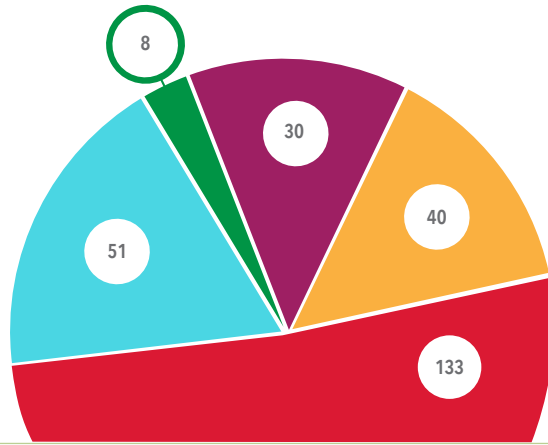


FIGURE 1: STUDENT FELLOWS BY CITIZENSHIP SINCE PROGRAM INCEPTION

- KYRGYZSTAN
- KAZAKHSTAN
- TAJIKISTAN
- TURKMENISTAN
- UZBEKISTAN

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 2015-2016 academic year, the Foundation awarded a total of 125 scholarships for 59 Student Fellows to attend AUCA and 66 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 these countries.

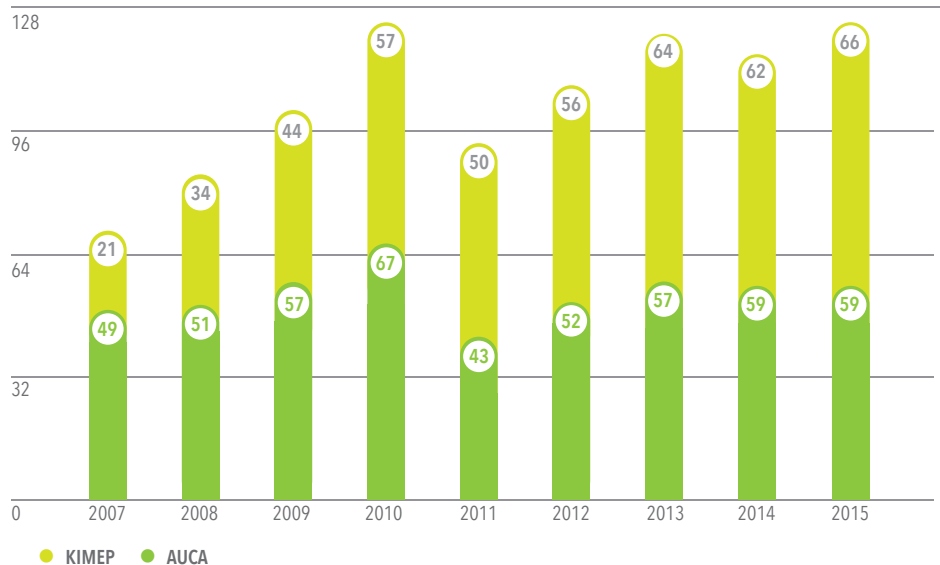
ENTERPRISE FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

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, 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.

FIGURE 2: STUDENT FELLOWS BY INSTITUTION SINCE PROGRAM INCEPTION



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 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.



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA (AUCA)

KIMEP University provides important additional financial support to our Enterprise Student Fellowship Program. The number of scholarships, as well as the mix of nationalities of students, 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's recognition of the value of the U.S.-CAEF program and grateful for the opportunity it presents to our Enterprise Student Fellows.



DR. BANG, PRESIDENT OF KIMEP UNIVERSITY

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 500 dedicated professionals in more than 80 countries, designs, implements, and administers academic exchanges, overseas language immersion, and educational development programs that broaden individual perspectives, increase knowledge, and deepen understanding. Each year, more than 3,000 international exchange students study in the U.S., and more than 1,000 U.S. students study abroad on American Councils programs. 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 2016: 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 30 Student Fellows, 18 have been recognized on the President's or Dean's Lists.

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."

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED ON THE PRESIDENT'S & DEAN'S LISTS AT AUCA & KIMEP UNIVERSITY

DILDANA ABBASOVA
AISULUU ABDYRAKMANOVA
ANISA ATALOVA
AIDA BAGYTZHANOVA
SHAKHNOZAI DAVLATZODA
YULIYA DAVYDENKO
CHYNARA ERKULOVA
FIRUZA HASANOVA
UMEDJON KURBONALI

BATIMA MYRZABEKOVA
SAMAT NURTOLEUOV
MALIKA ORAZYMBETOVA
ADEL SULTANBEKOVA
TYNYSTAN TALANTOV
MAKHABAT TASHBALTAEVA
YERASSYL TOLEUGAZINOV
ILHAN YOLLYYEV
NAZERKE ZARLYKHANOVA

Nine of these Student Fellows are on track to graduate with honors: Dildana Abbasova, Anisa Atalova, Adel Sultanbekova, Tynystan Talantov and Makhabat Tashbaltaeva, at AUCA, and Aisuluu Abdyrakmanova, Chynara Erkulova, Malika Orazymbetova, and Nazerke Zarlykhanova at KIMEP University.

Our seniors have taken advantage of highly competitive study abroad programs in Croatia, Hong Kong, Norway, Singapore, Slovenia, South Korea, Sweden, Turkey and the United States.

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





U. K. Karimov
Erassyi Toleugazimov
Kazakhstan

U. K. Karimov
Umедjon Kurbonali
Tajikistan





AUCA

DILDANA ABBASOVA

HOMETOWN

BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2013, SPRING 2014

PRESIDENT'S LIST: FALL 2015



"I am more than thankful to the Board, to my family and to destiny for this unique opportunity that helped me pave the path to a bright future."

Participation in the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship program and all the four years spent at AUCA were full of thousands of incredible memories. Learning new things from qualified instructors and participating in student life, U.S.-CAEF events and professional internships have made an enormous contribution to my development as a person, business professional and active community member.

I tried to use these four years productively. I put a lot of effort into achieving academic excellence and worked hard to earn a high GPA. As a result, I was placed on the Dean's List in 2012 and 2013, and on the President's List in 2014. I also took part in trainings and lectures on different business topics organized by U.S.-CAEF for students, which played a significant role in my professional development.

This knowledge was very useful during my internships. My first internship was with KVG, a mission support provider and member of the American Chamber of Commerce, in the summer of 2013. By the end of the internship, I was offered a part-time job at this company. I worked there as a project assistant during my sophomore year and stayed with the company until its operations officially closed in Kyrgyzstan.

My second internship was part of the program requirement during my junior year. This one-month internship took place in the marketing department of Toyota Center Bishkek Ltd. The time spent in this company taught me to work in a big international company. It was a substantive experience that helped me gather important information for my senior thesis project.

In addition, I was also an active member of student life. During my freshmen and sophomore years I was part of one of the student business associations at AUCA, Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE). Working on different projects of the association such as Bishkek Vegetarian Café and Teenagers in Free Enterprise (TIFE), helped me understand the business climate in our country and how knowledge obtained within the university can be applied in real life.

All these successes wouldn't have been possible without the support from the U.S.-CAEF program. I am more than thankful to the Board, to my family and to destiny for this unique opportunity that helped me pave the path to a bright future.



NURSULTAN ABDUKHALILOV

AUCA

HOMETOWN
BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR
ECONOMICS

I am an AUCA senior majoring in Economics. Throughout my college years I have been engaged in activities that helped me grow professionally and develop my leadership potential. During my freshman year, as a student senator I worked on improving funding for student clubs through fundraising and grants. Participation in the debate club helped me improve my communication skills. Through Enactus I implemented social and business projects using the knowledge I had gained in the classroom. Eventually, I became President of Enactus, and led my team to the Enactus World Cup in Beijing, China in 2014.

Another highlight of my student life is an exchange program at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, South Korea which became a turning point in my life. It was during this period that I fully realized the role of entrepreneurship in the process of economic growth, and I decided to work in this area after my graduation.

During my junior year, I joined Rome Model of United Nations (MUN). Now I am a MUN staff member, which allows me to participate in international conferences every year. My involvement with MUN has introduced me to diverse perspectives on economic and other global issues.

In 2013, I took part in World Business Dialogue in Cologne, Germany where I learned about current issues and trends in business, met students who ran startups, and successful entrepreneurs and professors. The inspiration I received at this conference gave me a strong motivation to move forward and achieve more. So I joined the Youth Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic. As the chairman of its Economic Committee, I met young leaders from all over the country and deputies of our Parliament, participated in important discussions on the country's economic future and organized business training for Kyrgyz youth. In 2014, I took part in the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR). Meetings and panel discussions with professors and alumni of the Harvard Business School, speakers representing well-known companies and young leaders inspired me to promote entrepreneurship among the youth in my country further and create my own business.

Based on all the knowledge and experience I have gained throughout these years, I created my own startup in 2014 that provides services to farmers. I have many dreams and goals, and this startup is just the beginning of my desired career path.

“Based on all the knowledge and experience I have gained throughout these years, I created my own startup in 2014 that provides services to farmers. I have many dreams and goals, and this startup is just the beginning of my desired career path.”

MEDINA ABYLKASYMOVA

HOMETOWN

NARYN, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

ECONOMICS



"I am certain that all these experiences will help me achieve my professional goals in the future."

I have enjoyed my university experience, the courses I have taken, the projects, conferences and trainings I have participated in, and internships I have undertaken which helped me expand my knowledge and leadership abilities, and grow as a young professional. I would like to highlight just a few experiences that had a huge impact on my growth.

During my sophomore year I interned in the internal audit department of the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic through the U.S.-CAEF Summer Regional Internship Program. The experience helped me strengthen my understanding of team dynamics, learn to multitask and prioritize, and developed my analytical and time-management skills. I learned to prioritize tasks through flexible, structured planning to meet tight deadlines. Due to my responsibilities, I also had to interact with people at various levels of the organization which taught me important communication skills.

As an Economics major, I understand how crucial it is for me to keep a global perspective. Therefore, I tried to use every opportunity to take part in international events. I attended two Model United Nations conferences, Tian Shan

MUN in Bishkek and Silk Way MUN in Almaty, where we discussed current economic problems in the world related to the Euro zone crisis and trade unions. In 2014, I received a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) scholarship which allowed me to learn German at the Goethe University of Frankfurt and participate in the European Student for Liberty conference in the summer, which attracted participants from all over the world. During my winter break in 2015, I volunteered to teach English to people with disabilities in Gaziantep, Turkey through AIESEC, an international organization that provides students with leadership training and internship opportunities. I left the project with a new sense of confidence in my ability to help people achieve their academic and individual goals. It increased my sense of social responsibility.

I am certain that all these experiences will help me achieve my professional goals in the future. I am so thankful and highly appreciate these opportunities provided by the U.S.-CAEF program that helped me face real life challenges.

AIGERIM ALMAZOVA

HOMETOWN

KARAKOL, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

ECONOMICS



I used to dream about studying at AUCA. Therefore, I tried to focus on math and English in high school. I stayed active – I participated in city and regional Olympiads, was a member of the school senate, implemented the school's radio project, and participated in an educational camp organized by the Soros Foundation. My hard work paid off when I received a U.S.-CAEF scholarship, which allowed me to enroll in the economics department of AUCA. And now, I am already a few months away from my graduation from the university.

Looking back, I realize how enriching and productive these four years have been for my growth. I received an excellence award for winning the German language competition organized by AUCA. I participated in an annual student symposium devoted to the discussions of The Republic by Plato. I was also involved in different university clubs and events. As a member of the drama club, I took part in AUCA's main events such as Initiation Day, Diversity Week, Orientation Week, Spirit Week, and AUCA's 20th anniversary. I was also involved in several community projects through volunteering at the Unity Fund and Rotaract Club at AUCA. Through activities of these clubs I implement-

ed several social and charitable projects for orphanages which helped me improve my organizational and teamwork skills. In recognition of my active role in the success of these projects, I received a special award from the dean's office.

I also took advantage of professional development opportunities. Through the AIESEC's internship program, I had a chance to work on marketing projects for two large local companies, Megacom and Demirbank. Another interesting page in my professional life was my internship in the financial office of Ombudsman, a government organization that observes and defends the rights of citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic.

All these experiences prepared me for my future professional life. I received priceless knowledge and experience during these past four years at AUCA thanks to the support from U.S.-CAEF, the program that made my dream come true. I am so grateful for the provided scholarship that improved not only my education, but also my career prospects. I want to thank the U.S.-CAEF team for every privilege I have had over these years.

"I received priceless knowledge and experience during these past four years at AUCA thanks to the support from U.S.-CAEF, the program that made my dream come true."

ANISA ATALOVA

HOMETOWN

BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

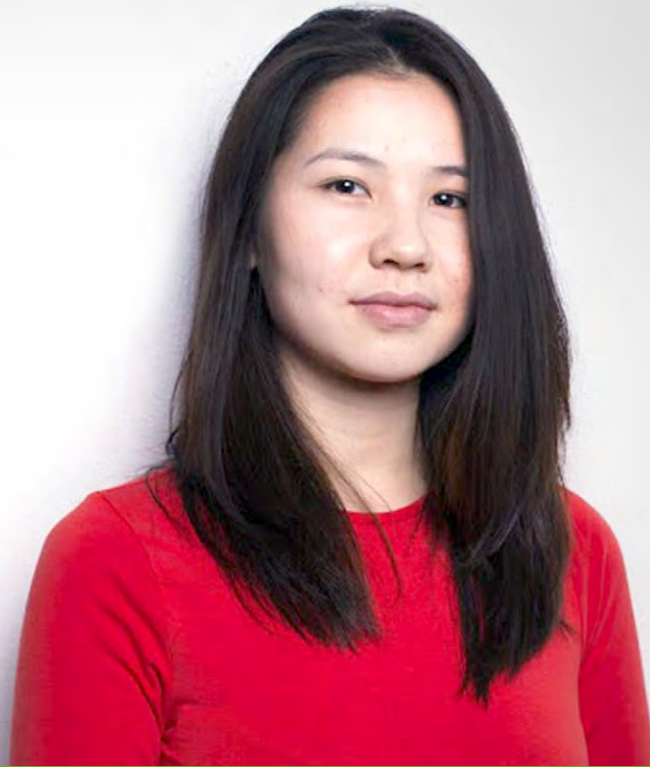
MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2013, SPRING 2014

PRESIDENT'S LIST: FALL 2015



"I want to sincerely thank the U.S.-CAEF board members for opening doors to our bright future, and American Councils for their guidance and assistance along the way."

Studying at AUCA has been my life-long dream, but without the U.S.-CAEF program I would have never been able to pursue it. My parents always tried to give me the best education possible during my school years and I became a participant in the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program in 2011. I spent one year in a small town of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania studying in the local high school. This experience was surely a big pivoting event in my life that became one of the reasons for my appreciation of the Western education system and later going to AUCA.

At AUCA, I tried to pay much attention to both academic and non-academic activities. In my senior year, I was placed on the President's List for academic excellence during all four years. My first two years at AUCA I devoted to volunteering and debating. In my senior year, I became a participant in the AUCA-Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) Exchange Program and spent one semester in the economics department of NMBU in Aas, Norway. The exchange semester was the best experience in four years. Studying economics in an economically advanced country and experiencing a totally different culture will stay with me all my life.

Internship experiences were also an integral part of my studies at the university – they helped me

practice my theoretical knowledge, see loopholes in my knowledge and understand which field attracts me most. I had internships every summer during my university years, but the most memorable was the one provided by the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program. I interned in the HR Department of the U.S. Embassy in Bishkek. This internship was a life-changing experience for me.

I see myself in the future as an entrepreneur; therefore, I had a desire to start my own business for a long time. This year, I opened a little cosmetics store in my hometown; it is still functioning well and developing. Opening my own business showed me how university knowledge can be applied in real life. In addition, I have been engaged in the activities of the Business Clinic of AUCA, which provides consulting services and research analysis to local businesses. This practical experience is invaluable for my future career in business.

AUCA and the U.S.-CAEF program became the first and most important step in building my career in business. I want to sincerely thank the U.S.-CAEF board members for opening doors to our bright future, and American Councils for their guidance and assistance along the way.

ANISA HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2016

AIZHAMAL BAKYTBKOVA

HOMETOWN
OSH, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



Being a U.S.-CAEF fellow and AUCA student are one of the most fascinating parts of my life. Four years at the university passed so fast. Looking back, I see a truly fantastic experience full of amazing moments and time spent with my wonderful U.S.-CAEF family.

One of the most rewarding experiences was my involvement in AUCA clubs. I organized charitable events to help orphans, homeless people and other disadvantaged individuals. This passion to help others comes from my previous experience as a FLEX student in 2011-2012 at Kingsburg High School, Kingsburg, California. Spending one year in the U.S. opened my eyes to the new world and helped me realize that there are tons of chances to develop yourself and make your dream come true through hard work. It also helped me understand the importance of volunteering and community service, which eventually led to the creation of the Youth Initiative Centre at Lingua School, which I co-founded together with Matthew Dupuis, a Peace Corp volunteer. The purpose of the school is to help students from low-income families to develop English language and social skills.

In summer 2013, I gained a tremendous professional experience interning in the audit department of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In the summer of 2014, I started my career in hospitality management as a reception manager at a local travel agency. This experience helped me understand ethical and other critical issues in the current tourism industry. Later on, as a part of my academic requirement, I interned at the Osh Nuru Hotel in the summer of 2015. The internship helped me expand my knowledge of the hospitality industry further, deepened my knowledge in customer service and motivated me to learn what it takes to start and manage a hotel. This experience taught me to dig into the roots of strategic management.

All of this would be impossible without the great support from U.S.-CAEF. It is an honor to be a U.S.-CAEF fellow. Hereby, I would like to express my gratitude to the U.S.-CAEF Board for changing our lives.

"Looking back, I see a truly fantastic experience full of amazing moments and time spent with my wonderful U.S.-CAEF family."

SEZIM BEKSULTANOVA

HOMETOWN

GREGORIEVKA, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



"U.S.-CAEF gave me a chance not only to study at AUCA, but helped me experience a completely new academic environment, develop public speaking and social skills and make lifelong friends, and it opened more opportunities for me than I could have imagined..."

I come from Gregorievka, a small village near the beautiful lake Yssyk-Kul. My mother has always believed in me and encouraged me to study hard and strive for better. First, I studied in a regular public school, but eventually I was able to receive a scholarship to study in the Kyrgyz-Turkish Lyceum. Upon my graduation, I wanted to enroll in AUCA, the best university in my country, but unfortunately, my family could not afford the university's high tuition fees. Nevertheless, my dream came true in August 2011 when I was accepted to U.S.-CAEF. There are no words to describe how happy and delighted I felt to embark on my studies in the business administration department of AUCA.

Looking back, I feel lucky to be part of the U.S.-CAEF Enterprise Student Fellowship Program. These were four incredible years of growing up. U.S.-CAEF gave me a chance not only to study at AUCA, but helped me experience a completely new academic environment, develop public speaking and social skills and make lifelong friends, and it opened more opportunities for me than I could have imagined, such as gaining professional experience through internships.

My first internship was with UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). I chose this site for my internship because I became interested in and inspired by the mission of in-

ternational organizations after taking a course on human rights and meeting guest speakers from UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and other international companies. During the three months of my internship, I learned not only about the administrative and financial aspects of the organization, but also what UNHCR does to protect the rights of refugees. My second internship was at the Parliament House (Jogorku Kenesh) in Bishkek. Here, I had a chance to learn about the work of our government from the inside. Both internships contributed to my personal development and influenced my future career plans. Now I know that I want to work for an organization with a mission to help people.

Another highlight of the program for me is becoming a true member of the U.S.-CAEF family, something that I had not expected. When I joined the program, I did not know that I would develop such close relations with my U.S.-CAEF fellows, that we would become like a big family where everyone supports each other.



ALTYNAI KOZUBEKOVA

AUCA

HOMETOWN

BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Studying at AUCA was a tremendous experience and a unique opportunity to feel the essence of the American education system. At AUCA, I tried to make every second benefit me and my community. Community service has always been an integral part of my life.

In the past four years I devoted considerable time to extra-curricular activities. I volunteered at AIESEC Kyrgyzstan, the Student Ambassadors for Peace Youth Movement, and Bishkek Feminists SQ. I was also a project coordinator of the ENACTUS team at AUCA. I joined the ENACTUS (former Students in Free Enterprise) team in September 2012 and I was involved in three business community projects for two years – Teenagers in Free Enterprise, Apashkin Lunch (a catering business for housewives) and CBT Yssyk-Kul (a tourism business).

During the summer of 2014 I gained another unique experience. I attended a summer school that brought together young leaders from all over the world in Berlin. This school, funded by the European Youth Foundation and Erasmus+, was dedicated to raising awareness about global and local issues related to education, active citizenship, and human rights.

In February 2015, I represented Kyrgyzstan at the International Student Festival in Trondheim, Norway, the world's largest student festival with a thematic emphasis. The theme of this particular festival was corruption. In discussions I shared my vision on possible ways to prevent corruption in the Kyrgyz Republic.

In addition, I was a visiting student at the Chicago Booth School of Business during the summer of 2015. I was enrolled in the course Innovation Strategy for an evening MBA Program. The program was really intensive and I was able to study and work in groups with professionals from different fields.

I want to thank the U.S.-CAEF Foundation for providing me with an opportunity to study at AUCA. This fellowship allowed me to focus on the most important aspect of studying, which is learning. The Board's generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals, just as U.S.-CAEF helped me.

"The Board's generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals, just as U.S.-CAEF helped me."

ASEL RAIYMBEKOVA

HOMETOWN

TOKTOGUL, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

ECONOMICS



"I believe that my desire as well as desire of other young people of my age to contribute to the economic development of our country can make a big impact on the lives of people in the Kyrgyz Republic."

The U.S.-CAEF program is one of the biggest and the most important achievements in my life. It made a huge contribution to my intellectual, professional and personal growth.

During my four years at AUCA, I had many opportunities to volunteer, take part in exchange programs and intern in both commercial and governmental organizations.

One of the experiences worth mentioning is my involvement in AIESEC, an international organization which helps students to fulfill their leadership potential and provides internship opportunities. I joined this organization during my sophomore year. My career at AIESEC grew rapidly: from an ordinary member I have grown to the HR Manager position. I learned a lot while working on the promotional materials and presentations, and while interacting with many students from different universities. This experience was both challenging and rewarding.

In summer 2014, after the second year of studies, I started my internship in the accounting company "AO Garant" LLC through the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program. This internship gave me a wonderful opportunity to practice the theoretical knowledge that I had

received at AUCA. It was not only a great practical experience, but I also had a chance to expand my knowledge of the accounting sphere. Before the internship, I had a more general view of my field of study; however, the internship helped me get a clearer picture about the field of my professional interest and define next steps that would help me achieve my career goals in the future.

In fall 2014, I left for Norway to participate in an exchange semester at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU). The new environment, new people and different culture were another challenge and a great opportunity for my self-development. It was an unforgettable experience for me and I would recommend it for every student.

When I think about my future success and achievements, I know that I need to work hard and try to get a lot of knowledge and experience. I will continue to do my best to graduate successfully and will keep on working on my development. I believe that my desire as well as the desires of other young people of my age to contribute to the economic development of our country can make a big impact on lives of people in the Kyrgyz Republic.

AIPERI
SHARIPOVA

HOMETOWN
BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR
ECONOMICS



From early on my mother kept telling me about the importance of good education. Therefore, I tried my best at school, and I started to prepare for the AUCA entrance exams already in the 9th grade. In the beginning, it was just a dream to study at AUCA because my family did not have the means to cover the tuition. But when I heard about the U.S.-CAEF program from my friend, the idea became more realistic.

In 2012, I became one of the lucky U.S.-CAEF fellows to study in the economics department of AUCA. I was so happy because my dream came true and my life changed. The knowledge I received at AUCA and through U.S.-CAEF workshops and activities is priceless. The program gave me not only a chance to study, but also achieve successes and make many new friends on and off-campus through my involvement in different student activities.

During my first year at the university, I took part in the Kyrgyz Language Olympiad and placed third. After my freshman year, I was selected to participate in an ecology camp for youth from CIS countries organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan, which took place in Baku, Azerbaijan.

In my sophomore year, I volunteered in the ecological movement "Move Green," which

gave me a chance to serve my community. This volunteering experience led to another exciting opportunity—I was chosen to take part in the Berlin Summer School, organized by the Service Civil International organization (SCI). This school was divided into two parts: theoretical and practical. During the first portion of the program participants learned about current ecological problems and the role of social responsibility in solving them. During part two we implemented an urban project.

Another important event I took part in was the 3rd technological forum in Central Asia, "Women and Tech" in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Through this forum I learned how to make my own online blog and make a short video.

When I was in my junior year, I participated in the International Student Conference in Ilmenau, Germany. During the conference we discussed current problems of women around the world. In addition, I had a chance to practice my German and share my culture and traditions with the participants from different countries.

I am grateful to U.S.-CAEF for the privilege to study at one of the best universities in Central Asia. Thank you for everything, U.S.-CAEF!

"The program gave me not only a chance to study, but also achieve successes and make many new friends on and off-campus through my involvement in different student activities."

ADEL SULTANBEKOVA

HOMETOWN

BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2013,
SPRING 2014, FALL 2015



"These successes wouldn't have been possible without U.S.-CAEF, the life changing miracle that I will be always grateful for."

ADEL HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2016

Looking back, I can say that miracles do happen to those who believe in them. One such miracle was an exchange year at Russellville High School in Russellville, Arkansas through the FLEX program, which turned into a life changing experience that taught me to be more self-contained and responsible. Later, another dream came true – I became a U.S.-CAEF Fellow at AUCA. AUCA gave me an opportunity to express myself through the university clubs, Enactus and the Business Clinic, and owing to my professors, I have increased my knowledge base for my future career.

Another turning point was an exchange program at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, where I was involved in the International Student Union Board as a treasurer. During the same year, I attended the social entrepreneurship conference held by Bard Civic Engagement Center in Istanbul, Turkey and another conference at Smolny College in St. Petersburg, Russia, as the winner of an essay contest. In my sophomore year, I won a FLEX alumni grant and organized a charity concert with the help of volunteers and local cardiologists. The proceeds from the event were used to purchase a defibrillator and a cardiac device for the National Cardio Center in Bishkek.

During my junior year, I was accepted to the ProKg Leadership Program to participate in the

Social Entrepreneurship School. After its completion, I joined the Young Social Entrepreneurs Club founded by the Association of Social Entrepreneurs of Kyrgyzstan. Also as a junior, with support from AUCA Student Intellectual Life Committee, I took part in the Word Business Dialogue, the largest international student-run business convention held annually in Cologne, Germany.

In summer 2014, I interned at the United Nations Development Programme through U.S.-CAEF. During the internship, I participated in important business trainings and discussions with state and UN experts. In 2015, as part of the FLEX Exchanges to Internships program, I interned in the Public Investments Department at the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic. Using the U.S. Embassy grant, I implemented a project aimed at increasing public awareness of the ministry's activities.

Working on different projects was a great way for me to bridge the gap between classroom studies and the real world of management and to develop my leadership and organizational skills. These experiences taught me to look at things from different perspectives. These successes wouldn't have been possible without U.S.-CAEF, the life changing miracle that I will be always grateful for.

TYNYSTAN TALANTOV

HOMETOWN

TALAS, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2013, SPRING 2014

PRESIDENT'S LIST: FALL 2015



I grew up in Talas, a small town in northwestern Kyrgyzstan. After graduating from middle school, I was accepted to Sebat Kyrgyz-Turkish high school. In 2011, I became one of the lucky finalists of the FLEX program and spent my senior year at Vernonia High School in Oregon. It was a great, eye-opening experience for me. While in the US, many FLEX alumni suggested that I apply for the U.S. – CAEF program, which I did and fortunately was chosen to be one of the fellows of this program. I think U.S. – CAEF is the best thing that happened to me, because since becoming a U.S. – CAEF fellow, I received a good business education and invaluable experience, and I developed important skills.

In 2014, the U.S. – CAEF program provided us with an opportunity to intern over the summer. I was one of the students who took part in the Regional Internship Program. This internship was my first step into the professional world. I interned as assistant to the project manager at Promotank, a consulting and marketing company in Bishkek, where I was involved in conducting economic and marketing research.

In spring 2015, I interned at Oiko Credit, one of the branches of the Dutch Investment Fund, where I learned to do credit analysis, identified currency risks, and wrote macro analyses of the Central Asian countries. This internship really helped me to strengthen my knowledge and skills in finance. Finally, I had an internship in Deloitte and Touche in summer 2015. I worked as an auditor assistant and helped in conducting the audit of government agencies in the Kyrgyz Republic. The experience was really helpful for me as I gained a lot of professional and technical knowledge. I hope in the future the knowledge and experience I have gained through AUCA, U.S.-CAEF activities and my internship experiences will help me achieve my dream of becoming an independent auditor.

I am really happy and honored to be a U.S. - CAEF fellow. It has given me so many great moments. I want to thank everyone who belongs to the U.S. – CAEF community. It was a dream that came true.

"I think U.S. – CAEF is the best thing that happened to me, because since becoming a U.S. –CAEF fellow I received a good business education and invaluable experience, and I developed important skills."

TYNYSTAN HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2016

MAKHABAT TASHBALTAEVA

HOMETOWN

KANT, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS

Dean's List: Fall 2013, Fall 2015



"From the very first day at the university, I felt very lucky to be a U.S.-CAEF fellow and a student of one of the best universities in Central Asia."

MAKHABAT HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2016

I believe that success primarily depends on diligence and hard work. Although my parents surrounded me with great care and love, they also encouraged me to work hard and taught me to be independent. It was my own decision to apply for a full scholarship at Kyrgyz-Turkish High School, known for its rigorous program. The competitive environment at this school taught me to achieve high results in everything I do.

In 2012, I was awarded a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study in the business administration department at AUCA. From the very first day at the university, I felt very lucky to be a U.S.-CAEF fellow and a student of one of the best universities in Central Asia. I was given every opportunity, there was only one thing expected from me – to be a diligent student. Due to my diligence, I was able to earn good grades and was named to the Dean's List in 2013, 2014 and 2015. In Fall 2014, I spent a semester at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences where I met students from different countries and took courses from excellent professors.

I think it is important to apply academic studies to real world situations. Therefore, throughout these years I interned in several companies, serving as a front desk clerk at Holiday Hotel, a front office manager at Maryotel, an opera-

tional manager at E-Coffee shop, and a finance intern at Senti. My internship at Senti was especially important for me, as there I expanded my knowledge of the securities market in Kyrgyzstan. Recently, I was selected to intern at one of the four big audit companies, KPMG.

In addition, I joined leadership and debate workshops, participated in intellectual and business contests, and won several awards, including third place in a national business competition organized by the University of Management and Design, Bishkek in 2012. I also took part in the interuniversity team competition devoted to World War II in 2013. My team came 3rd and I received a Mendeleev scholarship sponsored by the Institute of Eurasian Studies. I was also a member of the Chess club, took part in community business projects of Enactus AUCA, and wrote articles for the U.S.-CAEF newsletter.

I am grateful for all these experiences, which wouldn't have been possible without strong support from U.S.-CAEF. I would like to thank everyone at U.S.-CAEF for the fantastic job they have done.



AUCA FELLOWS WORKING ON A TEAM PROJECT



AUCA SENIORS



Aysel RAIYMBEKOVA



AUCA NEW CAMPUS



MEDINA ABYLKASYMOVA

KIMEP



University



AISULUU ABDYRAKMANOVA

HOMETOWN

OSH, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

FINANCE

MINOR

MARKETING

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST- FALL 2012, 2015,
SPRING 2013-2015; DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2013



"Now, approaching graduation, I can surely say that I am capable of making positive changes using all the knowledge that I have acquired during these four years."

U.S.-CAEF became one of the biggest milestones in my life. From the moment I entered KIMEP University with the help of this fellowship my entire life changed greatly bringing me really close to what I have been dreaming about since I was a kid.

I used to imagine myself as a person who could support and help others. Now, approaching graduation, I can surely say that I am capable of making positive changes using all the knowledge that I have acquired during these four years. I am grateful to the Foundation for the opportunity to intern as assistant to credit risk manager of Eurasian Bank during my sophomore year through the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program, which became a starting point of my career. The experience helped me secure an important internship in the finance department of Kazakhstan Stock Exchange and in the marketing departments of Kimberly Clark Corporation and Colibri Kazakhstan. Using my knowledge and skills, I led two successful business projects helping economically disadvantaged people through KIMEP's student organization, Enactus.

These successes led me to another opportunity – I was selected to participate in an exchange program at the University of Seoul, South Korea in Fall 2014. Through this experience I learned

more about real-life international business practices, which helped me shape my future career goals, grow personally, and become a stronger leader.

Throughout these years I have also been actively participating in various conferences focusing on leadership and entrepreneurial skills. One of the most significant ones was the summer school organized by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in collaboration with EF Education First (EF) in Tarrytown, New York in 2013. After interacting with young leaders from different countries who attended the conference, I realized that I too can contribute to the development of Central Asia. The conference inspired me to create my own project "Birdik" (translated as "we are one") promoting better understanding between different ethnic groups in my native Kyrgyzstan.

Due to all these opportunities provided by U.S.-CAEF, I feel confident that I can become an asset for my country. I hope that the number of lucky students will increase. I believe in the transforming power of education and the role U.S.-CAEF can play in the development of Central Asia. I am grateful to the U.S.-CAEF Board for understanding this and giving great opportunities to Central Asian students and their countries.



AYNA ANNAORAZOVA

KIMEP

HOMETOWN
ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN

MAJOR
ACCOUNTING

MINOR
FINANCE

I received my secondary education at A. Niyazov High School for gifted children in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. In 2009, I became a finalist of the FLEX program, and spent an amazing year studying at Baxter High School and living in a host family in Baxter, Iowa. I am grateful to my American host family for helping me adjust to the new environment, grow as a person, and enjoy my year in the U.S.

In 2012, I received a U.S.-CAEF scholarship and was accepted to KIMEP. I started my academic journey with finance as a major; however, I later decided to switch to accounting. Studying at KIMEP was the most valuable step towards my goals. KIMEP changed my perspective and views on life, and helped me become who I am right now. I am grateful for the opportunity to meet interesting, inquisitive people and acquire indispensable knowledge.

I have been passionate about volunteering since my participation in the FLEX program. Throughout these years, I volunteered at the city library helping elderly people and served as assistant at the Paralympic Committee of Turkmenistan, where I worked with disabled athletes. I was also fortunate to help orphans through KIMEP's Open Hearts student charitable club. In 2013, I started my work with this organization as Vice President

and an English teacher, and eventually I became President of Open Hearts in 2014. I am proud that together with my team, we extended the club's services, adding pre-school and university preparatory components.

As for my professional experience, I started to work at the age of 15. I began to work at ES Diyarcom, a telecommunications company in Ashgabat, while in high school and continued working in the same company during my school breaks throughout college, holding various positions as office manager, contract manager, and, finally, as assistant to the senior accountant. While at KIMEP, I gained valuable administrative experience working as assistant in the Office of the President of KIMEP University.

Now, here I am, graduating in several months from KIMEP, with a fusion of feelings such as happiness for new beginnings and sadness for almost finishing my student life journey. However, I believe that the knowledge and experience I received will help me achieve my goals. I appreciate and feel very grateful to U.S.-CAEF for all the opportunities it has given me, and for the chance to gain vital experiences and skills that I can use in the future.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to meet interesting, inquisitive people and acquire indispensable and extensive knowledge in my major, accounting and my minor, finance."

AIIDA BAGYTZHANOVA

HOMETOWN

ATYRAU, KAZAKHSTAN

MAJOR

MARKETING

MINOR

LAW

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST- SPRING 2013

DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2013; SPRING 2015



"I know that my future path will be built on the knowledge and experience I have gained throughout my years at KIMEP University. I will always be grateful to U.S.-CAEF for choosing me and helping me build my future."

AIIDA HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2016

I am from Atyrau, Western Kazakhstan. My hometown is more than one thousand mile away from Almaty. Coming here to study for my bachelor's degree always seemed like something impossible. I heard about U.S.-CAEF back in 2010, when I was working at the American Corner in Atyrau. I still remember how I applied and how our coordinator called me on Friday, at 8 AM telling me that I won this scholarship. I am very grateful to the U.S.-CAEF program for giving me a great opportunity to study at KIMEP University.

These years were the brightest years in my life. When I was a freshman, I joined the DIGIDOC Production, KIMEP's movie organization, and by the spring semester, I became an event manager and organized a movie premiere at one of the major movie theaters in Almaty, Bekmambetov Cinema. We had so much fun shooting the movie and organizing those events.

In my sophomore year, I wanted to go beyond KIMEP and decided to apply to AIESEC, an international organization that provides students with leadership training and internship opportunities. Through this program, I interned in Wroclaw, Poland, teaching Polish kids Kazakhstani culture during my summer break in 2014. After coming back from Poland, I started working in the Office of the President of KIMEP University.

In my junior year, I had an opportunity to intern at the Coca-Cola Company. My internship supervisor was a great mentor who coached me and helped me gain valuable work skills. I had a chance to learn my major in depth through this real life experience and advance my professional skills in marketing.

I became a finalist of the Global Undergraduate Exchange program (UGRAD) sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and currently I am spending my last semester at California State University, Bakersfield.

KIMEP gave me a life changing experience. Its walls became my home for the past 4 years. I met my friends with whom I shared all great moments and spent some sleepless nights in the library preparing for our finals.

I know that my future path will be built on the knowledge and experience I have gained throughout my years at KIMEP University. I will graduate soon, but I will always be grateful to U.S.-CAEF for choosing me and helping me build my future.

SHAKHNOZAI DAVLATZODA

HOMETOWN

KURGAN-TYUBE, TAJIKISTAN

MAJOR MARKETING

MINOR MANAGEMENT

AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST- SPRING 2013



I am so grateful to U.S. -CAEF for giving me a chance to study at KIMEP University. Four years of studying at KIMEP gave me high quality academic knowledge and valuable experiences.

I grew up in a small town, Kurgan-Tyube in Tajikistan. In 2010, when I finished high school, I became a participant in the Benjamin Franklin Summer Institute Exchange Program in Fairfax, Virginia. I took part in workshops on community service and social entrepreneurship and met with local community leaders. The program changed my worldview and helped me decide on my future career focus.

In 2012, I was honored to become a U.S. - CAEF scholar to study at KIMEP University. As a freshman student, I started to volunteer at different events such as Tech Forum Central Asia and the KIMEP International Research Conference. In 2015, I became the winner of an essay contest for undergraduate students sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFP).

Following my dreams, I became an intern in the First MicroFinance Bank in my hometown in summer 2015. During the three months of

my internship in this bank, I gained many useful skills such as helping clients, monitoring customers' data base, and working on financial reports. During the same time, I was also selected to participate in the first "Innovate for Change 2015" conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan which gave me an opportunity to learn about entrepreneurship and social responsibility in the business sphere. I also participated in a one-week project, "Environment is Your Life," as a volunteer researcher. This experience allowed me to learn many interesting facts about climate change and its impact on our lives.

Currently I am volunteering at Youth Peer in Kazakhstan, an organization which is part of the UNFP. Working as a volunteer in this group gives me a lot of opportunities to build my professional network, expand my outlook and have a chance to contribute to society.

Everyone has dreams. My big dream is to become a manager of one of the United Nation's projects. I feel that the experiences I have gained during these past four years have prepared me well to face all the challenges of the professional world.

"U.S. - CAEF gave me a chance to study at one of the best universities in Central Asia, KIMEP University. KIMEP opened the doors to knowledge, gave me a high quality education and expanded my experiences to follow my dreams."

YULIYA DAVYDENKO

HOMETOWN

BALKANABAD, TURKMENISTAN

MAJOR

FINANCE

MINOR

MARKETING

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST-SPRING 2013; SPRING
2014; DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2013, SPRING 2015



"I am very thankful to U.S.-CAEF for helping me discover the outer world and the world within myself."

Since my childhood, I have been an excellent student. My background is diverse. Before entering KIMEP University, I already had a qualification of an accountant-economist and had some work experience in two companies. My first work experience as an accountant assistant at Sole Proprietorship taught me to be a responsible and organized person. My second job at Karamay Oster Petrochemical Equipment Co., Ltd helped me understand business ethics and strengthened my ability to work both independently and in a team.

In 2012, I was admitted to KIMEP University and became a winner of the U.S.-CAEF scholarship. In addition to my studies, I worked at KIMEP, assisting in the public administration department. In my sophomore year, through participation in the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program, I had a chance to gain practical experience in finance and marketing while interning at SK Leasing Company in Almaty, Kazakhstan in summer 2014. The internship helped me understand leasing and credit processes and decide on my major.

In fall 2014, I was selected to participate in an exchange program at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia as an Erasmus Mundus scholar. This experience broadened my knowledge about

global business markets and increased my sense of cultural awareness. During the five months of my exchange experience, I visited Russia, Italy, Croatia, Austria, Hungary, Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg and France.

Upon my return from Slovenia, I was employed with the Career and Employment Services of KIMEP University, which allowed me to gain valuable experience in human resource management.

During my university life, I took part in several student activities. I was a member of AIESEC, an international organization that provides students with leadership training and internship opportunities, as well as a member of "School of Inspiration," a guitar club. During my spare time I like to read books, to play the piano and to go hiking.

I am very grateful to U.S.-CAEF program for giving me a chance to receive a quality education as well as brilliant work and life experiences. I am also thankful to U.S.-CAEF for helping me discover the outer world and the world within myself.

YULIYA HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2016

CHYNARA ERKULOVA

HOMETOWN
BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR
ACCOUNTING

MINOR
TAXATION

AWARDS
PRESIDENT'S LIST - FALL 2012,
2013, 2014, 2015, SPRING 2013, 2015



Most people I know probably think that I have always been a straight "A" student, but in fact, it is not true. During my first term in elementary school, I had many "C"s, and it was thanks to my persistent and supportive mom that I was able to get straight "A"s in the next and all the remaining terms. I think that moment was crucial because I believe that if a child starts his/her school feeling insecure and inferior, it's much harder for him/her to succeed in later stages. That's why I would like to thank my parents for always boosting my confidence and optimism, without which I wouldn't have been able to get where I am today.

Looking back, I now realize how one accomplishment inspired me to achieve more. Becoming a FLEX finalist in 2010 and attending Freeport High School, Freeport, Illinois was a stepping stone for me. This achievement taught me that only the sky is the limit, and that I can achieve whatever I set for myself. Becoming a U.S.-CAEF scholarship recipient to study at KIMEP was another stepping stone for me. It was here that I was able to learn a lot about myself through various experiences such as being president of the U.S.-CAEF Association in my

first year in 2012, and becoming a Global Village intern in 2013, as well as an intern in the tax department of Ernst and Young Kazakhstan LLP and in the accounting department of JSC Syrymbet mining company in 2015.

I was also very fortunate to take part in an exchange semester in Singapore and to intern at Teach for Malaysia, a non-profit organization, in 2014, which became possible because of support from U.S.-CAEF, good people around me, and my successful fundraising efforts.

In my last year, I decided to keep myself as involved in the university life as I used to be in my first year. So now I serve as chair of the Central Asian Youth Network, where I coordinate five country chapters, as well as president of KIMEP Case Club, where I help motivate students, prepare them for case interviews for management consulting jobs, and organize case competitions, workshops and company visits.

All these experiences taught me that all you need to do is just to start, because then there is no way to turn back, you have no choice but to learn 'to swim.'

"All these experiences taught me that all you need to do is just to start, because then there is no way to turn back, you have no choice but to learn 'to swim'...."

CHYNARA HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2016

FIRUZA HASANOVA

HOMETOWN

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN

MAJOR

MARKETING

MINOR

MANAGEMENT

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST – FALL 2014

DEAN'S LIST – SPRING 2013, FALL 2013



"I am honored to become a U.S.-CAEF alumna. I am very thankful to U.S.-CAEF and value all the opportunities it provided to me. I am sure this is only the beginning of the great future ahead of me."

Today's information era demands both good education and international experience to achieve success. Therefore, I decided to study abroad to receive quality education, to gain useful experience, and to become independent.

In 2012, I was awarded a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study at KIMEP University in Almaty, a leading university in Kazakhstan. I chose marketing as a major and management as a minor, because these are the two fields that I liked most after having completed several courses at KIMEP.

U.S.-CAEF gave me an opportunity to fulfill my dream – to earn a good business education. Four years have passed so fast. I wish I could slow down and repeat all the amazing moments. During these four years, I took part in student clubs and organizations such as Let's Go Travel and the Kazakhstan English Language Theater. In addition, during my sophomore year, I was elected as Vice President of the U.S.-CAEF Student Association. In this role, I organized several teambuilding and professional development events for our fellows. Furthermore, I had an

amazing chance to work as a teaching and research assistant at the Bang College of Business. All these experiences taught me to make quick decisions, to manage my time properly, and to solve difficult tasks by myself.

I spent my spring 2015 semester as an exchange student at the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkey. I enjoyed my experience and decided to extend my study at METU for another semester. To help with my living expenses, I applied for a Mevlana scholarship and was lucky to receive it. My exchange year gave me an opportunity to experience a different educational system and business program, to leave my comfort zone and to experience a new cultural environment, and to make friends from countries I was barely familiar with.

I am honored to become a U.S.-CAEF alumna. I am very thankful to U.S.-CAEF and value all the opportunities the program provided to me. I am sure that this is only the beginning of the great future ahead of me.

GOZEL ILMURADOVA

HOMETOWN
TURKMENABAT, TURKMENISTAN

MAJOR
ACCOUNTING

MINOR
FINANCE

Prior to becoming a U.S.-CAEF scholar, I had had some international exposure and work experience. I spent my academic year 2008-09 at Kelso High School, Kelso, Washington through the FLEX program. After graduating from school, I worked as a translator and Assistant to Chief Manager of "Petro Time" at CNPCI-Chinese Petroleum Company International in Turkmenistan.

Although I had already been employed, my primary goal was to pursue higher education, because I wanted to expand my professional knowledge. To achieve this goal seemed to be nearly impossible for me four years ago, but now I am just one step away from my dream thanks to U.S.-CAEF.

At KIMEP University, I spent four amazing years of my life. I kept my student life very busy and interesting. As Vice President for Internal Affairs of the U.S.-CAEF Student Association, I organized different cultural and entertainment events. In addition, I participated in different professional workshops, attended guest lectures, volunteered in the Diplomatic Briefing Club, and served in two charitable organizations, Open Hearts and the International Deputy Committee, to help orphans. It was an honor for me to

be a research assistant to Dr. Michael Conrad for three academic years, which helped me learn about the business world. As part of my duties, I visited different companies with the professor such as Air Astana, Nestle Food, DANONE, Toyota, Procter and Gamble and Carlsberg and helped him with his research work on corporate management ethics.

In 2013, I was employed as an assistant to the president of KIMEP University. This experience had a huge impact on my professional development and improved my management and leadership skills. In 2014, I worked in the finance department of Samsung Electronics Company in Almaty, Kazakhstan. This experience led me to another professional opportunity – an internship at the Turkmen-Afghan Transport company in Turkmenistan, which allowed me to gain insight into the business and corporate system in my native country. It motivated me to learn and to study even more.

I do not stop setting and achieving goals. I am graduating from my university and stepping into a new life where I will have new goals. However, U.S.-CAEF and KIMEP University will always be in my heart.

"I do not stop setting and achieving goals. I am graduating from my university and stepping into a new life where I will have new goals. However, U.S.-CAEF and KIMEP University will always be in my heart."

AZIZA ISAEVA

HOMETOWN

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN

MAJOR

FINANCE

MINOR

MARKETING



"I feel that these 4 years of university life have prepared me for my future career. I am sure that now I am ready for a new life and a bright future!"

Knowledge is power! This belief encouraged me to use every opportunity for my growth. One of them was a U.S.-CAEF scholarship that allowed me to study at KIMEP. I am thankful to U.S.-CAEF for helping me grow both professionally and personally.

During these four years, I tried to gain as much experience as possible in various spheres. Internships in the financial department of Tojik-Sodirobonk and in the marketing department of the German company Kärcher, known worldwide for its cleaning equipment, were particularly important for me as I am majoring in finance and minoring in marketing. In addition, I had another amazing internship with the Institute of Development and Economic Affairs (IDEA) where I was involved in a research project exploring factors affecting business in Kazakhstan and helped organize Business Week in Almaty. These internships enriched my classroom experiences and taught me to work in a team and independently. My two-year work experience as an assistant to Professor Gautam Bhattacharya in KIMEP's economics department taught me valuable office and time management skills.

In July 2015 I was selected to represent Tajikistan in the Central Asian Youth Network (CAYN) organized by OSCE. During the conference I attended seminars with CEOs and managers of

different companies. Participation in the conference helped me become more confident and encouraged me to take part in other programs like the Model United Nations and HJU- Hiroshima Jogakuin University's Online Summer School. Recently, I was accepted to the professional development program sponsored by EUROBAK University of Practical Knowledge. Through this program, I attend HR and marketing seminars, meet with CEOs of big international firms, and learn from their experiences.

In addition to my professional development, I was also engaged in community service and social projects. Since my first year at KIMEP, I have been an active member of the International Deputy Committee (IDC) and recently became its vice president. The club organizes leadership events such as "Change the World. Be a Leader," and charitable activities helping orphanages. I was also involved in the U.S.-CAEF newsletter where I contributed articles about our fellows.

I am very grateful to U.S.-CAEF and KIMEP for giving me so many chances to broaden my horizon, to receive a reliable education, to pave the path towards my future career, and to make new friends. I am honored to study with the brightest minds of Central Asia.



UMEDJON KURBONALI

HOMETOWN

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN

MAJOR

FINANCE

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST- SPRING 2013

I believe that education is a driving force behind every positive change in the society. Ever since my childhood, academic excellence has been a top priority for my siblings and me.

As a result, I graduated from high school with honors. During my senior year, I was selected as a finalist for the FLEX program and after graduating from my Tajik high school, I spent a year studying at Mercer County Senior High School in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. After finishing the program I came back to Tajikistan as a more responsible and mature person with a wider view of the world.

After returning from the USA I was fortunate to be awarded a U.S.-CAEF scholarship and to become a KIMEP University student. Since I had already been interested in business, I chose finance as a major and accounting as a minor. I believe having sufficient knowledge in these two spheres is necessary for running a successful business.

U.S.-CAEF presented me with a unique opportunity to gain world-class knowledge at the best university in Central Asia. I spent four unforgettable years of my life here. Everything, starting from classes and ending with student

life and extracurricular activities contributed to my growth and development as an individual and a young business professional.

I became Vice President of Finance and External Affairs of the U.S.-CAEF Student Association in my sophomore year. In my junior year, I interned as a trade Intern at the U.S. Consulate in Almaty where I worked on projects promoting business relations between the U.S. and Kazakh companies. I assisted senior specialists with various tasks, such as researching, contacting potential partners, and organizing events. This internship taught me many skills that will definitely be useful for me after graduation. In my senior year, I became President of the U.S.-CAEF Student Association. In this role, I organize various team-building, cultural and professional development events for our fellows. In addition, currently I work as a teaching assistant at KIMEP Law School.

All these experiences helped me develop as a person and as a future businessman. I express my sincere gratitude to the U.S.-CAEF program for this life-changing opportunity. Thanks to U.S.-CAEF, now I have all the tools to become a useful part of society and to bring about positive changes.

"Thanks to U.S.-CAEF, now I have all the tools to become a useful part of society and to bring about positive changes."

BATIMA MYRZABEKOVA

HOMETOWN

KYZYLORDA, KAZAKHSTAN

MAJORS

ACCOUNTING & MARKETING

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST- SPRING 2013



"I know that the future of my country depends a lot on the younger generation and I believe that I can make my contribution to the economy of Kazakhstan, which undoubtedly will grow and flourish."

"Dreams come true" is the motto of my life. Knowledge and experience became important tools to make my dreams come true. Therefore, I always strive to get the best education and to experience new things. In 2011 I was selected as a finalist of the FLEX program and spent a life-changing year at Wetumpka High School, Alabama. This experience opened my eyes to a whole new world.

The next important step in my life was entering a university. KIMEP University seemed to be unreachable to me. However, in 2012, I was given a unique chance to study in the best business school of Central Asia. I am thankful to the U.S.-CAEF for making my biggest dream come true.

During my freshman orientation at KIMEP, a senior student shared his exchange experience at Seoul National University with us. His speech inspired me to explore new academic opportunities and to expand my cultural horizon through study abroad programs. I spent my spring 2014 semester at Seoul National University ranked as the top higher education institution in South Korea. This experience motivated me to take part in a second study abroad program at Pusan National University, South Korea, where I spent my fall 2015 semes-

ter. During my time in South Korea I participated in the Korea-Central Asia Youth Summit hosted by the Asia Exchange Foundation. The forum was held in Goseong and was dedicated to fostering cultural and economic cooperation between South Korea and Central Asia. I represented Kazakhstan and won the main prize in the economy section.

Throughout these four years I've been active on and off campus. I was part of many student organizations. The most memorable ones are The KIMEP Times (our university newspaper), the European Law Student Association, and the International Students Association. I also participated in various professional development conferences and forums, including Financing Future 2050, an important workshop organized by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. Last summer I interned at the Ministry of National Economy of Kazakhstan where I learned about the work of public officials. It was a valuable experience for my future career.

I know that the future of my country depends a lot on the younger generation and I believe that I can make my contribution to the economy of Kazakhstan, which undoubtedly will grow and flourish.



SAMAT NURTOLEUOV

HOMETOWN

SEMEY, KAZAKHSTAN

MAJOR

FINANCE

MINOR

LEADERSHIP

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST - FALL 2013

During my senior year at Kazakh-Turkish high school in Semey, east Kazakhstan, I became interested in studying finance at KIMEP University. Therefore, I applied for the U.S.-CAEF Student Enterprise Fellowship Program. The day when I was accepted to the U.S.-CAEF program was the happiest moment in my life.

From the first days at KIMEP, I realized that this university could provide me with a high quality education and necessary professional skills. I was surprised to find out that in addition to our major courses, I could also choose other classes, such as marketing or leadership. So I decided to join the Leadership Development Program. During the sessions we met with guest lecturers from different international and local organizations who shared their experiences with us. One of the interesting things I learned was that each guest speaker had his own ideas about what it means to be a good leader and about leadership in general, and that it is important to understand that leaders can be different depending on the situation.

To expand my knowledge I also took part in an exchange program provided by KIMEP University. I studied at Konkuk University, Seoul, in the spring 2015 semester. It was a unique ex-

perience. During this study abroad program I learned about Korean culture and lifestyle and met many foreign students who shared with me their experiences and valuable ideas.

Besides the academic activities I was involved in student life at the university, organizing and volunteering at many events on campus. I presided over the KIMEP Student Association Tender Committee for a year. One of the most memorable volunteer projects I participated in was a clean-up of the shores of the Kapchagay reservoir.

During my last semester at KIMEP University I am going to intern with a local bank. This experience will help me use all the theoretical knowledge I have gained during these years and acquire professional skills that I can use in my future workplace.

I am very grateful to U.S.-CAEF for providing me with such a great opportunity to study at KIMEP, the best university in Central Asia.

"From the first days at KIMEP, I realized that this university could provide me with a high quality education and necessary professional skills."

MALIKA ORAZYMBETOVA

HOMETOWN

ZHETISAY, KAZAKHSTAN

MAJOR

ACCOUNTING

MINOR

FINANCE

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST- FALL 2013,
2014 & 2015; SPRING 2014 & 2015



"I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of this program. You will never be forgotten: even if we soar, we will remember our nest."

Education has become more important than ever in this increasingly competitive world. Therefore, receiving a high quality education from KIMEP University was extremely important for me. I tried to do my best in all my courses, and now I am graduating from KIMEP a year early with honors.

During these years, in addition to the academic program, I sought out other opportunities for my professional growth. I worked as a teaching assistant to the accounting and finance professors at KIMEP. These experiences helped me enhance and broaden my knowledge in these two important spheres, which I chose for my majors. In addition, I participated in many case competitions organized by such companies as Procter & Gamble, Mars, Ernst & Young and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). In the competition organized by PwC in April, 2015 my team placed first. As part of the prize, we were offered an internship with the company. Prior to the internship, the company staff conducted a special career training, which helped me gain insight into the operations of the company and boosted my desire to work there. My internship with PwC turned out to be a great experience. I developed important teamwork and analyti-

cal thinking skills and also learned to solve real life cases. It also taught me to work under time pressure. Most importantly, the internship confirmed my career choice.

Besides academics and professional development, I tried to be active in university life as well. I took on a leadership role as the finance manager of several charitable projects with orphanages. Finding sponsors for these projects was a very challenging but rewarding experience. Since the fall 2014 semester I have also been an active member of the student organization Amanat – I organized such big events as Nauryz, Culture Day and Poetry Night at KIMEP. As a volunteer for the Shugyla fund, I am involved in activities that provide financial help to disadvantaged people. Furthermore, I took part in several leadership conferences, including Leadership Development Day and Young KIMEP Students in the Stream of the History.

All these achievements were possible thanks to the U.S.-CAEF scholarship. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of this program. You will never to be forgotten: even if we soar, we will remember our nest.



UALIKHAN SAMETEJEV

KIMEP

HOMETOWN
SEMEY, KAZAKHSTAN

MAJOR
FINANCE

MINOR
LEADERSHIP

I am originally from Semey, East Kazakhstan, where I graduated from the Kazakh-Turkish High School. During my senior year, I found out about the U.S.-CAEF Enterprise Student Fellowship Program and decided to apply for it. I was very happy when I was accepted to U.S.-CAEF in 2012.

Now I am majoring in finance at the best university of Central Asia – KIMEP University. First of all, I would like to thank the Foundation directors for this great opportunity to receive financial education. During these years, I was able to reach not only good academic results but I stayed active in student life. Through participation in university events, I made many friends and learned to work in a team. I learned important leadership skills during the time when I was involved in the budget committee of the KIMEP Student Association. These experiences encouraged me to choose leadership as my minor; therefore, I enrolled in KIMEP's Leadership Development Program which provides me with opportunities to research and to learn more about leadership frameworks and best practices.

Although I was highly content with the education at KIMEP University, I decided to expand my knowledge of the world and learn how business is taught abroad. Therefore, I decided to take part in an international exchange program at Konkuk University, Seoul, South Korea in Spring, 2015. It was a great opportunity to learn about a completely different academic environment and to develop such skills as cultural awareness and sensitivity. More importantly, the experience encouraged me to study hard, to learn new things, and to expand my knowledge further. It influenced my decision to pursue my second degree—I enrolled in the distance learning program of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN) to study law.

I am certain that all these experiences will be useful for my future career. I also know that I wouldn't have been where I am now without the support of the U.S.-CAEF Board. I will always remember this and will do my best to promote the mission of U.S.-CAEF and to serve my country.

"I am certain that all these experiences will be useful for my future career. I also know that I wouldn't have been where I am now without the support of the U.S.-CAEF Board."

YERASSYL TOLEUGAZINOV

HOMETOWN

SEMEY, KAZAKHSTAN

MAJOR

FINANCE

MINOR

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2012



"U.S.-CAEF motivated me to use every opportunity to develop myself and to move towards my career aspirations."

Since middle school I wanted to study abroad and gain international experience. At that time it seemed like an impossible wish. However, I did not give up on my dream and in 2011 I was finally rewarded for my efforts – I received a scholarship from the U.S. Department of State to participate in the FLEX program. I spent an academic year at Timberline High School in Lacey, Washington, USA. This experience taught me to set priorities and to strive forward without hesitation. As a result, I received another scholarship, this time from U.S.-CAEF to study at one of the leading universities in Central Asia – KIMEP University. I am extremely grateful to the U.S.-CAEF program for giving me this great chance.

During my university years the program created excellent conditions for learning and supported all my initiatives. U.S.-CAEF motivated me to use every opportunity to develop myself and to move towards my career aspirations. My future goal is to work in the field of finance or investment and banking. I used every opportunity to enrich my knowledge and to explore international business practices. I received a scholar-

ship from the Korean government to study at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, South Korea in the spring 2014 semester and spent fall 2014 semester as an Erasmus Mundus scholar at Lund University, Lund, Sweden.

However, I realized that I needed more than studying and attending classes. Therefore, I joined university clubs and organizations that fit my interests such as the Entrepreneurs' Club, the Diplomatic Briefing Club, and KIMEP Pictures. In addition, I had an opportunity to intern in the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Consulate General; I also worked in the Admissions & Recruitment and Corporate Development offices at KIMEP University. My recent internship in the Operations Department of Citibank Kazakhstan allowed me to directly apply my theoretical knowledge and to gain valuable practical experience in the sphere of banking.

The U.S.-CAEF Fellowship gave me a chance to receive education in a prestigious university in Central Asia, and my duty is to use this opportunity efficiently and to make my contribution to the development of my country.



ILHAN YOLLYYEV

KIMEP

HOMETOWN

TURKMENABAT, TURKMENISTAN

MAJORS

FINANCE & MARKETING

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST- FALL 2012,
2015; SPRING 2014, 2015
DEAN'S LIST- SPRING 2013

I have been interested in business education since my childhood. During my exchange year in the United States as a FLEX participant in the 2010-11 academic year, this interest deepened further when I took the Business Essentials course at Hephzibah Comprehensive High School, Georgia and became a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, a student organization preparing youth for careers in business. The U.S. experience was very beneficial for me because it exposed me to the American education system and helped me confirm my career choice in business.

After completing high school I was determined to earn an undergraduate degree in business administration. Fortunately, I was awarded a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study at KIMEP University. I decided to pursue two majors at KIMEP, finance and marketing, because I believe that both are essential for my future career in business.

KIMEP University provides many opportunities for students to integrate classroom learning into experiences outside the classroom. I was able to improve my professional knowledge, as well as my communication and organiza-

tional skills through participation in different business case competitions organized by the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange Trading in 2013, Microsoft Kazakhstan and Changallenge in 2014, and the SSE Riga Finance Challenge in 2015. In addition, I gained important professional experience through my internship in the risk management department of Sberbank and my employment at KIMEP where I worked as a teaching assistant in the College of Social Sciences. These experiences taught me to manage my time better, to work under pressure, and to deal with stressful situations.

As President of the U.S.-CAEF Student Association in 2014-2015, I learned important leadership and management skills while organizing various professional training workshops, panel discussions, master classes, team building events, and other activities for our fellows.

All these experiences were possible thanks to U.S.-CAEF. Throughout these four years I have gained valuable knowledge and skills that will help me build my career and achieve my long-term goal to open my own business in Turkmenistan, which will allow me to create jobs and to help improve the quality of life in my community.

"My long-term goal is to open my own business in Turkmenistan, which will allow me to create jobs and to help improve the quality of life in my community."

NAZERKE ZARLYKHANOVA

HOMETOWN

ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

MAJOR

FINANCE

MINOR

ACCOUNTING

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST- FALL 2012, SPRING 2013,
FALL 2013, SPRING 2014, SPRING 2015



"I express my deepest gratitude to U.S.-CAEF for providing support in every aspect of my student life and for helping scholars from Central Asia to achieve their dreams."

My journey to success started when I became a FLEX finalist and spent my summer in 2011 in Visalia, California, USA. This experience was a turning point in my life when I understood that dreams come true if you strive to achieve them. As a recipient of the highest academic award «Altyn Belgy», I won a Presidential Scholarship to study at Nazarbayev University and was offered a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study at KIMEP. I should admit that it was a tough decision to make but now I realize that I made the right choice.

Each experience at the university contributed to my development as a person and a young professional. I am passionate about finance; therefore, I chose it as my major and sought out every opportunity to test my knowledge in practice. Internships at the Ipekyolu International Exhibition Company in Istanbul and CA-TExpo Company in Almaty helped me develop important professional qualities.

During these years I was also happy to discover my interest in international relations after joining the Model United Nations Society of Kazakhstan. My involvement in this movement allowed me to represent Kazakhstan in India, Hong Kong, China, and Kyrgyzstan, to win awards, and to develop my public speaking and communication skills.

My other passion is Chinese, which I have been studying since my freshman year. In 2014 Xinjiang University opened its gates for me to learn Chinese over the summer. In the following semester I studied and worked as a cultural ambassador at Hong Kong Baptist University. This experience encouraged me to participate in another exchange program as an Erasmus Mundus scholar at the University of Zagreb, Croatia.

After volunteering for two years in educational projects for orphans I became motivated to contribute more to my community and became vice president of the KIMEP Honor Society and a member of two political organizations, Zhas Otan and the Youth Parliament of Kazakhstan.

In recognition of my academic and non-academic accomplishments, I received Nazarbayev Presidential stipend and was included in the catalogue "Top 100 Students of Almaty" in 2015.

Four years, four universities, 15 countries, dozens of projects, hundreds of opportunities, and uncountable experiences: I express my deepest gratitude to U.S.-CAEF for providing support in every aspect of my student life and for helping scholars from Central Asia achieve their dreams.

NAZERKE HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2016



KIMEP SENIORS WITH SAULE KUSSAYEVA (CENTER), U.S.-CAEF REGIONAL COORDINATOR



AISULUU ABDYRAKMANOVA



AYNA ANNAORAZOVA (RIGHT) & ZARRINAKHON MULLOBOEVA WITH CHILDREN FROM ORPHANAGE



GOZEL ILMURADOVA



YERASSYL TOLEUGAZINOV



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: UMEDJON KURBONALI, AIIDA BAGYTZHANOVA & ILHAN YOLLYYEV

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 two-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 the 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. In 2015, the Foundation conducted preliminary discussions with our partner institutions to begin designing a new faculty training program tentatively scheduled for 2016.

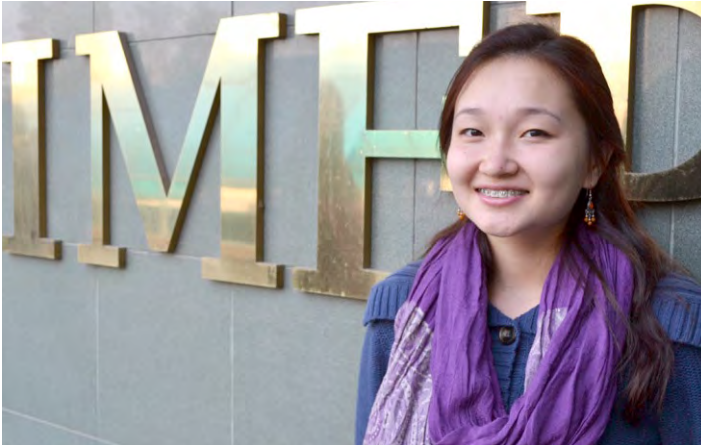
Enterprise Intern Fellowships

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.

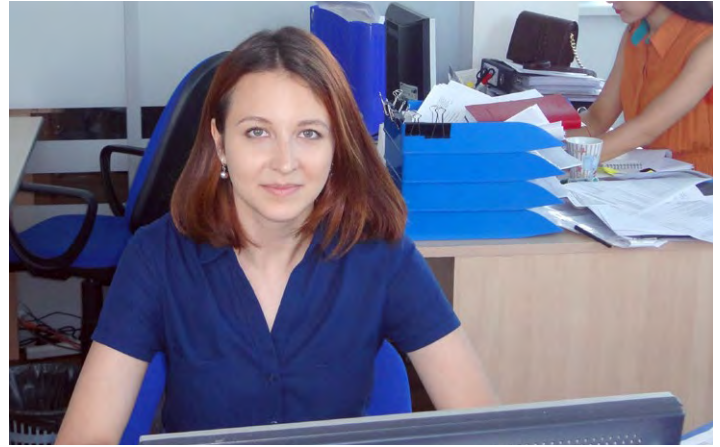


CAPSTONE 2015 INTERNS: AMINA IQBOLZODA, OGUJENNET TAGANOVA & JENNET GURBANMAMMEDOVA

THE FOUNDATION'S FACULTY & INTERN FELLOWSHIPS



AISULUU ABDYRAKMANOVA



YULIYA DAVYDENKO

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 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.

A total of seven Student Fellows from the graduating 2015 class took part in the summer 2014 U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program:

MEDINA ABYLKASYMOVA

AISULUU ABDYRAKMANOVA

ANISA ATALOVA

YULIYA DAVYDENKO

ASEL RAIYMBEKOVA

ADEL SULTANBEKOVA

TYNYSTAN TALANTOV



AUCA GRADUATING SENIORS

All of the interns rated the experience highly and commented on the valuable learning outcomes of the internship.

THE FOUNDATION'S FACULTY & INTERN FELLOWSHIPS

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
ARLAN FINANCE LLC
ASIA UNIVERSAL BANK
BAI TUSHUM & PARTNERS
MICROFINANCE BANK
BEELINE
BUSINESS CLINIC OF CENTRAL ASIA
CAI CONSULTING
CAPITAL BANK KAZAKHSTAN
CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL
ASSESSMENT &
TEACHING METHODS
CHANNEL 7
DEMIR KYRGYZ INTERNATIONAL BANK
DININGSMART
EURASIAN BANK
FINCA MICROFINANCE BANK LIMITED
FLAMINGO PARK
GARANT, LLC
KAZINVEST
KAZNETEVENTS
KYRGYZ CONCEPT
KYRGYZ CREDIT INVESTMENT BANK
MANAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MEGACOM
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
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POLYGON INTERNATIONAL, LTD
PROJECT HOPE
PROMOTANK
RCG INVESTMENT FUND
SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL
SBERBANK OF RUSSIA
SK LEASING JSC
SHORO COMPANY
TALAS COPPER GOLD, LLC

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. Eight outstanding Student Fellows from the graduating class have been selected to take part in the International Capstone Internship Program in fall 2016: **Anisa Atalova, Adel Sultanbekova, Tynystan Talantov** and **Makhabat Tashbaltayeva** from AUCA and **Aiida Bagytzhanova, Yuliya Davydenko, Chynara Erkulova** and **Nazerke Zarlykhanova** 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.



MAKHABAT TASHBALTAEVA, CAPSTONE 2016 FINALIST

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 outstanding 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, **30** new graduates join the U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association, bringing the total number of program alumni to **170**.



AUCA ALUMNI OF DIFFERENT COHORTS

The Association hopes that the graduating class of 2016 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 Foundation is grateful for support from the US Government, its citizens and the Central Asian-American Enterprise Fund, which have made its operation possible.

The alumni leadership team represents both AUCA and KIMEP University:

YELENA VOROBEY

PRESIDENT
ECONOMICS POLICIES IN THE AGE
OF GLOBALIZATION PROGRAM,
UNIVERSITÉ PARIS 13
PARIS, FRANCE

VALENTINA KHOMENKO

TREASURER
BUSINESS AND MARKETING MANAGER,
GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS
BISHKEK, THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MALIKA PULOTOVA

JUNIOR PR/SALES MANAGER
ALMA EAST WEST GROUP
ATYRAU, KAZAKHSTAN

KARINA KUSSAINOVA

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS COACH
AMITY CONSULTING
BISHKEK, THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

JEMALAGAYEVA

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MASTER OF PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL
ADMINISTRATION KIMEP UNIVERSITY,
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

MADINA DAMIR KYZY

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR OUTREACH
AUDIT ASSISTANT | KPMG
BISHKEK, THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

DARINA YAKOVLEVA

VICE PRESIDENT FOR REGIONAL NETWORKS
FRONT OFFICE AGENT | RITZ-CARLTON
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

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