



U.S.-CAEF  
ALUMNI & FELLOWS  
PAY TRIBUTE  
TO MR. STEVE SHEA

“We were the first U.S.-CAEF fellows back in 2007 and still it feels like it was yesterday... We are truly blessed to be part of the amazing U.S.-CAEF family. I am so grateful for the given opportunity, for meeting great people and best friends. Thank you, Mr. Shea, for everything you've done for us, for changing our lives, for believing in us. You will live in our hearts forever.”

-Rakhat Asankozhoeva | Class of 2011  
Sales Analyst, Nestle, Bishkek



First cohort of U.S.-CAEF Student Fellows, Almaty, 2007

“Mr. Steven Shea was one of those rare people who expressed genuine interest and care in the lives of other people. I remember him asking questions about our personal and professional lives, giving valuable advice, sharing his life experience, laughing at our jokes... He will always remain in my heart as a perfect example of how the life should be lived.”

-Tangulu Diushakhmatova | Class of 2011  
Former President of U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association  
Audit Associate, KPMG, Bishkek



“Steven Shea has changed the lives of many students in Central Asia by giving them an opportunity to have a better future!...He will be so much missed in this world.”

-Aidana Abdrakhmanova | Class of 2012  
Financial Analyst, Procter & Gamble, Almaty



“It is by looking at Mr. Shea, I understood how the actions of a single person can make the world better; it is by knowing him you get inspired to implement ideas that can affect tens, hundreds, and thousands of people...The loss of this wonderful person does not cease the results of his hard work, and in fact finds continuation in the actions of others, who had huge love and respect towards him...”

-Arystan Moldabekov | Class of 2011  
Former Treasurer of U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association  
Head of General Accounting, Capital Bank, Almaty





“Dear Mr. Shea, I am addressing this letter to you because we are alive as long as we are remembered by others. Thank you very much for being with us at all times. It is with the great help of yours that today I am proud to say that I am an educated man. It's always been a wonderful occasion to meet you and discuss all sorts of things, especially business issues. In my memory, you will continue to be the person that means a lot personally to me and my family.”

-Andrey Leskin | Class of 2012  
Business Development Associate, FMN Logistics

“Mr. Shea was my second father, living far away but supporting me in my life. In 2008, after graduating high school, I applied for AUCA. I was raised by a single mother, and we had a small house in Bishkek. When I learned that I was accepted to AUCA, my mom was going to sell our house in order to pay for my education. The day I received the news that I was awarded a scholarship was the happiest moment ever in my life. I ran to my Mom and she couldn't believe it, she cried. I also couldn't believe that someone who lived so far away, who did not know me was so kind to believe in me. Mr. Shea has changed my life. Not only my life, but of all my family.”

-Nargiza Zhakypova | Class of 2012  
Finance Department, Cenko Logix, Bishkek



“I knew Steve as a very open, kind, wise and supportive person.  
We are all very grateful for everything he has done for us.  
Steve will remain in our hearts forever.”

-Azhar Akimbaeva | Class of 2013  
Marketing Specialist, Jannat Hotels and Resorts, Bishkek

“On June 1 2013, I was fortunate to receive a diploma from the American University of Central Asia and earn a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. It would never happen had I not received a U.S.-CAEF full scholarship to pursue my dream and study in one of the best universities in Central Asia. Steve Shea is one of the change-makers who made our dreams come true by giving us a chance to step forward and become future change-makers as well...His legacy will live on in each U.S.-CAEF fellow, in each success story and future positive things that will definitely happen in the next few years in our regions.”

-Izat Osmonov | Class of 2013  
Internal Auditor, FINCA, Bishkek





“Mr. Shea, thank you for your constant belief in our bright future  
and your contribution that changed my life tremendously!”

-Artur Semeyutin | Class of 2013  
Master's Program in International Business Management  
University of Huddersfield, UK

“We will always remember Steve as our spiritual mentor and a great man... Steve had a radiant soul and I am sure all of us had the feeling of extreme admiration to him. Let us all remember him as a man who had invested in us and our future, the man who changed our lives and opened many new doors for us, without expecting anything in return. He was a great man with an open heart, whom we will never forget.”

-Madina Damir kyzy | Class of 2014  
Vice-President of U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association  
Assistant Auditor, KPMG, Bishkek





“Once I heard that a person who changed 10 people's lives, consequently changes the life of the whole population. Steve Shea changed hundreds of lives by giving us an opportunity to earn the best higher education. I believe that these hundreds of young and energetic people will change the country and maybe even the whole world. And all of that is a possible thanks to Mr. Shea. He will never be forgotten.”

-Sapar Ibraev | Class of 2014  
Sales Manager, Nice.kg, Bishkek





“Mr. Steve Shea has changed our lives for better and helped us get quality education and reach our dreams. He was an incredible man. He would come to congratulate with our graduation and at other moments of our life just to know how we were doing and listen very carefully. When I remember him I see my father in him as he treated us like his children and believed in us. He was a role-model for all of us and had a great impact on lives of so many students. Therefore, he will live in our memories. We are grateful to him and love him like our father and send our support and love to his family.”

-Nazokat Omuralieva | Class of 2014  
Accounting Analyst, GE Global Operations, Budapest, Hungary

“I can definitely say that Mr. Shea has changed my life and brought a huge contribution to the person I am today, and I'm grateful to him in many ways. As a U.S.-CAEF program alumna, it will be a great duty and honor for me to carry the mission of U.S.-CAEF throughout my life. And I will always remember this significant man.”

-Malika Pulotova | Class of 2014  
Vice-President of U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association  
Junior Buyer, APEX Interactive, Almaty



“Several years ago, when I felt unable to continue my education without the financial support from my parents, he was one of the people who believed in me. Without Steve I would have never been where I am now. As a fellow, I remember him coming to Bishkek and sharing a meal with us. I remember being surprised by his devotion to the program and participants. As a Capstone fellow, I learned how deeply he cared and took genuine interest in each one of us. As an alumna, I can say that not many people have influenced my life so greatly, and all alumni and fellows would agree with me.”

-Yelena Vorobey | Class of 2014  
President of U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association  
Intern, Tax and Legal Department, KPMG, Almaty



“Mr. Shea had the best smile ever. I still remember that smile, which was always on his face. He left this world with that smile and I am sure that even in heaven he is smiling now.”

-Sakina Yasakieva | Class of 2014  
Office Manager, Classic Advertising Company, St. Petersburg, Russia



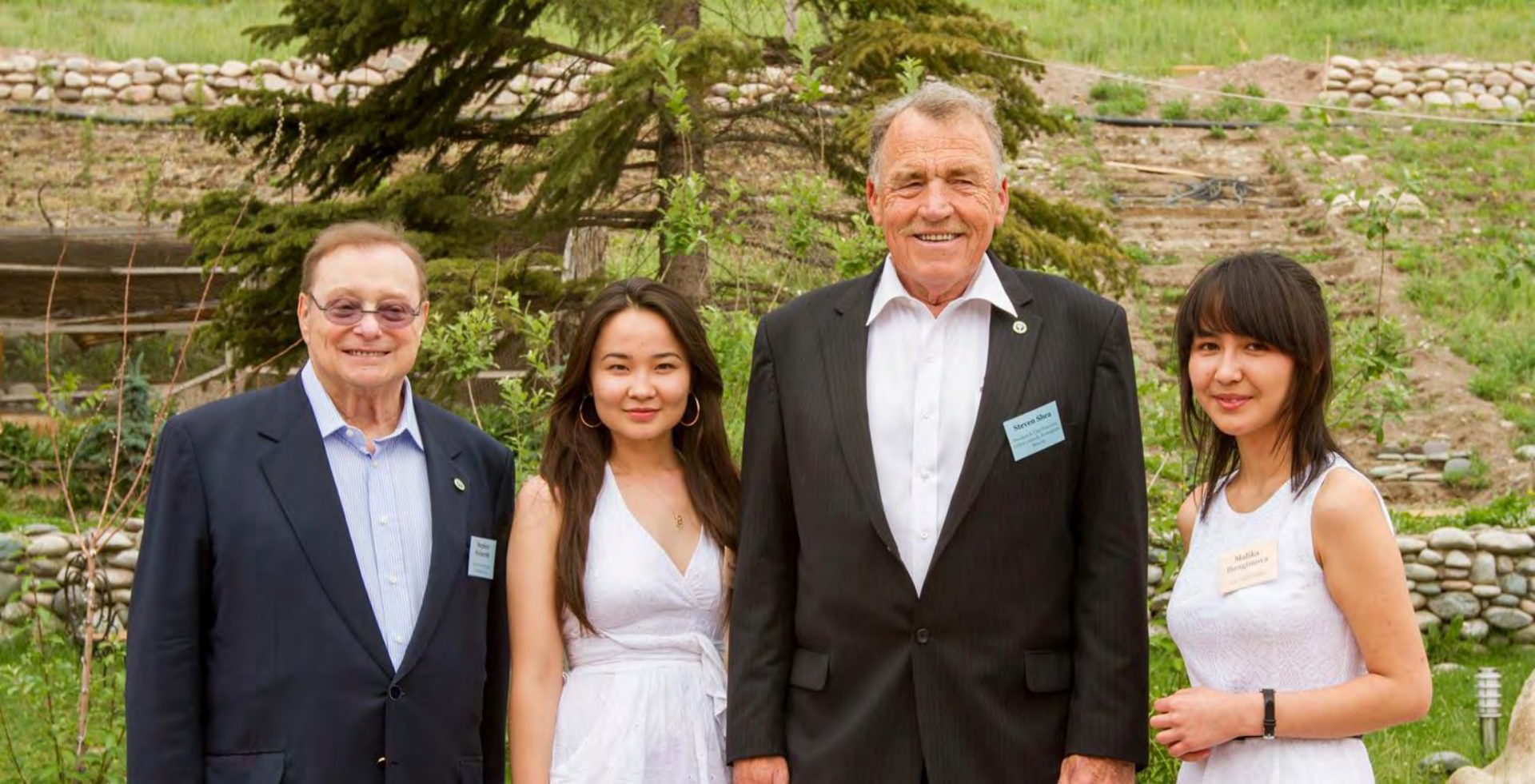
“Steven Shea was the one who believed in me and gave me a life-changing opportunity to acquire a higher education. Whenever he met me and other U.S.-CAEF fellows, he wanted to learn about our personal feelings and plans. His kindness and sincerity have always motivated me...Steve will never be forgotten.”

-Chyngyz Zhanybekov | Class of 2014  
Project manager, International Business Council, Bishkek

“I remember Mr. Shea as a gentle and loving man who gave me hope and support at the time when I needed it the most. He cared and wanted a great future for me. I will strive throughout my life to make his hopes come true. He will always inspire me as he did from the very first day I met him in Bishkek in 2011.”

-Kalys Zhumakadyr uulu | Class of 2014  
International John M. Gunn Scholar at Washington & Lee University, U.S.





Steve  
Harris

Steven Shev  
President & CEO  
The National Center  
for the Homeless

Malika  
Hargitova

“I was proud to meet Mr. Shea several times, when he visited Kyrgyzstan. What a kind person he was...We always considered him as our grandfather.... I am very grateful to him and to the whole U.S.-CAEF board of directors for giving me the main and important thing in my life – education. I will always remember Mr. Shea as a role model. Mr. Shea will always inspire me to reach all my goals, and I hope he will be proud of me and of all his CAEF grandchildren.”

-Nasiba Nurmatova, Class of 2015



“Dear Steve, even a thousand thanks are not enough to express my gratitude for all you have done to change the lives of hundreds of kids, who will become the ones who will change the world to the better. You will be always in our hearts.”

-Anisa Atalova | Class of 2016

“I first saw Steve Shea when I was a sophomore during a meeting in the American Councils office. I was truly glad to meet the founders of the program for the first time. We were asked to tell about our plans for summer and everyone was telling about their great plans to go abroad for summer schools, internships and Work & Travel, or just about having a local internship or job. Having heard all the replies, Steve commented: "The plans are very great and ambitious but when are you all going to have a rest?" Everyone laughed and it was the moment when I remembered this nice person with a great sense of humor and a very kind smile. Thank you, dear Steve, for making my dream come true and contributing to my future through U.S.-CAEF.”

-Adel Sultanbekova | Class of 2016





“I met Steve Shea only once and it is hard to realize that I will not be able to see him again. Few things I personally remember about him: he was very tall and very kind. People are like stars - they rise high and shine bright, but the moment comes when such a star disappears. But even if this disappearance is visual, there is always room in the hearts of people. As long as people remember, the star always stays in their hearts. Steve Shea will always remain in our hearts. He will be greatly missed.”

-Zhamilya Klycheva | Class of 2017





“I think Mr. Shea lived a great life and had a huge impact on many people including U.S.-CAEF fellows. He will live in our hearts and his name will never be forgotten as long as we remember him.”

-Zarrina Mulloboeva | Class of 2017



“The last time I met Steve Shea was at the graduation ceremony. I was so happy that God let me meet this kind man. He dedicated himself to a great cause, giving life-changing opportunities to new generations. Thank you once more, Steve!”

-Gulkaiyr Tashieva | Class of 2017







“U.S.-CAEF gave me an opportunity to build my future. Without U.S.-CAEF, now I would have been working somewhere in Russia as a labor migrant with no future and goals. I want to express my endless gratitude to Steve Shea for changing my life.”

-Argen Aidarov | Class of 2018



“I haven’t met Mr. Shea in person, but I am very sad to hear that he is no longer with us. For me he is a person who gave me a great opportunity to study at one of the best universities in Central Asia. I have been waiting for our meeting so much because I wanted to say thank you personally...I will never forget about him and the opportunity that he gave me in my life.”

-Guliza Almazbek kyzy | Class of 2018





“I personally haven't met Mr. Shea but have heard a lot of amazing things about him. Mr. Shea made many people's dreams come true. If he hadn't done what he did, I wouldn't have become a student of such a great university. I will be thankful to Mr. Shea for the rest of my life because he provided a magic key to the golden door of my future life.”

-Guljemal Hojalyeva | Class of 2018





“I am sad for not being able to meet this incredible person. Steve Shea was an "invisible" helping grandpa, who supported me together with other Board members. This program has invested in my future; this is not only financial help – for me it is also a motivation to become a better person and show that they were not mistaken by choosing me. I will keep Grandpa Steve in my memory forever...”

-Zhibek Kamalbek kyzy | Class of 2018

“Your goodwill is spreading with mathematical progression around the world through us; and it will continue, and never stop. We will always strive for better. Because that is what you taught us by your own example. I remember you with a smile and gratitude; you will always inspire us for more. Thank you for everything, dear Steve!”

-Aizharkyn Burkanova | Class of 2014  
Special Assistant for Chief Information Officer, AUCA  
Co-owner of Zebra Coffee, Bishkek



