

NEW LETTER

CLASS OF 2019

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM: U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation (U.S.-CAEF) Enterprise Student Fellowship Program is an undergraduate business education scholarship program for academically gifted students sponsored by the U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation and administered by American Councils for International Education. The Foundation, in partnership with the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek (AUCA) & the KIMEP University in Almaty, provides educational opportunities in business and other activities for students from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan to cultivate a principled entrepreneurial environment in Central Asia that fosters the growth of free enterprise and open markets.

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

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2019

In keeping with traditions established by previous cohorts, the 2019 graduating class upheld the high standards of the U.S.-CAEF program, completing their studies at AUCA and KIMEP University with impressive results. Of twenty-eight senior Fellows, 8 (or about 30%) graduated with honors:

SUMMA CUM LAUDE:



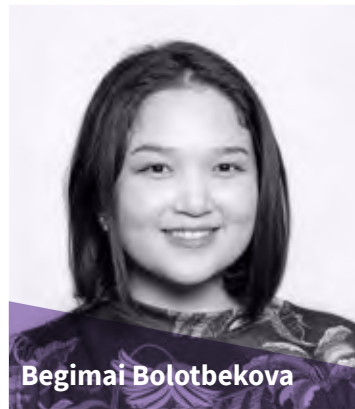
Azatbek Alibaev

MAGNA CUM LAUDE:

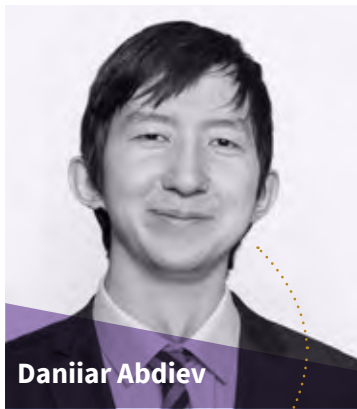


Meerim Moldalieva

CUM LAUDE:



Begimai Bolotbekova



Daniyar Abdiev

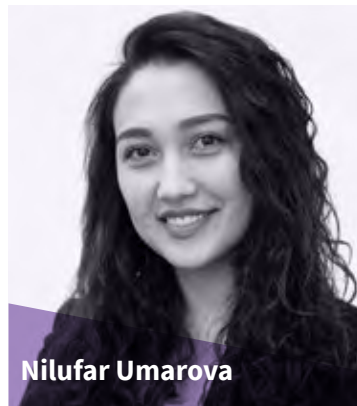


Aleksandr Kinyakin

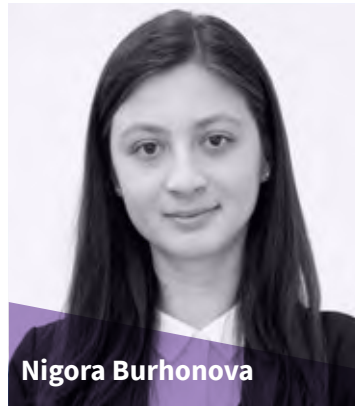


Aigerim Akimzhan

DANIYAR BECAME 3RD U.S.-CAEF FELLOW TO EARN THE TITLE OF VALEDICTORIAN AT AUCA



Nilufar Umarova



Nigora Burhonova



The graduates joined the U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association bringing the total number of the program alumni to **257**.



Within a month after their graduation, about **75%** of the graduates have already been **employed, started their internships** or **enrolled in graduate programs**.

THE STEVEN F. SHEA EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Saule Kussayeva (center), U.S.- CAEF Regional Coordinator, with alumni Nilufar Matyakubova (left) and Monandiso Tursunova (right)

During the graduation receptions, U.S.-CAEF Directors announced recipients of the Steven F. Shea Excellence Awards for graduating seniors and alumni. The Award was established by the U.S.-CAEF Board in May 2015 to commemorate Mr. Steven F. Shea, a founding director of U.S.-CAEF and its first President. The awards are presented to outstanding alumni and graduating fellows in recognition of their significant academic and professional achievements, service to the community, and active commitment to the economic growth of Central Asia. Two graduating fellows, one from each partner university, receive the top honor of \$1,000 and a plaque of recognition. From among the alumni, one individual from AUCA and one from KIMEP University are selected to receive the top honor of \$1,000 and a plaque of recognition. In addition, four honorable mention candidates, two from each university, are also selected to receive a certificate of recognition and a monetary grant of U.S. \$250.

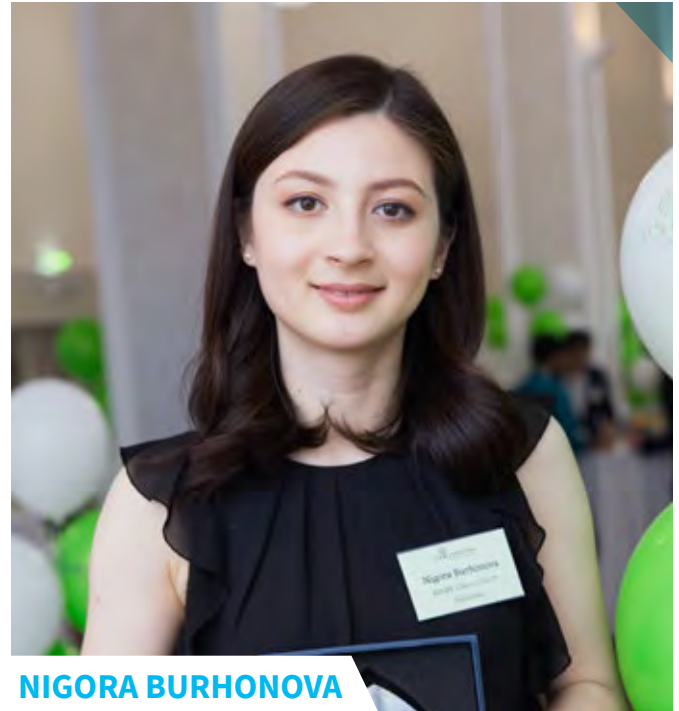
WINNERS OF SENIOR AWARDS 2019

**MEERIM MOLDALIEVA**

A Business Administration major, Meerim has graduated from AUCA magna cum laude. In 2017, she successfully completed a semester abroad at Solbridge International School of Business in South Korea. Additionally, Meerim has conducted research and authored papers on economic real estate trends in Bishkek and the Kyrgyz stock exchange.

Some highlights from Meerim's professional and extracurricular background include serving for AIESEC student organization as Vice President for Finance and as president of her U.S.-CAEF cohort; competing as a finalist in the National Debate Championship in South Korea; representing her country at the European Congress of Young Leaders in Armenia; and interning for several companies in Bishkek. Of her professional experience, Meerim considers her internships at Coca Cola Bishkek Bottlers, Dos Credo Bank and Textile Trans to be the most formative.

In recognition of her outstanding achievements, Meerim has been selected to take part in the US-based Capstone Internship Program in fall 2019.

**NIGORA BURHONOVA**

An Accounting and Audit major and Marketing minor, Nigora has graduated from KIMEP University cum laude. In 2017, she was awarded the Ernst Mach Scholarship to study abroad for a semester at the IMC University of Applied Sciences in Krems, Austria.

Nigora's record of involvement in extracurricular activities is impressive. She organized the "Women Make Change" training for women and girls in Khujand and the Mars business competition at KIMEP University; took part in the Study of U.S. Institutes (SUSI) Women's Leadership Program in Auburn, WA, the 44th Business Today International Conference in New York City, and the Explore Central Asia conference in Almaty; and served as Vice President of Finance for the U.S.-CAEF Student Association. In addition, Nigora completed internships with the Association of Kazakhstani Internet Business.

Because of her outstanding achievements and personal qualities, Nigora was selected for the US-based Capstone Internship Program in fall 2019.

WINNERS OF ALUMNI AWARDS 2019

**BAKHROM TURSU NOV**

AUCA Class of 2017
 Managing director of AUCA TV
 Co-Founder, Mark Twain Studio

Bakhrom is a passionate professional with big dreams of transforming the cinematography and production fields in Kyrgyzstan. Bakhrom pursued this passion starting in his first year at AUCA, filming and photographing every AUCA event, leading the AUCA TV team and building one of the most popular e-shows in Central Asia, 'Snova Dvoe.' 'Snova Dvoe' has almost 90,000 followers on Instagram and 173,000 subscribers on YouTube, which places it as one of the top YouTube channels in Kyrgyzstan. The project has incredible potential, and Bakhrom is a true leader standing behind this project.

In addition to 'Snova Dvoe,' Bakhrom founded the digital agency, "Mark Twain," right after his graduation and was also invited to stay at AUCA as a publications coordinator and a managing director of AUCA TV. His digital agency offers various marketing and production services. Bakhrom is constantly engaged in several projects and travels extensively for his work. In November and December 2018, Bakhrom traveled around the U.S. with his team, making a documentary about Silicon Valley startups. The project is sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Bishkek.

**CHYNARA ERKULOVA**

KIMEP University Class of 2016
 Schwarzman Scholar, Master in Global Affairs Program,
 Tsinghua University, China

After graduating from KIMEP University, Chynara interned at Izar Capital Group in Washington, DC in fall 2016 through the U.S.-CAEF Capstone Internship Program. Upon her return from the U.S., Chynara began working with Beeline, a leading telecommunications company in Kyrgyzstan, part of a global VEON group of companies.

In 2016, together with her team, Chynara organized Eurasian Digithon in Kyrgyzstan. Because of her success in introducing Digithon to the VEON group, Chynara was asked to represent her company at the Startup Grind Global Conference in San Francisco, California in 2018.

In addition, Chynara and a few other KIMEP alumni initiated the "Moon Project" with the goal of helping youth to become more self-aware and ambitious. In 2019, Chynara became a finalist of the Schwarzman Scholarship, a highly competitive program that provides students the opportunity to complete their post-graduate studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing. She is the first honoree from Kyrgyzstan and KIMEP University to be admitted to this highly competitive program.

HONORABLE MENTION AWARDS 2019



In special recognition of the exceptionally high quality of this year's alumni nominees, the directors granted Honorable Mention Awards to four alumni from each university. Recipients of the award include:



ULUKBEK ABDUBALIEV

AUCA Class of 2015
National Programme Officer, OSCE

After graduating from AUCA summa cum laude in 2015, Ulukbek began his career as a project manager at Avisa Technologies. Within several months, he was promoted to Director of Educational Programs due to his contribution to the success of two projects – one related to child safety measures in emergency situations and another devoted to digitizing books.

In 2016, Ulukbek became a finalist of the Erasmus+ scholarship program for a master's degree program in Strategic Project Management at three universities across Europe including the UK, Italy, and Sweden.

During his studies at the Polytechnic University of Milan, Ulukbek and his team accepted the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award for the "MI-care" project, which aimed to utilize cloud-computing technology in Milan's Healthcare System.

Driven by a desire to bring a global perspective to his community, Ulukbek organized Silicon Valley Week in Bishkek in the summer of 2018, which brought mentors from Google, Facebook, LinkedIn and other companies from the U.S. to train local teams in Kyrgyzstan in STEM and social entrepreneurship fields.



NAZERKE AIBAR

KIMEP University Class of 2016
Yenching Scholar, Master in China Studies
Program, Peking University, Beijing, China

Nazerke, a Yenching Scholar, has just completed a master's degree in China studies at Peking University. During her studies there, Nazerke became Secretary-General of the first Model Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and organized the first Model SCO Youth Conference in China.

In August 2018, Nazerke received a Harvard University scholarship to attend the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations conference in Kuala Lumpur focused on Sustainable Disruption. In April 2018, Nazerke completed a 10-month internship program

with the Emirates Group under the patronage of Sheikh Muhammad, Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai. It is a rotational program that offers outstanding graduate students fully funded management training and an opportunity to study and conduct business in Dubai.

Recently, Nazerke accepted a job offer from Facebook. As manager of the business development department of the Facebook office in Dublin, Ireland, she will be developing sales strategies for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

HONORABLE MENTION AWARDS 2019

CONTINUED

**ALENA LI**

AUCA Class of 2011
Project Manager
International Finance Corporation

Upon graduating from AUCA in May 2011, Alena began working as a human resources specialist at Demir Kyrgyz International Bank. She later served as a project manager at Promotank and was promoted to Deputy Director within 1.5 years. Alena also served as the first Vice President for Membership and Outreach of the Alumni Association in 2012-2013.

Currently, Alena works as manager of the Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan Housing and Energy Efficiency Project at the International Finance Corporation.

In June 2018, Alena and her team of five employees at the Housing and Energy Efficiency Project received the corporate VPU Team Award, which distinguishes the most outstanding team performance in socially oriented projects. The teams are selected from among all projects within the World Bank. The Housing and Energy Efficiency Project in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan was selected out of 108 nominated projects and became the winner in the European and Central Asian region.

**NILUFAR MATYAKUBOVA**

KIMEP Class of 2013
Economic Assistant
US Embassy, Ashgabat

A Turkmenistan native, Nilufar graduated from KIMEP a year early in 2013, with a major in finance and minor in accounting. After her graduation, Nilufar pursued her master's in International Business Management at the University of Huddersfield, UK, where she completed her studies with honors.

Upon returning to Turkmenistan in 2014, Nilufar started work as an Audit Assistant at AK-USSA auditing company in Ashgabat. Soon after, Nilufar was offered an audit assistant position at Baker Tilly Turkmen, where she was quickly promoted to auditor, and later to financial analyst. Since May 2017, Nilufar has been working as Economic

Assistant at the US Embassy in Ashgabat. Nilufar currently works with leaders of both Turkmenistan and the U.S., facilitating trade cooperation between the two countries. In 2018, she was selected to participate in a conference in Houston, TX where she gained in-depth knowledge of the oil industry and networked with leaders of top companies such as Chevron and Exxon Mobil.

Most recently, Nilufar was selected to the John Smith Trust Fellowship Programme (JST), which offers exceptional individuals the chance to explore issues of good governance, social justice and the rule of law in an intensive four-week program in the UK.

HONORABLE MENTION AWARDS 2019

CONTINUED



MONANDNISO TURSUNOVA

KIMEP University Class of 2015
Senior PR Manager, Evolet Healthcare

Originally from Khujand, Tajikistan, Monandniso graduated from KIMEP University in 2015 with a major in finance and minor in marketing. Upon her graduation, she worked as Senior Program Assistant at the Association of Scientific and Technical Intelligentsia of Tajikistan and as Business English Instructor at Study the Planet, LLC. In September 2016, Monandniso started her marketing career with Evolet Healthcare, an international company providing high quality pharmaceutical products, where she quickly rose to the position of Senior PR Manager.

In addition to her professional pursuits, Monandniso is an active citizen who takes keen interest in promoting women's rights and gender equality, which she considers crucial for the development of her country. In 2018, Monandniso was selected to represent Central Asia at the Asia South Pacific Association for the Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) conference. She attended the workshop, "Gender, Education, Skills and Work in Delhi, India," which aimed to discuss the current economic conditions affecting women in Asia.



NASIBA NURMATOVA

AUCA Class of 2015
Master of Development Practice Program
(MDP) Humphrey School of Public Affairs,
University of Minnesota, USA

Nasiba graduated from AUCA with honors in 2015. In recognition of her academic excellence and commitment to the development of Central Asia, she received the Steven F. Shea Senior Award and was selected to take part in the U.S. Capstone Internship Program in the fall of 2015. From 2016 to 2018, Nasiba was involved in USAID's Business Growth Initiative (BGI) as a project assistant and later as a tourism sector development specialist. She also organized a volunteer community development project for which her team provided translation services to museums in Kyrgyzstan, which she

hopes will increase the number of tourists visiting her native country.

In fall 2018, Nasiba enrolled in the Master of Development Practice Program (MDP) at the University of Minnesota, USA. She received an H. Humphrey Fellowship and became the only finalist from Kyrgyzstan. This summer, Nasiba implemented a community development project in South Africa as part of her master's program. In addition, Nasiba has been serving as Development Mentor for MCW Global Young Leaders Access Program since 2017.

LEARNING TO LEAD THROUGH NEW EXPERIENCES

TECHNOLOGY CHANGING LANGUAGE

BY MEERIM MOLDALIEVA



Fascinated by the IT world after taking programming courses, I decided to deepen my knowledge in this area and participate in the first two-month programming bootcamp in Kyrgyzstan.

The bootcamp focused on teaching one programming language and building a platform where participants create new projects (applications) working in teams. During the first month, we mostly learned theory and solved tasks. The second month was devoted to working on a project and applying the previously acquired knowledge.

The most interesting part was working in a team to create a web application. I worked on developing a Kyrgyz-Russian dictionary using a crowdsourcing model, where users can contribute either by offering phrases to be translated or offering translation for phrases. The whole process was both fascinating and challenging, as cooperating in a team of beginner programmers was hard; however, we learned a lot while practicing and were able to present our project to local IT companies.

As a result, some of my teammates, including myself, were offered internships by participating companies. I was offered an internship position with B12.

LEARNING TO LEAD THROUGH NEW EXPERIENCES

CONTINUED

A BUDDING BUSINESS OWNER

BY OLGA PYKHOVA

Since March 2019, I have been interning at Highland Capital Investment Fund, the only private equity and mezzanine investment company in Kyrgyzstan, with 30 million USD in total commitments. I was invited to work at Highland Capital by the founder Cholponbek Jumashukurov, a Harvard alumnus. He is also the founder of the ProKG Club, where I was a participant of their Leadership Program last year. During my time at Highland Capital, I first was a Project Manager responsible for building the company's website. I conducted meetings with various companies and made decisions on cooperation with them. I also led all stages of coordinating with the IT company. Finally, I worked on translating legal agreements as well as marketing research for hygienic products for children.

Working at Highland Capital, which is focused on developing the business environment in Kyrgyzstan by attracting foreign investors, **has inspired me to start a business.** I am thankful that the experience helped me determine my next career steps and network with influential individuals in my field.



LEARNING TO LEAD THROUGH NEW EXPERIENCES

CONTINUED

SPREADING
A CASE-SOLVING
CULTURE

AUCA Case Club, created by our Fellows in 2016, has become unquestionably one of the most popular and successful clubs at AUCA. Since its creation, U.S.-CAEF Fellows have been involved in the activities of the club both as leaders and participants. The quotes below reflect fellows' recent experiences with the club and their efforts to promote the case-solving culture not only among university but high school students as well.



Aiana conducting a case study session with students



From left to right: Avina and Altynai

Farzona Khaidarova: "In April, **Sevara Tadzhibaeva** and I organized the Bishkek Case Cup 2019. Initially, over 150 students from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan took part in the competition to solve cases from Kyrgyz Concept Travel Agency. Of these, 44 advanced to the final stage. I was very pleased to see how much the students who regularly attended the Case Club trainings conducted by Sevara, Sezim and me have improved their skills and have become better case solvers."

Islambek Ashyraliev: "Together with the club's management team, we did something really great- we united students in Bishkek. **It is an unforgettable feeling when you see happy students who have a chance**

to participate and present their Ideas to the leading travel company of Kyrgyzstan. Moreover, some of the ideas were even implemented by Kyrgyz Concept after the tournament. I not only helped organize the event, but I also participated in the competition with my team of U.S.-CAEF fellows. Overall, it was an unforgettable experience."

Aiana Ryspekova, Avina Abytaeva, and Altynai Nuralieva: "Through our participation in the Case Club throughout freshman year, we gained a lot of new knowledge and exceptional experience that we wished to share with others. Therefore, on May 23, we organized **Business Case Evening** with high school students from

LEARNING TO LEAD THROUGH NEW EXPERIENCES

CONTINUED



Sokuluk. The goal of the project was to spread the case-solving culture and inspire our young activists aged 15-18 to learn more about business and entrepreneurship. First, we found a suitable place for training and were even able to negotiate it for free.

Then we reached out to local companies to inquire about current problems they may have. We found a restaurant-bar, which had one specific issue that we thought would be interesting for students to work on. For the Business Case Evening, we made a presentation about solving business cases, then described a problem and asked each group to think of possible solutions. Thanks to our project, 20 students were introduced to the world business case solving.

The students were inspired to learn more about the business sphere in the future. As for us, we used our knowledge to help others, and improved our own organizational, networking and teambuilding skills.”



Organizers of AUCA Case Club

LEARNING TO LEAD THROUGH NEW EXPERIENCES

CONTINUED

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL TIES

BY GAVHARKHON MAMADJONOVA



I won an Ernst Mach scholarship sponsored by Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research to study at the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, Steyr for the spring semester. On May 15th, I had the unique opportunity to participate in an International Fair with more than 25 different countries represented, including my home country of Tajikistan. Not many people in Europe know about my country and I was honored to be here and to tell them about hidden beauties of Tajikistan and our hospitable people.

I have learned that studying abroad is not only an opportunity to learn about a new culture, but also a chance to share your own. Participating in the fair reminded me that the future of the Central Asian region relies on us, young generations. We are the ones who can make change and contribute to the development and prosperity of the region. Hence, **studying abroad is one of the first steps for creating awareness about our home country and building bridges between nations.**

LEARNING TO LEAD THROUGH NEW EXPERIENCES

CONTINUED

OUR DIVERSE AND INTERCONNECTED WORLD

BY SULTAN MOLUTOV

I spent my spring semester abroad at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU), USA through the Global UGRAD Program. Studying and living at FDU, NJ was a life-changing experience. I decided to study abroad to get a new perspective on life. Being thousands of miles away from my own country helped me build a strong character. It was an opportunity for me to challenge myself in a new country in terms of studying, lifestyle in a new culture. Fortunately, FDU is close to New York City, a center of business and culture. I visited many places in NYC, including the United Nations headquarters. This program wasn't just about cultural exchange but also an academic experience with intense studying. FDU has high-quality facilities, including a Bloomberg lab, and professors taught valuable skills required by the business industry. All my professors were practitioners who had a corporate background and had extensive knowledge of the business sphere. For instance, my Business Law course was taught by an experienced lawyer. Moreover, I completed a finance course taught by a professor who worked on Wall Street for 20 years. **My unique experience in the USA helped shape my future, broaden my horizons, and allowed me to meet new people, and develop a GLOBAL mindset.**



LEARNING TO LEAD THROUGH NEW EXPERIENCES

CONTINUED

**COMBATING FAKE NEWS**

BY AIANA RYSPEKOVA



Nowadays, there is easy access to internet all around Kyrgyzstan. However, improper Internet usage is a growing problem. Most teenagers are targets of internet addiction and easy victims of fake news. Therefore, in March, I organized the “Digital Literacy” project in At-Bashy, Naryn thanks to the Central Asian Flexibility Grant for FLEX participants together with a Peace Corps volunteer and a FLEX alumna. The goal of the project was to strengthen the target group’s (25 students from 15 to 17 years old) knowledge and awareness on digital literacy by implementing lectures on Gmail, Google-Disk, SMM, Coursera, and Prezi, along with practical activities, which helped them to practice their knowledge in real usage.



After this workshop, we encouraged some participants to make a follow-up session sharing their knowledge with an additional 30 students. I’m thrilled to say our project continued and went on with spreading gained information to other students of Naryn. **The crucial lesson that I learned is to never hesitate to help others by sharing what you already know.** This project encouraged me to participate in more social projects like this one, and to learn more about problems that others are facing today.

VOLUNTEERING & COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITMENT

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS THROUGH LITERACY

BY NURMUKHAMAD TURKBAEV

I was born in an isolated village in Kyrgyzstan located far from the capital city and close to Tajikistan. This region has many problems with interethnic relations, poverty and access to a quality education. **I am the first student in my village to learn English by himself and be accepted to AUCA on a full scholarship.**

After coming to AUCA, I decided to help the youth in my village. Education is the main tool that helps a person to advance. Thus, I am trying to increase the level of education in Kyrgyzstan through engaging students in a debate club. UNICEF recently declared that more than 50% of students in Kyrgyzstan do not reach the basic level in reading, math, and science (2017).

My project, South Youth Association, took place in Batken, an economically disadvantaged region of Kyrgyzstan, in the isolated villages located along the border of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Because of the remote location, all four villages of the Arka area do not have educational centers to help the local youth develop communication and debate skills. Due to lack of information and resources, students are not able to realize their goals and potential.

I started my project in November 2018, which is supported by the Student Initiative Development Program (SIDP) at AUCA. I won \$1,000, which helped launch the project. I created a team of four people to help me with the project; and as the leader of the team, I faced some challenges. However, together with my team, I will continue to teach students to be active members of their community.



VOLUNTEERING & COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITMENT

CONTINUED

ENSURING ANIMAL WELFARE

BY KAIRAT TAGAEV (LEFT)

I co-organized a social project that aimed to help homeless animals in the city of Bishkek. As FLEX alumni, we organized a charity dance practice with a professional trainer. Around 20 girls participated and donated money to the social fund called “Dobrye ruki” (kind hands). This master class was a great way to demonstrate to society that **animals are also creatures that we should care about. They cannot speak out for their rights, and as human beings, it is our responsibility to take care of them.**



COLOR THE WORLD

BY ZEVAR MAMADJANOVA

At KIMEP University my enthusiasm for community service has grown a lot! On June 1st, I had one of the best weekends of the year when I volunteered at Yarkocross, a 5-kilometer race organized every year. It is a charitable event and the proceeds collected from ticket sales go to city gardening. I was lucky to be part of this amazing event by helping out at the color station. As a volunteer, my main duty was to sprinkle powder on participants. It was my first time participating in this type of event and I can say for sure that it is an unforgettable experience. Besides just having fun, I met so many different people. Never had I been in such a friendly environment, thus, I would recommend to everyone, **“Volunteer, and don’t miss the most interesting part of your university life!”**



MENTORING YOUTH

BY AIGUL SAPAROVA

In late March, with the support of the Student Initiative Development Program (SIDP) at AUCA, I co-organized a mentorship program for 15 high school students from different villages of the Issyk-Kul region. The first part of the program consisted of 5 days of training and activities in Cholpon-Ata. All 15 students were assigned mentors, and I became a mentor to 2 very ambitious students. I completed extensive research about mentoring and prepared thoroughly for each video call with my mentees. By coaching my mentees, I felt closer to my own mentors, **Sezim Zhenishbekova** and **Sevara Tadzhibaeva**.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



DILRABO SAIDALIEVA

INTERVIEW WITH NAZERKE AIBAR

BY DILRABO SAIDALIEVA

Although Nazerke's numerous accomplishments have been highlighted in earlier issues, we decided to shed more light on what is behind these achievements. To give a quick background, Nazerke is a FLEX, KIMEP University and U.S.-CAEF alumna, and a winner of the U.S.-CAEF Capstone award in 2016. After completing her internship with 1776 in Washington, DC, she received a Yenching scholarship to pursue her master's degree in Chinese Studies in Economics and Business at Peking University. As part of her degree plan, Nazerke took part in the internship program with Emirates Airlines and DP World sponsored by HH Sheikh Muhammad, Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai. In a few months, Nazerke will be joining the Facebook company in Ireland.



DO YOU CONSIDER THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE PROGRAM AS A CAREER STEPPING STONE?

Capstone equips students with the US experience which is highly valued around the world and gives you a competitive advantage when you return home. Recently, when I applied for Facebook, the interviewers wondered why I chose the tech field. I explained that I developed an interest in the field while interning at 1776, a DC-based venture capital firm that supports startups, especially those bringing technological innovations. Having had experience in traditional industries, I understood that although they do incorporate technologies, the environment is still slow-paced; therefore, I decided to move to a more dynamic, fast-paced industry which in this case is Facebook.

HOW DID YOU DECIDE TO APPLY FOR A YENCHING SCHOLARSHIP? WHAT EXPERIENCE DID YOU GAIN FROM THE PROGRAM?

I became interested in Asia when I started taking Chinese classes at KIMEP University. That is when I found out about Peking University and the Yenching scholarship. While applying for the Yenching program during my time on Capstone in DC, I found out that the Dean of the Yenching Academy was visiting Harvard University. I bought a ticket to Boston that very minute because I wanted to learn more about the program. When I met him, I told ►

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: INTERVIEW WITH NAZERKE AIBAR

CONTINUED

him about my interest in the Yenching Academy. I think he was intrigued, and impressed by my enthusiasm, and perhaps this meeting affected my admission to the program.

Yenching is a unique program that provides the opportunity to students like me, who hadn't attended top universities, to study together with graduates of renowned institutions like Ivy League schools and learn about China.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO TAKE UP AN INTERNSHIP IN UAE?

Although I had lived in China for a year and studied Chinese, I realized that language barriers would prevent me from gaining maximum benefits from my experience if I intern for a Chinese company. In addition, my goal has always been to work for a large, international organization. Therefore, I decided to look for other opportunities, and the UAE program happened to be the most suitable option.

WHAT WILL YOU TAKE WITH YOU FROM YOUR INTERNSHIP IN UAE TO FACEBOOK?

The two companies I have been working at, Emirates and DP World, are large international companies founded in Dubai back when it was underdeveloped, but now both are known worldwide. One thing I would want to learn myself is how to develop such successful companies from scratch. Also, I will take with me important

skills such as the ability to work in an international environment and deliver results under pressure, as well as flexible communication skills, and knowledge of Asia and emerging markets.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO GAIN FROM FACEBOOK?

For me, it is an extremely exciting opportunity since Facebook is a company which continues to rapidly grow, utilizes best talents, and makes dreams come true. I am really looking forward to this experience, and I wish to grow within the company. Since my job is related to client-facing, my goal is to ensure that Facebook brings value and impacts people, as well as small and middle enterprises.

WHAT LINE IN YOUR CV ARE YOU ESPECIALLY PROUD OF?

It's not in my CV. I think a person can truly be proud of something that benefits the community. **Growing up in a small town, I did not have access to adequate educational opportunities until I joined FLEX, and later KIMEP University. I came to realize that hard work without access to quality education and information doesn't mean much.** Therefore, together with my KIMEP friends, I started an initiative called Education for Orphans in 2015 sponsored by American Councils. We visited orphanages for three months and provided students with information about international education. The project was very successful, so we expanded it to

the rural areas and named it Education for Rural Places. I visited schools in my hometown, where I shared information about various educational opportunities and provided test preparation books to students.

As we grow professionally, we tend to include fewer initiatives like this one in our CVs since we need to put more emphasis on our work experiences. However, interviewers often ask questions about your other interests. That is when experiences like this one are brought up.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU AND WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

The most important things for me are not material items. Instead, I find Benjamin Franklin's 13 virtues to be inspiring. I believe that if you are a good person, good things come your way. **My life credo is: "What you do today is what you have tomorrow and what you did yesterday is what you have today."** So, I try to make the best of every day, take risks, and overcome challenges. My life goal is to be a good person and help people.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO CURRENT FELLOWS?

First, you are strong and capable, just believe in yourself. Second, work hard! There are a lot of people who are ready to look for easy ways to get something they want, e.g. money. From my little life experience, I can say that this course of action never works. Work is what ►

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: INTERVIEW WITH NAZERKE AIBAR

CONTINUED

makes us human and it is something that motivates us every day. There is a word “grit” that does not have exact translation in Russian which reminds me about Angela Duckworth’s “Grit.” The book is about the power of hard work, grit and perseverance which help you reach the best results. Lastly, bring value to what you do: to one person, to the community, to the world. These are the top three things I have learned to appreciate in my life.

WHAT TIPS CAN YOU PROVIDE FOR THOSE APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS?

When I was a freshman at the university, I applied for an exchange program and was not accepted which became a huge tragedy for me. I learned that when you apply for a program it must be something you really believe in. It should not be because it has a prestigious name, financial gains, or is a good travel opportunity. In my opinion, it is crucial to state exactly why you want to apply.

My application was successful every time when I was able to point out the unique benefits I could gain and bring to the program. In case of Dubai, the company I was applying for had the first dry port with Kazakhstan. In my statement, I wrote that as a student from Kazakhstan, I was curious about and interested in interning for the project. Every step you take should get you closer to your goal. That way you will have straightforward answers to any questions on your application because they come from within.



Nazerke with Peggy Grieve, Vice Chair of the U.S.-CAEF Board

ALUMNI STORIES

CONTINUED

COCO TEAM SELECTED FOR WORLD PITCH AT TECHNOVATION CHALLENGE 2019

BY **MOLDIR KUSSAINOVA, KIMEP'12**
CO-FOUNDER & CEO, FOXOUT, ALMATY

Moldir Kussainova is the mentor of her team participating in the Technovation Challenge 2019 in the Silicon Valley, the world's largest global tech entrepreneurship competitions for girls. Moldir's team became one of the 6 finalists selected from among 150 teams coming from different parts of the world to take part in the World Pitch in Santa Clara, CA on August 12-15 where the final teams share their tech business ideas with a panel of industry judges.

Technovation is a flagship program of Iridescent, a technology and engineering education nonprofit which offers girls around the world the opportunity to learn the necessary skills to emerge as tech entrepreneurs and leaders. Girls identify a problem in their community and then work on finding a solution to that problem. Moldir reflects on her experiencing leading the team in the creation of an eco-conscious app for the Technovation Challenge:

This past year I've had the pleasure of mentoring a group of girls for the Technovation Challenge. Recently, my team, COCO, participated at the semi-finals in Astana where we competed against 57 teams from Kazakhstan and won the first-place title for our app, TECO. We were then nominated for global online voting where judges evaluated 12 winning teams from around the globe. Afterwards, the online voting narrowed down the results to 6 out of 150 teams for the finals. The final six teams represented Albania, Brazil, India, Kazakhstan, Spain and the US. I was very excited and honored that our team was one of the final 6 chosen. As a result, we had the



Moldir (2nd from right) with her mentees.

opportunity to travel to Silicon Valley for World Pitch which consisted of a week of networking, field trips, workshops, and the chance to win scholarships.

Our project is the creation of a mobile app designed for solving an ecological problem. The app, called TECO, has several goals: educating, entertaining, and motivating. First, it educates users to sort out different types of waste in an effective way. It has an integrated city map showing the nearest recycling points, it has a tracker that tracks the number of your steps taken throughout the day to shows your individual impact on decreasing CO2. Second, it has an AR (augmented reality) features that makes the sorting process more fun and entertaining for users. Third, it provides incentives: you collect points by upgrading to different levels, which you can convert to real things like coupons to movie theaters, concerts, mobile units, etc.

Our goal in creating the app was to promote a powerful message to encourage users to practice environmental consciousness. By implementing this idea through a mobile app, we believe it is a viable way to reach out to the general public, especially the younger generation. Overall, the audience seemed to really enjoy our presentation at World Pitch. Our project even caught the attention of Forbes Magazine which means we might be featured in an upcoming article showcasing our work!

ALUMNI STORIES

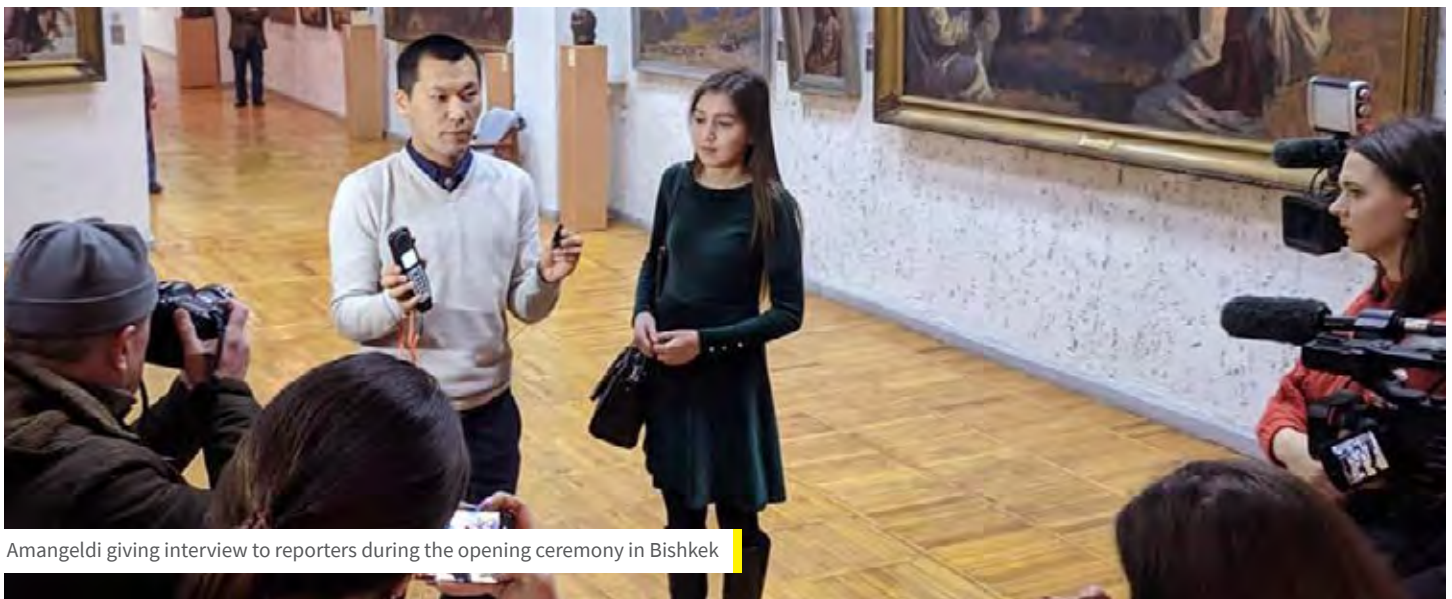
CONTINUED

DISABILITY AWARENESS IN ACTION: FIRST INCLUSIVE MUSEUM SPACE

BY AMANGELDI DZHUMABAEV, AUCA '14

RESEARCHER ON ECONOMIC & POLITICAL TRENDS, EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN KYRGYZSTAN

My team and I have implemented a project “Expanding the Opportunities of People with Disabilities via Art: Audio Description of Art Objects for the Blind and Visually impaired People in Kyrgyzstan.” **This is the first time in Kyrgyzstan when visually impaired people could access art objects.** We prepared audio descriptions for 113 paintings in three languages: Kyrgyz, Russian and English. The project was sponsored by the Youth Action Funds and began on February 8, 2019. All recordings were done professionally and are fully operational at the National Museum of Fine Arts named after Gapar Aitiev in Bishkek. We spent about 6 months preparing texts for the artworks, recording them in three languages, and inserting them into audio guides. These audio guides can also be used by people who can see, as they help visitors understand art better.



Amangeldi giving interview to reporters during the opening ceremony in Bishkek

I hope that this project could serve as an example that persons with disabilities must have equal access to information and education. We were honored to meet Shamil Ibragimov, director of Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan, and Dastan Bekeshov, member of Parliament, to attend the opening of the project. Dastan Bekeshov, who actively promotes rights of disabled people, said that previously, visually impaired individuals did not have proper conditions to access museums, but now it is changing.

People had a great chance to acquaint themselves with the audio-guides technology. Following the launch of this project, I was invited to attend the 11th International Disability Law Summer School from June 17-21 in Galway, Ireland. I learned about the best practices in addressing the challenges of people with disabilities. This is especially relevant as Kyrgyzstan just this year ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Although there is still a long way to go, first steps are especially important, and we must remember that disabled people are just like us and need protection and respect.

ALUMNI STORIES

CONTINUED

WINNER OF “BEST PITCH” AWARD AT OGP GLOBAL SUMMIT

BY ULUKBEK ABDUBALIEV, AUCA '15
NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICER,
POLICY AND PLANNING UNIT, OSCE, BISHKEK
CO-FOUNDER, MI-CARE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM PROJECT

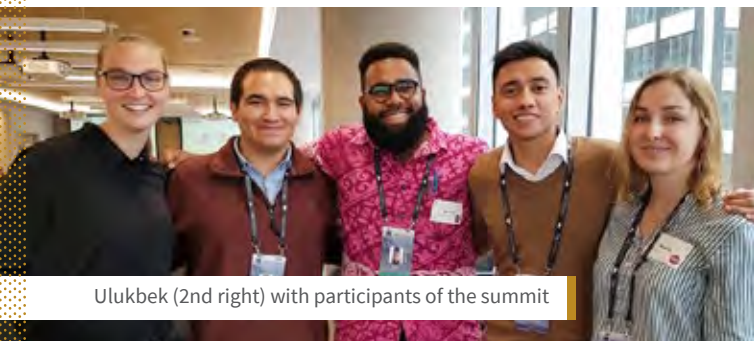
Ulukbek Abdubaliev recently took part in the 2019 Open Government Partnership (OGP) Global Summit in Ottawa, Canada. Ulukbek was one of sixteen young professionals chosen from over 1,000 applicants to participate in a three-day open government bootcamp before the start of the summit, as a Youth Delegate. There, he discussed with the other attendees the challenges and advantages of meaningful youth engagement within the open government movement.

The session sought to generate a positive and practical youth-led conversation across OGP sectors and members on how to strengthen youth engagement in open governance in new ways. The Pitch Session included five finalists from Canada, New Zealand, Fiji, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan represented by Ulukbek. The evaluation panel of the Pitch Session included representatives from the Treasury Board of Canada, OGP Steering Committee of Canada, OGP Support Unit, and OGP Steering Committee of Papua New Guinea.



Ulukbek (left) at OGP Global Summit in Canada

Ulukbek had the opportunity to present his original idea, “Model OGP,” to a panel of open government experts at the “YOUth Know Best: A Creative Space on Youth leadership and the Future of OGP” session. This Model implies that youth would participate in a simulation of a sitting of the Multi-Stakeholder Forum, which is comprised of government and civil society representatives, to develop the National Action Plan (NAP) for the country to be submitted to the actual National Forum as an input to consider youth voices in the National Action Plans (NAP) development. By the decision of the judges, **Ulukbek was selected as the winner of the Pitch Session**. The Asian Development Bank, which was part of the Pitch Session, expressed its readiness to support the initiative. Currently, the idea of conducting the first Model is being discussed with the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE as part of the OGP project.



Ulukbek (2nd right) with participants of the summit

ALUMNI STORIES

CONTINUED

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

BY GULNAZA KHALMANBETOVA, AUCA '17 | PROGRAM COORDINATOR AT AMERICAN COUNCILS, BISHKEK

Currently, I am working as a program coordinator for the following programs at American Councils in Bishkek: “US Government Small Alumni Grants” and “Young Inventors”.

I try to stay socially active and volunteer after graduating from the university, although I am a full-time mother now. Driven by the desire to help other women, my friends and I initiated a project called “She Starts” aimed at **creating opportunities for women who are interested in entrepreneurial activities**. We have been dedicating 5-10 hours per week to this project. Our main initial event is called “SheTalks” which is organized every month in order to increase awareness about entrepreneurship among women. Currently, “She Talks” is open to everyone where progressive and successful local women share their successes and failures in order to motivate and inspire others to strive for their goals. Speakers try to communicate that being women in Kyrgyzstan should not stop them from reaching heights, and even being a full-time mother should not stop them from setting goals.

Now, we are negotiating with other partner organizations to launch “She Starts” business schools for vulnerable women, who have a desire and potential to launch their business startups. We want to organize these schools, where beneficiaries will receive both theoretical knowledge and practical skills for launching their startups. The difference in this school, which we are proud of, is that we will invite other successful women to guide and mentor our participants. For instance, if one is interested in the beauty industry, we will invite someone who specializes in this area. The most valuable thing we have is the support from successful women who are ready to share and mentor someone, so are we. **Because only by supporting and helping each other, we can bring changes to our local communities.**



Gulnaza Khalmanbetova



ALUMNI STORIES

CONTINUED

SUPPORTING FARMERS & ENTREPRENEURS IN TAJIKISTAN

GUFRONJON AIUBJONOV, KIMEP'14
PROJECT MANAGER AND MARKETING SPECIALIST, SAROB

One of the biggest challenges for fresh graduates is finding employment. Even though I had some job offers in Kazakhstan, I came back to Tajikistan and started my career in my homeland. I chose to work for an NGO, Sarob.



Gufronjon with farmers in Sugd region

During the past five years, I held different positions in the Marketing Department. My last position was coordinator of the Marketing Department in Sugd region.

While working at the NGO, I gained widespread experience and knowledge. Thanks to this professional experience, combined with my university background, I became one of the most competitive employees in our company. Our management selected me to represent the company at different international conferences not

only as a participant, but as a trainer on topics related to economic analyses and business development.

In April 2019, I started working as a Project Manager for National Water Resources Management project implemented by Helvetas, an independent Swiss development organization. The purpose of the project is to improve livelihoods, especially of vulnerable groups, through integrated management of water resources in the Tajik part of the Syr Darya Basin.

ALUMNI STORIES

CONTINUED

ONE COMPANY. ONE TEAM. ONE VISION

BY PARVINA MIRZOMUSTAKIMOVA (LEFT), KIMEP' 12 & MOHINAV AMONULLOEVA (RIGHT), KIMEP' 17

Coca-Cola Bottlers is undoubtedly one of the most dynamic companies providing fabulous professional development opportunities for young professionals in Central Asia. Several participants of the U.S.-CAEF Summer Regional Internship Program had the opportunity to gain first-hand experience and acquire valuable practical skills in marketing, finance, and accounting through their internships at the Coca-Cola offices in Almaty, Bishkek and Dushanbe. Some of them subsequently received job offers and decided to pursue their careers with Coca-Cola Bottlers in Central Asia. Currently, two U.S.-CAEF alumni, Parvina Mirzomustakimova, KIMEP' 12 and Mohinav Amonulloeva, KIMEP' 17, work for Coca-Cola Icecek (CCI) in Dushanbe and seem to have found their true passion. Both find their experiences fulfilling which they largely credit to the open and supportive corporate atmosphere at CCI. In the passage below, the alumni share their story.

Coca-Cola Icecek (CCI) is a multinational beverage company which operates in Turkey, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Tajikistan. As one of the 6th largest bottlers of the Coca-Cola system, CCI produces, distributes and sells sparkling and still beverages. CCI



Parvina (left) and Mohinav (right)

Tajikistan was established in 2015 and serves a consumer base of 8 million with one plant and more than 100 employees in Tajikistan. Its product portfolio comprises of BONAQUA, Burn, Coca-Cola, Coca-Cola zero, Fanta, Fuse Tea, PIKO and Sprite.

“I joined the CCI team in 2017 as Commercial Finance Analyst in the Commercial Finance Department. My department works closely with sales customers and is responsible for controlling sales profitability and value chain analyses. We use one of the world’s largest enterprise resource planning software systems, “System Application and Product.” At CCI Tajikistan, I have gained valuable experience in international financial standards and through sharing common standards and policies with other CCI countries,” shared **Mohinav Amonulloeva**.

Parvina Mirzomustakimova

who recently joined the company wrote about her experience, “My journey with CCI Tajikistan started in January 2019 as Finance Analyst in the Financial Reporting and Controlling Department. Being a finance analyst in a large production company means always being alert. I am involved in various activities such as monthly closure reporting and analysis as well as coordinating business plans and preparing rolling estimations. I also work on controlling capital expenditure and consulting the team on allocation of operational expenses. The company organizes various trainings and teambuilding activities. The positive and energetic atmosphere created by CCI Tajikistan for employees is the main factor that contributes to employees’ motivation to go to work and increases their job satisfaction.”

ALUMNI STORIES

CONTINUED

HELPING LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN AFRICA

BY NASIBA NURMATOVA, AUCA' 15
MASTER'S IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, USA



As part of my master's program, students work in field projects after their first year to gain international professional experience. **I was selected to work in a project for community development in KwaZulu- Natal province, South Africa.** The project is designed to conduct needs assessment and develop local economic development and environmental conservation recommendations for the Mbembeni community located outside the Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park. Communities that reside around the park were displaced from the park before it became a conservation area. People lost their homes, land, and access to natural resources after fences were put out. Wild animals escape the park and kill livestock and destroy crops. There is a high rate of unemployment, and the benefits the communities receive from the park are insufficient. Our goal is to find out about opportunities to involve local communities in conservation and economic activities, so that both the park and native inhabitants benefit from this collaboration. For the two months I am here, I live in the research camp inside the Hluhluwe iMfolozi park where there is no border between humans and wildlife. This is a unique experience and a big bonus to conduct the project!

While working with the communities, I expanded my knowledge in environmental conservation management, human-wildlife conflict, rural area development and ecotourism. I often compare this project to my experience in tourism development back home in Kyrgyzstan, where I worked with rural areas tourism destination development.

ALUMNI: AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



U.S.-CAEF Board visiting Irina's 3D workshop in Almaty

Irina Abasova (KIMEP'12), founder of Creat3D, **won a \$6000 award from the Almaty akimat** (government) for her innovative business idea- developing plastic prototypes for metal products. Irina is planning to use the money to buy new equipment, which will allow her to increase production.

Her business has grown from one used \$500 3D printer to a much larger operation using sophisticated equipment. The business has grown rapidly, as she now employs 15 people. She has also developed a side business

creating the type of architectural models used specifically when companies are competing for municipal large projects and has become a leader in this area in Kazakhstan. Her customer base has increased significantly since 2015, and now includes clients not only from Kazakhstan but from abroad as well. Most of her business comes from companies finding her online; one of her largest clients is the Kazakh army, for which her business makes parts for military equipment. She is also a leader in sustainable development as the plastic she uses is recycled.



Aidana Abdrakhmanova, KIMEP'12, Corporate Market Strategy & Planning Finance Manager at Procter & Gamble, received the **Eastern Europe and Central Asian Republics (EECAR) Finance and Accounting Award for Stewardship**.

“The award was given for a one-year project aimed at improving the results of the internal audit assessed by a separate department within P&G. The result has grown from grade 6 (with 2 major and 2 minor violations of internal procedures) in FY 2017 to grade 8 in FY 2018 which is maximum (with only 1 minor violation). I led & coordinated all aspects of this large-scale project performed by different departments- sales, commercial operations, finance, HR, legal, & distributors,” -Aidana.



Yuliya Baliyeva at the opening ceremony of her third medical laboratory in Almaty

Yuliya Baliyeva, KIMEP'13, Founder and General Director, Euroconnection, opened her third medical laboratory, a franchise of INVITRO laboratories, a leader in laboratory diagnostics, which conducts more than 1,800 medical tests. Yuliya recalls, “Four years ago, I faced the problem of getting accurate medical test results for my kids. I attended a franchise fair where I first learned about INVITRO laboratories. In 2015, I opened my first INVITRO medical lab, and now I have three labs. I hope to give consultation and help Fellows and Alumni. I also give them a discount for the lab services.”



Andrey Leskin, AUCA'12, established the analytics department at Zensoft IO from scratch.

ALUMNI: AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Timur Karimov, KIMEP'17, who is currently employed as Junior Brand Manager with Efes Kazakhstan, together with his two partners, won a 48-hour film contest organized by Salem Social Media and received a prize of 1 million tenge (about \$2602).



Bostan Seyipova, KIMEP'13, has completed her 2nd master's degree in Management and Economics of Energy and the Environment (MEDEA), Scuola Enrico Mattei, Eni Corporate University, Milan, Italy, a 10-month MBA program focusing on Global Energy and Managing Technical Assets.



Asylgul Kenzhebaeva, AUCA'15, has completed her master's degree in Management Science and Operations Management at Ajou University in Suwon, South Korea.



Takhmina Zakirova, AUCA'18 has received a Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship to pursue her MA degree in Regional and Environmental Economic Studies at Budapest University of Technology and Economics; Budapest, Hungary.



Bakhtiyor Otambekov, KIMEP'19, became finalist of the highly competitive Mars Leadership Development Program, and is currently undergoing a traineeship in the sales and marketing department of the company in Almaty.



Aisuluu Abdyrakmanova, KIMEP'16, a recipient of an Erasmus scholarship for Management Master's Degree Program, University of Southern Denmark, has passed CFA level 1, and became finalist of EIT food innovation contest. EIT Food is Europe's leading food innovation initiative, working to make the food system more sustainable, healthy and trusted.

ALUMNI: PROMOTIONS



Osiya Olimnazar

OSIYA OLIMNAZAR

AUCA'18

Osiya has been promoted to Head of Risk Management Department of Spitamen Bank within just a few months of her work with the company. This is an incredible accomplishment for a young professional starting a career in the banking field as it normally takes from 5 to 10 years to reach this important position.

“My department is one of the most influential departments of the bank. I am involved in all strategic tasks of the bank and the management has given me a lot of power as they truly believe in me. Currently, I work on all big projects of SPB (first innovations in Tajikistan), and every day, I learn lots of new information. I love my job and I am grateful to my team for motivating and putting so much trust in me.

I am equally grateful to U.S.-CAEF for providing me with the education that brought me where I am,” shared Osiya.

SAMAT NURTOLEUOV

KIMEP'16

After working 2 years at the Damu Entrepreneurship Development Fund, Samat was offered the position of the Chief Specialist at the Atyrau Social Entrepreneurship Corporation. Within just a few months, he was promoted to Managing Director to oversee social and smart projects. “As part of my work, I am engaged in full automation and digitalization of our company’s activities. All existing business processes are converted to the electronic format through a project management system. I am also involved in social projects, e.g. development of family and city leisure activities for residents and guests in Atyrau,” shared Samat.

AMINA IQBOLZODA

KIMEP'15

Upon completion of her internship with IZAR Capital Group in Washington, DC through the U.S.-CAEF Capstone Internship Program in the fall of 2015, Amina was immediately employed as a Financial Analyst by European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in Dushanbe. This experience led to new opportunities with the EBRD’s London office where she gained invaluable skills and knowledge in the finance and investment fields and expanded her portfolio considerably. Currently, Amina works in the Almaty office where she was recently promoted to Associate Banker.

KURALAY BAISALBAYEVA

KIMEP'12

Kuralay has been promoted to Tax Manager at PwC Nederland.

KARIMKHON BUKHADUROV

KIMEP'18

Karimkhon has been promoted to Own Brands Project Manager, METRO Potential at METRO/ MAKRO Cash and Carry, Almaty.

AYLAR BERDIYEVA

KIMEP'13

Aylar became Director of Jebis Gurlushyk, individual enterprise in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

AZATBEK ISMAILOV

AUCA'18

After completing his internship in the Advisory Department, Azatbek was promoted to consultant at KPMG Almaty.

ALUMNI: NEW BEGINNINGS & INNOVATIVE IDEAS

Talgat Kadirov, KIMEP'11, Senior Audit Manager at Ernst & Young (his day job) in Almaty, has partnered with American engineers from the Colorado School of Mining to develop an imaging system that helps detect oil sites for drilling and well operations for maximum output and low waste production. The method is more cost efficient and better utilizes natural resources.

There is currently only one foreign company that uses this type of technology in Kazakhstan. Entry into the oil business is challenging, particularly as a startup venture with both Kazakhstani and American partners.

Kamila Bekbaganbetova, KIMEP'18, Business Planning & Fleet Portfolio Specialist, Air Astana "developed a Sensitivity Model which can show how profits are changing due to changes in traffic, fuel prices, and currency devaluations." In addition, she took numerous online courses on copywriting, and currently works as a freelance copywriter during her free time.



Talgat Kadirov with Holly Burns, U.S.-CAEF Treasurer

Malika Ibragimova, AUCA'15, after completing her MSc in Quantitative Economics, Goethe University, Frankfurt am Maine was employed as Automation and Digitalization IT Consultant by LPA, a fintech-IT company based in Frankfurt, Germany.

Almanbet Abylkasymov, AUCA'11, recently opened Business Smart Academy in Bishkek. The center provides professional development courses.

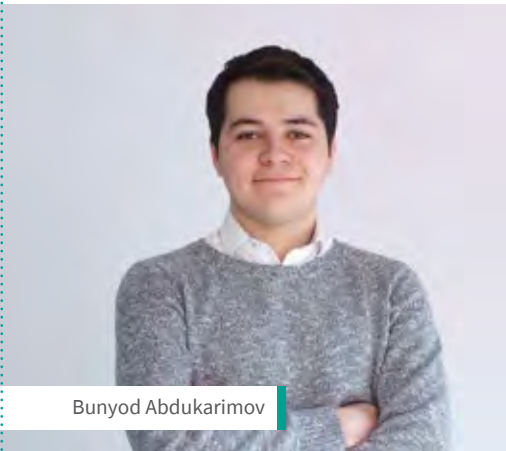
Bunyod Abdukarimov, KIMEP'17, has created a startup, B Infinity LLP, which provides procurement services to government-owned companies.

Alexandr Kinyakin, KIMEP'19, has been accepted to the Master in Money and Finance Program, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main (a DAAD Scholarship).

Somon Mavlonazarov, KIMEP'19, has been employed as Business Development Manager, Cephus Medical, Almaty.

Bahtiyar Jalilov, KIMEP'14, started a new job in the marketing department of Nurana Holding, an investment holding company located in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Nurana's subsidiaries and associated companies are involved in advertising services, manufacturing, agriculture, restaurant business, fitness, and supermarkets.

Meruert Zhumagulova, AUCA'15, has been employed as Junior Professional at GreenCycle Stiftung after completing Master in Bio-economics Program, University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany. "I work in the field of waste management and recycling, where I will support business development and implementation of innovation in different countries," shared Meruert.



Bunyod Abdukarimov

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