



**U.S.-CAEF ENTERPRISE  
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

**GRADUATION  
2017**

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



COVER: AUCA GRADUATES

ABOVE: BAKHROM TURSUNOV & ASEL KALDYBAEVA



ANNIVERSARY





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& SITORA SHAGAMBAYEVA



U.S.-CAEF ENTERPRISE  
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM  
GRADUATION  
2017



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## GRADUATION BOOK 2017

Graduation 2017 is a landmark year. It celebrates the tenth anniversary of the U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation (the Foundation) operations and marks the seventh class of Student Fellows to receive a university education through the Enterprise Fellowship Program. A total of thirty-four fellows, 17 from each partner university, will celebrate their graduation on May 20, 2017, at KIMEP University in Almaty, Kazakhstan and on June 3, 2017, at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic. They join the ranks of the 167 other Enterprise student fellow graduates who are forging successful careers and contributing to the development and growth of their countries.

U.S.-CAEF Student Fellows are academically gifted citizen residents of one of the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan who, without financial aid, would otherwise not be able to pursue a university education at one of the Foundation's partner universities. They have been awarded full undergraduate scholarships for study in the fields of business and, in some cases, economics. Student Fellows must meet the rigorous admission standards of their university and are selected by the Foundation's Board at the end of a selection process developed by the Foundation and American Councils for International Education (American Councils), which administers the Foundation's fellowship programs. Each student selected for the program commits to meeting the on-going requirements of the scholarship, including maintaining a 3.0 grade point average at AUCA (4.0 being the highest possible grade) and a 3.25 grade point average at KIMEP (4.33 being the highest possible grade) and participating in the educational, vocational and social events of the Student Fellowship Program.

Graduation 2017 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 nonprofit corporation to encourage the creation and expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Central Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and operated in Central Asia for eight years until 2004. Like all Enterprise Funds, CAAEF was managed by a private board of directors and was required to liquidate its investments by a specified “sunset” date and either return the proceeds to the U.S. Treasury or develop a “legacy proposal” for an alternative use of these proceeds, consistent with the Fund’s mission.

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

### Mission

The Foundation’s mission is to encourage and assist the development and growth of a vibrant open-market private business sector in Central Asia by: supporting the quality of - and affordable access to - Western business know-how and practices at selected institutions of higher learning in the region that have adopted Western curricula and teaching methods; providing opportunities for educational, vocational, and cultural experience in countries that serve as positive examples of an open market economy operating within a democratic environment; and, promoting other activities that will generate a favorable environment in Central Asia for private business to succeed and entrepreneurial spirit to thrive.

#### 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

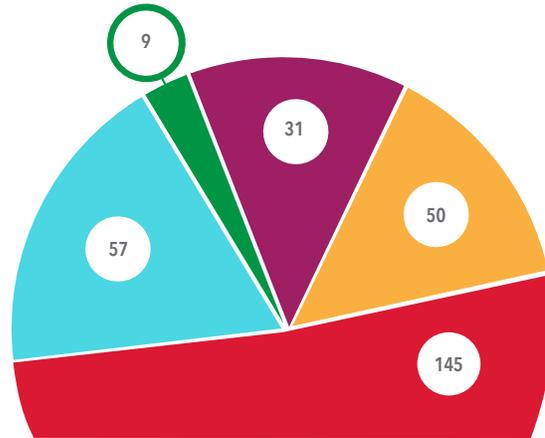


FIGURE 1: STUDENT FELLOWS BY CITIZENSHIP SINCE PROGRAM INCEPTION

- 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 2016-2017 academic year, the Foundation awarded a total of 125 scholarships for 62 Student Fellows to attend AUCA and 63 to attend KIMEP University. While the Foundation is committed to achieving geographic and regional diversity, its efforts have been challenged at different times by the inability to conduct active outreach in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Despite these challenges, it is notable that among the Student Fellows are citizens from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as well as from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan. It is the intent of the Foundation to actively and continuously recruit in all of these countries.

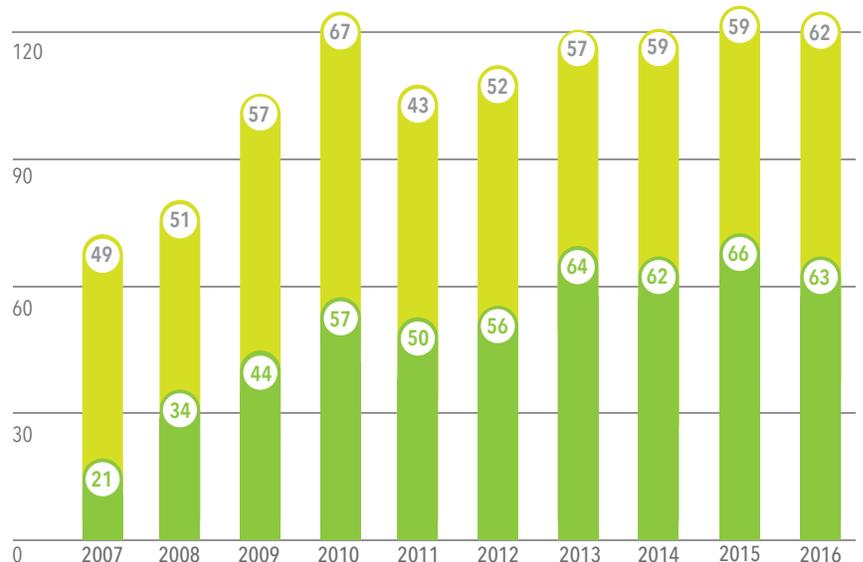
#### ENTERPRISE FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

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.

KIMEP University further supports the U.S.-CAEF mission by providing partial, matching scholarship awards to many U.S.-CAEF Enterprise Fellows enrolled in its undergraduate programs. These awards enable the Foundation to maximize the number of students it supports. We are deeply grateful to KIMEP University for its important contribution to the U.S.-CAEF mission and its generous assistance to U.S.-CAEF Enterprise Fellows.



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA (AUCA)



KIMEP UNIVERSITY

## Program administrator: American Councils for International Education

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

For over 40 years, American Councils has responded to the needs of the communities where it works with hundreds of robust, international education programs that span over 80 countries and 40 languages, and are represented by more than 65,000 Alumni worldwide, including government leaders, top international educators, business innovators, public officials, and K-16 students.

# GRADUATION 2017: 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. We are proud that they are part of the U.S.-CAEF family. They have continued the traditions started by earlier Enterprise Student Fellows. They are a credit to their parents, their families, their professors, their universities and their U.S.-CAEF family. They have mentored incoming Fellows, helped create and strengthen the U.S.-CAEF Student Association, taken campus-wide roles in student government and university clubs, managed entrepreneurial businesses, won opportunities to study overseas, and volunteered their time and skills, including their language skills, to their communities. Most of our Student Fellows are fluent in at least three languages: the language of their home Central Asian country, English and Russian. Many have gained proficiency in additional languages.

At AUCA, fourth-year students with a cumulative GPA of 3.8 or higher are placed on the "President's List." Students in their second, third, or fourth years of study with a GPA of 3.67 or higher are placed on the "Dean's List."

At KIMEP University, full-time students with a semester GPA of 4.0 or higher are placed on the "President's List," while those with a semester GPA of 3.75 to 3.9 are placed on the "Dean's List."

The academic performance of this year's graduating class has been exemplary. Of 34 Student Fellows, 18 have been recognized on the President's or Dean's Lists.

## STUDENTS RECOGNIZED ON THE PRESIDENT'S AND DEAN'S LISTS

RAKHNAZA ABAKIROVA	DANA KUSSAIN
BUNYOD ABDUKARIMOV	ZARRINAKHON MULLOBOEVA
DINARA ALIMZHANOVA	MALIKA ORAZYMBETOVA
MOHINAV AMONULLOEVA	SAMATBEK OSMONOV
TIMUR AZIZOV	USNIBEGIM RAHIMJONOVA
SHAHNOZ JONMAMADOVA	AIGERIM RYSBAYEVA
ANISA HOJIEVA	AKNUR TASSYBEKOVA
ASEL KALDYBAEVA	AZIM TILEKOV
TIMUR KARIMOV	INNA TSOI
ZHAMILIA KLYCHEVA	JAMSHEDI UMARZODA
SAGYNAI KOICHUEVA	ALEXEY YAN

KIMEP senior **Jamshedi Umarzoda** took an accelerated track and graduated magna cum laude from KIMEP University in January 2017. Twelve more Student Fellows are on track to graduate with honors: **Rakhnaza Abakirova, Kyial Bakytbek kyzy, Anisa Hojjeva, Asel Kaldybaeva, Gulnaza Khalmanbetova, Zhamilia Klycheva, Samatbek Osmonov, Azim Tilekov, and Inna Tsoi at AUCA, and Shahnoz Jonmamadova and Zarrinakhon Mulloboeva, at KIMEP University. Inna Tsoi, who has maintained a maximum 4.00 GPA throughout all four years at AUCA, is on track to become the first U.S.-CAEF fellow to graduate with a perfect GPA.**

Our seniors have also taken advantage of highly competitive, enriching study abroad programs in Austria, Croatia, Latvia, Norway, South Korea, Sweden, Turkey and United States. In the pages that follow, we offer profiles of these outstanding young men and women, written by the graduating fellows themselves.



ANISA HOJIEVA



AUCA CLASS OF 2017



AUCA

# RAKHNAZA ABAKIROVA

## HOMETOWN

BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## MAJOR

ECONOMICS

## AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2014  
FALL 2015



“U.S.-CAEF inspired me to achieve more, & proved that everything is possible if you work hard & honestly.”

Studying at American University of Central Asia had been my greatest dream, and the U.S.-CAEF program made my dream come true. It is one of the best things that has ever happened in my life.

Education has always played an important role in my life. Since secondary school, I have been a curious and open-minded person; therefore, I found a lot of joy in studying. Especially, I liked mathematics. So I wanted to choose a career where I could utilize my math knowledge. That is how I decided to major in Economics at AUCA. I was also greatly inspired by my grandpa, who was an economist. Now I am getting very close to my goal of becoming an economist.

During these four years of undergraduate studies, I had an excellent opportunity to explore many aspects of this broad area of science and improve my professional knowledge. The academic environment at AUCA boosted my analytical thinking, logical reasoning, and problem solving skills and encouraged me to achieve high academic performance. For two consecutive years, I was recognized on the Dean's List in fall 2014 and fall 2015 for my academic achievements in the 2013-14 and 2014-15 academic years.

My six-month internship with East Star Capital, an international investment bank, was a priceless chance to apply my theoretical knowl-

edge in practice. During the internship, I was involved in conducting economic research and market planning. This helped me a lot to understand not only how economic theory works in real life, but also expanded my knowledge in other spheres, such as marketing.

Although I devoted a lot of time to academics, I actively participated in different social events. One of the most memorable activities was the Kelechek Health Prom, a charitable event that I organized together with Bakhrom Tursunov and Hannah Brooks. We were able to raise \$5,000 to build a playground in the Leninskoe village. We prepared a short video and posted it on the Global Giving site. You can watch the video at [goo.gl/E5Flrq](http://goo.gl/E5Flrq). I consider this achievement to be my greatest one, because it proves that I can contribute to society. The experience motivates me to bring more positive changes to our society.

The U.S. - CAEF Enterprise Fellowship program played a huge role in my professional and personal development. U.S.-CAEF inspired me to achieve more, and proved that everything is possible if you work hard and honestly. I am infinitely grateful to U.S.-CAEF for such amazing opportunities in my life.



## KYIAL BAKYTBEK KYZY

AUCA

### **HOMETOWN**

KANT, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

### **MAJOR**

ECONOMICS

### **MINOR**

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

“I express my deep gratitude to the U.S.-CAEF directors, American Councils and AUCA professors for their support, for shaping my values and providing us with great opportunities for growth.”

“Studying is not about time. It is about effort” is one of the sayings that I follow from my early years to be successful. Getting a full scholarship at Kyrgyz-Turkish Sebat High School was one of my great achievements. This school, known for its competitive environment, taught me such values as honesty and discipline. While in high school, I realized that AUCA was the only university I wanted to attend. Receiving a U.S.-CAEF scholarship was a turning point in my life and a great stimulus for my next achievements.

Now, I am a senior majoring in Economics and minoring in Business Administration. Understanding the importance of applying my theoretical knowledge in practice, I gained valuable professional experience interning at Manas International Airport through the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program, and later at Optima Bank and Tokmok canning factory; working part-time jobs at Flormar and Garnier, leading cosmetic companies in Kyrgyzstan; and participating in the Work and Travel program in the U.S. These experiences motivated me to study and develop professionally.

Another tipping point in my life was spending one semester at Yeditepe University, Istanbul in spring 2015. During my exchange

semester, I participated in the activities of the Erasmus Student Exchange organization and an internship with Enesay, a textile design and production company. In addition to providing me educational and professional development, my semester in Turkey was a rich cultural exchange opportunity as well. I was proud to play Komuz, our national instrument, at Genc Kartallar haftasi, one of the famous international festivals.

The AUCA spirit encourages me to be active, so I volunteered with the Unity Fund, a charitable club; the AUCA Continuing Education Center; and Enactus, a student club that promotes social entrepreneurship projects.

I express my deep gratitude to the U.S.-CAEF directors, American Councils and AUCA professors for their support, for shaping my values and providing us with great opportunities for growth. I appreciate the trust you put in us. I look forward to using my experience and education for the benefit of my country.

# ASEL DILDEBAEVA

**HOMETOWN**

SHOPOKOV, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**MAJOR**

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



“These four years were filled with warm feelings and a desire to build a strong bridge between people, countries, and cultures.”

I am grateful for all the opportunities in my life that lined up perfectly every time, opening doors to new possibilities for growth. As an exchange student on the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program in Fulton High School, Fulton, Missouri in AY2012-13, I had a chance to build a network of people from all over the world, and take part in activities that helped shape my values. Participation in the Future Business Leaders of America club at Fulton High School was particularly important as it helped me choose my career path in business.

Once I found my field of interest, I received another incredible opportunity to become a U.S.-CAEF fellow at the American University of Central Asia. I perceive this opportunity as a priceless and strong foundation for building my future. AUCA gave me quality education and access to multiple opportunities for my professional and personal growth. Open-minded and devoted professors of the Business Administration Department played a big role in my development as a young professional and helped me accept and cope with different levels of challenges in my future life and career path.

My internship with Mega Insurance Group became an excellent opportunity for practical application of the theoretical knowledge that I acquired at AUCA. The experience helped me gain insight into the business world and develop important interpersonal and communication skills.

I am happy to be able to balance my family life with my studies and professional development. During these four years, I faced different life challenges, but every time I was able to stand up and continue because I realized the uniqueness of the opportunities provided by the U.S.-CAEF scholarship. It feels so wonderful to realize that I have reached another important point in my life, having my most inspiring daughter beside me. These four years were filled with warm feelings and a desire to build a strong bridge between people, countries, and cultures.



# ANISA HOJIEVA

AUCA

## **HOMETOWN**

KHUJAND, TAJIKISTAN

## **MAJOR**

ECONOMICS

## **MINOR**

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

## **AWARDS**

SPRING 2014, SPRING 2015

“It is U.S. - CAEF that keeps me dreaming big.

U.S.-CAEF gave me a chance to study Economics at AUCA. This journey was amazing with its ups and downs. It helped me discover my strengths and prepared me to face unexpected challenges fearlessly.

While studying at AUCA, I discovered my love for writing, which turned into my hobby and led to a part-time job as a writing tutor in the Writing and Academic Resource Center of AUCA. I enjoy every day spent at the center. Writing became a tool to express my thoughts, and share my voice with the world. In 2015, I became one of the winners of the Many Languages One World youth forum held in New York City, USA. The highlight of this trip for me was a speech that I gave at the UN General Assembly, which I will remember as one of the brightest moments in my life.

Due to the flexibility of the study plan at AUCA, I was able to take several finance courses from the Business Administration program and sign up for the Logistics and Supply Chain Management (LSCM) Certificate Program created in partnership with Kuehne Foundation, Switzerland. I was selected by Kuehne Foundation to intern at Rohlig Logistics, an international logistics company, in spring 2016.

Volunteering, internships and part-time jobs allowed me to utilize my theoretical knowledge and boosted my professional development. After my sophomore year, I had my first internship in the finance department of the NGO Save the Children Kyrgyzstan through the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program. Last summer, I interned for two different organizations as assistant to the public relations coordinator at the Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan, and as assistant in the investment and franchising departments of East Star Capital, an investment bank. These internships allowed me to explore different areas of business and equipped me with useful skills and knowledge.

In my free time, I take part in different extracurricular activities. I was a member of the student theatre and the green campus project. Each year, I proudly represent my country at Diversity Week. In addition, I took part in professional workshops and seminars organized by local companies, and volunteered at educational and job fairs.

I believe that I owe a lot to U.S.-CAEF, because the program provided me with an opportunity to become who I am now; and it is U.S.-CAEF that keeps me dreaming big.

# ASEL KALDYBAEVA

## HOMETOWN

TEPLOKLYUCHENKA, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

## MINOR

ECONOMICS

## AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2014, 2015, 2016



“U.S.-CAEF helped me find my best friends and grow both personally and professionally.”

Education is the best investment. When I was in high school, I couldn't imagine that I would study at AUCA and become a member of two families-- U.S.-CAEF and New Generation Academy (NGA). The support of my NGA professors encouraged me to believe in myself, which helped me win a U.S.-CAEF scholarship. U.S.-CAEF helped me find my best friends and grow both personally and professionally.

U.S.-CAEF gave me an opportunity to plunge into the diverse AUCA environment and achieve my dreams. During my freshman year, I participated in the 17th World Business Dialogue held in Cologne, Germany. While taking part in the workshops held by AG Daimler, Microsoft & Nokia, and Bayer, I met youth of totally different mindsets, people who think globally and who are capable of bringing changes on a world scale. In 2015, I became a finalist of the Global UGRAD program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and studied at Augustana University, Sioux Falls, SD. These experiences strengthened my personal principles, helped me set up new goals, and broadened my perspectives.

In addition to my academic knowledge, I gained practical experience while interning in the loan department of FINCA Bank through the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program. It was a very

useful experience, which taught me to analyze loan risks, monitor proper use of loans and communicate with customers. While in the US, I interned at Future Scape 3D Printing. My involvement in the Muesli production business in Kyrgyzstan helped me test my business ideas.

My involvement in extracurricular activities at AUCA, the School of Social Entrepreneurship and the ProKG Leadership programs helped me believe in the potential of the knowledge economy in my country. Therefore, I started to invest my extra time in encouraging teenagers to pursue high quality education through the NGA Mentorship Program at AUCA, which I co-founded, and participate in projects like Eco Caravan organized by the Unity Fund, a charitable organization. In addition, as a UGRAD alumni officer, I organize workshops for potential applicants to the exchange program. Currently, with financial support from the ProKG Club of Professionals, I'm running the Empower Youth leadership program for 15 bright teenagers from my village. The program helps participants prepare for university admissions and engages youth in social projects.



# GULNAZA KHALMANBETOVA

AUCA

**HOMETOWN**  
OSH, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**MAJOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

“I am very thankful to be around the talented students chosen for the U.S.-CAEF program, which guided us through to become professionals in this competitive world.”

When I was a child, I was very interested in crafts. It was back then when I defined my future goal - to combine business with art.

The first two years of my university life at AUCA I devoted to volunteering, community projects and charitable events. Being Vice President of Communications at AIESEC, a student organization, in my freshmen year helped me shape my leadership skills and grow professionally. Moreover, the community projects were like a laboratory for me where I could experiment and test theoretical knowledge received at the university. One of my biggest community projects was Art Rocks, funded by the U.S. Embassy. The goal of the project was to empower young disabled women through art.

During my junior year, I decided to use all my acquired experience and knowledge to create my own business, Datka shop, a workshop of customized gifts. I launched my business in the summer of 2014. Within two years, it gained significant popularity in Osh and today it is known as the most creative shop in the south of the country. The most interesting thing about the workshop is that there are no limits; we create new products and services every day, adjusting to every customer's needs.

During my exchange semester at South Korean Kyung Hee University in spring 2016, I learned new art craft techniques and adapted them to my workshop. My next goal is to turn my little workshop into a big art house, where people like me, who have a passion for art, will have an opportunity to create and sell their work.

Besides my workshop, I had a chance to assist in organizing impactful business events as the First Kyrgyz-Brazilian Business Forum (November 2016), Travel and Tourism Hackathon (December 2016), and Kyrgyz Republic Museum Capacity Building Program (November 2016). Moreover, currently we are planning the next hackathon in spring of 2017 with the startup incubator IdeaGrad.

I am very thankful to be around the talented students chosen for the U.S.-CAEF program, which guided us through to become professionals in this competitive world. I will do my best to give back to this wonderful program and make a positive impact in my community.

# ZHAMILIA KLYCHEVA

## HOMETOWN

BALYKCHY, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

## AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST: FALL 2016

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2014, 2015



“When others believe in you, you unconsciously start believing in yourself”.

Becoming a U.S.-CAEF fellow was quite challenging. Since I was a FLEX program exchange student in Goffstown, NH at that time, I had to apply for the program online, involving my entire family in the process. Just about this time four years ago, I was selected to this program, and I still can't believe in my happiness. U.S.-CAEF opened up new horizons and put me hundreds of steps closer to my goals. It let me take a deep dive into the academic life of AUCA, developed my critical thinking skills, and fostered an eagerness to question the world around me. As Socrates once said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.”- I totally agree.

Apart from academic life, AUCA offers a rich co-curricular program and many opportunities to meet interesting people. Throughout these years, I have been involved in student organizations, professional training sessions and educational fairs. Enactus, a student-led organization, gave me a priceless experience in the sphere of human resources. AUCA Diversity Week gave me the real taste of Indian dances and let me feel as a Bollywood star. AUCA

marathons trained my willpower. Trainings provided by such outstanding professionals as the founders of Sierra Coffee and the Shoro Company inspired me to reach new horizons. Moreover, last year, I was privileged to participate in the Get Engaged conference in Budapest, organized by Bard College, where I introduced my own social project. As the FLEX alumni representative in my hometown Balykchy in the Issyk-Kul region, I implemented several charitable, environmental and social business projects, involving more than 3,000 people.

My work experience includes managing consulting services for local businesses through the Business Clinic of AUCA, an internship at the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic in March-June, 2016, and academic writing tutoring at the Writing and Academic Resource center (WARC) at AUCA.

This is just the beginning of a long and a complex path called life. I know it is not going to be easy, but I believe in myself.

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ZHAMILIA HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2017



## SAGYNAI KOICHUEVA

AUCA

### **HOMETOWN**

OSH, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

### **MAJOR**

ECONOMICS

### **AWARDS**

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2014

“Throughout the four years at AUCA, I had many opportunities to develop personally & professionally because I was surrounded by talented & ambitious students & a team of skilled and proficient professors.”

U.S.-CAEF is a fantastic program that introduced me to the amazing AUCA community. It is a great honor for me to be part of U.S.-CAEF, which became my second family.

Before applying for the U.S.-CAEF Enterprise Fellowship program, I studied at the New Generation Academy (NGA), a comprehensive program preparing students for university education. It was at NGA that I learned about U.S.-CAEF. Applying for U.S.-CAEF was the most important step toward my goals. My dream to receive a high quality education in one of the best universities in Central Asia came true thanks to U.S.-CAEF, and my life took a totally different turn.

Throughout the four years at AUCA, I had many opportunities to develop personally and professionally because I was surrounded by talented and ambitious students and a team of skilled and proficient professors. I found great friends who are always ready to understand and support me. I met caring teachers who taught me interesting courses.

All the knowledge that my professors imparted to me I was able to apply in reality through interning in different companies. The most exciting and substantial among them were my internships in the marketing department of Coca Cola Bottlers Company, Bishkek and in the project promoting financial literacy in Kyrgyzstan sponsored by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the World Bank Group (WB) during the summer of 2016. The internship with Coca Cola helped me develop important marketing skills. The goal of the campaign organized by IFC and WB was to collect concrete statistical data about microcredit users to analyze their behavior. While interning for this project, I was involved in the development of the survey, conducting interviews with loan users, and collecting and analyzing huge amount of data. This experience allowed me to improve my leadership and communication skills, and most importantly, helped me develop important analytical skills.

I am so thankful to the U.S.-CAEF program that gave me so many opportunities for my growth and hope for my future.

# RAKHAT KUBANYCHBEKOVA

## HOMETOWN

NARYN, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



“I want to express my immeasurable gratitude to U.S.-CAEF for giving me an opportunity to study at the university that has given me not only excellent knowledge, but also has changed my mindset by making me open-minded and responsible...”

I truly believe that knowledge is power. Therefore, since my childhood, I have enjoyed studying. I graduated from high school with honors, which helped me win a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study at AUCA. Looking back, I realize that the day when I was accepted to the U.S.-CAEF program was a start for a new, life-changing journey. Within these four years, I have grown as a person and as a professional.

From my freshmen year, I have tried to use all the opportunities provided to me by AUCA and U.S.-CAEF. I was actively involved in extracurricular activities—I volunteered at the Unity Fund, a charitable club, and AIESEC, an international student organization. The experiences allowed me to develop my communication, time management, and teamwork skills. Excellent courses, numerous trainings, conferences and events organized at the university enhanced my knowledge and provided me with a solid foundation in Business Administration.

After my second year of studies, thanks to the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program, I had an opportunity to apply my theoretical knowledge to practice through an internship at Shoro company. I learned a great deal about the production and daily operations of the biggest local beverage company. The next year, I had my second internship at KICB Bank, where I learned about risks in the credit system and was involved in the analysis of client profiles.

The U.S.-CAEF program also supported me in gaining international experience by allowing me to spend an exchange semester at Hanam University, Daejeon, South Korea in the spring 2016 semester. This study abroad experience taught me to work in a diverse environment, strengthened my confidence and made me realize that I can be competitive not only in Kyrgyzstan but internationally as well.

Moreover, U.S.-CAEF gave me a second family—the U.S.-CAEF community, where every single fellow is a talented and unique individual, a friend who can always support me, give me advice and recharge me with motivation and energy.

I want to express my immeasurable gratitude to U.S.-CAEF for giving me an opportunity to study at the university that has given me not only excellent knowledge but also has changed my mindset by making me open-minded and responsible for everything that I do. I will do my best to justify the trust and investments that I was privileged to receive.



## SAMATBEK OSMONOV

AUCA

### **HOMETOWN**

KARAKOL, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

### **MAJOR**

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### **AWARDS**

PRESIDENT'S LIST: FALL 2016

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2014

“This program gave me invaluable knowledge and experience that will enable me not only to become a successful professional, but more importantly, to make a tangible contribution to my community.”

U.S.-CAEF provided me with an incredible opportunity to study in one of the best universities in Central Asia with a great team of professors and outstanding students with exceptional talents. Knowing this, I always aimed at gaining maximum knowledge and skills from my professors and advisers. Because of my hard work and the nurturing environment of AUCA, I received President's and Dean's awards for excellent academic performance. Besides that, I spent my spring 2016 semester on the Hannam University Exchange Program in South Korea. This semester gave me a great opportunity to deepen my knowledge, explore a new culture and expand my horizons.

During these years, I successfully balanced my active student and professional lives. My most recent job experience was in the largest microcredit company in our country, Mol Bulak Finance, where I worked as a financial analyst. This experience turned out to be invaluable because I learned to conduct complex financial analysis, prepare budgeting and accounting reports, forecast future income and expenses, and optimize costs. Besides that, I interned at Ideagrad, a startup incubator, as a finance intern, and at Rebicon, a research company, as an interviewer. I approached all my tasks and duties with diligence and responsibility, and acquired great professional experience.

In addition, I have been actively involved in numerous extracurricular activities. I was a finalist of the prestigious KPMG, PwC and Changellenge case competitions, and co-founded the AUCA Case Club to help students develop business-problem solving, analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as to bring their public speaking, teamwork and leadership skills to a new level with the ultimate goal of raising competitive and competent future business professionals.

Apart from these, I was an active member of AUCA Debate, Future Leaders of the World and Green Campus student clubs, a volunteer for such charitable organizations as Unity Fund and Kelechek, and a mentor for the NGA Mentorship Program. In addition, I took part in Google Developer Group conferences and the ACM-ICPC International Collegiate Programming Contest.

I strongly believe that none of these achievements would have been possible without the U.S.-CAEF program. This program gave me invaluable knowledge and experience that will enable me not only to become a successful professional, but more importantly, to make a tangible contribution to my community. U.S.-CAEF completely changed my life, and I am immensely grateful to everyone who made this opportunity possible.

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SAMATBEK HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2017

# KUTTUBEK RAKHMANBERDIEV

## HOMETOWN

TALAS, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



“I am deeply grateful to the founders of the U.S.-CAEF program for their great effort to make Central Asia better and stronger through investing in young generations. The scholarship program created a family of talented and ambitious students and I am proud to be part of it.”

U.S.-CAEF is a unique program that offers an amazing opportunity for young leaders from Central Asia to study at leading universities, acquire professional experience and contribute to the economic growth of their home countries. The well-known leader and social activist Nelson Mandela once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world”. I believe that today’s young leaders will become tomorrow’s decision makers, who will make changes for the benefit of their countries.

From my first year of study at AUCA, I vigorously participated in various conferences, contests and other activities, where I developed my professional and personal skills. For example, in my freshmen year, I joined Enactus, a worldwide organization focused on solving social problems through entrepreneurship. In Enactus, we helped local entrepreneurs improve the effectiveness of their businesses and discover new opportunities for expansion. Through this experience, I learned how to negotiate with people with different backgrounds, organize meetings and write a business plan.

I spent my spring 2015 semester at Yeditepe University as an exchange student. This university is located in Istanbul, Turkey, the capital of tourism, history and business. Yeditepe is distinguished

from other universities by its large and beautiful campus, highly qualified faculty and talented students from around the world. Therefore, I had an opportunity to meet with interesting people, get more information about running businesses in Turkey and learn about the rich Turkish culture.

After returning home from Istanbul, I interned as a marketer and sales manager at several growing companies such as Mozgami branding agency and recreation center Sun City Kegety. Later on, I started to work as an assistant to the coordinator at the Club of Professionals ProKG. This organization is a union of professionals from Kyrgyzstan, who inspire and lead young leaders. Through ProKG, I met many talented people with diverse backgrounds. In addition, together with my team I participated in several prestigious case competitions such as KPMG Case Cup, BCG Idea Challenge and Changellenge: Cup Kazakhstan, where we dove into the world of management consulting.

I am deeply grateful to the founders of the U.S.-CAEF program for their great effort to make Central Asia better and stronger through investing in young generations. The scholarship program created a family of talented and ambitious students, and I am proud to be part of it.

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KUTTUBEK HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2017



# ALMANBET SHEROV

AUCA

## **HOMETOWN**

JALAL-ABAD, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## **MAJOR**

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

“I believe that education is the most efficient tool in the development of the society, and I am very much thankful that I had an opportunity to get it.”

When I write my success stories in the future, somebody may say that I should thank the university for everything I have, but I will say that I have to be thankful to U.S.-CAEF. First, I am thankful for the given opportunity to study at AUCA. I had a chance to meet many great people, to participate in great events, and to learn from great professors.

I graduated high school with excellence. It was always important for me to find my place in the world. Even right now the question is still open, although I have tested myself in different fields starting from project management and ending with research. I participated in two summer schools in Germany organized by the Service Civil International organization. Meeting many people from around the world helped me start thinking about everything in global terms. I understood that I needed to bring a global perspective to Kyrgyzstan. Therefore, I am planning to apply to master's programs in Europe or the United States.

While I was studying, I had a chance to take part in a research project conducted by one of our professors from the United States. As one of the supervisors of the project, I had a chance to learn a lot about data analysis and conducting surveys. The project was very interesting for me, and helped me decide on my future career options.

I am interested in working in the field of research in Kyrgyzstan. I believe that qualitative and reliable sources of information can help a lot in developing the economy of my country. Therefore, I see myself in the field of research.

I will always be thankful to the U.S.-CAEF program for the provided opportunities. I wouldn't be where I am now without the program.

Thank you!

# GULKAIYR TASHIEVA

**HOMETOWN**

OSH, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**MAJOR**

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



“It is my honor and pleasure to express my deepest gratitude for such an amazing program! A fascinating journey of four-year study at AUCA gave me a great chance to discover for myself what I am passionate about and good at.”

From early school years, my high academic and Olympiad achievements built my confidence in setting up big dreams. After successful graduation from high school, I was accepted to the New Generation Academy (NGA), a preparatory scholarship program at AUCA. Thanks to the NGA program, I boosted my English and math skills, and earned high grades, completing the program among the top ten students, which allowed me to enroll in the Business Administration program at AUCA. I chose this sphere because I believe a robust businesses environment can improve people’s lives and have a positive impact on the economy of the country.

These fascinating years gave me a great chance to discover myself. I tested myself to find out what I am really good at. The academic program exceeded my expectations. Recently, the Business Administration department started to offer a wide range of certificate programs in various spheres of concentration. I am fortunate to complete the Logistics and Supply Chain Management program, which was created by AUCA in partnership with the Kuehne-Foundation, Switzerland. This business sector was completely new for me. Currently, I am completing the Business Analytics program, which helped me find my passion for this practical area of studies.

As for my professional experience, I interned as a business consultant with the Business Clinic of Central Asia, where I discovered the importance of IT in promoting businesses and reaching international standards. During my second eleven-month internship in the Monitoring and Evaluation Department of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), I had the chance to work with data collecting, processing, analyzing and reporting, and to utilize my technical, quantitative and writing skills.

After this experience and taking my business courses, I have developed a keen desire to pursue my career in the sphere of business analytics. Data analysis can give insightful answers to thousands of questions in a decision-making process. In the near future, I am planning to gain work experience and a master’s degree in Business Analytics to introduce new and effective analytical instruments and tools for better decision-making in businesses in my home country.



# AZIM TILEKOV

AUCA

## **HOMETOWN**

BALYKCHY, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## **MAJOR**

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

## **AWARDS**

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2015, 2016

“U.S.-CAEF presented me a unique opportunity to pursue my dream major – Business Administration – at AUCA among bright and talented people.”

Since childhood, I have dreamed of studying abroad: discovering new horizons, being acquainted with new cultures, sharing experiences and meeting new people.

This opportunity came to me during my sophomore year. I was chosen to participate in an exchange program at Kyung Hee University, Seoul, South Korea. I chose Korea because of its unique culture; however, the main factor was that the university has one of the highest rankings, and is among the top seven universities in Korea. I was honored to study there with outstanding students and able to meet wonderful friends among both exchange and local students, who made my memories of Seoul even brighter.

During my studies, I tested myself in different spheres, such as finance, marketing, management, research and analytics by completing internships, participating in various business championships and conferences.

One of the first internships I had was at Central Asian Free Market Institute (CAFMI), where I worked on a project called “Get in the Ring”, a global startup competition, which is organized in more than 64 countries worldwide, including Kyrgyzstan, with the purpose of developing the business environment.

I have always dreamt about running and managing my own business. My future goal is to create our own National Kyrgyz Conglomerate that will be a cornerstone of the economic and social landscape of our country and known worldwide. Two events in my life inspired me to do so. First, my experience in co-founding a greenhouse startup, which helped me understand that I love creating a business and delivering services to people. Second, my exchange semester in Seoul, South Korea, where I observed vivid examples of Korean economic giant holdings such as Samsung, Hyundai, LG and SK.

After co-founding my first startup, I realized that to be an entrepreneur you need to accumulate work experience, knowledge and skills. For that reason, in my third year, I started to work as a consultant and analyst in a consulting company, Beyond Investment Group LLC. It was extraordinarily useful for me to look at the businesses from the consultants' side and learn about inefficiencies in the business processes and ways to eliminate these inefficiencies.

I am very thankful to the U.S.-CAEF Program for its support in my obtaining not only high a quality education but also becoming part of the incredible community called U.S.-CAEF Family.

# INNA TSOI

## HOMETOWN

BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

## MINOR

FINANCE

## AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST: FALL 2016

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2014, 2015



“U.S.-CAEF is a gateway, we are the ones who choose which doors to open.”

Throughout my high school years, I maintained an excellent academic performance and participated in math Olympiads. I earned first-place honors in the international Kangaroo Math Olympiad in Bishkek and the DECA International Marketing Management Competition in Green Bay, WI, USA. I received a golden certificate for getting one of the 50 highest test scores among high school graduates in Kyrgyzstan. These achievements encouraged me to study business.

I am a FLEX program alumna of 2013. I spent one year in the USA and was really amazed by some things that are common there, which are not in Kyrgyzstan. Some examples would be volunteering and extracurricular activities. When I came back home, I immediately engaged in community service. I joined the ENACTUS AUCA club, which realizes social entrepreneurship projects, for two years. I am very satisfied with the results of my work both in ENACTUS and the FLEX Alumni Association.

I participated in a number of conferences: the PEN international conference in September 2014, Bishkek; OSCE Central Asian Youth Network seminar, Almaty; ENACTUS international summer camp, Almaty; Better Understanding for a Better World, Orlando, FL, USA; and Civic Education Workshop, Washington D.C., USA.

During my sophomore year, I was accepted to a study abroad program at Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey. I truly appreciated this op-

portunity and took very useful classes, which triggered my interest in solving business cases and consulting. Thus, during my junior year of studies at AUCA, I participated in the KPMG case competition and made it to the finals, together with my team. This was a very competitive event and learning from KPMG professionals and other teams was one of the most valuable experiences in my life. Currently, I am an editor at AUCA TV.

Finally, I interned for three local companies. My first working experience began in the human resources department at Kompanion, a microfinance company. The second was at a consulting company, Inspire Consulting, where I interned in the accounting department through the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship program. I would like to thank our alumna Karina Kussainova, a U.S.-CAEF alumna, for being there and mentoring a person with not much experience or background like me at the time. My next internship was in the department of advertising, consumer protection and unfair competition at the State Anti-Monopoly Agency in Bishkek. As my concentration is finance, I was lucky to intern at KPMG, where I learned about international audit and tax procedures.

I have learned so much, and I would like to thank U.S.-CAEF for helping me to discover my strengths and weaknesses, and opening up my potential. It gave me confidence to believe I can become whomever I want.



## BAKHROM TURSUNOV

AUCA

### **HOMETOWN**

KYZYL-KIYA, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

### **MAJOR**

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

“U.S.-CAEF changes the lives of people.”

I grew up in Kyzyl-Kiya, a remote town in the Batken region of Kyrgyzstan. I could not imagine that I would be studying at the American University of Central Asia. For the boy from the rural area of the country studying at AUCA was a dream, and U.S.-CAEF fulfilled that dream. The support provided by U.S.-CAEF program relieved a huge financial burden for my mother.

During four years of my study at AUCA, the U.S.-CAEF program provided us with interesting and useful trainings and seminars that helped our professional development. The U.S.-CAEF community is another unique part of the program. I became acquainted with many graduates of the program, and I believe that in the future we will support each other through working together on different projects.

I am a senior majoring in Business Administration at AUCA. During these years at AUCA, I took many interesting courses that helped me develop professional skills. Besides, I understood that in the future I will be working in the marketing area. In 2016, I had an internship at Amanat Films Company. My colleagues and I did marketing

research for the future film of Ruslan Akun, a Kyrgyz filmmaker and screenwriter, called “Finding Mom”. That was an unforgettable experience to work on the international project, where three countries were involved—the USA, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

Another achievement that I am especially proud of is related to the university television. In 2014, I became a PR director of AUCA TV. Together with my talented peers we produced many creative projects. In 2015, AUCA TV was recognized as the best youth project of the year in Kyrgyzstan. I didn’t stop developing the AUCA TV, and I applied for and received a mini grant from the Bard Center for Civic Engagement Network, which will allow me to present my own video project in Budapest, Hungary in March 2017.

I believe that none of these achievements would have been possible without the support from U.S.-CAEF. I want to express my gratitude to the founders and all contributors of the U.S.-CAEF program. This investment opens doors for talented students from Central Asia with a passion to learn and transform their communities.

# AIZADA TYNCHYBEK KYZY

## HOMETOWN

GULCHA, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



“U.S.-CAEF gave me an opportunity to open the door of AUCA, and for sure, it will help me to open many other doors leading me to successes in the future.”

My Mom has always been telling me about the importance of education in life. She used to say “Learning is the light in the darkness”. So I focused on getting a quality education using opportunities at my secondary school as well as participating in conferences and meetings outside of school. Eventually, I came to realize that AUCA is the only place where I would like to get my undergraduate degree.

In 2011, I enrolled in the New Generation Academy, a preparatory program at AUCA, where I improved my English, and learned about the AUCA campus culture. In 2012, I was awarded a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to support my studies in the Business Administration Department of AUCA. The four years of study at AUCA gave me knowledge not only about my major but also about the economic environment in my country, and helped me develop important skills. I improved my communication skills and learned how to be a good team player during the interactive classes at AUCA. In addition, I had a chance to be part of the international student organization AIESEC. Working in this organization was one of the first steps to my career life. I learned

to be a solution-oriented person, to enjoy the work I do, and to act as a world citizen anytime and anywhere.

In summer 2014, I took part in the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship program and successfully finished my internship at the International Business Council (IBC) in Bishkek. IBC is an organization which brings together leading companies with both foreign and local capital. During my internship, I was involved in the company's day-to-day operations, conducted analytical research work, and organized big corporate events.

In the future, I plan to open a business, which will help not only the economy of the Kyrgyz Republic, but also will contribute to the welfare of people in the world and help save the world's ecosystem for the future generations.

I would like to thank the U.S.-CAEF program for giving me an opportunity to get priceless knowledge and to find my path in life.



AUCA CLASS OF 2017





KIMEP CLASS OF 2017

# KIMEP University



# BUNYOD ABDUKARIMOV

## HOMETOWN

OSH, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## MAJOR

FINANCE

## AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST: SPRING 2014

DEAN'S LIST: SPRING 2016



“While going through all four years at the university, I have learned that progress happens gradually but permanently.”

I grew up in a small, post-soviet town in Kyrgyzstan - Osh. Since my childhood I always dreamed to experience the developed part of the world. During the tenth year of school my dream finally came true—I spent a full academic year (2011-2012) in Ohio as a FLEX participant. After FLEX, my vision cleared-- I realized that what is said to be impossible is actually possible.

While in high school, I applied for the U.S.-CAEF program to study at KIMEP University. Thankfully, my efforts to get into one of the best business schools in Central Asia were not in vain. From the first day of the university I was determined to participate in as many activities as possible and to study to the best of my abilities.

During the first year at KIMEP, I decided to focus on my time management skills to be able to keep up with much higher academic requirements than I had expected and participate in the dynamic and rich social life on campus. This allowed me to actively engage in university life. I enrolled in the Mister KIMEP contest and won the “Mister Intelligence” award; I became part of KIMEP’s Accounting and Finance Club; and I worked as an assistant in the real estate industry. In sum, through improving my time management skills, I managed to improve my personal performance.

To strengthen my personal qualities further, I decided to complete an exchange program in Seoul, South Korea. While studying at Hanyang University in academic year 2015, I ran a startup that helped foreign cit-

izens to obtain driver’s licenses and completed an internship in a non-profit company called International Council for Nonprofit Management (ICNPM) where I learned about the principles of the corporate world.

The study abroad program gave me many fresh ideas. I felt motivated to do another internship, this time in the financial department of “Tele2”, a telecommunication company. The experience influenced my decision to run for Vice-President of Finance of KIMEP Student Government. The election took a lot of time and effort. However, I managed to develop stronger networking and negotiation skills through this experience. However, the most important outcome was the realization that active involvement in life and overcoming challenges are crucial for my personal growth. As Vice-President of Finance, I am in charge of the budget committee, which consists of four independent student members and four student government members. The committee is responsible for the fair distribution of student funds to student organizations. All these accomplishments wouldn’t have happened without the U.S.-CAEF scholarship. I am endlessly thankful and proud to be part of the program that makes dream come true.



## AZIZA AKILOVA

KIMEP

### **HOMETOWN**

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN

### **MAJOR**

ACCOUNTING

### **MINOR**

MARKETING

“I am very thankful to U.S.-CAEF for making everything possible. I am proud to be the program’s alumna. I can’t believe it has been 4 years already. Time has gone very fast while I was packing skills, memories and experiences in my life suitcase. Now I am ready for new endeavors.”

Education is a key to progress. Since my childhood, education has been my priority. I studied hard at school, and I always knew I wanted to study abroad. I was very lucky to be admitted to KIMEP University and become part of the U.S.-CAEF family. I am very thankful for such a great opportunity.

At KIMEP, I gained valuable knowledge and skills, traveled, but most importantly, I met amazing people. I found all courses very interesting, but particularly, I liked Accounting, so I chose it as my major. In summer 2016, I interned in the accounting department of a furniture company, “Mebel-D”, in Dushanbe. It was a valuable experience: it gave me an in-depth understanding of accounting and highlighted the areas that I needed to focus on at KIMEP.

In spring 2016, I participated in an exchange program at Konkuk University, Seoul, South Korea. I expanded my knowledge about economies and businesses in Asian countries. Also, it was interesting for me to explore Korean culture and learn the language.

In addition to academics, I have been actively involved in KIMEP student life. I am a member of Tree Huggers, an environmental stu-

dent organization. The main goal of the organization is to organize ecological events to raise students’ awareness of environmental problems. While in high school, I used to participate in debate tournaments. At KIMEP, I continued taking part in debates through the Intellectual Debate Club. After my exchange semester in South Korea, I joined KOCO, the Korean Culture Organization. I am a member of AIESEC, an international organization that provides students with leadership training and internship opportunities. Also, I volunteered for various social events. All the knowledge and skills I have gained through these activities will help me make a positive change in my country.

I am very thankful to U.S.-CAEF for making everything possible. I am proud to become a U.S.-CAEF alumna. Time has gone very fast while I was packing skills, memories and experiences in my life suitcase. Now, I am ready for new endeavors.

# DINARA ALIMZHANOVA

## HOMETOWN

KARAGANDA, KAZAKHSTAN

## MAJOR

MARKETING



“If life gives you an opportunity, take everything possible from it... Acceptance to U.S.-CAEF was a blessing for me, because during these four years at KIMEP University, I became a person with strong values and beliefs. ”

When I found out that I received a scholarship, I did not realize what adventures were waiting for me. U.S.-CAEF gave me a great opportunity to be a student at one of the best Central Asian universities.

I grew up in Karaganda, Kazakhstan, understanding that I needed to look for international opportunities to expand my knowledge. I applied and was accepted to FLEX, and spent one academic year at Kingsburg High School, Kingsburg, CA in the United States. The experience helped me to mature and inspired me to seek new opportunities.

With the help of the FLEX program, I discovered the U.S.-CAEF scholarship program. Acceptance to U.S.-CAEF was a blessing for me. During these four years at KIMEP University, I became a person with strong values and beliefs. Here, at KIMEP University, I found my passion for marketing. Choosing marketing as my major was the best decision in my life. Marketing opened new horizons for me and helped me perceive everything from a different perspective. Marketing classes equipped me with knowledge which

helped me organize different events and activities. And, of course, the KIMEP student life is not comparable to anything. During my first two years at the university, I was part of the KIMEP Friends student organization that organizes campus-wide events, and a member of the volleyball team.

In my junior and senior years, I started to concentrate on work experience and self-improvement. Thanks to the knowledge and experience I have gained in the past years at KIMEP, in my senior year, I was able to secure employment in the marketing department of Marshall Lord, an Australian company based in Almaty.

Besides all these achievements, U.S.-CAEF gave me new friends, who became like a family to me. We knew each other from the very beginning and grew together through challenges, and reached unbelievable things. This is why I am eternally thankful for such an opportunity and will do everything to make my contribution to the development of the Kazakhstani economy.



# MOHINAV AMONULLOEVA

KIMEP

## **HOMETOWN**

KHOROG, TAJIKISTAN

## **MAJOR**

FINANCE

## **AWARDS**

PRESIDENT'S LIST: FALL 2014

DEAN'S LIST: SPRING 2015

“I am really grateful for every opportunity that was provided by the U.S.-CAEF Foundation... now it is time to take a new step toward my future goals.”

Already during my first year at KIMEP University, I realized how grateful and proud I am to call myself a U.S.-CAEF fellow.

U.S.-CAEF gave me an opportunity to study at KIMEP University. The academic atmosphere at KIMEP makes you strive for knowledge. Within the four years of study at KIMEP University, I had many opportunities to develop my knowledge and gain experience. However, without practical application, knowledge will never be enough for a person to be successful. Therefore, I always looked for opportunities for my further development outside the classroom. In summer 2015, I interned in the accounting and reporting department at Capital Bank of Kazakhstan through the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program. This internship was my first step into the real world of business. The next summer, I had a chance to intern at Pamir Energy Company in my native Khorog, which provided me with important insights into public-private partnerships. During school time, I worked as a teaching assistant at KIMEP University.

In addition to my work experience, I sought out opportunities to enhance my academic knowledge. Through the KIMEP Exchange program, I studied at the Zagreb School of Economics and Management, Croatia in the fall 2016 semester. Studying abroad was one of the best decisions I have ever made. In addition to this exchange program, in July 2016, I took Corporate Financial Management and Business English courses at the New Paltz School of Business at the State University of New York. In addition to the theoretical course, I had an opportunity to visit different investment companies and see how the theory worked in real-world context.

Time is passing by quickly, but memories from my four years of study at KIMEP University with U.S.-CAEF family will stay forever. I am really grateful for every opportunity provided by the U.S.-CAEF Foundation. Now it is time to take a new step toward my future goals.

# TIMUR AZIZOV

## HOMETOWN

KASKELLEN, KAZAKHSTAN

## MAJOR

MARKETING

## AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST: FALL 2013, 2016

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2014, 2015



“I am extremely thankful to U.S.-CAEF for the opportunity to study in one of the best universities in Kazakhstan.”

It is hard to believe that it's been almost four years since I applied to KIMEP University and became a U.S.-CAEF fellow. I am extremely thankful to U.S.-CAEF for the opportunity to study in one of the best universities in Kazakhstan.

I grew up in a small town in the Almaty region called Kaskelen. My school was quite far away. Although I had to commute four hours a day, I did my best to succeed academically and stay active in after-school and volunteer activities. These achievements helped me become a U.S.-CAEF fellow.

Since my first days at KIMEP, academic success and active involvement in student life became my priorities. I was engaged in every major event at KIMEP University, and never let my grades slip. I am one of the few students who managed to participate in all the biggest events at KIMEP University. As a freshman, I took part in the first and unique figure skating show in Kazakhstan called Stars on Ice, and received an award for the most audacious performance. In my sophomore year, I was accepted to the most prestigious organization at KIMEP University, KIMEP Art and Dance Association, and as a musician I took part in the annual concert. During my junior year, I participated in the Mister KIMEP competition where I received an award for the best show.

In 2016, I was selected to participate in the Global UGRAD scholarship program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by World Learning. I spent my spring semester at the State University of New York, Cobleskill, NY. In the U.S., I also actively took part in numerous school activities and clubs, including open mike events.

As a marketing major, upon my graduation, I hope to work in this sphere and develop important professional skills. I believe that my active involvement in student organizations throughout my university life along with my work experiences, especially my current internship with the United States Commercial Service, helped me understand the reality of the business world and prepared me to face challenges.

Being a senior is both exciting and terrifying at the same time. However, I believe that the knowledge and experiences that I have acquired in the past four years will help me build my professional career in the marketing sphere.



## NURSULTAN IRISOV

KIMEP

### **HOMETOWN**

CHIRCHIK, UZBEKISTAN

**MAJOR**  
FINANCE

**MINOR**  
MARKETING

“I have been always motivated by Benjamin Franklin’s quote: ‘An investment in knowledge pays the best interest’. Personally for me, having this unbelievable opportunity to study at KIMEP University thanks to the financial support of U.S.-CAEF is the best investment.”

I grew up in a small town in Uzbekistan, where I finished a secondary school and lyceum specialized in foreign languages. I have always been passionate about education. Thanks to my persistence and motivation, and with support of U.S.-CAEF, I finally managed to enroll in the university of my dreams.

During my first year at KIMEP University, I was elected Deputy of Bang College of Business in KIMEP Student Government, where I acted as a liaison between the student government, university administration and students of my cohort. During my second year, as Vice President of External Affairs of the U.S.-CAEF Student Association, I was involved in different interesting projects and events for our fellows. In addition, I was involved in activities outside campus-- I volunteered at the International Education Fair, the FIS Nordic World Ski Championship and Pitch Boot Camp.

In the fall 2015 semester, I had a great chance to take part in an academic exchange program at the Hanyang University, Seoul, South Korea. It was a fascinating experience that expanded my worldview

and business knowledge, which inspired me to develop professionally. Upon my return to KIMEP, I applied for an internship with Altyn Bank. The internship allowed me to apply my knowledge of finance and helped me understand how the banking system of Kazakhstan operates. After successful completion of my internship in the bank, I realized that professional experience is crucial for my future. The internship motivated me to gain more professional experience and search for another work opportunity. Thus, I had a chance to work as an office assistant in the Dean’s office and later as a teaching assistant for the Ernst & Young program at KIMEP University. In addition, I have been tutoring students at other universities in English for two years. I taught English to students in Korea as well during my exchange program.

All these experiences helped me realize that to be successful one needs to work on his/her professional development constantly.

# SHAHNOZ JONMAMADOVA

## HOMETOWN

KHOROG, TAJIKISTAN

## MAJOR

AUDIT & ACCOUNTING

## AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST: SPRING 2014, 2015, 2016

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2014



“ I believe that the knowledge and valuable experience I gained throughout these years will greatly assist me in my future. Thank you for making it possible.”

Growing up in the economically disadvantaged Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, Tajikistan, I have witnessed how effectively education can relieve the troubles of my country. Therefore, I decided to acquire business knowledge in order to make my personal contribution to improve the economic situation in my country. When applying for the U.S.-CAEF program, a friend of mine told me how competitive the program was and that my chances of being accepted to U.S.-CAEF were not high. However, I applied and was accepted to the program in 2013, and now I can proudly call myself a U.S.-CAEF fellow.

When I enrolled in KIMEP University, I decided to major in Marketing. During my sophomore year, I participated in the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program and worked as a marketing assistant at DiningSmart. Although the internship was very interesting, it helped me realize that I am more interested in audit and accounting. Therefore, after the internship, I changed my major to Audit and Accounting.

During my junior year, I interned with the Mountain Societies Development Support Program. This internship allowed me to explore the roles of the private and non-for-profit sectors, and their

funding sources. During the same year, I became a finalist of the E2 Transformational Leadership Program, which allowed me to attend sessions about startups taught by American entrepreneurs. Furthermore, I worked as a teaching and office assistant at Bang College of Business, which helped me develop my organizational, time management and research skills.

In addition, I was also involved in a range of social projects. I am a co-founder of the ecological organization Tree Huggers and a member of the Open Hearts charitable organization. As a member of the KIMEP Case Club, I took part in different training sessions on solving business cases organized by the Boston Consulting Group, McKinsey and Changellenge.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the U.S.-CAEF program for the opportunity to study at the best university in Central Asia. I want to say that I wouldn't be who I am today if I hadn't received a call on July 29, 2013 about becoming a U.S.-CAEF finalist. I believe that the knowledge and valuable experience I gained throughout these years will greatly assist me in my future. Thank you for making it possible.

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SHAHNOZ HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2017



## AIGERIM KAPAR KYZY

KIMEP

### **HOMETOWN**

ATBASHY, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

### **MAJOR MARKETING**

“I am extremely thankful to the U.S.-CAEF family for the opportunity to develop myself both personally and professionally, for shaping me to the person I am now and serving as a continuous source of motivation to become a determined, independent, and educated individual.”

Growing up in the remote town of At Bashy in Kyrgyzstan, I have always been challenging myself to explore opportunities for growth. In 2011, I was accepted to the FLEX program and spent one academic year at Liberty High School, Brentwood, California, USA. This experience served as a ticket into the future, a future which contained a chain of opportunities.

After completion of the FLEX program, I studied International Relations at the Russian Slavic University in Bishkek. While studying there, I realized that my enthusiasm and passion should be directed to a different field. In 2013, I received a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study Marketing at KIMEP University.

I was thrilled by numerous educational, extracurricular and job opportunities offered by KIMEP. As a freshman, I participated in various student organizations. One of them was the KIMEP Times, where I learned about creating newspapers and teamwork. Another organization I was actively involved in was the Kazakhstan Foundation for Cultural, Social and Educational Development (KFCSED). I took part in the organization's workshops, which promoted social initiatives to support opportunities for women.

In my junior year, I interned at Samsung Corporation, where I strengthened my knowledge in marketing and used my language skills. During the summer, I volunteered as an exchange participant for a sales and marketing project through AIESEC in Mumbai to help the Indian society in need. This was an incredible chance to combine both my marketing skills and passion for volunteering in one project. As a young marketer, I was responsible for creating content and promoting numerous projects with the help of local NGOs.

U.S.-CAEF and KIMEP University provide so many opportunities to students. You only need to free yourself from your barriers and blend into the world of challenges.

I am extremely thankful to the U.S.-CAEF family for the opportunity to develop myself both personally and professionally, for shaping me to the person I am now and serving as a continuous source of motivation to become a determined, independent, and educated individual.

# TIMUR KARIMOV

## HOMETOWN

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN

## MAJOR

MARKETING

## MINOR

MANAGEMENT

## AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST: SPRING 2014, 2016, FALL 2015

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2013, 2014, 2016



“I am endlessly thankful to the U.S.-CAEF Program, as it truly shaped me into what I am today.”

An infinite process of learning helps humans create their future; enlighten it, making it bright for illuminating the world around them and changing it for the better. Since high school, I wondered how it would be to live a different way of life, based not only on what is expected from you, but also on what is right for you. This desire helped me become a FLEX program finalist and experience one academic year at Buckley High School in Mesick, Michigan, USA. FLEX acted as a springboard for me.

In 2013, I received a U.S.-CAEF scholarship, granting me an opportunity to pursue an undergraduate degree in one of the best universities of Central Asia - KIMEP University, where I am currently studying Marketing with a specific focus on Brand Management. This program boosted my knowledge not only in terms of theory, but most importantly, in terms of work experience and networking.

KIMEP University, my Alma Mater, welcomed me to my first job as an assistant in the Student Affairs Office. My sophomore year was even more fruitful for me. In the summer, I was selected to take part in the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program, which allowed me to acquire practical knowledge in two different spheres of business: digital marketing (at Zheti Ata, LLC) and finance (at a microcredit

company, Arlan Finance). The experiences helped me learn about fundamentals of finance, maintaining databases, and most importantly, to understand many aspects of digital marketing, the field which I intend to focus on upon graduation.

These internship experiences led me to employment with I'm Solution, a marketing consulting agency, where, as an acting CEO, I used my management skills and learned to work under pressure.

In Fall 2015, I became a teaching assistant, and had an opportunity to work with one of the most brilliant professors of KIMEP University, Nadeem Naqvi. In 2016, I interned at the advertising agency McCann, which equipped me with experiences that led to my current job as marketing director of DarkRoom, a photo-production company.

Besides career development and academics, I was always eager to contribute to the university life. Thus, I joined the KIMEP basketball team, becoming its captain; together with dedicated students, we founded the KIMEP Honor Society, and I became its first president.

I am endlessly thankful to the U.S.-CAEF Program, as it truly shaped me into what I am today.

# DANA KUSSAIN

**HOMETOWN**  
AKTAU, KAZAKHSTAN

**MAJOR**  
AUDIT

**MINOR**  
TAXATION

**AWARDS**  
PRESIDENT'S LIST: FALL 2013  
DEAN'S LIST: SPRING 2014, 2016  
FALL 2014, 2016



“With the support of KIMEP University and U.S.-CAEF I have built a solid foundation for my future career.”

Attending a prestigious and academically competitive university has always been my goal. Therefore, I began searching for a school that could provide me with excellent academic experience. In 2012, I became a finalist of the FLEX program and studied as an exchange student in Worthington, Ohio. Spending a year with my American peers at Thomas Worthington high school was a good opportunity for me to broaden my horizon and develop my communication skills in English, which later became the basis of my education at KIMEP University. In 2013, I received a scholarship from U.S.-CAEF, and I am thankful for the support it provided me during my education at one of the most prestigious universities in Central Asia. I received a high quality English-based education and studied all aspects of business, including finance, accounting, marketing and management.

In 2014, after the completion of my freshman year, I had a two-month internship at Kazakhtelecom, the largest telecommunications company in Kazakhstan. From this internship, I gained valuable work experience and acquired solid, practical knowledge

about money flow and the financial side of business. In 2015, in recognition of my academic achievements and active involvement in community service, I received a Korean government scholarship to study at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, South Korea for the spring semester. This semester in a highly competitive environment helped me choose my future career path. Upon my return to Kazakhstan, I precisely focused my studies on auditing and taxation.

In addition to my studies, various professional trainings and experience through the KIMEP Case Club and participation in business case competitions encouraged me to test my practical knowledge of accounting. As a result, I won the titles of Super Accountant 2015 and Smart and Tax 2016 competitions. Recently, I completed a two-month internship at PricewaterhouseCoopers, where I was able to apply all of the knowledge and skills I have gained from my studies. Upon completion of my internship, I received a job offer from the company. With the support of KIMEP University and U.S.-CAEF I have built a solid foundation for my future career.

# ZARRINAKHON MULLOBOEVA

## HOMETOWN

KHUJAND, TAJIKISTAN

## MAJOR

FINANCE

## AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST: FALL 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

SPRING: 2014, 2015, 2016



“I believe that the benefits I have gained through U.S.-CAEF will follow me throughout my life... I’m ready to go out and find my place in the world.”

I’ve never considered myself a lucky person, except two times-- when I was selected to participate in the FLEX program and studied at the School Without Walls in Washington, DC, and when I received a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study at KIMEP University. Throughout these four years at KIMEP, I have felt constant support of the program. I believe that the benefits I have gained through U.S.-CAEF will follow me throughout my life.

Being a business school student didn’t restrict my interests at all, and fortunately, KIMEP University provides many opportunities to pursue your passions. I’m managing editor of the KIMEP Times, founder of the environmental organization KIMEP Tree Huggers, co-founder of Half the Sky, an association for women in business, and an active member of the KIMEP Accounting and Finance Association and Case Club. I was also a member of the Intellectual Debate Club and Open Hearts, a charitable organization. When I joined these student organizations, I had little knowledge about debates, newspaper production or creating and managing my own student organization. Through these experiences I have learned that life starts beyond your comfort zone, that overcoming challenges makes your life more interesting and gives you a sense of fulfillment. Committing myself to many different projects has re-

warded me enormously and allowed me to learn about the world and myself, and find people who inspire me.

Entering my third year at KIMEP University, my goals were to learn more about the profession I’ve chosen. That’s why I applied for and graduated from the E & Y Business School and Transformational Leadership Program, joined the KIMEP Case Club and had internships in two well-known financial institutions-- the Center Credit and Tajikistan Imon International.

Last summer, I participated in the Innovate for Change conference in Dushanbe where I learned a great deal about social entrepreneurship, and was involved in a consulting project for Sheraton Dushanbe Hotel. After the conference, I organized the Girls for Girls workshop for 20 girls in my native Khujand. It was funded by a FLEX Alumni grant. The participants attended sessions on leadership and project management, and they met with successful women leaders. After the event, three teams of girls organized their own after school programs for their classmates. There were many personal victories as well as failures along the way, but most importantly, a day didn’t pass without teaching me a lesson. I believe I’m ready to go out and find my place in the world.

ZARRINAKHON HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2017



# USNIBEGIM RAHIMJONOVA

KIMEP

## **HOMETOWN**

KHOROG, TAJIKISTAN

## **MAJOR**

FINANCE

## **AWARDS**

PRESIDENT'S LIST: FALL 2014, SPRING 2015

DEANS'S LIST: SPRING 2014

“U.S.-CAEF made my dreams became true. All four years are like building blocks which step by step are building a strong path toward my future... .”

I was born and raised in Tajikistan, a country that continues to face big political and economic challenges. I've always dreamed to study at one of the best universities, which would help me build a strong foundation for my future. In 2013, I earned an opportunity to study in one the best business schools in Central Asia, KIMEP University, and was awarded a U.S.-CAEF scholarship. Throughout the four years of my study at KIMEP University, I tried to do my best to use all opportunities for my growth.

U.S.-CAEF made my dreams come true. It gave me a chance to study abroad and receive a high quality education. During these four years, I had many opportunities to implement my theoretical knowledge in practice. I participated in the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship program in summer 2015. I had a chance to work in the finance department of ADM Capital in Almaty. This internship was my first step into the world of finance. Furthermore, in my junior year, I was as an exchange student at Zagreb School of Economics and Management, Croatia in the fall 2015 semester. This exchange program was a journey of self-discovery, independence and personal growth filled with unforgettable memories.

In summer 2016, I took my second internship, this time in my home country. I worked as an assistant to the finance officer at Aga Khan Health Service. I acquired good teamwork skills and learned about the real business world. In addition, I worked as an office and teaching assistant at KIMEP University, which taught me to work independently and manage my time efficiently.

My university life at KIMEP is the most incredible experience. Many students will ask what the best moment from my student's life was. Honestly, I don't know. I have so many great memories, that I cannot choose one that was the best. Every day, every moment was the greatest. I would like to express my appreciation both to U.S.-CAEF and KIMEP University for giving me such a great opportunity that will brighten my future. All four years are like building blocks, which step by step are leading me to a strong path toward my future, and I am sure that this is just the beginning.

# AIGERIM RYSBAYEVA

## HOMETOWN

KAPSHAGAY, KAZAKHSTAN

## MAJOR

ACCOUNTING & AUDIT

## MINOR

MARKETING

## AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST: SPRING 2014, FALL 2014

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2016



“I am grateful to U.S.-CAEF for creating so many great memories and organizing different events, including motivational and professional development trainings, teambuilding events and meeting with alumni. All these experiences have created a strong foundation and prepared me for my future career in business.”

During my high school years, I dreamed about studying abroad. When I learned about the FLEX program, this dream became a goal. In AY 2012-2013, I had a chance to study at Morse-Marshall School for gifted children in Milwaukee, WI. While on the FLEX program, I learned about U.S.-CAEF and realized that it is a big chance to study in one of the leading universities of Central Asia. In 2013, I was honored to become a U.S.-CAEF fellow. These four years at KIMEP brought lots of new knowledge, friends, and fresh ideas. Every moment spent at KIMEP is full of new opportunities. Students just need to pay attention and choose what best works for them. One such opportunity for me was my participation in the Challenge Cup, a business case competition, where I was awarded the High Quality certificate.

Inspired by my first study abroad program in the U.S., I applied for another exchange program at the University of Applied Sciences, Krems, Austria. Around the same time, I received an Ernst Mach scholarship provided by the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research, which allowed me to spend my fall 2015 semester in Krems, an amazing place located just one

hour away from Vienna. Upon my return to Kazakhstan, I became a member of the KIMEP Case Club and was involved in organizing a Mars case competition for our university students. In the beginning of my senior year, I successfully graduated from the E & Y Business School and gained valuable knowledge in accounting, management and even in psychology.

In addition, I have gained professional experience through two internships in the accounting field during these four years. My first internship was in the KIMEP accounting department, the second at Ryszhan Pharmacy in Kapshagay. Additionally, I have been working as office assistant and teaching assistant at the Bang College of Business since my second year of study.

I am grateful to U.S.-CAEF for creating so many great memories and organizing different events, including motivational and professional development trainings, teambuilding events and meetings with alumni. All these experiences have created a strong foundation and prepared me for my future career in business.

# SITORA SHAGAMBAYEVA

## HOMETOWN

BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## MAJOR MARKETING

## AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST: SPRING 2014



“I want to thank U.S.-CAEF for giving me a wonderful opportunity to obtain an excellent education and for helping me become part of the business community!”

I am an ambitious girl from Kyrgyzstan whose life has changed completely after receiving a U.S.-CAEF scholarship. I chose KIMEP due to its mission to improve the quality of life in the Central Asian region through teaching, learning, community service and the advancement of knowledge in the field of business administration. KIMEP gave me an opportunity to be part of such student organizations as KIMEP Enactus (promotes entrepreneurship) and the KIMEP Times (the university newspaper). Moreover, during my first two years of study here, I gained a lot of experience through organizing such campus-wide events as Open Doors, International Students' Day and Nauryz.

After successfully completing my first year, I took an internship with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Malaysia. The purpose of the internship was to teach refugee kids English, Biology, Math and Science.

During my sophomore year, I worked in the marketing department of KIMEP. I was responsible for managing Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and V Kontakte. As social media manager, I created visually appealing graphics promoting KIMEP University.

My next internship was with Kimberly-Clark Corporation in Almaty. I was involved in a variety of projects related to customer service,

financial analysis, inventory, procurement and review of the company's business processes. The experience allowed me to dive into the business environment and do something important for Kazakhstan.

In spring 2016, I took part in an exchange program at the Stockholm School of Economics, Riga, Latvia. After the program, I interned at Publicis Groupe Company in Moscow, which specializes in media planning and advertising. My duty was to identify and satisfy Russian corporate clients' needs by creating innovative advertising campaigns. It was one of the most valuable internship experiences in my student life.

Currently, I work at Sanofi-Aventis multinational pharmaceutical company as an intern in the Supply Chain Department. It is a challenging experience. Through learning new skills, I strive to become useful for the company and gain confidence in my professional abilities. I also strive to become a valuable member of the U.S.-CAEF family. In my junior year as Vice President for Finance and now as President of U.S.-CAEF Student Association, I organize events that help strengthen the bonds between fellows of all cohorts.

I want to thank U.S.-CAEF for giving me a wonderful opportunity to obtain an excellent education and for helping me become part of the business community!

# AKNUR TASSYBEKOVA

## HOMETOWN

SHYMKENT, KAZAKHSTAN

## MAJOR

ACCOUNTING

## MINOR

MARKETING

## AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST: Fall 2014

DEAN'S LIST: FALL 2013, SPRING 2014, 2016



“... I have kept my eyes open, focused on the road ahead. I think we all have a role to play in life, and now I am on my way to find it out.”

Since my childhood, I had been interested in studying business at KIMEP University. So I did my best and graduated from high school with an Altyn Belgi, the highest award for academic achievements in Kazakhstan, in order to earn a scholarship at least for one year. However, fortunately, I was lucky to win a U.S.-CAEF scholarship. I was over the moon!

The time has passed quickly. I cannot even imagine that I will be graduating from the university in a few months. These four years were amazing both in terms of my professional and personal developments.

From the first day at KIMEP, I experienced a different world opening up to me and was excited by a new encouraging environment. I was determined to take advantage of these opportunities around me. At the university, as head of sponsorship at KIMEP Friends, I helped raise funds for organizing different campus-wide events; as a member of the charitable organization Open Hearts, I shared my knowledge with orphans and organized charitable events on campus. Those experiences helped me improve my leadership abilities and interpersonal skills. I enjoyed a sense of accomplishment and being useful. I have successfully completed several internships with

KPMG, British Airways, Inditex Kazakhstan, and The SMEG Corporation. I also participated in different social projects, conferences, leadership programs and forums in order to improve my networking and communication skills. In addition, during all four years, I worked as an office assistant and teaching assistant at the Bang College of Business. Keeping a balance between my studies, work and personal life helped me to be self-motivated and disciplined.

In 2015, I graduated from E & Y Business School and Damu Entrepreneurship School, which helped me acquire additional knowledge in business. Recently, I was accepted to the U.S. Commercial Service Internship Program. Through this internship, I hope to acquire new skills that will be helpful in the beginning of my career.

Summarizing my university life, I realize that each experience was important, although my actions were not always clear even to me, but I have kept my eyes open, focused on the road ahead. I think we all have a role to play in life, and now I am on my way to find it out. With huge support from U.S.-CAEF, I was extremely fortunate to spend these four unforgettable and valuable years at KIMEP University. I cannot describe how thankful I am for this opportunity.

# JAMSHEDI UMARZODA

## HOMETOWN

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN

## MAJOR

CORPORATE FINANCE

## AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST: FALL 2014, 2015, 2016  
SPRING- 2014, 2016



“The first robust step toward my success was earning a U.S.-CAEF scholarship, which allowed me to penetrate the amazing world of finance at KIMEP University.”

While studying at KIMEP, I was eager to learn about different aspects of business: finance, accounting, marketing, and management. However, I understood that I needed more than just theory-- I wanted to put my theoretical knowledge into practice.

I started my professional path with an internship in KIMEP's finance and planning department. I was eager to help improve the situation in the department, which was highly affected by the devaluation of tenge in Kazakhstan. I wanted to understand how an organization creates and implements counter strategies to handle and adapt to economic changes. My next internship was in the finance and accounting department of Astana Motors. This internship was quite challenging. However, these challenges only motivated me to acquire new knowledge and skills. I was particularly enthusiastic and passionate about learning to use the business model and program applications designed to manage huge information flow and improve the company's overall performance.

In addition, I was involved in the E2 Transformational Leadership Program. The aim of this program is to provide practical knowledge by having American professional entrepreneurs assign projects to participants. My team won both program competitions by creating well-organized startup business projects. They included detailed

financial forecasting prototypes for projecting business performances. As a result, I was invited to take part in a one-year professional internship in Seattle.

During my sophomore year, through KIMEP's Exchange Mobility Program, I spent my spring 2015 semester in Istanbul as an exchange student.

Apart from academics, training programs and internships, I have been involved in student life. Currently, I am an international deputy (representing 307 international students), a member of the school's Budget Committee (its major function is allocating financial resources within KIMEP University), a member of the KIMEP Case Club and a reporter for the KIMEP Times. Moreover, as part of the KIMEP team, I will take part in the CFA Institute Research Challenge. If our team succeeds, we will advance to the next level and represent Kazakhstan in the international arena. The first important step toward my success was earning a U.S.-CAEF scholarship, which allowed me to penetrate the amazing world of finance at KIMEP University. With dreams in my heart and motivation in my mind, I always strive to achieve my goals using the power of my knowledge. Through broadening my skills and abilities, I would like to become one of the most knowledgeable financial analysts in the Central Asian region.

JAMSHEDI HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2017

ALEXEY  
YAN**HOMETOWN**

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

**MAJOR**

MANAGEMENT

**AWARDS**

PRESIDENT'S LIST: FALL 2013, 2014, 2016

SPRING 2014, 2015, 2016



“With the set of professional skills, practical knowledge and experience that I have acquired, I was transformed into a totally new person. Precisely the person I have always wanted to be: confident, determined, persistent and grateful. The person ready to take action, to overcome new hurdles, and to embrace new endeavors.”

I was born and raised in Uzbekistan. When I was 15, my family moved to Kazakhstan. I have to admit that settling in a new country was no easy feat. Back in the day, my family had to go through financial and psychological difficulties. The U.S.-CAEF scholarship that I was awarded came as a great blessing. A huge weight was lifted off my parents’ shoulders as I was granted a free education. Little did I know, the opportunity to study at KIMEP University was a step towards many greater opportunities ahead in times to come.

Over the past four years, I’ve done more than I have ever imagined possible: I was awarded a U.S.-CAEF scholarship that enabled me to study at my dream university, KIMEP. I engaged in a wide range of on-campus activities: I tried out acting in the English Theater, performed at talent shows, and volunteered for the International Students Association. I received an Ernst Mach Scholarship for an exchange semester in Austria, had a great experience living abroad, studied German and used that knowledge to deal with less than ideal dormitory neighbors and landlord issues, and traveled to Iceland. I volunteered at Brian Tracy’s seminar in Almaty, had a wonderful in-

ternship in the HR office of Gazprom-Neft Kazakhstan, did the Color Run, made my first money, and, of course, met some of the most incredible and brightest people.

Those were my 2013-2017 years, in brief. Those were the four years of exploration, learning, growth, and maturation. The years that formed me as an adult, and as a professional. The years that helped me discover myself and expand my horizons. The years that taught me that “doing nothing is the way to be nothing”.

With the set of professional skills, practical knowledge and experience that I have acquired, I was transformed into a totally new person. Precisely, the person I have always wanted to be: confident, determined, persistent and grateful. The person ready to take action, to break new hurdles, and to embrace new endeavors.

I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to U.S.-CAEF for providing me with priceless opportunities that made me become the person I am today.



KIMEP GRADUATING SENIORS



# THE FOUNDATION'S INTERN FELLOWSHIPS

## Enterprise Intern Fellowships



GULNAZA KHALMANBETOVA

TEXT

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.

## 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 12 Student Fellows from the graduating 2017 class took part in the summer 2015 U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program:**

MOHINAV AMONULLOEVA  
KYIAL BAKYTBEK KYZY  
SHAHNOZ JONMAMADOVA  
ANISA HOJIEVA

ASEL KALDYBAEVA  
TIMUR KARIMOV  
GULNAZA KHALMANBETOVA  
RAKHAT KUBANYCHBEKOVA

ZARRINAKHON MULLOBOEVA  
USNIBEGIM RAHIMJONOVA  
INNA TSOI  
AIZADA TYNCHYBEK KYZY

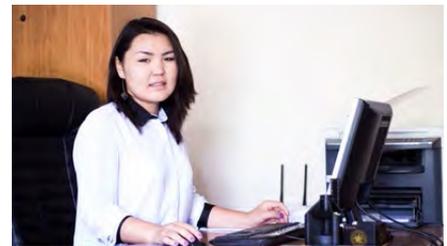
All of the Fellows rated the experience highly and commented on the valuable learning outcomes of the internship.



MOHINAV AMONULLOEVA & ARYSTAN MOLDABEKOV



USNIBEGIM RAHIMJONOVA AT ADM CAPITAL



AIZADA TYNCHYBEK KYZY

# THE FOUNDATION'S INTERN FELLOWSHIPS

## 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. Six outstanding Student Fellows from the graduating class have been selected to take part in the International Capstone Internship Program in fall 2017:



Zhamilia Klycheva  
AUCA



Samatbek Osmonov  
AUCA



Kuttubek Rakhmanberdiev  
AUCA



Shahnoz Jonmamadova  
KIMEP UNIVERSITY



Zarrinakhon Mulloboeva  
KIMEP UNIVERSITY



Jamshedi Umarzoda  
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](http://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.

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

- ADM CAPITAL
- ALPHA TELECOM
- ARDAMINA TEXTILE COMPANY
- ARLAN FINANCE LLC
- ASIA UNIVERSAL BANK
- BAI TUSHUM & PARTNERS  
MICROFINANCE BANK
- BEELINE KG
- 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
- KARAKOL COFFEE SHOP
- KAZINVEST
- KAZNETEVENTS
- KYRGYZ CONCEPT
- KYRGYZ KREDIT BANK
- MANAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
- MEGACOM
- MINISTRY OF FINANCE
- NATIONAL LEASING COMPANY
- POLYGON INTERNATIONAL, LTD
- PROJECT HOPE
- PROMOTANK
- RCG INVESTMENT FUND
- SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL
- SBERBANK OF RUSSIA
- SHORO COMPANY

# 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 & 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.



AUCA ALUMNI OF SEVERAL COHORTS

This year, 34 new graduates join the U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association, bringing the total number of program alumni to 201. The alumni leadership team represents both AUCA and KIMEP University and four countries of Central Asia—Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan:

The Foundation is grateful for support from the U.S. Government, its citizens and the Central Asian-American Enterprise Fund, which have made its operation possible.

## ALUMNI COUNCIL



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TREASURER  
CORPORATE AFFAIRS MANAGER  
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ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN



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VICE PRESIDENT FOR REGIONAL NETWORKS  
HEAD OF FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT  
ES DIYARCOM  
ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN



### **IRINA ABASOVA**

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT (ALMATY)  
ENTREPRENEUR, CREAT3D KAZAKHSTAN  
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

The Association hopes that the graduating class of 2017 will join in their efforts to establish an important platform for communication and cooperation between all program alumni, current fellows and local business communities to complement the Foundation's goals in fostering the U.S.-CAEF mission, promoting professional development and contributing to an entrepreneurial spirit and the economic prosperity of Central Asia.

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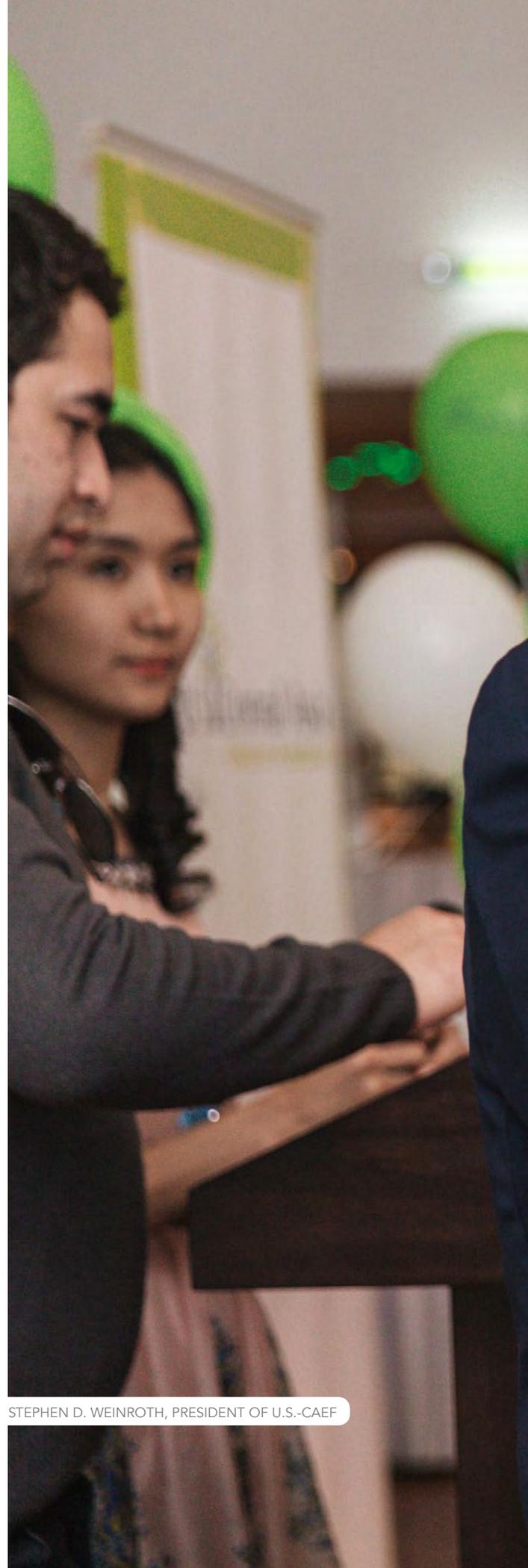
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STEPHEN D. WEINROTH, PRESIDENT OF U.S.-CAEF





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