



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

## Welcome to our Inaugural U.S.-CAEF Newsletter

Terrence Graham  
Director, Higher Education Programs— American Councils



Dear Enterprise Fellows,

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the inaugural issue of the U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation newsletter. This summer 2012 newsletter is a special edition of the newsletter, dedicated to the spring graduation events in Almaty and Bishkek. The entire U.S.-CAEF community is proud of our second graduating class and we wish them the best of success as they embark on their professional careers.

It is hard to believe that summer is drawing to a close and the academic year will soon be upon us. We are thrilled to welcome new Enterprise Fellows to our community: 15 new Fellows at AUCA and 20 at KIMEP. I hope that our sophomores, juniors, and seniors will reach out to the first-year students and provide them with advice and support that will help them to understand that being a U.S.-CAEF Fellow is something special. Be sure to sign up to become a mentor to a new Fellow!

This newsletter is another way of expressing what it means to be a part of U.S.-CAEF. This newslet-

ter is the result of your efforts; it is created by you and for you. I want to thank the Fellows who contributed their time and imagination to making this newsletter a reality: Nasiba Nurmatova (2011, Kyrgyzstan) from AUCA, and KIMEP Fellows, Dinara Atantayeva (2009, Kazakhstan), Bostan Seyipova (2009, Turkmenistan), Malika Pulotova (2010, Kazakhstan), and Jalilov Bakhtiyar (2010, Turkmenistan).

I invite all of you to think about what stories you would like to see in future newsletters. With the second issue, the fall 2012 Newsletter, we will begin introducing regular sections to the newsletter. For example, each issue will have a section dedicated to alumni. We are currently holding elections for officers of the U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association and will share the results with you in the next newsletter. Another regular section will be success stories and updates from you, so please share with us any achievements you are proud of and we will include them in the newsletter. An important reason for this newsletter is to encourage more communication between the AUCA and KIMEP Fellows. We are all a part of the U.S.-CAEF family and hope that you will enjoy connecting with your peers studying across the border.

## In this Issue:



### GRADUATION 2012 AUCA

Seven U.S.-CAEF Fellows graduated on June 2, 2012 at AUCA in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
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### GRADUATION 2012 KIMEP

Thirteen U.S.-CAEF fellows graduated on May 26, 2012 at KIMEP University in Almaty, Kazakhstan  
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# Graduation Events at AUCA



On June 3rd, the second U.S.-CAEF graduation was held in the marvelous place in Bishkek suburb, Ala-Archa. Reception 2012 united all U.S.-CAEF students and alumni, parents, founders and guests. Almost 100 people came to the banquet. The huge event was in honor of seven graduates:

- Alibek Abdykulov**
- Nargiza Zhakypova**
- Andrey Leskin**
- Dinara Samatova**
- Azat Saparov**
- Khislat Zhuraeva**
- Inara Zakirova**

The director of Higher Education Programs, Terrence Graham, and Rosa Thiele, ACCELS-DC, visited Kyrgyzstan for U.S.-CAEF graduation again this year. A big honor for the reception 2012 was the visit of the U.S.-CAEF Board members, Margaret Grieve and Mary Ginsberg. Not only freshmen, but also other U.S.-CAEF fellows were excited to meet the founders of the U.S.-CAEF students, and alumni are very grateful to the founders of the program and people who work in U.S.-CAEF. The reception was very impressive. Knislat Zhuraeva entertained with a lovely song in French, and there was a beautiful and tasty ten-kilogram cake from U.S.-CAEF. The reception was enjoyed by all thanks to good organization by the U.S.-CAEF Program Coordinator, Rabiya Baisubanova.

## Interview with Khislat Zhuraeva

BY NASIBA NURMATOVA

### What to expect after the graduation?

Well, students who have for so long worried about their GPA do not have to do homework anymore! More importantly, our U.S.-CAEF alumni have made their first step to the new life.

### Khislat Zhuraeva shares her plans and thoughts about life after university:



*“This year, I graduated from American University of Central Asia, my major was economics. In fall 2011, I was selected to participate in the U.S.-CAEF international Capstone Internship program. During the internship, I hope to acquire professional knowledge and experience in the economic and business spheres. Then I would like to continue my education by obtaining a master’s degree. In the future, I’m going to work in the banking or auditing spheres because they are the closest to me. I think that graduation is one of the important steps, and for me it is like a transition to a new level of my life where everything depends only on me. When we study, we have an already prescribed plan for four following years, but when we become alumni we don’t know what is waiting for us in the future, so the first steps that we do, to some extent, define our future lives.”*

Thank you, Khislat! We wish you and all CAEF alumni good luck in their future career! Be good examples for U.S.-CAEF fellows! Make us proud.



**NASIBA NURMATOVA**

I am from Osh, Kyrgyzstan. In high school, I founded a newspaper called “AKS press” thanks to the grant we received from a local NGO. In 2010, I became a finalist of the FLEX program. Being a FLEX exchange student was the first step to the adult life. It opened lots of doors for me to the future. One of those doors gave me an opportunity to study at the best university in Kyrgyzstan as a U.S.-CAEF fellow.

Now I am a sophomore in the Business Administration department. In my opinion, it is important to combine hard work with fun work. My hobby is still writing newspaper articles and designing newspapers. Also in the USA, I discovered ceramics. I enjoy creating different art pieces. I also love exploring new cultures.

Right now I am learning the Chinese language. My nearest future dream is to visit China with its wonderful historical places. Dreams always become goals. And goals have to be reached. I believe that life is uninteresting if there is no goal.

I have many plans and goals for the future. All I want to say about them is just that my country will be proud of me someday. And after that I might say that my bio is complete.

# KIMEP Graduation Ceremony

By Bostan Seypova



This year's very anticipated graduation ceremony for KIMEP students was held on the 26th of May in the Republican Palace. The Palace was full of excited students that were receiving bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. The atmosphere was filled with excitement from pleased professors, proud parents and invited guests. The ceremony started with sincere congratulations from KIMEP president, Dr. Bang. At the end, each graduate was called on to receive their congratulations letter from the President of KIMEP University. Happy graduates went outside to take photos with their beloved parents and friends when the ceremony finished.

In the evening of the same day, U.S.-CAEF graduates with their parents and friends, U.S.-CAEF alumni and KIMEP professors were invited to the reception at the Dostyk Hotel, organized by U.S.-CAEF sponsors and ACCELS. Among the guests of this event were the President and Chief Executive officer of the U.S.- Central Asia Education Foundation, Steven F. Shea, and the Director of Higher Education Programs at American

Councils in Washington, D.C., Terrence Graham. Both of them congratulated each student and gave them each of them a gift.

It was a unique event for all U.S.-CAEF graduates because it gathered all of them together for the last time to remember precious moments of their student life. Over dinner, a video showed many U.S.-CAEF fellows' achievements and successes, making sponsors, parents and friends of graduates proud. In addition, Malika Pultova, a U.S.-CAEF fellow, sang in different languages and played guitar to congratulate the students.

Also, Irina Abasova and Aidana Abdrakhmanova expressed their sincere gratitude to the board of the U.S.-CAEF foundation on behalf of all graduates and wished the other graduates prosperity in their future jobs. At the end of the event, U.S.-CAEF fellows went outside to launch sky lanterns. Happiness and satisfaction was expressed on everyone's face because finally the graduates had received their long-awaited diplomas.



**BOSTAN SEIYPOVA**

I am Bostan. I am a citizen of Turkmenistan majoring in business economics and minoring in finance at KIMEP University. Being a student is interesting to me because it gives me the opportunity to shape my life as I want. There is a possibility not only to study but also to organize different events, participate in forums and gain practical knowledge through internships.

In fall 2011, I was chosen as a finalist for an exchange program to study at Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, and it was an unforgettable five months. I believe that good education is essential for a person's development, and therefore I will continue to expand it through practical and theoretical knowledge.

# Interview with Parvina Mirzomustakimova

DINARA ATANTAYEVA



**Dinara:** Hi, Parvina! You have already graduated from KIMEP! My Congratulations to you! You must be feeling amazing about this fact and have a lot to share with us. That is why I have several questions for you. If you were a freshman again, what advice would you give yourself?

**Parvina:** To decrease my participation in student organizations and extracurricular activities and devote more time to my studies.

**Dinara:** One of the most important choices you have made during your study at KIMEP is the choice of your major. Have you derived some useful tips about choosing a major?

**Parvina:** While taking the program-required courses, you need to understand which ones you are really interested in and you are not facing difficulties in during your studies and that you are ready to devote more time to so you can find additional information about that course. Secondly, it is very important that you must take into consideration which kind of profession your country or your city demands so that you can easily apply for a job after graduation.

**Dinara:** Assume that there are two types of KIMEP graduates: U.S.-CAEF fellows and non-U.S.-CAEF fellows. U.S.-CAEF fellows have comparative advantages with respect to other students. Do you agree with this statement? Explain this through your own experiences and how this influenced you as a job applicant.

**Parvina:** Actually, it influences a lot, first of all, because when the possible employer knows that you won a competitive scholarship, it already makes you unique, so he understands that you were an excellent and hard-working student during your studies.

**Dinara:** What is your source of inspiration? (Maybe there is someone among the KIMEP instructors or students who inspires you? For example, one of the sources could be CAEF meetings)

**Parvina:** For me, the source of inspiration is my family and my close friends.

**Dinara:** You have already been interviewed many times. What do potential employers ask about the CAEF Scholarship?

**Parvina:** How did you know about

this scholarship? How many students applied? By which organization is U.S.-CAEF supported?

**Dinara:** Do you consider your major also your vocation? I mean is it really such a thing that you're eager to do the rest of your life or are you going to seek something new?

**Parvina:** For now, finance really is the profession in which I am ready to be busy the rest of my life.

**Dinara:** From your point of view, which is the correct statement: KIMEP gives you sufficient amount of knowledge and skills to start working in a real business environment or KIMEP gives you a fundamental basis for further self-education?

**Parvina:** I agree with the statement that KIMEP gives us a sufficient amount of knowledge and skills to start working in a real business environment, and, by being involved in this environment, we continue our education and learn new things.

**Dinara:** What are your expectations regarding the CAEF Newsletter?

**Parvina:** I expect that the newsletter will contain information that will be useful not only to CAEF fellows but also to people outside CAEF, and it will help to attract new fellows.

**Dinara:** Thank you very much Parvina for answering my questions. I wish you good luck with your future career in finance, and also I wish you a lot of energy and enthusiasm to make all your dreams come true.



DINARA ATANTAYEVA

My name is Dinara Atantayeva. I AM a U.S.- CAEF FELLOW, and I am extremely happy and proud of this significant fact being in my bio! I am a senior student at KIMEP.

My majors are Accounting and Finance. I graduated from school-gymnasium # 6 in my home town of Semei, East Kazakhstan in 2009. I received an academic honor for excellent study at a school called Altyn Belgi (golden medal).

I consider study at KIMEP to be very interesting and challenging. Knowledge I have obtained in sphere of accounting and corporate finance helped me a lot to participate in the regional internship program administered by US CAEF in 2011. I am planning to graduate from KIMEP in 2013.

# Interview with Temur Utegenov

BY MALIKA PULOTOVA



Today we are going to have an interview with a wonderful person, Temur Utegenov, a U.S.-CAEF Fellow from Uzbekistan, who graduated this year.

**Malika:** Hello, Temur! First of all, I want to congratulate you on this wonderful event of your life – Graduation from University! I have several questions for you, and the first one is “How do you feel as a graduate?”

**Temur:** I feel good! During studies you are 24/7 under pressure. You feel that there are always some tasks to complete. Now I am working and my tasks stay at work when I go

home at 6pm. That is the difference. I am working as an accountant in an accounts payable team, and I like it. I have never thought that accounting can be so interesting.

**Malika:** That’s very good, Temur, that you have found work so soon. Wish you luck and to succeed in your workplace! So, what are your plans for the future?

**Temur:** I am planning to work several years and then get an MBA degree.

**Malika:** That’s a good idea to continue education. In your opinion, what was most special about the university?

**Temur:** I have not been at KIMEP for a month, and I already miss it. For me, KIMEP means a lot of friends. KIMEP is a great place to experience unforgettable student life and to receive high-quality education. I lived in a dormitory for four years. This was the best time of my life.

**Malika:** In your opinion, what was U.S.-CAEF’s biggest contribution to you?

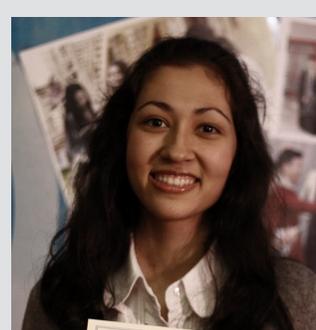
**Temur:** Without CAEF, I would not have had all the good feelings that I have at the moment. I would not

have experienced unforgettable student life, and I would not have received a high-quality education.

**Malika:** As a person who has already graduated from the university and who has gotten some experience, what advice can you give to remaining U.S.-CAEF Fellows?

**Temur:** My advice to remaining CAEF Fellows is to study well, get prepared for a job in advance and enjoy student life. Time passes very, very fast, so if you are someone who wants to get the most from life – work hard and enjoy student life.

**Malika:** Thank you very much for the interview, Temur! On behalf of all U.S.-CAEF Fellows, I wish you success and luck in everything you do to fulfill your dreams and achieve all the goals you’ve set. Interviewer: Malika Pulotova, US-CAEF Fellow, KZ, BSc-3



MALIKA PULOTOVA

My name is Malika Pulotova, US-CAEF Fellow from Aksai, Kazakhstan. After finishing secondary school with Honors, I applied for the U.S.-CAEF Scholarship to study at KIMEP University. I am very proud to be a U.S.-CAEF Scholar, and I am very grateful for this unique opportunity to get a high-quality education.

Currently, I am in my 3rd year as a B.Sc. student majoring in Marketing. I like studying a lot because it opens many doors to our everyday changing world. Besides studies, I like to be involved in extracurricular activities. I joined many student organizations, such as an international youth organization, AIESEC, KIMEP English Language Theater (KELT), vocal and dance club “KIMEP Emotion”, and many others. During my free time I like to sing and play guitar, hang out with my friends, read books and watch movies.



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