

# NEWSLETTER

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) & administered by American Councils for International Education. The Foundation, in partnership with the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek (AUCA) & the KIMEP University in Almaty, provides educational opportunities in business and other activities for students from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan to cultivate a principled entrepreneurial environment in Central Asia that fosters the growth of free enterprise & open markets.



## U.S. IMMERSION EXPERIENCE Pages 9-10

Capstone Interns (from left to right), Bostan Seyipova, Artur Semeyutin and Batyr Charyyev in front of the Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

### IN THIS ISSUE ▼

◆ **THE FRESHMEN EXPERIENCE 2013**  
-page 1

◆ **SOPHOMORE SUMMER ADVENTURES**  
-page 4

◆ **THE TIME ABROAD**  
-page 5

◆ **Meet Our Leaders: Adel Sultanbekova & Gufronjon Ayubjonov**  
-page 6

◆ **U.S.-CAEF ALUMNA'S SENIOR THESIS PUBLISHED**  
-page 10

## THE FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE AUCA FELLOWS SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS

By Inna Tsoi, AUCA

We felt the unique atmosphere as soon as we arrived on AUCA university campus. There is energy, spirit, and young people just like you who are bright and ambitious. There was a moment of uncertainty: "Where am I? What am I doing here? These people are different!" After a while, a sense of belonging starts to develop. Every day is different and interesting. You wake up in the morning looking forward to making new friends and gaining more knowledge. AUCA has truly become our home. There are so many ways to find your own place: a number of clubs, the student senate, talent shows, and more. U.S.-CAEF students take every advantage of studying at AUCA, from the academics to the extracurricular activities. After the orientation meeting for U.S.-CAEF students, all of us knew what was expected from us and became even more motivated.

All of the fellows had different feelings and first impressions about the university. All of them are united in the spirit of personal growth and learning while simultaneously having fun.

**"When I first entered the AUCA building, I already knew that it was the place I was looking for.... The most important thing I discovered for myself was the fact that I belonged to that world called 'AUCA' and I was already one of these unique people."**

– Zhamilia Klycheva

**"It was an incredible feeling, especially when I was proud of myself for achieving my goal to become a student of AUCA."**

– Kuttubek Rakhmanberdiev

**"I felt really happy about the choice I made. The teachers at AUCA are extremely competent. I am honored to be taught by them. Here, in AUCA, I made friends with awesome people who make my life more eventful and full of fun!"**

– Bakhrom Tursunov.

**"I had very strange feelings when I started to study at AUCA because there is a different system of education. In my previous school, I studied each subject in the same class and with the same students, and now in AUCA I make a schedule of courses and each time I study with different stu-**

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



INNA TSOI

#### AUCA| Cohort 2012:

*One of my hobbies is reading. It is always the best way for me to relax and develop my personality at the same time. Some of my favorite authors are Albert Camus, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Leo Tolstoy. I enjoy playing tennis and volunteering. I am a member of Enactus AUCA team. I am ambitious about applying the knowledge I get to make our community a better place in future*



From left to right: Azim Tilekov, Zhamilia Klycheva, Rakhnaza Abakirova, Asel Kaldybaeva, Rakhat Kubanychbekova, and Bakhrom Tursunov.

**dents. What I like the most about AUCA is that here I make new friends very easily; I can simply approach anybody and say 'hello.' The atmosphere here is friendly. That's why you can adapt very fast, although studying here is quite difficult."**

– Rakhat Kubanychbekova

**"It was really hard for the first time: new environment, new faces and so on. Then I thought that AUCA is not for me or I am not for AUCA, however, these thoughts are gone now."**

– Azim Tilekov

A lot of hard work is ahead of us, first mid-term exams, ups and downs, but we know that we have people who are always there to support us. All U.S.-CAEF students appreciate the opportunities given to them and are full of gratitude. We are not taking it for granted, and we will meet the expectations of those who believe in our future and the future of Kyrgyzstan.

## TRIP TO TURGEN

By Aziza Isaeva, KIMEP University

For U.S.-CAEF fellows this academic year started with an amazing trip to one of the most beautiful places in Kazakhstan- the Turgun waterfall. Once we arrived at the destination, all fellows became excited and without any hesitation started climbing up the rocks to get closer to the famous Turgun waterfall. Half an hour later, all of us were standing in front of the waterfall and enjoying the view of the majestic mountains. The splash of cool, refreshing water droplets from waterfall was amazing and unforgettable. Those moments were forever captured on photos and in the hearts of our fellows, especially the freshmen.

During the trip we had a lot of fun, played games, and had good food. Especially, we enjoyed ice-breakers and singing on the bus. U.S.-CAEF fellows are so talented and we were never bored. "Our trip to Turgun was just perfect.... I especially enjoyed playing volleyball with other fellows. Overall, the trip was memorable for us, freshmen, as the first teambuilding event," shared a student from Uzbekistan, Nursultan Irisov. Another fellow from Tajikistan, Aziza Akilova, said: "During the trip we visited amazingly beautiful places. We took a lot of photos near the Turgun waterfall and Altyn Adam monument. I had a lot of fun and I made many new friends. The trip made me feel welcome."

This event was organized by the newly elected president of the U.S.-CAEF Student Association, Gufron Ayubjonov, and his team. The purpose of the trip was to introduce us freshmen to the big and friendly U.S.-CAEF family and of course have some fun. It is really encouraging that our association organizes such events in order to make us close to each other. We are thankful to our organizing team and ready for new awesome events in the coming year!



Teambuilding trip to Turgun

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

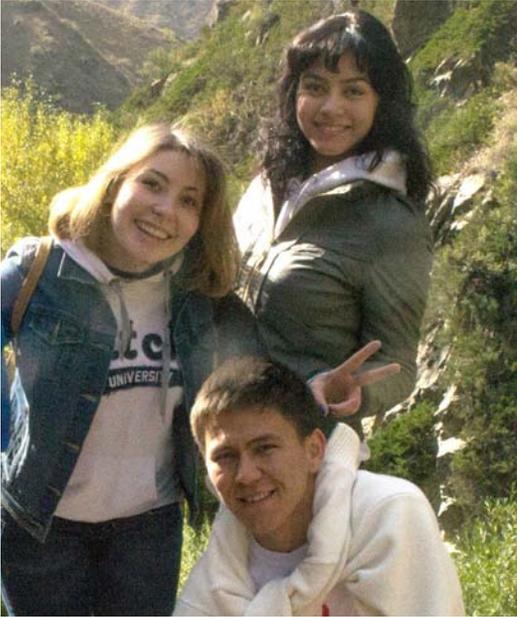


AZIZA ISAEVA

**KIMEP University  
Cohort 2012:**

*I am a second year student from Tajikistan majoring in finance. I love reading books and writing articles. In the nearest future I want to go on exchange program. One of the major aims in my life is to open a school for poor children in Tajikistan.*

# TRIP TO TURGEN



## SUMMER ADVENTURES OF KIMEP SOPHOMORES

### CHYNARA ERKULOVA



Chynara (left) representing her country at Global Village

Global Village has completely changed my life. These changes began before Global Village, when I started searching for sponsors to cover my flight and food expenses. My fundraising experience taught me that perseverance wins everything. The Global Village for Future Leaders of Business and Industry is a five week intensive internship program on the Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA campus. Interns learn and live in a culturally diverse community of more than 100 peers from more than 45 countries.

Global Village taught me that there is no limit for improvement. When you meet people as ambitious and determined as you are, you realize that there is always room for improvement. I used to think that my public speaking skills were quite good, but when I spoke in front of 150 people from 60 countries, my voice trembled. In addition, the consulting project that we worked on with an international team of 6 taught me not to overcomplicate tasks. Things are simpler than we think they are.

In the end, I would like to say that you never realize how strong you are until you get out of your comfort zone and start facing challenges. I would strongly encourage all students not to take summer classes but go for an international summer school/conference/training/exchange semester abroad because there they will discover not just new lands, but also discover themselves.

**“...you never realize how strong you are until you get out of your comfort zone and start facing challenges.”**

### AISULUU ABDYRAKMANOVA

This summer was probably one of the most effective and productive ones in my life because of the UNAOOC-EF (The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations-Education First) Summer School in New York I attended in August. In the end of May I learned about this program and applied. I was among 100 finalists out of 12000 people around the globe. Many lectures, round-table discussions, and a field trip to the UN head-quarters were very informative and priceless. Every day we learned about democracy, advocacy, human rights, and all other issues that UN deals with. I learned a lot about United Nations missions and actions by actually visiting their headquarters and talking to its representatives. 100 bright, active, energetic and unique participants of this summer school gave me great inspiration to continue my volunteering activities and social projects that I lead. I highly recommend this summer school since this may become a life-changing experience for every person.



Aisuluu (left) with her peers during New York summer school  
August 2013

### YERASSYL TOLEUGAZINOV



Yerassyl with the U.S. Consul General Michael Snowden

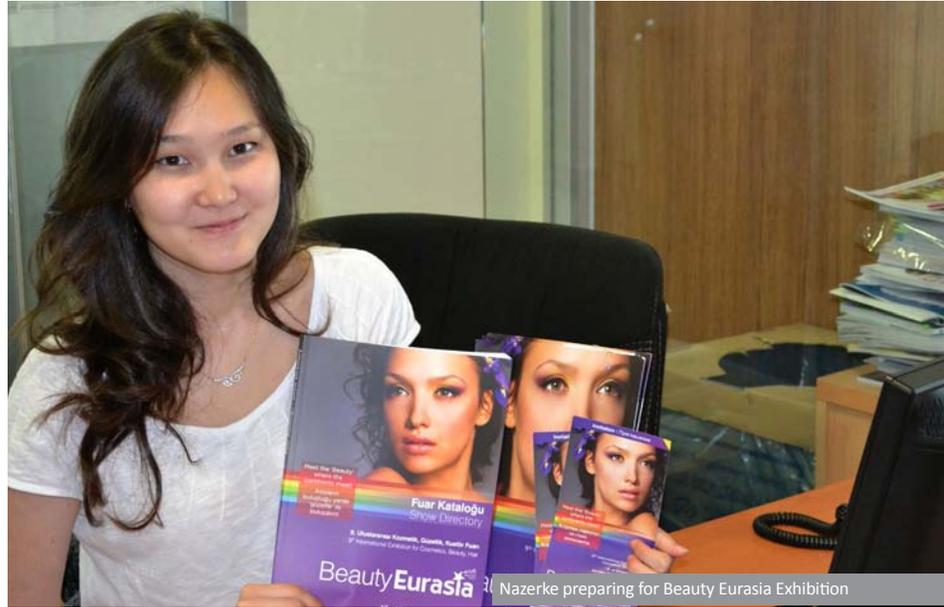
After completing my freshman year, I was selected to participate in a three month internship at the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate General in Almaty. It is different from my field of study, but I extremely enjoyed this new experience. Working in the diplomatic environment for three months was a unique experience for me where I developed practical skills in public relations and leadership. During my internship I had an opportunity to participate in almost all educational and cultural

projects of the U.S. mission in Kazakhstan. Before I was not aware how strong cultural relations between Kazakhstan and the United States of America were, but after being in the center of all events I can say that the bilateral cooperation is growing even more. One of the great examples could be issuing five-year visas to the U.S. for Kazakhstani cit-

izens and the same for Americans. Besides that, I had an opportunity to communicate with American businesses located in Almaty and learn more about doing international business. Being a U.S.-CAEF fellow definitely helped me to receive this great opportunity!

## NAZERKE ZARLYKHANOVA

After the fall semester, I decided to work for an exhibition company in Almaty. The company liked the way I worked and they invited me to Istanbul to work at their head office during the summer. The main objective of the Ipekyol Exhibition Company is to organize the "Beauty Eurasia" cosmetic event once a year, in mid-June. I worked as a sales manager in Istanbul for two months. My main job responsibility was to call people from foreign countries and to invite them to take part in our exhibition. After a month the director sent me to Tbilisi to the Georgian cosmetic exhibition in order to invite more interested people. Our exhibition was held between June 13 and 15. Almost 500 companies from all over the world took part. More than 3000 foreign and 10000 Turkish visitors attended the event. To sum up, I became much more experienced in the sphere of management, learned much more about Turkish and Georgian cultures, met a lot of businessmen and overall spent an unforgettable summer combining work and leisure!



Nazerke preparing for Beauty Eurasia Exhibition

## THE TIME ABROAD

### FALL SEMESTER IN RIGA

By Amantur Tynybekov, AUCA, Cohort 2011

I am currently spending my Fall 2013 semester at the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga (SSE).

Riga is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe and the capital of Latvia. The architecture resembles that of medieval Europe. However, the cost of living is fairly high. Soon it will rise even higher because Latvia will start using the Euro in 2014.

There are many exchange students in Riga, the city center is full of them on Friday nights. In Bishkek, people typically go out with friends, but in Riga you can go out alone and by the end of the night you will be friends with lots of people because all of the students are so friendly and nice in Riga. Almost all of these students go to Latvian University, the biggest university in Latvia, and only a small portion of the exchange students attend SSE.

The Stockholm School of Economics in Riga is the best business school in the Baltics and one of the best in Europe, according to The Financial Times. The school has a very small student body; each year approximately 360 students study at SSE. SSE Riga is a school with a dynamic international learning environment where the majority of the courses are based on the case study method. All courses are taught in English and typically last three to four weeks. Most classes last two hours, but there are



Amantur in Riga

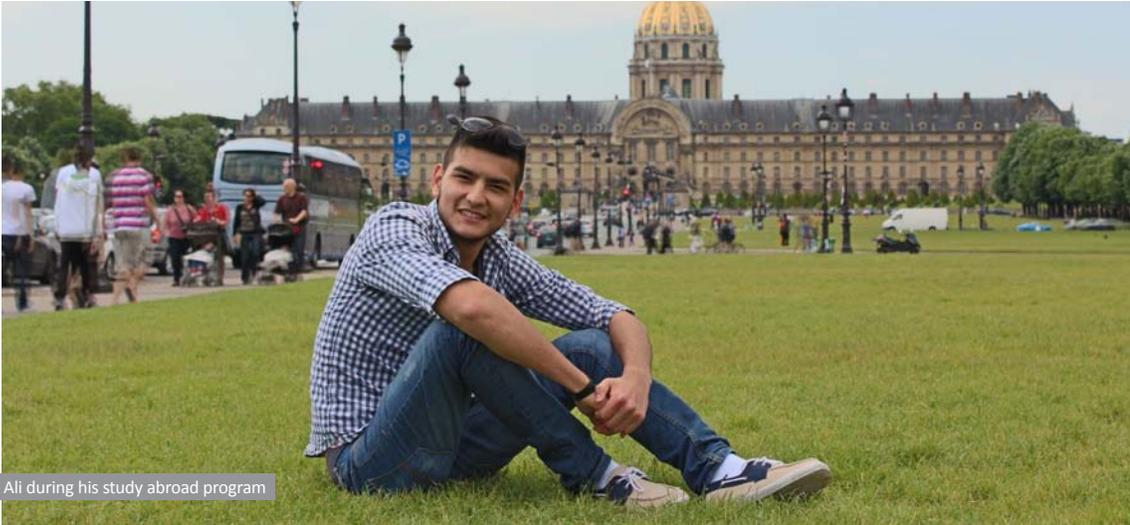
also certain classes that last three hours. During one semester, classes start on different dates giving students the opportunity to concentrate on one subject. It is possible for some students to study just one course for three to four weeks. The classes offered at SSE are varied, from classic Accounting to English pronunciation class.

Being an exchange student is the best experience that a student can have during their college years. In my opinion, being an exchange student at SSE Riga specifically is an experience that cannot be beat. The opportunities to make new international friends and travel across the country will leave you with countless unforgettable memories. Do not miss your chance to become an exchange student.



## DIVING INTO SPANISH CULTURE

By Ali Hamrayev | KIMEP University | Cohort 2011



Ali during his study abroad program

The older I get the more interesting and exciting life gets for me. It seems like only yesterday I was attending a secondary school and here I am now, in my senior year of my bachelor's degree—all full of enthusiasm and great experiences that I have gained throughout my college life. Playing an influential role in my growing up process, these experiences gave and taught me a lot, and I thought it would be interesting to share one of them with you.

The last one and a half years have been the most amazing period of my life as I got to participate in international exchange programs in Turkey and Spain.

During my sophomore year I applied to and was accepted by the KIMEP exchange program to study in Istanbul for a semester. On returning, I found out that I was chosen as a finalist for a year on the Erasmus Mundus program in Spain.

Spain is an amazing country to live and study, especially Santiago. This student city is known to be the final destination of the Christian pilgrimage and famous for the Cathedral of Saint James. I was amazed by kindness, politeness, and consideration of the local people even though none of them spoke English. Another remarkable thing is the amazing local traditional cuisine. I studied at la Universidade de Santiago de Compostela in Santiago on the Atlantic coast of Spain. Attending different

classes from MBA, Economics & Business Departments, and Faculty of Philology helped me a lot in getting acquainted with the European cultural, economic and business spheres. Although studies were a bit challenging as all of my classes were in Spanish or Gallego, I enjoyed and admired a lot the USC teaching style and the university itself.

This year has been a great chance for me to learn so many new things: new languages, many new friends from all over the world, and hands-on experience with the Spanish and Galician cultures and traditions.

Additionally, with a group of friends, we had a chance to conduct a Eurotrip during holidays to experience the life in different European countries—France, Switzerland, Italy, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Belgium, Hungary, Austria, Czech Republic, and Poland.

In a few words, it was an unforgettable and fascinating year of my life. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the U.S.-CAEF program for giving me this great opportunity to study at KIMEP University, to KIMEP University and the Erasmus Mundus program for giving me this great chance and their support throughout the whole period of my studies. Message for the newcomers: Don't miss the great opportunities of KIMEP University!



## MEET OUR LEADERS

### FELLOW ORGANIZES BENEFIT CONCERT IN BISHKEK

By Nasiba Nurmatova, AUCA

Most of us are always busy studying, it might seem like there is no time left for any extracurricular activities. However, this is not actually true. Like a painter, you decide where to add colors and change the tone of the picture. Proper time management, motivation, and a strong desire to do something can easily change your life and the lives of others.

Recently, there was a charity concert in Bishkek organized by a U.S.-CAEF Fellow Adel Sultanbekova. Adel was able to gather 800 attendees at a benefit concert in support of people suffering from cardiovascular diseases. There were famous Kyrgyz singers and dancers who agreed to perform at the concert for free. Adel did an amazing job and gave all of her time and energy to prepare this outstanding





Adel Sultanbekova

evening. All of the collected funds (about \$3,500) will be used by Adel and her team to purchase defibrillators for the Professor Mirrakhimov National Cardio Center. It looks like this young lady, together with the people who supported her idea and helped her organize this event, will save thousands of lives. Adel is an excellent student, a FLEX alumna, and a very active U.S.-CAEF Fellow. Although keeping a high GPA takes a lot of effort, Adel finds time to make a contribution to society and every community she belongs to.

One member of the organizing committee said "Adel won a FLEX alumni grant in the beginning of the summer. Since then she has been carefully preparing for the concert. There were thousands of letters of support, and even though there were issues when sponsors turned her down, it did not stop Adel. She was determined to follow her goal of helping people. I cannot count all of the meetings she attended in order to persuade the PR managers and directors of large companies to support the initiative. Finally, by October 19th, everything was done! It was a wonderful show prepared by famous people with the support of the government and the help of more than 200 young people who were all united by Adel Sultanbekova."

This was a great success for Adel Sultanbekova, and we all are so proud of her!

## INTERVIEW WITH GUFRONJON AYUBJONOV

By Batima Myrzabekova



Gufronjon (front) during his exchange program

**Batima:** Gufron, our newsletter team noticed that you've been actively involved in U.S.-CAEF activities and decided to interview you. Could you please tell us about yourself?

**Gufron:** First of all, thank you for your interest. I'm a senior student at KIMEP University, majoring in marketing. I'm originally from the northern part of Tajikistan. I'm very thankful to U.S.-CAEF for this opportunity to study at one of the top universities in Central Asia.

**Batima:** You were an exchange student in Lithuania during your junior year. Can you share your experience of traveling and studying abroad?

**Gufron:** When my friends asked me where I was going. I told them Lithuania, they were surprised: "Why Lithuania? Come on!" Okay, I was just thinking about courses that I had to take towards my major. There were 7 countries that I could choose from: Spain, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Poland, Czech Republic and Lithuania. But those 6 other countries were offering half of their courses in the local languages. In order to sign up for most courses, you need to study the local language during the first semester. It's impossible to take these courses when your language skills are limited. That's why the most realistic option was Lithuania, where all courses were taught in English. As Lithuania is a developing country and cost of living is not expensive, it was really easy to buy daily products and to be involved in social life. I was very satisfied with the

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



NASIBA NURMATOVA

### AUCA

#### Cohort 2011:

*I am a junior in the Business Administration department, AUCA. All my free time I spend on getting experience and practical knowledge through working at the U.S. Embassy and American Councils. Experience is something I value the most because it cannot be taken from books. Also, I enjoy writing newsletter articles and poems. Right now I learn and study hard, so that in future I can do positive changes in our society.*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



BATIMA MYRZABEKOVA

### KIMEP University

#### Cohort 2011:

*I'm a second-year fellow at KIMEP University majoring in finance. Beside my studies, I'm interested in law, photography and mass media. Therefore, I decided to be actively involved in work of our electronic newsletter this year. Being part of U.S.-CAEF family is priceless. Thus, I'm extremely excited to write success stories about our fellows and alumni.*

teaching system at my university. I liked that professors mostly focused on practical part of education. We had practical sessions in hotels and companies. As for traveling in Europe, it was not a problem because of the Schengen visa which allows tourists to travel around the European Union and visit many places. I have visited Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Spain, Italy, Ukraine, and Czech Republic. Also, I'm thankful to this program that gave me an opportunity to learn two more languages: Slovak and German. In addition, I was able to share my culture and language through a two-month internship at local schools. I taught basic Tajik and national dances to students at five schools.

**Batima:** You were elected president of the U.S.-CAEF Student Association for 2013-2014. Are you planning to introduce any fresh ideas or changes?

**Gufron:** There are different kinds of presidents and leaders. There are some leaders that don't like changes and just follow the path of the previous leader. I think it is important to keep U.S.-CAEF traditions, but I also think we need some changes: e.g., instead of the Talent Show, we are organizing KVN [a humor show where teams compete by giving funny answers to questions and performing sketches]. We have already arranged the first charity event. Furthermore, I would like to hold Sports Day. We want all U.S.-CAEF fellows to participate in our events.

**Batima:** That sounds fun. I think everyone is looking forward to these events. Gufron, as a senior student, what advice could you offer to our younger fellows?

**Gufron:** There are different types of students--those who focus only on their studies and get high GPAs, and those who might not receive the highest grades but nevertheless could be distinguished in other ways. I never belonged to the first group. Frankly, graduating with a high GPA and no experience in social and extracurricular activities is not enough for success. You should be socially active. Most companies value such graduates. During my studies at KIMEP, I held different leadership positions which helped me gain experience in managing different groups of people. Now I can say that I'm ready to lead and to be a leader. My advice is focus not only on your studies, but also be involved in social activities of our university. Then, you can say that your college years were the greatest.

**Batima:** I see that you are an ambitious and strong person. What helps you achieve your goals? What is your motto?

**Gufron:** My motto is "Never give up!" There were really hard times, they come to everybody. When I face failures in my life, I just sit and think about successes that I will reach in the future. This motivates me and makes me feel stronger.

**Batima:** You mentioned that it is important to be active. Could you tell us what activities you've been involved in?



Gufronjon (left) in Rome with peers from exchange program

**Gufron:** I was involved in 7 different organizations during my freshman year. They are: U.S.-CAEF, SIFE [Students in Free Enterprise, AIESEC [an international student organization], Kazakh and English Clubs, KISA [KIMEP International Student Association] and Youth Parliament of Almaty. Then I decided to do something special that would operate even after my graduation from KIMEP. I made a decision to register a new student organization and named it CASA (Central Asian Student Association). The main mission of the organization is to help first-year Central Asian students to integrate into the university community. Almost all freshmen experience a culture shock, as once I did. Students need coordinators who could help them with their adjustment problems. To address these issues we created a buddy system when every freshman was assigned a mentor, and we organized special events for exchange students.

In addition, I managed a project "Top-Talents 6", which was organized by AIESEC. The main purpose of this program was to find potential employees/interns for leading companies in Kazakhstan such as Procter & Gamble, ATF Bank and PriceWater House Coopers. I worked closely with the HR departments of these companies and was in charge of planning, promoting, organizing, and monitoring the whole process. Although I was a freshman during that time, I was able to help junior and senior students through the recruitment process. This was a really great experience that I will use in my life, career, and academics.

**Batima:** Your past experience is very impressive. I think you will only have more and more achievements in your future life. Finally, what are your main goals and objectives?

**Gufron:** Making someone's life different and better is the main goal in my life. Irrespective of my professional career, I would like to be involved in charitable activities. Another aim is to share my knowledge. The main point of getting knowledge is delivering it to others and bringing positive changes.

**Batima:** Thank you very much for this interview. It was a great pleasure to hear your story. Wishing you happiness and good luck!

**"The main point of getting knowledge is delivering it to others and bringing positive changes."**

### U.S. IMMERSION EXPERIENCE OF RECENT GRADUATES

The U.S. International Capstone Internship program is an opportunity for recent U.S.-CAEF graduates to immerse themselves in the global business network. The program is specifically designed to help these individuals explore career options, gain valuable skills and establish professional contacts.

Three select interns, Bostan Seyipova, Batyr Char'yev, and Artur Semeyutin, are currently participating in the Washington Center's postgraduate professional development program in Washington,

D.C. Through this experiential learning program, the interns are acquiring and developing critical skills that will help them succeed in the dynamic global business environment. The fellows are also enjoying learning about American culture, establishing new relationships, and growing through exciting life challenges. The quotes below reflect the interns' first impressions and thoughts about their Capstone experience.

### ARTUR SEMEYUTIN | THE GIC GROUP



Artur at his desk in the GIC office

The most valuable experience for beginning career is the internship I have been going through for the last two months with the GIC Group, a small agriculture investment consulting company. Since I started working with GIC, I have been involved in different activities such as researching debt financing opportunities, preparing Pitchbooks for companies, assisting with development, analysis, and projection of financial statements, program evaluation modeling, and commodities price forecasting. My KIMEP edu-

cational and Regional Internship program practical experience made me dedicated, responsible and able to meet deadlines person. This significantly contributed to my growth within the GIC group.

Although I am enjoying my international internship experience right now, in the beginning of it I was involved in less challenging tasks like general research and market news updates for my supervisor, but I was able to overcome many difficulties to gain a status of a reliable and credible person. I was one step from failing a situation right before the deadline for my first essential task for the company but my high motivation and persistence allowed me to provide my supervisor with relevant information at the right time. After that, I was involved in a long-term price estimation task. During this assignment, I had more freedom in decision making and projecting prices. Under the supervision of the CEO of the company I effectively completed my task a couple of days before the deadline. Currently I am very involved in the company's operations and feel the importance of the work I do for the GIC future revenues and cash flows.

### BATYR CHARYYEV | BENNETT GROUP FINANCIAL SERVICES

I am an intern at Bennett Group Financial Services. It is a small investment firm with approximately 1300 clients. Even though the work atmosphere is cozy and all the employees are friendly, the first few weeks of the internship did not meet my expectations. However, as I got more acquainted with operations of the firm, I have been assigned more duties. I have successfully passed the Bloomberg Terminal certification that I believe will be useful in the future since Bloomberg is a great resource tool used by many in financial institutions. Currently, I am involved in stock and mutual fund research. As the semester goes on, I believe I will be more engaged in day to day operations of the firm and assigned more complex projects.

Apart from my internship I try to get involved in various events that are held in Washington, DC. There are many seminars and forums that organizations in Washington host and I was able to participate in

one of them. "The Southern Corridor of the New Silk Road" that featured Ambassadors of Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Georgia was held at the Johns Hopkins University. All of the speakers gave insightful speeches about the future opportunities and challenges in each country as well as the region. The chance to meet the Ambassador of Turkmenistan to the United States and learn more about Turkmenistan's strategy in diversifying its exports of natural resources was exciting.



Batyr (right) with his peers at the Washington Center



Batyr

## BOSTAN SEYIPOVA | THE FINANCIAL SERVICE ROUNDTABLE | HOPENOW

HOPENOW is an intermediary between banks and veterans that makes the process of getting mortgages for military service members easier. It holds multiple outreach events in different states, and I am assisting in reaching out to non-profit organizations, government, and community partners. The goal of the outreach events is to find future partners for HOPENOW. Also, I participate in hearings related to mortgages. I am expected to write short summaries of the events that I attend. It is useful because I research issues in advance and then meet experts in those fields, listen to their viewpoints, and discuss them in detail at the end.

In addition to the internship at The Financial Service Roundtable, I am also taking an academic course, International Business: Case Studies in International Trade, at The Washington Center. I find it useful because the professor focuses on practical side and real cases rather than theory. Studying and sharing ideas with other international students from different backgrounds make the course even more interactive and valuable.

Moreover, being here gives me a unique opportunity to visit amazing museums, festivals, events and meet diverse groups of people.



Bostan (left) with her roommate during International Day at the Washington Center



Bostan with her program supervisor, Jacki Banks

## U.S.-CAEF ALUMNA'S SENIOR THESIS PUBLISHED

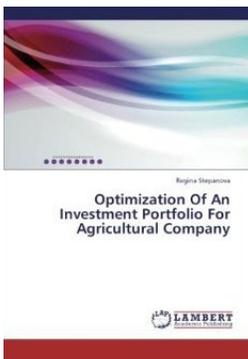
By Regina Stepanova

Writing has always been one of my biggest passions. During my junior year, I was selected to work for an English-language newspaper, the Times of Central Asia. Later I became a freelance writer and wrote articles on a wide range of topics from world religions to analysis of the Smartphone market. This year, I was contacted by Amanda Lewis, the acquisition editor of LAPLAMBERT Academic Publishing, a trademark of AV Akademikerverlag GmbH & Co. KG, and received an offer to publish my bachelor's thesis.

Ms. Lewis became aware of my affiliation with the American University of Central Asia and the Times of Central Asia. LAPLAMBERT Academic Publishing is a member of an international group specializing in the publication of dissertations and high-quality theses from respected institutions worldwide. Upon a successful in-house evaluation of my work, they

proposed to make it available globally and market it at no cost through global book distributors such as Amazon, Lightning Source, and More Books. Now my work is available at more than 80,000 booksellers worldwide.

My thesis topic is "Engineering and Optimization of an Investment Portfolio for an Agricultural Company" and reviews optimization of production activity by using a mathematical model based on linear programming and the managerial accounting tool, cost-volume-profit analysis. This specific agricultural firm drew my attention because it has a strategic importance for the Issyk-Ata region. It is a young, yet quickly growing organization, able to provide qualified jobs for citizens of my town as well as nearby villages. My senior thesis became a management-consulting project.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



REGINA  
STEPANOVA

*Regina, an Economics major, graduated AUCA in June, 2013. Regina has been involved in an impressive number of activities, both academic and community service, and yet maintained an excellent GPA throughout the program. Currently, Regina is working in the marketing department in a translation agency in Bishkek. "My short term objective is to master academic and practical knowledge in the business sphere through interesting and thought provoking work experience. After establishing a clear, practical vision of the Kyrgyz business environment, I plan to amplify my bachelor's education with an MBA to make my contribution to the development of the Kyrgyz business sector..." shared Regina.*



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